Freedom: Free, but Costly

This message was preached 26 May 2013 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as “Freedom: Free, but Costly” … based on St. John 15:9-14. This sermon, along with over 500+ other titles, is available on DVDs.

Memorial Day is a national holiday which has been around since it was established in 1868 … to honor the fallen soldiers of the Civil War. It has grown to become a solemn recognition of all of our nation’s war dead and the high price of our freedom.

Having said the obvious, perhaps we have often failed to explain it properly to our children. That certainly was the case with the church that had a bulletin board decorated in red, white and blue … with pictures of soldiers who had been killed in the service to their country. A little boy was looking up at the board when the pastor came along side, where upon the boy asked the pastor what the board was about. The pastor explained that the pictures were the men from their church who over the years had “died in the service” … which (of course) he meant – in the service of their country. But the way he said it prompted the little boy (who was quiet a moment) to then ask, “Was that the morning or the evening service?”

We laugh, but (of course) Memorial Day is no laughing matter to us in this place – “where the veteran is remembered” – in the company of the many next-of-kin in worship with us today. Memorial Day is not academic or abstract for us: someone we know PERSONALLY—gave his/her life in the service of our country.

As we honor these American heroes who have given us our freedom, let me share two thoughts with you:

I. OUR FREEDOMS ARE FREE, BUT PAID FOR AT A GREAT COST … BY THE SACRIFICE OF OTHERS.

Memorial Day is a good day to pause and remember the amazing freedoms we have as Americans:

• We can worship as we choose, or pray to whomever we please; or not worship or pray at all … because we’re free.
• We can say nearly anything we want — even about the highest leaders in the land.
• We can move about freely, live anywhere we wish, and own our own property.
• We can work hard, and make a good living; or we can lie around and be lazy.

We’re FREE! But our freedoms did not come without great cost. There was a price that had to be paid for our freedoms — many times over.

Many have died on the battlefields in all of America’s wars to preserve our freedom:

• They died in the War of Independence … in places like Lexington and Concord.
• They died in the Civil War … in places like Gettysburg and Chattanooga.
• They died in World War I … in places like Verdun and the Argonne Forest.
• They died in World War II … in places like Normandy and Iwo Jima.
• They died in the Korean War in places like Kusan, Inchon and Chosin.
• They died in the Vietnam War in places like Khe Sanh, and Dien Bien Phu.
• They died in Iraq … and they are dying still in Afghanistan.

These died to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. We’re free, but that freedom wasn’t secured without cost: SOMEBODY paid the price for us to enjoy the freedoms we have.

I love the poem entitled, “Freedom Isn’t Free” by USAF Junior ROTC Cadet Major Kelly Strong:

(Continued … on page three)
President's Corner

If pictures are worth a thousand words, then let me share this photo album featuring our 50th Anniversary celebration on Founder's Day — Sunday 12 February 2017.

Iain Hodge
Foundation President
(952) 941-8643
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PHOTOS: A House of Representatives Resolution recognized Feb 12, 2017 as FSMCF Day in MN; Nina Slater applied her talent to making the pulpit parament; a cake reception followed the worship service; a bronze plaque was unveiled designating the Chapel as historic site.

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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 2017:

Saturdays ... @ Foundation Office
10 June (9:00 a.m.)
9 September (9:00 a.m.)
18 November (9:00 a.m.)

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

If you would like a copy of the 2016 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at (952) 886-1525 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report.
(Continued ... from page one)

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze
A young soldier saluted it,
and then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shoot down?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No—Freedom isn't free!

I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin of
a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard at the
bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington...
No—Freedom isn't free!

Yet at the same time, there is a
sense in which freedom IS free.
It's free to those of you who are
American citizens:
• You really don't have to serve in
the U.S. military if you don't want to — and still be free.
• You don't have to vote if you
don't want to — and still be free.
• In fact, if you wanted, you could
live on welfare, and depend upon
the government; and then turn around and criticize this country
and say how terrible it is or any-
thing else you wanted to say
about it even while living off the
money of others' taxes — and still
be free. That would be a terrible
thing to do, but you're free to do
it.

In other words, we have the
benefits of freedom irrespective
of whether we deserve them or
not.

They're free to ME! But it is a
terrible personal moral failure if
I forget and am not thankful for
those who paid the price for me
to have those freedoms. Today,
let us not forget those who have
given their lives for the freedoms
we share. Let us thank God for
those who laid down their lives
for the freedoms we enjoy.

Our freedoms as Americans
are free to us, but they were
paid for at great cost by the
sacrifice of others.

II. SALVATION IS FREE, BUT
PAID FOR AT GREAT COST
BY THE SACRIFICE OF SOME-
ONE ELSE.

Jesus said in John 8:36 — "If the
Son therefore shall make you
free, you shall be free indeed."
When you're saved, you are
FREE! You're freed from God's
judgment.

The Bible says that every one of
us has sinned against God. Sin
is transgressing God's Law, or
disobeying God's Command-
ments; and the Bible clearly
 teaches that we've ALL done
that. This means we're ALL
sinners before a holy and just
God who hates sin.

