Your Legacy (to date) — A Secularized America

Note: Throughout 2008, 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 the first issue of 2009, I've shared with you the legacy of atheism [those who disbelieve in the existence of God or deities]. Now, I ask you: What will be your legacy?

When I consider how much America has changed since the fifties and then try to project what America will be like forty years from now, I am overwhelmed with grief. Something tragically wrong is happening in our nation. Even the most liberal of our society recognizes that America cannot continue down the path she is on and survive. "Fixing America" has become the standard campaign rhetoric of every aspiring politician, yet little changes. The deficits get bigger; the new prisons are quickly filled; marriages continue to fail; more factories close; and more people lose jobs every day, every month and every year. What has happened to America?

Since the beginning, there have been two competing worldviews, vying for the control of American thought. These two worldviews have their origins in the God of Scripture and the god of this world. One is the God of truth and the other is the god of falsehood and deceit. Until the early sixties in this nation, the traditional Judeo-Christian ethic, rooted in Holy Scripture, dominated the classrooms, the boardrooms and the courtrooms. Beginning in 1962, all that changed. The courts began to systematically secularize the nation, reflecting its view that God and the Scripture had no place in the public arena.

Two sins were committed. First, the U. S. Supreme Court, backed by the authority of the federal government, said in effect, "God has no place here." Secondly, the Church, comprised of tens of millions of Bible-believing Christians, failed to stand up and challenge this ungodly notion ... because they were too busy to get involved. Like the infamous "frog in kettle" analogy, Christians began swimming slowly in the increasingly hot water of secular humanism, choosing to adjust to each new anti-God ruling without much more than an occasional objection. Finally, we found ourselves in a boiling pot of secular humanism and our Judeo-Christian ethic, all but dead.

Alexis de Tocqueville said of his visit to America in the 1830's: "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power." He went on to observe: "America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." For more than a century, preachers of every persuasion have jointly looked to those words with understandable satisfaction and pride. Integrity now demands (Continued ... on page three)
Greetings in the precious name of Jesus!

Hi. I am writing again on behalf of President Bob Bernloehr. Please continue to pray for Bob as he enters a phase of special treatment to enhance his complete recovery.

My title for this article is "VALUES IN CRISIS." Psalm 107:27 in the Living Bible says, "They reel to and fro and stagger like drunken men and are at their wits end, all their wisdom has come to nothing." This verse, Chapel friends, is the bottom line product of the crisis in values in the 21st century.

What are some of the crises we face in the values of life? On a societal scale, the issue has already been resolved. The value system that emerged from the Judeo-Christian emphasis on the absolutes has been discarded. Historically, we have been moving backward in time and text to when "the earth was formless and empty." (Genesis 1:2) Life often has no structure or meaning. We must therefore, add a third tragic word ... darkness. There is a darkness that has come upon us. The choice has been made. Man has made "fallen man" and his reason: his value grid.

The world has chosen this instead of a transcendent, loving God and His revelation. This darkness comes in a variety of ways. It comes as disorder, then comes despair, frustration, mistrust, debauchery and destructiveness. Look at our world today — we live in a post-Christian age in regard to our values.

Since there is no absolute God, there are no absolute values. Since there are no absolute values, there is no absolute standard. Our children and some of us have grown up being taught this philosophy for 40 years. Man becomes his own king — a clown with a cardboard crown. The song, "Bring in the Clowns," is a picture of our society. Man is walking a treadmill of destruction leading to oblivion.

May each one of us stand firm in the Lord, walking step by step, hand in hand, with our Lord, placing all our values in Him and His pure absolute love and power. Please read I Corinthians 15:57-58.

I like this poem, Step by Step.

He does not lead me year by year
Nor even day by day
But step by step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute;
But He will say, this is the way
By faith now walk ye in it.

And I am glad that it is so,
Today is enough to bear,
And when tomorrow comes,
His grace shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret
The God who gave His Son
Holds all my moments in His hand
And gives them, one by one.

