Choice: God Created & Said It's Good

This message was preached on 20 January 2019 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as "Choice: God Created & Said It's Good" ... based on Genesis 1:31a. This sermon was one-of-seven in a sermon series entitled - "De-Bunking Da-Bumper Stickers with Scripture." It, along with over 550+ other titles, is available on CDs and DVDs.

Today we are all about choices. This morning, I woke up and chose ... what clothes to wear ... what I would eat for breakfast ... and which roadways to travel to get to the Chapel.

How about you: Did you have similar choices (this morning)? Is it safe for me to assume you have had numerous choices to make thus far (today)? I suppose you had the added choice of whether or not to attend worship today. [I didn’t have such a choice.]

Some choices are what I would say are unimportant choices; but other choices are more important:

- I have chosen to be faithful to my wife ...  
- I have chosen to be an active member of the Chapel Foundation ...  
- I have chosen to give offerings in excess of 10% of my income to the Lord ...  
- I have chosen to give my heart to Jesus, and to be a Christian in word and deed.

It’s been the same since the beginning ... people have always had a choice. Adam and Eve, all the way back to Genesis 2:16 had a choice. God told them that they were free to eat from any tree in the garden ... but that they shouldn’t eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil ... and, we know the results of that choice; they didn’t choose well! And as a result, sin entered our world ... and we’ve been battling with it ever since!

You’ll remember, Moses has been leading the Israelites during the 40-years of wandering in the wilderness ... and he is preaching a final sermon before he dies. He has been with them day-and-night for 40-years; they have lived together; camping out together; he has seen them at their best and their worst; he knows the things that they have struggled with ... and here ... in some of his last words to his people before he dies and Joshua takes them into the Promise Land he is sharing some things that he considers to be very important. He won’t be entering the Promise Land with them, but he has a pretty good idea of the types of things that they will face. He realizes that they will be faced with the worship of other gods by the Canaanites and he tells them that they can choose ... they can choose between following God (and His ways) or they can reject God (and go their own way). Joshua, near the end of his life, he (too) explained to the people that they had a choice ... but if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves (this day) whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

In one of my favorite stories (in the Bible) Elijah was on Mount Carmel and he challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest to see whose god was the One True Goc – whether the gods of Baal or the Lord God whom Elijah served. And Elijah confronted the people (in 1 Kings 18). Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is god, follow him." (1 Kings 18:21) But the people said nothing.

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

FREEDOM UNDER SIEGE

From my perspective, our freedom of religion— as spelled out in the 1st Amendment— has been under siege for most of the entirety of 2020. It is a national problem and it is playing out in front of our eyes right here at the Chapel. Our congregation is filled with Christian patriots who many have fought for our freedom or forebears have done so. All we want is to be left alone to worship our God and fellowship with other freedom loving Christians.

The state is trying to direct our every move. The state dictates what businesses are to remain open, school attendance or virtual learning, church attendance—and all these dictates in the name of protecting us. I fear if this continues the state will govern every move we make—including what we think.

We are a free people and realize freedom is not free but must be fought for to continue. Our Chapel Foundation has been fighting for our right to worship freely—and we will continue that fight. Chaplain Beale has had to tailor our worship according to the dictates of the state. He has had to revise our plans many times to comply with the state. He is always walking a tight rope to make the worship service as pleasing to the congregation as possible—while still keeping the state at bay so the Chapel remains open.

Each one of us is fighting this battle as well. We support Chaplain Beale and the Chapel leadership. We continue to pledge our support of Chapel projects, giving each week and tithing to Christian causes. I do not know where this will end—but I commend each and every one of you for your passionate Christian ideals, actions and unyielding support of our freedom to worship our God.

Tony Stocker
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Offering Envelopes  … or Give On-Line

If you are blessed by this ministry ‘beyond the walls’ of the Chapel (i.e., Livestream, bi-monthly news-letter, CDs/DVDs, e-mails, and/or pastoral care), PLEASE consider calling our Foundation office at 952/888-1525 and request the pre-addressed envelopes to mail in your plate offerings. Be sure to leave your name/mailing address so that we may send the envelopes to you.

OR—If you are home-bound, traveling, relocated or just appreciate this ministry, PLEASE consider making your contributions at our website at http://fortsnellingmcf.org/make_a_donation.php Thank you.

— Your Finance Committee

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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 2021:

Saturdays … @ Foundation Office
17 April (9:00 a.m.)
19 June (9:00 a.m.)
18 September (9:00 a.m.)
20 November (9:00 a.m.)

Sundays … @ the Chapel Sanctuary
7 February (1:00 p.m.)
19 December (1:00 p.m.)