And the Bible is equally clear that
there is a penalty for sin:
• Romans 6:23 says that "the
wages of sin is death."
• Revelation 20:14 tells us that
this penalty is not only a
PHYSICAL death, but what it
calls "the second death."
Revelation 21:8 says this: "But
the fearful, and unbelieving, and
the abominable, and murderers,
and whoremongers, and
sorcerers, and idolaters, and all
liars, shall have their part in the
lake which burneth with fire and
brimstone: which is the second
death."

But you know what? — When
you're saved, you're free from
God's judgment! You're free from
hell! In fact, you're promised
eternal life in heaven! You have
the blessed assurance of eternity
in heaven ... if you know Jesus
Christ as your Savior. What a
privilege!

But I hasten to add: Not only are
you free FROM hell, but you have
many other spiritual freedoms and
privileges in Christ:
• You have the right of
forgiveness for every sin you've
ever committed or ever will
commit.
• You have the privilege of
being a child of God, and more
than that, you have the honor of
adoption to all the privileges of a
full son.
• You have the right of
immediate access to God at any
time.
• You have the privilege of
fellowship with other believers.
• And you have the right to an
eternal inheritance as an heir of
God!

If you're a believer, you have all
these and many more rights and
privileges. And guess what:
They're ALL FREE! — Every one
of them. You don't have to, nor
could you ever, pay a penny for
them. You don't have to do a
THING to earn them. They're all
free.

Several times in the Scriptures
we're reminded that salvation and
all its benefits are a GIFT:
• In Romans 5:15-18 we're told
SIX times that RIGHTOUSNESS
to be saved is a free gift from
God. We don't BECOME
righteous through our good life to be able to stand righteous before God. No, in the Bible righteousness is CREDITED as a free gift to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ. The biblical word is “imputed,” which means to “put to one’s account.”
- Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” —
- ETERNAL LIFE is given as a free gift through Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 2:8 tells us, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” — SALVATION ITSELF is given as a free gift of God, independent of any works or good deeds or religious acts.

Imagine it: Righteousness, eternal life, and salvation — they’re all FREE to you and me! They don’t cost you a thing! In fact, they CANNOT cost you a thing to earn … if they’re truly gifts. The moment they cost you something, by definition, they cease to be gifts.

No, the only thing you can do with a gift is receive it or reject it. God offers salvation — that is, eternal life, forgiveness of sins, becoming a child of God — as a TOTALLY FREE GIFT. If you receive it simply by faith, it’s yours — at NO cost to you. And once you receive God’s free gift, the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit comes in and regenerates you, and makes you a new creation; and begins a process called sanctification … whereby He helps you change and become more Christ-like. Then — you want to serve God with a thankful heart for all He has done for you; not try to earn it by adding any conditions to His free offer of salvation.

But my friends, while salvation is totally free to you … that doesn’t mean there wasn’t a cost for somebody. There was a great cost to Jesus Christ. That cost was HIS VERY LIFE!

Just as our privileges as American citizens are free to us … but paid for by the sacrifice of others; our salvation is free to us … but paid-in-full by Jesus Christ:

- 1 Peter 3:18 says, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”
- Isaiah 53:5, that great Old Testament prophecy about Jesus’s future suffering on the cross says, “But He was wounded for our transgressions…”

During World War II a minister, walking along a street in London, saw a wounded British soldier painfully hobbling along. Stopping him, the minister said to the soldier, “Thank you for being wounded for me.” The man looked back at the minister in astonishment. People had sent him cigarettes and had given him entertainment, but no one before had ever THANKED HIM for what he had suffered on others’ behalf. Then the minister continued, “I know Someone who was wounded FOR YOU.” “Wounded for me, sir?” replied the soldier … now more surprised than before. “Who could that be?” “It was our Lord Jesus,” responded the minister. “Isaiah 53:5 says ‘He was wounded for our transgressions.’” With that, the man of God went on his way, leaving the soldier to think about the One who was wounded for Him.

Yes, my friends: Jesus was wounded for us; but the Bible

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Social Media

If you are under the weather or out of town, you can still attend worship services at this site:
http://new.livestream.com/accounts/3709164. A link to this address can be found on the Chapel website www.fortsnellngmcf.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 via Livestream.

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@fortsnellngmcf.org] and request to be added to this
Constant Contact distro list.

— Steve Zom
Publicity Committee Chair
The Early History of the Chapel

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

In the years after the end of World War I, Fort Snelling continued to exist as an U.S. Army military post. With the activity of the large 3rd Infantry Regiment (and other units of soldiers) at the installation into the 1920’s a problem that had existed since the establishment of the fort in 1820 was still unsolved. The need for an adequate, designated and permanent house of worship (on-site) had never been resolved.

Before breaking ground for the current Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel in 1926, religious ceremonies were held in a small, one-story frame building (an old school house) that was behind and to the northeast of the headquarters (clock tower) building. At times, even the enlisted men’s service club had been put into use in the early 1920’s.

