I think it safe to say – Many of you have watched the Olympics at one time or another. If so, you may agree with me that one of the most exciting races is the 400-meter relay in which some of the fastest people in the world run with a baton in their hands with the intent of passing that baton on to the next runner. The winner of the race is determined by two factors: The speed of the individual runners, and the successful hand-off of the baton. If you mess up handing off to the next runner, you may lose the race. If you hand it off outside the boundary lines, you’re disqualified even if you win the race. It is something to watch in slow motion as the runner coming from behind is striving to place that baton in the next runner’s hand. There is a principle parallel for the Church in such a contest.

Did you know that the average age of a local church ... before it disappears off the scene ... is about 40-years? At some point the baton was no longer able to be passed on to the next generation. Thus, the church disbanded; and who knows how long before her demise she was on a respirator ... just being kept alive by a few faithful parishioners.

Well praise the Lord! The Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation is celebrating 50-years of ministry for the cause of Christ; 50-years of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord; 50-years of declaring there is hope for a better life for all in Jesus Christ; 50-years of praising, of worshiping, and of singing; 50-years of weddings and funerals; 50-years of fellowshipping with coffee and treats; 50-years of giving, of serving, of reaching out, of feeding and helping those in need; 50-years of preaching, teaching, baptizing, and sharing in the Lord’s supper; 50-years of inviting others to the Chapel and inviting them to give their lives to Christ; 50-years of making a difference in the Twin Cities and beyond.

But let’s be clear: We are where we are today ... some 50-years since our founding ... because of the baton that has been passed on to us from those who came before us. If the baton is passed on every 10-years, we are coming off our 5th exchange ... looking for the next runner to pass it on to. The question is:

Are we running at top speed giving it all we have, striving to get it to the next runner, or are we starting to coast in this race we have been called to run? Even more dangerously, have we picked up some unnecessary weights as we run our race?

When we look at where we are today, in some ways we have some very impressive numbers. We have a few chartered members who have been from the very beginning; and others have come along and have been a part of the team for years. We have been blessed with the talents, gifts and graces of so many remarkable people. We have many hard workers for the Lord. We have people who genuinely love Jesus Christ, and are eager to help bring others to a knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have members whose hearts are full of compassion and will not hesitate to help someone who has a need. We have a notably committed staff which is ready to serve the Lord and to serve His people. We have a history of people who were once a part of us, but have taken what they learned here to share with other churches. We have testimonies of people who

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

This new year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation ... as a Christian non-denominational congregation.

The Chapel was built between 1927-28 and was dedicated on June 10, 1928 as part of the military post at Fort Snelling. In 1946 the post was deactivated. Over the ensuing years of little to no usage and vandalism, the Chapel was scheduled to be demolished so as to make room for the new highways scheduled to be built in and around the Chapel.

Due to the efforts of the Rev. Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson, a 501(c)(3) non-profit was formed that saved the Chapel from the wrecking ball. Dr. Nelson was officially called to serve as Chaplain of the newly formed foundation. The Chapel Foundation filed for incorporation on December 7th, 1966 and the Minnesota Secretary of State signed the legal corporation under the laws on December 13, 1966. The Chapel had a new lease on life starting with the first service of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation held on February 14, 1967.

Now, 50-years hence, the Chapel Foundation has two chaplains, a minister of music, two office administrative personnel — all accountable to a volunteer Board of Directors ... of whom we can all be proud. Under the capable leadership of Chaplain Ken Beale, the many volunteers make sure that the congregation returns each week to participate in the inspiring services that remain true to the Bible and to gather in fellowship after worship.

The 50th Anniversary of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation is a major event for all of us that are members and friends. In the course of this new year, there will be a series of events that will take us through the 50-years of the Chapel Foundation’s history to the present day.

