Part II: Atheism’s Legacy —

The Problem of Evil: Where Is Atheism When Bad Things Happen?

Note: Throughout 2006, my articles (6 part series) focused on Christianity's Legacy. You can read those bi-monthly apologetics on the Chapel Foundation web site [www.fortsnellingmcf.org]. Beginning with this first issue of 2008, I will share with you the legacy of atheism [those who disbelieve in the existence of God or deities].

Let us consider a problem that has baffled believers no less than unbelievers, one that poses a serious obstacle to belief in the Christian God. Horrible things happen in this world. Millions are put to death in concentration camps; hurricanes and tsunamis unleash their murderous fury on unsuspecting populations; a psychopath opens fire on a university campus killing innocent students. None of this seems to have any explanation. Voltaire railed against a divine being who would permit the 1755 Lisbon earthquake and all its devastation. Darwin was struck by nature’s cruel capriciousness, a theme Richard Dawkins stresses in his anti-religious polemics. "The God of birds and trees," Steven Weinberg writes, "would also have to be the God of birth defects and cancer." He adds that for himself as a Jew,

"Remembrance of the Holocaust leaves me unsympathetic to attempts to justify the ways of God to man." Steven Pinker poses the dilemma in its classic form, "If the world unfolds according to a wise and merciful plan, why does it contain so much suffering?" Weinberg and Pinker raise the good question: If God exists, why does He allow any of it?

He is in a position to stop evil and suffering. But we know from experience that evil and suffering go on, scandalously, mercilessly, without even a hint of proportion or justice. Thus there cannot be an omnipotent being capable of preventing all this from happening; because if there were, He surely would. Therefore God does not exist.

I agree that evil and suffering pose a serious intellectual and moral challenge for Christians. (Interestingly, in Hinduism and Buddhism there is no such problem. Hindus believe your suffering in this life is the consequence of your actions in a previous life. Buddhism holds that suffering is the product of egocentric desire and can be overcome through a dissolution of the self that has those desires.) When terrible things happen they seem more easily explained by God’s absence in the world than by His presence. But what few have noticed is that evil and suffering also pose a formidable challenge for atheists. The reason is that suffering is not merely an intellectual and moral problem; it is also an emotional problem.

"If Jesus could heal a blind person he happened to meet, then why not heal blindness?"

― Christopher Hitchens, God Is Not Great

The problem of evil and suffering is considered by many people to be the strongest argument against the existence of God. The reasoning goes like this: If God exists, He is all-powerful. If He is all-powerful,

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

"... and they were like grasshoppers in our own sight, so were we in their sight ..." (Num. 13:33)

Numbers 13 tells the story of the twelve spies who were sent to investigate the Promised Land. Two spies had a positive report, but ten spies had a negative report. All twelve agreed that there were giants in the land. The question was whether the giants could be defeated. Two spies said yes, God is able. The other ten said the Israelites would be defeated. These ten spies saw themselves as grasshoppers compared to the giants.

How do we see ourselves in the ongoing ministry of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation? Do we see ourselves able to make a significant impact in our world or do we see ourselves as small insignificant and destined to fail? Applying this event recorded in Numbers 13, to us today; we must not make the mistake of the ten fearful spies. The cause of the Israelites was changed because a handful of men succumbed to fear and feelings of human inadequacy ... instead of acting in faith and obedience to God. The future of Israel was changed from milk and honey to years of rocks and dust without a home.

We at the Fort Snelling Chapel must continue to work in faith and take strength from the fact that even when we don’t believe in ourselves, God believes in us. He has given us great works to accomplish and has equipped us to accomplish these works ... even if we do not feel equipped.

God’s Word speaks of eagles in various places. In Exodus 19:4 God reminds Israel He bore them upon eagles’ wings and brought them to Himself. Psalm 103:5 reminds us that our youth will be renewed like eagles. Isaiah 40:31 is probably the most familiar passage where we are reminded that when we wait on the Lord, our strength will be renewed and we will mount up with wings as eagles.

If we as a congregation wait on the Lord, we will be equipped to accomplish great things for the Lord! Let us pray together that the future of Fort Snelling Chapel will be carried ... as on eagles’ wings.

