The
Snelling Spirit

March-April 2006 Volume 19: Issue 2

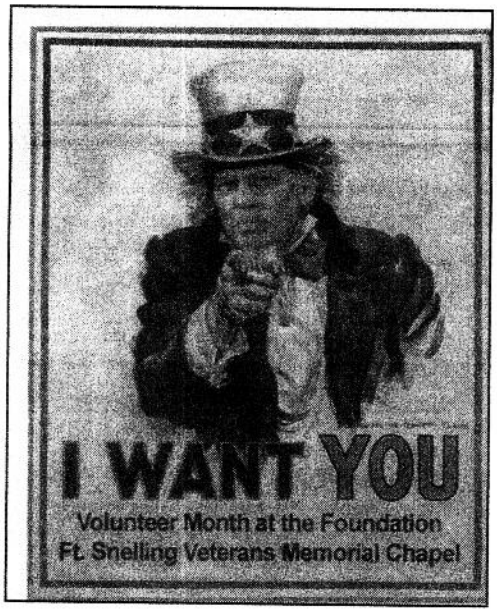
Prepare to Celebrate!

AS of this publication, the *Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation* is entering an anniversary year! In **2007** we will commemorate the **40th anniversary** (Feb.) of the *Foundation* and the **80th anniversary** of the ground-breaking (Sept.) for the historic Chapel. What a cause for celebration!

Between now and then we will have some special events and recognitions in remembrance of our *glorious past* and *energetic present*. Be sure you stay informed by way of our bimonthly newsletters, weekly bulletins and web site. You don't want to miss anything!

To make this a meaningful anniversary year we need <u>you</u> to get involved. It will take more volunteers to make this observance all that it *can* and *should* be. Therefore, I want you to prayerfully consider volunteering your *time* and *talents* during our **Volunteer Month at the Foundation**.

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*.

I'm counting on <u>you</u> to join us in making this anniversary year worthy of its *past* … but equally significant in the *present*. Your support of the *Foundation* … through your *prayers*, *presence*, *gifts* and *service* … will make the difference for any *future* celebrations!

I remain committed to my role as your pastor … to faithfully preach the Word of God and provide visionary leadership for God's people.

Together, we've got a lot to do! But it's all worth the effort … because it's of eternal significance!

May God continue to bless our beloved Chapel Foundation!

Serving God and Country,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
kenneth.beale@us.army.mil

President's Corner

Greetings as we enter this Holy Season of Easter. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 1 March for six weeks; Palm Sunday is 9 April and Easter Sunday is 16 April. Easter Sunday we will again have the *Easter Brunch* between services and we hope you will join us for a fabulous brunch. Good Friday is being observed on 14 April with Chaplain Ken providing an inspirational service. I am looking forward to seeing many of our *Chapel Foundation* family as we observe this Holy Season.

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

"WHY GO TO CHURCH?"
A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this ... they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today."

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing ... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

Quote: "When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me."

In closing, as we once again have come together for the *Foundations' Annual Meeting*, I wish to sincerely thank Chaplain Ken; Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music; Leila Campbell, Administrative Assistant; The Executive Committee; Board of Directors; Committee Chairpersons and the members of this *Foundation* for making this a very successful year for our beloved Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have worked together throughout the year for the good of the Chapel.

May God bless each one with a Blessed Easter Season.

— Patricia Swanson
Foundation President
(952) 885-0623
E-mail:
155swanson@msn.com

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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 2006 Board Meetings:

Saturdays (9:00 a.m.) ...
25 March, 10 June, 9 September, 18 November ... at the Federal Bldg.

Sunday (1:00 p.m.) ...
17 December ... in the Chapel

If you would like a copy of the **2005 Annual Report,** please call the *Foundation Office* at (612) 970-7866 and leave your name/mailing address that we might send you a copy of this impressive report of last year's accomplishments.

Special Patriotic/ Veterans Events . . .

Sun., 28 May '06 — *Memorial Day Remembrance* — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun., 2 July '06 — *Independence Day* — celebrating the 230th birthday of our nation ... culminating in an ice cream social.

Sun., 17 Sept '06 — *POW/ MIA Remembrance* — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun., 12 Nov '06 — *Veterans Day Remembrance* — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun., 3 Dec. '06 — *Pearl Harbor Remembrance* — recognizing survivors ... with a candle lighting tribute to those who have passed away since last year.

