We Hold These Truths

Many times I’ve asked myself, “What would Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and others think of this country now 241-years since the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the ensuing American Revolution? Would they like what they see? Would they even recognize this nation? Would they still want to sacrifice their sacred honor?

They believed in a novel idea that has affected human history — self-governance, democracy. They had this idea that they could rule themselves quite well. No longer was there a need for a king or a queen; no longer was there a need for a system of royalty to say what was what; no need for knights, in shining armor (or any kind of armor), nor Lords and other royalty.

But, do you know that there are two other documents that we need to briefly acknowledge … and which some historians believed laid the groundwork for what became our nation’s declarations of independence? The first one occurred in 1620 when a ship called the Mayflower came to what we now call Plymouth Rock. Those on board were seeking to worship God without the interference of the State … specifically — the King of England. They were called dissenters … because they disagreed when it came to the practice of their faith and what was expected of them … as to both practice and belief.

To the surprise of many today, America began not as a political experiment, but as a religious sanctuary. The Pilgrims were motivated by a deep piety, a strong desire, and a profound faith to worship God without government interference; and their arrival on the shores of Massachusetts was a declaration of religious independence. This religious independence and fervor spread throughout the eastern seaboard of this nation and it created a smorgasbord of faith … that is a hallmark of this country today.

The second declaration of independence was the First Great Awakening. Now, you ask, “What was the First Great Awakening?” Christine Heyman, in an essay for history teachers entitled, The First Great Awakening, writes, “What historians call ‘the first Great Awakening’ can best be described as a revitalization of religious piety that swept through the American colonies between the 1730s and the 1770s.” In other words, it was a revival of deep significance in which people declared their declaration of independence from formalism. She goes on to say in another essay, Religion and The American Revolution, “the members of the revolutionary generation had faced, as individuals, important choices about their fundamental religious beliefs and loyalties, and that experience may have prepared them to make equally crucial and basic decisions about their political beliefs and loyalties … In short, this was a generation of people who had, during their youth, been schooled in the importance of self-determination and even rebellion against the existing hierarchies of deference and privilege.”

You see, the Mayflower voyage and the First Great Awakening were moral and spiritual, not political, movements that affected our founding fathers’ views and values; and influenced their political decisions.

(Continued … on page three)
President's Corner

It has been a long time since Karen and I first attended services at the Chapel. As we look back, we were greatly impressed with the services, the presentation of the sermons, and the congregation. We felt we found a church home and developed true friendships with the staff and the congregation.

After a short period of time, I was asked if I would be an usher. I felt special and honored, and accepted immediately. Not long thereafter, I was asked if I would serve as a member of the Board. Well I could not refuse, so I accepted.

Then in 2014, the Board elected me as their President. This was the beginning of me working out of my comfort zone. Coming up with agendas and presentations for Board meetings and listening to chair persons presenting them was hard for me to do, but I persevered. It seemed to be working especially after I simplified the format of agendas. I think this was helpful for everyone and it seemed to make the meetings go a lot smoother. In my mind, lay people who are not used to meetings, like simple agendas. However, I was still not in my comfort zone.

Then there was the faction of the congregation that wanted to take over. It was stressful, but with help from God we overcame and became a stronger Christian Church; and of course, a congregation in keeping with our by-line — "where the veteran is remembered."

I was reelected president for two more years; but it remained a struggle for me to perform the duties. I tended to wing it quite often and be oblivious of the details everyone else seemed to working toward.

As much as I felt honored to be the President of the Chapel Foundation, it is time for me to step aside to allow another member of the Board to fill the position.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee, Board members, and the Chapel staff for all the help I was given. Being a member of the Chapel is special to Karen and I. We look forward to an exciting future. We are all in God's hands.

I would like to add that I have accepted a job as a sales engineer with a local machine tool distributor. This is my next exciting career challenge. Back in the selling of machine tools working in an area of comfort and excitement.

Iain Hodge
Foundation President
(612) 889-0663
E-Mail: iain1314@msn.com

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The Board welcomes input from members. If you have an idea or suggestion, please feel welcome to contact the appropriate Board person.

Scheduled Board Meetings in 2017:
Saturdays ... @ Foundation Office
9 September (9:00 a.m.)
18 November (9:00 a.m.)
Sundays ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary
17 December (1:00 p.m.)

If you would like a copy of the 2016 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at (952) 888-1525 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report.
(Continued ... from page one)

The point of this brief history lesson is two-fold:
- Religion or faith is a centerpiece of our national history ... that continues to the present.
- Freedom to choose that faith is a fundamental issue to this day.

In the *Declaration of Independence*, we read these words “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

We hold these truths ...

In two different situations that took place within a few hours of one another, Jesus speaks of Truth. John records both situations. The first takes place during the Last Supper with the disciples where in response to a question by a troubled Thomas, He says in chapter 14 and verse 6, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*”

The second takes place in a conversation between Jesus and Pilate during the trial of Jesus in John 18: 37-38 where we read, “Pilate replied, ‘You are a king then?’ ‘You say that I am a king, and you are right,’ Jesus said. ‘I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.’ ‘What is truth?’ Pilate asked.”

