

Celebration December 2009

100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



92 YEARS OF TROOP 503

Sponsored by

The First Congregational Church
Winchester, Massachusetts

THE BEGINNING

THE WINCHESTER STAR

FRIDAY JANUARY 5, 1917

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Monday. The annual meeting of the Parish in the vestry at 7:45. The meeting will adjourn to meet Tuesday evening at the same place and hour.

Wednesday. Mid-week worship with address at 7:45. Mr. Chidley will speak on "The Parable of the Empty House."

A Boy Scout Troop is being formed in the church under the leadership of Mr. Robinson S. Whitten for boys over 12 years of age. Those wishing to join should be at the vestry at four o'clock today or notify Mr. Chidley Sunday

HISTORY OF TROOP 503

Troop 503 has been sponsored by the First Congregational Church since 1917 and is one of the oldest Boy Scout Troops in continuous existence in the United States. When the Boy Scout movement was brought from England to the United States in 1910, it caught on immediately as a program of interest to boys by combining the fun of the outdoors with the lessons of fellowship, high ideals, and personal skills.

Since an organized group was required as the sponsoring organization, churches were ideal and adopted the program for their active boys. The First Congregational Church of Winchester was in the forefront and received a charter for Troop 3 in this area. The Troop was first numbered 53 and was later changed to 503 in a nationwide numbering during the Fifties.

Robinson S. Whitten, to whose memory the second stained glass window in the front of Ripley Chapel is dedicated, served as the first Scoutmaster during many of the early years. Later, during World War II when younger men were called to service, he returned again to lead the Troop.

In the beginning (and in fact up to 1965), as with most troops, Troop 503 was run by the church fathers for their own boys. The lists of Scoutmasters, Institutional Representatives, Committee Chairmen, and Executive Officers accompanying this article contain many of the Deacons, officers, and leading figures of the First Congregational Church.

In 1933, when the Cub Scout program was added as a way of introducing younger boys to Scouting, Pack 503 (then Pack 3) was organized by the Church. During the 1950's, 60's, and 70's Explorer Post 503 was active as a means of providing a more adult challenge through Scouting.

In 1965, when St Mary's Catholic Church could no longer support its own Boy Scout troop, the boys and their fathers were invited to join the First Church's troop. George E. Dillon was the first non-church member to become chairman of the Troop Committee, thereby making this one of the first ecumenical moves in Winchester church history.

The First Congregational Church's Boy Scout Troop 503, former Explorer Post 503, and and Cub Scout Pack 503 have enjoyed and continue to enjoy the adult support of the broader community and have served all boys interested in Scouting. The result has been one of the largest and most active Scouting groups in the Colonial District and Minuteman Council of Massachusetts Scouting.

In the Scouting program, the chartering institutions have gathered together in local Councils which form Corporate entities. These Councils hold title to camp grounds and other common property. Minuteman Council owns two camp grounds in Massachusetts and two in New Hampshire. Over the years many of the adults of Troop 503 have also served as District and Council leaders. Life Deacon Thomas Raphael served as Institutional Representative from 1970 to 1986, and has remained an active advocate of our Troop.

In 1982 Scout Master Lawrence Keats and Assistant, John Looney, determined the need for reorganizing the Troop activity schedule. They created a yearly program to develop

each boy's skills and progressively raised them to higher levels. Hiking, camping, and canoeing experiences were highlighted on a three year rotation. Thomas Raphael instituted the tradition of challenging camping trips by taking the Senior Scouts on a bicycle trip to Nova Scotia. Today, Scoutmaster Paul Masi continues this tradition by leading the Senior Scouts on outdoor camping and hiking adventures out West, where they conquer higher classes of white water, and some of the highest peaks in the country.

