Giving the Perfect Gift

This message was preached 20 Dec 2009 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel ... based on St. Luke 1:26-38. This sermon, along with over 500+ other titles, is available on DVD.

Everyone loves to receive gifts at Christmas time. And I am sure that as Christmas approaches, we are wondering what lies behind those wrapped presents. I'm reminded of the story found in a Dennis the Menace cartoon some time ago. Dennis is shown rushing into the room with his big box and as his mom turns around, her mouth drops open as Dennis says, "Mom we'd better tell Santa Claus to forget about the train that I asked for. I just found one exactly like I wanted on the top shelf of Dad's closet."

Well as we celebrate Christmas this year, the perfect gift that has been given to us is not wrapped in shiny paper. We do not have to try to figure out what the gift is by shaking it upside down. For the perfect gift we have been given does not lie under a Christmas tree, but was born under the stars of Bethlehem in a manger.

Yes, I am aware that some people don't see Christmas like I do. They miss out on the beauty of Christmas because they tend to commercialize Christmas instead of promoting it for what it truly is ... that is, God giving us the greatest gift in the world. And yes, I will be honest and say, even for the dedicated Christian, it is tempting to miss the true meaning of what Christmas really is.

We tend to open up our Bibles once a year (at this time) to read the Gospel accounts of Jesus coming from the portals of heaven to lie in a bed of straw on this earth. Yet, to be honest, isn't it so much more than that? Isn't there something more majestic about the events of that night? For even greater than that is the arrival of God to this earth in the form of the Savior Jesus Christ in an ordinary manger but through an extraordinary way.

And so, as we go about fighting crowds, debt, and anxiety over the perfect gift for that special person, let's spend some time being reminded that there is only one perfect gift; and it has already been given to us. It is the gift of the presence of God. And because of that gift that God has given, the question is now in our hands. What will be our gift to God? Well, let's look at the gifts that God has given us and what our answer should be in return.

We find the beginning of this glorious event as recorded by Luke in the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38. And it is here where we must begin our journey to the ordinary town of Bethlehem to witness the awe inspiring arrival of the Almighty God.

I want you to take notice that not only was Bethlehem an ordinary town, but it was also an ordinary woman that was given the opportunity to carry the greatest of all treasures. We know some things about Mary. We know that she was a virgin and we don't doubt that God could use her; but I am sure that we have probably wondered why God chose to use a poor virgin ordinary girl to bring the Son of God into this world? And my answer to that is — because that is exactly who God wanted to use to bring His Son into this world. Mary had all the characteristics that would make her seem unusable by God for any major task. And that is why God did it; because God wants to use the ordinary to do extraordinary things.

And God has not changed His mission today. Who has He put in charge of sharing His love? Who has He put in charge of telling others about His name? Who has He put in charge of providing for

(Continued ... on page three)
President's Corner

November 11th is Veterans Day. As always, the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel is a place where the veteran is remembered. We are reminded of this each week as we attend the Chapel and communicate with our veteran friends. It is always an uplifting feeling gathering together with like-minded people knowing that we have the same traditional values, and that amongst us are the veterans that helped to keep us free from all our foreign enemies. We also value the words we hear read true to the Bible from the pulpit every Sunday. It could be a very different story. We could be controlled by evil forces, telling us not to pray, or if you must pray, here’s where to pray, how to pray, and who to pray to. Thanks to the veterans of many wars, the United States of America is still a place where freedom is still a big part of our daily life, allowing us to choose the way we want to communicate with God.

Over the years we have tried to communicate with other veterans who do not worship with us to try coming to the Chapel to see what a wonderful place the Chapel can be for them, and what great joy and value it can bring to their lives. In fact, I would ask you all again to invite your veteran colleagues to join us some Sunday to witness the type of true friendships that have developed over the years. There are a lot of lonely people out there that, if they would join us at worship and fellowship, it could change their lives for the better. I know that life is full of challenges for all of us, but it is easier to face our problems with the help of the caring people that attend the Chapel to guide us through our trying times. Enough of trying times.

