



## SCOUT CHAPLAINCY IS A NECESSARY MINISTRY

Most of what we talk about in terms of the relationship between the church and scouting is how much they can do for one another. Certainly, scouting offers one of the rare opportunities in our society to honor our own faith, while respecting the faith of others, in a safe and open environment. And, the church that offers scouting as one of its programs gains the opportunity to reach the families of youth who see a program for boys and older girls that fosters character development based on a belief in God. To borrow from the Cub Scouts, scouting helps the church grow and the church helps scouting go.

Scouting provides another very important aid to our church, as well. **Our chaplains are missionaries, at home and abroad.** Most scout chaplains are not compensated...not even for their travel costs and supplies. Sometimes, as is the case of our Jamborees, the chaplains will be out-of-pocket thousands of dollars to share the Gospel with eager youth in the most formative years of their spiritual development. Our NAPS president, Gene Foley, at last year's National Jamboree, was responsible for coordinating an exhibit booth, organizing a major worship service, and supervising a multi-faith team of headquarters' chaplains. But most importantly, he delivered the lesson at the worship of our Lord before 6,000 youth and their leaders. He brought Good News to thousands of impressionable minds and hearts. He was joined by a group seven clergy and elders who each sacrificed time and money to provide worship opportunity at the NAPS hosted the Protestant East Worship Service.

Indeed, like the Jamboree chaplains, very few of our paid clergy can claim what some of our chaplains have accomplished in regard to the number of scouts that Scout Chaplains impact. When asked whether his chaplaincy has made a difference, Gene is able to recount event after event where members of his "congregation" have "paid his salary:"

"One afternoon as I was greeting new arrivals at the Florida Sea Base with other staff members, a teenage girl jumped out of an arriving van and ran over to me and gave me a big hug. The staff member next to me asked the girl how she knew me. She said, 'He's my pastor.' The staff member was confused as he knew that I didn't lead a particular church. I explained that, like so many Scouts that I serve, the only formal religion many experience is at the chapel services I hold at regional and national activities. This particular young lady was a Sea Scout in the Northeast Region, where for many years I did chapel services at their regattas, training events, and Sea Scout Balls."



Chaplain Gene observes fellow chaplain, Rev. Dr. Marilyn Washburn of Atlanta, Georgia, teach a Bible lesson to Sea Scouts at Camp Brown near Scotland, Maryland.

Still, for all that our chaplains do for scouts, it is difficult to find funding for their activities. Recently, a large Northwestern church was approached for assistance in buying pocket bibles to be given out at a scout camp. While the deacons in that church had just reported a surplus that allowed them to "not ask for money," the scouts were turned down in their request for \$200 because it "wasn't in the budget." Too many in our church family do not see Scouting as the appropriate place to spend mission money. This is why we come to the members of NAPS to help. Once again, we would like to help our president go to the World Jamboree to serve the spiritual needs of our scouts. Gene says he's determined to go, though



# The Presbyterian Scouter

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he's concerned about how long it will take the tramp steamer to cross the Atlantic. Gene has been assigned to the International Service Team and will be the liaison between the Jamboree Faith and Beliefs function and the American contingent chaplaincy. This will be a similar responsibility to the duties he had at the Thailand World Jamboree where he made sure that American staff members were able to attend a Christmas Eve service other than the Catholic Mass offered by the host country.

With the debt he incurred to serve our youth at the recent National Jamboree last summer, his dedication to paying for a World Jamboree assignment so soon afterwards is a significant financial burden. NAPS can help defray or obliterate that burden. The cost of the Jamboree, travel, and other costs associated with participating with the BSA national contingent leadership is expected to be between \$5,000 and \$6,000. In 2007, the members contributed more than \$3,000 to support the World Jamboree Chaplain and NAPS contributed an additional \$1,000 out of its chaplaincy fund. This year we'd like to do better. We have an outstanding chaplain serving as our NAPS president and we'd like to show him our support.

### To Support the Chaplaincy Fund

Send your check made out to *N.A.P.S. Chaplain's Fund*. Or, you can designate the money particularly to help the NAPS President represent us again at World Jamboree. Checks should be sent to: NAPS Treasurer Rush Hart, 2416 Ryan Place, Fort Worth, Texas 76110.

*(Editor's note: Unless otherwise specified, a list of those who helped support this missionary venture will appear in the newsletter and on our website at the end of the summer along with the President's World Jamboree report.)*

### Urgent Notice from Your Editor

NAPS Directors are working overtime now trying to double-check all the addresses for members. Some people have moved and we have not gotten the news. Others want to receive their newsletters and updates by Internet, but we find we do not current information regarding email addresses or websites. We really want to serve you and keep you "in the know. If you haven't updated your membership, or want to go for a long range membership, drop Rush a line and let him know now. If you want to send a membership to someone affiliated with a Presbyterian Church, Rush can help you with that as well. Plus, your editor would like to hear from you. Pictures, awards and recognitions, news items are most welcomed. As a hint, two churches in S.C. will soon celebrate 100 years of sponsoring one or more Scout troops. Histories of those troops with pictures will soon be featured in the newsletter, creating permanent record of how Presbyterian churches and Scouting merge mission fields to the glory of God.

**For your convenience, we are including the membership form:**



## National Association of Presbyterian Scouters (NAPS)



Youth are a mission field and a barely tapped reservoir of hope, faith, and strength, living and serving among us. Membership is open to members of any church that is Reformed in its theology and Presbyterian in its polity. As a NAPS member, you pledge to support our Scouts and fellow Scouters. As a Scouter, you will initiate action and respond to opportunities for service through the church's network of believers and through Scouting. You agree to uphold the Boy Scout Oath and serve as example of the Boy Scout Law.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Bus. Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church and Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scout or Youth Agency Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check items that apply:  New Member  Renewed Membership   
 Associate Member [\$5]  Annual Membership [\$20]  Five Year [\$75]  
 Ten Year Membership [\$150]  Life Membership [\$350]  
 Extra Patch [\$2]  Lapel Pin [\$5]

Please help by sending your updated information to Rush Hart, 2416 Ryan Place, Fort Worth, TX 76110

Please print legibly.

See you at the Mav National Council Meeting: [www.scouting.org/national annual meeting.aspx!](http://www.scouting.org/national%20annual%20meeting.aspx)