A copy of the 2020 Annual Report will be yours at the 54th Annual Mtg scheduled for Sunday 7 February 2021 (1:00 p.m.) in the Chapel sanctuary. If you would like a copy … after this date … please 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 of last year’s accomplishments.
Listen: These aren't just Old Testament accounts of antiquity; we have the same choices (today). We can choose to follow God or we can choose to go our own way.

Jesus said (in Matthew 7:13-14) “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Choosing Jesus is not always the most popular choice ... in the world’s eyes. The road is not always the easiest to travel. Sometimes it seems like you are swimming upstream in a world that just goes with the flow. But ask any committed Christian (and there are many here this morning) and they will testify to the wonderful blessing of choosing Jesus. Although the road isn't always easy with Jesus ... it is never harder than we can bear.

But I hasten to add, in addition to you being able to choose, you also live with the consequences of your choice.

Spiritually speaking, if you choose to follow the Lord and live a Christian life, the result of that choice is a life of joy, hope, abundant life ... and eventually, eternal life in heaven. But if you choose to go our own way and reject God's way, then the result of that choice is ultimately death and destruction.

Now, sometimes the consequences of our choices come right away ... like racing through a traffic light that's red and being immediately pulled over by law enforcement. But sometimes the consequences come later. Just because someone chooses to reject God and go his/her own way that doesn't mean that they will just keel over and die right on the spot (although that has happened ... but I'll save that for another sermon). More than likely, the consequences come later ... with broken families, broken homes, broken lives ... and ultimately, eternal damnation.

The good news is: You get to choose. And if you've chosen wisely, then there's even better news - you get to enjoy the consequences of that choice. But if you've chosen unwisely, then the bad news is you have to suffer the consequences of that choice.

Now today's bumper sticker is PRO-CHOICE. We all know that this means favoring the legalization of abortion and believes that pregnant women should have the right to choose to end the life conceived in her womb. This choice has cost the lives of an estimated 60-million since the U.S. Supreme Court decision of Roe vs Wade on January 22, 1973.

Let me be clear: Abortion has never been about “choice” ... It’s about escaping the consequences of your choice by taking all choices away from another human being.

A feminist will say – It’s my body and my choice. The unborn child says – Please make your choices before I’m conceived, not after!

So what does God say about the unborn life?

I. THE UNBORN ARE PERSONS BEFORE GOD

Many terms are used to describe the unborn life (today): fetus, tissue, embryo, etc... All these terms sound so cold and frankly inhuman ... which is why the pro-choice use it. But God says – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” (Jeremiah 1:5) The word “before” here is very significant. God is saying – “Before I began to create the person who would later come to be known as [Jeremiah] I knew him.” In the mind of God, before Jeremiah was even conceived God considered him a person; before He began His creative work God considered Jeremiah a person. The point is clear: If God considers the unborn life to be a person before He even begins to create Him in the womb, we should certainly consider him/her a person after that creative process has begun.

- So human is unborn life to God that He filled a second trimester baby named John [the Baptist] with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:15) Tissues are not filled with the Holy Spirit – people are.

- So human is unborn life that Jesus Christ the eternal “Word of God,” who existed before time began, experienced all stages of human development in the womb from conception to birth. Was Jesus not a person when He was in the womb? If life does not begin at conception then Jesus – the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity – ceased to exist as a being (for some time) as He was a developing fetus.

This is an important argument because the first thing that any society does if it is going to mistreat a particular class of people ... either because of hatred or convenience ... is to dehumanize them.

The unborn life is a person before God. But not only is the Unborn a Person, God says ...

II. THE UNBORN IS A PRODUCT OF HIS CREATIVE WORK

God said to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb...” The word “form” in the Hebrew is a word used to describe the creative work of a potter as he molds and shapes a vessel. It is the same word used in Genesis when the Bible says that God “formed
man from the dust of the earth." (Genesis 2:7) The same purposeful act of God that took place in the dust of the earth (when Adam was formed) takes place in the womb (when God forms life there). You see the unborn is not an accident, he/she is not the product of random chance, and he/she is the product of God's creative work.

Is this not what David echoes in Psalm 139? "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed." (Psalm 139:13-16)

Human life in the womb — regardless of the circumstances involved — is a product of God's creative work. In fact, unborn human life is set above the rest of God's creation ... because it is made in the very "image of God" Himself. (Genesis 1:26) This is what makes the unborn more valuable than any creature on the list of endangered species. This vessel that God is forming in the womb is so honorable ... because it is the only creation of God designed to house the very presence of God Himself. "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Unborn life is so valuable because it is the object of God's love. Christ died for the unborn. He died for me before I was ever even a thought in the mind of my mom and dad. And the same is true of you ... and of any child yet to be born.

I hope you don't see the unborn as a product of chance or of an unfortunate set of human circumstances; rather the child within is a purposeful product of God's creative work. The overwhelming testimony of the Word of God is that the Lord is sovereign even over the womb. He is responsible for the creation of human life. The unborn life is (1) a person before God, (2) a product of His creative work, and ...

