Part II: Christianity’s Legacy —
Marriage and Family

Traditional marriage and family, among other Western concepts, is derived from the basic Christian understanding of the dignity of fallible human beings. This article will now focus on the Western culture’s long-standing value of the nuclear family.

Today we take it for granted that the family is the institution entrusted with the care and rearing of children. Incredible as it seems, the family was not very important in ancient Greece. In fact, Plato proposed an abolition of marriage and the family ... envisioning a republic in which the whole business of procreation and care of the young was turned over to the state. Aristotle, more prudent than Plato, recognized the need for the family. At the same time, he described the family as an infrastructural good. Of course family is necessary for the good life, just as it is necessary to eat and sleep every day; but for Aristotle, a life devoted to the family is neither a complete nor a noble one. The Greeks viewed the family almost exclusively as a vehicle for procreation. Most marriages were arranged, and the husband and wife were not even expected to be friends. Indeed, Aristotle thought women largely incapable of friendship, and he certainly did not expect wives to relate to husbands on a plane of equality. The unimportance of romantic love in ancient Greece can be verified from the fact that of the three dozen or so Greek tragedies we possess, not a single one has love as its subject.

Eros was a powerful force in ancient Greece, but it expressed itself mainly in homosexuality. The practice was common in Athens, but the Spartans were especially notorious for it, encouraging it in their gymnasiums and using homosexual attachments to build solidarity among soldiers in war. Historian Michael Grant writes that eros was also the basis for the practice of pederasty. He notes that sexual relations between men and boys were “far more favored than homosexual relations between men of the same age.”

We can admire the great achievements of classical philosophy, drama, and statesmanship; but when we rhapsodize about “the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome,” we should keep in mind that the sexual practices of these civilizations live on today ... in prisons and in the ideology of marginal groups like the North American Man/Boy Love Association.

In the Christian era, pederasty and homosexuality were considered sinful. Instead, Christianity exalted heterosexual monogamous love, which would provide the basis for a lasting and exclusive relationship between husband and wife ... oriented toward the rearing of children. We take the family so much for granted. It remains such a powerful ideal in our society, even when actual family life falls short. But have we forgotten the central premises on which it is based? Those premises were introduced by Christianity into a society to which they were completely foreign.

Christianity made family life important in a way that it wasn’t before. No longer was family life subordinated to the life of the city as both Plato and Aristotle

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President's Corner

GREETINGS members and friends of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. As you read this issue of The Snelling Spirit the Foundation members will have had their 41st Annual Meeting and elected their Board of Directors for the coming year. I will have handed the gavel over to the newly elected Foundation President. The Foundation will once again be off to another year of challenges and excitement. Your Board of Directors is an awesome group whose motto is "Always Forward - Backwards Never" for the good of our beloved Fort Snelling Chapel.

As I sit here preparing to write my last Snelling Spirit article as your Foundation President, I find myself reminiscing and wanting to recognize the many members who are very dedicated to volunteering for the many activities here at the Chapel. Whenever you see them, please say "Thank-You" for their dedicated leadership.

Throughout my term as President, I have tried to recognize members who lead the various activities and the committee members. In taking leave as President, I am going to exercise president's privilege and recognize some of the Foundation leaders and their committees in this article. Thank you...thank you to: Iain Hodge who coordinates the ushers and serves as chair of the Publicity Committee; Len Erickson and his crew who operate RideShare weekly; Dick Studiner who has coordinated worship leaders for seven years and has agreed to continue with this task; Pat Hoy who chairs the Benevolence Committee which oversees the benevolence gifts to veterans and community programs made as a result of the Foundation's 10% tithe of weekly offerings (Pat makes it a point to visit one of the recipient organizations each month and then write an article for The Snelling Spirit); Cathy Dalton and her staff who provide weekly staffing for the nursery; Terry Ulstad-Kreutz and the Kitchen Angels who make coffee, bring and serve the goodies, and handle the serving table each Sunday; Carol Nygaard and her staff who make sure all literature is out on the table for your reading and information pleasure each Sunday. Quentin DeNio who puts out cards for the membership to sign for members who are in need, plus he mails a welcome card to all of the new visitors at the Chapel each week; Kay Schoen chairs the Worship Committee and also schedules the staff for the Altar Guild who prepare the altar each Sunday and ensure there is a glass of juice for Chaplain Ken when he is preaching the sermon; Marilyn and Hal Morvig who always set up for holy communion services so faithfully; Jim Carroll who always makes sure the flags are ready for processing each Sunday and sets up the altar; Travis Beard heads up the Fellowship Committee who has many hard working sub-committees who plan and coordinate the fun activities for you to enjoy such as the Easter Brunch, Summer Picnic, Ice Cream Social, Christmas Luncheon, Christmas Caroling, Caring Hearts group and the list goes on and on and on...