Unfortunately, early records of the boys who benefitted from their years in Troop 503 have not been handed down. The records that have been preserved resulted in the creation of the Troop's Eagle Scout plaque that is now proudly displayed in Chidley Hall. From 1931 to 2009 over one hundred young men have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. For ninety-two years Troop 503 has had the privilege of developing kind and trustworthy boys into men of character and leadership.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Executive Officer of a Scout Troop is the formal leader of the organization which holds the Troop's charter. This responsibility is traditionally held by the Church's Senior Minister except for those periods when the Men's Club of the Church signed as the Executive Officer of the Troop. In these cases, the Club presumably appointed its president to the post for that year.

1931-1937	Howard J. Chidley	1954-1961	Dwight L. Cart
1937	Eugene Pollard	1962	Tom Kell
1938	Richard J. Johnson	1963-1964	Edwin Nelson
1939	Marshal Pike	1965	Clark Wark
1940	Beverly Jones	1966	Henry T. Gerould
1941	Frank W. Horne	1967	James Hulm
1942	Don Kitchin	1968-1970	Wilbur Lewis
1943	George Makepeace	1971	David Kreider
1944	Howard R. Bartlett	1972-1988	Walter B. Davis
1945	Fred Abbe	1989	Luther P. Durgin
1946	R.C. Strawbridge	1990	George Waterbury
1947	Wallace M. Snow		
1948-1953	Howard J. Chidley		

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Institutional Representative is appointed by the Executive Officer to fulfill the Church's obligation under its Charter with the Boy Scouts of America. This appointed individual leads the Scouting organization within the Church, serves as a member of the local Scout Council, and is recognized as a working member of the District Committee of the local Scout Council.

1946	Walden Hersey
1947-1948	John Q. Adams
1949-1951	Gordon Bird
1952	Donald Tarr
1953-1961	James F. Denton
1962	Revert Ericson
1963-1964	Harrison Richardson
1965	Henry T. Gerould
1966-1969	Nelson Bell
1970-1985	Thomas Raphael
1986	David McMillan
1987-1989	Vernon Bradford
1990-2009	Peter Van Aken
2009-	James Richter

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The Committee Chairman forms and supervises Adult Committee members in their oversight of the Troop's activities.

1931-1932	Charles W. Barton	1961	Winthrop Smith
1933-1934	J. Andrew Millican	1962-1964	George D. Whitten
1935	Harold V. Hovey	1965-1970	George Dillon
1936-1937	Frederick Hutch	1971-1974	Thomas Callahan
1938-1939	Harvey Moore	1975	William May Jr.
1940	James H. Com	1976-1978	Walton Gagel
1941-1943	Edward Grosvenor	1979	Ross Farrar
1944-1945	Fred Horne	1980-1982	Anthony Sobkowicz
1946-1951	Gordon Bird	1983-1984	James Whitehead
1952	David Eden, Jr.	1985	Raymond Whittemore
1953	James Denton	1986-1990	Paul Gleason
1954	Edward Little	1991-1996	Steven Galli
1955	Paul McCarthy	1997-1998	Paul Colella
1956	Walcott B. Thompson	1999-2001	Douglas Marmon
1957-1958	Allan T. Burros	2002-2005	Neil Foley
1959	Joseph C. Forte	2007-	Joseph Mirable
1960	J. Paul McCarthy		

SCOUTMASTERS

There is nothing magical about the Scouting program. It is a group of hard working, dedicated people—none more so than our Scoutmasters—trying to teach boys how to become successful and responsible adults.

1931-1934	Harold Hovey	1962-1967	Calvin Allyn
1935	J. Andrew Millican	1968-1970	Warburton VerPlanck
1936	Richard M. Rush	1971-1972	Robert Nichols
1937-1940	Paul C. Dunn	1973-1978	Ross Farrar
1941	Robert Millican	1979	John Cirignano
1942-1944	Robinson Whitten	1980-1982	John Howard
1945-1946	Albert Nelson	1983-1985	Lawrence Keats
1947-1948	George DeCamp	1986-1989	Anthony Sobkowicz
1949	Louis Bravacos	1989	Lawrence Keats
1950	William Burrows	1990-1994	Jeffrey Drazen
1951	Donald Drew	1995-1996	James Richter
1951	W. Aborn Spinney	1997-2000	David Weir
1952	James B. L. Lane	2001-2002	Robert Lord
1953-1958	Edgar Hinton	2003-2005	Charles Gillis
1959	H.B. Woodward	2006-2007	Darrell Ricke
1960-1961	Robert Ackert	2008-	Paul Masi

EAGLE SCOUTS

The Eagle is the highest award given to a Scout who has attained the ideals and goals of the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 503 is proud of these Scouts who have completed their Path to Eagle.

