

“For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.” Matthew 18:20

In this last issue for 2016, we look at what the Cadets have done so far this year, talk about some hats, and look at opportunities to serve.

Cadet Campout

By Carson Tukker



The Pella 2 CRC Cadets went on a one-night campout on Friday, October 7. We had 20 Cadets and fathers come out and 14 of us spent the entire night outside. First we met at church and then drove together. When we arrived, we set up camp by digging a fire pit, setting up four tents, and digging a hole to use as our bathroom.

For supper we had hot dogs, pork patties, and Matt Vos' delicious Dutch oven beans. During the evening we had free time to play tag and run around. At nighttime some of us told riddles and ghost stories. We all tried to stay warm in our sleeping bags during the cold weather.

For breakfast on Saturday morning, Matt used the Dutch ovens again to make Mountain Man, a delicious sausage, egg, and cheese dish. Some of us even fried our own eggs as part of our camp-cooking

badge. After breakfast we spent the rest of the morning fishing and doing archery. Everyone loved archery and during fishing we caught three fish. At the end everyone picked up and got some candy.

Cadet Pork Patty Supper

By Shane Tukker

This year the Pella II Cadet club put on another successful Pork Patty Supper. First off, we would like to thank all those who came out and enjoyed the evening with us.

It's great to see all the support and encouragement that the congregation continues to provide to the club! I would also like to thank Lola Spoelstra for her help in the kitchen, the wives of the counselors, and mothers of the boys as they all helped on various tasks.

At the end of the night we counted 170 plates served and through everyone's generosity, the club was able to raise an amount in line with previous years. Those funds will help to cover the club dues, this year's Bible study magazines, and other miscellaneous yearly costs.



Inscription

Submitted by Joann Verhey

The following inscription found scratched into a wall in Germany by someone hiding from Nazi concentration camps. As we head into more uncertain times in this country, it can be a good reminder for all of us.

“I believe in the Sun even when it is not shining; in Love even when I am alone; and in God even when He is silent.”

Hats

Pastor Tom Dykman

I saw my neighbor wearing a hat yesterday. It made a statement about "Making America Great Again," and I knew it made an additional statement about him. So, it got me thinking about hats. I like hats.

Although I have gotten rid of most of those I've collected over the years, I still have a few. I have a hat that reveals my pride as a "super grandpa," which of course I am. I have one that touts America, one that supports racing, and one that even supports God's army. Then again I have one that is fitting for a cowboy, one that is tough like a mountain man, and one for those "high cotton" outings (which of course I use frequently).

One of my favorite hats is from the Netherlands and is quite popular around Pella, especially in the spring. I have another hat that is designed to make me very visible, to stand out, distinguishable from wild animals. I also have a hat that is colored to make me sort of invisible when I don't want to be seen by wild animals. Sometimes I wear this disappearing hat and tell people

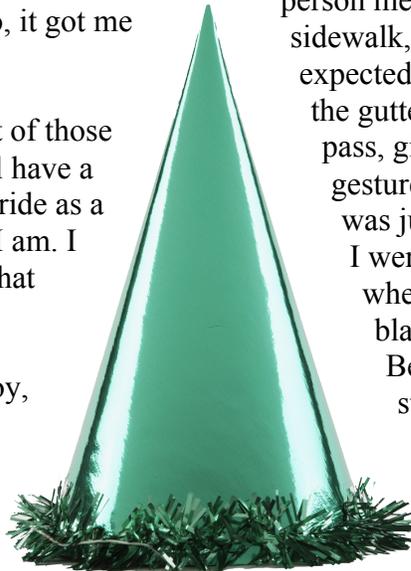
"you can't see me because I am wearing camo."

Some hats are made for winter, others for summer and the beach; of course others are designed for golf, and some for riding or skateboarding. I wear a hat most days, even in the house sometimes.

When my girls were young I gave them hats from muffler shops, tractors and trucks, and of course Disney friends. I like hats. Hats reveal something about the wearer. They often tell us about who is underneath.

One of my favorite hat stories is about Bishop Tutu from South Africa. The Bishop was asked why he became a Christian priest. He told this story.