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thought it should be. Indeed, the family came to be viewed for the first time as the central venue for the fulfillment of life's main satisfactions. This change began with the elevation of marriage to a Catholic sacrament, giving it religious prestige beyond its social necessity. An equally significant shift was wrought by the Protestant Reformation. The Catholics had revered the celibate priest, modeled on a celibate Christ, as the exemplar of virtue. But Martin Luther disputed this interpretation, insisting that the ordinary Christian who took a wife and had children by her was also fulfilling a vocation or "calling" from God.

Also, Christendom developed a new notion of romantic love, which is today one of the most powerful forces in our civilization. While marriages continued to be arranged in the West, especially among the more affluent classes, a new and alternative ideal emerged in the "Middle Ages." This was the idea of love as the basis for getting married and also for preserving a happy marriage. I'm not saying that people did not "fall in love" before the medieval era; but "falling in love" was previously considered a mild form of insanity, something that could not and should not be the basis for enduring marriage. The medieval Christians began to understand marriage between a man and a woman as a relationship similar to that between Christ and the Church. The Bible portrays this relationship as intimate and passionate, certainly not as some kind of a mercenary bargain. So Christians began to view marriage as an intimate companionship enlivened by romantic passion.

Furthermore, Christianity introduced consent on the part of both the man and the woman as the prerequisite for marriage. Again, we take this for granted today, but you have only to go to Asia, Africa, or the Middle East to see that people there are frequently pressured into marriage against their will. The West, however, since the early days of Christianity, has had marriage by choice and mutual agreement. This did not originate because of "equality between the sexes." Rather, it originated because of the Christian idea that each of us has a partner God made for us. Romantic feeling was perceived as an activity of the soul guiding us to find this lifelong companion. As fallible human beings we can be wrong about a lot of things, but we cannot be wrong in how we feel about someone else. At the same time, Christianity emphasized that free choice should also be binding choice. As we have consented to marry without coercion, we should live up to our vows and preserve marriage as a lifelong commitment.

I end this article ... and continue with my succeeding articles ... in emphasizing the values of the West are based on Christianity. Some of these values seem to have taken a life of their own; and this gives us the illusion that we can get rid of Christianity and keep the values. However, if we remove the Christian foundation, the values must go too. While it may be true that values like equal dignity and equal rights will persist for a period out of sheer unthinking habit, evidently their influence will erode.

Consider the example of secular Europe. Secularization has been occurring in Europe for well over a century, and for a while it seemed as if the decline of Christianity would have no effect on Western morality or Western social institutions. What have we seen? The decline of Christianity has resulted, over time, in the decline of one of the great Christian legacy of the nuclear family. We see high rates of divorce and births out of wedlock. And secular trends in America have produced the same results, which are not as advanced in America — because Christianity has not eroded as much here as it has in Europe.

As secularism continues forecasting new values radically inconsistent with the Christian ones — the restoration of infanticide, demands for the radical redefinition of the family, the revival of eugenic theories of human superiority — the emergence and evidence in our day will motive some to attack Christianity and insisting that its values are outmoded and should be replaced.

