



Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting

Summer 2007

Churches Reach Out with MCCS

Members of MCCS have expressed the purpose of the organization to be threefold: to interpret Scouting to members of Churches of Christ, to encourage the use of Scouting by members of Churches of Christ and to promote spiritual growth by encouraging the use of the Servant Leadership Series. In doing so, MCCS offers an effective tool for congregations of the Church of Christ to reach out to children and families who may not be affiliated with the Church.

Ministers across the United States recognize the potential that MCCS offers. For example, Dan Williams, minister of College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado, Arkansas, supports MCCS and uses the Servant Leadership Series in the unit chartered by his church.

"I am currently leading several young men through this program, and over half of them are from families that are not (yet) associated with the Churches of Christ," he said. "Scouting provides a wonderful bridge for outreach. In fact, over the years, we have taught and converted several families as a direct result of their son's involvement in Scouting."

Mike Collins, a Scoutmaster in Batesville, Arkansas, praised the quality MCCS curriculum by sharing how learning about the servanthood of Christ has affected some of the boys in his unit.

"Not only did the boys successfully complete the curriculum, but they achieved the highest measure of obedience by professing their belief in Jesus Christ and accepting his Word in baptism," he said. "The acceptance of Christ into their lives was an especially meaningful event to me personally as a Scoutmaster and father. It is truly the proudest moment in Scouting to have these boys respond to the Lord."

The extent to which MCCS can serve the church in bringing souls to Christ is evidenced by the experience of Chuck Markwardt, a Scout Leader from Mariposa Church of Christ in Citrus Heights, California. In his description of the Scouting experience in his church, he expressed the importance of the MCCS curriculum's

focus on Christ.

Some of the families that have completed the MCCS curriculum have professed their faith in Christ and have become members of the Mariposa Church. The fathers of two of the boys in the troop now serve as deacons.

Current numbers reveal that 455 Boy Scouts of America units have been chartered by 324 congregations of Churches of Christ in 38 states to date. Last year alone, 273 Religious Emblem Awards were presented by MCCS.

For more information, please visit the new-and-improved MCCS Web site, www.goodservant.org.

*Scouting provides
a wonderful bridge
for outreach.*

*Dan Williams, Minister,
College Avenue Church of Christ
El Dorado, Arkansas*



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True Meaning of Joyful Servant

By Dawn Donaldson, Junior GS Troop 10417 Leader

A few years ago, a wonderful couple, John Scott and Cindy Weber, encouraged three little Brownie Girl Scouts to work on their Loving Servant Award at Jersey Village Church of Christ in Houston. After many months of working with the girls, John Scott held a ceremony in our church for one of the girls. Courtney Bishop completed all of her requirements and was awarded the Loving Servant Award. Exactly one week later, John Scott left this earth to be with our Lord after a battle with cancer. The other two girls, Allison Mahood and Candace Donaldson, also completed the requirements, and John Scott's wife, Cindy, was able to perform their ceremony in our church. It was both a joyful and a sad time for us.

Several months passed, and these Brownies progressed to Junior Girl Scouts. It was time to start working on the Joyful Servant Award. One of the moms suggested asking a gentleman from the congregation, Doug Terry, to serve as the girls' mentor. Doug said he would have to think about it and he did — for about five seconds. His wife, Peggy, a retired schoolteacher, also volunteered.

Peggy has some respiratory problems, and because of her breathing difficulties was unable to be a part of large crowds or even sit in a church service. Thankfully, she was able to work in small crowds with these girls. Peggy met several members of the church during her time with the girls. One of those members offered some medical assistance in the form of a "breathing buddy" — a machine worn around the neck that purifies the air. This device has allowed her to go out in public and attend church services for the first time in many years.

Doug and Peggy started working with the girls in April 2006. The two of them worked with the girls to help them learn and memorize Bible scripture. They also spent many hours visiting the sick, nursing home patients and shut-ins. It was wonderful to spend time together during the summer and watch the girls grow closer in their walk with God. The group of girls played games, made art projects, memorized scriptures, learned to interpret scriptures and picked up songbooks for the church after services to complete the religious award requirements. For the last service project, the girls planned a luncheon for the VIPS, a group of seniors in the church. The girls decorated for the luncheon, helped prepare the food, entertained during the luncheon and cleaned up after. It was very successful.

A pinning ceremony was held in October for all of the

Junior GS Troop 10417



families. The leaders of the church were invited to help celebrate the girls' accomplishments. Eight Junior Girl Scouts were honored: Courtney Bishop, Cyndel Campbell, Michaela Dodson, Candace Donaldson, Janelle Johnson, Allison Mahood and Ariel Reid — all from Junior Troop 10417 — and Myrhissa Hunsaker from Junior Troop 10585.

Doug & Peggy continue with their service to the young people of the church. Not only are they helping another Girl Scout achieve her religious award, they also plan to serve as Sunday School Bible teachers for the 4th grade class beginning next quarter. This religious award program has changed the lives of so many people and will continue to do so through the teachings and love offered by Doug and Peggy Terry. The Juniors look forward to bridging to Cadette Girl Scouts and working on the Good Servant Award in the next few months.

Thank you so much to the Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting for offering this program to the young people. These girls have truly learned the meaning of being joyful servants. We also believe that the hand of God has lessened Peggy's respiratory problems and allowed her and Doug to be more effective servants for Christ. Lastly, we are very thankful for the late John Scott Weber and his wife, Cindy, for serving Christ, being good role models and introducing this program to the scouts of Jersey Village Church of Christ.

