

The Presbyterian Scouter



<http://www.presbyterianscouters.org>

FOR THE PRESIDENT -

Jim left the Congregational Ministries Division meeting at Montreat for home and wound up in the hospital with pneumonia. He recently got out, is doing better, and will improve slowly.

Allow me to take his place and take care of several items:

*We will have a meeting of the full membership in May in Nashville in conjunction with the National Meetings. If you would be interested in attending send a note to Tom Petrik and he will forward the meet details as soon as they are confirmed.

*We appreciate your indulgence as we develop new programs and systems, plus the new officers learning their jobs.

*We want to make sure that you are all aware of the need for every member to get a new member. And more so, for you to encourage Presbyterian Churches in your area to increase the number of units they Charter. Many Chartering Organizations have only Scouting for one or two of the programs we offer and having all three offers programs from 7 to 21.

*We want to make sure you realize that all of your officers wish you the best of Christmas wishes and that they hope you and your families will enjoy this Holiday Season.



--- Tom Petrik, Secretary

NAPS ATTENDS CMD MEETING AT MONTREAL

Jim Synder, President of NAPS and Paul Myers, BSA Associate Director of Relationships, attended the annual Congregational Ministries Division Meeting in Montreat in early November. During the meeting, Synder and Myers had the opportunity to network with the other Covenant organizations which belong to CMD.

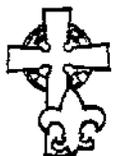
Jim Synder gave a report on the past Duty to God Breakfast when Frank Diaz was presented his God and Service Award. Plans for the next breakfast in Long Beach at General Assembly were also reviewed.

Paul Myers detailed the new Venturing program and resources now available to Youth Ministry..

RELATIONSHIPS WEEK 2000

PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER

Presbyterian Scouters from across the Country will gather as part of the Scouting in the Churches Ministry Conference, July 9-15, 2000 at the Philmont Training Center, Cimarron, New Mexico. Invitations to participate in this great family program are in the process of being mailed. To secure an invitation, contact your local Council Service Center or the Relationships Division at the National Office 972-580-2191.



VENTURING

A growth opportunity for your church and your council

February 1998 was like an explosion to some long-time Scouters as word spread that Exploring was being moved and a new program taking its place for Scouting's older youth. For some people who had been through Scouting and were used to the regular program, separation from the increasingly career-oriented Exploring program was seen as a blessing. A new program would be formed using the groups from Venturing that were always most closely attached to the traditional Scouting program, and the units would operate as Scouting units with commissioners and advancement and leadership training. What more could a Scout or Scouter ask for when they look for something for their older youth?

And that appears to be the case. Bill Evans, Associate Director of Venturing at the national office said, "The Boy Scouts of America has searched over the years for a teenage-appropriate program that would be attractive to our chartered partners as well as teenagers. Venturing appears to have hit paydirt. (The program) has experienced exceptional growth in its first year and a half from two primary areas, older Boy Scouts who are looking for a meaningful, coed, teen-oriented way to continue in Scouting and by religious organizations who find that the structured advancement program just right for their already existing teen programs. To put it in simple terms, for Scouting Venturing works."

Evans was part of the group that helped developed the program, which included volunteers like Richards ("Doc") Miller, Bob Solderva, and Larry and Donna Cunningham. These people had already started developing a reintroduction of the Ranger Award for Exploring so it was easy for them to continue and carry it all over to the new, more Scouting-oriented program. The Cunningham's are also the people who helped develop the Powder Horn training course for Venturing Leaders. Larry Cunningham said, "It ha always seemed to us that providence had a hand in the developing of the Ranger Award and Powder Horn. I know that many people were upset... (when) National decided to do away with the Exploring Division and move it to Learning For Life, but we never missed a beat."

How can Venturing help your church? Does your Church's older youth group have youth elected leaders who help with the development of the year's program? Are those youth trained in Leadership Skills? Are the adults trained in something like Youth Protection? Does your church older youth group have inexpensive access to your council's camping areas, its COPE course, and everything else Scouting provides to those who are members of Scouting? Plus the advancement programs, the recognition for both adult and youth, and the religious awards program for the older youth?