Unfortunately for the critics of Christianity, even values they care about will eventually collapse. Consider our beliefs in human equality and the value of human life. We may say we believe in human equality..but why do we hold this belief? It is the product of the Christian idea of the spiritual equality of souls. We may insist we believe that all human life has dignity and value, but this too is the outgrowth of a Christian tradition in which each person is the precious creation of God. There is no secular basis for these values, and when secular writers defend them they always employ unrecognized Christian assumptions.

(Continued ... on page five)
**Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...**

Sun, 25 May 08 — **Memorial Day Remembrance** — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 6 July 08 — **Independence Day** — celebrating the 232nd birthday of our nation... culminating in an ice cream social.

Sun, 21 Sept 08 — **POW/MIA Remembrance** — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 9 Nov 08 — **Veterans Day Remembrance** — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 7 Dec 08 — **Pearl Harbor Remembrance** — recognizing survivors ... with a candle lighting tribute to those who have passed away since last year.

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**The Season of Lent**

Lent is the forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday ... representing the day Jesus entered into the wilderness.

When we count the forty days of Lent, we skip Sundays, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. This year, Lent begins 6 February and ends on 22 March ... the day before Easter. We should use the time of Lent for personal soul-searching, prayer and repentance.

As I reflect, this season fills my heart with joy more than any other season, because I know those I have loved are safe in the arms of Jesus and we will meet again.

— Kay Schoen

Worship Committee Chair

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**Palm Sunday -- Distribution of Palms**

16 March is Palm/Passion Sunday.

At 11:00 a.m. each worshiper will receive palms to commemorate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Chaplain Ken will present a timely sermon, "Hail to the Chief!" ... based on Luke 19:28-48

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**Easter Services**

On Sunday 23 March, worship services will be held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Chaplain Ken will present a sermon entitled, "Dead Man Walking" ... based on Romans 6:1-6.

The special music will include: the Bethel Brass Ensemble and soloist Tim Dahl.

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**Good Friday -- Holy Communion**

On Friday, 21 March, we will have our Good Friday worship service at 2:00 p.m. Chaplain Ken will preach a message he has entitled — "Unveiling God's Heart" ... based on Mark 15:33-39.

This will be followed by the invitation to commune at the Lord's Table ... which is open to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Each worshiper will receive a special keepsake. You won't want to miss this special service.

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

If on a Sunday morning it is significantly snowing ... or tremendously cold ... or the winds are resulting in drifting conditions, please call our Foundation office at 612/970-7866 for any announcement of corporate worship cancellation.
In short, the death of Christianity must also mean the gradual extinction of values such as human dignity, and the rights of equal treatment asserted by women, minorities, and the poor. Do we want to give these up also? If we cherish the distinctive ideals of Western civilization and believe as I do that they have enormously benefited our civilization and the world, then whatever our religious convictions, and even if we have none, we will not rashly try to hack at the religious roots from which they spring. On the contrary, we will not hesitate to acknowledge, not only privately but also publicly, the central role that Christianity has played and still plays in the things that matter most to us.

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil


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on; Karen Ayers who orders the weekly flowers for the altar plus all of the plants for the Easter and Christmas gardens for these services; Jerry Kellgren chairs the Finance Committee who ensure the Foundation's investments are sound; the Personnel Committee is now led by Ted Stamos and this committee works with the Foundation staff to keep everything operating on an even flow; Miles Johnson checks out the AED weekly to make sure it is operating properly in case of an emergency; Ted Nemzek and his amazing crew make sure we have a perfectly run audio system at the Chapel each week; (Ted has done an awesome job of obtaining a first class audio/sound system for our beloved Chapel and his dedicated staff of Lyle Willock, Jo Teare, Pat Hoy and John Hodge are to be highly commended). I hope I have covered all committees, but being human as I am, I may have forgotten someone and if I have, I apologize. Please forgive me as I have given it the best shot I can. THANK-YOU to all volunteers for your time and energy it takes to operate our Chapel to keep it functioning properly.

