Chaplains Fund Helps Presbyterian Chaplains at High Adventure Bases

In 1999, NAPS was given a donation of $1,000 to start a fund for helping provide Presbyterian Chaplains at Scouting’s high adventure bases.

A separate fund was opened as Part of the PCUSA New Covenant Funds, their Growth Fund. However, NAPS named it the Chaplains Fund.

For several years, donations have been made to get the fund to where it is today - $3,815.

“When we established this fund, we thought that there would be more contributions than we have received,” reports Rush Hart, NAPS treasurer.

The purpose of the Chaplains Fund is to help provide a Presbyterian Chaplain at the high adventure bases. NAPS can not sponsor a chaplain because of the high cost, which is more than the NAPS fund has, he explained.

Instead, NAPS uses these funds to help defray expenses of Presbyterians who will serve as chaplains.

This past year, NAPS did help pay the transportation cost for Gene Foley to be the chaplain at the Sea Base. While there, Foley also updated the worship materials used at the Sea Base, modeling on those used at Philmont.

NAPS members are encouraged to contribute to the fund in order that it may grow and continue to support a Presbyterian chaplain presence at our high adventure bases.

“If you are able to contribute, even a small amount,” Hart said, “please do so—it is important for us to maintain this relationship with our high adventure bases so we can serve our Presbyterian youth and Scouts, as well as those of other faiths and beliefs during their high adventure experiences.”

The way to contribute to the fund is to send a check to Hart made out for the "NAPS Chaplain Fund" at John R. Hart, 2416 Ryan Place Dr, Fort Worth, TX, 76110. He sends a letter to those that contribute thanking them and with the proper language so the contribution can be tax deductible.

When enough is received, $100 is the minimum that can be transferred, Hart moves it to New Covenant.

New Covenant Funds was organized with participation from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation to facilitate responsible financial management of the investment and endowment assets of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and of charitable organizations that are part of or associated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Foundation is a charitable, religious organization that supports the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
Vacation Bible School
Includes Religious Awards
(Appeared in P.R.A.Y. Newsletter in Dec.)

St. John Presbyterian Church in Arlington, TX, charters a Pack, Troop and Crew and was, in fact, recognized by the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters this past year. As is the case with most church-sponsored units that don't have schools, the vast majority of the scouts in the Units originate from the local public elementary schools and resultantly belong to a wide variety of congregations.

While there were always a few scouts who earned their religious award every year, the leaders were frustrated because they were never successful in qualifying for the Unit Award of Excellence because they never met the minimum requirement for participation.

This past year they hit upon a solution. They decided to piggyback on Vacation Bible School.

St John offers annually a Vacation Bible School, which is open to youth in the community in the first through sixth grades.

This past year they promoted the VBS program to their Scouts and their siblings and offered separate classroom times for the Christian God & Me and God & Church awards, and the Catholic Light of Christ, and Ad Altare Dei awards. (The dates conflicted with the District Cub Scout Day Camp so they didn't offer classes for that age group.)

Much to their surprise – and great pleasure – eighteen boys, led by four counselors, participated in the religious emblems program, and five siblings participated in the VBS program.

The Scouts participated in the VBS opening and closing sessions in the sanctuary, but then attended their individual classes. Each Scout paid a fee. Part of the fee went to the church for the VBS T-shirt and refreshments, and the other part paid for the religious emblems workbooks and supplies.

Much planning went into the religious emblems classes. Scouts received assignments prior to the VBS session. They also received daily homework assignments during the week. Some assignments were modified. For example, instead of completing individual photo albums, the God and Church participants each contributed to a huge collage which they added to daily based on the lessons they were studying. This collage was placed on the altar during the awards presentation.

According to Dr. William “Bill” Spencer, “We are planning on presenting the Scouts with their knots in their Units and all will be invited back this year on our Scout Sunday on February 10, when, for the first time, the Unit will be presented with the Presbyterian Unit Award of Excellence, along with a presentation of the Celtic Cross Award.!”

“So successful was this program that we are already making plans for another special session, perhaps over the Christmas Holidays, for the God & Family and the older Scout God & Life programs.

“We are definitely planning to repeat this opportunity again next year and hopefully can avoid the Day Camp/Summer Camp conflict by pre-planning and scheduling the dates.”

The program was well received. A comment on the evaluation form at the conclusion of the program sums it up best: "I didn't know God could be fun!"

