

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Volume 4; Issue 2

Winter 2001

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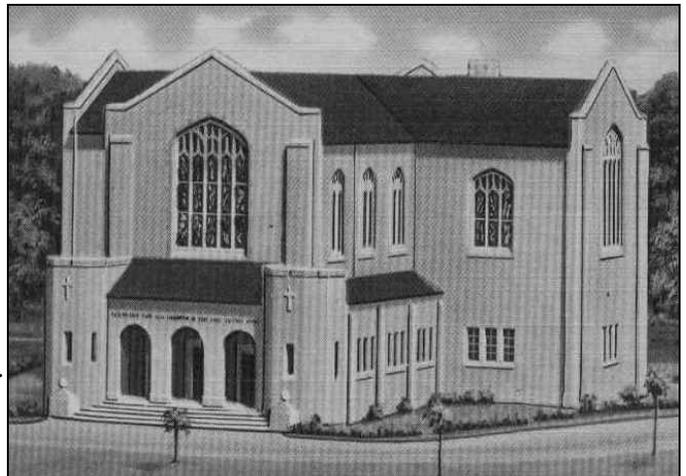
Sean M. Dennis
Regimental Religious Officer

Built on a Rock: The Citadel's Spirituality

David O. Golden, Chaplain to the Corps of Cadets

One mental image always comes to my mind whenever I hear the word "pillar." As a small boy, I had an illustrated Bible storybook that contained the picture of Samson standing between two pillars of a great building with a hand on each pillar. Actually he is not standing but pushing with all his might until he causes the pillars to collapse, killing himself and three thousand Philistines. The word "pillar" brings to my mind something of great strength that stands upright and holds important structures in place. Such are the four pillars of The Citadel education. Take any one away, and The Citadel education becomes no different than an education from any other college.

I sometimes hear a student lament that our school's spiritual pillar is not always equal to the other three pillars, and I agree with them, though not for the same reason. They think the school doesn't place enough emphasis upon the importance of the pillar. I think the Corps does not give equal emphasis to the spiritual pillar. This then often leads to lively discussions about how our faith in God really grows. What is exciting to me is that the discussion is taking place at The Citadel, and that the very concept of the spiritual pillar has facilitated the discussion.



The Cadet Chapel, The Citadel
F. J. Martschink Company Postcard, c. 1937
"Summerall Chapel was erected during 1936-1937. Cruciform in design, the Chapel is a shrine of religion, patriotism, and remembrance. Since it is entirely nonsectarian, Summerall Chapel can belong to no particular denomination." *The Guidon*

Of course, none of us on campus can ignore the spiritual pillar. Summerall Chapel stands as a vigilant sentinel to faith in God. Many days pass without reading the admonition on the portico, but all of us know that the admonition says "Remember Now Thy Creator In The Days Of Thy Youth." Cadets intuitively know that God will hear them wherever they offer prayer. Yet it is to the chapel that they so often come to be alone with God for the deep discussions of the soul.

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Recently a knob said to me, "Chaplain, I was never religious at home, but when I pre-knobbed, heard about the spiritual pillar and stood in the chapel, I knew I wanted to come to The Citadel to find out about a faith in God." He was not the first knob this fall to tell me that he or she came to The Citadel to learn about God or to have "their relationship with God" refined through the crucible of knob year.

We campus pastors hear and see it every fall: knobs and upperclassmen asking deep questions about God, cadets daring either to challenge their beliefs or to step out in faith and trust God in totally unexplored areas of their lives, cadets wrestling with the great issues of life from the perspective of religious faith, cadets applying their faith to everyday relational and leadership challenges, cadets learning to accept

and respect each others' religious differences in obedience to God, cadets in whom the seeds of faith in God are planted. We see all this and some of you parents see it too because there *is* a fourth pillar called the "spiritual pillar" in The Citadel's education of the whole person.

Finally, a personal word of thanks to you Citadel parents. I believe it is the prayers of The Citadel family that keep the spiritual pillar strong. Many of you pray not only for your own cadets, but also for the school. Thank you for your prayers. Incidentally, you can become involved in The Citadel Parents' Prayer Ministry, coordinated by Dorothy and Tim Skipper, simply by sending a message to listserv-request@citadelprayerchain.org. This prayer ministry is made up of Citadel parents from all over the United States.

Three Pillars, One Cornerstone

Sean M. Dennis, Regimental Religious Officer

Great emphasis is placed on the four pillars necessary to become the "Whole Person," the quality a man or woman of this institution is said to embody and provide for the rest of the world. However, one unfortunate error in believing in the four-pillar concept is that it suggests equality among each of the pillars.

The Bible refers to Christ as "the living cornerstone of God's temple" and the body "the living temple of the Holy Spirit." If we fail to recognize our spirituality as the proper foundation for which everything else is to be built upon, we depreciate our Creator and the relationship He has called us to have with Him.