Iain Hodge
Foundation President
(952) 841-8643
E-Mail: iain1314@msn.com

Board of Directors

Executive Officers
Iain Hodge, President
Tony Stocker, Vice President
Sharon Coyne, Secretary
Brad Nelson, Treasurer

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Patricia Boyd-Peerson
Cindy Pugh
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Standing Committee Chairs:
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Finance: Brad Nelson
Fellowship: Carol Nygaard
Membership: Sharon Coyne
Publicity: Matt Stokes
Personnel: Pat Hoy
Safety: Patricia Boyd-Peerson

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs:
50th Anniversary: Sharon Emde
Chaplain Search: Bill Coyne

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

Scheduled Board Meetings in 2017:
Saturdays ... @ Foundation Office
15 April (9:00 a.m.)
10 June (9:00 a.m.)
9 September (9:00 a.m.)
18 November (9:00 a.m.)

Sundays ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary
12 February (1:00 p.m.)
17 December (1:00 p.m.)

A copy of the 2016 Annual Report will be yours at the 50th Annual Mtg scheduled for Sun 12 Feb 2017 (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.

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.
proclaim how we as a church have been there for them in their hour of need.

As a church body, we have responded to opportunities in making a difference in people's lives here and abroad. Our benevolent 10% giving beyond the walls of the Chapel; our food, literature, and shoebox collections; our generous financial support in response to natural disasters; our weekly Livestream broadcasts touch viewers around the globe in a matter of seconds with our worship ... or can be viewed at another time. Because of your generosity, we make our broadcasts and print materials free to all.

Now if this was about comparing our church to that of others, we could look real good and be ready to give ourselves a lot of high fives. There are other churches who would love to be in the place where we are and are even envious of us. The Chapel is definitely one of comfort and beauty; and we worked hard to make it that way. But God does not call us to compare ourselves to others, but rather to compare ourselves to what we can be today in Christ ... if we were truly striving for excellence. When we are looking at the baton to pass it on, what are we really passing on to those who are yet to come?

One of the greatest challenges for us is to pass on the faith to the next generation. We can have our very effective children's ministry and attract younger families; but if we have not passed on the faith, we have nothing: we dropped the baton. If they do not give their lives to Jesus Christ, in the midst of all we are providing, then they do not claim the faith in their hearts.

When they leave us, they do not take Jesus with them, and they falter in the faith and fall prey to the world's culture. They are tempted to think, there is this great life of fun out there with no consequences and little need for Jesus ... except in emergencies. They are reluctant to return to the life of the church as young adults.

As we come closer to the Lord, God often blesses us spiritually and materially. The challenge for us is to keep God first in our lives without letting materialism and the call of this world to slow us down in the race.

I can't help but think of Nehemiah who had a vision to go and rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed at least 70-years earlier and the walls were broken down. Nehemiah was a burden on his heart, because he connected the rebuilding of the walls with giving glory to the name of His God. But there were those who cared nothing about God, and they did not want to see the walls of the city rebuilt. They were Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. They sent a message to Nehemiah one day, saying take a break and come and meet with us on the plains of Ono. They were secretly planning on killing him. But Nehemiah replied to them, "I am carrying on a great project, and I cannot come down." (Nehemiah 6:1-4) [Not a whole lot different than the founders of our Chapel Foundation in saving and restoring the Chapel 50-years ago.]

When Jesus issued the invitation to us to come and follow Him, it was the same as an invitation to come be a part of the greatest work in history which is the building of the Kingdom of God.

That project restores broken relationships between people, and between God and people. It keeps people out of hell on earth, and out of hell itself ... in the afterlife. It is a work that lasts for all eternity; It is a labor with an eternal reward; it is a great project from which the devil wants us all to stop doing and get involved in things that ultimately are not going to matter and are going to pass away. The only effects in this world that will last forever are people. If your life is going to count, it's got to involve investing in people for the cause of Christ. Jesus died and gave His life because He loved people. God raised Him from the dead and gave Him power over death because God loves people. Each of us has been allotted a certain amount of time. We convert our time into producing things for ourselves or producing beings for the Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 9:6-14 reads if we sow only a little bit, we should only expect a little bit in return; but whoever sows generously should expect to receive a lot back. Admittedly, we are often tempted to hold back on what belongs to God, because we are afraid we may not have enough for our desired lifestyle. We think we need more money, when in reality we need more grace. Beginning with verse 8 we read, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need will abound in every good work. As it written, 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.' Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be
made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanksgiving to God.”