[NOTE FROM P.R.A.Y. At the conclusion of the VBS Program, the Pastor called forward and presented 9 God & Family Awards and 4 God & Church Awards. Certificates of completion were presented to 3 Light of Christ youth and Certificates of Progress and Participation to 2 Ad Altare Dei Candidates. The Catholic youth, in that Diocese, after completing the requirements and having them approved by the pastor or his delegate, forward the application to the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Awards are presented by the Bishop at the Annual Scout Sunday observance in the Cathedral in Fort Worth.
Troop 83 Missouri Scouter Cited for 40 Years Service

By Brian Merriman
Committee Member, BSA Troop 83

The First Presbyterian Church of Rolla, MO, has a proud Scout heritage that goes back to 1926 when Boy Scout Troop 83 was first chartered. The Church and the Troop celebrated 80 continuous years together in 2006. Cub Scout Pack 83 also celebrated it’s 47th continuous year at First Presbyterian in 2006. But both of these celebrations took second stage to the celebration of the one man that has had a great responsibility for the success of the scouting program at First Presbyterian, John Cole.

John Cole first joined scouting in 1934, but very soon afterward due to a lack of volunteer leaders, his Troop folded. Cole, not wanting others to suffer the same fate he did as a young scout, agreed to take on the job of “interim” Scoutmaster while the committee searched for a full time Scoutmaster. The year was 1966, and in John’s own words, “I think they stopped looking.”

Cole served as the Scoutmaster for more than ten years, producing many Eagle Scouts and helped found the Taum Sauk Trail, in Southeast Missouri.

This year Cole celebrated his 40th year of Scouting with Troop/Pack 83 as he also celebrated his 84th birthday.

Cole, who is now the Charter Organization Representative, has not slowed down very much either. He still comes to nearly every Troop meeting, and this year taught fire building at the District Cub Scout Day Camp.

Also this year, Cole earned his Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow, just a short 53 years after completing his Ordeal.

The leaders of Troop and Pack 83 are lucky to have the knowledge and experience of John Cole at their disposal.

Cole tells a story of a young scout years ago that never paid attention and was probably wasting his time even coming to meetings. One afternoon when the Scout’s younger brother decided to use gasoline to rekindle a smoldering fire, the Scout showed that he had gotten more out of the program than the leaders would have dreamt.

P.R.A.Y. Names New Scout Realationships Head

Don Shapley, former board member of P.R.A.Y., joined the P.R.A.Y. staff as Relationships Director to Boy Scout councils and churches effective October 1.

Shapley brings to P.R.A.Y. an expertise in finances; he has experience in small business, income tax and non-profit consulting and management. He also has experience in not-for-profit boards helping agencies achieve financial success and serving as an ED/CEO with accountability to directors and contributors and serving in a variety of fund development positions including United Way.

“Shapley brings more than just leadership and experience to P.R.A.Y. – he brings his heart and passion,” commented Mark Hazelwood, P. R. A. Y. CEO.

“My passion and calling is serving families and supporting the advocacy of children and their welfare,” Shapley said, “I consider myself a servant and wish to make use of that gift. I have nothing but admiration and awe for those individuals who are in position to impact the lives of so many kids. I feel that God creates children, but that it’s our job as adults to help them become what God intended them to be in the first place. I try to be a servant to the people who can do that.”

Shapley is a God and Country recipient and supports Scouting as ministry, because it was Scouting that brought Don to faith in Jesus Christ.

“I have always felt passionately about Scouting as ministry. I’m living proof of it. I feel very blessed to be part of the P.R.A.Y. ministry,” he added.

Shapley can be reached at dons@praypub.org or 913-485-6299.

The Scout jumped into action, rolling his sibling in the grass until he was out, grabbed a hose and doused the fire before it ignited the family’s propane tank under which the still-burning gas can had landed.

The young scout that was never paying attention received the BSA Lifesaving Award, and taught Mr. Cole a lesson that he is keen to pass on to all leaders.

That lesson is to never give up on a Scout.

“Even that Scout that you think is never paying attention and you think is not getting anything out of the program, as long as he continues to come to meetings you have the opportunity to teach him,” Cole teaches.
P.R.A.Y. Names Anchor Patch for Puzzle Set

P.R.A.Y. has announced that the “kneeling Scout” segment, which became available December 15, will become the anchor for the Duty to God Puzzle patches.

The kneeling Scout segment is the key component that gives meaning to the entire puzzle set. As the anchor patch, the kneeling Scout segment will be the first patch that a Scout receives. The anchor patch will be available every year regardless of the rotation.

Why this change?

“This change is the result of an overwhelming response from customers. Our customers did not question the four-year rotation, but they did petition for the kneeling Scout to be the anchor patch. The one and only change that P.R.A.Y. is instigating is to designate the kneeling Scout segment as the anchor for the puzzle set,” explained Mark Hazelwood, CEO.

What does this change mean?

The kneeling Scout segment will always be the first segment that a Scout receives. P.R.A.Y. has designated this segment as the anchor around which all other segments will be added. This patch will be available every year regardless of the rotation.