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MCCS Web Site Transformed

visit www.goodservant.org today!

MCCS is reaching more Scouts around the country, thanks to the new Web site designed by MCCS Trustee Nathan Williams.

Williams, a MCCS board member since 2005, has donated an approximate \$10,000 in-kind gift, to the design, implementation and maintenance of www.goodservant.org.

"I saw it as a need I could fill with relative ease," Williams said. "It was something that needed to be done, and I could do it."

The site has become a cornerstone of MCCS' recent push to increase public awareness of the organization, and more specifically, the Servant Leadership Series.

And with roughly twice as many

curriculum requests in 2007 than in the previous year, the Web site has already helped MCCS.

"It's beginning to reach out to people," Williams said. "We've already seen a marked increase in curriculum requests since last year. I see it as a new beginning for us."

Besides offering information about MCCS, the Servant Leadership Series, Scouting and MCCS-supported events such as Philmont and the National Jamboree, the Web site allows users to honor top Scouting awards recipients by posting their names on the Honor Roll page.

Ultimately, Williams wanted to design a site that spoke well to the public about MCCS.

"The design really is a description of who we are and what we provide," Williams said. "Every area, every page of the Web site conveys things or ideas that we use for outreach."

And it's just the beginning.

"No Web site is ever finished. You just keep adding to it," Williams said. "We have plans to add ways to donate online and to purchase MCCS merchandise. Plans for newsletter sign-up are also forthcoming."

Williams is an ACU alumus with 11 years experience in Web design. He currently works in contract Web design and graphic art. For further information, or to contact Williams, go to nehwilliams.com, or click the link to his site on the goodservant.org Web site.

Chairman Opens Atlanta Meeting

MCCS Chairman Al Bingham opened the National Religious Relationships Committee meeting in Atlanta on May 30 as a part of the National Boy Scouts of America meeting. Bingham, a long-time Atlanta resident, was asked to welcome guests from all over the country to Atlanta and to lead them in an "inspirational thought." Guests included representatives from religious Scouting associations such as MCCS. Kent Barnett, Executive Director, joined Bingham in representing MCCS. Barnett serves as a member of the National Training Sub-committee that oversees the training of Scouting chaplains. The committee reviewed the current curriculum for the aspiring chaplains. Barnett also made several contacts with Scout Council executives about MCCS and the promotion of church-chartered units.

Please consider remembering MCCS in your last will and testament.

Sustaining Gifts

Friends who send gifts in memory or honor of loved ones have made a significant impact on the lives of the children who participate in MCCS. Through the Servant Leadership Series of religious emblem awards, these children learn about serving Christ and helping others. Memorial and honor gifts made by faithful supporters provide an excellent example of the servant's way of life. All donations received go to encourage boys and girls in pursuing the development of the servant leadership style of life modeled by Jesus Christ.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

John Clardy
Kent & Denise Barnett
Glen & Mary Johnson
Bill & Flo Ladyman
Gene Linder
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Longley
Alton & Dee Ann Rigby
Kerry Lynn & Nancy Thomason
Billy & Louise Walker
Bobbie Lee & Bernice Wolfe
Roy Lewis
Gene Linder
Allene Pope
Judge Jack Pope

HONOR GIFTS

Joyce Barnett
Chloe Hampton
Jeffrey Cramer
Kenneth & Kim Cramer
Jonathan Cramer
Kenneth & Kim Cramer
Hunter Forrester
Wildwood Valley Church of Christ
Charles & Geneva Huff
Chloe Hampton
Tim Riding
Donna McSpadde

Thank you!

Joyful Servant Awards

After conducting the Wednesday Night Devotional Service at the Buffalo Gap Church of Christ, (right to left) Jeffrey Desrosiers, Jr., Ted Chambliss, Jacob Reicheneker and Garrett Rhoden received the Joyful Servant Award.

The boys studied the Servant Leadership course for Grades 4-6 in their Wednesday night Bible class and did their volunteer work throughout the course.

The leaders and members of the church praised the young men for their study and service to the people of Buffalo Gap, Texas. For more about teaching the Servant Leadership material as a class for boys and girls, call (325) 675-0611 or (325) 370-1679, or visit the MCCS Web site, www.goodservant.org.



MCCS Prepares for Philmont 2008



Thanks to the faithful attendance of Church of Christ Scouters to Philmont Scout Ranch Training Center in recent years, MCCS has been granted the opportunity to conduct its own seminar at Philmont 2008: "Scouting in the Churches of Christ."

Tentative dates are July 27 through August 2, 2008.

Kent Barnett, MCCS Executive Director, said he hopes the 2008 seminar can, "encourage relations between churches and Scouting and maybe result in more church-chartered Scouting units."

There will also be opportunities for worship and singing, Barnett said, and, "obviously, we'll have plenty of fellowship."

To keep this coveted slot on the Philmont agenda, however, MCCS must have at least 20 attendees. Barnett is "optimistically hoping" for 40.

Located in Cimarron, New Mexico, Philmont Scout Ranch makes an ideal and beautiful setting for a family vacation. For those not attending the seminars, Philmont offers various staffed activities for spouses and children.

Youth ages 14 - 20 whose parents attend Philmont 2008 may participate and will be guaranteed a spot on a week-long Mountain Trek, at additional cost.

For further information on prices and enrollment, contact your council executive after October 1, 2007, or check the MCCS website, www.goodservant.org, for updates as information becomes available.