One can drive past the now abandoned administration building (headquarters) and drift back in time to the era of the early 1920’s and envision how the chapel would have looked. Of course, the landscape would have been quite different ... because this was before the placing of the freeway and resulting interchanges, and the expansion of the adjacent airport that has totally changed the landscape. Yet, among the abandoned buildings on a warm summer Sunday morning one can look out and view the skyline of the abandoned buildings across from the current little nine-hole golf course and envision the hustle and bustle of another morning at the fort. There is activity among the men in the barracks, which consist of five large barracks and three smaller barracks. Meanwhile, the officers’ homes across the road start to become active as families began to prepare for their Sunday activities. Out on the drill field men are marking lines on the field for a polo match that will be held this afternoon between this post and another. Already men are grooming the horses and exercising them as these magnificent animals seem to somehow know that their usual Sunday match will be held. As the morning moves on, men, women and children appear on the streets as the smell of food being served to the enlisted men permeates the air.

Meanwhile, the ordained Baptist chaplain, CPT Frank C. Rideout, is expecting a good turnout at the small white building marked, “Post Chapel.” Rideout is at the fort for temporary duty at the 1923 Summer Training Camps, but will be given a permanent duty assignment on September 1, 1923. Rideout will replace Alfred C. Oliver, a Methodist clergy. Oliver had served as the Post Chaplain since November 1920. Oliver will now move on to a warmer climate — an assignment in the Hawaiian Territory. Rideout quickly realizes that the small chapel will not be adequate to meet the religious need of the soldiers and dependents in the future.

In another “flashback in time” we could go to the first Post Chaplain, Episcopalian Ezekiel G. Gear who served from 1838-1858. This pioneer clergyman of Minnesota was granted permission to extend his ministerial labors beyond the garrison to establish congregations outside the post in St. Paul and Minneapolis (St. Anthony).

(Continued ... on page eight)
goes further and says that along with His wounding, He also GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US. In today’s text (John 15:9-14), Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Elsewhere in Scripture we read:
- “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)
- Galatians 1: 4 says, “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.”
- And Paul says this of Jesus in Titus 2:14 – “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity…”

The Bible is clear. Jesus died for your sins so you could be free, and have all the benefits and privileges and rights of a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. He offers you salvation free of charge. Would it not be a slap in the face of God to turn down such a wonderful free gift? Would it not be a tragic mistake to neglect something offered so freely at such a great price. No wonder the writer of Hebrews asks, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation…”?

Our freedoms as Americans are free to us, but they were paid for at great cost by the sacrifices of others. I hope that Memorial Day, will not just be another day to relax and kick back … and have a barbecue. I hope it’ll also be a day when you remember and honor those who have fallen in defense of the freedoms you and I hold dear. I also hope you will “give back” in some way to your community, voting, and serving your community.

But equally so, I hope you will praise God for the free gift of salvation, paid for at GREAT cost by our Lord Jesus. If you’re a believer, I hope you’ll bow your head in a few moments and humbly thank God for all you have as a citizen of heaven … all of it paid for by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary. I also hope that you “give back” to the Lord in thankfulness for His free gift of salvation for you … by living for God; making Him first place in your life; turning from sin and self; and being a faithful disciple.

Let us pray.
O God our Father, we remember this day the costly price paid for our liberties by those who have laid down their lives on the altar of sacrifice for our beloved country … that we might continue to live in freedom and do our part to preserve it. And just as we remember the life and death of these great Americans, we are reminded this day of Your great love for us in the gift of salvation made possible by the shed blood of Christ Jesus on Calvary’s cross … where the captive are set free from the bondage of sin. Lord grant that we may yet see the day when war and the fear of war will be no longer; the day when peace will have become our common possession; the day when Your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

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

Safety in Food ...

I want to focus on one particular food pathogen in this article — Listeria. I consider Listeria to be one of the most dangerous food pathogens we can encounter on a daily basis. Listeria monocytogenes is the species of pathogenic bacteria that causes the infection listeriosis. There are several reasons Listeria is so dangerous. Listeria is a ubiquitous pathogen because it is found in the soil, and water, so it is everywhere. It can survive and grow under refrigeration with or without oxygen. It can take up to two months for a person with Listeria to manifest symptoms of an infection. Listeria is one of the primary causes of miscarriages and still births. Pregnant women are more susceptible to listeria infection than are any other healthy adult.

The most common sources of food associated with listeriosis are; deli meats, hot dogs, soft cheeses made with unpasteurized milk, fermented or dry sausages, and sprouts of any kind. Do not eat refrigerated pâte or meat spreads from a deli or meat counter or from the refrigerated section of a store.

Listeria can also contaminate fruits and vegetables where the fertilizing agent used for growth has not been sufficiently pasteurized, think organic.

Be aware that Hispanic-style cheeses made from pasteurized milk, such as queso fresco, queso blanco, panela. These have all caused Listeria infections, most likely because they were contaminated during cheese-making.

Most listeria infections are so mild

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Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...

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.

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.

Getting to Know You ...

There is a lady with short blond hair and a big smile who sings with the Fort Snelling Chapel Trio and Choir, and assists with the children's sermon. She is quick to greet you with a smile or handshake and assist with any questions you may have about the Chapel. The person in question is Robin Nelson and she has made the Chapel her church home for the past few years. But there is more to this story...

