The themes of the Chapel banners reflect basic realities: the location and history of the College, the daily rhythms of light and darkness. These elements are celebrated as trees, grain, night, day, and in religious symbols. The sixth banner, Joy, expresses a response to the God-given context of our life and work. With ecumenical intent, we exist amid farm and forest, sunlight and stars, the seasons. The banners add color to a somber building while suggesting often ignored contexts of our common life.

The decision to emphasize the environment was intentional. While this is a Chapel, it is a college building of many purposes. Public worship is one of the activities which takes place here, but on any occasion the Chapel should help us to recover lost perspective. The banners remind us visually that our lives have a larger setting than we often acknowledge. The immediate environment is a present source of renewal; it also symbolizes the wider world toward which we move. These are the concepts that Elizabeth Barrett Hunter, '41, has embodied in the banners recently installed. The scope of the project involved much more than meets the eye.

Based on ideas formulated two years ago with a committee of students, the Chaplain, and others, Betty Hunter designed both the banners and their standards. Major concerns in designing and fabricating the banners were:

- scale
- space, i.e., flat against the walls or into the narthex space?
- relationship to the architecture of the Chapel
- color
- theme
- materials and methods
- relationship of the banners to one another
- cost considerations
- availability of materials

The applique and embroidery on the small over-banners as well as on the two central banners were done by hand. The diverse materials used vary and were chosen in direct relation to the factors noted - and to materials that would hang and hold shape well. While she did much of the hand stitchery, others from the College and community helped with the sewing. Of those Linda Wagenbach and Jennie Nelson, '82, deserve special mention; they saw the project through to its completion. The supervising artist throughout, Betty Hunter says:

"As I designed the banners, I perceived the themes in prayer; 'May our lives — our world — be full of thy presence in nature, in love and in joy. And, throughout our days of busyness and our nights of quiet and our reflective times, may we feel that thou art near. For thou art the way, the truth and the light (life).""

Funds for the project were provided by an anonymous donor and by the reunion gift of the Class of 1941.

SKINNER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Skinner Memorial Chapel was formally dedicated in October, 1918, as part of the Fiftieth Anniversary Exercises of the College. It was given by Mrs. Emily Willie Skinner, of Northfield, in memory of her husband, Myron W. Skinner, Trustee of Carleton from the time of its founding until his death in 1909.

Built of Indiana Bedford stone, with red tile roof, the dimensions of the building are 90' x 140'. The lower rises to a height of 118'. Total seating capacity is in excess of 1100. With the organ, the cost of the building was $135,000.

"The main entrance, faces to the south, thus symbolizing the close relationship which has ever existed between the College and the Northfield community." (The Alumni Magazine of Carleton College, October, 1915) The making of the banners provides a recent instance of that relationship. Without the intense effort of a number of women from Northfield, the first stage of the banner project might never have been completed.