Bob Bernloehner, Foundation member works at Lockheed-Martin and he has secured several donations from this company for the Foundation: 43 blue, comfortable chairs used for Bible study and a rolling cabinet to store the audio/video supplies in at the back of the sanctuary. Lockheed has also made a commitment to the Foundation to assist with the packaging supplies and shipping costs for care packages headed to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thank you so much Bob for securing this for the Foundation.

April is Volunteer Month and we will once again have a "Volunteer Recruiting Station." As always we are in need of volunteers for each committee to help those who are multi-tasking. It is always great to get to know your fellow Foundation members better and besides we have a lot of fun.

On Easter Sunday, 23 March 2008 there will be two services at the Chapel. This year there WILL BE an Easter Brunch. The brunch will be coordinated by Becky Van Meter and Sally Stamos. They need volunteers so please step up and help them.

I am excited to be taking on another new challenge in my life. December I was one of the new members to be elected to the Board of Directors at "Veterans on the Lake" at Ely, MN. Our Foundation donates to this veterans resort through the gift of benevolence funds. I would like you to know that Donn Steffenson, a Foundation member is a volunteer at the camp and every year he heads a group of Navy veterans/friends that go to Ely for a week to provide maintenance on the cabins and docks. Donn donated a pontoon for the veterans last year. He also volunteers a week at Ely assisting with the needs of 30 veterans from the MN Veterans Home-Minneapolis for a week of fishing and fun.

(Continued ... on page six)
Closing out my eight years as a Board of Directors member and the last three years as your President, I leave with a great feeling of accomplishment as we moved always forward and met the challenges head on. Two major projects were undertaken and finalized over the past three years: the historic Kimball pipe organ was completely restored and air conditioning was purchased and installed. We say "Thank You" to the DNR for their cooperation in making these projects happen. Thank you to everyone for your patience during these undertakings as they have been well worth it.

Our fabulous part-time staff who all work more than full-time hours for the Foundation family: Chaplain, Ken Beale; Administrative Assistant, Leila Campbell and Minister of Music, Ruth Fardig. "THANK YOU — THANK YOU" and May God Bless each one richly.

"Thank You" goes to the Executive Committee; Board of Directors; Committee Chairpersons and all members of our beloved Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation for making this another very successful year of accomplishments. "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who have so willingly given of their time and talents throughout the year for the good of our beloved Chapel. As this is my last communication with you via the President's Corner, I sincerely say "THANK YOU" a million times for the privilege and your faith in me to allow me to serve our Foundation — what a fantastic and humbling experience this has been. It has been so fun getting to know you. As I close my term, "HUGS - HUGS" and more HUGS to everyone. I am known as the Bohemian "HUGGER" making sure all of my meetings were closed with everyone standing and holding hands during Chaplain Ken's closing prayer.

May God Bless each one with a Blessed Easter Season. I love my beloved Chapel and each one of you. Have YOU "HUGGED" someone today?

People are Like Candles

Some have a very ordinary glow but steady and faithful.
Some add light to our lives for a time and then gradually their light fades.
Some are mishandled and their light goes out, perhaps temporarily or never to shine again.
Some have to be constantly retil and gain their strengths from other candles.
Some flicker about in confusion and cause unrest all around them.
Some shine brightly for a time and seem to continue shining no matter what outside forces come their way.

I am beginning to learn that it is the sweet simple things of life which are the real ones after all.

— Patricia Swanson
Foundation President
(952) 885-0623
E-mail: 155swanson@msn.com

Left: On Sunday, 10 February 2008 (Founder's Day Sunday), Foundation President - Patricia Swanson - receives a signed/numbered water color print of the Fort Snelling Chapel by the artist Susan T. Amidon. Chaplain Beale presented it on behalf of the Board of Directors in recognition of her leadership (2005-2008).
Place an Easter Plant in the Chancel

A special tradition at the Chapel is to adorn the altar area with beautiful plants on Easter Sunday. This tradition is made even more precious by the dedications which are made for each of the plants. It’s a beautiful way to honor or remember your loved ones at this sacred and holy time of year.

You can select lilies and tulips (pink, purple and red). Cost = $12 each.