Robin was the third of four daughters born to Joy and Carl Evans. She was born in St. Paul and grew up in Roseville with her three sisters - April, Penny and Jill. Carl worked as an electrical engineer for the Whirlpool Corporation, until his retirement, while Joy stayed at home to raise their daughters. Later, Joy moved into the field of social work and worked in a variety of settings including the Lino Lakes Correctional Facility and Ramsey County Social Services. Robin was part of the “Baby Boom generation” and recalled that she grew up at a time when there were lots of children the same age in the neighborhood. Kids were always outside and learned to “create our own fun” and upon further reflection Robin added, “it was a good time to grow up and be a kid”.

The Evans family was religious and attended church every Sunday. “My mother always worked hard to make our home life as good as possible and made sure we received an education and grounding in the church.” To that end, Robin was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church and participated in Sunday school and the

Children’s choir. One particularly happy memory was singing “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” in the choir loft with the church choir. Robin stated that the hymn “is timeless and continues to give me strength and faith every time I sing it.” She also enjoyed attending Sunday School where she learned about Jesus and received an award for perfect attendance! The other favorite memory involved going to grandma’s house for dinner on Sunday afternoons following the church service.

Life continued along the same path until a major disruption occurred, the divorce of her parents. Robin was 11 years old at the time and she recalled that the divorce was hard on all four of the children, though the children continued to visit their father and their mother eventually remarried. Yet the loss continued to affect her and she gradually became more “rebellious” and “started to hang out with the wrong people,” which contributed to a gradual falling away from the church. Robin completed her education in the Roseville school district graduating

(Continued... on page ten)
Between Chaplains Gear and Rideout, Fort Snelling had at least 20-chaplains, and this does not account for the Civil War period when no records of chaplain service are available.

Since the turn of the 20th century, commanding officers and chaplains on duty at Fort Snelling had repeatedly made mention of the need for a permanent chapel to higher military authorities. In fact, since about 1900 at least two sets of plans for a chapel had been drawn up for a small inexpensive building. The drawback was that officers, including chaplains, were moved with little notice from one military station to another, and so the difficulties to build a chapel seemed to be insurmountable … as follow through and follow up was not sustainable.

Early in the 1920’s a group of Sunday School students, all under age 16, appointed a committee of their peers to draft a 3-part resolution to the garrison commander as follows:

1. At the regular session of the Fort Snelling Sunday School held at the Service Club this first day of the New Year, we studied our Bible lesson, the story of Abraham the father of the faithful, building an altar for worship of God in the chosen land of Israel.
2. This reminds us of the fact that in this post are without a suitable place for the worship of the Almighty; and in the name of the 1,500-soldiers stationed here and the 150-children of the garrison, we do hereby express our earnest prayer that a house of worship may be provided for.
3. We respectfully request the Commanding Officer seek the assistance of the War Department and of such civilian organizations and agencies as will, as soon as possible to promote this post with a chapel.

The resolution was signed by the 5-members of the Committee of the Sunday School that had been appointed to draft the resolution. Thus it has been said that a group of Sunday School children provided the ‘inspiration’ for what is today’s Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel.

On March 23, 1923 the request from the Commanding Officer, Fort Snelling to the Adjutant General of the Army requesting authority to build a Post Chapel at Fort Snelling, Minnesota was made. It was to be built “without expense to the government,” since the commanding officer knew that no government funds could be obtained for such a project. On September 17, 1923 the Adjutant General of the Army gave his approval as follows: “Approved with the proviso that the building so constructed shall be Pan-Sectarian [non-denominational] in character, and donations thereto not limited to any particular sect or society.”

However, between March and September of 1923 both the Commanding Officer and Post Chaplain had been transferred before the authority had been obtained. Still the officers, enlisted men, women and children raised $2,500 in seed money for the project. This would represent 2.5% of the total cost of the project; a handsome sum by today’s standards.

Between 1923-1925, a brilliant garrison reached out to the community for support for the project. As a result resolutions of financial support were adopted by ecclesiastical, patriotic, and service clubs asking the people of the State of Minnesota to support the project. This brought both political and financial support. During the fall and winter of 1925-26 committees were organized, and the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel and Community Center Association was incorporated.

Bidding for the project were 22-Minnesota architects. The winning design of Mr. Rhodes Robertson of the firm of Hewitt-Brown of Minneapolis was cited as a beautiful blend of “the ruggedness of the Sibley House [Minnesota’s first capitol in Mendota]; the Old Round Tower [Minnesota’s oldest landmark]; and the churchy design akin to
English parish church Gothic” ... according to an old Chapel history. Today’s 60-foot bell tower reflects the “Old Round Tower” built in 1822.

Meanwhile, nearly $50,000 had been raised to advance the project primarily by the tireless work of Chaplain Rideout.

With mounting enthusiasm, a ceremonial “breaking of sod” was held on Sunday, September 5, 1926 with Army representatives, ex-servicemen, patriotic and church organizations present. Brig. Gen. A.W. Bjornstad and Staff Sgt. Cadwalader Jones broke ground for the Army’s first Chapel in America to be built by public contributions and opened to all faiths.