Listen: If you truly want to grow in God, then God says to give; for in giving we receive grace and grace produces in us righteousness. It is critical that the baton we are passing off is full of the grace and the mercy of God. There are individuals who are excelling at their tasks and doing it well, and I want to acknowledge that; but there are too many who have no ministry, far too many who do not show up when they are called to minister, and others who serve with a lazy spirit. Unlike Nehemiah, there are too many of us willing to come down from the great work, and give ourselves to lesser things.

Nothing robs us of our love for Jesus quicker than the spirit of materialism. Jesus told us that we cannot serve God and money. Remember when we say I can’t afford to tithe, what we mean is that I can’t afford to tithe and have all that I want to have right now. The decision to tithe doesn’t start in the church; it starts with where we choose to live; what car we choose to drive; what clothes we choose to wear; what entertainment we decide to have; what phone plan we want to have; and what food we choose to eat. If we make those decisions before we tithe, there will never be enough left to tithe. However, if we make the decision to tithe before making the other choices, then there will be more than enough to tithe.

My friend: Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins. God raise Him up from the dead by giving Him life and as proof that God accepted Jesus’ death as payment-in-full for your sins. God has kept this Chapel Foundation around for 50-years to give you that news. Will you not invest your life in something bigger than yourself? Why not make it count for all eternity? There is no better time to serve the Lord than during this 50th anniversary year. The reality is, the more we strive for excellence in the present, the brighter our future is going to be – because the gracious hand of our God is going to delight in the outpouring of His favor. How thankful are you to God for what the Lord has done for you in and through the ministry of the Chapel Foundation?

I trust our 50th celebration is not your only cause to give thanks, but the thought of our continual witness for Christ for generations to come!

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-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.

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

— Matt Stokes
Publicity Committee Chair
The Survival of a Chapel

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

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

The Chapel is now furnished with a modern gas-fired boiler heating system. Just 10-years ago, air conditioning was added to the building. The 88-year old Kimball pipe organ has also been restored to its previous luster. From the historic lead glass windows Minnesota history literally jumps out at you. Overhead, military flags are mounted that represent the sacrifice veterans have made from Minnesota.

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

In the early 1960’s only the Chapel basement was used as offices for the Fort Snelling State Park personnel.

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

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

In an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press dated August 15, 1967, the headlines read — "At Fort Snelling Hidden Chapel Survives Latest Threat". The Associated Press article asked the question, "What are the prospects for a church without a congregation, located on state land and almost lost in the tangle of a major highway interchange?"

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

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

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

At this point, Dr. Nelson recalled, "It (the situation) just didn't work,

(Continued ... on page eight)
A Word From the Classroom

"Study to show thyself approved unto God ..."
(2 Timothy 2:16)

We have a new year and several new workers in the Children’s Church. Praise The Lord!! And thank you to the new volunteers!

With this new year comes a new emphasis in Children’s Church. We are going to memorize Holy Scripture. I hear what you’re thinking, but YES, these kids CAN learn the Word. Think of all they have memorized already ... name, address, phone number, alphabet, numbers, etc. When I was a child I attended Pioneer Girls with my good friend, Linda, and it was there that I learned Psalm 119:105 which says, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Think of all the times in our lives that we stumble and fall, usually because we don’t have our paths illuminated by the Bible. We want these precious little ones falling as little as possible. Stumbling usually refers to sinning, which we ALL do! But we will sin less if God’s Word pops into our mind around each and every bend. Consider, “Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” (Psalm 119:11)

There will be crafts, such as puzzles to help cement these scriptures to memory and there will be prizes for learning the verses! I don’t know which the kids like more, craft time or prizes. We are NOT the public schools so we do not give participation prizes. However, we understand that there is a wide range between kindergarten and 5th grade, therefore the expectations vary. One expectation that remains the same is parental involvement. Please reinforce the verses with the kids. (Deuteronomy 6:7) Practicing them at dinner time and bedtime is always good and other members of the family can learn the verses too.

— Leslie Henschel
Children’s Ministry Coordinator

Getting to Know You...