"In the days of apartheid, when a black person met a white person on the sidewalk, the black person was expected to step off the pavement into the gutter to allow the white person to pass, giving the white person this gesture of respect. One day, when I was just a little boy, my mother and I were walking down the street when a tall white man dressed in a black suit came toward us. Before my mother and I could step off the sidewalk, as was expected of us, this man stepped off the sidewalk and as my mother and I passed, tipped his hat in a gesture of respect to her.



I was more than surprised at what happened and I asked my mother why the white man did that. My mother explained, "He's a Christian, an Anglican priest. He's a man of God, that's why he did it."

I decided right there and then that I wanted to be an Anglican priest. And what is more, I wanted to be a man of God.”

Which hat we select, and how we wear it, does reveal something about us. More importantly the gestures we make reveal something about us and whether we are worth emulating. By the way, walking in and out of the polling booth also says something about our priorities. I wish they gave out hats that said, "I Voted - Hope you did too."

Hats off to you.

The Pella Red Kettle Christmas Campaign

Through the Red Kettle Christmas Campaign, The Salvation Army provides food, toys, and clothing to over 6 million people during the Christmas season and helps more than 34 million Americans recovering from all kinds of personal disasters nationwide.

The Red Kettle campaign, first started in San Francisco in 1891, has traditionally been the Salvation Army's most prominent fund-raiser.

The total amount raised during this campaign in Marion County in 2015 was \$48,208.71. **Ninety percent of the money comes back to Marion County, while the other ten percent goes to disaster relief.**



We invite you, your family, civic, church, and school organizations, and businesses to join the Pella campaign starting Monday, November 28, 2016. There will be two locations this year. We will have kettles at Walmart and Hy-Vee. The times are Monday through Friday, 4:00pm to 8:00 pm, and 10:00am to 8:00pm on Saturdays. Earlier times can be arranged upon request. You may sign up at <http://www.goo.gl/SVLLTY>. Contact Sherril Graham at 641-780-4858 for questions or with issues signing up.

We are grateful for your participation for this worthy campaign

Why Do We Sing?

Barbara Boertje DeVries

Have you ever wondered why we sing in worship services? Why do we not simply use spoken words? Below are several thoughts.

First, the Bible is filled with songs. The very first words uttered by a human being are poetic. In fact, upon seeing Eve for the

first time, I wonder if Adam actually broke out into song: “This is now bone of my bones – and flesh of my flesh...” Following their escape from Egypt, Moses and Miriam sang praise to the Lord.

The Psalms were originally sung, enabling people to express devotion to God in virtually every emotional state known to humans. In jail, Paul and Silas sang in the middle of the night. When we begin singing the first song in our worship services, we’re not really starting

something but actually joining our voices in the singing that has been ringing out since the dawn of creation. We join with those who have gone before us in a meaningful way to express ourselves and worship God.

Second, words set to music penetrate our minds and hearts in a way that spoken words often do not. Songs have a way of sticking with us... songs stay in our memories, their words showing up in our thoughts when otherwise, we might struggle to speak. Songs are both a reference point and a tool; a resource that enables us to articulate our faith. As we sing songs, we not only pray the words, we absorb them. They equip us with language that describes our experience. We cling to them when our faith is challenged. In a difficult moment, it's a song that might give me some strength and hope. I have heard many stories of families gathered around the sickbed or deathbed of a loved one, someone who is

mostly unresponsive yet perks up as the family begins to sing his or her favorite songs. Words set to music trigger a unique response in us, sometimes all the way to our dying moments.

Third, we sing because we are created to. We are made in the image of God – the God who sings, according to the prophet Zephaniah. When we sing, we're imitating our Creator, as in Zephaniah 3:17:

¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love He will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.

I have been so very blessed by the singing in worship at Pella 2, by people of all ages. Keep on singing, making a joyful noise to the Lord!

Congratulations

Simon Gene Braafhart

Born September 8, 2016, son of Nick and Libby Braafhart

Jonathan and Nicole (nee Van Woerkom)

Yoder

Married September 26, 2016

In Memory of

Henry De Jong



January 28, 1921 – September 15, 2016