III. THE UNBORN LIFE HAS PURPOSE FROM GOD

"Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5) While Jeremiah was yet to be born, God had already set him apart and appointed him to be a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah's mother, no doubt, reflected upon the unborn baby in her womb and wondered what would become of her child; but God considered him a prophet.

Now, my critics are quick to say — Not all children are created with such a godly purpose. While it is true that not all children share such a righteous purpose in God's plan, to say that all unborn children do not have divine purpose is to contradict God's Word. The Bible says that God is "no respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34) If all children are a product of God's purposeful creation: Does God make mistakes, or does God make junk? Of course not! Every unborn child has a godlike purpose. Whether they fulfill that purpose or not is another question. But should they not be afforded the opportunity to do so?

Because of circumstances sometimes it's hard for us to see any purpose for the birth of some children. Sometimes we feel that some children would not have a chance if they were brought into this world. But this choice is better left in the hands of God.

We are not God.

I was given an interesting article that illustrates this point. It asks the question: Would you consider an abortion in any of these circumstances? —

1) A preacher and his wife living in extreme poverty. They have 14 children and she is pregnant again. Would you consider abortion?

2) A mother has tuberculosis and the father has syphilis. The family has four children already: One has tuberculosis, two are deaf and one is blind. Would you consider abortion?

3) A thirteen year old black girl is raped by a white man. Would you consider abortion?

4) A teenage girl becomes pregnant but not by her fiancée. He is very upset. Would you consider abortion?

If you aborted in the first case you have killed John Wesley — founder of the Methodist Church. If you aborted in the second case you killed Beethoven — the great musician. If you aborted in the third case you killed Ethel Waters — the black gospel singer. If in the fourth case you aborted, you have just killed Jesus of Nazareth.

You see we don't have the ability to play God. Out of the estimated 60-million aborted children in America over the past 46-years, who knows what great purposes of God, what great potential was snuffed out, depriving mankind of great blessings. The unborn child has a great God given purpose and potential.

What shall we do?

1) We should agree with God about what He says about the unborn.

2) We should pray for the unborn and their plight in our country and around the world.

(Continued ... on page seven)
Seasons of the Faith — Epiphany

The season of Epiphany is the liturgical period that begins 12 days after Christmas on January 6th — and continues until the last Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. The word epiphany comes from the Greek and means "appearance" or "manifestation" and celebrates the presentation of the Baby Jesus to the Magi as told in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him."

(Matthew 2:1-2)

The Magi were religious men who had heard of the Baby Jesus and traveled a long distance to "worship Him." Along the way, they were guided by a "star" to the little town of Bethlehem. When the star "stopped over the place where the Child was ... they were overjoyed." The Magi presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh — but most importantly, were the first of many Gentiles to worship the Christ Child.

The story from Matthew informs us that Jesus is worthy of royal honor from all humanity and that Gentiles — as well as Jews — are included in God’s redemptive plan. During this season of Epiphany, let us bring to mind the joy of the Magi as they worshiped the Baby Jesus!

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

Fundamentals of the Faith — Solo Scriptura

Five Latin phrases were popularized during the Protestant Reformation in an effort to summarize the foundational doctrines of the faith. Those phrases included: sola Scriptura (scripture alone), sola fide (faith alone), sola gratia (grace alone), solus Christus (Christ alone) and soli Deo gloria (to the glory of God alone).

In this article, we will focus on the first phrase - sola Scriptura. This concept emphasizes that the Bible is the source of authority for Christians. The reformers did not place their confidence in the authority of religious leaders here on earth, the hierarchy of the church or even sacred tradition. Rather, they rejected those doctrines that were not consistent with the teachings of scripture. Scripture was to be affirmed as the sole source of divine revelation and the infallible source of authority for Christian faith and practice.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

In this passage, the apostle Paul affirms that all Scripture is “God-breathed” and the very life and Word of God. The Bible is without error, absolutely true and trustworthy. Scripture must be treasured and guarded by all members of the Church as God’s Truth for a lost and dying world.

— Submitted by Eva Zorn
Great Hymns of the Faith — “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

The hymn *Sweet Hour of Prayer* focuses on a backbone of Christian practice: prayer. The words were penned by William Walford, a blind preacher from England and first appeared in print in the *New York Observer* on September 13, 1845. The text was later published in the 1859 Baptist Hymnal—*Church Melodies*, with music by gospel songwriter William B. Bradbury. The words of this hymn focus on the joy of spending time with God through prayer.

The most basic definition of prayer is “talking to God.” It is not a passive practice but rather a direct address to God with our private petitions and praises. Through the practice of prayer, we are removed from this “world of care”—for a special time of fellowship with our Father in Heaven. It is at this time that we can communicate our feelings and “make our wants and wishes known…” Through prayer we renew our trust in the Lord and receive mercy, grace and help in time of need.