— Author unknown

Blessings and prayers,
Bob Peterson
Immediate Past President

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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:
Saturday (9:00 a.m.) ... 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.
that we look at America’s decline with corresponding shame and embarrassment. Where is the thundering, undaunted and united voice against the great sins of our culture? It is to our disgrace that the gay and lesbian communities hold greater influence over our legislative bodies, both locally and nationally, than does the Church. It is an indictment of the Church that we have now witnessed the slaughter of more than 40 million pre-born boys and girls, and that their developing bodies are being used for scientific research in laboratories across America. There are some voices crying out against the darkness that is engulfing America. I’m one of them! Preachers must again ignite their pulpits with the flame of righteousness if America shall be restored. The greatest hope for the nation is the local New Testament Church, afloat with the truth.

While I believe that God will hold preachers accountable, He will hold laity accountable as well. Many preachers have attempted to take a stand against sin in their community, only to have the platform from which they spoke jerked out from under them by a carnal congregation. Carnal laypeople have refused to give God His ten percent in the form of a tithe, often limiting the ability of the church to perform meaningful ministry for lack of funds. Now these same laypeople find themselves being compelled to give as high as forty to fifty percent of their income through various forms of taxation. Instead of the church compassionately meeting the needs of people in the name of Christ through freewill offerings, we now have professional bureaucrats doing out confiscated money, without compassion, to people who are largely unaccountable to anyone, in an ever increasing welfare state that is bankrupt, both financially and morally. If I give my money to the poor, that is compassion. If I give your money to the poor, that is theft. Politicians have made careers out of confiscating the money of law-abiding citizens through exorbitant taxation and in turn legitimizing unscriptural behavior with countless government subsidies. My heart aches as I consider how far we have fallen from the vision of our founders.

In 1962, the highest court of our nation said to school children that they could not pray “Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee ...” Careful study of the curriculum taught in our schools today reveals that we encourage our children to trust in man, but we forbid them to publicly acknowledge their trust in God. Through a careful and diligent process, most references to the historic faith of our founders has been excluded from our children’s textbooks in public education. The theory of evolution is taught as fact, encouraging our children to believe that they are nothing more than a small part of the evolutionary process. For three decades, students have been taught the lie that they are simply animals, nothing more. Now that they are acting like animals, everyone is asking, “Why?”

With the same rationale, the courts even ruled the Ten Commandments could not be posted on the walls of a public building. In the Stone v. Graham ruling of 1980, the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional to hang the Ten Commandments on the walls of a classroom, since, as they reasoned, it might lead the students to read them, meditate upon them, respect them or obey them.

Since 1962, we have witnessed one bizarre ruling after another flow forth from the courts of our land as the elite of our nation have begun to apply their world view that eliminates God from the equation and makes man the savior of himself.

In 1980, Tim LaHaye published a 247-page book entitled The Battle for the Mind. In it, he set forth tenets of secular humanism and the grip that this wicked philosophy has held on American education since the 1930’s. The Humanist Manifesto I was published in the 1930’s and signed by a host of thirty-four liberal humanists including none other than John Dewey, known as the Father of Modern American Education. It is the bible of secular humanism. In 1973, an updated edition was published entitled Humanist Manifesto II. The “Manifesto” proclaims itself a “positive declaration for times of uncertainty.” Dr. LaHaye summarizes their belief in the five basic tenets of humanism:

Atheism: “We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of the supernatural ... as non-theists we begin with man not God ... no deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”

Evolution: “Religious Humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created ... the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces.”

(Continued ... on page six)
Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...

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.

Mark your calendar with these dates ... and join us at 11:00 a.m.

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.

All Saints’ Day

When Jesus rose from the dead, He gave us the reassurance that we would be with Him always. On All Saints’ Day (Sun., 1 Nov.) we remember those who have been called to glory and reflect on their importance in our lives. Join us at 11:00 a.m.

Veterans Day

President Wilson proclaimed 11 November 1919 as Armistice Day. On 13 May 1938 Congress designated November 11th of each year as a legal holiday.