Please spread the word that, for me any way, it is the highlight of the week. Therefore, I am asking you to invite your veteran friends to attend our Veterans Day service, we would love to meet them and thank them for their services rendered.

Iain Hodge
Foundation President
(952) 941-8643
E-Mail: iain1314@msn.com

In the Event of Bad 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 952/888-1525 for an announcement of worship cancellation. In this way we will attempt to inform you of Chapel closings.

General Plate Offering Envelopes

If you are among those who are blessed by this ministry ‘beyond the walls’ of the Chapel (i.e., Livestream, bi-monthly newsletter, CDs/DVDs), and would like some pre-addressed envelopes to mail in your plate offerings, please call our Foundation office at 952/888-1525 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send them to you. Thanks.

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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 2016:
Saturday ... @ Foundation Office
12 Nov (9:00 a.m.)
Sunday ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary
18 Dec (1:00 p.m.)

If you would like a copy of the 2015 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.
Nowadays, when people are expecting, they long for the day when an ultrasound will share with them the sex of the child and allow them to see their child growing inside the womb of the expectant mother. It is then that they can start narrowing down the names from Jimbo to Charles, or whatever name they decide. Yet with Mary there was no technology like that and none was needed. As soon as she discovered she would become pregnant, the angel said the details have already been worked out. You are going to have a son and this is the name that he will be called. Now we know that His name is Jesus; but what's in that name?

Well first of all, the Hebrew name of Jesus is Joshua. What is so important about the name Joshua? Well, Joshua was the most popular name for boys in the Old Testament. If you remember, Joshua was the hero of the Israelites as he had led the people into Canaan. But the name Joshua or Jesus has an even more significant purpose. The name means God saves. Where Joshua of the Old Testament led people to the Promised Land of Canaan, the Jesus of the New Testament will lead His people to the Promised Land that is known as the Kingdom of Heaven (eternal life). Why did God choose the name Jesus? Well the Gospel of Matthew shares with us why the baby was to be called Jesus and what His mission would be. Matthew 1:21 says, “She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

My friends, the only way that we can truly understand the importance of Christmas is by understanding the events of Easter; by looking at the baby in the manger as He grows up and becomes the Savior on the cross.

Paul captured best the mission that God had planned for Jesus when He was brought into this world. In I Timothy 1:15 Paul says, “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst.”

Returning to our text, the angel then continues to share the gifts of God by saying that Jesus – the God of salvation – will be great. The word great means extraordinary or awesome. Gabriel tells Mary that this baby that is going to be born is going to be awesome.

Jesus would be great in His love; great in His compassion; and great in His sacrifice. He would live a great life; teach great parables; and give great sermons. He would heal with great power and be a great example. He would die a great death and would be resurrected in great power. He would give the great commission and ascend to a great height. He will come again in great glory. And He longs to make great changes in your life and in mine, if we will but let Him.

If you ever wanted to know who Jesus was and is, then this summation of this gift of God should remove all doubt. In verse 32, He is the Son of the most high; and in verse 35, He is the Son of God. Do you get where this is going. Whose son is Jesus? He is God’s Son. He is the son of Mary through birth and the Son of God through creation. He is God’s only begotten son as recorded in John 3:16. He is the very essence of God. The fact...
that her baby was to be called the “Son of the Most High” pointed to His equality with Yahweh.

You see, in Jewish thought a son was the “carbon copy” of his father; he would act like his father, think like his father and would possess all of his father’s qualities. There was no doubt that this baby that Mary would deliver would be the Son of God and in His name demons would be banished, people would be healed, sins would be forgiven, and lives would be changed.

As Gabriel finishes up describing the gifts that God is going to give to His people, Gabriel shares with Mary that the birth of this baby will bring about the fulfillment of the prophecies that had been shared in the Old Testament. These prophecies had been shared hundreds of years earlier; and through the birth of this baby from this ordinary virgin girl, these prophecies would be fulfilled and Jesus would come into this world and establish His kingdom that would never end.