Easter Services

On **Sunday 16 April**, worship services will be held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Chaplain Ken will present a sermon entitled, *"The Resurrection: A Lie or the Truth?"* ... based on Acts 26:1-29.

Palm Sunday -- **Distribution of Palms**

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

Chaplain Ken will present a timely sermon, *"A Day of Cheers and Tears"* ... based on Luke 19:28-48.

— Your Worship Committee

Good Friday -- **Holy Communion**

On Friday, **14 April**, we will have our **Good Friday** worship service at **2:00 p.m.** Chaplain Ken will preach a message — *"Two Criminals, Two Crosses, Two Choices"* based on Luke 23:32-43.

This will be followed by the invitation to commune at the Lord's Table ... which is open to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You won't want to miss this special service.

— Your Worship Committee

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, yellow, and red). Cost = **$12** 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 2 April.** Donors may take their plants only following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Contact **Karen Ayers** at (612) 727-3817 or see her in the Fellowship Hall.

— Your Worship Committee

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 **16 April.** Please sign up between 26 March and 9 April in Fellowship Hall for this freewill donation brunch.

— Your Fellowship Committee

Brothers Among the Dakota ... Samuel and Gideon Pond

When the current Ft. Snelling Chapel was built it was not only meant to be a place of worship, but to reflect the early history of what was to become the state of Minnesota. Proof of this can be shown by the historic windows in the building. Several are dedicated to early lay missionaries and ordained pastors that came to the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota River in the 19th century.

On the east side of the Chapel about half way back are two beautiful blue and red stained glass windows dedicated to **Samuel William Pond** and **Gideon Hollister Pond**, brothers who arrived by river boat from Prairie du Chien at Ft. Snelling in the Spring of 1834 when the area around Ft. Snelling was then part of Iowa Territory. Samuel was the oldest at 26, and Gideon was two years younger.

At this time, the only area that didn't belong to the Dakota Indians was the area surrounding Ft. Snelling under the treaty negotiated by Zebulon Montgomery Pike in 1805. Hence, when the two brothers got off the riverboat they reported to the commander of Ft. Snelling, Major John Bliss, and stated their intent was to work with the local Dakota Indians in their mission of Christianizing them.

Bliss directed them to go to Little Crow's band of Mdewakantons about nine miles down the Mississippi River at Kaposia (South St. Paul today) and teach them how to use a plow. This did not interest the Dakota, but did bring the two brothers to the attention of Major Lawrence Taliaferro, (tall-a-ver) the local government Indian agent at the fort.

Photo: Samuel William Pond (1808-1891)
Minneapolis Collection, M0759

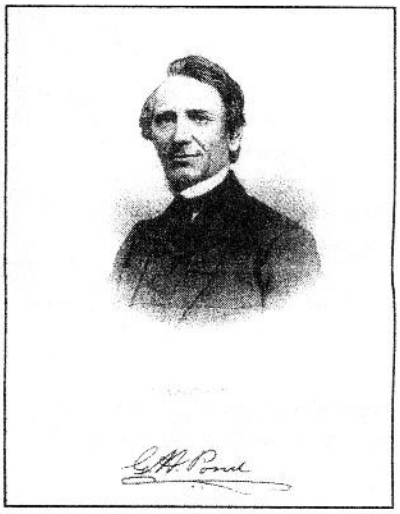

Photo: Gideon Hollister Pond (1810-1878)
Minneapolis Collection, M0759

However, Taliaferro, was impressed with the brothers' manual skills. He suggested that the Ponds settle about twelve miles northwest of the fort at a small Mdewakanton summer village on the eastern shore of Lake Calhoun. Their leader was known as Cloud Man, about 40 years of age. This would be the beginning of a nearly twenty year relationship that the Ponds would have with the Dakota and lead to their credentials for writing extensively on the ethnology and language of the Dakota over the rest of their lives.

When Samuel and Gideon first came to work with the Indians they were not ordained ministers, and this worked to their advantage. This gave them the opportunity to manually work daily with the Dakota and learn their language, customs and habits before trying to convert the Indians to Christianity. Over time they also came to realize that the Dakota had a culture and a religious tradition of their own that would have to be respected if they were to succeed in their mission.

They built a small log cabin, which is depicted in the upper left hand side of the stained glass window. Their cabin was built with the materials and tools with which Taliaferro had provided them from his own funds in the fall of 1834.