The soldiers of Fort Snelling made excavations and laid the concrete footings for the Chapel during the following weeks. By June 28, 1927 the Board of Directors authorized the building committee to proceed to build a usable building, “omitting such items as are not immediately necessary and keeping within the amount of money actually on hand.” Contracts were signed on

July 19, 1927 and construction was started.

To celebrate the progress of the project August 21, 1927 was selected as the day to have the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone. On this Sunday between 4/5-thousand people attended the event. This included soldiers of the garrison and nearly 2,000 Army students at the post for the Citizens’ Military Camp. This important date in the building of the Fort Snelling Chapel reflected the enthusiasm, thorough planning and participation that went into the building of the Chapel.

Placed within the large cornerstone was a copper box containing a history of the Chapel project, a history of Fort Snelling, lists of the various military organizations and commanding officers who have served at Fort Snelling, a roster of the members of the garrison and of the Citizens’ Military Training Camp of 1927. Also, a roster of all patients at the Fort Snelling Veterans’ Hospital, copies of all manuscripts and pamphlets concerning the Chapel project, a list of all contributors, newspaper articles on the Chapel with editorial and news sections of papers of current date.

Work would progress through the fall and winter of 1927-28, with additional funds coming into the project from all over the United States as word got out on the building of the Chapel. This would all eventually lead up to the Dedication Service on Sunday, June 10, 1928.

— Newell Chester

Chapel Open House

Discussions regarding this year’s Memorial Day Open House are a sure sign of the arrival of spring. **Monday, May 29, 2017** between the hours of 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation will be hosting an Open House at the Chapel. This annual event has brought many first time visitors to view, tour and be inspired by this beautiful house of prayer.

The first Chaplain Frank Rideout stated:

“Primarily the Chapel will be a house of worship, but it will be much more — it is a unique and distinctive Minnesota memorial, a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state. It will be a perpetual reminder of their appreciation of those who made the supreme sacrifice in all our great wars. It will provide a shrine where the friends of those who have died for America may come, as on a holy pilgrimage, and offer up their thanks to Almighty God for the precious gift of friends who have been so fondly loved, and are now lost awhile.”

That message personifies the true meaning of Memorial Day with the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel ... a wonderful place to honor those who gave their full measure.

— Steve Zorn, Publicity Committee Chair
from Kellogg High School. She enjoyed school and her favorite subjects were reading, spelling, art and music. Robin remembers that her father was a source of support during this time and encouraged her to “try to do different things” and following that suggestion she learned to change the oil in her car and do basic car repair.

Following high school, Robin went on to the University of Minnesota for further study but dropped out after one year and obtained certification as a medical assistant. Shortly thereafter, she met and began to date the man she would marry. They settled down in St Paul and the family was completed with the birth of their two sons Nate and Evan. In her late twenties, Robin began a career as a technician for 3M. She participated in a pilot project doing quality testing and calibration and enjoyed the job so much that she stayed for 32 years until her retirement in 2014! One of the benefits of working for 3M included the chance to earn a college degree through a program at Augsburg College. Robin ultimately earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and was proud of this accomplishment as a college degree had been a life-long dream. Another benefit of her college education was the opportunity to take theology classes and study various topics related to the Christian faith. Unfortunately, the marriage began to crumble and Robin found herself divorced and a single mother of two young boys. Although she was a successful career woman, Robin was missing something in her life. Later she realized that the Holy Spirit was working in her heart “drawing her back to the Lord” (John 6:44)

resulting in an awakening of her faith and a return to church with her two young sons.

Quite by accident, Robin was introduced by mutual friends to a single man named Brad Nelson in 2000. She noticed that Brad was “easy to talk to” and a “real person.” They hit it off immediately and over time Robin came to realize that she shared many of Brad’s values including an appreciation for family and love of country. (Brad was serving in the US Army Reserve, deployed to Iraq in 2004 and retired in 2004 at the rank of Lt Colonel while Robin’s father Carl was a WWII veteran who fought in the South Pacific with the Army Air Corp.) There were other amazing coincidences including the fact that a previous babysitter for Robin’s sons was a second cousin of Brad and another cousin had worked with Robin’s mother at Ramsey County! Robin smiled and reckoned, “God meant for us to be together!” After a couple of years of dating Brad and Robin were married on August 31, 2002 at the Fort Snelling Chapel with Pastor John Keller officiating.

At the time of their marriage, Robin and Brad were attending a large suburban church. But Brad and Robin were also aware of the patriotic celebrations at the Chapel and made a point of attending those special services. The couple discovered that they enjoyed the “Bible based sermons” preached by Chaplain Beale, the small size of the congregation and the traditional hymns and special music. After several years of attending both churches the Nelsons decided to make Fort Snelling Chapel their permanent home in 2010. Today, Robin volunteers in a variety of capacities including singing with the Chapel Trio and Choir, helping with the Children’s Ministry and serving on a church committee. Outside of church, she enjoys singing with the Sweet Adelines, gardening, hiking, bird watching and taking care of her three-year old granddaughter, Amelia.