Now I don’t know about you, but if I would have been Mary, I would have had to say – “Wait! Hold up! Slow Down! I can’t comprehend all of this information.” And so after hearing all of this, Mary has to ask a question. It’s not a sarcastic question, but a practical question. She says, “Gabriel I hear what you are saying, but I don’t see how it can happen to me … because I am a virgin and it is humanly impossible for me to have a child.”

Mary could have challenged Gabriel and said – wrong woman; wrong place; wrong time. But notice what she did. She did not say she did not believe, rather she did believe; she just had problems understanding the logistics of this.

She did not need proof; she just wanted to understand the process. If God was going to squeeze His awesome great-ness into human flesh, it’s no wonder that she was filled with some questions.

And that is when God gives Mary (and us) His final Christmas present … and that present comes in the form of the Holy Spirit.

After Mary asked about the logistics, Gabriel shares that it will be the presence of the Holy Spirit that will bring about this baby inside of you. In the first part of verse 35 we read, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you…”

How reassuring it is to hear that the presence of God is always overshadowing those who believe Him. The word overshadow carries a sense of the holy powerful presence of God and is used to describe the events of the Transfiguration of Jesus and to describe how the tabernacle was filled with the presence of God in Exodus.

And because of this presence, this child will be holy and will be the Son of God. Once again, another reminder of who Jesus is – fully God and fully man. He will be holy which means that He will be free from all sin so that He can be the sacrifice for our sins. Make no mistake about it: this baby was God’s Son. In the birth of Jesus, God Himself become human and entered this world for us. That is the miracle of Christmas.

And then Gabriel left Mary with words that you and I should already have not just memorized, but etched into our minds and hearts as truth. It is the words of verse 37 that says, “For nothing is impossible with God.”

Let me ask you: Are some of you feeling like Mary? You are in an impossible situation? Some of you are in an impossible situation right now. You may have lost your job and don’t know where God is calling you next? Are you wondering how you are going to be able to provide a decent Christmas for you and your family? Are you struggling with a child? Is your marriage on life support? Are you lonely this holiday season? Are you wishing that you could just be happy? Are you experiencing overwhelming anxiety in life? Do you feel unloved? Do you feel that you can’t go on? Listen again: Nothing is impossible with God!

If God can reach all the way down from the throne of Heaven to the body of a teenage virgin; if He can enter time from eternity; if the infinite can become an infant … think about what He can do in your life. In this entire passage the awesome extraordinary God became flesh. The One who created all things emptied Himself into a human being so that we could have everlasting life. How did He do it? I have no clue. Mary didn’t know; Gabriel didn’t know; and you can’t know things like that. You just have to leave them up to God. And, as Gabriel says, “nothing is impossible with God.”

On that first Christmas, God gave the perfect gift in the form of Jesus – the God who saves. But it would not be fair for us to just receive a gift this day; we have been taught that it is always better to give than to receive. So let me ask you as we wind up this message: What are you planning on giving God for Christmas?

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Now you might say: Ken, you know finances this year; you know the situations we are facing; I don’t really have anything to give back to God? Well let’s look at what Mary gave. After all she was like us. She did not have a lot to give back to God. She did not have the money, etc to give, but yet she still had something to offer God and she gave Him the only thing that she had to give. Mary gave God herself. Verse 38 she says, “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” Did you catch that? No arguments; no complaining; no whining; no “Why me;” no excuses; no postponements; and no refusals. Just surrender. “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” What better gift could a person give at Christmas? It’s really what God wants!

I read a story that I thought was a perfect illustration as to what the perfect gift looks like at Christmas. It centered on a school Christmas pageant. Of course there was nothing there to make it religious. Only snowmen, reindeer and the like. And so the kindergarten class was to sing a song and the name of the song was ‘Christmas Love.’ And so the children had large letters that they were to hold up as they sang the song and so there was the “C” which stood for Christmas and then there was an “H” that stood for Happiness and an “R” well you get the idea. And they would continue this until they had the letters up that spelled Christmas Love. Everything was going well until the small quiet girl who had the letter “M” held up her sign. Pretty soon the kids began to giggle and laugh as the song kept going on. They were laughing at the little girl who had the “M” sign.