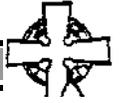
Can your church afford NOT to turn their older youth group into a Venturing Crew? Such a group is a direct ministry of the church to youth, could even attract new members, and can provide a program the youth will enjoy. Maybe its time for all members of NAPS to invite their council professional to talk with their Pastor and Elders about Venturing.

(Anew packet is available for Venturing in Religious Organizations, bin item # 5-938.)

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SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE 2000

by The Reverend Dr. George Hupp, Chaplain, NAPS

THE PREPARATION

Presentation of Colors

THE PRELUDE

The Call to Worship

L: We gather to hear God's Word to us.

P: Speak to us, O Lord, of those who lived for you.

L: We eagerly wait to be inspired.

P: Show us, O Lord, examples we are to follow.

L: We offer ourselves to be molded by your Spirit.

P: That we may be your people in word and deed.

The Hymn

I Sing A Song of the Saints of God
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

#364

The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, we have not turned from the ways of evil to follow where you rightly lead us, nor have we been faithful in nurturing those trusted in our care. We confess our shortcomings and ask your forgiveness and beg to be renewed in energy and enthusiasm for the building of your kingdom on earth. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

L: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and at peace.

P: Thanks be to God who gives us life.

The Gloria Patri

(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

#577

THE WORD OF GOD

The Children's Sermon

The Old Testament Lesson
The New Testament Lesson

The Death of Samson
Growing Up

Judges 16:23-31
Ephesians 4:1-17

The Sermon

"SAMSON: GOD'S MAN"

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Pneumatic Creed (Unison)

The Holy Spirit is active in the world.

By the Holy Spirit God raised up leaders and prophets in Israel.

By the Spirit Jesus was conceived, baptized, and empowered.

By the Spirit the risen Christ is present in His church.

We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life, the Renewer and Perfecter of God's people, The one who makes real in us what God has done for us.

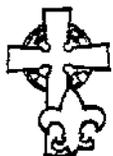
We affirm the unity of God's being and work.

We may not separate the work of God as Creator from the work of God as Redeemer.

We may not set the Son's love against the Father's justice.

We may not value the Holy Spirit's work above the work of the Father and Son.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one God. Amen.



The Presentation of Religious Awards

The Pastoral Prayer

L: Almighty God; You built Your church on the rock of human faith and trust; we praise you for Jesus Christ, the foundation and cornerstone of all we believe.

P: Gracious God, help us to mold our lives after the Lord Jesus.

L: We praise You, O God, for the faith of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, our forebears, and Moses who led your people out of slavery, and established your Law in their hearts.

P: Gracious God, help us to be faithful as were our forebears.

L: We give thanks for the gifts of prophets who listened for Your Word and called Your people back from disobedience and the worship of gods made by humans.

P: Gracious God, may we hear Your Word and be shaped by it.

L: Holy God, we acknowledge our redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord, and give You thanks for apostles, martyrs and saints for the Church who placed Him first in their lives.

P: Gracious God, make anew in the Lord Jesus that we might be like those who have gone before, giving our lives to serve Him. Amen.

The Offertory

The Collection

The Doxology

(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

#593

The Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Accept O Lord, these our gifts as sign and seal of our commitment to the mission of establishing your kingdom on earth. And accept our pledge to work to shape the character of our children, our Church, and our nation on the model of Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Closing Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use me
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

#369

The Benediction

L: Go forth to serve the Lord. Keep ever before you the divine commission to be His arms and legs, carrying His compassion and mercy to all who are in need. Above all, take to the lost and lonely His bequest of love and acceptance.

P: May we be equipped by the Holy Spirit to forge a new life in Christ. Amen.



JAMBOREE STAFF NEEDED

Adults and older Scouts are encouraged to apply for staff positions for the National Jamboree at Ft. A. P. Hill in Virginia in 2001. There are many staff openings and opportunities.

In addition, NAPS will be at the Jamboree in the National Displays area with an exhibit. We need to select a staff of four on-site staff members who will be responsible for the display. Additional staff may be used but they cannot stay on the base.