In February of 2016, Robin began to experience joint soreness while walking. She went to the doctor who confirmed that a hip replacement was needed along with stabilization of her femur bone. However, the surgeon requested
Robin is physically exhausted and discouraged. It is at those times she seeks comfort and guidance from the 23rd Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This psalm reminds us that our Father in heaven cares for each of us as a shepherd cares for his sheep. When we become discouraged, the Good Shepherd will guide us, strengthen us and protect us along our path in life. No matter what happens, we can trust this wonderful Shepherd to work all things for our good (Romans 8:28). The Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us with His shed blood and we now belong to Him. As His sheep, we can claim the promises of this psalm as we respond to His voice and follow His lead.

Robin, thank you for your service and contributions to the Chapel! The Chapel extends their wishes for your complete healing and continued good health.

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

(Continued ... from page six)
they may go unnoticed. However, in some cases, a listeria infection can lead to life-threatening complications — including:
- A generalized blood infection (septicemia)
- Inflammation of the membranes and fluid surrounding the brain (meningitis)

Complications of a listeria infection may be most severe for an unborn baby. Early in pregnancy, a listeria infection may lead to miscarriage. Later in pregnancy, a listeria infection may lead to stillbirth, premature birth or a potentially fatal infection in the baby after birth — even if the mother becomes only mildly ill.

If you experience a high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, confusion or sensitivity to light, seek emergency care. These signs and symptoms may indicate bacterial meningitis, a life-threatening complication of a listeria infection.

— Tom Newman
A Word From the Classroom

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

King Solomon is credited with these words and we all know he was incredibly wise. When two women each claimed to be the mother of an infant, King Solomon said to cut the child in half; one half for each woman. The true mother, of course, said NO to that but preferred that the baby go to the woman who falsely said she was the mom.

Most of us know about Paul, formerly Saul of Tarsus, who became a devout follower of Christ. But what do you know about Timothy? Paul, himself, referred to Timothy as “...my own son in the faith...” (1 Timothy 1:2). Did you know that Timothy was raised by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois? Timothy’s father was a Gentile and not mentioned as raising Timothy. These women must have done an amazing job, as Paul wrote letters to Timothy that are recorded in the New Testament.

Today there are also many absent fathers for many reasons such as death, divorce, jobs away from home, and even deployments. It isn’t the ideal situation but sometimes unavoidable. Lots of kids are being raised by mothers and grandparents. Bless their hearts! Oh, it is so tempting to be a “friend” to these little ones! That is NOT a luxury afforded to these adults. It is often thought that we must not spank or even scold kids as it hurts their feelings. Now, I am NOT condoning hitting children or verbally abusing them! However, it IS the responsibility of those entrusted with a child’s care to “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Today a whopping 15% of elementary school teachers quit after one year of teaching and 25% quit after 3 years, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Do you know why? Undisciplined children! We find them every-where... in schools, grocery stores, malls and even churches!

Scripture is full of treasures of wisdom. For example, Proverbs 15:20a says “A wise son makes a father glad...” Nobody can become wise without guidance!

And James 3:17 says, “But the wisdom that comes from above is, first of all, pure. It is also peace-loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others...”

Caregivers need wisdom to direct children in the ways of the Lord. Remember, wisdom comes from above.

If you want advice on disciplining children, the Chapel office has several good books on the subject such as Dare to Discipline and The Strong Willed Child, both by Dr. James Dobson. You can borrow them for no charge.

It is the responsibility of all adults, especially parents and grandparents, to help children grow in a disciplined manner. After all, that child could grow up to be the next Timothy, or Paul, or Solomon... but only with your guidance.

Respectfully,
— Leslie Hensche, Coord. Children’s Ministry

The Wedding Month of June
at the Historic Chapel

Each Sunday in June, we will recognize those couples who over the years were united in marriage at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. A commemorative 50th Anniversary Ornament will be presented at the 11:00 a.m. worship service to couples in attendance.

Please ‘spread the word’ that we are seeking all those husbands and wives who took their marriage vows at the Chapel altar. We wish to celebrate your life together... where it all began.

— Sharon Emde, 50th Anniversary Committee Chair
Mother's Day

Motherhood (a poem from 212 Victory Poems by Clifford Lewis)

"If I could write with diamond pen,
Use ink of flowing gold,
The love I have for my mother dear
Could then not half be told.

Her sympathy has been my stay,
Her love my guiding light,
Her gentle hand hath soothed my ills;
She's ever guided right.

A precious friend has mother been,
Stood by me all the way,
No sacrifice has been too great;
Such love one can't repay.

So wonderful has mother been,
So gentle, kind and good,
That I have learned to reverence
That sweet word, 'Motherhood.'"

Join us Sun 14 May (11 a.m.) as we celebrate our Mothers.