The “M” girl did not know they were laughing at her and she still held up her letter high. The song continued and the last letter was raised and when the last letter was raised all the laughter died down and there was a hush as kids and parents began to understand what was going on and why they were there. They had laughed at that little girl with the “M” because she had held up her “M” upside down to make a “W.” Yet at the end of the song there was no laughter because the message of Christmas spoke loud and clear as the message those kids held up said Christ Was Love instead of Christmas Love.

What will you offer God this year? Are you still looking to give the perfect gift? Then look no further, because the greatest gift that you and I can give is to give ourselves to God to trust Him, to surrender to Him, with no arguing, no excuses, no I’ll do it tomorrow, but just saying “Lord, I surrender to you. I give you myself. I am your servant. May it be to me as you have said.”

Let us pray.

Lord, we have often come to the manger to see the Christ Child; but so many times we have not seen the sign of our salvation clearly enough … because our customs crowd out our basic understandings. Forgive us for Christmases that are merely holidays instead of magnificent Holy Days. Help us to listen and take to heart the angel’s message. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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

If you are under the weather or out of town, you can still attend worship services at this web address 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 in our ever changing and improving web presence.

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

— Matt Stokes
Publicity Committee Chair

Operation Christmas Child

Again we have an opportunity for cheerful giving when we collect and deliver stacks of lovingly-filled shoeboxes to be sent to needy children around the world. Samaritan’s Purse works with local churches and ministry partners around the world to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Shoeboxes need to be filled and returned to the Chapel no later than November 15th.
A Word From the Classroom

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

It's hard to imagine, but the Children's Church program reached the one-year mark in September. At the beginning we had about half of the weeks without any kids. Now, praise the Lord, it is rare to have no kids. One week we even had seven inquisitive children! You may not think seven is a high number, but in our older congregation it is huge to see so many little ones.

Volunteers have been scarce as no one wants to miss the sermon! Those with a computer, however, can see the entire chapel service on livestream. Even if you are present in the sanctuary, reviewing the service is great! Give volunteering a chance as you will receive a blessing doing so. There are a couple “regulars” who make this program possible and the kids just love them!

During November and December, we will focus on the life of Jesus. Kids know something about His birth and a little about His death and resurrection. But we will fill in between those two events with things like Christ's childhood and travels with His disciples. The children will learn what the house was like where Christ lived as a child with his siblings. Yes, He had siblings! And the kids will sample foods similar to what Jesus had during his years on earth. Jesus had schooling and also close friends during His life here.

This program is for kids in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade even though many 4 year olds want to be included. You can't blame them. It's a super time for energetic young ones! Soon, these 4 year olds will be big enough to join us. For the little ones, 4 years old and under there are “Busy Bags” available.

Check out the delightfully decorated classroom and you will be amazed! Volunteer and you will be richly blessed.

— Leslie Henschel
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Getting to Know You...

There is a sweet lady who helps out every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. She has a big smile on her face and is happy to offer you a cup of hot tea or a tasty treat. This lady is Arline Jakeman and she is one of our beloved “Kitchen Angels” of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. But let us go back in time as there is more to this story.

Some years ago, Arline and her husband James (Jake) Jakeman saw an advertisement about Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel in the local community newspaper. Jake was a retired military veteran and had been discharged at Fort Snelling so was familiar with the location of the Chapel. The couple decided to visit the Chapel one Sunday morning in the early Spring. Arline noted the “friendliness” of the congregants and that it was a “comfortable” place to attend church. Jake enjoyed the military aspect of the congregation and so they decided to return for worship. That first visit took place on April 18, 1998 and the Jakemans returned faithfully every Sunday becoming members shortly thereafter.

Arline was born in Bagley, MN - a small town located twenty miles west of Bemidji. She was the second of eight children born to Ole and Lydia Ysen and grew up on a dairy farm in a community populated by Norwegians and Swedes. It was on this farm, where Arline learned the value of hard work that included tending to the cows, working in the garden and canning vegetables. Looking back on this time of her life she realized that “those were happy days for all of us as we grew

Christian Education Classes

Our CE time (9:45-10:30 a.m. ea Sunday) for the Fall term - Sep 11-Dec 18 - is presenting “Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis.” This is a twelve (12) episode series bringing state of the art DVD productions coupled with faith building discussion. Our material is produced by the Creation Research Institute which is on the front line of building believers’ confidence in the Word of God and challenging the pseudo-science of evolution. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this study of the bedrock reality of Creation as its truth impacts every area of our lives.

