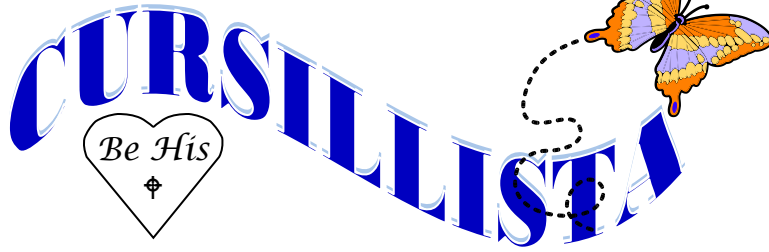


The National Presbyterian



*A News Magazine of the
National Council of
Presbyterian Fourth
Day Movements and the
National Council of
Presbyterian Cursillo*

Volume 14, No 1

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February, 2012

*Sad excerpts from the recent Shenandoah
Presbyterian Pilgrimage newsletter:*

SPP Goes Into Semi-Inactive Status

Your Secretariat met December 3, 2011 to discuss the future of the Shenandoah Presbyterian Pilgrimage Community. Due to lack of participation and support from the community the fall 2011 and spring 2012 weekends were cancelled. We decided to go into a semi-inactive status for now and see if interest develops to fully reactivate the Community in the future. Secretariat members agreeing to form a "Holding Committee" to keep communications going within the community are: Wanda Breedon, Russell Low, Jeanette McCloud, Jack Mohler, Ken Wilkinson and Mary Linda Wolfe. The Presbytery of the James' Pilgrimage Community hopes to be using our reservation at Camp Overlook for the fall weekend, October 11-14, 2012 since their previous location is no longer available. Jeanette McCloud has agreed to be the liaison between the two communities. She believes that a team is in the process of building at this time. Anyone interested in further information or volunteering may contact Jeanette at 434-589-1497 or jeanettemccloud@yahoo.com. We are asking the SPP Community to support and pray for this fall weekend.

Mary Linda Wolfe, wolfemld@gmail.com

Reunion Groups Urged To Continue And Invite New Pilgrims To Join

The Secretariat urges all active Reunion Groups in the SPP Community to stay active and invite additional Community members to join you. Any pilgrims sponsored by our community to the fall weekend will need a Reunion Group to join and we ask you to let us know if your group is open to receiving new pilgrims.

A Note From Your Outreach Chair, Wanda

I have been looking through some of my pilgrimage keepsakes and came across the talk that God lead me to share on SPP 29. It was on the topic Perseverance. It was about re entering the world after the last three days on the weekend. I introduce to those pilgrims a support network which could help them apply what was learned during their weekend. This network which links us all who have been a part of the SSP with other Christians who will provide the strength, support and challenge we need to continue to grow in God's grace. I'm challenging you now to help YOUR community to "keep the fire going". Talk to your friends, family. There is someone you know whoneeds this experience. There are plans for a 2012 fall weekend. I encourage you to sign up to team and recruit pilgrims. God loves you and so do I. De Colores Wanda Breedon

Rita, if it's the Holy Spirit who calls folks to our weekends, then it's not our fault if we don't have enough pilgrims. Right?



Wrong, Roy. Most folks are hard of listening and it takes people like us to help them hear what the Holy Spirit is saying.

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The Next Issue

I want to encourage you to respond to the issues discussed in the pages of this month's *Cursillista*. Please respond in particular to those issues dealing with the declining numbers of participants on our weekends and the viability of our pre-Cursillo/Pilgrimage and Post-Cursillo/Pilgrimage activities. The deadline for the next issue is March 31. *Tom*

Your very own
angel says:



God loves you every bit as
much on Valentine's Day as on
every other day of the year!

CURSILLISTA

The National
Presbyterian
February, 2012

A Publication of The National Council of Presbyterian
Fourth Day Movements and
The National Council of Presbyterian Cursillo

The Communities:

Alabama Presbyterian Cursillo
Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Chicagoland Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Colorado Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Eastern Oklahoma Presbyterian Cursillo
Eastern Virginia Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Florida Presbyterian Cursillo
Georgia Presbyterian Cursillo
Houston Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Indiana Presbyterian Cursillo
James (Virginia) Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Louisiana Presbyterian Cursillo
Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Mississippi Presbyterian Cursillo
Nebraska/Iowa Presbyterian Pilgrimage
North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage
North Texas Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Oklahoma Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Palo Duro (Texas) Presbyterian Cursillo
Peaks (Virginia) Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Shenandoah (Virginia) Presbyterian Pilgrimage
South Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo

Distribution of the *Cursillista*

Distribution of the *Cursillista* is a bit ad hoc—that is to say, improvised—where it even exists. Each issue is sent to someone in each community whose name has been given to me as the e-mail distributor for that community. That person may or may not actually e-mail the current issue to the fourth day of the community. In at least one case, the *Cursillista* is placed on the community web site. There is apparently a problem that some communities have distributing an e-mail attachment of more than 1MB. For that reason, I send it out in sections of less than 1MB. as well as in a single file containing the full version. Please help this work get into the hands of the fourth day. *Tom*

On receipt of the Shenandoah Presbyterian Pilgrimage newsletter, I asked several Cursillistas for their thoughts on our problem of declining numbers of pilgrims attending our weekends. The next four pages contain the responses I received.

Declining Attendance

Katie Booker (SCPP): “Our SC community has had its ups and downs, yet we have experienced steady growth through the years. I think we just have to keep on keepin’ on and trust God to guide us. SC has been blessed beyond belief in the past year!! The return to 2 weekends per year in the low country was a turn-around. The spring oyster roast and fall B-B-Q provided a less formal format, yet spiritually rich. The ultreya this past Saturday evening was attended by approximately 75 with 3 potential pilgrims there. A good lay witness talk is encouraging to everyone. Taking an offering at ultreyas brings additional money for scholarships. Serenades at Celebration weekends bring opportunity for more 4th Day fellowship, such a wonderful blessing as we support our youth and their leaders. Following the fall Pilgrimage weekend in October, we plan to hold an afternoon Homecoming ultreya at the pavilion at Camp St. Christopher. Then we will walk over to serenade the kids attending Celebration. What a spiritually charged event this will be-and something fresh and exciting.

“Perhaps some communities try to have too many weekends and ultreyas which can be too-too much for busy schedules and could lead to burnout. The rule of 1/3 which is taught in the leadership course should be promoted in all communities. This method of team selection promotes training at every weekend with 1/3 staff as first timers, 1/3 mid termers and 1/3 old timers. Trainers and mentors to support moderators are essential. ‘Road shows’ to low or non-participating churches has brought good results. I think the new church ambassador program promoting Pilgrimage in the local church will prove to be a great booster. Overall I see strong council leadership with accountability and high expectations as key in the recent renewal and growth in SC.”

Rick Goldmeyer(SCPP): “My primary concern continues to be the weekend cost! The superb financial support of the Charleston community in 2011 coupled with a strong outreach effort has made a noticeable difference in participation. It’s not the cost of the weekend as much as the leadership and enthusiasm reflected in the community that will make or break future participation.”

Mike Allen (SCPP): “It is clear that there are no guarantees that something like Pilgrimage will continue in the future. Cautious stewardship must be exercised by ministry leaders to keep going. We have made some important corrections under our current council, and the fruit was visible Saturday night in numbers, spirit, and provision. We are on a good track, enjoying God’s blessing on our ministry. But we must continue in the proactive promotion and reaching out to prospects, and getting new people involved to carry on.”

Phil Dunham (SCPP): “I would suggest the importance of reunion groups to the movement. That said, in my experience, that is where we are perhaps the weakest: there are some very strong reunion groups but I think they are rather few and far between. Perhaps that is an area we need to concentrate on in the coming year.”

Rev. George Lashley (FLPC) has served weekends in North Carolina, Colorado, Florida and Georgia. He says:

“I have been thinking about our Cursillo Communities, while I know a little about a few communities, I can only speak about Florida. Yes, Florida does a pretty good job of putting on a weekend in spite that we are poor at recruiting pilgrims. We are also poor at teaching our community how to recruit. Yes, we focus more on the warm and fuzzies rather than really emphasizing what we teach. This Holy Spirit we talk about is better caught than taught. The Holy Spirit has to be caught and then the pilgrim taught about what has happened. We have multiple problems and issues, but my biggest concern for Florida and for every other community is that **EVERYTHING RISES AND/OR FALLS ON LEADERSHIP!** Yours and mine.

“Maybe our communities have the same problem as our denomination, we are trying to be too broad and general with no standard or real sense of direction and purpose. Maybe we have lost or in the process of losing our MOJO (whatever that is).”

Dave Hamilton (ArPP) says:

“1. Most of us started on the wrong foot (and we are trying to nudge things in the right direction with the Training Program) by thinking Weekend, Weekend, Weekend! We never taught many of the communities that they needed to recruit, how to recruit, and how to keep the 4th Day engaged and active.

“2. The economy is having both a financial and emotional impact on us and our fellow Presbyterians. Most communities do have scholarship funds to help with the economic impact for the participants, but many in the 4th Day can't afford to staff and choose not to attend Closings, Ultreya's, etc. for financial reasons (I maybe see that more than in some communities, but a large percentage of our 4th Day lives 2 - 4 hours away from the camp/centroid where most of the Ultreya's. Also, many who are potential recruits are ‘hunkered down’ to weather the storm and less ‘approachable’.

“3. Re the emotional impact, I think that the current economic situation is quite traumatic for many in our 4th Day, either directly or via family members who are out of work, etc. I know that having one son out of work, dealing with a recent divorce, etc. can be very time consuming and has a lot of negative impact on our ability to focus on things outside our immediate realm. That situation gets further emphasized by the fact that the son without a job is ‘process’ oriented and not too great with handling financial and legal issues. This drags us further into the situation. When one gets ‘exhausted’ with these drains on their emotions and time, there is less a tendency to reach out.

“4. We have had difficulty starting and maintaining Renewal Groups. Had one early on, but it went down in flames when some of the members quit listening and started meddling. I have tried to start a ‘guys’ group several times, but can't get the commitment from the other guys in the Village. I have ended up being satisfied by an Ecumenical Bible Study group that has been going for many

years. This group has become very close (about 12 guys) over the years and no one wants to miss it. Many times we will meet on Tuesdays during holiday weeks. Great sharing and tolerance for other's perspectives and opinions. Several years ago, I made a couple of what seemed to be a small changes and it really had a major impact on the positive energy in the group. We have a pastor who is ‘our guide’, but we stopped a lecture format and went to a more open discussion structure. The latter was greatly impacted by changing the seating from ‘lecture’ seating (looking at each other's back) to sitting in a circle where everyone feels less structured and can relate more directly than the others in the group.

“5. Again, as we are saying in the Training Program, without a strong recruiting, sponsor, and Renewal/Ultreya background, many in the 4th Day become marginalized and just fade away. These areas need to receive more emphasis within the community and the community members need to realize that they can be more effective in the program by working in this part of the community than staffing Weekends. Oh, staffing is important - not only for the participants, but also for the staffers, but we are too far out of balance.

“6. I don't know how effective the ‘after’ program that Houston has developed is working, but something like that is probably a very valuable part of keeping the 4th Day involved.

“All that I say is true and those who attend Cursillo & Pilgrimage are better prepared to help in their own churches. However, those people need support and Cursillo/Pilgrimage in community is designed to accomplish that. I think that we probably need to stress that a participant/pilgrim left on their own will burn out and/or fade away to what they were before. The Renewal Groups, the Ultreya's, etc. are key to supporting those who have participated and to prepare the ongoing supply of new pilgrims.”

Tom Bullock (SCPP) Responded with A Shrinking Presbyterian Cursillo and Pilgrimage Movement: A Proposal for a Solution

“Tom Fox, Editor of the *Cursillista* and an energetic advocate for Cursillo / Pilgrimage has

framed alarming signs of a decline in the Movement we cherish for the life changing experiences God grants through it. The decline is bad news, but the good news is -- there is a path for reversing this trend. It will not be easy, because it will require a paradigm shift in our understanding and application of the purpose, the method, and the essence of the Movement.

“Tom asked us to limit our replies to one page, but this systemic problem requires multiple pages for a reversal and so I will offer an abstract on what brought us to this point and an overview of how we remedy it. Some of my rant may seem like scolding, but I beg you to be tolerant.

“I am convinced that this Movement was a gift from God to His people nearly 70 years ago and continues as a grace to us today.

“Its success in a society exhausted by a World War and, to a large extent, angry with God, and its subsequent worldwide application by over a hundred resulting expressions are evidence of this claim.

“The founders were steeped in prayer at every step of the development. Startling and sometimes miraculous incidences spurred the founders. God graced us with this Movement and we have an obligation to preserve the integrity of it. Our agreement with the United States National Secretariat granting us certain privileges states in part:

In order to have unity in the expression of the mentality of the founders of the Cursillo Movement, and to provide a criterion as to what constitutes an authentic movement, the following shall serve as basic norms: [We] must be faithful to the essence and purpose of the movement and operative (the method) in its three phases of Pre-Cursillo, 3-Day Cursillo, and Post-Cursillo, following the guidance of The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement (FICM) and the Manual of Presbyterian Cursillo (MPC).

“I have studied the FICM and supporting literature, our MPC, and the writings of other expressions (e.g. Episcopal Cursillo) and have concluded

that the Presbyterian expression of the movement has only partially adopted a faithful practice of the fundamentals of the Movement.

“We re-invent the purpose (there is evidence that we are now acknowledging the true purpose), ignore or misstate the essence, and replicate **OUR** method, injecting changes with little regard for God’s will or how it fits the purpose, method, or essence. We focus on the Weekend and neglect or misuse the other two phases.

“Our plan is to send people to the weekend and hope that they participate in the Fourth Day. The best and most active Fourth Day'er I know, first came to Group Reunion and then made his Weekend. He has been a vital force in the Cursillo method and movement and has become an innovator and leader in Christian ministry outside of Cursillo.

“The Fourth Day continues to be an afterthought. After the Mountaintop, we want to stay there (just as Peter, James, and John wanted to stay on the Mount of Transfiguration) rather than go back into the valley where the work is. We expect Ultreyas to recreate the euphoria of the mountaintop instead of spurring us to persevere.

“We think the Fourth Day is intended to support the Weekend, when in reality the Weekend is designed to support the Fourth Day.

“Likewise, we typically misunderstand the purpose and method of Pre-Weekend. We want the Weekend mountaintop experience without the planning and preparation of identifying where God is calling us and the nurturing of candidates before the three days. We fail to plan and that yields a plan for failure. We spend our energy in the Fourth Day preparing for the three days, rather than building the kingdom.

“Thankfully, the Weekends are essentially faithful to the Method. We were given a good outline by Fred Keith and the model we adopted from the Episcopalians here in SC was a good one.

“Tom has correctly begun the process of examination by calling Cursillo a *movement* rather than a

*ministry**. It is a gift from God that we have altered to fit our vision rather than His. Also, Tom invites an examination of our proclivity to emphasize the 'warm and fuzzy' and subverting or never expressing the real purpose. As Dostoevsky said, 'The worst enemies of a movement are those members who misunderstand the purpose.'

"I see the problem as systemic, but have some specific remedies. An examination of the American model for creating communities in the USA for all denominational expressions of the movement shows a pattern of initial enthusiasm and rapid growth followed by a decline and even collapse.

"The typical new American Cursillo community holds Weekends with great enthusiasm and then begins to fade. Some begin the process of maturing as they discover the true purpose of the Fourth Day to offer encouragement (Ultreya) and later they may finally begin to appreciate the importance of the Pre-Weekend phase.

"Tragically, most American movements never get to the stage of faithfully applying the principles of each of the three stages: Pre-Weekend, Weekend, and Post Weekend.

"The space limitation prevents specifics of ways *to have unity in the expression of the mentality of the founders* of seven decades ago but I will be happy to provide discussions and instructions of a Presbyterian adaptation of some of the FICM and other literature. There are some twenty titles covering the Pre-Weekend, the Post-Weekend, the Purpose, the Essence, and the Method.

"These documents are up to ten pages long and have the approval of the SC Presbyterian Pilgrimage (formerly Cursillo). For a catalog of titles to request your selections, contact me at tom.par@juno.com"

ULTREYA!!!

Tom Bullock, Presbyterian Cursillo #9

**In point of fact, I do see our Movement as a ministry, or at least as an expression of the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Tom

Issues

The comments listed above bring up a number of issues which deserve to be aired and considered at this time in which we are having difficulty keeping our movement actively growing.

Below, I have listed ten issues for discussion. I solicit your input.

1. How can we make actual, effective recruitment of participants a mainstream, ongoing effort of our movement?
2. How must we respond to the need to prepare participants in the Pre-Cursillo phase?
3. Are we trying to do too much ministry — too many weekends, Ultreyas, etc — or are we not doing enough, and need to become more purposeful and committed about what we are doing?
4. How can we control/reduce our costs — or do we need to increase our fundraising efforts?
5. How can we insure that most of our participant sponsors do most of what they're supposed to do for their participants, most of the time?
6. How can we increase participation in reunion/renewal groups substantially?
7. How can we increase interest and participation in Ultreyas and other gatherings?
8. How do we make major improvements in the education of our fourth day people about the purpose and methods of our movement?
9. How do we develop effective, informed, educated leadership?
10. How can we insure that our weekends conform more closely to the standards of our movement?

Tom

Response? t.f.fox@comcast.net

Our National Moderator, Beckey Lipe of Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo attended this year's Forum. Below is her report to us.

Forum of National Fourth Day Movements

This year marked the 19th year for the leadership of various Fourth Day Movements to meet. This year the meeting was in Winter Park Florida January 27-28. Movements in attendance this year were Kairos, Tres Dias, Via De Cristo, Walk to Emmaus, Episcopal Cursillo and Presbyterian Pilgrimage/Cursillo. Individual movements had 1 to 3 representatives present.

Topics varied throughout the meeting but many were related to the necessity to keep focused on our goal, which by the way is not to run weekends. To do this involves education all the way around. In particular all training should concentrate on the pre and post aspects of the movement most strongly as this is where we tend to be the weakest. This made me feel we, Cursillo/Pilgrimage, are doing the right thing with the training program we implemented.

There was discussion on how to monitor compliance within a program. The essential elements of the weekend are a must, but how do you mandate what you are asking your community to do? Several of the groups had checklists; one actually called it a wellness checklist, to be completed to identify what did and did not happen with respect to the essential elements of the weekend. These checklist sare a way to verify that the essential elements of the weekend remain intact, as well as identify both strengths and areas which could be improved.

The importance of being plugged into a renewal group and having a sponsor follow up and continue to encourage was also stressed. It was suggested that you could actually have a renewal group in lieu of discussion after the last talk. One person at the meeting remarked they still received letters from their sponsor some 14 years after attending a weekend. Underscoring this is that the fourth day is the rest of your life and not just a weekend.

What is the Forum of National Fourth Day Movements?

The annual gathering of seven major fourth day movements — those listed in Beckey's report plus the Roman Catholic National Secretariat — takes place early each year in Winter Park, Florida, a suburb of Orlando.

That is the location of the national headquarters of Kairos, the prison ministry version of Cursillo. Because of the relative immobility of many of their fourth day folks, Kairos depends on other fourth day movements to supply many of their weekend staffers.

The purpose of the Forum is basically to allow our movements to come together to discuss problems and opportunities we have in common.

The Forum itself is a low key gathering of perhaps 15 to 20 people. It begins Friday evening with dinner at some one's home. Saturday there is a day long gathering in a local church. During that gathering, people "let their hair down" and discuss what works and what doesn't work. It is that discussion that is the heart of the Forum.

It's very useful to join this mutual discussion, taking away some new ideas and contributing to the success of other movements within the Forum.

The gathering ends with everyone gathering for dinner Saturday evening at a local restaurant in the Orlando area..

If memory serves, movements must be represented in at least ten states to be eligible for membership. They must also comply with certain standards of operation set by the Forum. The Forum of course approves its own membership.

Presbyterian Cursillo is the smallest of the seven member movements.

I attended the Forum three times, learned a lot and benefited from all three.

Tom

An editorial:

The Forgotten Paragraph 2c)

Our agreement to use the name “Cursillo” contains a provision which many of our Cursillo communities, and probably virtually all of our Pilgrimage communities, have never fully recognized. The requirement, which is not mandatory for the Pilgrimage communities, is contained in paragraph 2c) of the covering letter to our license to use the name “Cursillo”. It reads:

2c) Each Presbyterian Cursillo Community must have a group (described as a School (Community) of Leaders in The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement) responsible for implementing the Cursillo Method properly and with particular attention to the Post-Cursillo needs of the Cursillistas. This group must meet regularly to (1) accelerate the progressive conversion of its own members as individuals, in the leaders’ community itself, and in the Movement as a whole, and (2) to promote the evangelization of environments.

No doubt each of our Cursillo communities simply combined this “School of Leaders” with the required Secretariat or Council and assigned that body the responsibilities of the “School of Leaders”. Over time, and with changing memberships, our Councils have perhaps come to overlook these responsibilities, and thus have not paid sufficient attention to “...implementing the Cursillo Method properly...”

This is likely one of the major reasons we have slipped away from the purpose of our movement and into “Warm and Fuzzy Mode”.

Required or not, such a “School of Leaders” would be a valuable tool for our Pilgrimage Communities in assuring that they maintain the proper emphasis on the fundamentals of the Cursillo Method movement,

What to do about it now? Consider this:

1. Create such a body in your Cursillo or Pilgrimage Movement, now—a body to make

sure that the fundamentals are followed—a body with the authority to enforce the fundamentals. Don’t even consider denying this body authority to enforce the fundamentals. Making this body bring requests for enforcement action to the community council, besides being a substantial waste of time, would be asking a group of folks who are not knowledgeable and trained in the fundamentals to rule on something about which they know little or nothing. This would probably make the entire process of the “School of Leaders” useless.

2. Train members of the “School of Leaders” (or whatever you call it) by asking them to read Dr. Fred Keith’s Manual of Presbyterian Cursillo. It would be useful for the members of the group to get together to study it.

3. Require members of the “School of Leaders” to read and become knowledgeable about the following:

The license agreement & covering letter
The by-laws of the National Council
The by-laws of your local council
The National Model for our weekend

4. Expect members to study The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement)

5. It would be very helpful for members of the group to attend one of the National Leadership Training sessions.

6. Require that any and all changes to the weekend schedule have approval of the “School of Leaders.”.

Much has been made over the years of the phrase “...evangelization of environments.” Today we seem comfortable with less volatile words than either of those “e” words, both of which have societal and political baggage. We often prefer to speak in terms of “reforming the community”, or some such. Be assured, however, that our purpose is still to have our participants, our new Cursillistas, return home from the weekend and take up some form of ministry, through the church, aimed at improving life and bringing their friends, relatives and neighbors closer to the lifestyle God intends for them.

Tom

How To Reach Out To Churches That Aren't Into Cursillo/Pilgrimage

There's almost a classic cycle—members of a church which hasn't had anyone attend one of our weekends before become pilgrims. They go back and tell their friends. More folks from that church attend—then still more. The church becomes very active in our fourth day and then, eventually, gradually, interest begins to lag.

People from that church still attend Ultreyas and work weekends, but not necessarily in active leadership positions.

A necessary part of that cycle is that members from another church start coming to our weekends and fourth day activities.

That needs to be an intentional part of our program, reaching out to 'new' congregations and recruiting pilgrims from them.

How? Several ways come to mind:

1. Identify several 'target' churches to which your community can reach out.
2. Ask a pastor in your existing community, possibly the spiritual advisor of your Council, to organize an effort to make and maintain contact with the pastors of those churches, encouraging them to attend a weekend and to send a trusted elder and spouse to attend. For large churches, it might be best to contact the member of the pastoral staff who is responsible for developing spirituality.
3. Have someone prepare a mailer to the 'target' churches. The mailer should include a mature, rational letter to the pastor explaining the movement in terms of its conformance with PC(USA) standards. There should be a 'poster' to attract attention of members of the church and a supply of application brochures. The letter is the most important element. If the pastor doesn't like what it says, the rest of the mailing will likely be trashed.

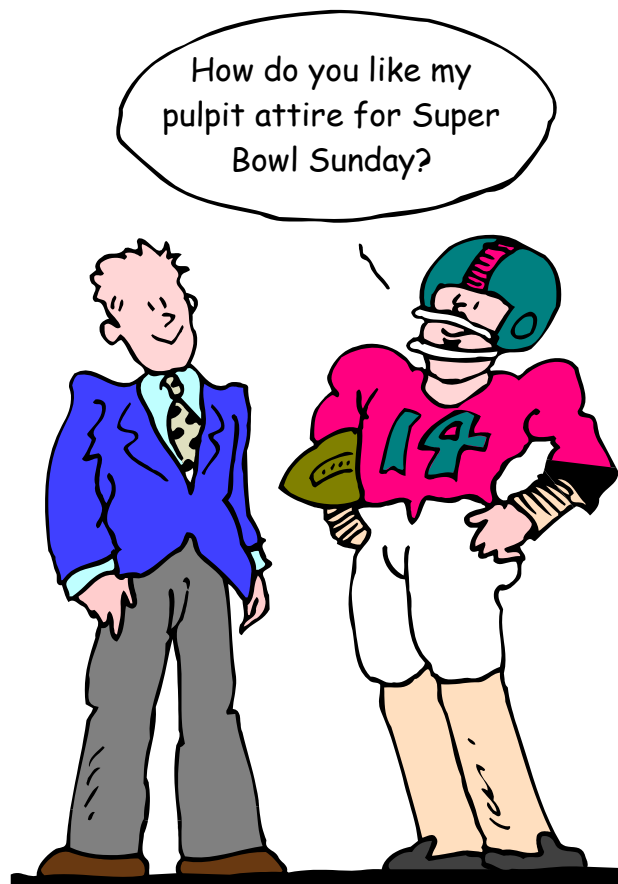
4. Circularize the list of 'target' churches among your community leadership, seeking folks who have acquaintances in listed congregations. These may be people with whom you've worked on Presbytery committees, or simply know from other activities.

5. Make a point of inviting folks from listed churches to attend our Ultreyas.

6. Take a group of your fourth day, including some music chas, to one or more of the listed churches to lead a sing along and present information about Cursillo/Pilgrimage as part of a church dinner or other occasion. In at least one case, such a group (a praise team) led worship on Sunday morning. As it turned out, the worship service was broadcast on a local radio station.

7. It is often helpful to be able to offer the services of one of your spiritual advisors to supply the pulpit at no charge when a pastor attends as a pilgrim. Clear this arrangement with both pastors, first.

Tom



Dave Hamilton of Arkansas provides this insight

Cursillo and Pilgrimage Are We Thinking “Inside the Box” - Together

We find ourselves anxious, frustrated, and concerned about the fact that the number of Participants and Pilgrims is down and it is difficult to form and maintain Renewal Groups – but are we just being anxious, frustrated, and concerned as individuals or as Cursillo and Pilgrimage Communities? Maybe we need to be thinking “outside the box” to come up with ways to involve all those in our community in developing strategies and PROACTIVE ways to add vigor and enthusiasm to our communities. How many thousands of members of the 4th Day are available to “make it happen” and how many thousands of Presbyterians or other Christians are available to be Participants or Pilgrims? The potential is great – what would God have US do with it.

However, we also need to be aware of where many of the answers are – “INSIDE THE BOX”. And what is the box – it is the Manual of Presbyterian Cursillo as written by Dr. Fred Keith. Many know what the Manual says as it relates to Weekends, but few know what it says about the fundamentals and mechanisms for having a successful community. Certainly little will change or improve without PROACTIVE action on the part of the whole community – but consider what there is to gain.

Let your National Council of Presbyterian 4th Day Movements and National Council of Presbyterian Cursillo help and support your community through the use by your community of the National Training Program. It is designed to be brought to your community where you can reach as broad a group of your 4th Day as possible. This National Training Program has now been presented 6 times and the National Councils are supporting and subsidizing the opportunity for you to make it available to your community (and neighboring communities, as well) at a site of your choosing! They are doing so by covering the cost of training materials and Trainer travel costs

What do you need to do to bring this 8 hour Program to your community?

Your Council/Secretariat needs to agree to sponsor this training in your community. This means that they will be responsible for all local logistics (meals, facilities, housing, assistance to the Trainer, etc.) and to adopt a nominal charge [normally \$10 - \$20 person] to cover local meal and facility costs.

Your Council/Secretariat, or a designated representative needs to contact one of the National Trainers [Bill Cowen - 703-528-8099; Dave Hamilton - 501-915-9015; or Bart Henson - 713-780-2138] to explore timing options and facility requirements.

Your community will need to develop and manage all local advertising, facilities, housing, meals, etc.

Help the National Councils to help your community. Don't try to go it alone. There are many ideas and concepts that you can take advantage.

Reach out for the Training Program!



What does it take to start a new Presbyterian Cursillo or Pilgrimage?

It takes vision - and a lot of hard, dedicated work - planning, recruiting, organizing. It also takes a champion - a local leader to pull it all together. Sometimes the best thing you can do is to interest and recruit such a person.

Cursillo and Pilgrimage are not "call up and order the kit" type of programs - they are people reflecting God's love.

Cursillo and Pilgrimage are three day spiritual retreats that require a bunch of people to staff and support them - as well as a place to house them.

Cursillo or Pilgrimage are just about the best gift you can give your community.

How It's Normally Done.

The process of getting a new Presbyterian Cursillo or Pilgrimage started usually goes something like:

Decide to explore the possibility of starting the new program. Two to six people from your area attend a Presbyterian Cursillo or Pilgrimage.

The group returns from the weekend, decides to pursue it further, and recruits more people to attend the next weekend. Some of the original group sign up to work staff that weekend.

Form a leadership group - a steering committee - and begin discussions of the 'how, when, where, and who' questions. Contact the council that sponsored the weekends you've attended. Advise them you'd like to consider forming a new group (we call them communities) and would they be willing to consider sponsoring your new community?

Continue building up your numbers and experience by having more people attend and help staff weekends. Come to an agreement with your sponsoring group. Visit and evaluate potential sites.

Your sponsoring community will appoint a trainer - someone with a lot of experience and ability. The trainer will be in charge of your first three weekends. Prepare to hold your first weekend.

You may be able to borrow some of the material things you'll need to hold your first weekend from the sponsoring community..

Begin early to recruit pilgrims to attend your first weekend. Since there are so many surprises in a weekend, it's difficult to explain to prospective pilgrims just what goes on - so allow a lot of time and effort for this crucial effort. Perhaps one community in three cancels its first weekend - often due to failure to recruit enough pilgrims.

Hold your first weekend! Critique, build up the resources you need for future weekends, hold your second and third weekends, be certified by the National Council - well done!

The "Niceties"

Like any national program, Presbyterian Cursillo and Pilgrimage communities must observe the 'niceties' - what are they and to what extent do they apply to you?

Taxes: The Cursillo or Pilgrimage community has obligations under tax law. There isn't room here to go into detail, but you're expected to file for a tax exemption letter with the IRS, and file an annual information return. Be sure to check your state requirements, too—for instance, you're probably liable for sales tax.

Insurance: You'll need insurance to protect the fourth day from potentially devastating liability.

Sponsorship: In order to become a certified Presbyterian Cursillo or Pilgrimage community, your group will get started under the sponsorship of an existing community. This will entail an agreement of the responsibilities and duties of each party.

The License: Cursillo was founded and is owned by the Roman Catholic Church. Our National Council holds a license from them to certify Cursillo communities. The principal issue of the license to our communities is that Cursillo communities may accept only members of Presbyterian churches as pilgrims or staff members. Some of our communities have chosen not to be bound by this requirement, and thus do not use the Cursillo name. They call themselves Presbyterian Pilgrim-

age. Other groups want to use Cursillo as their name and abide by the license.

The National By-Laws: The By-Laws of our National Council spell out much of what is required to operate a Presbyterian Cursillo or Pilgrimage. The most stringent of these rules deal with the schedules and activities of the retreat weekend itself. The fact that this amalgam of ordinary worship, study and fellowship works so extraordinarily well is not to be tampered with needlessly.

The Denomination: The only denominational connection we have is that each new group must have the approval of one of our governing bodies - a single Session or Presbytery.

What resources do you need to conduct a Presbyterian Cursillo or Pilgrimage?

People: The most critical need is for people. Weekends typically average about thirty pilgrims (though they run anywhere from 15 to 45). You need about 32-35 staff members for a typical weekend. They usually include 3 clergy and 3 to 5 musicians. This does not include kitchen help. There is also a need for several other people to take active roles in support of each weekend.

Someplace to hold it: This will be a fairly extensive facility - it must provide sleeping rooms for everybody - preferably no more than two to a room. It must feed everyone in one room at one time. It must have another single room in which the whole group can assemble - to include five or six groups of 7 or 8 at tables. It must have a room which can be used as a chapel - seating everyone in the group - for the weekend. It must have one or more work rooms for the staff. If nothing else, this will take at least two sleeping rooms - not available for anyone to occupy. These are minimum requirements. The bottom line: You need more space than you think you do.

Materials: Cursillo uses a whole lot of stuff! That's not immediately obvious to the pilgrim, but if you've attended a weekend, think back. If you've staffed a weekend - you may understand the problem. Much of it will have to be purchased, or donated. There's quite a lot of printed material - including your own song books. Some materials can be made by members of your community. Al-

so needed will be bins and boxes to store the stuff in, and access to a trailer or truck to move it all in.

Cost: A typical weekend can cost somewhere in the range of \$12,000 to \$20,000. Most of this can be borne by pilgrim and staff fees. Staff pay their own way - and they're there for four nights! How much you charge pilgrims is up to you - and your available funds. Some communities avoid charging pilgrim fees by various means (donations, sponsors paying for pilgrims, etc.) Other, non-weekend costs are usually minimal. *Tom*

Web Sites

About Presbyterian Cursillo and Pilgrimage in General

www.Days3.com

www.cursillo.com

Web sites of specific communities

Alabama www.alpresbyteriancursillo.com

Arkansas www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org

Autin www.austinpresbyterianpilgrimage.org

Chicagoland www.chpilgrimage.org

Colorado www.coloradopilgrimage.org

Eastern Oklahoma

www.geocities.com/eopcursillo

*** **Eastern Virginia** www.days3.com/EV.htm

Florida www.floridacursillo.org

Georgia

www.georgiapresbyteriancursillo.com

Great Plains Omaha) www.gpppilgrimage.org

Houston www.houstoncursillo.org

Indiana www.ipcursillo.org

James Virginia www.PJPilgrimage.org

Louisiana

www.louisianapresbyteriancursillo.org

Michigan www.mppilgrimage.org

Mississippi www.mspsbyteriancursillo.com

North Carolina www.ncpilgrimage.org

North Texas Adult: www.ntpp.org

Youth: www.northtexascelebration.com

Oklahoma www.days3.com/OK.htm

Palo Duro www.paloduropresbytery.org

Peaks Virginia - www.peakspresbytery.org/pilgrimage.html

Shenandoah Virginia - www.math.jmu.edu/~sanders/SPP.html

South Carolina

www.scpresbyterianpilgrimage.org

Tennessee Valley www.cursillo.com/tvpc.htm

*** The community does not yet have it's own separate web site. This will take you to the community web page in our national web site.

Weekends Currently Scheduled

Adult Weekends **College Age Weekends** **High School Age Weekends**

Dates	Weekend	Lay Leader
Jan 14 to 16, 2012	North Texas Celebration # 13	Marcella Jimenez
Jan 14 to 16, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Arise # 36 Central	Ellen Quinlan
Jan 14 to 16, 2012	Houston Area Celebration # 12	Brian O'Donnell
Feb 9 to 12, 2012	Houston Presbyterian Cursillo #66	Gayle Price
Feb 9 to 12, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 110	Mari Jo Dryden
Mar 1 to 4, 2012	North Texas Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 32	Emily Nichols
Mar 1 to 4, 2012	Oklahoma Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 47	Jayne Spies
Mar 1 to 4, 2012	Austin Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 33	Diane Pollard
Mar 1 to 4, 2012	Louisiana Presbyterian Cursillo # 7	Cindy Rowan
Mar 15-18, 2012	Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 20-Detroit	Jane Either
Mar 29 to Apr 1, 2012	Georgia Presbyterian Cursillo # 40	Dave Elkins
Mar	North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 111	Jo Nance
Apr 12 to 15, 2012	Alabama Presbyterian Cursillo # 28	Ames Yokel
Apr 12 to 15, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 112	Scott Carr
Apr 19 to 22, 2012	Peaks Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 48	TBA
Apr 19 to 22, 2012	Nebraska/Iowa Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 11	Chuck Shafer
Apr 19 to 22, 2012	Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo # 18	Laurel Blackwell
Apr 19 to 22, 2012	Houston Presbyterian Cursillo # 67	Elizabeth Reaves
Apr 26 to 29, 2012	Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 16	Madeleine Middleton
Apr 26 to 29, 2012	Chicagoland Presbyterian Pilgrimage #22	Karen Bregman
Apr 26 to 29, 2012	Florida Presbyterian Cursillo # 7	TBA
Apr 26 to 29, 2012	Colorado Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 25	Jim Chamley
Apr 26 to 29, 2012	Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 21	Carol Pierce
Apr 27 to 29, 2012	South Carolina Celebration # 35	Jacob Woelke
May 3 to 6, 2012	South Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 62	Steve Brown
May 3 to 6, 2012	Mississippi Presbyterian Cursillo # 9	Tom McIlwain
May 17 to 20, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 113	Ann Hooker
Jun 22 to 24, 2012	Oklahoma Celebration # 32	TBA
Jul 13 to 15, 2012	Houston Area Celebration #13	TBA
Aug 3 to 5, 2012	North Texas Celebration #14 (Tentative)	Blake Howell
Aug 16 to 19, 2012	Georgia Presbyterian Cursillo # 41	Bob Gilbert
Aug 23 to 26, 2012	Louisiana Presbyterian Cursillo # 8	Greg Roch
Sep 1 to 3, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Arise # 37 East	TBA
Sep 1 to 3, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Arise # 38 West	TBA
Sep 20 to 23, 2012	Alabama Presbyterian Cursillo # 29	Lacie Maynard
Sep 20 to 23, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 114	Hal Hester
Sep 27 to 30, 2012	Mississippi Presbyterian Cursillo # 10	Linda McDowell
?	Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 22-Detroit	TBA
Oct 4 to 7, 2012	South Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 63	Adair McCoy
Oct 4 to 7, 2012	Oklahoma Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 48	TBA
Oct 11 to 14, 2012	Shenandoah & James Combined Weekend (Tentative)	TBA
Oct 11 to 14, 2012	Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo # 19	TBA
Oct 11 to 14, 2012	North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 115	Doug Brinkley
Oct 18 to 21, 2012	North Texas Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 33	Carla Szafran
Oct 18 to 21, 2012	Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 17	Janice Ray
Oct 18 to 21, 2012	Peaks Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 49	TBA
Oct 18 to 21, 2012	Nebraska/Iowa Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 12	Carol Rudesill
Oct 18 to 21, 2012	Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 23	TBA
Oct 19 to 21, 2012	South Carolina Celebration # 36	TBA
Oct 25 to 28, 2012	Colorado Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 26	David Conway
Nov 1 to 4, 2012	Florida Presbyterian Cursillo # 8	TBA
Nov 1 to 4, 2012	Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo # 26	Earlene Pike
Apr 18 to 21, 2013	Peaks Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 50!	TBA
Apr 18 to 21, 2013	Nebraska/Iowa Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 13	TBA
May 2 to 5, 2013	Mississippi Presbyterian Cursillo # 11	Woodie Cowart
Sep 26 to 29, 2013	Mississippi Presbyterian Cursillo # 12	Lea Ann McElroy
Oct 24 to 27, 2013	Nebraska/Iowa Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage # 14	TBA

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