In 1954, Congress amended the act of 1938 by striking out Armistice and inserting the word “Veterans” in its place and making it a day to honor American Veterans of all wars. Regardless of what day the week on which it falls November 11th will be the day of observation.

“Let us remember those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us recommit ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their effort shall not have been in vain.”

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Sunday November 8 (11:00 a.m.) the Foundation will recognize and honor veterans of all branches of service. Thank you to all who have served our country!

Pearl Harbor Day

When the attack against the U.S. forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii ended on Sunday, 7 December 1941 —

Our Country’s casualties were listed as:

US ARMY: 218 KIA, 364 WIA
US NAVY: 2,008 KIA 710 WIA
US MARINE CORP: 109 KIA, 69 WIA
CIVILIANS: 68 KIA, 35 WIA

God saw us through this time of trouble; He healed our nation; He gave us hope in our despair; and God blessed our Nation.

It is important to study and know the history of our country; it teaches us that God does see us through our darkest hours; He gives us the strength and the courage to heal; and the morality to love and care for others.

As God forgave us through the saving grace of Christ, God has given us the desire to help our former enemy rebuild and become our allies.

We are blessed and honored to be the Chapel “where the veteran is remembered.” Please plan to join us on Sun 6 Dec as we honor those Pearl Harbor Survivors who have been called to glory this past year.

Kay Schoen
Celebrate the Season!

Christmas Garden of Poinsettias
A tradition at the Chapel is to adorn the altar area with beautiful poinsettia plants at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (4 and 6:30 p.m.). The Chapel is made alive with color. You can participate by purchasing a red, pink or white plant(s) — $14 each. This tradition is made even more precious by the dedications which are made for each of the plants. It’s a beautiful way to honor or remember your loved ones at this sacred and holy time of year. Contact Karen Ayers (612/353-6688) or see her in the Fellowship Hall by Dec 6th. Plants may be taken following the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Christmas Caroling at the VA
Once again, the chapel congregation will be singing Christmas carols … making melody through the halls of the MN Veteran’s Home on Sunday, December 20th (2:00 p.m.). Those interested in participating should gather at 1:30 p.m. at the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Following our caroling, the group will be going out to eat together.

Help us spread the joy of Christmas in song with those veterans who risked their lives so that we might have such freedom to express our faith.

— Your Fellowship Committee

Annual Christmas Luncheon
Be sure to mark your calendar — December 13th at 1:00 p.m. — to join your Chapel friends and their guests at our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Highway I-494 and 34th Avenue in Bloomington. Embassy Suites will again serve us a delicious lunch for $17 per meal.

Menu
Tossed Salad with Dressing • Sliced Pork Loin with Mushroom Sauce • or Chicken Breast with Supreme Sauce • Garlic Mashed Potatoes • Vegetable Medley • Dinner Roll & Butter • Peach Cardinal • Coffee • Tea • Milk

Tickets will go on sale after worship in the Fellowship Hall starting November 8th thru December 6th.

Our entertainment for the afternoon will be the dynamic duo of Holly Circle and Jimmy Steffen.

— Your Fellowship Committee

The Season of Advent …
which in Latin means the coming.

The advent wreath is a circle which symbolizes the eternity of God. The lighting of the four candles (one each Sunday) represents:

First — Expectation
Second — Hope
Third — Joy
Fourth — Purity

The Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

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

Kay Schoen

Christmas Eve
On Thu., 24 Dec. we will have worship services at 4 and 6:30 p.m. Join in the singing of the carols in the beauty of candlelight and of a garden of poinsettias. The special music will be the “Regency” Trio and Touching Hearts … featuring instrumental and vocal. A shuttle bus will be available.

Christmas Cookies Needed
The Kitchen Angels are requesting cookie donations for Sundays Nov 29, Dec 6 & 20 for our fellowship hour. Sign-up on the board just outside the Chapel kitchen. Thank you.

— Terry Ulstad Coordinator
Amorality: "Ethics is autonomous and situational ... and stem from self interest – favor right to birth control, abortion, divorce and choice of sex direction."