This small home at Lake Calhoun would be the first permanent mission to the Dakotas. It was the first settler's home, schoolhouse, and house of worship in the area. It would be the place where the Dakota

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language was first translated from the oral to a written form, and the first Dakota taught to read and write in his own language. By this time the Ponds could speak the Dakota language better than any other non-Indian in the area. This house would be torn down after only five years by the Lake Calhoun's band to be used as a barricade against the Ojibwa Indians, but by this time the Ponds had moved on to Lake Harriet to continue their mission.

By now the local Dakota referred to Samuel as Wamdee-doota (Red Eagle) and Gideon as Mato-hota (Grizzly-Bear) which indicated their personal characteristics. In October of 1835 Samuel Pond was invited to go on the Dakota annual deer hunt. But as he mentioned later, *"The language however was the game I went to hunt; and I was as eager in pursuit of that as the Indians were of deer."* The hunt went for several weeks.

However, when he returned he found that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston had sent Dr. Thomas S. Williamson and Jedediah D. Stevens to Ft. Snelling to do field missionary work. Williamson, seeing that the Ponds were established at Lake Calhoun decided to move up the Minnesota River to the trading post of a French/Dakota mixed blood, Joseph Renville at Lac qui Parle on Big Stone Lake (about twelve miles north of Montevideo, MN).

Meanwhile, Stevens, like Williamson an ordained minister, decided to establish himself on the doorstep of the Ponds just a couple of miles away at Lake Harriet. When the brother joined him they found that as lay missionaries he treated them condescendingly. Rev. Stevens figured they could do the manual labor while he, Stevens, learned the Dakota Language. It is not surprising that in the spring of 1836 the Ponds accepted the invitation of Williamson and joined him at Lac qui Parle. Gideon would stay with Williamson for the next three years, while in the summer of 1836 Samuel would return to their birth state of Connecticut to study under Rev. Gordon Hayes and be ordained as a Congregational minister in March of 1837. He returned with a sponsorship of the American Board as a missionary to the Dakota and went back to Lac qui Parle. Within two years Jedediah Stevens would leave his post at Lake Harriet and move further west.

For the next three years Lac qui Parle would be the home of Williamson, the Ponds and their newest addition, Stephen R. Riggs, who joined them in 1837. With the assistance of the fur trader Joseph Renville their study would result in Riggs producing the first Dakota dictionary under his name in 1852. Later, the language would be taught in school as "Riggs," but clearly the dictionary was the work of this group of men while at Lac qui Parle. As Samuel would relate in later life, *"There is but ONE Dakota dictionary. I have it in manuscript and Mr. Riggs has a copy of it."*

In 1840, Rev. Samuel Pond left to become the minister at Ft. Snelling and by 1842 Gideon had broken off from the group and re-settled on the north bank of the Minnesota River at Oak Grove (Bloomington). Samuel joined him shortly thereafter and then set up his own mission station near Chief Shakopee's Mdewakanton village, twenty five miles up the Minnesota River. During the 1840's there was a great deal of turmoil and fighting between the Dakota and their northern border tribe, the Ojibwa, over disputed land. It was fueled by personal feuds and murders, which gave the military at Ft. Snelling great difficulty in trying to control the violence.

Being away from the Ft. Snelling area for so long the missionaries had not noticed the changes that were taking place as more settlers immigrated into the area. In 1837, a treaty was negotiated with the Dakota by the federal government and land was ceded east of the Mississippi River in exchange for annuities for the Indians. This was followed up by two additional treaties in 1851 at Traverse de Sioux and Mendota (Pilot Knob) whereby the Dakota traded away all of their land in what was not Minnesota Territory (1849) for annuities and the writing was on the wall. The proud Dakota would now be dependent on the federal government and the annuities.

Meanwhile, conversion of the Indians to Christianity was not going well. As Samuel complained, *"I can tell them many things concerning the character and government of God, but I cannot preach Christ crucified."* The problem was that the Dakota had their own beliefs, and could not accept only one God. They historically had been of the belief in the Great Spirit, and the importance of nature working together with the Great Spirit to provide for the Dakota. The Dakota had great respect for the environment around them.