Plants making-up our Easter Garden will be noted in the bulletin — in memory of ..., in honor of ..., or to the glory of God. Orders must be received by Sunday 9 March. Donors may take their plants only following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The plants that remain will be delivered to the Veterans Home for their enjoyment.

Contact Karen Ayers at (612) 727-3817 or see her in the Fellowship Hall. (Orders can be made beginning Sunday 24 February.)

Easter Brunch

Plan to attend our Easter Brunch (9 – 10:30 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall between the two Easter Sunday worship services on 23 March. Please sign up between 24 February and 16 March in Fellowship Hall for this freewill donation brunch.

Volunteer Month

Throughout the month of April we will have a "recruiting station" in the Fellowship Hall ... where you can sign-up for a host of volunteer positions. Your participation is critical to our success! An extensive list of volunteer positions will be provided for you to indicate those places you wish to render service ... one of the expectations of membership in the Foundation. Persons will be on hand to answer your questions regarding the various opportunities to uphold the Chapel Foundation ... with your service.

Care Packages Go to Troops

On 23 January, Foundation members Carol Nygaard and Bob Bernloehner partnered with Lockheed Martin Defense Systems, Eagan staff members, Alice Taillefer and Hazel Raasch, to package and ship care packages to the troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Foundation members contributed special items to the shopping cart at the Chapel over the past several months. Lockheed Martin graciously offered their resources to aid in getting these items into the hands of two US Army Chaplains overseas for troop distribution. The shipment included five boxes to each chaplain with a combined weight of 224 pounds. What a great gift to our service personnel!

A special thank you to Tierney Helmers, Communication Manager, Lockheed Martin for being instrumental in obtaining the funding for this project and to Bob Bernloehner for his dedication in coordinating the volunteer schedule.

Ft. Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad

On 27 December, 2007 the Rifle Squad reached a milestone of attending 50,000 funerals at the Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. The Squad was organized June 19, 1979, and now has 126 volunteers. Squad members associated with the Chapel Foundation include: Kermif Bischoff, Ted Nemzek, Quentin De Nio, Ted Stamos, Gene Schultz and Tom Mullan who often plays taps on Memorial Day at the Chapel. No Rifle Squad member is reimbursed in any way, for any personal expense. – gas, travel, etc. paid for out of pocket by the volunteer. The Squad includes veterans – mostly male, one female — from all branches of the military service, and from all wars — WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism.

The Chapel Foundation is delighted to support this non-profit organization with benevolence support.
Against Great Odds: The Survival of a Chapel

Today, when you approach the historic Fort Snelling Chapel you are able to park in a nice paved lot, enter into a well maintained church, and take in the historic surroundings going back to its dedication on June 10, 1928. It is the oldest and most complete building in public use today in the Fort Snelling historic district.

The Chapel is now furnished with a modern gas-fired boiler heating system. Recently, air conditioning was added to the building. The Kimball pipe organ has also been restored to its previous luster. From the historic lead glass windows Minnesota history literally jumps out at you. Overhead, military flags are mounted that represent the sacrifice veterans have made from Minnesota.

However, looking at the Chapel now one cannot realize the difficulties that had to be surmounted to bring the Chapel to the fine facility it is today. After the Fort Snelling post was deactivated in 1947 the Chapel was boarded up for most of the 1950’s and only came back into circulation with the establishment of the Fort Snelling State Park.

In the early 1960’s only the Chapel basement was used as offices for the Fort Snelling State Park personnel. Although the building had been renovated, the sanctuary was not being used. By 1964 a group of citizens formed the Fort Snelling State Park Association, which had been active in seeking the restoration of the building. On November 15, 1964 a service of rededication was held by the Association. The idea was that the facility could be used for occasional special services, if arranged in advance, with the state Conservation Department... which was entrusted with the building maintenance.

However, without a chaplain in charge, the grounds soon became overgrown with long grass, weeds, bushes and trees. Also, the building was starting to have maintenance problems. It was at this time that a pastor, Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson began to take interest in the building. He became involved because he had been on a committee in 1965 to restore the Fort Snelling Chapel. He started to hold services at the Chapel, but he found that he had at least two problems: First, people had trouble finding the Chapel; and second, he had no congregation.