Serving and praying together,

Bob Peterson
Foundation President
(651) 484-5285

"Don’t be afraid to take a big step. You can’t cross a chasm in two small jumps."
— David Lloyd George

In the Event of Inclement Weather

If on a Sunday morning it is significantly snowing ... or tremendously cold ... or the winds are resulting in drifting conditions, please call our Foundation office at 612/970-7866 for an announcement of worship cancellation. In this way we will attempt to inform you of Chapel closings.

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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:
Saturdays (9:00 a.m.) ...
21 March 2009
13 June 2009
12 September 2009
14 November 2009 ... in the Fed Bldg
Sunday (1:00 p.m.) ...
20 December 2009 ... in the Chapel

If you would like a copy of the 2008 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at 612 970-7866 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report of last year’s accomplishments.
Suffering doesn't wreck minds; it wrecks hearts. When I get sick, I don't want a theory to explain it; I want something that will make me feel better. Atheism may have a better explanation for evil and suffering, but it provides no consolation for them. Theism, which doesn't have a good explanation, nevertheless offers a better way for people to cope with the consequences of evil and suffering.

Remember when the deranged student at Virginia Tech went on a homicidal rampage (April 2007), perpetrating one of the worst mass killings in American history? In the aftermath of the carnage, even on the secular campus, atheism was nowhere to be found. Every time there was a memorial ceremony or a public gathering, there was talk of God, divine mercy, and spiritual healing. Even people who were not personally religious began to use language that was drenched with Christian symbolism and meaning.

The problem is not with atheists, but with atheism. Of course, atheists were no doubt present among the victims and the mourners. I'm not implying that they suffered less than anyone else. What I am saying is that atheism seems to have little to offer at a time like this. Consider this manifesto by Richard Dawkins in his book River Out of Eden: "The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference." Jacques Monod writes that to ascribe meaning or purpose to life is a kind of "animism," like the primitive tribes who found spirits in stones. We are here, according to Monod, purely as a result of chance: "Our number came up in the Monte Carlo game." In the same vein, Steven Weinberg notes that "the more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless."

Here we see the underlying horror of materialism: everything becomes dark and meaningless. We also see the materialist solution to the problem of evil: evil is not a problem, because evil does not exist. Life in this view is indeed a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. And if a crying mother asks what the purpose of it all is, Dawkins and Weinberg have no better answer than, "Sorry there is no purpose for any of it. Life happens, and then it stops. That's all there is to it." Atheism offers only extinction.

It is a flawed argument to presume that the existence of evil and suffering has established that God does not exist. In reality all it has shown is that evil and suffering have no explanation that we can figure out. Still, it's possible that they serve a higher purpose not evident to us. Consequently, we cannot treat atheism as an established truth. Not even modern science can claim such a secure status. One of the best arguments for modern science is that it works; which is to say that it delivers the goods and meets our wants and needs. But this is precisely what I am claiming for religion in a time of evil and suffering. Religion works; which is to say it speaks to human longings and needs in a way that no secular language can. Just as science seems indispensable to make modern life go well, God seems indispensable when life goes badly or when we are staring death in the face.

Pragmatist William James put the matter with characteristic realism: Atheists are like people who live on a frozen lake surrounded by cliffs that offer no means of escape. They know that the ice is melting and the inevitable day is coming when they must plunge ignominiously into the water. This prospect is as meaningless as it is horrifying. The Christian, too, must endure the chill and the inevitability of death, but his faith enables him to endure them much better. When it comes to suffering, James writes, "Religion makes easy and felicitous what in any case necessary." When it comes to death, he adds, Christianity offers at least the prospect of the afterlife and the chance of salvation. "No fact in human nature is more characteristic than its willingness to live on a chance. The existence of chance makes the difference ... between a life of which the keynote is resignation and a life of which the keynote is hope."

While the argument from evil is often used to challenge God's existence, in a strange way the same argument can be used as evidence for that existence. Consider this: Why do we experience suffering and evil as unjust? If we are purely material beings, then we should no more object to mass murder than a river objects to drying up in a drought. Nevertheless, we are not like rivers. We know that evil is real, and we know that it is wrong. But if evil is real, then good must be real as well. How else would we know the difference between the two? Our ability to distinguish between good and evil, and to recognize these as real, means that there is a
**Special Patriotic/Veterans Events . . .**

Sun, 19 Apr 09 — Patriots Day — commemorating the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington & Concord ... the first battles of the Revolutionary War.