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Finally, both Samuel and Gideon held that the treaties concentrating the Dakota along the Minnesota River in southwestern Minnesota had uprooted them from their homes and made them move vulnerable to outside interests such as whiskey dealers. It became impossible at times according to Samuel to carry on either with church or school. He stated that, *"If we preach at all we often find it necessary to preach to six, or it may be two, or even one."*

Looking back on the treaties of 1851, Samuel later wrote that he and Gideon were convinced that they had destroyed the future of their mission work. Looking back years later Samuel declared that, *"The older Indians had gradually lost their former habits of industry or were dead, and a new generation had grown up of insolent reckless fellows."* So it was not surprising that the Dakota would rebel in August of 1862 at the Lower Sioux Agency at Morton, Minnesota. Over 500 white settlers were killed and several hundred Dakota perished.

During the late 1840's and most of the 1850's the two brothers had seen and experienced immigration push the frontier to a territory and then to a state. As many as 500 white settlers a week were coming into St. Paul on the riverboats between 1849 and 1858 during the summer months. Settlers were claiming land from St. Cloud to the Iowa border. Meanwhile, the Dakota had been made to leave Minnesota after the Dakota Conflict of 1862, with the exception of a few bands around Faribault under the protection of the Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple.

Thus, as indicated in the upper right hand panel of the second stained glass window, the Ponds mission became the white settlers. Rev. Gideon Pond, who by this time had earned his Presbyterian divinity degree by going back East like his brother, had reorganized the church in Bloomington in 1849. It became known as the Oak Gove Presbyterian Church. In 1862 the name was changed to the First Presbyterian Church of Minnesota and was located near nineteenth and Portland Avenue. Rev. Gideon Pond served his church and Lord until his death on January 20, 1878. His church served the community of Bloomington until 1952.

Rev. Samuel Pond became part of the governance of Minnesota by serving in the territorial legislature. He also was the first to preach the gospel in the city of Minneapolis, and was the editor of the first religious newspaper published in Minnesota. He retired in 1866 and spent his time writing about his experiences with the Dakota culture and their language until his death on December 12, 1891.

He wrote a reminiscence of his missionary work about 1880, which was published in 1908 as a paper in the Minnesota Historical Collections, Volume 12. It was then published as, "The Dakota or Sioux in Minnesota as they were in 1834" in 1986. Within the next month there will also be a reprint of "Two Volunteer Missionaries Among the Dakota," which was done by Samuel E. Pond, Jr. in 1893.

One must also take time to honor the wives of these two men. They were not only helpmates to their husbands, but raised large families and put up with the hardships on the frontier. Samuel was married to Cornelia Eggleston in 1838, and after being widowed married Rebecca Smith in 1852.

Likewise, Gideon was married in 1837 to Sarah Poage and after being widowed married Agnes Johnson Hopkins in 1854. With the exception of Rebecca, all had worked at the Dakota missions before marriage to the Ponds.

From the 1831 revivalism of the "Great Awakening" in their hometown of Washington (Connecticut), Samuel and Gideon Pond had, as young men in their early 20's committed themselves to work for the Lord. They did so by funding their trip to St. Louis and up the Mississippi to Ft. Snelling as well as the first years of their ministry from their own meager funds. They were driven by the great idea of serving others. No wonder when the Chapel was built not one, but two stained glass windows were needed to record for posterity the great contributions of Reverend Samuel William Pond and Reverend Gideon Hollister Pond.

— Newell L. Chester

Note: You can see the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel windows to the Pond brothers by visiting the *Chapel Foundation* web site at fortsnellingmcf.org ... and clicking on the "virtual tour" found under "about the chapel."

Benevolent Giving ...

The *Board of Directors* recently approved a benevolence gift to the *Airport Community Counseling Office*. We received a thank you letter from Chaplain Bob White and he writes, *"We thank the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation for the generous gift of $500 and for the members of your congregation who volunteer at the Armed Forces Service Center, providing men and women of the Armed Forces comfort in their travels."*

The St. Paul/Minneapolis International Airport Chaplaincy program is a non-profit organization. For over 32 years it has provided service and comfort in times of stress and family emergencies to airport employees and the traveling public. There are Christian services held every Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 10:00a.m. and 12:00 noon. The chapel is located in the Lindbergh Terminal on the center mezzanine level, room 3171 ... just above security check point # 4. The public is welcome.

Beyond dollars, please give you prayerful support to this little unknown service. If you have any questions, you may call Pastor Bob White at 612/648-1346 or send an email to: revbobair-rev@earthlink.net.

We as a *Foundation* are pleased to support this organization.

God Bless You.

— Patrick 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 2006. Simply call the *Foundation* Office at 612/970-7866 ... and provide a name and mailing address.

Minnesota Food Share ...