Individual Autonomy: "We believe in maximum individual autonomy – reject all religious, moral codes that suppress freedom ... demand civil liberties, including right to oppose governmental policies – right to die with dignity, euthanasia and suicide."

Socialist One-World View: "We have reached a turning point in human history where the best often is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and move toward the building of a world community ... the peaceful adjudication of differences by international courts."

Can there be any doubt that humanism is the dominant philosophy of American thought today? We may still exalt the God of Scripture in our church buildings, but the religion of secular humanism is driving public policy. Isaiah’s prophecy takes an ominous tone: “Stop trusting in man ... see now, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support.” (Isaiah 2:22-3:1) My deeply held conviction that the Scripture is God-breathed and completely inspired compels me to believe that even the order in which the revelation of Isaiah is given has significance. As Isaiah delivers this prophetic word to a nation that forgets God, there is a growing release of evil, each with progressively more tragic consequences than the one preceding.

The longer I live, the more I realize that God has woven the principle of sowing and reaping throughout the natural world. Everything in this world that matters is affected by the law of sowing and reaping. By that, I mean everything we do in life has a delayed response. You plant today, but you reap tomorrow. If you fail to plant today, you will not reap tomorrow. Everything that matters depends upon this law.

Life in the 1950s was good because American society embraced the Judeo-Christian ethic for many generations prior to the fifties. In the sixties, a different cultural seed was planted. Now, we are harvesting the fruit of the evil, cultural seed with an abundant harvest of evil. The future for America will be even bleaker unless a different seed is planted.

I believe the only hope for the restoration of this nation is the church. Christians across America must finally say, “Enough is enough!” America will not be changed from the top down, but rather from the bottom up. It begins in small towns across America. It will not happen until Christians begin to stand up to be counted, by informing themselves of the issues that confront America, and then going to the polls and expressing their convictions.

The American political system is a game of numbers. Whoever has the most votes, wins. For more than three decades, we Christians have been failing to exercise our influence because we have failed to even show up to vote. Because of our neglect, a relatively small, but radical coalition of pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, anti-religion secular humanists have been able to elect their candidates and shape the culture of America. I believe the vast majority of Americans are conservative in their life-style and their politics. I believe the vast majority of Americans still believe in God and want a country based on biblical values. The liberal theories of the sixties have not worked. I believe it is long over due for Christian men and women to stand up and be counted.

I have heard it said, “We must pray as if it all depends on God, and work as if it all depends on us.” I believe that describes the mixture of faith and works that God honors. The Apostle James reminds us, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16) The Psalmist writes, “Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy ... carrying sheaves with him.” (Psalm 126:5-6) It is time to pray, and grab a hoe!

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

A harbor light is a light that draws a ship into a harbor to provide safety from a storm and allow a ship to replenish, repair and rest until its next journey; that about sums up the purpose of the Salvation Army's Harbor Lights facility in downtown Minneapolis. This program provides a safe facility for the homeless, the hungry and the weary. The Salvation Army, an unbelievable organization, was started in 1865 by a Methodist minister named William Booth. He opened the first facility in the slums of London's east side to battle against hunger and homelessness. William Booth did not discriminate while recognizing the physical and spiritual needs of the people. His philosophy was “Soup, Soap and Salvation.”

Today, Booth's philosophy still holds true. The Salvation Army's mission statement is "An international part of the universal Christian church; its message is based on the Bible; its ministry is motivated by the love of God; and its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs without discrimination." The Salvation Army serves in 108 countries; 160 languages; and teaches in over 1,700 schools.

On 25 September, I visited the Harbor Lights facility. I was met by Annette Bauer, Public Relations Officer and Dominick Bouza, Director of Operations. As I entered the facility, I noticed a lot of activity and kind greetings among the staff and the clients.