Pilate’s question echoes in our day. We live in a time where absolute truth is denied and each is left to decide on his or her own what is true. This relativism has created a climate in which a consensus on any given issue is very unlikely. And the tension between those who hold no absolute standards and those who do ... grows ever stronger as the years go by. Frankly, this is what makes governing this country such a challenge. It also makes professing and living out the Christian faith difficult as well.

There are absolute truths ... whether or not we choose to live by them. And they are moral/spiritual in nature ... not political ... although there are political implications to them.

What truths, what values, do we hold, should we hold, as followers of Jesus Christ? I want to suggest six that are based on the Bible and which can and must make a difference in our individual lives as well as our congregational life as we live for God in our community.

I. Affirmation
The first value we must live by is affirmation ... because we need to affirm all people — because everyone is created in God’s image and we are all redeemable by His grace. In Romans 12:15 Paul speaks of the ability to emphasize (one important way to affirm others) with people in various situations. He said, “*When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow.*”

We all need to be affirmed; we need to know that we count; we need to tell others, even when we disagree with them or have trouble getting along with them ... that they matter.

As followers of Jesus Christ and as members of this His Church, we need to affirm everyone who is a part of our lives ... because all of us are created in God’s image and redeemable by His grace. We matter to God! And we need to communicate this truth by affirming, by valuing, by encouraging everyone that is a part of our daily lives. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being not well at all and 5 being well), where do you place your level of affirming others?

II. Acceptance
The second value we must live and proclaim is acceptance ... because, as Paul writes in Romans 15:7, Christ has accepted.

The story is told of the cowboy who had just come off the dusty trail ... who went to church for the first time in his life and related his adventure to a friend. “I rode up on my horse and tied it up by a tree in the corral.” The friend said, “You don’t mean ‘corral,’ you mean ‘parking lot.’” “I don’t know, maybe that is what they called it,” the cowboy said. “Then I went in through the main gate.” “You don’t mean the main gate; you mean the front door of the church.” “Well, anyway, a couple of fellows took me down the long chute.” “You don’t mean the long chute; you mean the center aisle.” “I guess that is what they call it. Then they put me in one of those little box stalls!” “You don’t mean a box stall; you mean a pew!” “Oh yes! Now I remember,” said the cowboy. “That’s what that lady said when I sat down beside her! — Pew!”

That’s truer than we care to admit. Acceptance of others is very difficult at times. But, think of God’s acceptance of us. He is holy. We are not. He is righteous. We are not. He is love. We make feeble attempts to

(Continued ... on page four)
love. But, in His love and mercy He accepts us and makes us new creatures as we accept and receive His forgiveness! Again, on a scale of 1 to 5, how well do you do at accepting others?

III. Appreciate
The third value, the third truth that we hold, is that we appreciate people ... because God has gifted and equipped everyone for a mission and ministry.

In 1 Corinthians 12:27 we read a wonderful statement of affirmation, acceptance, and appreciation: “Now all of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” This is an important statement from Paul and really from the Lord ... because it is a group of people who had trouble affirming, accepting, and hence appreciating one another. Why? They were jealous of one another’s abilities and gifts. They were proud of their personal association with Paul or Apollos ... but forgot that they (Paul and Apollos) were servants of God. They were enamored with spiritual experiences ... but forgot who the source of all true spiritual experience was. And so appreciation for one another was practically non-existent.

When we make a personal commitment to Christ ... as we ask and accept His forgiveness of our sins ... we are immediately given a place of service in a local church. We are given tools, spiritual gifts, to accomplish that mission! I applaud those of you who are stepping out to learn how God has gifted and called you and then are willing to serve! BTW, have you said “Thank you” to those who serve? Do you appreciate their efforts? On that scale of 1 to 5, how is your appreciating these days?

IV. Expressing Love
The fourth truth we must hold and practice is the value of expressing love to people ... because of God’s great and good love for us as we read in 1 John 4:19 — “We love each other as a result of His loving us first.”

In this fourth chapter, John makes it clear that God is love and that we demonstrate our commitment to God by expressing our love for one another. Paul likewise reminded the Corinthians that love is better than any spiritual gift or ability ... because without love our words, our service, and our faith would be useless.

Someone has written, “Courage is fear that has been conquered by love.” And as I read that statement I think of the lady sitting next to the cowboy. She had some fear in her. It came out as snobbery, but it was because she feared him. And she feared him because she made some judgments about him based on his appearance. If she were to ask, “How can I express love to this person?” what would you tell her? From 1 to 5, how well are you expressing God’s love to others?