— Chaplain Mike Wallman

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Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Many veterans attend our Chapel. A group of these veterans from our Chapel are also members of the Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. They steadfastly perform their duties in spite of the weather conditions in order to honor their fellow veterans. Many of the Chapel veterans also volunteer their time and talents to the Chapel.

It is an honor and privilege to know these true heroes. May God continue to bless and protect them.

Please join us in worship at 11:00 a.m. on Sun, Nov 6, 2016 as we celebrate Veterans Day Sunday; a day to honor all veterans.

— Tony Stocker, Chair Worship Committee

Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...

Sun, 6 Nov 16 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 4 Dec 16 — 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.

Pearl Harbor Sunday

We remember a time of great evil in our world when World War II broke out. We remember those who stood their ground against great evil. Those who fought at home and on the battlefronts to insure that evil would not win.

We, at the Ft Snelling Memorial Chapel, will continue to honor and remember those brave individuals who fought against this great evil and whose bravery has allowed freedom and hope to prevail.

Please join us in our Pearl Harbor Remembrance Service on Sun, Dec 4, 2016 (11:00 a.m.). The Chord Ayres Male Chorus will provide special music honoring their bravery and sacrifice. Please take this opportunity to meet and thank those survivors who are still with us and faithfully attend this service.

— Tony Stocker, Chair Worship Committee

50th Anniversary

On 23 Mar, 1923 the Commander at Fort Snelling requested the authority from the Adjutant General of the U.S. Army to erect a Post Chapel "without expense to the government." On 17 Sep 1923 the approval was granted.

So 90-years ago on 5 Sep 1926 the ground breaking ceremony was held and this was the beginning of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel; and the cornerstone being laid on 21 Aug 1927.

Starting with this issue, we are commemorating a year-long 50th Anniversary celebration of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation.

The 501(c)(3) Chapel Foundation filed for incorporation on 7 Dec 1966 and the MN Secretary of State signed the legal incorporation under the laws on 13 Dec 1966.

The first non-denominational Christian worship service was held on 12 Feb 1967. (Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sun 12 Feb 2017.)

Our theme to drive this great event is "Glorious Past — Energetic Present — Promising Future." This is going to be a wonderful and exciting time to be a member of the congregation as we celebrate our historical past and plan our exciting future.

Future articles will include stories of the building of the Chapel and the activities that it took to raise the interest in the project as well as the raising of the funds that it took to make the project successful. This could not be done without the dedication of many people this will be covered as well.

— Sharon Emde, Chair
50th Anniversary Committee
everything we ate and always had plenty of food on the table.” She laughed and said, “in those days there was no television so we had to amuse ourselves by making up our own games” which she enjoyed playing with her six brothers and sister. Arline grew up in a Christian home and was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. Faith was important to the Ysen family and Arline learned that it is “important to stay true to our Christian faith” even when “things don’t always go the way we want or expect - God is always with us.”

Arlene graduated from Bagley High School in 1952 and remained in the Bagley area to work and further her education. It was during the summer following her graduation that Arline was introduced to a young man named “Jake” who was on leave from the military and staying at the home of his sister. Jake and Arline experienced an immediate rapport with one another and Arline noted that Jake was “a really nice guy.” The couple had a whirlwind courtship, became engaged two weeks later followed by marriage on August 1, 1952 at Redeemer Lutheran Church. At the time of their marriage, Jake was in the Army and stationed in the community of Amburg near Frankfurt, Germany. He returned to Germany following their marriage and Arline made plans to join him at the end of November. Arline recalled that she had never been out of Bagley prior to her marriage and had to figure out how to get from Bagley to New York City all on her own. This trip turned out to be a big adventure for Arline as she traveled by bus to the Twin Cities and then by train to Chicago and New York. She arrived in New York City without a clue as to how to get to Fort Hamilton - an active duty military post located in the borough of Brooklyn. Fortunately, Arline was able to locate Fort Hamilton with the assistance of another traveler and military MP stationed along the way. She was at the fort for only a short time prior to boarding a ship to Germany to join her husband.