What about the four-year rotation?

The four-year rotation is still in place. Participants would request the anchor patch the first year, and then enter the rotation for the next three patches. It will still require four years to complete the puzzle set.

Is there a designated second, third, and fourth segment?

No. A rotation is in place, but the year you start will determine which segment you will acquire for the second, third, and fourth segments (i.e. you will acquire the segments in a different order depending on the year you start).

Doesn’t this make it more difficult to track each segment?

No. There is no “tracking”. All you have to know is who are the new Scouts to the program. The new Scouts get the anchor patch. All other Scouts will receive the patch offered for that year. The rotation is set and only one patch will be available alongside the anchor patch.

Have the requirements changed at all?

No. The requirements are the same: youth and adults must learn about religious emblems and then make a commitment to Duty to God. The Duty to God puzzle patch is still a promotion patch. The goal is to increase awareness of the religious emblems.

What about the resources that I have to promote the Duty to God puzzle patch?

The original resources (scripts, slide presentations, handouts, etc.) can still be used. Although they do not mention the anchor patch, the basic information is correct. Updated handouts can be found online.

http://www.praypub.org/dutytogod.htm

“Thanks to all of you who are diligent in promoting Duty to God to boys and young men! We hope you find this information helpful. Please let us know if you have any questions,” urged Hazelwood.
Krafts Continue Helping Hand In Hurricane Katrina Clean Up

(Email: We received the following note from Warren Kraft, NAPS member from Wisconsin, on his most recent and fourth, trip to Southern Mississippi as part of an ongoing personal and Presbyterian mission program. We thought you might appreciate his report on his and others efforts.)

Upon arrival, we power-washed the interior of a fellow's home who, until the day before, still had the mud and muck from the Katrina storm surge that reached his place.

Later that morning, we went and painted "No Skid" on an elderly woman's ramp. She was just home from hip surgery, but the FEMA contractors never painted her ramp. Later, we went over to Pass Christian, just across St. Louis Bay where Katrina made landfall on 08-20-05 wiping Waveland and Bay St. Louis off the map, initially to remove a piece of broken ceiling drywall that a roofer stepped through. However, the resident had more sheet rock issues due to the leaky roof. So, I took pictures of the ceiling and flashing issues to take back to our projects coordinator.

All we could do was haul to the street an oversized limb that she cut down on Christmas Day.

The resident, Wanda, had just bought the home on 08-02-05 and then spent 10 months in Mobile Red Cross shelter. With no insurance, all the repair work is done by volunteers. She is living in her bedroom because the rest of the house still needs work.

Wanda said she mistakenly stayed put but realized it when she awoke during the wee hours of landfall. Her two rabbits jumped on her bed and she noticed water had risen to her bed-line. The flooding bayou is a block away. She said a prayer and went back to sleep because she knew she couldn't escape.

The power was out, it was pitch-black, and the 100-mile winds and rain and flood waters would quickly consume her. As day broke, the water was gone, her rabbits ran away, and her house was a shambles.

The next day, we painted the interior rooms of a house.

Nate (Kraft, Eagle Scout and Warren's son) fulfilled a wish when we got to see Helen who was proud to show off her "new" home.

During our first trip, four weeks after landfall, Nate's team spent the five days ripping apart her house, flooded by the nearby bayou. With the help of an equally elderly friend, this 80-year-old woman stood for six hours on a half wall, with waters rising to her neck "ready to meet her Maker" as she told our team.

When we were down over Easter, we must have missed seeing her but her contractor/son-in-law let us see the reconstruction progress. Helen was thrilled to "see" (because she is now partially blind) some of her Wisconsin friends who helped her get out of the FEMA trailer after a year. Nate has a life-long friend who still wants the Neenah team to join her on her front lawn for the promised shrimp boil...her treat.

On the way down, we stopped at the Boy Scout camp near Wiggins (about 30 miles north of Gulfport) where our 120-member Bay-Lakes Council contingent spent last Christmas to clean and fix up.

A Madison-based troop gave us ten scout tents to donate, we had a couple surplus tents from Oshkosh units, and an Omro pack had us deliver a cash donation to help with rebuilding. Every building but two was damaged.

Using a barter system, the Forest Service pulled the trees off the buildings to use the forward grounds for its staging area. In late October, our Council (Bay Lakes Council) donated and delivered about $30,000 in equipment so a National Capital Area-based adult contingent could do the heavy clean up.

In two days over the holiday break, our crew finished the chain sawing and debris removal tasks, fixed rafter and repaired and replaced roofs. To add to their woes, an August tornado sent a tree through the dining hall roof, but was undergoing repairs when we visited.

The blessing of all this: this cash-strapped Council was able to renovate every structure, deteriorating due to deferred maintenance, and even build some new shelters for scouts to use.