— Tony Stocker,
Worship Committee Chair

Flag Day - 14 Jun

Flag Day is considered a patriotic holiday, in the U.S. and is particularly celebrated by the Armed Forces and those veterans who have served abroad. Flag Day is celebrated on June 14th each year. While Flag Day is meant to commemorate the adoption of the American Flag, it isn’t actually a National Holiday. The adoption of Flag Day was undertaken by President Woodrow Wilson, in 1916; but it was not until 1949 that Congress enacted legislation supporting his decision. The holiday is celebrated around the country with parades and memorial services for those who have died in defense of the U.S. Flag. Pennsylvania is the only state in the Union to officially observe Flag Day. Much of the celebration of Flag Day in PA is centered around the former home of Betsy Ross (Philadelphia) , the flag’s creator.

— Tony Stocker,
Worship Committee Chair

Father's Day

Father's Day actually began when a daughter of a Civil War veteran wanted to pay tribute to her father. Her mother died during the birth of the family’s sixth child. Her father raised all six children by himself. His daughter realizing, how self-less his sacrifices were to the family, asked the family minister if they could pay tribute to fathers. She suggested the date of 5 June - her father's birthday. It was actually on 19 June that the service was held ... as there was not time to prepare for the 5th. This was in 1909.

In 1924, US President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to “establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon the fathers the full measure of their obligations.”

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father’s Day.

Never underestimate your influence upon your children.

Happy Father’s Day! Consider celebrating this special day of recognition with us on 18 June at 11:00 a.m. at the Chapel.

— Tony Stocker,
Worship Committee Chair

Armed Forces Day

Many Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day, annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

On Aug 31, 1949, Louis Johnson, who was the U.S. Secretary of Defense, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. The event stemmed from the armed forces’ unification under one department – the Department of Defense.

Pentecost

Definition: Festival of the Christian Church occurring on the seventh Sunday after Easter. This Sunday celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus’ disciples. (Note: “Pente” means five and “cost” means ten times. This refers to the fact that there were 40-days between Easter and the Ascension of the Lord and then 10-days between the Ascension and Pentecost, totaling 50-days.

Join us on Sun 4 June (11 am)

— Tony Stocker,
Worship Committee Chair

Memorial Day

Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service to our country. It was first widely observed on May 31, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. By the late 1800s, many more cities and communities had begun to observe Memorial Day, and after World War I, it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all America’s wars.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May.

Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery each year with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Traditionally, the President or Vice President lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. About 3,000 people attend the ceremony annually.

Plan to attend the Foundation’s annual Memorial Day Sunday Remembrance on 28 May at 11:00 a.m.

— Tony Stocker,
Worship Committee Chair
Creation Corner

Christians are often curious about how dinosaurs fit into the biblical narrative. Dinosaurs certainly existed. Their fossil remains are found on every continent, and ancient historical records, including the Bible, chronicle human encounters with large reptiles whose descriptions best match dinosaurs. Dinosaurs that lived up to the time of the Flood were drowned in the Flood (except those on board the Ark), as were all land-dwelling creatures with nostrils, according to Genesis 7:22. Some of those outside the Ark were buried in fast-moving mud that quickly dried, turning their remains into fossils faster than their carcasses could decay. Most, if not all, dinosaur fossil layers also have fossil water creatures like fish and clams, and this is consistent with the Flood explanation.

Although there are hundreds of named dinosaur species, all of them belong to only about 50 or 60 different basic dinosaur kinds. That means that Noah and his sons only had to manage perhaps 120 individual dinosaurs on the Ark. Could they have fit on board a vessel with the dimensions given in Genesis 6? No matter how large some dinosaurs grew, the largest dinosaur egg was not much bigger than a football. Even the Argentinosaurus, which could grow into a 120-foot-long monster, could have fit on the Ark if it was represented by much-smaller young ones. In addition, many dinosaurs were small even when fully grown. For example, the Sinosauropteryx, which is of the same kind as Compsognathus (except the former was found in China and the latter in Europe), was about the size of a turkey. The average size of a dinosaur was about that of a medium dog. One hundred-twenty “dogs” would require barely a corner of one of the Ark’s three decks.

We can infer from the reliable Genesis record that the descendants of the dinosaurs on the Ark travelled from the Middle East to places around the globe. This really only makes sense, however, when considering that the post-Flood climate was very different from today’s. During the Ice Age, the Middle East was tropical and was constantly watered by heavy rains. This would have set up suitable conditions for dinosaurs to have been fruitful and filled many Earth environments. There are various clues, such as dinosaur fossils buried alongside tropical plant fossils, that indicate dinosaurs lived in swamplike habitats.

This dinosaur migration happened only thousands of years ago. Archbishop James Ussher calculated a date for the Flood at 2348 B.C. This is probably a bit off, but it most likely falls within a few centuries of the real Flood date. How long did dinosaurs live after that, and why are they not still alive?

Immediately after the Flood, creatures like dinosaurs dispersed across Earth’s surface. The first few generations of post-Flood people, however, were determined to rebel against God’s command to fill the earth. Instead of filling the earth, they built a tower in Babel and remained in its growing city. In response, God supernaturally compelled them to disperse across Earth by confusing their languages. When families eventually migrated into far-flung places, they encountered the dinosaurs that had already been there for a few hundred years. Those encounters have been memorialized in writings, depictions, and legends from people groups around the globe. As humans filled the post-Flood Earth, dinosaur numbers would have dwindled due to hunting and loss of habitat. The changing climate itself may have ultimately rendered the earth inhospitable to these creatures, eventually leading to their extinction in many areas. Even so, dinosaurs must have been living at least within the last hundreds of years, judging by the tales of humans who saw them.

