

MIDWEEK MISSIVE 03/01/19

Growing up, I had the best of all possible worlds: living in the city for 9 months of the year, and spending my summers on the St. Mary's River in the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan. But that did not mean that I didn't get to experience nature during those 9 months in Detroit. And the reason for that was that I was a Scout.

Our troop, Troop 211, met at the St. James Methodist Church every Monday night during the non-summer months, and was one of the places that I learned about life, about God, about getting along with others, about working together and about nature. It was the tradition of our troop to go camping about 4 times over the course of the school year. We had two beautiful Scout reserves within a couple of hours drive of the neighborhood, and sometimes we went to other non-Scout camps like State Parks, or church camps. We always stayed in tents, even in some of the winter months, except when we gathered with the other troops in our district for the annual Klondike Derby. That usually took place in January or February and was at a place where cabins and dorms housed the various troops. But even though we spent the nights in warmth, we spent all day outside participating in winter skills competition, including a sled "dog" race with Scouts as the dogs! As cold as it could be, it was still one of the highlights of the Scout year.

I'm thinking about this now for several reasons: as I look out the window I see a white blanket covering our backyard; the news tells me that there could be a fairly sizable storm coming tomorrow; and tomorrow evening the Candleberry Chapel will recognize Scouts, present and past, with a special worship service at 5:00 p.m. Scouts will participate in the service and there will be a gathering time following worship to greet and welcome them.

Scouting was a big part of my life: both my brother and I are Eagle Scouts, and some of my great friendships started in Scouting. I always looked forward to Monday nights and especially to our camping trips. But what I appreciate most is all those things that helped prepare me for life: the merit badges in a variety of disciplines; the teamwork it took to accomplish our goals; the confidence it instilled in me; the friendships that have enriched my life. In short, the combination of church, church camp and Scouting have helped tremendously in shaping who I am. Make plans on joining us to recognize our Scouts Saturday at 5:00, if you can.

A caveat: as I mentioned earlier, the Weather Service has issued a storm advisory for Attleboro for tomorrow and are predicting several inches of snow. If a decision is made to cancel worship on Saturday evening, please watch for an email from the Chapel, and watch on Channel 6 out of Providence for information. Given how far some folks travel to come to chapel, we will always err on the side of safety. If the storm does materialize, look for updates tomorrow.

**Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad—**

Bradley J. Miller
Interim Pastor
Candleberry Chapel
381 S. Main St.
Attleboro, MA 02703
(508) 222-2525
www.candleberrychapel.com