For Easter 2007, we are committed to going back down...with 2-3 drivers sharing the load, and 14 workers, most connected with Scouting, make the trip in a day, and have more days to make a dent in the reconstruction. While most activity has moved indoors, there are still tarped roofs, especially in the countryside where the teams are not concentrated.

Kraft, a NAPS member, is chaplain for the Twins Lake District, Bay-Lake Council, in Oshkosh, WI., a Scout with Troop 615, a Bobwhite Woodbadger, and an Elder and Lay Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, WI.)
Presbyterian Scouts & Unit Members Reap Rich Harvest of P.R.A.Y. Religious Awards During 2006

How many religious awards were earned by members of Presbyterian Scout Packs, Crews, Posts, and Troops or Presbyterian Scouts in non-Presbyterian units during 2006?

Would you believe it was nearly 2,000?

Year-end figures reported by Jennifer Hounston, communications director, of P.R.A.Y., showed 1,936 awards were presented to Presbyterian units of all branches during the past year or to Presbyterians in non-Presbyterian units.


Redwood Empire (California) Council: Nicholas Dooley, G&M, Andrew Spich, G&M, Elfin Lutheran, Petaluma; Sean Thobmas, G&F, Arcata Pres, Arcata; Michael Fenner, G&L, Presbyterian Church of Rose, Santa Rosa; California Inland Empire Council: Austin Lingenfelter, G&F, Lake Arrowhead Community Church, Lake Arrowhead; Kenneth Deal, G&F, Church of the Valley, Apple Valley; Spencer Lee, G&C, Rancho Community Church, Temecula; KUDOS

New Silver Beaver Award Winner, Dr. Paul Deason, NAPS Regional Director. In January was presented the Silver Beaver Award by the Yucca Council..More next issue.

Membership Application/Renewal

National Association of Presbyterian Scouters (NAPS)

Please use this form to apply for or renew membership in NAPS.

As a membership organization, our only source of funds are your dues.

Please clearly print all information on the form below

After completion, attach your check and mail to: P.R.A.Y., 8520 MacKenzie Road, St. Louis, MO. 63123.

Date:_________________

Full Name ______________________________________________________________ (please print)

Street Address________________________________________City:______________________State:__________Zip:___________

If Prefer Mail to a PO Address, Your PO Box Number, City, State, and Zip:

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Your Email Address__________________________________________Your FAX Number____________________________________

Home Phone:_(      )_____________________________Day Time Phone_(        )____________________________

Scout or Youth Agency Affiliation:________________________________________________________

Scout Council________________________________________If Registered in Unit, Unit Type, #_______________Position:____________________

Church Affiliation:________________________________________ Church Office Held________________________________________

Name of Church:________________________________________________________

Address of Church:________________________________________________________________________

If Presbyterian, Name of Presbytery:________________________________________________________Synod________________________

Were You in Scouting as a Youth? If so, explain:___________________________________________________________________

Are you an Eagle, or equivalent in Venturing, Exploring, or Sea Scouts?_________________________________________________

Are You an Adult Scouter now? If so, what position with whom?______________________________________________________

CHECK ITEMS WHICH APPLY

☐ Send me the Presbyterian Scouter newsletter by email.
☐ Send me the Presbyterian Scouter newsletter by postal mail.
☐ I would like more information about:____________________________________________________________

CHECK ITEMS WHICH APPLY

(enclose your check in the total amount)

☐ Annual Membership of $20
☐ 10-Year Membership of $150
☐ Extra Patch for $2
☐ Donation to Chaplain’s Fund of $______(Supports Presbyterian Chaplains at High Adventure Bases)

☐ 5-Year Membership of $75
☐ Life Membership of $350
☐ Lapel Pin for $5

Your Signature
We Want You!
To Help Round Up New Members for NAPS

When you network with, play golf with, go Scouting with, bump into, pray with, or otherwise connect with your fellow Presbyterian Scouters, recruit them for our team—
to assist Presbyterian congregations to become chartered partners with BSA
to assist local Councils in establishing units in Presbyterian churches
to foster individual religious growth of Presbyterian youth
to promote the use of unit Chaplains and Chaplain Aides
to support the chaplaincy program in summer camps
to encourage recognition of and to recognize Presbyterian clergy, laymen, and organizations for their contributions to youth and Scouting
and.......
to bring unchurched youth and their families in contact with Presbyterian Churches through quality, fun, and exciting Scouting programs

We Welcome These New NAPS Members!
Jeffrey D. Wilson, 2725 Glen Point Circle, Richmond, VA 23233-6979
Billy Kelemen, 23 Maple Ave, Florida, NY 10921
David Kelemen, 23 Maple Ave, Florida, NY 10921

Corb Sarchet
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