V. Available
The fifth value, the fifth truth that we must hold fast to is that we are available to people ... because God has made His salvation available to us. And Jesus made that clear to us in

Social Media
If you are under the weather or out of town, you can still attend worship services at this site http://new.livestream.com/accounts/3709164. A link to this address can be found on the Chapel website www.fortsnellingmcf.org where you can download a pdf of the weekly worship bulletin and scripture insert. Just click on that link and you will be able to watch live or revisit previous services from the archive. Offerings can be achieved by clicking on the more link at the top of the page bringing you to a link Donate to Chapel Foundation.

Remember: We love to have you in-person at our services, but in the event that is not possible please join us via Livestream.

You may also ‘Like’ the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation on Facebook to view news of upcoming events.

If you have an e-mail address and are not currently receiving the mid-week ‘Chapel Chatter’ ... providing you with what you need to know about the coming Sunday at the Chapel, please send an e-mail to the Chapel Foundation [info@fortsnellingmcf.org] and request to be added to this Constant Contact distro list.

— Steve Zorn
Publicity Committee Chair

(Continued ... on page six)
Fort Snelling Chapel: Cornerstone to Dedication

This historic article is a reprint of two written a decade ago by our own Newell Chester for The Snelling Spirit newsletter.

With the laying of the cornerstone on Sunday, August 21, 1927, construction began in earnest on the new Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel and Community Center. Money for the project came in not just from Minnesota, but from all over the nation to build the Post Chapel. This was done without expense to the government. The building would be dedicated to the memory of the American soldiers who had and would serve their country.

The plans called for a chapel large enough and sufficient for the needs of the garrison for many years to come. The main floor of the sanctuary would seat approximately 300-people, and the gallery [balcony] so conveniently located over the choir and dressing rooms would seat an additional 75-people.

The Sunday school annex was included to provide for the giving of religious instruction to the boys and girls of the post, of whom at this time there were over 200-children. The basement made ample provision for the holding of patriotic, social and semi-religious gatherings. This would include: the Bible School, the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls.

In addition, library facilities and space would be made available for the 8-9 thousand books which had been housed in a temporary Red Cross building – a relic from World War I – for many years. Also, the office of the Chaplain was to be located at the Chapel. Provision was also made for meetings to be held by ex-service and patriotic organizations connected with the garrison. Room for social functions of officers’ and enlisted men’s families was also to be provided at the Chapel Community Center. The Chapel would be built to be a structure of functional design and practical utility.

- It was the 1st Army house of worship ever erected by subscriptions (obtained from all class of citizens of a community adjacent to an Army garrison.)
- The project was the 1st combination of the Church and Parish House idea devised for an Army Post.
- To the credit of the architects it was the 1st Army chapel where an attempt was made to include the early pioneer history of the surrounding community into the architecture of a chapel building.
- In addition, it was the 1st strictly non-sectarian chapel ever built at an Army garrison. (Denominational agencies had sponsored chapels for a few other Army posts, but that had not happened in the 50+ years prior to this project.
- It also fostered the beginning of chaplains of other Army posts to follow the lead of Chaplain Frank C. Rideout, who really was the guiding light of this project. (In a short time at least 20 other posts were drawing up plans to replace inadequate facilities and equipment for the moral and religious welfare of the 120,000 young men of the peacetime Army.)
- Most important was the relationship of the Chapel to the civilian community. (It would become a place for rest, religious meditation and patriotic devotion for the people of the Twin Cities as well as for travelers in the area.)

For many years prior to the completion of the Chapel the churches of the Twin Cities had kept a keen and sympathetic interest in the religious work of the chaplains at Fort Snelling. At many services

(Continued ... on page eight)
a very strategic way when He made Himself available to children as we read in Matthew 19:14 - "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

A recent survey estimated that 65% of those born before 1946, commonly referred to as builders, indicated a born-again experience compared to only 35% of the rest of this age group. For those born between 1946 and 1964, called boomers, the opposite is true. Only 35% claim a "born-again" experience and 65% don't. For those born from 1964 to around 1984 or so, called busters only 10% claim a Christian experience. 90% do not! And for those yet younger, called bridgers, only 4% claim to be saved. 96% do not.

What do those statistics tell you? They tell me that we have four generations to reach for Christ in our midst and in this community. How well are we doing?

During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ did not set up shop in one area of Isreal and let the people come to Him. He went to them. And when He gave instructions to the disciples it was not "sit and wait" (except in one key instance in the book of Acts) it was "go and make," and "follow Me." "Leave your nets, leave your tax booth, and follow Me!"

How available are we to those who are searching for God? Are we prepared to "go and make" disciples? Are we willing to meet with people in the lunchrooms, homes, and restaurants of our community ... to help them come to Christ? From 1 to 5, how do you rank your availability to God and others for active ministry and service?

VI. Accountable

Finally the sixth truth we must hold to is that of being accountable as stewards of our time, talent, treasures, and temple to God and one another.

