

PALANCA PRESS

VOL. 5/NO. 2 NEWS OF MINNESOTA UNITED CURSILLO

MAY 1988

SUPPORT MAY CURSILLOS AT 1ST PRESBYTERIAN/STILLWATER

United Cursillos #45 and 46 will take place May 12-15 (Men's) and May 19-22 (Women's) at 1st Presbyterian Church, Stillwater. The men's Sunday morning serenade is open to members of the 4th Day. The women's serenade is closed (team and sponsors only). Sunday evening serenades are at 5:30 p.m. and open to all 4th Dayers. Scriptural reference for the men's weekend is Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Scriptural reference for the women's weekend is Ezekiel 36:26, "And I will give you a new heart..." Rector is Chris Iselin (Colonial); rectora is Sue Silker (Eden Prairie Presbyterian).

NEW CHURCH IS UCC/LAKEVILLE

United Cursillo policy allows one "new church" to participate in each Cursillo weekend. Usually the new church's senior minister and spouse, along with a lay member or couple, go through the weekend together. For the May pair of weekends, the new church is UCC/Lakeville. Please support these soon-to-be 4th Dayers with your prayers and palanca:

Rev. Richard Lee and Cynthia Nichols

NEED PALANCA IDEAS? CALL THESE PEOPLE...

Men's weekend

Chris Iselin (rector)	941-8824
Doug Grabham (kitchen rector)	926-3459
Pete Allard (4th Day rector)	473-5752

Women's weekend

Sue Silker (rectora)	935-4705
Susan Lindvall (kitchen rectora)	827-0457
Anita Weber (4th Day rectora)	439-0707

Remember that a form of palanca that is always welcomed by the team is cleanup following the Saturday evening Agape dinner, and again Sunday evening following the clausura.

UNITED CURSILLO FUTURE DATES

United Cursillo #48 (Single women's)
July 21-24, 1988
Peace Presbyterian/St. Louis Park

Deadline for applications: June 7, 1988

OUT-OF-STATERS: CAN YOU SEND PALANCA?

What is your best memory of your Cursillo weekend? For many, it is the palanca, in all its forms. For some it was fish crackers, for others, Rollo brand candy, and for others, a palanca note from someone in Chattanooga or Nome, Alaska.

Recent United Cursillos have been blessed with plentiful palanca, but one area that has been lacking has been "notes from afar." So, if you're reading this letter from California or Wisconsin or New York, please give some thought to sending a palanca note to upcoming weekends. Simply address your letter or note to "Men of United Cursillo #45" or "Women of United Cursillo #46." Mail your notes to Linda Dahl, 573 Atlantic Hills Drive, Eagan, MN 55123, and she will see that they get to the weekend.

CURSILLO WEEKEND WATCH

Weekend: Date (1988): Location: Rector(a) Spiritual Dir: Asst. SD: Palanca SD:	#45 (Men's) May 12-15 1st Presby/ Stillwater Chris Iselin Ray Boehlke Jerry Utecht Mark Magnuson	#46 (Women's) May 19-22 1st Presby/ Stillwater Sue Silker Merle Strohbein Deb DeMeester Cindy Shepherd	(no weekend scheduled)	#48 (Sngl Wom) July 21-24 Peace Presby/ St Louis Park Jan Tellijohn Verda Aegerte Linda Ellis Ray Fenton
Weekend: Date (88/89): Location: Rector(a) Spiritual Dir: Asst. SD: Palanca SD:	#49 (Men's) Oct 13-17 1st Presby/ Albert Lea (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)	#50 (Women's) Oct 20-23 1st Presby/ Albert Lea (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)	#51 (Men's) Jan 19-22 Colonial/Edina (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)	#52 (Women's) Jan 26-28 Colonial/Edina (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)
Weekend: Date (1989): Location: Rector(a) Spiritual Dir: Asst. SD: Palanca SD:	#53 (Men's) May 12-15 Wayzata Cmty (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)	#54 (Women's) May 19-22 Wayzata Cmty (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)	(no weekend scheduled)	#56 (Single's) Aug 3-6 Peace Reformed/ Eagan (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned) (unassigned)

NOTE TO CLERGY: The Spiritual Director and other clergy positions are the most difficult slots to fill on any Cursillo weekend. If one of these weekends can be worked into your schedule and you would like to serve, please contact a member of the Minnesota United Council Leadership Development Committee -- Mike Anderson, Chairman (920-1261), Rev. Doug Roper (474-1346) or Rev. Paul Waite (788-0053).

TEAM ROSTER -- UNITED MEN'S #45

Rector: Chris Iselin
Asst. rectors: Tom Gulliford
Ken McCullough
Jeff Pope
Spiritual Dir: Ray Boehlke
Asst. S.D.: Jeff Utecht
Music Dir: Rick Marasco
Rollo room: Gary Dockter
John Elsing
Roger Gay
Bill LaPorte
Ron Legg
Elgin Manhard
Daniel Przybylski
Steve Smith
Skip Sponsel
Tom Tibbetts
Lyle Williams
4th Day rector: Pete Allard
Asst. rector: Jim Justus
Bob Storeygard
4th Day team: Richard Carlson
Leo Gehlhoff
Myron Gilbertson
Vince Gin
Bill Howell
Jim Purcell
Ken Rud
Todd Williams
Kitchen rector: Doug Grabham
Kitchen team: Bob Cordell
Ron Helminiak
Rick Irvin
Dick Longsdorf
Mike Lyner
Lyle Merriman
Jim Prichard
Jim Sievert
Bill White
Palanca rector: Kirk Roebken
Asst. rector: Christian Binner
Palanca S.D.: Mark Magnuson
Palanca team: Dominic Arbisi
Mac Barlass
James Buelow
Dick Frandeen
Alec Janes
Greg Loffhegen
Dave Looby
John Schmidt

TEAM ROSTER -- UNITED WOMEN'S #46

Rectora: Sue Silker
Asst. rectoras: Beth Cone
Diana Waterbury
Peggy Zender
Spiritual Dir: Merle Strohbahn
Asst. S.D.: Deb DeMeester
Music Dir: Margaret Irwin
Rollistas: Mary Curtis
Diana Sievers
Karen Skoog
Marlene Kundel
Rosalie Schlichting
Sharon Rhodes
Table leaders: Margaret Stuart
Marge Stephens
Sue Swain
Diane Schneider
Joann Looby
4th Day rectora: Anita Weber
Asst. rectora: Glenda Albright
4th Day team: Cindy Brandt
Diane Goette
Barb LaPorte
Jean Martens
Helen Oreck
Elise Pelchek
Gloria Smith
Diane Staus
Chris Windmiller
Barbara Wright
Kitchen rectora: Susan Lindvall
Asst. rectora: Kathy Randall
Kitchen team: Jane Kise
Judy Lewis
Doprie Dahlberg
Janet Sterk
Suzanne Nelson
Roxanne Legg
Margoeie Williams
Paula Uvodich
Nancy Fields
Palanca rectora: Kathy Downing
Asst. rectora: Nan Edlund
Palanca S.D.: Cindy Shepherd
Palanca team: Carmella Anderson
Mary Johnson
Denise McNaught
Grace Ramseyer
Patti Ward
Lucy Quaintance
Cherrie Middleton
Carol Parrott
Bonnie Lewis
Marcia Bussey
Kay Dickson

CONVENOR'S NOTEBOOK...

By Dave Appelhof

Each of us as 4th Dayers has experienced the beautiful gift of Cursillo. Now each of you parents of youth has the opportunity to encourage your teenagers to participate in a TEC weekend (Teens Encounter Christ). What a powerful experience we are now in the process of offering our youth...in mid-April, 48 youth from grades 9-12 were able to experience their first TEC weekend. In addition, 50-60 teenagers and a few adults served on that team. In addition, many of you in the 4th Day community contributed "wheat" (TEC palanca) and offered your prayers to the team and TEC weekenders. These were greatly appreciated.

One of the great thrills of Cursillo is that it provides many gifts of unconditional love demonstrated by 4th Dayers and the weekend team. Whatever these gifts are -- the agape dinner, notes to the weekenders, a rollo, serenading, or the rousing welcome that greets weekenders at the clausura -- these all help to make the Cursillo experience special.