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

Please secure any of these items and deposit them on **Sunday, 26 March 2006** 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].

The Snelling Spirit

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation
1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4027

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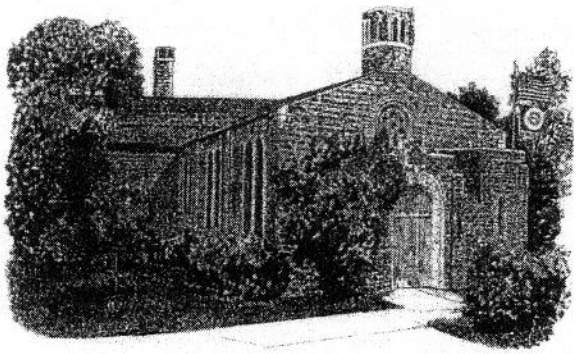
MARCH-APRIL 2006

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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, *Administrative Assistant*

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.

Publisher Emeritus: Osmund Nygaard
Feature Contributors:
- Rev. Dr. Kenneth Beale, Jr.
- Newell Chester
- Ruth Fardig
- Pat Hoy
- Kay Schoen
- Patricia Swanson
- Marlene Willock

Photographer:
- Leland Granberg

Layout/Design/Printing:
- Leila Campbell

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

March 2006

1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111– 4027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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: Ruth Fardig — Phone: 612/238-5826 — E-mail: ruthfardig@aol.com** **Administrative Assistant: Leila Campbell — Phone: 612/970-7866 — E-mail: info@fortsnellingmcf.org** **Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org — Fax: 612/970-7867 — Dial-a-Devotional: 612/970-7866, ext. # 2**			*1* ***Ash Wednesday***	*2*	*3*	*4*
5 ***1st Sunday in Lent*** 11:00 a.m. **Holy Communion** Sermon: *"Finding Your First Love"* Music: Marys and Marthas	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11* 9:00 a.m. **Worship Committee Mtg.** @ Richfield Am. Leg. Post
12 ***2nd Sunday inLent*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Sermon: *"Are you Missing Out?"* Music: Twin City Flute Ensemble	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
19 ***3rd Sunday in Lent*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Guest Speaker: CH (MAJ) J. Morris Sermon: *"Hope in the Face of Fear"* Music: Donna Harris Bennett, *Soprano Soloist*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25* 9:00 a.m. **Board of Directors Mtg.** @ Whipple Federal Bldg
26 ***4th Sunday in Lent*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Sermon: *"The Weaker Brother"* Music: The Gospel 5	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

April 2006

1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111– 4027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 ***3rd Sunday of Easter*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Sermon: *"Christian, Live Up to Your Name"* Music: Pistachio Singers	**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: Ruth Fardig — Phone: 612/238-5826 — E-mail: ruthfardig@aol.com** **Administrative Assistant: Leila Campbell — Phone: 612/970-7866 — E-mail: info@fortsnelling.org** **Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org — Fax: 612/970-7867 — Dial-a-Devotional: 612/970-7866, ext. # 2**					1 9:00 a.m. **Fellowship Committee Mtg.** @ Richfield Am. Leg. Post
2 ***5th Sunday in Lent*** ***Daylight Savings Time Begins*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Sermon: *"Religious, But Lost"* Music: Bruce Underhill, *Bass/Baritone Soloist*	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 ***Palm/Passion Sunday*** ***Distribution of Palm Branches*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Sermon: *"A Day of Cheers & Tears"* Music: Land of Lakes Choirboys, *Trebby Award Winners*	10	11	12	13	14 ***Good Friday*** 2:00 p.m. **Holy Communion** Sermon: *"Two Criminals, Two Crosses, Two Choices"* Music: Bonnie Hammel, *Mezzo-Soprano, Soloist*	15
16 ***Easter Sunday*** 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. **Worship Services** Sermon: *"Resurrection: Lie or Truth?"* Music: Bethel Univ. Brass Ensemble, Gordon Howell/Ruth Fardig, *Piano/Organ* Mr. Tim Dahl, *Baritone Soloist*	17 ◄9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Easter Brunch** in the Fellowship Hall	18	19	20	21	22
23 ***2nd Sunday of Easter*** 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** Sermon: *"From Doubt to Devotion"* Music: Eden Prairie Bells	24	25	26	27	28	29 9:00 a.m. **Publicity Committee Mtg.** @ Richfield Am. Leg. Post