One day, as Paul reminds us in Romans 14:12, we will all give "a personal account to God" of our lives. Now, we often think of that accounting in terms of acceptance or rejection of God's salvation for us. But, Paul is writing to people who have already accepted that salvation. He is saying to them, as we read both sides of verse 12, "stop judging one another ... live in such a manner that you won't be an obstacle to one another."

Accountability is not about me passing judgment on you. Accountability is me being responsible for my actions and attitudes to you ... because they affect you. It is a form of self-discipline. To be accountable is to be responsible for one's own choices. And what are we accountable for? We are accountable for our time, our money, our abilities, and our bodies. We are accountable for every area of our life. On a scale of 1 to 5, how well accountable are you to God and one another?

As I said at the outset of this message, 241-years ago, a group of men were meeting in trying circumstances. A war was about to commence. Armies were forming for battle. They believed in certain truths ... that ultimately would form one of human history's greatest nations. They were willing to sacrifice their very lives for making these truths a reality in a new experiment called democracy.

What if George Washington would have telephoned from the battlefield and said, "I can't do this anymore. I am out gunned, out manned, and out trained. I am going back to Mount Vernon and farm. Get yourself a new general!"

What if Thomas Jefferson had said, "I am getting writer's cramp with this Declaration of Independence. Can't you guys do anything to help me out? I'm going back to Monticello!"

What kind of freedom would we have?

These six truths I have shared have eternal consequences. To make them a reality requires our sacrifices. We are engaged in a more radical revolution than was taking place in 1776. We are engaged in a revolution of the human heart and soul ... that is made possible only by the tremendous sacrifice of God's Son.

I challenge you, my friends, to recommit yourselves to the revolutionary ministry of reconciliation that comes as we go and share and help make responsible and joyful followers of Jesus Christ ... because the truth that Jesus Christ spoke of, and made possible. It is truly the only truth that sets you free!

Serving God and Country,  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.  
Senior Chaplain  
(612) 747-1059  
E-mail: KenBeale56A@msn.com
Special Patriotic/ Veterans Events . . .

Sun, 2 July 17 — Independence Day — celebrating the 241st birthday of our nation.

Sun, 10 Sept 17 — 9/11 Remembrance — remembering the terrorist attack of 2001.

Sun, 17 Sept 17 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 5 Nov 17 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 3 Dec 17 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance — recognizing survivors ... with the tolling of the ship bell for those who have passed away since last year.

Mark your calendar with these dates ... and join us at 11:00 a.m.

Summer Sermon Series

After my dad passed away (14 May 2016), one of the things I came into possession of were his manuscript sermons. I’ve since had opportunity to read many of his messages spanning 65-years of ordained ministry. Throughout July and August, I’ll be preaching select sermons of the late Rev. Kenneth L. Beale, Sr. Though these sermons were originally preached some 35-years ago, they are as relevant today as they were when proclaimed from the pulpit at Jarretstown United Methodist Church (JUMC) in PA. Pastor Beale served as Senior Pastor at JUMC until his retirement in 1992 (nearly 34-years). During that time, attendance at JUMC grew from about 100 to nearly 700. He oversaw the building of a new Fellowship Hall/ Sunday School Building, a new Sanctuary, and a new Parsonage ... and having ‘burned’ all the mortgages. He also was a chaplain at Abington Hospital for many years while at JUMC. After retiring from JUMC and Eastern PA Conference of the UMC, he

Photo: This is a photo of the time Rev. Kenneth L. Beale, Sr. preached at the Ft Snelling Memorial Chapel in 2001.

and Ann (his wife of 66-years) moved into the Gwynedd Estates (Ambler) and he became the Associate Pastor at Chalfont UMC (for 24-years), helping with the worship services and pastoral visitation. He continued to work as a chaplain at Abington, but mostly at the Lansdale location.

— Chaplain Ken

Getting to Know You . . .

There is a woman with a warm smile and infectious laugh who attends the Chapel faithfully every week with her more reserved Norwegian husband. The couple settle into the same pew each week and are quick to extend their greetings to other congregants. The Chapel has been blessed on a regular basis by the musical and artistic talents shared by this special couple - Diane and Jerry Westby. But there is more to this story...

Diane was born in Hinsdale, IL to Quecy and John Baldinger. She was the youngest child and followed older sisters Nancy and Leslee. John Baldinger worked with various fork-lift companies and Quecy was a stay-at-home mom. The family relocated to the Philadelphia, PA area when Diane was 5-years old as her father accepted a position with a new company - and this area became "home" to Diane and her siblings. The Baldinger family owned a 20-acre horse farm on the outskirts of

(Continued ... on page ten)
the local churches brought out large choirs and had assisted in memorable outdoor religious services during summer camps.

Now, with the building to be a reality the local community in cooperation with the military installation would have a building "to provide not only non-sectarian services, but musical programs and organ recitals and render the largest possible good to the greatest possible number of persons", according to the Dedication Program of June 10, 1928.

The first morning worship service was at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 10, 1928; however, a Sunday school was held in the Junior Chapel (annex) at 9:30 a.m. and would qualify as the first official service held at the Chapel.

