

THE FOURTH DAY



Parish-based weekend set at start of August

Jeanne deWard of St. Paul’s, Cary, will lead the team for a Cursillo weekend at a church to be chosen soon. A second weekend may be held this fall.

N.C. Episcopal Cursillo Weekend No. 105 has been scheduled Thursday, July 31, through Sunday, Aug. 3, with Jeanne deWard of St. Paul’s, Cary, as the lay leader.

The weekend will be held in one of four parishes that have expressed interest in having one – All Saints in Concord, St. John’s in Charlotte and the Church of the Ascension in the Advance community in Davie County.

The Secretariat has penciled in a second three-day weekend in the fall. Cursillo leaders of the dioceses of East North Carolina and Western North Carolina have offered to help supply team leaders for the fall weekend if enough Cursillistas in the Diocese of North Carolina don’t volunteer.

The cost of the weekend will be close to the cost of the first parish-based Cursillo in this diocese -- No. 104 at St. Christopher’s in High Point, in August 2013. Each team member and each pilgrim paid \$95 for lodging and meals.

Anyone who wants to attend the weekend and any Cursillista who wants to serve on the team can fill out an application. Mail it to Pilgrim Application or Team Application, P.O. Box 859, Lewisville N.C. 27023, and enclose a deposit of \$35 or the full fee. Application blanks for team members, pilgrims and pilgrim’s sponsors can be downloaded from nccursillo.org, the Cursillo website for this diocese.

The website tells what a Cursillo weekend is like, how the ministry began and how those who complete a three-day weekend can continue being involved in reunion groups (prayer and share groups) and Ultreyas (monthly regional meetings).

No weekends were held in 2014 because a newly required minimum of 15 “pilgrims” – the new name for candidates or participants – did not sign up. The minimum requirement was set last year after several consecutive weekends had fewer than 10 pilgrims.

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Hard copies offered

You can receive *The Fourth Day* in hard copies as well as online. If you sign up for printed, mailed copies, you can stay on the online “subscription” list. N.C. Episcopal Cursillo already has addresses for more than 300 subscribers, and they will get hard copies of this issue. But the addresses of hundreds more online subscribers are needed.

Sid Chapman, past lay director of the Secretariat, proposed the change. He heads his own consulting firm for publishers and said readers of his company newsletter often asked for hard copies of previous issues. They remembered a story but not exactly when it ran. He thought hard copies would promote careful reading.

The newsletter will still appear at nccursillo.org. To get hard copies (no charge), fill out the form on Page 2 and mail it to HARD COPY, P.O. Box 859, Lewisville NC 27023.

‘Pilgrim’ label makes weekend roles clear

People going through their first three-day Cursillo weekend have a new label in our diocese. The Secretariat voted last month to call them pilgrims instead of participants – or candidates, an even older name.

Steve Hear, who proposed the change, said using “participant” can be confusing. Everyone at a weekend, including a team member, takes part and so is a participant.

“Anyone making his Cursillo [weekend] is on a pilgrimage,” Steve said, “so ‘pilgrim’ is appropriate.” After brief discussion with no dissent, the motion passed.

“Pilgrim” is already used for Episcopal Cursillos in the dioceses of Alabama, Atlanta, Southwest Florida, Texas and elsewhere. Methodists use the same term on their three-day weekend, “The Road to Emmaus.”

Parish-based weekend set at start of August

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Last summer the original lay leader appointed for No. 105 resigned, saying it was difficult to recruit pilgrims and team members before the date and location for the weekend were known. The site and the date were not going to be decided until at least 15 pilgrims had applied and paid their fees.

Recently the Secretariat adopted a different procedure at the suggestion of Cameron Cooke, who took office Jan. 1 as the lay director of N.C. Cursillo. In consultation with the newly chosen lay leader, the Secretariat set the date. The lay leader and the Secretariat will also choose the location.

The minimum of 15 pilgrims will still apply. If too few pilgrims sign up, the weekend will be cancelled.

According to policy and custom, leaders for three-day weekends should have served on at least two weekend teams. For one of those weekends, they should have been an assistant lay leader. In this way, a pool of experienced candidates for weekend leader was kept up.

But the orderly succession of weekend lay leaders broke down last year after an appointed Cursillo lay leader resigned. So Cooke asked for volunteers and nominated Jeanne deWard, who was confirmed by the Secretariat.