NAPS would like to see both Presbyterian youth -- preferably those holding religious awards -- and adults manning the booth. Contact Secretary Tom Petrik to find out more about being chosen.



EDITORIAL

DOES YOUR CHURCH KNOW YOU EXIST?

It may seem like a foolish question, but recently while trying to get some Presbyterian units to a church event I started calling churches, getting secretaries and Pastors, many of whom did not even know there was a Scouting unit attached to their church.

Some units, with quite long tenures, looked like a good choice, but instead I was met with “There’s no one in Scouting meeting here”, “There is no Scout unit asking for meeting space here.” and “There is no Scout unit but there are several adults who are involved in Scouting. One is a Professional, would you like his work phone number?” **Can you imagine a B.S.A. Professional who isn’t in there trying to get a unit going in his own, personal house of worship if the other unit died?**

And for those of you who think it won’t happen where you live, the event was in a centrally located area of the country so I called Chartering Organizations in several states. We’re not talking about a local phenomenon.

We need to make sure that our churches know that we exist. If a unit is doing something, get a press release out to the local papers and the church. (My wife worked as a church secretary for years. Would you like me to tell you how long we spent at things like school band contests and plays just to get information on the church youth for the newsletter? Want to guess how much the church secretary will **appreciate** your giving her the information so she doesn’t have to try to find it?) Awards, Courts of Honor, Religious Awards, District and Council Awards all make for information that should be provided to the church. Summer Camp and the merit badges received. Every thing you do that makes your youth and unit special.

If your church is your Chartering Organization it deserves regular reports on your activities, preferably to the Session and preferably by a youth. If its the Presbyterian Men or some other group within the church, they need to hear from you. But get out there and make a report, send the Institutional Head your unit newsletter, send the church secretary a copy of the press release on the Eagle project, or whatever.

We’ll all be better off because of it.

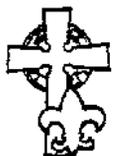
--Tom Petrik

Rocky Mountain Synod Region News

Brad Phelps, former Scoutmaster, Troop 360 chartered to Community Presbyterian Church, Cedar City, Utah, was awarded the Silver Beaver for distinguished service to boyhood, at a recent meeting of the Utah National Parks Council, BSA. Brad, currently Cedar Breaks District Leadership Training Chairman, recently attended a Wood badge training course, He is a former NAPS member and is a member in the Presbyterian Church {USA}. Brad was a recipient of the God and Service Award in 1998.

We are encouraging Brad to re-sign with NAPS. Also we continue to promote NAPS through the various presbyteries and the synod office.





GOD AND SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Rev. Frank Diaz, Lewisville, TX, at the Duty to God



Breakfast at General Assembly.
Roger Chriss of Weirton, WV
Patty Chriss of Weirton, WV

Frederick Marsh of Weirton, WV
David Branch McCracken of Ft. Wayne, IN
Charles Smith of New Castle, PA
Donald Strathern, Jr. of Watkinsville, GA

UNIT AWARDS

Troop 50 of Park Ridge, IL
Troop 42 of Calypso, NC

SOUTHWEST REGION

John Forrest joined two other Presbyterian chartered units attend a Chartered Organization Representative conference in Grand Canyon Council that was sponsored by the Interfaith Religious Recognition Committee. At that time he was informed that the Millennium Patch from the Catholic Committee on Scouting is being made available to all Scouts. (For additional information, contact Sam Bridgeman, 160 Shipwatch Ln., Reedville, VA 22539 and ask for "The NCCS Third Millennium Religious Activity" requirement form.)

John also is now serving on the Council Religious Relationships committee and he has met with his Scout Executive to get the names of the other Executives from council in his region to try to increase his membership.



EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM NOAH -

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
5. Don't listen to critics, just get on with what has to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Two heads are better than one.
9. Speed isn't always an advantage; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
10. When you're stressed, float awhile.
11. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
12. Remember that woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside.
13. No matter the storm, when you're with God there's a rainbow waiting.