When the dedication service was held on Sunday June 28, 1928 the new Chapel was an inspiration to all involved. The three o'clock service began with the Rev Phillips Endicott Osgood, D.D., Major, Chaplain Reserve, United States Army, presiding. The call to worship was lead by the 3rd Infantry Regiment trumpeters from the Chapel Tower. Since Fort Snelling was the home of the 3rd Infantry Regiment at that time – known affectionately as "The Old Guard" – it was only natural that their regimental band would play "The Third U.S. Infantry March." ("The Old Guard" was coined by General Winfield Scott of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War of 1846-48.) The first hymn sung was "Faith of Our Fathers." The intercessory prayer was offered by the Post Chaplain (Captain) Frank C. Rideout. Greetings were presented by Major General Harry A. Smith, 7th Corps Area Commander from Omaha, Nebraska. Next, the gathering was addressed by Minnesota's Governor and Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chapel, Theodore Christianson.

This was followed by Mr. Walter H. Wheeler, Chairman of the Building Committee, who turned over the keys of the Chapel to

The address by Chaplain Frank C. Rideout was entitled, "The Chapel – An Interpretation," and this was followed by his "Formal Dedication and Prayer" with the people attending the ceremony. The last recital was as follows:

Chaplain and People: "Now, therefore, we the people of this commonwealth and of the Army of the United States in the presence of Almighty God, grateful for our priceless inheritance, and sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers who wrought for us, we offer this house to Thee in humble sacrifice, and to dedicate ourselves anew to the worship of God in this place, and to the honorable service of God, and country, and our fellow men in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

The recessional was "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by John

(Continued ... on page nine)
Philip Sousa. This was followed by a concert given by the 3rd Infantry Band under the baton of Carl Dillon, Bandmaster.

That evening a Young People’s Service was held. The next evening, (Monday) services were conducted under the auspices of the American Legion & Auxiliary which included a concert by the 3rd Infantry Band.

From the ground breaking ceremony on September 5, 1926 to the dedication of the Chapel on June 28, 1928, a great project had been completed by the dedication of a great number of people. Beyond the building construction cost of about $54,000., which was a large sum for those days, a great number of memorial gifts were presented by patriotic organizations and individuals. These included the tower bells, stained glass windows, pipe organ and church furniture.

The Chapel was the scene of great activity during the period of its use as a post Chapel. It was widely used as a model at other military garrisons. However, in June 1947 Fort Snelling was de-activated as a military post. For the next 5-years worship was conducted at the Chapel by the chaplains of the Veteran’s Hospital until the new hospital was built. Then the Fort Snelling Chapel fell into disuse and was closed and boarded up.

Today the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel stands as a testament to the efforts not only of the original builders, but to the men and women of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation ... who 50-years ago, organized to preserve the Chapel that had been abandoned after World War II. The cumulative efforts of many people over the past 90-years have kept alive the spirit of the Fort Snelling Chapel ... as stated by Chaplain Rideout in his prayer of dedication:

"Primarily the Chapel will be a house of worship, but it will be much more — it is a unique and distinctive Minnesota memorial, a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state. It will be a perpetual reminder of their appreciation of those who made the supreme sacrifice in all our great wars. It will provide a shrine where the friends of those who have died for America may come, as on a holy pilgrimage, and offer up their thanks to Almighty God for the precious gift of friends who have been so fondly loved, and are now lost awhile."

— Newell Chester

From the Flag-Line

On Sunday, May 7th, the Flag Line had the first guests of the season. We were honored to have present the group of people who saved the Veteran’s Park Memorial in Belle Plaine, MN.

It was so great to have these patriots at the Chapel. Along with our own Red Bartholomew, there was Katie Novotny, a veteran herself; her husband, Steve; Rex Ernst, Tanya Edwards, and Ricky Morrison. It was such a great story of fighting back against the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) in Madison, Wisconsin, who rears its ugly head in every City, big and small, if there is interest in setting up any religious observance or memorial. Even the Alliance Defending Freedom got involved and helped fight the demands of FFRF.

At first the Belle Plaine City Council caved and said the cross on the Veteran’s Memorial must be cut off and that was unfortunately done. Then the real fight started, and finally after many 24-hour vigils by this group of patriots and legal arguments at City Hall, they voted to restore the Veteran’s Memorial with the cross put back on.

This is just a great example of fighting back and shows that only a few people can turn the tide of a decision. Rex closed his business many times to take up his vigil at the Veteran’s Memorial Park.

The group loved being at the Chapel where they were honored and each given a coin having the Chapel on one side and the Lord’s Prayer on the other.

(Continued ... on page ten)
(Continued ... from page nine)

choice of flags that they can hold in the Flag Line as they greet the people coming into the Chapel.

The next From the Flag Line article will be about our journey, once again, to Washington DC for Memorial Day weekend. We never know who we will meet there and especially at Arlington. We lay a blanket in front of Ben Kopp's grave in the shade and proceed to meet the families and friends of the fallen. We have learned always to carry Kleenex with us.