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How power of God's love can set the wounded free

By Sara Nall
Diocese of Alabama Cursillo

.. Ten years ago this April, I made my pilgrimage to Cursillo and my life changed forever. I realized that God is love, and I saw it in the faces of all those around me and all those who took the time to write me, think of me and pray for me.

It actually took me about three or four months to fully soak in all that had happened. It brings to mind the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words."

To me, this is the essence of Cursillo. We show pilgrims, and even other staff members, what God's love is and how very powerful it is. Cursillo allows those of us who are wounded, unloved, and burdened to set ourselves free with His love and to become all things in Him -- a feat that, I know in my own life, is somewhat of a miracle!

I have watched the Cursillo community bring people back to life with their support, nurturing and unconditional love, and we have all watched leaders be raised up from these experiences at Camp McDowell.

There is an instant bond among this community and it can only be explained by Jesus' love. . . .

Condensed from Vivencia, the newsletter of Alabama Cursillo

'We show pilgrims, and even other staff members, what God's love is and how very powerful it is. Cursillo allows those of us who are wounded, unloved, and burdened to set ourselves free with His love and to become all things in Him . . .'

-- Sarah Nall

‘Ministry of presence’ ranks as a precious gift from God

At our regular Saturday morning reunion group meeting (at St. Clement’s it’s called Men’s Group, because we all happen to be men), one participant handed us copies of several excerpts on “the Ministry of Presence.” In one, Fred Small of the First Church Unitarian, Littleton, MA, defined it as “a ministry of being with, not doing for.”

My immediate reaction was that this is what our reunion group is for me. We are a group of men who come together, to be together, to help each other by being there for each other. But then, as I read the articles, I had a more personal insight.

My younger son, 21, is the “artsy one” in the family. Over the years, he has painted in acrylics, composed music, written poetry/lyrics, mixed music on the computer, made videos and then mixed them with music, and so forth -- all of it *way* over my head.

My daughter played soccer. I could wrap my head around that. But this “arts” stuff is beyond me. Though I greatly appreciate its beauty, I don’t pretend to understand how my son’s mind works. I gave him a copy of the articles, which he may never read. But maybe he doesn’t need to.

One of the excerpts tells a story of a little girl who was late getting home from school. She explained that she had encountered a friend who had broken her favorite doll on the sidewalk. “So you stopped to help her pick up the pieces?” her father asked. “Oh, no,” she answered. “I stopped and helped her cry.”

My son is dyslexic, which my wife, the teacher, tells me is more of a blessing than a disability. His mind is wired differently in a particularly beautiful way. He sees the world differently, as all dyslexics do.

He thinks inter-dimensionally, seeing things and concepts from many different perspectives, all at the same time. That’s hard work, and he takes a nap after class every day because he is actually mentally exhausted.

When his grandfather died, my son wrote a beautiful poem called “I’ll Help You Cry.” (He called it a lyric because he made a “hip-hop” kind-of video out of it.) He wrote it for his grandmother, who is known affectionately as “Sweetie Pie.” The poem/lyric spoke of his desire to help his grandmother in her grief, but there was also this inherent understanding that all he could really do was be there – “help her cry.”

My son is also a master with frightened and abused animals. They seem to sense that he will “just be there” for them, without judgment or confrontation, just with acceptance and love. He understands the ministry of presence better than anyone else I have ever seen.

We all need to understand the importance of presence. Often this is the most precious gift God has to give us – His presence. Many times we don’t think it’s enough, either from Him or from ourselves. But it is. It is *more* than enough.

Fourth Day Thoughts

The last swim of summer

ought to be swum
without knowing it,
afternoon lost to
re-finding the rock
you can stand on
way out past the
raft, the flat one
that lines up four-
square with the door
of the boathouse.

Freestyle and back-
stroke and hours on
the dock nattering
on while the low sun
keeps setting fin-
gers and toes getting
number and number . . .
how could we know
we were swimming the
last swim of summer?

“The Last Swim of Summer” by Jonathan Galassi, from *Left-Handed*.

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North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo

Secretariat Calendar 2015

Meetings: May 16, July 18, Sept. 19, Nov. 21.

Meetings are held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4211 Wayne Road in Greensboro. They run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Cursillistas are encouraged to attend.



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North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo — Secretariat 2015

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Comments about this newsletter, and suggestions for future ones, are welcome. Phone the editor at 919-876-1752 or send e-mail to stephenwhoar@gmail.com. To add a name to our mailing list or correct an address, please fill out the blank form on Page 2 and send it to MAILING LIST or ADDRESS CORRECTION, P.O. Box 859, Lewisville NC 27023.