There is a gentleman who sits in the second pew at the Chapel each Sunday morning. He wears a black jacket with the words Vietnam Vet inscribed on the back. He listens attentively to the sermons and frequently takes notes of various points made by the chaplains. This man’s name is Tom Newman and he is one of our newer members at the Chapel. Tom came to the Chapel on August 2nd, 2015 at the invitation of Cindy Pugh to attend a special service to honor our Vietnam Veterans. He was impressed with Chaplain Beale’s preaching and that the sermon was “socially relevant” with an “application to our daily lives.” In addition, Tom enjoyed socializing in the fellowship hall following the service and the camaraderie with other veterans. He has attended the Chapel regularly since that time and became a member on October 16th of this year. But there is more to this story...

(Continued ... on page nine)

Christian Education Classes

Every Sunday morning (9:45-10:30 a.m.) from September to May, our congregation hosts an Intergenerational Christian Education Class in the Fellowship Hall of the Chapel.

Our first two (2) classes of the New Year, January 8 and 15, will conclude our study in “Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis” with “The Uniqueness of Earth,” and “Science and Scripture.” We will also provide two (2) good summary classes on January 22 and 29, during which we will study some of the startling evidence of the earth’s history. I have entitled these, “Why Are We Not Told?”

Then, from February 5 to May 21, we will engage in a study of the Bible entitled, “Know Your Bible, Know Your God.” (KYBKYG) In this study series, we will focus on how the Bible came into being and how it came to us in English. We will further study facts about the Bible and the many challenges the Bible has faced in its history. Our purpose is to clarify the context of the Bible so its Light can shine upon us and do the good work that God intends, Isaiah 55:6-11. Our study will help us connect the dots between what the Bible reveals and what is happening in our lives and in our world today. We will also take an honest look at what some call contradictions in the Bible.

If ever you felt deficient in Bible knowledge and understanding, or have felt uncomfortable in the face of criticism, you will want to attend every class. All are welcome. We know our fellowship in the Word will be rewarding, and we are confident that everyone who attends will gain great benefit from this class. — Chaplain Mike Wallman
The Story of the Immortal Four Chaplains

A convoy of three ships and three escorting Coast Guard cutters passed through ‘torpedo alley’ some 100-miles off the coast of Greenland at about 1 a.m. on February 3, 1943. The German submarine (U-223) fired three torpedoes, one of which hit the mid-section of the USAT Dorchester – a U.S. Army troopship with more than 900-men on board. Ammonia and oil were everywhere in the fast-sinking vessel and upon the freezing North Atlantic Sea.

The four Chaplains on board, two Protestant pastors, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi, were among the first on deck, calming the men and handing out life jackets. When they ran out, they took off their own and placed them on waiting soldiers without regard to faith or race. Approximately 18-minutes from the explosion, the ship went down. They were the last to be seen by witnesses; they were standing arm-in-arm on the deck of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700-men died, making it the third largest loss at sea of its kind for the U.S. during WW2. The Coast Guard Cutter Tampa was able to escort the other freighters to Greenland. Meanwhile the cutters Comanche and Escanaba, disobeying orders to continue the search for the German U-Boat, stopped to rescue 230-men from the frigid waters that night.

The four Chaplains were Father John Washington, Catholic; Reverend Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed; Rabbi Alexander Goode, Jewish; and Reverend George Fox, Methodist. These four Chaplains were later honored by the U.S. Congress and Presidents. They were recognized for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith. According to the First Sergeant on the ship, “They were always together, they carried their faith together.” They demonstrated throughout the voyage ... and in their last moments ... interfaith compassion in their relationship with the men and with each other. In 1960 Congress created a special Congressional Medal of Valor, never to be repeated again, and gave it to the next-of-kin of the “Four Chaplains”.

At the dedication of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains on February 3, 1952 at the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed, “This interfaith shrine ... will stand through long generations to teach Americans that as men can die heroically as brothers, so should they live together in mutual faith and goodwill.”

Each year on the Sunday preceding February 3, the Chapel Foundation remembers the Four Chaplains at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The historic Chapel also has a weekly reminder in a stained glass window to their memory.

We hope you will join us Sunday, January 29.

— Submitted by Tony Stocker, Worship Committee Chair

Special Patriotic/ Veterans Events . . .

Sun, 29 Jan 17 — Four Chaplains Remembrance — commemorating the 74th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on which four chaplains gave their lives.