The Jakemans made their first home on a US Army base in Amburg, Germany where Arline became accustomed to life as a military wife. Jake was part of the US Army 15th Constabulary Regiment and Squadron whose mission was to patrol the border between West and East Germany and also the border with Czechoslovakia. Jake served a total of 21 years in the Army and was stationed at a variety of locations including Amburg, Berlin, Camp Lucas, Fort Lee and Fort Snelling. He completed a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1963 to 1964 and was discharged from the Army in 1969 at Fort Snelling at the rank of Master Sergeant.

Arlene and Jake were blessed with three children: David, Steven and Susan. Sadly, David passed away at the age of four months after contracting pneumonia and experiencing other gastrointestinal problems. Steven is a retired US Army veteran residing in Lonsdale, MN; while Susan works and resides in Bloomington with her mother. In addition to her children, Arline has two granddaughters - Bianca who is in the Air Force and stationed in Grand Forks and Tiffany who is a resident of Colorado.

The Jakemans purchased a home in Bloomington 44 years ago following Jake’s retirement from the military. The couple loved to travel and visited 49 of the 50 states creating many wonderful memories. They celebrated 60 years of marriage in 2013 at which point Jake fell and broke his hip, developed pneumonia and passed away a short time later. This loss was devastating for Arline but she was accepting of the circumstances recognizing that Jake was “at peace and with the Lord.” Arline continues to read her Bible every day and attend church weekly. In her spare time, she enjoys working in her garden, knitting, crocheting and is also a volunteer at the Creekside Senior Center.

It seems appropriate to close with a verse from Arline’s favorite hymn “The Old Rugged Cross.” It is this very cross that represents the essence of God’s character and love for each and every one of us through the sacrificial death of His beloved Son Jesus Christ:

"On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain,
So I’ll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown."

Thank you Arline for your service to our country as a military wife and your continued service to Fort Snelling Chapel.

Submitted by Eva Zorn
From the Flag-Line

For a few months the Flag Line hasn’t had guests and finally everyone’s schedule allowed for the Chapel to be honored with the presence of three guests — three Sundays in a row.

First, on September 11, we were once again blessed with the family of Thomas Burnett Jr. attending the service as the Chapel honored the 15th anniversary of that horrible day.

Beverly gave an account of the last time she spoke with Tom Jr. the night before he boarded Flight 93. As you know, Tom Jr. called his wife three times while the plane was still in the air and was one of the passengers who got together a plan to do something to keep the terrorists from crashing the plane into the next target, which experts believe was the Capitol in Washington DC. The slogan in memory of Tom Burnett JR, has become, “We are going to do something.”

Beverly was passionate about all of us doing something to change the direction of our country. She attended the Chapel with her husband, Tom Sr, her son-in-law and two granddaughters.

On Sun, Sept 18th, the new Chief of Police of St. Paul, Todd Axtell and the American Legion, ‘Cop of the Year,’ Tony Dean … who also served as a US Marine … joined us at the Flag Line. We had wanted to honor our police officers and having both of these St. Paul Officers join us was a great way to do just that. Since the tragic deaths of so many police officers across the United States, the Flag Line purchased a thin blue line police flag which we try to have on the flag line every Sunday. Everyone at the Chapel gave them much support and love while they were with us - something they do not often get from the public. Both Tony and Chief Axtell really loved the service and the Chapel.