The sheer number of names given to dragons, or dinosaurs, worldwide builds a strong argument that dragon legends hearken back to encounters with real creatures. Most languages, either in written or oral tradition, have their own unique words for dragon. By “dragon,” we do not refer to popular images of a bulky, fire-breathing reptile that somehow flies with tiny wings. Rather, we take “dragon” to mean one of the many kinds of post-Flood dinosaurs, or even flying reptiles. Other languages still use words like those shown in this table. The online encyclopedia Wikipedia lists many more dragon names.¹

Ancient historians described dragons as real, living creatures, right alongside their descriptions of other creatures more familiar to today’s readers. For example, in his book Natural History written in approximately 78 A.D., Pliny the Elder wrote that “it is India which produces the largest [elephants] as well as the dragon … and is itself of such enormous size as to envelop the elephants with its folds.”²

During that same era, Flavius Philostratus wrote: “The whole of India is girt with dragons of enormous size; for not only the marshes are full of them, but the mountains as well, and there is not a single ridge without one. Now the marsh kind are sluggish in their habits and are thirty cubits long, and they have no crest standing up on their heads.”³

(Continued ... on page fifteen)
History is littered with such accounts. Alexander the Great wrote of a dragon that his army encountered during his short time on Earth. The famous explorer Marco Polo described a dragon in his logbooks. Bill Cooper's book *After the Flood* describes many similar accounts from Europe. Cooper relayed a report written in 1484 by England's first printer, William Caxton, of a singular creature: "About the marches [marshes] of Italy, within a meadow, was sometime a serpent of wonderful and right marvelous greatness, right hideous and fearful. For first he had a head greater than the head of a calf. Secondly, he had a neck greater than the length of an ass, and his body made after the likeness of a dog. And his tail was wonderfully great, thick and long, without comparison to any other."

The creature thus described matches Job's behemoth, which had a "tail like a cedar," lived in a marsh where it ate reeds, and as "the first of the ways of God" was obviously very large.  

People groups that did not maintain written records nevertheless retain oral traditions of dragon encounters. They describe the dragon's habitat and habits, and provide specific names for the dragons and the long-dead heroes who vanquished them. Towns, hillside's, and ponds across Europe still have their old dragon names — such as Drachenfels Castle and the town of Worms in Germany, Grindelwald in Switzerland, Dragon-hoard (near Garsington) in England, and many others.

But even more evidence shows that early peoples encountered dinosaurs. Dinosaur depictions occur in carvings, sculptures, bas reliefs, paintings, mosaics, tapestries, sculptures, pictographs, and petroglyphs from all over the world. Some of the telling features that help identify these images as dinosaurian are horns, spiky skin flaps along the spine called dermal frills, long tails, long necks, large teeth, and, perhaps most importantly, legs that went straight down from the body. Those walking reptiles with which we are most familiar today have legs that aim away from the sides of the body, then angle down to the ground at the elbows or knees. Dinosaur reptiles' legs were situated beneath their bodies (like a dog's are), just as shown on dozens of genuine, ancient depictions.

Evolutionists object that dinosaur-looking artifacts are fakes. However, this objection does not stem from rigorous analysis of the data. Instead, it stems from an argument that goes like this: "This ancient man-made artifact looks like a dinosaur. But dinosaurs died millions of years before man evolved, making it impossible for ancient men to know what dinosaurs looked like. Therefore this artifact is a fraud." This kind of argument takes as true the very evolutionary history that the artifacts challenge. Ignoring evidence leads to wrong conclusions.

The vast number of dragon descriptions and the similarities of those descriptions across geographic space and historical time are best explained by genuine dinosaur encounters. The late popular cosmologist Carl Sagan considered the historical evidence for dragons such a serious threat to the evolutionary paradigm that he tackled the subject in his 1977 book *The Dragons of Eden*. In it, he speculated that unknown human ancestor primates may have encountered dinosaurs millions of years ago. The memories of those interactions were so traumatic that they were indelibly stamped onto the primate genes so that ancient humans inherited and drew their dinosaur pictures based on those memories. Because there is no scientific evidence that memories can be inherited, many scientists shunned Sagan's unscientific speculation. But to assert that myriad dragon legends are all fraudulent without even investigating their historical evidence is equally unscientific.

If the Bible is correct that representatives of all land-dwelling, air-breathing creatures were on the Ark, and if it is correct in describing an Ice Age dinosaur in the book of Job, then it makes sense to infer that people encountered (and rid themselves of) the threatening and fearsome reptiles during the centuries after the Flood, leaving for us dragon legends — written, spoken, painted, and carved — from perhaps every ancient culture.

Notes

— Submitted by: John Kruse
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.

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or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

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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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Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff
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Website: www.fortsnellingleafoundation.org