A new part of the facility is a 6,050 sq. ft. chapel that was built in June 2009 for two million dollars. I know these times are hard and donations are down, so I asked Annette how they could afford to build this chapel. Annette stated, "They received two very surprising one million dollar donations. One of the million dollars gifts came as a bequest of Arnold Meleen, a retired Minneapolis city electrician and a farmer who died in 2007 at the age of 105. He donated the money because he never forgot what the Salvation Army did for him as a child by feeding his family when his father died in 1910. The other million dollar gift was given by Walter Johnson, a former twin city postman. These men are brilliant examples of frugality and philanthropy by creating a legacy impacting thousands of people for generations to come." The new chapel accommodates over 150 people and provides more sleeping room for the homeless. Another new program is chiropractor and acupuncture services which are provided by college students for their internships.

Last year the Twin Cities Salvation Army provided nights lodging to 312,585 people; served 748,955 meals; 57,338 people attended worship services, plus they take in many people in distress from spousal abuse, drug addiction and homeless that Hennepin County cannot handle. Hennepin and other counties pay the Salvation Army at a rate much less than paid to a State of County run program when they refer someone to the Salvation Army program. Without the help of the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities other Christian non-profit organizations, Hennepin County and other counties would be bankrupt.

What would the United States be like without the Christian non-profit organizations? It would not be pretty. There are many other programs the Salvation Army provides that are not listed in my story. Once again I am so impressed with the Salvation Army and their staff and thousands of volunteers. They are always looking for volunteer help in their kitchen.

The next time you see a volunteer standing by a red kettle ringing a bell, please give generously to this great organization. I would like to thank Annette Bauer and Dominick Bouza for their hospitality and hard work. I presented a $500 benevolence check on behalf of the Foundation, which was approved by the Board of Directors. If you would like to volunteer or donate, www.thesalarmy.org or write/call 2445 Prior Ave N., Roseville, MN 55113, 612-767-3116.

— Pat Hoy, Chair
Benevolence Committee

This congregation tithes (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 2009. Simply call the Foundation Office at 612/970-7866 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
Craig Tennison, Minister of Music
Leila Campbell, Office Manager
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music Emeritus

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

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Karen Hodge
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Leland Granberg
Layout/Design/Printing:
Leila Campbell
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>Guest: CH (LTC-P) Pat Morgan</td>
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<td>Music: Richard Hensold, Bagpipes</td>
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<td>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</td>
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<td>Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:kenneth.beale@us.army.mil">kenneth.beale@us.army.mil</a></td>
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<td>Minister of Music: Craig Tennison — Phone: 612/729-7990</td>
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<td>Office Manager: Leila Campbell — Phone: 612/970-7866 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@fortsnellingmcf.org">info@fortsnellingmcf.org</a></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.fortsnellingmcf.org">www.fortsnellingmcf.org</a> — Fax: 612/970-7867 — Dial-a-Devotional: 612/970-7866, ext. # 2</td>
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| **Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff**  
Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059 —  
E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil  
Minister of Music: Craig Tennon — Phone: 612/725-7990  
Office Manager: Lois Campbell — Phone: 612/970-7866 —  
E-mail: info@fortsnellingncf.org  
Website: www.fortsnellingncf.org — Fax: 612/970-7867 —  
Dial-a-Devotional: 612/970-7866, ext. # 2 |
| **December 2009** |
| **1** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| **2nd Sunday in Advent**  
*Pearl Harbor Remembrance*  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Guest Speaker  
Music: Chord Ayres |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| **3rd Sunday in Advent**  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Peace on Earth?"  
Music: Nordic Choir |
| **4th Sunday in Advent**  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Giving the Perfect Gift"  
Music: Tim Dahl, Soloist |
| **24** | **25** | **26** |
| **Christmas Eve**  
4 & 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Services  
Sermon: "The Christmas Guest"  
Music: Regency Trio & Touching Hearts |
| 22 | 23 | 24 |
| **1st Sunday after Christmas**  
10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class  
11:00 a.m. **Holy Communion**  
Sermon: "Setting Priorities in Life"  
Music: Nancy Guerin, Soloist  
Joe Sanchelli, Harmonica |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |