

THE FOURTH DAY



Board faces major decisions

Sid Chadwick, the chairman of the Secretariat, has outlined seven choices for the governing board of N.C. Episcopal Cursillo to make as it plans a second parish-based Cursillo weekend in the spring.

In a letter to board members recently, he set forth the following “priorities deserving attention and follow-up” when the Secretariat meets in Clemmons on Saturday, Nov.16:

- Review the three-day weekend held in August, the first parish-based weekend in this diocese, and plan a parish-based weekend in the spring.
- Decide what parts of the weekend need improvement or clarification. “It appears to me,” Sid wrote to the board, “that there are differing opinions about what needs to be clarified.”
- Set a date and location for the spring weekend and choose candidates for weekend leader. It usually takes six months to choose team members, recruit spiritual advisors, train the team, and write and rehearse witness talks.
- Select potential sites and develop a

contingency plan.

- Stay in touch with potential participants for the next weekend.
- Develop a plan to organize more reunion groups or invite newcomers to join existing ones.(See other stories inside about reunion groups).
- Fill several open slots on the Secretariat, including two key positions – assistant chairman (to become chairman when Sid’s term ends in December 2014) and head spiritual advisor (a priest who will serve on the Secretariat’s Executive Committee, appoint spiritual advisors for Cursillo weekends, and serve as liaison between the clergy of the diocese and the Secretariat).
- Review “what needs to change, going forward.” This includes not only the coming three-day weekend but other, longer-term matters.

The board will meet from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Clement's in Clemmons. Anyone who is interested may sit in.

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Reinventing Cursillo: Stage 2 takes shape

Instead of holding weekends to mint new reunion group members, why not start new reunion groups to arouse interest in going on weekends?

The next chapter in N.C. Episcopal Cursillo’s attempt to make its three-day weekends more attractive is expected to take shape by the end of December as the Secretariat plans a weekend to be held next spring.

For one thing, all Cursillistas around the diocese will be urged to build up reunion groups in two ways: People who have not been to Cursillo will be invited to form new reunion groups, with help from Cursillistas; and people who have not been to Cursillo will be invited to join existing reunion groups. (Continued on Page 1)

Reinventing Cursillo:

Stage 2 takes shape (Continued from Page 1)

This initiative, already approved by the Secretariat, will turn a well-established practice on its head: Instead of holding weekends so new Cursillistas will join reunion groups, the Secretariat will try to start reunion groups to get members interested in attending a weekend. To explain what these “prayer and share” groups do and how to start one, members of the board will visit any parish that requests help and talk with anyone interested in the “reunion group” ministry.

Also on the agenda for the Secretariat meeting on Nov. 16:

- Filling three vacancies on the board, including that of the head spiritual advisor.
- Electing an assistant chairman for the board, who will become the chairman after a year as chairman-elect.
- Evaluating parishes where the next weekend could be held. All Saints’ in Concord has been proposed, and there has been talk of having a weekend in the Triangle area.
- Setting a date for Cursillo No. 105 and electing a weekend leader.

After several weekends in a row drew fewer than 10 participants each, the governing board decided to try making the weekends less expensive and more appealing to young adults. The first experimental weekend was held in August at St. Christopher’s parish in High Point. Having the weekend at a church, rather than far from home at a conference center, was supposed to encourage couples with children, especially members of the parish where the weekend was held, to attend.

The weekend in August, No. 104, is still being evaluated. Already, though, it seems there is no magic in reducing the cost (from \$175 per person to \$95) and holding the gathering in the Piedmont Triad region, within 20 to 40 miles of a number of Episcopal parishes. Just seven participants completed applications for No. 104, and only four of them attended throughout the weekend.

Two new aspects of the latest weekend seem to have gone smoothly. Having team members prepare meals for the weekend, instead of the kitchen staff at a conference center, was widely rated successful. And a switch from double-occupancy

rooms to sleeping, barracks style, on inflatable beds caused no serious problems.



But some reservations were noted about meal preparation and overnight housing. Jeanne deWard, who headed the much-praised kitchen and dining team, gave a lot of the credit to volunteers outside the Cursillo team who sent frozen casseroles and the like. She said it’s unrealistic to assume that extensive voluntary help will keep up weekend after weekend.

And a number of participants and team members chose not to sleep on the floor but rented motel rooms at their own expense. If given a choice, it appears, many people will stay in motel rooms. Sid Chadwick, the board chairman, has floated the idea that everyone should sleep in inflatable beds unless there is a medical reason (bad back, allergies, physical handicap) to avoid “roughing it.”

Submitted by Steve Hoar, who made N.C. Cursillo No. 52, sat at St. Joseph’s table and worships at Christ Church, Raleigh

Group reunion *is* Cursillo!

The ministry is not about the three-day weekend

From the National Episcopal Cursillo magazine, Spring-Summer 2013

When you see or hear the word *Cursillo*, what comes to mind? Is it a long, tiring, spirit-filled, comfortable/uncomfortable, three-day weekend of talks, banners, music, food, posters and sharing? Do you focus on that weekend and all that goes with it?

If so, I suggest that perhaps the message of that weekend was lost. Cursillo is *not* the three-day weekend. Cursillo *is* about those group reunions where two to five friends gather weekly to share and be accountable about how they are intentionally spending time with God, studying, and planning individually and together how to be the hands, face, and mouths of God in our everyday lives as we live out our Baptismal Covenant to serve Christ. The goal is to bring the world to Christ by empowering adult Christian leaders through the use of Group Reunion and Ultreya to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.



What sets Cursillo apart

Way too often, we get caught up in the three-day weekend. Probably because it is fun; we may actually see lives transformed before our eyes and it is only for three days. We forget the true purpose of the three-day weekend – the empowerment of Christians to go into the world, equipped to witness to the wonder of being the Church. It is an opportunity to experience a life of Grace, to be reminded of the basics we learned in Sunday school, and to learn a tool that has been proven to keep us focused as we live our baptismal covenant to serve Christ. Group reunion and Ultreya are tools that set Cursillo apart from other movements and methods. Jesus said, "...Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the

midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). All of us have friends, but Group Reunion is where we meet as friends to converse about Jesus and His place in our lives. It is where we share and are lovingly held accountable about our life of piety, study, and action.

'... Group Reunion is where we meet as friends to converse about Jesus and His place in our lives. It is where we share and are lovingly held accountable about our life of piety, study, and action.'

It is perhaps the one time during the week when I take the time to recognize a moment in which I was most aware of Christ. Sometimes it is the realization that I was so busy that I did not take time to see Christ in anything, and to recommit to be more aware in the coming week. Group Reunion is where I am reminded that His word is "a lamp unto my feet" and that regular Study helps me understand better the gift from God. So I am held accountable to strive toward Bible reading, Bible study, study groups and other methods of expanding my understanding. It is in group reunion that I am gently encouraged to study, offered opportunities to consider and given the opportunity to share what I have learned.

'Being fishers of people'

Group reunion is about action. It is about being fishers of people. It is a time to share where I have been intentional in serving and witnessing for the Lord, to share where I followed my plan to serve and/or witness. Perhaps I share where I have not seen what I had hoped to see, but am reminded that we are about planting seeds and allowing time for the harvest. It is about sharing those unexpected opportunities that the Lord places in our daily lives and what I did about those opportunities. It is about stating aloud my plan for serving and witnessing in the coming week. (Continued on Page 4)

Don't be shy; just ask, and ZAP! Your wish might be granted

By Sid Chadwick

Chairman, N.C. Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat

Some time back I caught myself asking, "What have I not done for our Cursillo ministry that's immediately before me – that I'm not seeing?"

Right away I heard an answer in my head: Our Men's Reunion Group at St. Clement's has not invited other men in the parish to join us for our meetings at 8 a.m. every Saturday.

'Without realizing it, I had become too comfortable accepting conditions, disappointment and rejection too easily.'

So we put such a notice in our Sunday Bulletin and monthly newsletter, and *the next Saturday* a prospective member appeared. About four months later, we repeated the invitation, and *the next Saturday* another prospective member showed up.

Then I asked myself that question again, and an answer appeared almost immediately: We had not

created an invitation to start a Women's Reunion Group in the parish. Such an invitation was placed in our Sunday Bulletin. After the 8:45 a.m. service that day, three people responded and approached the woman listed as the contact person. In a few days, six people signed up; and the women had their first meeting in early November. I think the response was so good because our contact person is so well-respected, thoughtful, and responsible.

The invitation in our bulletin read: "**ATTENTION, WOMEN of the Parish:** We would like to start a group for women of the parish to gather, pray, talk, reflect, discuss, etc., how the gospel impacts your life on a regular basis. If you have some interest in being a part of the group, please contact _____ at 336-____-_____."

I offer this humbling testimony because I believe that, without realizing it, I had become comfortable accepting conditions, disappointment, and rejection too easily.

Sid Chadwick made Cursillo No. 100, sat at St. Peter's table and worships at St. Clement's in Clemmons.

Group Reunion /s Cursillo (Continued from Page 3)

Group action, too, can be intentional. Do we, as a group, have a specific plan to serve or to witness together? If so, how are we doing?

Group reunion is a time for intercessory prayer. Praying together as a group – for each other, family members, friends – is powerful and rewarding. The three-day weekend prepares and teaches, Ultreya encourages, but Group Reunion – following and living out the guidelines set forth on the group reunion card – is Cursillo. It may be the best hour you spend each week. Ultreya!

[Reprinted from the Cursillo newsletter in the Diocese of Arizona by Jane Kaiser, St. Stephen's]

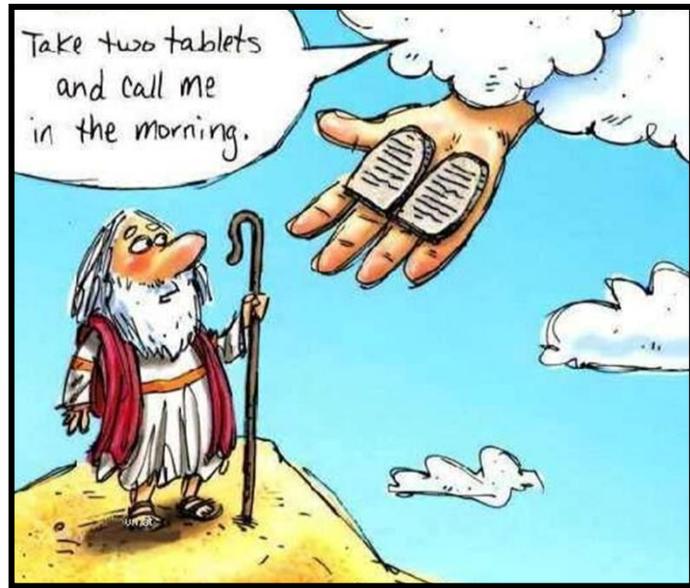


Source: Episcopal Church Memes / Facebook

Help us make a list of every reunion group in diocese

As part of our Fourth Day ministry, we want to help Cursillistas, both new and old, find reunion groups (prayer and share groups) to join. Help us compile a list. Please tell us the day and time your group meets, the place, and a contact name, phone number and e-mail address.

Send the information to Cameron Cooke, the Secretariat member in charge of Fourth Day activities, at rcamcooke@yahoo.com, or by fax at 336-389-0060. Thank you.



Source: Episcopal Church Memes / Facebook

Christian communication

Jesus communicated directly with the crowds in many different situations, with people going away and discussing what he had said—sometimes praising God, other times plotting against him and his message.

Jesus spoke in parables so that the message required personal interpretation and contained many different layers. As we explore the scriptures and discuss them with others, additional insights emerge and deepen our understanding of Jesus' teaching. With his disciples.

Jesus had a relationship through ongoing oral and social interaction. Questions were asked, and explanations given. There is a clear parallel when we consider the importance of our Fourth Day reunion groups. These are an opportunity for group members to be in relationship where we can share aspects of our Christian journey, as we seek to share the gospel with others through actions and words.

There is also an opportunity to share the challenges we face in our daily lives, and in our ministry roles, and to celebrate the daily blessings we receive. Such support networks are not available for the majority of people in our society – the lonely, the confused, and those who have lost hope. These are the people Jesus targeted with his healing and teaching.

'Reunion groups [enable] group members to be in relationship where we can share aspects of our Christian journey [and] share the gospel with others through actions and words.'

How do we go about changing people's lives? It is through interaction; over morning tea, lunch, or a parish picnic. These activities are people-intensive to ensure everyone is included. Many churches undertake such ministry well, with regular activities and well-organized events. In these ways the church helps individuals and families reconnect with each other and the community.

We experience the richness of our church community in the groups we belong to and the relationships we enjoy. Outreach (Apostolic Action) is an opportunity for us as members of the Cursillo family to seek ways of extending this gift of Christian relationship to others.

[by Ivan Jones, Christchurch, New Zealand, diocesan spiritual director. From Kiwi Cursillo, the magazine for New Zealand Anglican Cursillo.]

Leader reflects on challenges, graces, presence of Holy Spirit at No. 104

by Dave Millar

Weekend Leader, No. 104, Aug. 8-11, 2013

By late morning on Thursday, the team began arriving at St. Christopher's in High Point for our three-day journey with the Lord. Tom Ham dropped the Cursillo trailer off in the parking lot, and coordinators and other team members unloaded necessary weekend items. Setup went smoothly, and at 3:30 p.m. we gathered for our team Eucharist – except for the sweet servants who were inflating air mattresses a couple of miles away at St. Mary's Community Life Center. They were preparing sleeping quarters there for ten team members and one participant to spend the next three nights.

Ready for servanthood

The Eucharist, complete with foot washing, healing, and commissioning, prepared each of us for becoming true servants in the Lord this weekend. After welcoming participants and sponsors with supper and getting logistics squared away, five women embarked upon their journey with Christ on N.C. Cursillo No. 104 Weekend.

The activities Thursday evening, all in the St. Timothy's sanctuary, were reflective and quiet. The assistant weekend leader, Gaynell Jennings, orchestrated a spiritual Stations of the Cross, touring the sanctuary and using flashlights effectively. As all departed in silence, God's presence was surely among us.

Friday morning brought an interesting challenge. The participant from St. Christopher's could not continue the weekend, because of health concerns, reducing the number of participants to four. In many ways, this became a "blessing in disguise." It led to the combination of two table leaders and four participants into one St. Peter's / Mary Magdalene table of six. I am convinced that is the best number for discussion and sharing; fewer people per table can be daunting. The team members' flexibility and willingness to step in where needed became evident. Emma Edsall volunteered to serve the rest of the weekend in the kitchen, enlarging that team to four, all of whom were needed, given the dynamics of the St. Christopher's undercroft. There were early "glitches" over introducing presenters and when the music team should play each presenter's designated song. But Friday slowly gathered

momentum. After the piety talk and weekend leader's remarks, participants and team members experienced a "piety chapel." Individually, each one had a chance to say "yes" to the Lord, either silently or corporately.

In the team's presentation of the day, after supper, we welcomed two judges, straight from the heart of New York City. Dynamics and logistics afforded us ample time for much needed rest Friday night.



Source: Episcopal Church Memes / Facebook

Participants' group evolves

On Saturday the table of six really started to jell and be molded together. They expressed a wish to have discussion and sharing without team members present, and the team respected those wishes. The Eucharist and healing service late Saturday morning after the Sacraments talk is the appropriate place in the weekend for this event to occur. It did cause us to alter the schedule slightly for lunch and the afternoon, but because of the small numbers it presented no problems. Just before supper, the participants were secluded in a separate room to read their personal palanca. I think this is an appropriate time in the weekend for that to happen. In the evening, we played a rousing game of "Jeopardy," and the evening ended a little early with an ice cream social in the church undercroft. (Continued on Page 7)

Leader reflects on challenges, graces, presence of Holy Spirit at No. 104 (Continued from Page 6)

After chapel on Sunday morning, the servant team greeted the participants with juice, muffins, and flowers in the vestibule of the church. We planned our Cursillo activities to avoid conflict with the worship by the Rev. Ken Kroohs and St. Christopher's congregation. After the environments talk, the table of St. Peter / Mary Magdalene processed to the prayer chapel for a meaningful time of prayer and reflection. The other two Sunday morning talks started about twenty minutes late, but the table members were still able to complete their Rule of Life and letters to God before lunch. Sunday afternoon talks and presentation of Sunday packets by the weekend secretary were completed only a few minutes later than scheduled. Singing "They Will Know We Are Christians by our Love," we processed to the sanctuary in joy and gratitude.

The closing Eucharist flowed fairly well. Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple picked up her cues seamlessly and graciously and challenged us to go forward, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many thanks to the Rev. Ken and Shirley Kroohs for orchestrating a wonderful reception in the parish hall. However, it is important for all team members to complete their "takedown duties" before they take part in the festivities of food, fellowship, and re-connecting with friends in Christ.

Dave Millar was the weekend leader for No. 104, Aug. 8-11, 2013. He made Tres Días No. 35 in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina in 1986 at Camp Gravatt in Aiken, S.C. He worships at All Saints', Concord.

In faith and service, she lived life to the fullest

Mary Jane Pugh made a strong statement about the importance of Cursillo in her life at her memorial service on Oct. 5 at St. Paul's in Cary. As she had requested, the members of both her reunion groups gathered at the front of the nave before the processional hymn. Together they recited the Prayer of the Holy Spirit ("Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful . . ."), which Cursillistas say to begin every reunion group.

**'She didn't let cancer define her.
She lived her life to the fullest.'**

The Rev. Candy Snively
at Mary Jane's funeral

Mary Jane made N.C. Cursillo No. 52 at Browns Summit in 1989. She stayed active as a Cursillista – attending Ultreyas, sponsoring candidates, serving on teams and the Secretariat, and attending reunion group meetings – the rest of her life. When recurrent cancer limited her physical activity, she stayed in touch by phone and e-mail.

"She didn't let cancer define her," said the Rev.

Candy Snively, who preached at the service. "She lived her life to the fullest."

An avid welcomer

She was born in Michigan and graduated from high school in Bender, Michigan. She received a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and a master's in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh.

For 53 years she was married to Harry Pugh, who died in 1999. When he retired in 1979, the Pughs moved to Cary and joined St. Paul's.

"She was active in many ministries there over the years," her obituary notice said, "but her favorite was always welcoming newcomers to the church and knitting them into the community." After she retired from Burroughs Wellcome in 1994, she volunteered in the surgical waiting room at Rex Hospital for 17 years.

Keeping up ties that bind

Mary Jane loved walking the beach on the Outer Banks, tending her many beautiful flower beds, playing bridge, and baking her famous blueberry pies and lemon cookies. (Continued on Page 8)

In faith and service, she lived life to the fullest

(Continued from Page 7)

She advocated passionately for what she believed in, and she was admired for standing up to say what needed to be said. "But most of all," the notice said, "she cherished personal relationships, and was always surrounded by people."

She kept up with college roommates, neighbors, and colleagues from Iowa, Charleston, W.Va., St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Apex and Cary. Instead of sending Christmas cards, she maintained connections in dozens of holiday phone calls every year.

"In her final days," the obituary said, "she clung to life so she could see and hear from the many friends and loved ones who will miss her dearly."

Surviving her are a son and daughter, four grandchildren, a step-daughter, two step-daughters-in-law, three step-grandsons and four step-great-grandchildren. A son, two step-sons and six brothers and sisters preceded her in death.

Instead of flowers, memorials are welcome to the Outreach Ministry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 221 Union Street, Cary NC 27511-3763.

Submitted by Steve Hoar, who made N.C. Cursillo No. 52, sat at St. Joseph's table and worships at Christ Church in Raleigh.

Cursillistas new and old: Here's why the Fourth Day needs you

By Gaynell Jennings

Assistant weekend leader, Cursillo No. 104

Hey, how's your Fourth Day going?

After every weekend we are reminded that Sunday begins our Fourth Day and that it will be for the rest of our lives. It is a time for learning, growing and receiving from God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

It is a time to refocus where our life is going and how we can do more to serve the Lord who has given us all we have.

This weekend I was with a group of wonderful women who have been growing in their walk with the Lord. All but three of them remembered that their walk began with Cursillo. They talked about how much they remembered their weekend, and of the impact of that time with God. Years later they are strong women of God who are continuing to learn, receive and trust in the Lord.

They may not remember the number of their weekend, but they talked about the talks they heard and who the speakers were. You may have been one of them. Of the many of you who have been involved in Cursillo, some were mentioned by name. And then for some the question came: "Are they still doing Cursillos?"

Are you? Cursillo is not a ministry that teaches a

denomination, it is in fact a ministry that teaches relationships and especially our relationship with God. It is reaching out to others to help them grow in the love of Jesus, and to understand the help that comes from the Holy Spirit. We learn that we are a body and that without you our body is incomplete.

Coming from all over the diocese, we gather as family. Like some families, we have disagreements; but each of us knows that God has called us all to spread the Good News.

Next spring we will be having Cursillo No. 105. Will you be there to share your Fourth Day with others? You are wanted, you are needed and you are welcome to come and work for the Lord that weekend either by serving on the team or by sponsoring a candidate.

If you want to receive information about the weekend, write to me; and when the date, location, and leader are announced you will receive that information and an application to serve or sponsor a candidate.

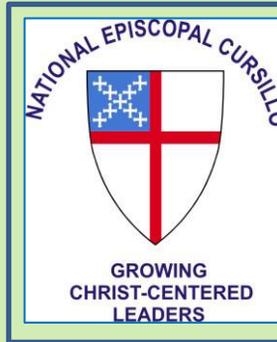
The Fourth Day needs you.

For information about the next weekend, send e-mail to Gaynell Jennings, Cursillo105@gmail.com.

North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Calendar 2013

Meeting Schedule:
November 16, 2013

Note: The meeting will be held at St. Clement's in Clemmons, NC. Meetings are expected to start at 10:00A.M., and be concluded by 2:30P.M. Secretariat meetings are always open and Cursillistas are encouraged to attend.



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