Sun, 24 May 09 — Memorial Day Remembrance — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 14 Jun 09 — Flag Day — a day to display the US flag and wear proudly the colors of red, white and blue.

Sun, 5 July 09 — Independence Day — celebrating the 233rd birthday of our nation ... culminating in an ice cream social.


Sun, 20 Sept 09 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 27 Sept 09 — Gold Star Mother’s Day — a day to recognize American women who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our nation.

Sun, 8 Nov 09 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 6 Dec 09 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance — recognizing survivors ... with the tolling of the ship bell for those who have passed away since last year.

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**The Season of Lent**

Hebrews 9:22  
According to the Law of Moses, nearly everything was purified by sprinkling with blood. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.

God loves you and me so much he gave us his one and only Son. Jesus accepted His fate; He didn’t run, He didn’t hide, He trusted His Father that the Father’s will would be done. Can you imagine Jesus totally free from sin dying for you and me? God made you and me worthy of this sacrifice His only Son.

Some of you may give up things for Lent like candy soda or coffee. Will you think “poor me,” if I can’t have a soda or candy? Seems so small in comparison doesn’t it?

Please use this season to meditate upon what Jesus did for you and me. Take time to pray, seek or renew a one-on-one relationship with God; ask God to use you in His service and see where you are led this Lenten Season.

— Kay Schoen  
Worship Committee Chair

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**Palm Sunday — Distribution of Palms**

5 April is Palm/Passion Sunday.  
At 11:00 a.m. each worshiper will receive palms to commemorate Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

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**Good Friday — Holy Communion**

On Friday, 10 April, we will have our Good Friday worship service at 2:00 p.m.

At this worship service the invitation to commune at the Lord’s Table will be extended ... which is open to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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**Easter Services**

On Sunday 12 April, worship services will be held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
The special music will include: the Bethel Brass Ensemble, a piano/organ duo, and soloist Tim Dahl.
moral standard in the universe that provides the basis for this distinction. And what is the source of that moral standard if not God?

Even so, evil remains rationally inexplicable on any human account. Believers can appeal to the consolations of religion, but they are not spared the conundrum of why God permits evil and suffering to occur at all. In the Bible, this is the question that Job boldly, angrily, and eloquently poses to God. Job’s point is that he is a good man, so why should he suffer? Why are his possessions taken from him? Why would God treat anyone this way, let alone one of His devoted servants?

Rather than reply directly to Job, God asks what gives the creature the right to question its Creator. Did Job make the universe? Did he give himself life? God seems to be pulling rank on Job here, and Job finally acquiesces, surrendering to God without having his questions fully answered. Thus Job becomes a biblical hero … not of understanding, but of faith.

We must press on, however, because Job’s question remains a valid one: Why do evil things happen to good people? One answer is freewill. God does not want to reign over an empire of automatons. Freedom of choice means that we are free to do good and we are also free to do evil. Man can be a saint only in a world where he can also be a devil. Thus the existence of evil in the world is entirely consistent with a God who despises evil, but values freedom.

God didn’t kill all those people at Virginia Tech, the shooter did. Why however, didn’t God intervene and stop it? This is a deep question about God’s role in the world. Why doesn’t God make Himself manifest, especially when there are tragedies to be averted? Here’s one possible reason. Imagine if God had intervened to prevent the homicidal maniac from doing what he did. Leave aside the violation of free will. Just focus on the consequences. The shooter would be — by miraculous intrusion — disarmed; the shootings would have been prevented; and life would go on.

In other words, life would proceed as if God had not intervened in the first place. So God in this view becomes a kind of cosmic errand boy who is supposed to do our chores and clean up our messes, and we then wish Him a very good day and return to our everyday lives. But perhaps God’s purpose in the world is to draw His creatures to Him, and the empirical evidence is that tragedies like the one at Virginia Tech help to do that.

