

Remarks to South Gate UMC congregation on Scout Sunday - 03 Feb 2013

Welcome once again to Scout Sunday. We are 103 years old this year & looking good!

“Save a man and you save one person, save a boy and you save a whole multiplication table” - John Wanamaker. (1) I’m sure that’s equally true for women and girls, too.

This weekend is Scout Sunday in area churches across the nation. It fulfills our "Scout is Reverent" and the "Duty to God" promises in our scouting Oath and Laws.

Visitors we'd like to recognize include

Pack 93 Committee Chair, Jennifer Pribil & her son, Nate.
Girl Scout Troop leader, Betty Cummings and daughter, Stephanie.
Troop 93 leaders include Mary Kay Mooring, Troop Committee Chair, parents, families and Boy Scouts. Eagle Scouts & former Scout leaders - everyone, please stand up.

In Pack 93, 60 Cub scouts and 16 leaders are registered. In Troop 93 we have 29 Scouts and 18 adult leaders, which gives us well over 100 active Scouts affiliated with South Gate United Methodist Church through our sponsorship of Scouting.

As you can see, quite a few in attendance this morning have a Scouting connection. Give yourselves a round of applause. Thank you, please take a seat.

All of our Cub Scout and Boy Scout leaders are trained in their leadership positions and have completed the BSA Youth Protection Training which ensures safe Scouting experiences for us all.

We have a Troop Scholarship Fund established for boys who otherwise can't afford to participate in Scouting - your donations to this fund are always appreciated.

Did you realize that the Boy Scouts of America was founded as a peace movement? Read brief quote from “Handbook for Boys”. (1)

Regarding Pack 93

Five Second Year Webelos are crossing over into Boy Scout troops this month. Pack 93 owns a large trailer (containing Pinewood Derby track and other equipment). Upcoming Pack events include the kindergarten crazy Olympics on May 15 at Cavett.

Regarding Troop 93

Our new trailer contains new tents, propane fuel stoves and lighting, dutch ovens, a large dining fly, cooking equipment and other camping gear. The next Court of Honor will take place on Sunday, 11 February, here in the sanctuary where dozens of merit badges will be awarded and advancements recognized. You are welcome to join us. Camping at Crete Woods, Camp Eagle, Blue Stem, and Wildwood will take us up to our summer camp week at Camp Cornhusker in Richardson County. Orienteering, wilderness survival, bicycling, personal fitness and nature are on offer during the next six months.

We can report for the first time that Scouts have completed religious awards training through their church. Approximately ten young people completed their work and are ready to be recognized for their P.R.A.Y. (Programs of Religious Activities With Youth) achievement. This is known as God and Country for older Scouts. This training is available for youth and adults; no connection with Scouting is required to participate.

In 2010, the following number of Scouts affiliated with the United Methodist Church participated in religious training : 2,441 Cub Scouts, 2,209 Webelos, 829 Boy Scouts, 356 Venturers, and 148 adults. (3)

2013 would be a very good year for youth and adults at South Gate UMC to become involved in this important training. (Hold up P.R.A.Y booklets). Please speak with me if you are interested or you know of someone who'd gain from this program.

At the end of 2009, there were approximately 34,000 United Methodist churches with about 8 million members in the United States. The United Methodist church's involvement in Scouting at the time included: 235,708 Cub Scouts in 2,069 packs, 125,362 Boy Scouts in 5,066 troops, 8,663 Venturers in 1,146 crews. (2) I find these figures amazing.

Scouting is more than an organization; it is a world-wide movement which brings people together for peace, cooperation and understanding. What could be better than that? If you're worried about kids and adults from over a hundred countries getting together to accomplish real goals then you've never attended a national or a world jamboree. They are amazing!

Between services you are invited to enjoy cookies and coffee in the narthex. Please inspect our poster boards, CD/DVD promos, camping equipment and legacy patches, scout books and other Scouting artifacts. We welcome your participation.

Welcome and thanks again for your continued support of Scouting.

References

1. "Handbook for Boys", Brief History of Scouting, (1) 1942, pg. 559
2. SCOUTING IN THE METHODIST CHURCH
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/relationships-scouting-is-for-everyone/faith-based-partners/protestant/united-methodist/39766>
3. BSA Scouting In The United Methodist Church
http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/operating_orgs/Methodist.aspx

(ScoutSunday03Feb2013)gen 02 Feb 2013