In an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press dated August 16, 1967 the headline read: “At Fort Snelling — Hidden Chapel Survives Latest Threat.” The Associate Press article asked the question, “What are the prospects for a church without a congregation, located on state land and almost lost in the tangle of a major-highway interchange?”

Dr. Nelson commented in the article that, “Almost every Sunday someone comes in late. They’ve been out there going ‘round and ‘round trying to find us.” Despite being a few feet from the freeway that led to the Mendota Bridge the church was almost hidden from view. So, first you had to find the building in the park; second, you had to park along a busy road as the Chapel had no parking lot; and then proceed on a walkway over an off way ramp onto the church grounds. Now you came to the brush, weeds and trees obstructing the church.

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Dr. Nelson and others interested in preserving the Chapel tried to hold occasional special services, on such dates as Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. In fact, at the Thanksgiving service held in 1966 the congregation was entertained by a bat that kept swooping down over the group from the balcony as the service was proceeding. Today, those that attended still recall the incident of the "special guest."

The remoteness of the building and the cost of advertising the services, according to Nelson, made the services a futile project. He realized that things could not continue this way, and that only continuity of worship could ensure the program.

At this point Dr. Nelson recalled, "It (the situation) just didn't work, we had to start from scratch." Dr. Nelson, as it turned out, was the right person to come along and become the driving force behind the attempt to reorder the process. As he would later recall, "since I was available, I offered to start the program."

He had been a missionary abroad, and had just settled on a home in Robbinsdale. Expanding on the life of a missionary he stated, "It also was a great relief to finally be in our own beautiful home with our own belongings."

For three years he had been at the Fremont Congregational Church in North Minneapolis until its merger with the nearby Parkway Congregational Church. It also didn't hurt that he was the Protestant Chaplain of the Minnesota Senate, as his knowledge of government would be important in future problem solving on behalf of the Chapel. He was also former president of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

So a meeting was held in November 1966 with an initial group of about 50 people. On January 5, 1967 an organizational meeting was held and the first Board of Directors was elected. Out of this came the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. It started with 511 members and formally called Dr. Nelson as its chaplain. The Chapel was rented from the State of Minnesota and the first regular Sunday worship was held on Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1967. Fittingly, Rev. Nelson's sermon was entitled, "Lincoln Still Speaks." A special guest was Governor Harold LeVander.

Over the next six months services were conducted every Sunday, always with a strong patriotic theme and a non-denominational flavor. A special Easter program was devoted to a roll call of the Minnesotans killed in the Vietnam War, and their families were invited to the service. Still today, the Chapel is known: "Where the Veteran is Remembered" ... 52 weeks of the year.

Also, the tradition of inviting visiting musical groups to furnish top quality music was started. It is reported at on Sunday service early on, a 120 member choir was jammed into the church which had seating for about 500 people. The obvious question being: where did they park all of the cars? Well, Dr. Nelson probably solved that problem too.

Finally the Pioneer Press article went on to explain that the Chapel Foundation leased the building from the State of Minnesota to avoid straining the church-state separation. However, that was August 1967 and it turned out to be premature. The issue would be brought up again in 1972 and 1974 before it would be resolved. Also, there would be a discussion in 1976 over whether the Chapel would fit "historically" into the Fort Snelling historic planning. These would be two more issues that would put the future of the Chapel in doubt, and will be covered in a future article. But not to worry, remember this group of people went on to be called by Tom Brokaw, "The Greatest Generation."

Enjoy your tour of the chapel.

— Newell Chester

You can read previously published historic articles on the Chapel ... by Newell Chester ... by visiting the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org.
Benevolent Giving …

It is a fact that there is something special about being invited to share a meal with friends and family — at the Union Gospel Mission (UGM). They choose to share a meal with those individuals that others may have given up on. If you look at their menu, you would see that they offer a full range of fresh programs, loaded with healthy ingredients designed to feed not just the body, but the spirit as well.