At this point I can imagine the indignant outburst, “Are you saying that God causes horrible massacres to occur just so that people can turn to Him?” To repeat: God didn’t cause this to happen; blame guns, blame the school’s security system, and most of all blame the killer himself. But don’t blame God. As C. S. Lewis points out, most of the evil and suffering in the world has been produced by human beings with whips, guns, bayonets, gas chambers, and bombs. These crimes are not divinely inflicted but man-made. Even so, it is not unreasonable to suppose that there is a providential purpose behind history, and if human horrors show us our dependence on God’s love and restorative powers, that’s not such a bad thing. In no way is God responsible for evil; He is responsible only for using evil to bring forth good.

Christians can point to the example of Christ to show that their God — far from being indifferent to evil and suffering — became man precisely for the purpose of enduring and overcoming it. In Christian theology God became man in order to take upon Himself the sins of the world. Christ suffered unjustly in the same way that humans suffer unjustly ... but to a much higher degree. For the Christian, therefore, to endure evil and suffering is somehow to share the passion of Christ. Ultimately Christ prevailed over evil and this is what the Christian also seeks to do, at least in his own life.

So far this account has largely focused on moral evil. It does not account for “natural evil,” which is evil produced not by human beings, but by nature itself. Here I’m thinking of such things as hurricanes and cancer. So we must ask one more time: Why do bad things happen to good people? The Christian answer is that there are no good people. None of us deserves the life that we have, which is a gratuitous gift from God. As philosopher Peter Kreeft points out in his book Making Sense Out of Suffering, we are all dying, relinquishing little bits of life every day, and while medical technologies can win us a short delay, they cannot prevent us from moving steadily, inexorably to our graves.
(Continued ... from page five)

For this reason we all need a deeper kind of healing, which is the healing of the soul. The unbeliever will say that we must learn to face death, and in a natural sense that's true. Death is the one certainty of life, and we must all learn to accept that. The real question is whether death is the final chapter. The unbeliever insists that the promise of eternal life is a false one, But he does not know that.

All I am trying to show here is that the only way for us to really triumph over evil and suffering is to live forever in a place where those things do not exist. It is the claim of Christianity that there is such a place and that it is available to all who seek it. No one can deny that. If this claim is true, then evil and suffering are exposed as temporary hardships and injustices. They are as transient as our brief, mortal lives. In that case, God has shown us a way to prevail over evil and suffering, which are finally overcome in the life to come.

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


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An Organ Recital on the KPO-7066
W. W. Kimball Pipe Organ
Sunday, 29 March 2009 — 2:00 p.m.
Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel

My Dear Friends,

On March 31st, 1929, the Kimball pipe organ (KPO#7066) was presented in a dedication program at the Chapel, sponsored by American Legion and VFW groups.

Now 80 years later, I would like to cordially invite you to a celebration acknowledging the 80th anniversary of KPO#7066.

The celebration will be held Sunday March 29, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The program will feature selections showing the versatility of KPO#7066, and will conclude with USA music selections. The program is free and open to the public.

I would like to thank the DNR and FSMC Foundation for their support of KPO#7066 and the many opportunities past, present, and future I have had to play this historically unique instrument.

I hope to see you at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel for this special event.

Your friend,
Craig Alan Tennison

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42nd Annual Meeting of the Chapel Foundation ...

Above: On Sunday, 8 February 2009 (Founder's Day Sunday), Foundation President - Bob Peterson - receives a signed/numbered water color print of the Fort Snelling Chapel by the artist Susan T. Amidon.

Chaplain Beale presented it on behalf of the Board of Directors in recognition of his leadership (2008-2009).
Place an Easter Plant in the Chancel

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

You can select lilies and tulips (pink, purple and red). Cost = $13 each.

Plants making-up our Easter Garden will be noted in the bulletin — in memory of ..., in honor of ..., or to the glory of God. Orders must be received by Sunday 29 March. Donors may take their plants only following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The plants that remain will be delivered to the Veterans Home for their enjoyment.

Contact Karen Ayers at (612) 727-3817 or see her in the Fellowship Hall. (Orders can be made beginning Sunday 8 March.)

Volunteer Month

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

Minnesota FoodShare ...

Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food ..." (Matthew 25:35)

Please secure any of these items and deposit them on Sunday, 22 March 2009 at the front curb of the Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel:

**Canned/Jar Food Items:** tuna, canned fish/meats, chili, beef stew, canned pasta products, Enfamil formula, fruits, juices, tomato sauces/paste, spaghetti sauces, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil

**Boxed/Packaged Items:** cereals (hot & cold), powered milk, tuna/hamburger helper, macaroni, rice, pasta products, crackers, instant potatoes, pancake mix

**Hygiene Items:** toilet tissue, tooth paste/brushes, bar soap, paper towels, feminine products, facial tissues, shampoo, deodorant, shavers, shaving cream

**Baby Items:** disposable diapers (all sizes), formula (especially Enfamil with iron), baby wipes, baby powder, jar baby foods

Food shelves have access to discounted food that you don't. Cash donations feed more families. You can make your checks payable to "F.S.M.C.F." In turn, the Foundation will forward your contribution.

* Minnesota FoodShare is an interfaith collaboration, fighting hunger through community action. You can learn more about it at [www.gmcc.org/foodshare].

Easter Brunch

Plan to attend our Easter Brunch (9 – 10:30 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall between the two Easter Sunday worship services on 12 April. Please sign up between 15 March and 5 April in Fellowship Hall for this freewill donation brunch.
Over 100 Titles of Chaplain Ken’s Messages are available on DVD (among them) …

AMERICA, ONE NATION UNDER GOD ♦ WHAT ARE WE TO REMEMBER? (MEMORIAL SUNDAY) ♦ SAME SEX MARRIAGE: PUTTING EVERY HOUSEHOLD AT RISK ♦ SEXUAL PREFERENCE IS NOT A CIVIL RIGHT ♦ ON WHICH SIDE OF THE CULTURAL BATTLE WILL YOU ENGAGE? ♦ YOU CAN’T LEGISLATE MORALITY? ♦ RAISING THE STANDARD ♦ GOOD OR BAD RELIGION: HOW DO YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE? ♦ NAZI POW # 2458 AND JAPANESE POW # 591 (POW/MIA SUNDAY) ♦ LIVING WITH A SENSE OF DUTY (VETERANS DAY SUNDAY) ♦ COMMITTED TO THE BIBLE (NATIONAL BIBLE SUNDAY) ♦ THANKSGIVING: THREE WAYS TO LOOK AT IT (THANKSGIVING) ♦ MAKING WORTHY RESOLUTIONS (NEW YEARS) ♦ DO YOU HAVE A DREAM? (MLKjr REMEMBRANCE) ♦ TODAY’S HOLOCAUST (SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY) ♦ WAS ABRAHAM LINCOLN A CHRISTIAN? (PRESIDENTS DAY) ♦ WHO DO YOU RELATE TO AT THE CROSS? (GOOD FRIDAY) ♦ WHEN JESUS CALLS YOUR NAME (EASTER SUNDAY) ♦ BLESSED ARE THE MOTHERS (MOTHER’S DAY) ♦ PLUGGING INTO THE POWER SOURCE ♦ REMEMBERING (MEMORIAL SUNDAY) ♦ IS TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE ALL THAT IMPORTANT? ♦ MY DAD IS THE GREATEST! (FATHER’S DAY) ♦ WHICH WAY, AMERICA? (INDEPENDENCE DAY) ♦ BECOMING A PERSON OF INTEGRITY ♦ LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY ♦ A WORD TO THE CHURCH’S CYNICS ♦ LOST ... FOUND ... RESTORED (POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE) ♦ THE CHRISTIAN VOTER ♦ A GOOD SOLDIER (VETERANS DAY) ♦ BENEFITS OF LISTENING ATTENTIVELY TO GOD’S WORD ♦ A DAY OF THANKSGIVING … AND WHAT? (THANKSGIVING) ♦ BREAK THE CURSE (SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY) ♦ THE HEART OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS (FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY) ♦ WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS (PRESIDENTS DAY) ♦ THE WOUNDED WARRIOR ♦ UNVEILING GOD’S HEART (GOOD FRIDAY) ♦ DEAD MAN WALKING (EASTER SUNDAY) ♦ MOTHERHOOD: A WORTHY OCCUPATION (MOTHER’S DAY) ♦ THE PRICE OF FREEDOM (MEMORIAL DAY) ♦ DAD: WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY? (FATHER’S DAY) ♦ AMERICA UNDER ATTACK (INDEPENDENCE DAY) ♦ ALLAH IS NOT OUR GOD (9/11 REMEMBERANCE) ♦ POW MIKE’S FLAG (POW/MIA SUNDAY) ♦ GOD’S PLAN FOR NATIONAL HEALTH ♦ CHRISTOPHER (CRIST-BEARER) COLUMBUS ♦ HOW WOULD JESUS VOTE? (ELECTION DAY) ♦ NO MEDAL FOR JOE (VETERANS DAY) ♦ THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE (THANKSGIVING) ♦ NOW IS THE HOUR (NEW YEARS) ♦ THE STATE OF THE UNION ♦ LIFE IS SACRED (SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY)
Benevolent Giving …