It is in regard to these special gifts that the council again wants to remind 4th Dayers about the issue of participation in weekends by children -- by including your children in parts of the weekend (e.g., clausuras, serenades, rollo send-offs), you run the risk of jeopardizing their joy and surprise at some later date, and lessening the impact, when they attend TEC or a Cursillo weekend.

The following council action, also involving TEC and children, followed a lengthy discussion at a recent council meeting... the issue has to do with the TEC/Cursillo relationship as it relates to kids who have been a part of TEC and later want to serve on a Cursillo team. The council will allow a person who has attended a TEC weekend to serve on a Cursillo team providing that person is at least 21 years old. However, we believe that some TEC "graduates" may want to experience their own Cursillo and therefore may want to wait and participate as a Cursillo weekender before volunteering to serve on a Cursillo team.

I and the entire council are thrilled to welcome the newly-formed United TEC council. We encourage you to pray for the new TEC council, with Robin Berg as convenor, and for all future TEC candidates and team members. The United Cursillo council is pleased to have the United TEC council join us as partners in our daily walk with God.

Dave Appelhof, Convenor

UNITED CURSILLO #43 WEEKENDERS (1/88 -- HOPE PRESBYTERIAN)

Gary Afdahl	Dan Brodin	Larry Brown
Noel Dikkers	Ronald Erickson	Tony Fink
John Haveman	Charles Heubach	Kenneth Howes
Vern Ingvalson	Bob Johnston	Jon Kerrick
Thane Lewis	Sheldon Manthei	Dick Martin
Henry Matz	Don McNair	Ron Meinke
Bob Moore	Steve Olsen	John Potts
Neal Powell	Clinton Rodquist	Harry Scott
Dick Shepard	Wayne Smith	Scott Stamp
Jim Strike	Jamie Swanson	Peter Ulland
Hugh Van Schooneveld	Michael Vanderford	Daniel Verdoorn
Daniel Wallace	Harry Woodward	Bob Wotherspoon

A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S LOVE

By "A.E."

I could in no way fully write or even speak on what it means to me, being in the Kairos weekend retreat of February 12-15 held here in FCI/Sandstone (Federal Correctional Institute, Sandstone, Minn.). The last two days and nights before the Kairos weekend were the darkest days of my life. I was saddled with an inexpressible grief and sorrow. I felt alone in the whole world that was so dark and empty. I had been separated from my old and sick father. I couldn't deal with the reason for this separation. I felt that my life was not worth it if I can not be with my father at this very time that he needed me most. I am not sure that I could have made it through the third night, which was Friday, February 12, the first day of the Kairos weekend.

At about 3:30 a.m. that Friday, I still could not get my night's sleep. I wrote what could be called a suicide note to my only sister, and was to mail it to her that Friday night. I had always known that suicide is an immortal sin against God, but at the point I was, I felt the Lord Jesus whom I believe had been calling on me, guided me to the Kairos weekend.

That evening, through Brother Dick, God made me feel that I am loved and that I am not alone. In my second day in Kairos, my life was in union with the Lord. By the end of the inexpressible, glorious and joyful Kairos weekend, I did not only learn what the power of Christian love can do, I realized my goal and the strength in me to fulfill my goal.

I do not claim that I have already succeeded or am perfect. I will keep striving to win the prize for which Jesus Christ has already won me to himself. I do not think that I have already won it all, but however I will put all my past behind me, and now run straight toward that goal in order to win the prize which is God's call through Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:12-14)

I will keep praying to God, to grant to each and every one of you brothers and sisters in Christ, The Holy Spirit of God, and to provide for you anything you might need for this God's service. For me, the love of God which I received through the Kairos weekend, will I share with whosoever that needs it. I love you all.

(Editor's Note: The above article is actually a letter from a Christian brother from Nigeria who attended a recent Kairos weekend at the Sandstone prison. Kairos is a prison version of Cursillo. The team is made up of all four of the Cursillo communities.)

If you are looking for a way to be involved in your 4th Day, Kairos may be the answer. Kairos is in need of team members -- both lay and spiritual directors. If you can help in any way -- banners, palanca, etc. -- contact Madonna Kerber, 474-8189 or Glen Silker, 835-1811.)