Sun, 28 May 17 — Memorial Day Remembrance — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 2 July 17 — Independence Day — celebrating the 241st birthday of our nation ... culminating in an ice cream social.

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

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

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

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

Mark your calendar with these dates ... and join us at 11:00 a.m.
we had to start from scratch." Dr. Nelson, as it turned out, was the right person to come along and become the driving force behind the attempt to reorder the process. As he would later recall, "since I was available, I offered to start the program."

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

For 3-years he had been at the Fremont Congregational Church in North Minneapolis until its merger with the nearby Parkway Congregational Church. It also didn't hurt that he was the Protestant Chaplain of the MN Senate, as his knowledge of government would be important in future problem solving on behalf of the Chapel. He was also former president of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

So, a meeting was held in November 1966 with an initial group of about 50-people. On January 5, 1967, an organizational meeting was held and the first Board of Directors was elected. Out of this came the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. It started with 511-members and formally called Dr. Nelson as its chaplain. The Chapel was rented from the State of Minnesota and the first regular Sunday worship was held on Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, February 12, 1967.

Fittingly, Rev. Nelson’s sermon was entitled "Lincoln Still Speaks." A special guest was Governor Harold Levander.

Over the next 6-month’s services were conducted every Sunday, always with a strong patriotic theme and a non-denominational flavor. A special Easter program was devoted to a roll call of the Minnesotans killed in the Vietnam War, and their families were invited to the service. Still today, the Chapel is known: "Where the Veteran is Remembered" … 52-weeks of the year.

Also, the tradition of inviting visiting musical groups to furnish top quality music was started. It is reported that on a Sunday service early on, a 120-member choir was jammed into the church which had seating for about 300 people. The obvious question being – Where did they park all of the cars? Well, Dr. Nelson probably solved that problem too.

Finally the Pioneer Press article went on to explain that the Chapel Foundation leased the building from the State of Minnesota to avoid straining the church-state separation.

PHOTO: Aerial view of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, Fort Snelling State Park. Early 1960s. Note—Tunnel that allowed freeway to pass historic Fort Snelling and the Chapel. (Published by Northern Minnesota Novelties, Crosslake, MN.)

However, that was August 1967 and it turned out to be premature. The issue would be brought up again in 1972 and 1974 before it would be resolved. Also, there would be a discussion in 1976 over whether the Chapel would fit "historically" into the Fort Snelling historic planning. These would be two more issues that would put the future of the Chapel in doubt, and will be covered in a future article.
Tom, a member part of the ‘baby-boom generation,’ was born in Minneapolis to Wally and Betty Newman. He was the third child born to this couple and preceded by two older sisters — Sally and Nancy. The family relocated to Brooklyn Center when Tom was seven years old and it was in this community that he spent the remainder of his childhood. His father worked as a manager at Prudential Insurance Company and his mother was a homemaker. Tom attended the Lutheran church with his parents where he was baptized and confirmed. Church was part of the weekly routine however Tom referred to his parents as “casual Christians” in that they did not really talk about their faith outside of church.

As a young man, Tom was inspired by a line from President Kennedy’s inaugural speech, “And so my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” To that end, he enlisted in the army 30 days after high school graduation in July of 1967 with the goal of becoming a paratrooper. He attended basic training at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia and Jump School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Tom had hoped to join the Rangers but received orders to deploy to Vietnam in February of 1968 at the height of the Tet Offensive. He joined up with the 101st Airborne Division and was assigned to the 502nd, known as “First Strike” — an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army. The regiment experienced fierce fighting in northern Vietnam and later in the A Shau Valley ... sustaining 97% casualties.

It was during this time that Tom earned the nickname “Lucky” due to his narrow escapes from serious injury and death. He illustrated this point by recounting a story where his company had surrounded a plot of trees and called in an airstrike. Tom was one of three point men stationed on the perimeter waiting for the bombing to commence when one of the 500 pound bombs bounced out of the woods and rolled to within 15 feet of his body. He realized in seconds that his life would be over if the bomb detonated ... leaving nothing but a large crater. However, the bomb did not detonate and Tom’s life was spared.