The Union Gospel Mission is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Christian outreach program that the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation has financially supported for many years. I made an appointment on 18 January, 2008 to take a tour of the UGM. I first met Ken Peterson, the Executive Director at the Men’s Campus at 435 University Avenue in St. Paul. Peterson was extremely pleased that someone from the Foundation would take the time to come and visit their campus. He stated that 30% of their clients are veterans and he really appreciates the support of the Foundation where the focus is so apparent on the veteran.

Peterson then introduced me to Donald Samuels an instructor and a chaplain at UGM. Samuels gave me a walking tour of the facility. As I walked through the facility, I witnessed many people working very hard at cleaning and managing all areas of the building. Samuels explained these employees are former clients of the UGM and further explained that all of these people were at one time hungry, homeless and … in a lot of cases … were drug abusers and alcoholics. This list includes Ken Peterson, Executive Director. All were saved at UGM.

All individuals that come to the UGM for a free bed and a hot meal, must go to a Christian service at 7:30 p.m., in exchange for a clean bed in a secure facility and a hot meal for dinner and breakfast in a very clean and well-run kitchen. All clients are required to take a shower in the morning and they get a fresh set of clothes to start the day. All beds must be made with fresh linen. No one can lie around in the housing area. They must help around the facility, go out and look for a job or go to their place of employment.

Clients can rent a single room by the month for $160-$185, but for no longer than two years. Anyone can come in off of the street for breakfast or lunch, at a cost of $1.50. Dinner is always free. This is to help a client get on their feet.

UGM also gives computer training and job search assistance. There is an on-site dental clinic. I have rarely seen corporations run as well as the UGM.

UGM started in 1902 as a free medical clinic in St. Paul and has grown to ten different locations, including: Child Care Center; Asian Ministries; Women and Family Programs; WorkNet and SuccessNet; Christ Recovery Center … just to name a few. In 2007, UGM served over 400,000 meals, 400 men, women and children with shelter and care. Some of the many programs include: nightly spiritual encouragement in the chapel, 365 days per year; nearly 1,500 clients are treated in the dental clinic; and a 12-step resident recovery program at the Christ Recovery Center is provided for alcoholics and drug addicts. UGM runs on a $10,000,000 annual budget comprised of donations of money from corporations, churches and individuals, but also includes gifts of clothes and food.

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At the end of my tour, I sat down with Samuels and asked him how he became a member of the UGM. He told me that he was a former Marine who took a wrong path in life upon discharge; he became a drug user. Not only did he hurt a lot of people, but he landed in prison. When he got out of prison he had no where to turn ... so he came to the UGM in 1996. He states that during one of the 7:30 p.m. services in the chapel he was not taking the service very seriously and in fact was making Jesus jokes. The chaplain put a chair near the altar and said this chair is for one of you in the chapel who really needs to be saved. Samuels looked at the chair and really felt that the chair at the altar was meant for him. So he went up to the altar and was so moved by the Spirit, that he completely accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. This story was so moving that it brought tears to both of our eyes. Now he is married and has children. He and his wife are both chaplains. He is a paid member of the UGM.

Samuels wanted to express to everyone at the Foundation how much their donations mean to everyone at the UGM. This financial support goes to many programs and people in need, who otherwise would have no where else to turn.

At the September 2007 Board of Directors meeting of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation, the Board approved a $500 benevolence gift for the Union Gospel Mission. I would like to thank Ken Peterson, Executive Director; Gail Gisi, Communication Coordinator; Donald Samuels, Chaplain and all the volunteers and staff at the Union Gospel Mission for all their tireless effort in helping people in need. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please call (651) 228-1800 or go to their web site: www.ugmtc.org

— Pat Hoy, Chair
Benevolence Committee

This congregation tithes (10 %) from its plate offerings. If you know of an organization/ministry ... that is in keeping with our purpose... please feel free to secure an application to submit for financial support in 2008. Simply call the Foundation Office at 612/970-7666 ... and provide a name and mailing address.

