



The new members of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) gathered on Wednesday, January 23, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, which is just east of Charleston, to begin an orientation session with Ted Ederer and Judy Hood as to their roles and responsibilities as NECC members. The new members are Denny Walters (San Diego), Debi Rhine (Los Angeles), Missi Kern (Colorado), The Rev. Pat Miller (West Missouri), B. J. Roy (Arkansas), Barbara Taylor (Long Island), The Rev. Bob Kerner (Southern Virginia) and The Rev. Gene Wise (Tennessee). The continuing members arrived to begin meetings Thursday afternoon, January 24, as the NECC embarked upon a new, shortened but jam-packed,

schedule that we hope will make it easier for more people to serve. St. Andrew's Church, led by The Rev. Steve Wood, is the seventh largest Episcopal Church in the United States and a church that was just bustling with activity throughout our stay. We shared Eucharist on Sunday with about 2000 parishioners. We were transported, fed and housed in wonderful Southern hospitality fashion by a group of Cursillistas organized by John Hood.

On Thursday evening we began the process of **Piety, Study and Action** by spending time with the Rt. Rev. Edward Salmon, the Bishop of South Carolina, as he shared the very positive impact of Cursillo on the Church in South Carolina during his many years of service. Bishop Salmon then preached and celebrated Eucharist with us. Following introductions at dinner, we had a great discussion on the book each of us had read in advance - *The Gospel according to Starbucks: Living with a Grande Passion* by Leonard Sweet. Think EPIC – experiential, participatory, image-rich and connective – and how it might apply to Cursillo and individual churches. I think each member of the NECC would highly recommend reading this book.



The NECC spent virtually all day Friday and Saturday in meetings: district meetings, subcommittee meetings and business meetings. A great deal of very good work was done. For the first time all five districts have district meetings planned and scheduled. They are:

- West: April 12 at Trinity Cathedral in San Jose, California
- North Central: April 12-13 at Trinity Cathedral in Davenport, Iowa
- South Central: May 12 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Northeast: April 18-19 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Ambler, Pennsylvania
- Southeast: June 6-7 in Gastonia, North Carolina

Contact your representatives to get more information and plan on attending. The districts also began targeting dioceses for renewal.

The subcommittees not only set goals for the year but began the work itself. **Publications** completed a manuscript entitled "Strategies for Restarting/Renewing Cursillo Movements in Dioceses" that will be reviewed and voted upon by the NECC by e-mail. It should be ready for publication this spring. The subcommittee has plans to complete three other manuscript revisions in 2008. Finally, the subcommittee submitted and had approved motions for improvement to the book store at seminars. One is to authorize the sale of Diocesan Movement developed song books and other publications that have the necessary copyrights. **Cursillo Leaders Development** discussed how to approach a "Back to the Mountain" program that will be available to dioceses. It was decided to develop a data base that will be available to Diocesan Movements so they can see what other dioceses have done. Dioceses with such programs are encouraged to submit copies of materials to Thom Neal for inclusion in the data base. CLD will also be working on a questionnaire for bishops, will continue to encourage ECLW's, and will continue to monitor the health of the Movement throughout the country; looking

for ways to help such as through consultants. In addition CLD is looking into a project called “Cross-Pollination” that might enable more contact among neighboring Diocesan Movements. **Communications** – a newly formed subcommittee – has an ambitious schedule for 2008. A new and improved web site design has been developed with a new site provider and is either up as this is being circulated or will be up shortly. The subcommittee will continue to look to upgrade the web site, is looking to develop an electronic version of the 4th Day Magazine, is working on a letter on the NEC to be included in the packet for all new Cursillistas, is working on updating and merging data bases and looking into ways that the NECC can better market the Cursillo Movement. **Executive** had a full plate of work to do. It reviewed the outstanding work of the new **Seminar Servant Community**, chaired by Joe Welch, and made recommendations for approval of many items connected with the NEC Seminar to be held at Daytona Beach, Florida October 23-26. It reviewed and revised a proposed new Pastoral Plan to be submitted to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori for her review and input. It interviewed and proposed the election of David Millar, a former NECC member from the Diocese of North Carolina, as Treasurer of the NECC, to begin his term upon the retirement of Gary Rose as treasurer in October.

At the business meetings there was a full discussion of finances, including the continued need for diocesan contributions and the fact that a letter requesting contributions by individuals will be sent out in March and a report by Bishop Scarfe on the meeting of the House of Bishops and matters related to the national church. The following **additional actions** were taken:



- Seminar Servant Community Proposals: The schedule for the seminar was approved; the budget was approved with a couple of corrections based upon last year – noting that the hotel still is finalizing meal costs and the need to clarify publicity costs; the processing fee was reduced; Rev. Barbara Crafton – see web site at [Geranium Farm](http://www.geraniumfarm.org) (www.geraniumfarm.org) - as the keynoter was approved; the quilt project was approved; vendors were approved using the same process and contract as last year; and the workshop topics and speakers were approved with input from the NECC on how they might be expanded.
- Treasurer: David Millar was elected to serve as Treasurer beginning in October 2008.
- The exportation of Cursillo by the Diocesan Movement of Upper South Carolina to Central Ecuador and by the Diocesan Movement of Dallas/Fort Worth to Namirembe were approved.

- The Pastoral Plan was approved by e-mail following the meeting.

We had a wonderful gathering at the Ultreya on Friday evening with lively music provided by musicians at St. Andrew’s and great food. Missi Kern gave the lay talk, covering the “Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ” theme and sharing about friends that God has placed in her midst and the blessings she and they have experienced. Doug VanDemark and The Rev. Pat Miller provided the lay and Gospel responses. We had dinner with our hosts at a restaurant near the coast Saturday evening, went to church Sunday morning and began our treks home. It was good to be South Carolina.



The following Saturday, Ted Ederer and Judy Hood attended a gathering of 4th Day communities in Winter Park, Florida. Attending were representatives of Roman Catholic Cursillo, Presbyterian Cursillo, Methodist Walk to Emmaus, Lutheran Via de Christo, interdenominational Tres Dias and Kairos. The representatives shared viewpoints on issues common to all or many. Four days later we were notified that Eduardo Bonnin, the founder of Cursillo in Spain, had passed away. He certainly lived a life filled with joy and servanthood as he founded a movement that has brought so many, many to a closer relationship with Jesus.

Seminar in Daytona Beach, Florida

“Come to the Waters” is the theme for Seminar 2008 in Daytona Beach, Florida, October 23-26. It is not too early to make plans. Watch future *News Notes*, on-line at www.episcopalcursillo.org, and in the *4th Day Magazine* for information about the Seminar and registration forms.

Essential Information

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Please contribute to the continuing work of the NECC by sending a tax-deductible check made out in whatever amount you can afford to FRIENDS OF CURSILLO at the address above.

Remember that an Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop (ECLW) is an excellent way to strengthen your movement, and that you can watch the website (www.episcopalcurso.org) and *The 4th Day Magazine* for schedules or you can send requests for information to moorenjnc@yahoo.com.

A subscription to *The 4th Day Magazine* is a wonderful way for sponsors to give to candidates added help in living the fourth day.