Finally, prayer is a wonderful antidote for worry as stated by the apostle Paul—

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Prayer reassures Christians that God works for our good and will guard our hearts and minds with his peace.

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

**Philippians 4:6**
New International Version (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

*Sweet hour of prayer,*
*Sweet hour of prayer,*
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father’s throne
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare,
By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

*Sweet hour of prayer,*
*Sweet Hour of prayer,*
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him, whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I’ll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for Thee, Sweet hour of prayer.

“Sweet Hour” words and music by Walford and Bradbury
Used by Permission, CCLI License # 2515762
(Continued ... from page four)

(3) We should use our voices to speak out and speak up for those who cannot defend themselves.

(4) We should use our right and responsibility in a democratic society to vote for candidates that support the sanctity of the unborn.

(5) If we have not yet, we should begin to realize our own God-given purpose and potential by coming to the cross of Jesus Christ and allowing Him to cleanse us of our sin ... trusting in the resurrected Christ to give us new life.

This sermon raises another mind-probing question, and that is this: Can an abortionist or a mother who has had an abortion find forgiveness in the arms of God? How about the men — a father or boyfriend or husband who urged an abortion or transported the woman to the abortion clinic? The short answer is — Yes ... though the scars of the atrocity committed have both physical and mental ramifications heaped upon one another. It is a widely known fact (of recent date) that abortion causes an increase in the abortive mother’s risk of cancer. It creates a deep hurt (as well) that may last for years or even to the end of one’s life. The physicians, who have murdered the children, once they come to realize the sinfulness of their doings, face a whole slew of emotions from regret and self-loathing — to deep depression and other emotional distresses ... which have led both abortive mothers and the doctors into suicide.

The good news is that Jesus washes the blood off the hands of the perpetrators, and He walks with those who must deal with the physical and emotional consequences for their actions. He still loves all the parties involved (in an abortion) and yearsns for their repentance and reliance on the cross of Christ to get them through the dark times that typically follow an abortion. It is never more truer of the repentant that the cross they will bear for their days will be heavier and more burdensome; but in the end, through their testimony of renewal and hope for the ones who feel hopeless with an unexpected pregnancy, will find love, life, and ultimately forgiveness for the murder of the child within ... from the child themselves. For I believe a child that dies before birth is immediately in the arms of the heavenly Father, who nurtures them and calls them His own.

I want to leave you with this thought today: There is hope and there is acceptance for the fallen, if you but lean upon the cross and plead for mercy. The blood of Christ was not shed in vain, but can wash away any stain of sin, and can make you whiter than snow.

Among the wonderful things about Jesus, He is giving you (this day) another opportunity to make a choice. Right now is a moment of decision ... you can choose Jesus ... or you can choose to continue to go your own way. I encourage you to choose Jesus — choose life — love the Lord — listen to His voice — and hold fast to Him.

If that is your wish, I invite you to pray with me:

O Lord of Life, we pray that this great blight on America — this holocaust — will soon end, and that babies may live to see the light of day. Deliver us from the mentality of pagenism, and help us to know that the babe within the womb has a sacred purpose according to Your divine plan. And for those, O God, who are guilty of taking the life of their own baby may they realize there is hope ... if they flee to the Cross to find mercy. And so, too, for men — who by their immoral acts and encouragement — have driven young girls to such actions. May they all find repentance and forgiveness through the Christ who died for their sins. For we ask this through the Babe of Bethlehem who came to give us life abundant (here) and life eternal (hereafter). Amen.

Serving God and Country,
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The Remaining Chaplain’s articles for 2021 include:
Mar/Apr — “Coexist: Only Jesus is Way, Truth & Life”
May/Jun — “Evolution: By Him All Were Created”
Jul/Aug — “Socialism: The Right of Talents for Gain”
Sep/Oct — “Karma: Do Not be Deceived”
Nov/Dec — “Immigration: The Righteous Judge Rules”

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Buddy’s Promo

On Sunday (November 8), we had the joy of witnessing the promotion of our Associate Chaplain — Philip ‘Buddy’ Winn— to the U.S. Army rank of Colonel — pinned by his wife (Colette) and son (Nick). Sr. Chaplain (COL-Ret) Ken Beale offered the prayer.

[photo by Heidi Reichow]
Book Review

This first-person account of military service with the US Marines is considered a WWII classic alongside *With the Old Breed* by E.B. Sledge and *To Hell and Back* by Audie Murphy. Robert Leckie was 21-years old when he enlisted with the US Marines—where he served as a machine gunner and scout with H Co, Second Bn, First Marine Reg, 1st Marine Div. The book recounts one Marine’s journey from the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot on Parris Island (South Carolina) through months of intense fighting on Guadalcanal—followed by battles at Cape Gloucester, New Britain and Peleliu where he was wounded and subsequently evacuated. The book focuses heavily on the Guadalcanal Campaign which was the first major land offensive fought by Allied Forces against the Empire of Japan. The fighting took place over six months from August 7, 1942 to February 9, 1943.