1931	Michael Young	1957	Bruce Graves
1933	David Fitz	1957	Thomas Hunter
1933	Albert Grossvenor	1957	Richard LeGates
1933	David Grosvenor	1957	Paul White
1933	E. Sargent Hill	1958	Thomas Joslin
1933	Robert Millican	1958	Robert Newton
1933	Paul Wentworth	1958	David Taylor
1933	Albert Wilson Jr.	1962	Stephen Baird
1945	Mallory Smith	1963	Randolph Smith
1945	Burton Bailey	1964	Peter Kaufmann
1948	Elliott Hersey	1965	Thomas Butterfield
1948	David Schiverick	1965	W. Scott Jeffrey
1951	Samuel Rocray	1965	James Sauber
1951	Trevor Smith	1967	Paul Donahue
1953	Robert Gaffney	1968	Rick Porter
1954	Larry Longworth	1969	Edward Ver Planck
1955	David Willis	1979	John Feeney
1955	Dudley Willis	1980	Brian Feeney
1955	Christopher Wadsworth	1981	Timothy Howard
1956	Bruce Gunther	1981	David Krikorian
1956	Steven Hood	1981	John Kenney
1956	Robert LeGates	1981	Mark Schartzmann
1956	Russell Taylor	1981	Gerald Malloy

1982	Thomas Funk	2000	Mark Iovine
1984	Christopher Brett	2000	Christopher Masi
1986	Douglas Krouse	2001	Erik Irving
1986	Charles Almquist	2001	Nikos Stephanopolos
1986	Michael Hall	2001	Omari Washington
1986	Arthur Gleason	2001	Alec Weir
1986	Mark Whitemore	2002	Keith Brown
1987	Adam Keats	2002	Robert Grenzeback
1988	Thomas Maher	2003	Michael Hall
1989	Alexander Gleason	2004	Shawn Donahue
1989	Michael Port	2004	Jonathan Lord
1989	Timothy Looney	2004	Doug Turner
1990	Robert Graves	2004	Gavin Williams
1991	Michael McDonough	2004	Thomas Wooten
1992	David Drazen	2005	Neil Foley
1992	Jeffrey Sullivan	2006	William Leathers
1994	Scott Dieter	2006	Benjamin Masi
1994	Neil Dixon	2007	William Burstein
1997	James Norris	2007	J. Kevin Crowley
1997	Mark Schwartz	2007	Andrew Gillis
1997	David Van Aken	2007	Nicholas Hawksworth
1998	Justin Colella	2007	Colin Williams
1999	Ryan Brown	2008	Phillip Fonseca
1999	Alexander Hayden	2008	Carl Ricke
1999	Thomas Hayden	2008	Patrick Turner
1999	Andrew Richter	2009	Matthew MacCaughey
1999	Nicholas Stephanopolos	2009	Thomas Swanton

EAGLE SCOUTS
from Explorer Post 503

1954 George Denton
1954 Jan McCarthy
1958 Alfred Bonney
1958 John Fenoglio
1958 Kenneth Forte
1958 John Mallory
1958 Robert Newton
1958 William Niblock
1958 Clifford Sundberg
1958 Brian Walsh
1959 Carl Fontneau
1959 Peter Fontneau
1959 Ronald Milton
1960 Robert Niles
1960 William Upson
1962 Peter Buros
1962 Steven Butterfiled
1962 Paul Wickwire
1962 Robert Wyman
1963 Philip Goodwin
1963 Charles Irwin
1964 Scott Cunningham
1964 David Pratt
1964 Robert Ryder
1966 James Sawyer
1966 Albert Thayer