— Patricia & Don Peerson

(Continued ... from page seven)

Philadelphia and Diane recalled "spending hours outside all by myself observing nature and laying on my back in the hayfield looking up at the clouds and making up stories about them as they floated by..."

Diane’s older sisters learned to ride and show horses and it was inevitable that Diane would follow in their footsteps. She recalls her mother bringing picnic lunches to the horse arena and eating lunch during her sisters’ lessons. Diane “fell in love” with the horses and shortly thereafter enrolled in classes that evolved over time into horse jumping and dressage (horse and rider perform from memory a series of predetermined movements) competitions. In addition to horse riding lessons, Diane’s mother made sure her daughters were exposed to music and to that end, provided piano and voice lessons to each child. Over time, Diane gravitated towards vocal performance and studied at both the Byrn Mawr Academy of Music and later at the MacPhail Center for Music. This love for music led to many singing opportunities including the Frederick Hillary Chorale, Minnesota Opera Chorus and community theater.

The Baldinger family were Christians and Diane was baptized as an infant in the Presbyterian church. After the move to Philadelphia, the family located an Episcopal church and it was in this setting that Diane attended Sunday School, participated in the children's choir, was confirmed and learned about Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. She recalled that her parents taught her many adages over the years but one, in particular, stayed with her into adulthood - “God always provides.” The family relocated to MN when Diane was 16-years old as her father was offered an executive position with Minneapolis Moline Company (tractor and machinery producer). Diane finished her high school years at Wayzata High School and went on to study art at the School of Arts in St Paul, where she focused on illustration and advertising.

Jerry was born in Minneapolis to Minnie and Wes Westby. He was the middle child of three - with one older brother Ray and one younger sister Roxanne. Jerry’s father was a school teacher who worked in the Plainview School District and, also coached the school football and basketball teams. Minnie was an entrepreneur who founded several restaurants in Minneapolis with her sisters. One of the restaurants called the "Sugar Bowl," was a "big hit" with the working men in the area and it was at this restaurant that Jerry

(Continued ... on page eleven)
learned to “cut vegetables and meat” starting at the age of five. He also recalled that his mother would bring “left-overs from the restaurant to homeless men hanging out around the railroad tracks” who otherwise would have gone hungry.

Jerry’s parents were “God-fearing people” and the family found itself in church every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. All three children were baptized, confirmed and married in the Lutheran church located in their south Minneapolis neighborhood. He recalled that his mother “ran the kitchen” while his father “served on a variety of church boards.” The children were encouraged to “help out persons less fortunate” so Jerry began to cut the grass of elderly neighbors in the same neighborhood. Two of his favorite childhood memories include “swinging on a big tire” that hung from a large tree in the yard and “going down to the Kresge store with my little sister, walking around and looking at all the visual delights.” While a student at South High School, Jerry discovered that his favorite subject was “art” which led him to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design where he specialized in photography and graphic design. His professors were so impressed with his abilities that they encouraged him to apply for a scholarship at the Yale School of Art which led to a Master’s Degree in Design and a career in the field of graphic design.

Well, some may say it was serendipity but whatever you call it - Diane was working as an illustrator for an ad agency when she bumped into Jerry Westby, a client of the ad agency. She did not have the best history of “dating” and had “sworn off men” at this point to focus exclusively on her career. In like manner Jerry had recently come out of a divorce, was a single parent of two daughters and apprehensive about returning to the “dating scene.” However, there clearly was a “chemistry” between the two of them which prompted Jerry to ask Diane “out for a date.” A short time later, Diane came to realize that Jerry was “very special" and might be “the one.” The fact that her parents liked him was another point in his favor. Nonetheless, Diane continued to focus on her career and accepted a position she considered her “dream job” at an advertising agency in Boston.

Despite her satisfaction with the new job, Diane realized that she missed Jerry. Likewise, Jerry was saddened by her absence and decided to “pop the question” - proposing marriage to which Diane responded in the affirmative. She resigned her job in Boston and returned to Minneapolis where the couple was wed on July 20th, 1980 in the same Lutheran church Jerry attended as a child. Prior to marriage, the pastor suggested that the couple pursue premarital counseling related to “blended families.” As a result of the counseling, the couple learned how to establish “ground rules” and “work together.” Jerry and Diane agreed that the instruction proved was invaluable and helped the household to coalesce as one family unit. Today, the Westbys have celebrated 37 years of marriage and share a family that includes two adult daughters, five grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Diane and Jerry “discovered” the Chapel in 2013 while listening to a Sunday radio program (The Military Hour) which featured an interview with Chaplain Beale. They both shared a respect for the military (Diane’s father served

(Continued … on page twelve)
A Word From the Classroom

"And He said unto them, 'Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while...'

(Mark 6:31)

Hrm, a desert place? In Minnesota? I think in the upper Midwest that would translate to a place of solitude, quiet, and reflection.