Fortunately at The Citadel many opportunities present themselves to any cadet interested in growing spiritually. In addition to the many different recognized organizations that meet weekly according to faith or denomination, various scriptural study groups continue to spring up within the battalions.

These unique study groups and the fact that every year a number of cadets will choose to spend their summer furlough in missions stand as testimony to the fact that we at The Citadel realize the need for more of God in our lives, particularly if we are to be the leaders of tomorrow.

GARDEN SPOT

By Norwood Grinalds

August, September, and October have passed, and the holidays are approaching. I smile inwardly and happily anticipate a replay of the holiday traditions that make The Citadel the special place that it is.

Thanksgiving will be celebrated in the mess hall on November 15. The turkey will be delicious, but the centerpiece of the evening will be the hats that the knobs make for the upperclassmen. The hats are remarkable in the originality. Pilgrims, Indians, and bulldogs will be in evidence everywhere, as well as replicas of the barracks, cannons, and cadets in full-dress, all carefully balanced on upperclassmen's heads. It is great fun, and I am glad the cadets invite me to this wonderful celebration.

The Christmas tree will be lit at the edge of the parade field, in front of what used to be Padgett-Thomas Barracks on November 29. It will light up the night until cadets depart on holiday furlough.

The first weekend in December brings a gift of music from cadets to Charleston and The Citadel community. On the evenings of December 1, 2, and 3, Summerall Chapel will be filled with candlelight, evergreens, and harmony. The cadets that make up The Citadel Chorale, chapel choir, and brass ensemble as well as the ushers, Colonel Mark Beensee at the organ, Mrs. Nancy Leftner, the director of choral music, and Major Herb Day, director of the ensemble, will all be in their places at seven o'clock on Saturday evening, the first of December, as the Candlelight Service begins. As always, it will be a standing-room-only event.

While we light the tree, raise the tune, buy the gifts and make and wear hats, I hope that you at home will pluck the duck and stuff the turkey in anticipation of your cadets' coming home. I am proud of each and every one and delight that they will join you soon, but don't have so much fun that you forget to send them back to us.

Happy Holidays!!

CFA Phone List 2001-02 Basketball Spring Calendar

Alpha—Brain & Diane Cahill
2004 / 803-865-2395

Bravo—Mike & Linda Shute
2004 / 856-935-9127

Charlie—Frankie & Shirley Cook
2003 / 803-791-1860

Delta—Stan & Dianne Townsend
2003 / 843-881-6590

PB—Chris Lynn
2004 / 864-573-8900

Echo—Gene & Leslie Skibitsky
2003 / 207-562-7095

F Troop—Ed & Cindy Piper
2004 / 910-455-6942

Golf—Jim & Lynda Dunn
2003 / 843-795-8889

Hotel—Richard & Brenda Conwill
2003 / 904-292-0656

Band—Bill & Cydney Kastner
2002 / 843-781-4251

India—Ben & Carol Salvatini
2004 / 843-875-3709

Kilo—Jack & Dorothy Skipper
2003 / 803-366-0665

Lima—
Mike—Dan & Paula Cannon
2003 / 352-694-5449

Nov.—Charles & Ann Lawson
2003 / 864-226-1566

Oscar—John & Mary Braeunig
2004 / 864-250-9032

Romeo—
Tango—

12/1 4:00
Lowcountry Shootout vs.
Charleston Southern

12/5 7:15
Emmanuel College

12/8 1:00
Davidson

12/17 7:15
Greensboro College

12/29 1:00
Coastal Carolina

1/5 1:00
East Tennessee State

1/14 7:15
Georgia Southern

1/19 1:00
Chattanooga

1/26 1:00
Appalachian State

2/4 7:15
College of Charleston

2/11 7:15
Furman

2/23 1:00
Wofford

(Home Schedule)



12/18
Holiday Furlough Begins

1/13
Holiday Furlough Ends

1/21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

2/1
Gold Star Review Parade

3/16
Corps Day

3/29
Spring Furlough Begins

4/7
Spring Furlough Ends

5/7
Last Day of Final Exams

5/11
Class of 2002
Commencement

*based on the schedule posted
on The Citadel's web site
(www.citadel.edu/cgi-bin/calnet.pl).

The 2001-2003 Citadel Family Association Officers

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November 2003

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CFA Calendar-At-A-Glance
★
Chairpersons' Winter Retreat
January 19, 2002
★
Steering Committee Retreat
February 9, 2002
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CFA Annual Meeting
March 15, 2002
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Matriculation Day, Class of 2006
August 17, 2002

THE CITADEL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT

THE CITADEL FAMILY ASSOCIATION (CFA) IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF CURRENT CADETS. ITS MISSION IS THREEFOLD:

1. TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO AND SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF CURRENT CADETS;
2. TO PROVIDE THE FAMILIES WITH A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF COMMON INTERESTS; AND
3. TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SUPPORT COLLEGE INITIATIVES.