On Sun, Sept 25th, we were so honored to have Dr. Bruce Heilman join us for the service. As you many have read in the last Snelling Spirit, Dr. Bruce’s trip to the Twin Cities came about because he sat with some of us from the Chapel at the Minnesota wedding table at the Saluting Marine’s wedding reception last May in Washington DC. We were overwhelmed by his accomplishments and what he is still doing at 90 years old. He is still the Chancellor of the University of Richmond, VA. He, as the former President of the same university and during his tenure, fought to get the chaplaincy program as part of the University of Richmond and was successful. He survived Iwo Jima and serves on many Boards across the country of very profound organizations such as the Greatest Generation Foundation and the Iwo Jima Survivors organization. He still rides his 2-wheel Harley across the United States to honor our military and veterans, riding 6,000 miles to Rolling Thunder last May. He is the author of the book, “An Interruption That Lasted a Lifetime: My First 80 Years.” He gives much of the credit for his extraordinary life to the fact he joined the Marines at 17 years old which opened the

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Celebrate the Season!

Christmas Garden of Poinsettias

A tradition at the Chapel is to adorn the altar area with beautiful poinsettia plants at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (4:00 p.m.). The Chapel is made alive with color. You can participate by purchasing a red, pink or white plant(s) — $15 each. 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. Plants will be on sale in the Fellowship Hall starting 6 Nov - 4 Dec. Plants may be taken following the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Christmas Cookies Needed

The Kitchen Angels are requesting cookie donations for Sundays Nov 27, Dec 4 & 18 for our fellowship hour. Sign-up on the board just outside the Chapel kitchen. Thank you.
— Carol Nygaard Coordinator

Christmas Eve

On Sat, Dec 24th we will have a worship service at 4:00 p.m. Join in the singing of the carols ... accompanied by our Minister of Music — Marlye Wallman — on the historic Kimball pipe organ ... in the beauty of candlelight and of a garden of poinsettias. The special music will be the “Regency Trio” and “Touching Hearts” ... featuring instrumental and vocal. A shuttle bus will be available.

Christmas — No Service @ Chapel

We will not be hosting a Christmas Day worship service on Sun 25 Dec at the Chapel; rather we are encouraging “Family Worship” in the setting of your home. The Chapel Foundation is providing you with a DVD and worship booklet. They will be available at the Chapel beginning Sun 4 Dec. If you need it mailed to you, please call the Foundation office at (952) 888-1525 and leave your name, address and phone number.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Be sure to mark your calendar — Sun, Dec 11th at 1:00 p.m. — to join your Chapel friends and their guests at our Annual Christmas Luncheon. It will be held at Embassy Suites — Airport located at 7901 34th Avenue South in Bloomington, MN. Tickets are $25 each for adults and $18 each for children 10-years-of-age and younger. Ticket price includes gratuity. This year you will have your choice of either Pork Loin w/apple chutney or Champagne Chicken. The children’s menu will be chicken strips and French fries. Tickets will go on sale after worship in the Chapel Fellowship Hall starting Nov 6th thru Dec 4th. Tickets MUST be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door or purchased after Dec 4th. Every household in attendance will receive a beautiful brass 50th anniversary commemorative Christmas tree ornament.

— Your Fellowship Committee

Advent

Soon we will be entering into the Season of Advent, which in Latin means “The Coming.” The Advent Wreath is a circle which symbolizes the eternity of God. The lighting of the first candle represents Expectation. The second candle represents Hope. The third represents Purity. The fourth represents Love. The Christ Candle lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminds us that Jesus is the “Light of the World.”

In this busy time of preparation and anticipation, remember it is better to give than to receive. Once you receive the gift of Jesus, you will want to give the gift of Jesus to others. He is the never ending gift.

— Your Worship Committee
world to travel and higher education for him. He became a Dr. of Education. He is also a strong believer in the Jesus Christ.

We have plans to bring in more special guests to the Flag Line. Everyone we have asked and will ask, have a story of some great accomplishment in their lives and it’s so wonderful to be able to get to know them. Someday we hope to have Clint Lorence come to the Chapel. Every Sunday, you might notice his name on the back of the bulletin. Clint Lorence is one of several soldiers imprisoned in Fort Leavenworth for disobeying the Rules of Engagement to save their men. There are many people, lawyers and organizations working to get them released. Don and I keep in contact with Clint and send him greetings from the Chapel and little gifts. He has a great attitude about his time there and is learning a new trade.