As in the past, the Children’s Church at Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel will be taking June, July, and August off. We will use that time to “come apart”, relax, prepare, and plan for activities to resume the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Our minds have been busy for quite some time, tossing around ideas to entice, stimulate, encourage, and recruit children for the fall. A couple of the ideas included, although not firmly scheduled, are teaching the Ten Commandments using our fingers, and having a “Chaplain’s Chat” time where kids can ask questions of the chaplain and get to know him better. Kids often grow up seeing their pastor as someone unapproachable which is far from what is wanted. Especially as these children grow into teens and early adulthood, they will have Biblical questions and questions about life in general.

We currently have seven people signed up to work in this program with two others showing some interest. I praise God for the devotion of these people to the service of The Lord! If you, too, are interested, contact Leslie Henschel at 952-423-4675 or amcsowell@cs.com. We will have one meeting in July and one in August to go over the curriculum and the scheduling.

May God bless you with rest and renewed energy these summer months. See you in September!

Respectfully,

— Leslie Henschel,
Coord. Children’s Ministry

(Continued ... from page eleven)

in the US Navy during WWII and their grandson is a graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD) and were impressed with the chaplain’s radio message. Despite the fact that they had not attended church in over 15 years, Diane told Jerry, "Let’s go and check out the Chapel."

So that very same morning they piled into their car and headed to Fort Snelling Chapel. It was during this service that Diane and Jerry heard a “Bible-based message” and came to understand what had been missing in their lives. The Westbys appreciated the “respect for the authority of scripture” and also the “evidence of God’s hand in the lives of the people at the Chapel.” Consequently, they decided to join the Chapel in 2014 and have been attending faithfully since that time - volunteering in a variety of capacities including special music, the children’s ministry and assisting with holy communion.

Though grateful for their many blessings, it has not always been smooth-sailing for the Westby family. Jerry experience several debilitating seizures in 2008 which resulted in cognitive impairment in the area of communication and a sudden retirement after a long career in graphic design. At the same time, the couple was forced out of their home due to foreclosure at which point Diane assumed the role of the breadwinner “taking on five part-time jobs to pay the rent and put food on the table.” She currently works full-time for the Lafayette Country Club in Minnetonka and has several businesses on the side including a saddle cleaning business and a face painting business called, “Fantasy Faces.” Diane and Jerry consider the face painting business to be more of a hobby as it permits the couple to share their love of art with children of all ages. In their “free time” the couple participate in “Toastmasters” where they hone their public speaking and leadership skills.

Jerry and Diane developed a ritual during the “hard-times” that they continue to practice on a daily basis. They “hold hands and thank God every night for five things that happened during the day” for which the couple is grateful. This ritual helps the couple maintain an “attitude of gratitude” and a closer walk with Jesus. Upon further reflection Diane added, “My parents told me when I was a little girl that ‘God always provides’ and I can tell you that God has always been faithful.”

It seems appropriate to close with
Creation Corner

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."
(Romans 1:20)

For this issue, I have chosen to use an introductory message to a book that I picked up on a motorcycle trip, that took me through the border town of Lemmon, SD, and to the Grand River Museum — a dinosaur museum dedicated to Young Earth Creation Science. What a breath of fresh air it was to walk into a museum and not be greeted by plaques and signs that begin... "millions of years ago..." so ever present at all the federal parks, monuments, and museums across the U.S.

The book referred to above is titled "INSPIRED EVIDENCE: Only One Reality" and for this issue, I will be printing the Forward to that book. It starts with a humorous story that all you Navy, active and veterans, will enjoy (although, I suspect this story has been around for years):

Two battleships assigned to a training squadron had been at sea on maneuvers in heavy weather for several days. The visibility was poor with heavy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities.

Shortly after dark, the lookout reported, "Light, bearing on the starboard bow."

"Is it steady or moving astern?" the captain called out.

The lookout replied, "Steady, Captain." [This meant they were on a dangerous collision course with that ship.]

Photo: John Lopez, "Welded Art Sculptor" from Lemmon, S.D., next to his stunning and imaginative sculpture of a Triceratops dinosaur located in front of the Grand River Museum along Hwy 12. Stunning metal sculptures of John Lopez can be found throughout South Dakota: visit www.johnlopezstudio.com

A few of the exhibits at the Grand River Museum:

- A skull replica of "Sue," the largest Tyrannosaurus ever found (dug up south of Lemmon at Faith, SD);
- A hand of an Edmontosaurus;
- A Triceratops skull (dug up locally along the Grand River);
- An article that you wouldn't expect to find at a dinosaur museum, entitled "The Bones of Noah's Flood."

The captain called to the signalman, "Signal that ship: "We are on a collision course, advise you change course twenty degrees."

Back came the signal, "Advisable for you to change course twenty degrees."

The captain said, "Send: 'I'm a captain, change course twenty degrees."