After a hard-fought campaign, the struggle for Guadalcanal ended with a resounding American victory.

Leckie describes the spirit and camaraderie that permeated the lives of the Marines of H Co—but also includes details of the grinding day-to-day experience of living in a war zone characterized by destruction and death. Robert Leckie has written a riveting, honest and at times sardonic account of his experiences fighting with the 1st Marines—the oldest, largest and most decorated division of the US Marine Corps.

*Helmet for My Pillow* is recommended for persons with an interest in WWII and the US Marines participation in the Pacific Theater.

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

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Many Thanks to all those who contributed to Operation Christmas Child—a part of the *Samaritan’s Purse*, an evangelical Christian International relief organization headed by Franklin Graham. Since 1993 more than 100-million boys and girls in over 130-countries have experienced God’s love through the power of simple shoebox gifts.

Our congregation filled **223 shoeboxes** (129 shoeboxes collected) and $1,883.00 (@$20/box = 94 shoeboxes) which were delivered by Tony Stocker along with a $1,500 check (for shipping costs) from our Benevolence Funds to the *Samaritan’s Purse* distribution center in the Twin Cities.

We also gratefully thank the leadership of our coordinators—Sharon Coyne and Barb Stocker.

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*Photos taken by Buddy Winn*
Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...

Sun, 31 Jan 21 — Four Chaplains Remembrance — commemorating the 78th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on which four chaplains gave their lives.

Sun, 30 May 21 — Memorial Day Remembrance — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 4 July 21 — Independence Day — celebrating the 245th birthday of our nation... culminating in an ice cream social.


Sun, 12 Sept 21 — U.S. Constitution Sunday — remembering our founding document.

Sun, 19 Sept 21 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 26 Sept 21 — Gold Star Day — recognizing the families of those service members who paid the ultimate price on the altar of liberty.

Sun, 7 Nov 21 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 5 Dec 21 — 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.

Christian Education

Join David Barton and Rick Green, Constitutional experts and advocates for the original intent of our founding documents, in this one-of-a-kind course on the meaning and purpose of the Constitution! You’ll go article-by-article through the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and learn about executive orders, recess appointments, the Electoral College, the powers of Congress and the President, freedom of religion, and much more. Shot on location in the amazing WallBuilders library of original documents and in Independence Hall (Philadelphia)— celebrating the 225th anniversary of the Constitution!

There will be an approximate 30-minute video followed by discussion. Each participant is suggested to purchase a $15 workbook which includes all the course notes, the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and its Amendments. You will not be disappointed with this lecture series.

Refer to your weekly worship bulletin for time and location of classes.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, 25 October we welcomed six (6) new members to the Chapel Foundation.

L-R: Dan Bredvold, Herm Marthaler, Gary Lichlighter, Rich Peterson [children Regan & Colin], and Kelly Peterson. Missing was Terresa Peterson.

[Photo taken by Eva Zorn]
Historic Fort Snelling — The Early Years

Fort Snelling, situated on the bluffs overlooking the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers was a natural site for location of a military post in the upper Midwest.

In 1805, the United States Army ordered Lieutenant Zebulon Pike to explore the Mississippi River for potential placement of military posts. Pike negotiated an agreement with representatives of the Dakota people to acquire the land at this same confluence—with promises of a trading post and military fort. Troops from the 5th U.S. Infantry Regiment arrived in 1819, under the command of Lt. Colonel Henry Leavenworth and began construction of the fort the following year. The purpose of the fort was twofold:

- to protect American interests in the fur trade and
- to deter the British from further advances into the Northwest.

Initially called Fort St Anthony, the post was renamed Fort Snelling in 1825 to recognize and honor the legacy of Colonel Josiah Snelling.

Josiah Snelling was born in Boston in 1783, to a family with a prosperous baking business. He enlisted in the Massachusetts militia in 1803, and joined the Fourth Infantry Regiment as a First Lieutenant in 1809. Snelling fought in the War of 1812 where he was cited for Bravery at the Battles of Tippecanoe and Brownstown.

After being promoted to Colonel in 1820, Snelling received orders to oversee construction of the stone fort on the Mississippi River. The fort was completed in 1825 and remained in service for nearly 40-years until 1858. At that point in time, Minnesota had become the 32nd state and the federal government no longer saw a need to maintain the fort so officially closed it the following year. In the next Snelling Spirit, we will review the history of Fort Snelling during the Civil War.