UNITED CURSILLO #44 WEEKENDERS (1/88 -- HOPE PRESBYTERIAN)

Carol Afdahl	Petra Brodin	Loyce Brown
Linda Carpenter	Dorothy Cummings	Joan Dikkers
Marti Erickson	Brenda Gowan	Terri Haveman
Linda Heubach	Sharon Howes	Mar Ingvalson
Sheri Johnston	Kay Kerrick	Sheryl McNair
Lee Peterson	Kerry Manthei	Mary Martin
Donna Meinke	Jody Potts	Mari Powell
Lil Rodquist	Julia Ruggieri	Alice Shepard
Evelyn Smith	Lucia Stamp	Judy Stinson
Sue Chapin-Strike	Sharon Swanson	Jean Marie Ulland
Mary Vanderford	Liz Van Schooneveld	Judy Verdoorn
Connie Walsh	Margaret Wotherspoon	Mary Woodward

THE SPONSOR'S ROLE IN THE CURSILLO EXPERIENCE By JoAnn Campbell

The cross we receive on our Cursillo weekend is inscribed "Christ is counting on you." One way we as 4th Dayers respond to this call is by giving a friend the opportunity to experience a Cursillo weekend. If you will be sponsoring a friend in the future, please give consideration to the following guidelines.

Begin now by praying for the weekender that God would ease any anxieties they may have, and open their hearts and minds to a new Christian experience. If you do not know the person well, spend time to get to know them better. They may be hesitant about this and need your guidance. Answer their questions about Cursillo as honestly as you can. Encourage them to be committed to attend the weekend once they have accepted. Last minute cancellations create an administrative nightmare and may cause some other candidate to miss the Cursillo experience.

If you suspect the weekender may be uncomfortable with some aspect of the Cursillo experience, try to ease their concern and if necessary, consult your clergy or the rector/rectora of the weekend so they are aware and ready to help assure the weekender about the experience. Keep in mind that Cursillo is designed for the mature Christian who desires to know Christ better and enhance his or her relationship with God, the church, and each other.

Cursillo is not a time to solve life's problems. People with significant personal or faith problems are not candidates for Cursillo. They create an undue strain on weekend leadership which in turn detracts from the experience for the rest of the weekenders.

In our excitement to "pass it on," we can easily think the time is right for someone to experience Cursillo -- but perhaps it is not God's timing. Pray for God's guidance. While we cannot predict what a person's experience will be, we do need to be sensitive to their needs and concerns and not put them into a situation they cannot cope with at this time in their life.

During the weekend, send palanca to the weekenders, and attend the serenade and clausura. Encourage the Cursillo community from your church to also attend the clausura to show love and support and welcome them to the 4th Day community. After the weekend, keep in touch with the weekender. Listen to what they say. They may still be sorting through their experience and may need to talk and share with you. This may be a good time for you to reflect on your own weekend, team experience and renewal group to demonstrate how the Cursillo experience can continually grow through involvement and participation.

United Cursillo has a helpful information sheet outlining sponsor responsibilities -- it's available from your church allocations person.

Cursillo can be the most meaningful gift you can give a friend when done in a sensitive and thoughtful manner.

UNITED CURSILLO TEAM REQUEST FORM

If you are interested in serving on a United Cursillo team, please fill out this form and mail to:

Judy Nordland
110704 Kings Lane
Chaska, MN 55318

Your name will be passed on to future rectors/rectoras. This form does not guarantee that you will be asked to serve -- it simply means that your name and information will be passed along to the appropriate team leaders.

Date/number of your Cursillo _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Team preference: (Circle your choices)

Table leader

Rollo

Kitchen team

4th Day team

Palanca team

No preference

Musical talent _____

Other comments _____

Previous team experience _____

Name/location of your church _____

My name will not appear in this space in future issues of Palanca Press. After editing this newsletter for 4-1/2 years, I am passing the baton to someone with lots of enthusiasm and fresh ideas. My term on the United council is nearly complete. Mike Montgomery (Aldrich Presbyterian) will be joining the council and taking over these newsletter editing responsibilities.

Thank you, 4th Day community, for your written contributions and many kind words of support concerning Palanca Press.

-- Cliff Johnson

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331-8000(O)

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