However, the single most important event that happened to Tom was his “life-after death” experience that occurred while on patrol in Vietnam. His company had surrounded a small village that was deserted but reports suggested there were Vietcong hiding in the area. Tom was on the ground ready to storm the village when his buddy’s gun accidentally clipped a wasp nest resulting in wasp stings all over Tom’s head and subsequent anaphylactic shock. There was no option but to delay the medivac until the village was engaged at which point Tom was transported to the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital, the doctors initiated blood transfusions, attempting to dilute the amount of venom in his blood. Despite their best efforts, Tom reports he went into cardiac arrest and respiratory failure at which point his “spirit left his body” prior to being resuscitated on the operating table. A medic questioned Tom after he woke up and Tom provided clear details of what had transpired during the time he was considered clinically dead. This one event transformed Tom’s life as he realized there was a higher power who had divinely intervened to save him ... and that higher power was Jesus Christ.

Tom was honorably discharged in July of 1970 at Fort Bragg, Georgia after three years of military service. In those days, soldiers got on a plane in Vietnam and flew home in less than 48 hours where they were discharged and back in the community with little time to decompress. Tom recalls that he had a lot of questions upon his return to civilian life so he decided to enroll in classes at the University of Minnesota in hopes that his studies would provide some insight regarding his wartime experiences. Tom graduated with a B.A. in Psychology in 1975 and began a career in the food industry. He worked as the managing partner at Cork and Cleaver Restaurant and later as a Corporate Food Service manager for Super Value for a total of 35 years until his retirement in 2010.

Tom married in 1980 and became the father of two children — a daughter Ariel and a son Dietric. However, with the birth of his two...
children, Tom realized he was responsible for the "eternal destiny of two souls." He began a detailed study of the Bible where he rose every morning at 5 a.m. for one hour of study prior to work. This Bible study went on for several years at which point his son Dietric asked if he could join his father as he noticed the Bible study was "very important" to his dad. Father and son continued the Bible study for another three years during which time Tom took copious notes. The result was the publication of three books: "A Brief History of the Bible" published in 2010, "Just War" published in 2013 (a chronicle of his war time experiences) and an updated version of his first book subtitled "Things To Come" published in 2015.

Tom cited Ephesians 2:10 as the verse that motivated him to reach out to his fellow veterans, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." This verse tells us that God planned and acted not only to save, but also to mark out the way we should live during our time on earth. Tom wants every veteran to experience spiritual healing through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To that end, he does outreach to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and accepts invitations to speak at veteran related organizations and other professional groups.

Tom currently serves on the Safety Committee of the Chapel Foundation and recently accepted an invitation to join the Board of Directors.

It seems appropriate to close this interview with several verses from Tom's favorite hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy." It was this same God who reached out to Tom in Vietnam and continues to reach out to each one of us today:

- Holy, Holy, Holy!
- Lord God Almighty!
- Early in the morning
- our song shall rise to Thee;
- Holy, Holy, Holy!
- Merciful and Mighty!
- God in Three Persons,
- blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy!
though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man,
Thy glory may not see:
Only Thou art holy,
there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power in love,
and purity.

Thank you, Tom, for your military service and participation at Fort Snelling Chapel!

--- Submitted by Eva Zorn

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Safety Tips ... for the Cold & Flu Season

The 'common cold,' acute viral rhinitis, is caused by more than a hundred different agents. That's why we get colds over and over, and, it's also why immunity against some of these bugs can be short-lived. About half the time, the cause of a common cold cannot be identified. We do not get a cold from the weather, or being in a cold draft. It takes a bacterium, a germ, virus or pathogen to make us ill. Also, there is no such thing as a 24-hour bug. Oftentimes the 24-hour bug is a foodborne illness. (More on this next time).

Vitamin C can bolster your body's immunity. Vitamin C is water soluble, so it's hard to take too much. I take 2,000 mg per day. Vitamin C also helps to restore cartilage, helps with eye health, stroke prevention, cancer prevention and strengthening tendons. Don't take more than 500 mg without talking to your doctor. I was once prescribed to take 10,000 mg per day (at 2,000 mg at 2 hour intervals with aspirin) which restored my knee cartilage and made surgery unnecessary.