And the Survey Says ...

Imagine a bright summer day, humming along in a tour bus with a bunch of your friends from the Fort Snelling Chapel. You’re on your way to the Minnesota Military Museum at Fort Ripley in Little Falls where you’ll view “our” flags — you know the ones that used to hang in the Chapel sanctuary but are now in safekeeping at the museum? Afterwards we’ll break for lunch and then if there’s time, we’ll bop over to see Charles A. Lindbergh’s childhood home.

Or consider a night at the Plymouth Playhouse for example, shrieking with laughter while enjoying one of their hilarious productions.

These are a few of the things we could be doing together, thanks to your thoughtful response to the recently conducted “Social Survey.” More than fifty of you responded favorably to the idea of spending time with each other outside of Sunday Chapel fellowship.

Specifically, well over half of you told us that you’d be interested in taking historical tours and visiting museums, attending theatrical productions and holiday concerts. The most popular response was “once every three months.” “Weekend nights” and “weekdays” were also favored, with “week nights” being the least popular. Most of you expressed an interest in out-of-town trips.

The survey was the result of recommendations made by the Board directed Strategic Planning Committee. The committee concluded that a Special Events program might be right for the Chapel Foundation members. We still have a few details to iron out, but basically the wheels are in motion and the Fellowship Committee will soon be reviewing events to offer you.

In the meantime, if you have ideas, please let me or anyone on the Fellowship Committee know. We’re looking forward to a year of fun and friendship with our family members at FSMCF.

— Barbara Sommerville
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 (612) 970-7866,
or write to the
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4027
or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org
or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Chaplain
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music
Leila Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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.

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Karen Hodge
Pat Hoy
Kay Schoen
Patricia Swanson

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Leland Granberg
Layout/Design/Printing:
Leila Campbell
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<td><strong>30</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Sunday of Easter</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chaplain:</strong> Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — <strong>Phone:</strong> 612/747-1059 — <strong>E-mail:</strong> <a href="mailto:kenneth.beale@us.army.mil">kenneth.beale@us.army.mil</a></td>
<td><strong>Minister of Music:</strong> Ruth Fardig — <strong>Phone:</strong> 612/238-5826 — <strong>E-mail:</strong> <a href="mailto:ruthfardig@aol.com">ruthfardig@aol.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Administrative Assistant:</strong> Leila Campbell — <strong>Phone:</strong> 612/970-7866 — <strong>E-mail:</strong> <a href="mailto:info@fortsnelling.org">info@fortsnelling.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Website:</strong> <a href="http://www.fortsnellingmc.org">www.fortsnellingmc.org</a> — <strong>Fax:</strong> 612/970-7867 — <strong>DiaL-a-Devotional:</strong> 612/970-7866, ext. #2</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Bible Study</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;We Would Seek Jesus&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Lisa Littlejohn, Soprano Soloist</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Guest Speaker</td>
<td>Music: Mary Butze</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>4th Sunday in Lent</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Guest - CH (COL) Alan Johnson</td>
<td>Music: Angelica Cantanti Singers, Choral Group</td>
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<td><strong>5th Sunday in Lent</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Hail to the Chief!&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Viking Choir, Boychoir</td>
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<td><strong>Palm/Passion Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>9:10-10:30 a.m. Easter Brunch</td>
<td>8:00 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Worship Services</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Dead Man Walking&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Bethel Brass Group, Tim Dahl, Baritone Soloist</td>
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<td>Sermon: “Replace Your Doubts With Faith”</td>
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<td>Music: Foundation Four, <em>Male Quartet</em></td>
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<td>Sermon: “How to Stay Clean Living in a Pig Pen”</td>
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<td>Music: Paul Anderson, <em>Soloist</em></td>
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<td>Sermon: “When I Get Big, I Want to be Little”</td>
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<td>Music: Pistachio Singers</td>
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<td>Chapel: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:kenneth.beale@us.army.mil">kenneth.beale@us.army.mil</a></td>
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