



# Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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## Acoustics of water encourages singing

After tuning up in Forrester Lodge at N-Sid-Sen, a newly formed Raggedy Band played “When the Saints Go Marching In” as they walked down the trail to the campfire.

The ensemble with four counselors and four campers accompanied singing for the 2009 senior high aqua camp’s campfires. The first evening they also waded knee-deep in the water, and played, “Wade in the Water.”

“Water is a perfect, reflective acoustic surface,” said Duane Nightengale, a counselor-guitarist of Veradale UCC. “At campfires, we want campers to participate in singing, which they are more likely to

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‘Raggedy Band’ provides water music from the shores of N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Photo by Tony Kliment - counselor at senior high aqua camp

## Camp participants reported ‘breakthrough’ experiences

Camp directors reported that campers experienced “breakthroughs” as they used of the National Council of Churches’ curriculum with the theme, “Breakthrough.”

At Pilgrim Firs, camps—except kids camp—were up in attendance, said Deeg Nelson, managing director. With 65 campers, junior high camp had the most in recent years.

“The presence of 12 youth who had not been to camp before changed the dynamic at the camp, calling the repeat campers to be more intentional about being welcoming,” he said.

Mark Boyd, that camp’s director, said one girl’s breakthrough leaving



Mark Boyd is Pilgrim Firs’ new maintenance supervisor.

Photo provided by Deeg Nelson

with many friends, contrary to her expectations when she first arrived.

“We mixed the youth in different groups and drew anyone sitting on the fringes into activities,” he said. “Older campers also were mentors to the new campers.”

Mark, who leads junior and senior high youth at United Churches of Olympia, said enjoys the junior high age because they are “testing their wings” and “pushing themselves and us with challenging questions.”

At the end of August, Mark came on staff at Pilgrim Firs at maintenance supervisor four days a week. He brings

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