The mode of transmission for a cold is presumed to be by direct contact or by inhalation of airborne droplets, or indirectly (and more importantly) by hands and having contact with anything contaminated by nasal discharge or saliva from an infected person. Shake hands or use the telephone right after that cashier just wiped her/his

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

Results of Operation Christmas Child

We are pleased to report that the Chapel Foundation had another successful year of filling shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. This year we collected 226 shoeboxes and $1,760 for the shipping of the shoeboxes to boys and girls worldwide. We would like to thank all of you who filled shoeboxes with toys, toiletries, clothing, etc. for these children in need. We would also like to thank the members of the committee for their help.

— Sharon Coyne and Barb Stocker

On the Sun 13 Nov 2016 ... following the General Election ... Chaplain Beale offered this prayer for President-Elect Donald Trump from the pulpit of the historic Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. Consider making it your prayer ... as Mr. Trump takes the oath of office on Jan 20, 2017.

God of our fathers: We unite our hearts and minds in prayer for our newly elected President of the United States. May no weapon formed against him prosper. Shield him and his family from any threat to their lives ... by hiding them in the shadow of Your wing.

Lord, You have said — “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5) On behalf of President-Elect Donald Trump, we pray for him to have wisdom, discernment, and knowledge for every decision he makes. Give him strength so he does not grow weary in well doing. Give him humility so he will not become proud. Give him direction so he will not lose his way. Give him favor with the people and other world leaders so he will be a uniter and not a divider. Enable him to unfailingly be a leader who moves in the truth — because he has aligned himself with the Spirit of Truth. Cause him to build on the solid foundation of Your steadfast Word. May he always recognize evil and call it what it is ... so that he will “reign in righteousness” and “rule with justice.” (Isaiah 32:1)

We pray as well for each one of his advisors to always be able to give him wise and timely counsel. May each of his men and women be people of integrity, honesty, discernment, and understanding. May their desire always be God’s best interest for this nation. May they lean not on their own understanding, but seek Your wisdom in all matters ... for Your Word tells us — “wisdom is a defense.” (Ecclesiastes 7:12)

Lord, we know that our enemy seeks to destroy and divide, and to create disharmony through ignorance and hatred. We pray that Your Spirit of love and respect would prevail in this country. Let it begin with Your Church through her faithful citizens of this nation and Your Kingdom. For we ask this all in the high and holy name of Jesus ... for whom the United States was founded and formed to glorify. Amen.

— Tom Newman
This full-color newsletter 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) 886-1525, 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

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Rev. Michael Wallman, Associate Chaplain
Marlys Wallman, Minister of Music
Bev Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Carol Nygaard, Accounting Specialist
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music Emeritus

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

Feature Contributors:
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Leslie Henschel
Iain Hodge
Tom Newman
Barb Stocker
Tony Stocker
Matt Stokes
Marlys Wallman
Mike Wallman
Eva Zorn

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<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 Epiphany</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Holy Communion</td>
<td>Chaplain Mike's Personal Day</td>
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<td>Chaplain Ken's</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;God's Wish for a Truly Happy New Year&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Nancy Guertin, Soloist</td>
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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>ML King Jr Day</td>
<td>ML King Jr Day</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Would the Real Christian Please Stand Up&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Chad Shultis, Soloist</td>
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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>Personal Day</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Rejoicing in the Worst of Times&quot;</td>
<td>Sanctity of Life Sunday</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Music: 4 Given, Men's Quartet</td>
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<td>Four Chaplains Remembrance</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;The Way of True Humility&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Steve Zorn, Soloist</td>
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**Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff**

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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Work Out Your Own Salvation&quot;</td>
<td>Music: John Kruse, Vocal/Guitar</td>
<td>12th Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>Founder's Day - 50th Anniversary</td>
<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Glorious Past-Energetic Present-Promising Future&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Chapel Choir &amp; Trio</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Annual Mtg</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Board Mtg</td>
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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Let Go and Let God&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Mark &amp; Lisa Flora, Vocal Duo/Guitar</td>
<td>Presidents' Day</td>
<td>21st Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>Washington's B-day</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Press On!&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Alec Sweazy, Accordion</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Annual Mtg</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Board Mtg</td>
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