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

Oil painting of Josiah Snelling, c. 1818. Artist: unknown.

Fort Snelling oil painting by George Catlin, 1852

Chapel
Anxious? Take Vitamin A
“All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Blue? Take Vitamin B
“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.” (Psalm 103:1)

Crushed? Take Vitamin C
“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” (I Peter 5:7)

Depressed? Take Vitamin D
“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

Empty? Take Vitamin E
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.” (Psalm 100:4)

Fearful? Take Vitamin F
“Fear not, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Greedy? Take Vitamin G
“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put unto our lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)

Hesitant? Take Vitamin H
“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Isaiah 52:7)

Insecure? Take Vitamin I
“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

Jittery? Take Vitamin J
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Know nothing? Take Vitamin K
“Know this that the Lord is God, it is He that made us and not we ourselves.” (Psalm 100:3)

Lonely? Take Vitamin L
“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Mortgaged? Take Vitamin M
“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Nervous? Take Vitamin N
“Never, no never will I leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Overwhelmed? Take Vitamin O
“Overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

Perplexed or puzzled? Take Vitamin P
“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Quitting? Take Vitamin Q
“Quit you like men, be strong.” (I Corinthians 16:13)

Restless? Take Vitamin R
“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.” (Psalm 37:7)

Scared? Take Vitamin S
“Stay with Me, and do not be afraid; for the one who seeks My life seeks your life; you will be safe with Me.” (I Samuel 22:23)

Tired? Take Vitamin T
“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

Uncertain? Take Vitamin U
“Understand that I am (the Lord). Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)

Vain? Take Vitamin V
“Vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed every one.” (Acts 5:16)

Wondering what to do? Take Vitamin W
“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humble with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Exhausted? Take Vitamin X
“Exercise thyself rather unto godliness.” (I Timothy 4:7)

Yearning for hope? Take Vitamin Y
“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

Zapped? Take Vitamin Z
“Zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)

Remember to take your vitamins every day!
Quilts of Valor – Presented to Our Vietnam War Era Vets

Veterans Day Sunday, 8 November 2020
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel

These Quilts of Valor were handmade by Terri Good and representatives of the Twin City Stitchers.
[Photos take by Heidi Reichow]
The Big Bang and Evolution, to me, have always been total hooey and are completely absurd theories — but these theories are accepted as fact by these same "scientists"— so then ... could there also be "holes" in the globe earth belief? And when did that belief come into existence? Many classrooms do not have a flag, but they goth darn have a globe for students to spin and marvel over! Globes commonly make their way onto movie sets also. What about the so-called experts? The late Carl Sagan, NASA spokesman Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Bill Nye...? Don't these guys wear those impressive white lab coats, and doesn't that make them experts — super-smarties? Are theoretical physicists mathematical geniuses or really just great "story tellers" and science fiction writers? What about the Walt Disney's space movies with Werner Von Braun (former highly decorated Nazi SS officer) holding those rocket models? He'd be reliable, right? What about the 1,600 Nazi scientists that were brought in to NASA and the intelligence communities through Operation Paperclip? Any red flags there? Haven't it been established that the earth is a spinning globe—doesn't everyone just take that for granted and then move on to more important pressing issues such as tomorrow's weather? And should we be following the money here? Let's not forget that. NASA's budget for 2020 is $22,600,000,000 or roughly $62,000,000 per day! I certainly hope we are getting our monies worth!

Well, in the fall of 2017, after relocating, and after cancelling my DirecTv receiver, I had a little more time on my hands to commit to research. I've always been addicted to finding "Truth" in a jungle of "Non-Truth"— although years ago, this interest was kicked up a notch, when my dad, who had worked for years in the auction business, followed by a separate career as a bank executive, began an investigation into the Federal Reserve system. He shared with me a book which opened my eyes to the possibility that things are really not what they seem or what we are told— and that the Federal Reserve is a private institution, a cartel, operating completely outside of the government — and functioning completely outside the Constitution, since the minting of money is a function reserved exclusively for the most powerful branch of our government: The Legislature (by article 1 of the US Constitution) They print money out of thin air and charge us exorbitant amounts for the privilege of borrowing the "magic" money. He said "this has been going on since Woodrow Wilson and FDR ... I work in a bank, this close to it, and I was oblivious to what was going on!"

Well, I think this was a turning point for me— although I had poured through book after book searching for clues into the deaths of the (now three) Kennedys, not being satisfied with what I was told. The wars, the politicians, the demolition of the four towers in N.Y. in 2001... Truth Seekers question it all!