"I'm a seaman second-class," came the reply. "You had better change course twenty degrees."

By that time the captain was furious. He spat out, "Send: 'I'm a battleship. Change course twenty degrees!"

Back came the flashing light, "I'm a lighthouse!"

God's Word is that lighthouse. No amount of human arrogance, popular opinion, or scientific theorizing will alter its eternal truths. The universe did not create itself, creation is recent, life does not come from non-life, plants and animals do not transform themselves into higher life-forms, and there has been a globe-covering flood in Earth's recent history. The Bible is crystal clear on these facts and scientific observation, when properly interpreted, confirms each one.

— Submitted by: John Kruse

INSPIRED EVIDENCE: Only One Reality
Julie Von Vett & Bruce Malone
Copyright © December 2011
www.searchforthetruth.net
a verse from a hymn that highlights God’s provision and constancy to each and every one of us:

“Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou has been
Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!”

Nature’s Cure ...

We’ll take a break in this article from the food bugs. First, I have to tell you a story. Many years ago my dad’s left foot and left elbow would occasionally swell up and become very painful. My mother finally convinced him to go to the Doctor. The Doctor told my dad he had an accumulation of uric acid crystal in his elbow, which is known as gout. My dad asked what can be done to relieve the pain and prevent a recurrence. The Doctor told him he would have to cut out alcohol, especially beer, and red meat. When my dad came in the front door, my mom asked him what the Doctor said. My dad replied, “I guess I have gout.” My grandmother, my dad’s mom is the first generation of Germans that came to America. When she heard that my dad had gout she told him that when he thinks an

attack is coming on he should drink a couple ounces of unsweetened black cherry juice, and that would stop the flare up. So, the cure for gout has been in our family for a while, something about Germany and beer I guess. The original dose was 5 whole black cherries. However, with year round availability challenges, the cherries were replaced with juice. The best juice I have found is R.W. Knudsen’s Just Black Cherry, the ingredients on the label read; Juice From Ripe, Whole, Black Cherries. I buy it a CUB. I’m not sure if this will work with pseudogout; so if anyone has pseudogout and it works let me know. Pseudogout is caused by an accumulation of calcium crystals in various joints and can be as painful. It is important to treat gout symptoms immediately as gout will get more painful and will last longer with each episode. Multiple episodes over time can lead to joint damage.

— Tom Newman

Thank you Diane and Jerry for your presence and participation at Fort Snelling Chapel!

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

Ice Cream Social

Our Annual Ice Cream Social has been moved from Independence Day Sunday (2 July) to Labor Day Sunday (3 September) because of the unknown possibility of the MN State shutdown (1 July).

Please join your church family at the Chapel for the fellowship following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Hope to see everyone there!

— Your Fellowship Committee

17th Annual Chapel Picnic

Our Annual Chapel Picnic will be held on Sunday 23 July (1-3 p.m.) at the Richfield Veterans Memorial Park Picnic Shelter.

Tickets are on sale (each Sunday thru 16 July) in the Fellowship Hall @ $15.00/adults, $7.00/children (6-11), FREE age 5 and under.

Bring your favorite lawn chair, sit back and relax after lunch.

— Your Fellowship Committee
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

This is a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1967. We invite you to join us for worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at this historic Chapel.

The Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel is a unique Minnesota memorial — a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state — a shrine to commemorate those who have died for their country. Weekly Sunday worship is sponsored by the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and is not subsidized by the state.

For Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation information call the Foundation Office at (952) 888-1525, or write to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation 9031 Penn Ave S Bloomington, MN 55431

or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org

or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

Chapel Foundation Staff:
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Sr. Chaplain
Rev. Michael Wallman, Associate Chaplain
Marlys Wallman, Minister of Music
Bev Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Carol Nygaard, Accounting Specialist
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music Emeritus

The Snelling Spirit Staff:
The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. We welcome your input, your letters and your suggestions.

Feature Contributors:
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Beale, Jr.
Patricia Boyd-Peerson
Newell Chester
Leslie Henschel
Iain Hodge
John Kruse
Tom Newman
Carol Nygaard
Marlys Wallman
Eva Zorn
Steve Zorn

Layout/Design/Printing:
Bev Johnson
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**Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff**

- Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — E-mail: KenBeale56A@msn.com
- Assoc Chaplain: Rev. Michael Wallman — E-mail: michaelwallman@msn.com
- Minister of Music: Marlys Wallman — E-mail: michaelwallman@msn.com
- Accounting Specialist: Carol Nygaard — E-mail: info@fortsnellingmcf.org
- Administrative Assist: Bev Johnson — E-mail: info@fortsnellingmcf.org

1 17th Anniversary of Chaplain Beale & 8th of Chaplain Wallman
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<td>Music: 4-Given Quartet</td>
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<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Person</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Membership Comm Mtg.</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>12th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Strength in Weakness&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Wickman Duo, vocal &amp; piano</td>
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<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Mike's Birthday</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Comm Mtg.</td>
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