52,763 funerals at no charge to our honorably discharged veterans; that is how many funerals the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad (FSRS) has performed since its inception 19 June 1979. George J. Weiss Jr., founder of the rifle squad, is a former US Marine who served in the Pacific in World War II. George decided to start the Rifle Squad when he had a friend who died and was buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery without an honor guard.

George met with the US Government, Fort Snelling Cemetery and Veteran organizations before the start of the first all volunteer rifle squad in the country. Most national cemeteries do not have any form of a rifle squad … due to budget constraints. Most cemeteries rely on the local veteran organizations to provide a rifle squad … and only if you are a member of that organization. The FSRS is very rare … for there are only a hand full of national cemeteries today that have a volunteer rifle squad.

The Fort Snelling Rifle Squad is made up of over 130 volunteers from all branches of the military. The only qualification to be a member of the FSRS is to be an honorably discharged veteran. All members are unpaid. The FSRS is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization.

The US Government provides funds to fuel the bus and a small office at the cemetery. The bus which is used by the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad to travel around the cemetery was totally paid for by the FSRS members and in turn donated to the cemetery. The bus provides shelter as the squad waits for the funeral cortège to arrive at the cemetery. All other expenses are paid out of pocket by the squad members, including the cost gas for the many miles that each volunteer travels back and forth to the cemetery. On average there are 18 volunteers per day. They perform Monday through Friday. In almost 30 years, the FSRS has never missed a service due to bad weather.

I first came to know of the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad through Ted Nemzek, a member of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and a member of the FSRS. Ted submitted a benevolence request for a benevolence gift toward the purchase of a new rifle squad bus. The new bus will cost in excess of $60,000. The Foundation’s Board of Directors approved a $500 benevolence gift to be used toward the purchase of a new rifle squad bus.

When I sat with George in the squad room at the cemetery to do this interview, I could see the pride in the eyes of this 80 year old veteran of World War II. He has provided the leadership and a great effort over the past thirty years to ensure our veterans receive a 21 gun salute. This sense of pride was also shared by all of the other rifle squad members who were gearing up for the first funeral of that morning.

I would like to thank all the members of the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad for all of their volunteer hours in providing our veterans one last salute. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please contact the Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad, 7601 34Th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55450 or call 612-726-1127 or visit their web site www.memorialriflesquad.org

--- Pat Hoy, Chair
Benevolence Committee

This congregation tithe (10 %) from its plate offerings. If you know of an organization/ministry … that is in keeping with our purpose … please feel free to secure an application to submit for financial support in 2006. Simply call the Foundation Office at 612/970-7888 … and provide a name and mailing address.
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

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

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

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

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

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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March 2009

Foundation Memorial Chapel

Fort Snelling

1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minneapolis 55111-4027

**Music:** keyboard, organ, choir

- 9:00 am: worship service
- 10:00 am: adult education

- **Time Begins**

**Memorial**

- June 12

**Foundation**

- June 13

- June 14

**Fort Snelling**

- June 27

**1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minneapolis 55111-4027**

**Foundation Memorial Chapel**
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Fort Snelling Foundation Chapel

April 2009