Well that brings me to 2017, when I happened to catch a YT video by Mark Sargent (Flat Earth Clues). Well the way YT worked at the time, was that if you watched a video on a subject, the artificial intelligence would suggest (suck you in to) a closely related video for your next selection, as opposed to now, where, if they do not want you to investigate something, they make it almost impossible to find videos on that subject — indeed they commonly suggest videos to distract and discourage further research using purposeful disinformation (this is known as "controlled opposition"). The people running these sites are intentionally deceptive and are known as "skills" or "debunkers" and are assumed to be paid well for their services. Why the censorship of this particular topic?? The classic, well known controlled opposition website dealing with our cosmology, goes by the name: "The Flat Earth Society"; those who have been researching the "True Earth" know what this site is all about and have no use for it. Its only function is to redirect inquisitive researchers through misleading clues that go nowhere and basically convince them that the whole thing is a farce — and the researcher goes away with the impression that FE is beyond
(Continued ... from page thirteen) ridiculous and not worth a second look. Actually, what really got me back into taking the second look at researching our cosmology was when candidate Obama, several times in his campaign speeches said "What are you, a member of the Flat Earth Society?"... and it really bothered me when, out of the clear blue sky, John Kerry did the same thing. Who told the speech writers to inject that phrase in the speech? H-mmm. It wasn't long before I was burning my Roku box at both ends, hunting down Yt videos by Mark Sargent, Globebusters (Bob Knodel), Rob Skiba, Jeranism, Eric Dubay, DITRH, Taboo Conspiracy, OddTV, Pastor Dean Odle and many others... but NOT including the Flat Earth Society! I quickly became aware of the sites that were run by controlled opposition and avoided them like a rabid dog. I was suggested a video by Rob Skiba, a graphic artist, versed in Photoshop and obviously a polished speaker. He had a Christian influence since an early age and was well-versed in God's Word—including cross-checking the Hebrew and Greek word meanings. His childhood interests were biblical foundational truths and astronomy—and a fascination with outer space, and his dream of becoming: an astronaut! What really made me sync with Rob, was that we shared a passion for researching truth, and we both believed that "monkey-man science" was a farce and that the earth and all life were created by the same being: Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 1:1-3) and that the belief in creation and evolution at the same time is a direct contradiction in logic! We both had also purchased the Kent Hovind video tape series and had played it so many times that we both knew much of it by heart and could easily parrot the information to anyone who would listen. Well with the common background that I shared with Rob Skiba, the interest in aviation and space, as well as creation research, and the fact that he was obviously a skilled researcher and speaker, it was easy for me to follow in the steps of this man as he revealed the path he had taken toward investigating the realm of our true cosmology. Rob put in many months of research, fighting the cognitive dissonance, as I did, before he bought into FE as "truth." You see, this subject is different from all the other investigations... since this one can be proved with experiments; ships disappearing over the "horizon" are brought back over and over using the amazing Nikon P900, lasers over water and land, focused lights and the Nikon P900 across water and land, Statue of Liberty being visible up to 60 miles at sea, lighthouse visibility over distance, the "flat" salt flats in Utah and the 3900 sq mi Salar de Uyuni flats in Bolivia, the now-infamous photo by Joshua Nowicki showing the visibility of the Chicago skyline from 53 miles across Lake Michigan (not a superior mirage, as the weatherman said), university studies of the State of Kansas (proved to be actually "flatter than a pancake"), the Old Bedford 6 mile Canal experiment in Cambridge, England in roughly 1881 by author Samuel Rowbotham and many, many others (using the old forgotten scientific method). No curve of earth is ever found in these experiments using 8 inches X (distance)² to calculate the missing curve (Pythagorean Theorem). (1mi=8[2mi=3293mi=6410mi=1015mi i=1616mi=24).

Why haven't simple experiments such as these been conducted all along and why aren't they known about by most people on the street and in the schools? Maybe because the globe has been readily pushed in our faces since kindergarten and anyone who questions it is automatically labeled an idiot! Well then, I guess that's me. I suggest that NASA spend some of that $62-million a day on something like old fashioned experiments such as these! Everyday folks are becoming the modern day scientists and they are doing it on their own dime. Kind of tragic that nobody gets to know about any of this research. I should mention here that all those famous "Blue Marble" images that decorate many computer wallpapers are not photos, but are images rendered in Photoshop by NASA's graphic artist, Rob Simmon. It is my understanding that there exist no actual photos of earth from "outer space" except one b&w shot, taken by a V2 rocket back in the sixties that had a camera attached.