By the time you read this, the anniversary of the Beirut Lebanon barracks bombing will once again have been observed at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery where 3 of the 5 Marines from Minnesota lost are buried. This is the first time October 23 has been on a Sunday since the observance has been recognized in MN so we scheduled the ceremony earlier in the day at 4:00 p.m. More people and the relatives of those 5 Marines Minnesota lost that day in 1983 will be able to attend. Many are planning to come to the Chapel for service on Sun, Oct 23 and then to the ceremony at 4:00 p.m. The Marine Color Guard and Marine Rifle Squad will be there along with music and Chaplain Mike performing the service. It’s a very moving ceremony and very meaningful to the families.

If you have any suggestions of someone you think we should ask to be in the Flag Line please let us know.

— Don & Patricia Peerson

A CHRISTMAS LULLABY

On a quiet night...so long ago, in a small town called Bethlehem a soft voice from a stable became the first Christmas Lullaby.

On a very clear night, the shepherds came with their sheep, to the sound of the Christmas Lullaby.

Then came the wise men that followed the Christmas star, they have also heard the Christmas Lullaby.

The angels have listened to the soft voice from the heavens above and joined the chorus of the first Christmas Lullaby.

As we have been told of the first Christmas, come join us in the chorus of the first Christmas Lullaby.

Our Holy Mother loves to sing, The Christmas Lullaby.

Written by
U.S. Army Airborne Soldier
Daniel Ojeda, Jr.
while on night watch under the skies of Vietnam on Christmas Eve 1966
The Snelling Spirit

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation
Office: 9031 Penn Avenue S, Bloomington, MN 55431

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NOV-DEC 2016
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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

Ft. Snelling Memorial 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.

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Bev Johnson
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<td>6</td>
<td>25th Sunday after Pentecost Veterans Day Sunday 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;Soldiers of Christ&quot; Music: Augsburg Centennial Singers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Election Day 9 6:30 p.m. Finance Comm Mtg.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 Veterans Day 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors Mtg.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>26th Sunday after Pentecost National Bible Sunday 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;At the Crossroad of Destiny&quot; Music: Chad Shultz, Vocalist</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Last Sunday after Pentecost Thanksgiving Sunday 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;The Shape of Thanksgiving&quot; Music: ASI Male Chorus</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Thanksgiving Day 25</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>1st Sunday in Advent Holy Communion 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</td>
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Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — E-mail: KenBeale55A@msn.com
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# December 2016

**Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation**

Office: 9031 Penn Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431  
Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org

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- **Accounting Specialist:** Carol Nygaard — Phone: 952/888-1525 — E-mail: info@fortsnellingmcf.org

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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>2nd Sunday in Advent</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Pearl Harbor Remembrance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chaplain</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chaplain</strong></td>
<td><strong>50-yr ago FSMCF filed for Incorporation in 1966</strong></td>
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<td><strong>C h a p l a i n</strong></td>
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| 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class | 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
  Sermon: "Why a Stable?"  
  Music: Chord Ayres Male Chorus |     |     |     |     |     |
| **11** | **3rd Sunday in Advent** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
|     | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** | **50-yr ago MN Secretary of State signed the legal incorporation of FSMCF in 1966** |     |     | **K e n's** |
| 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class | **M i k e s** | 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
  Sermon: "When the Shepherds Met THE Shepherd"  
  Music: Land of Lakes Choir Boys  
  1:00 p.m. Christmas Luncheon |     |     |     |     |     |
| **18** | **4th Sunday in Advent** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
|     | **Person** | **Person** | **1st Day of Winter** | **New Year's Eve** |     |     |
| 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class | **P e r s o n** | 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
  Sermon: "Unwrapping Christmas"  
  Music: Tamara Haneschel, Flutist  
  1:00 p.m. Board of Directors Mtg |     |     |     |     |     |
| **25** | **Christmas Day** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
|     | **N o services @ the Chapel** |     |     |     |     | **D a y** |
| **24** | **Christmas Eve** |     |     |     |     | **Eve** |
|     | 4:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service  
  Sermon: "The Christmas Guest"  
  Music: Touching Hearts & Regency Trio |     |     |     |     |     |