Well, back in the pre-censorship days of Yt, they would suggest additional videos, and I did watch a few, as I remember, dealing with Admiral Byrd in Antarctica, etc, but nothing really captured my attention, probably because, well, my grade school teachers would not have lied to me! ... And this whole thing is a waste of time anyway, because, didn't Magellan prove the globe? Columbus? Ships going over the curve? Ships falling off the "edge?" And for a hundred other reasons... the mind games... I now know that what I was deep into, is referred to as "cognitive dissonance." Yes, it was a new term for me also; every truth seeker experiences it; some don't know how to "handle the truth" and are trapped by it, and anyone who shares truth research with someone else will experience a high, impassable mountain of cognitive dissonance... every time! Sometimes it comes out as laughter, sometimes anger, but usually there is that look of "You have lost your mind!" ... but... some very special people respond... really... tell me more! It's just a fact of life. Here is a wonderful quote describing this experience: "Sometimes people hold a core belief that is very strong. When they are presented with evidence that works against that belief, the new evidence cannot be accepted. It would create a feeling that is extremely uncomfortable, called cognitive dissonance. And because it is so important to protect the core belief, they will rationalize, ignore and even deny anything that doesn't fit in with the core belief." — Frantz Fanon. German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer envisioned truth as passing through three stages: First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as self-evident. Well the cognitive dissonance grabbed and held me for months while I struggled, but eventually I was drawn back to research our cosmology and to also begin testing for myself whether it could be true.

At this point, I must relate what I went through concerning my Biblical understanding. A few years back, I had
been given the opportunity to present my collection of creation vs. evolution videos in a class at the Chapel. Since much of what I was presenting was dealing with the book of Genesis, I spent time re-reading at least the first 11 chapters of that book... but I tell you, I ran into so many stumbling blocks between the words "In the beginning..." and the last words of verse 20. It didn't make any more sense to me now than it ever did! Did God not remember correctly what He had created... or was Moses not adept at faithfully documenting the very first act... of the very first event in history? What in the world was this "firmament" that He called "Heaven"... and how does "face of the deep" translate into waters wrapped around a giant spinning sphere of earth, when the term "face" generally refers to the flat side of an object... and just where is the flat side of a globe?

Genesis 1:16-17: And God made two great lights; the "greater light" to rule the day, and the "lesser light" to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth... If the Creator set the "two great lights" in the firmament of the heaven above us, then how did the "greater light" get stuck, all by itself, somewhere out in "space," while the "globe earth" revolves around it at the blinding speed of 66,600 mph? Meanwhile, the "lesser light" that was also set in the firmament of the heaven, strangely finds itself with a vastly different activity; revolving around the "globe earth" at 2,288 mph. I must have been terribly mistaken when I assumed that the "two great lights" would simply be set together in this "firmament" to function, seeing as how they have relatively similar functions — two lights (one greater than the other) — only separated by the time of day: one to rule the day... and one to rule the night... and to divide the light from the darkness. Maybe science knows better by explaining that the "greater light" is the very center of a va-a-a-a-st solar system and the "lesser light" is off flying around the "globe earth."

Oh Lord, give me strength, as I return now to describe how confused I was, as I began reading about the "firmament" itself. Genesis 1:20: "... and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven..." it's where the birds fly... but then why the word firmament, which implies to me that it's a firm object, so how do birds fly in it.

What exactly is this thing? Firmament: Hebrew: raqiya: 1. Flat expanse, as of ice (a solid) 2. The vault of heaven. If this is some kind of vaulted dome... then where is it located? That there are "waters" above this firmament really had my head swirling, but we'll get into that later. This all had me so mixed up, I didn't know where to go. I wanted to scream!

At this point I will wrap up this article and continue next time with part 2. Hint: Don't try to fit the biblical (geocentric) description of an enclosed stationary earth into a rotating, spinning heliocentric (sun-centered) universe. I will leave you until then with this statement to ponder: "If I cannot take the Bible's account of Creation literally, then the rest of the book cannot be trusted!" To be continued...

The Bible is clear that the earth is still and at rest (Zechariah 1:11) immovable and fixed (Psalms 93:1 and 1 Chronicles 16:30). The Bible does not teach that the earth moves, and true scientists proved this in the late 1800s [Michelson-Morley experiment]. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that the sun moves in a circuit or circular path over the earth (Psalms 19 and Joshua 10). And in Job 38:14, God says that the earth was formed like clay pressed down flat under a seal ring (if you look up the original Hebrew words it is very clear)!— from Pastor Dean Odle's book: Like Clay Under the Seal (see book cover)
This is brought to you by Gladys Binette in loving memory of her husband—Richard J. Binette.

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 So Bloomington, MN 55431 or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org or check our website at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

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Bev Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Carol Nygaard, Accounting Specialist
Eva Zorn, Musical Guest Coordinator

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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# February 2021

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**7th Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Founder's Day Sunday*  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "The Priorities of Life"  
Music: Tim Dahl, Vocal/Guitar

**14th Sunday after Epiphany**  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "How to Lose Visitors"  
Music: Singleton Street Band, Gospel Trio

**21st Sunday in Lent**  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Quarantine"  
Music: Wickman Duo, Vocal/Piano

**28th Sunday in Lent**  
Installation of Officers  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Wounded Whiners"  
Music: Scott & Robert Reeves, Trumpet/Piano

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