

# Now Is The Time

## News From Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Edition 1: November, 2016

### My Service In Cuba

(Note: An example of our purpose in Pilgrimage: to help transform the world more and more into the likeness of Christ.)

...by Patty Minga

As our plane landed in Holguin, Cuba, I was reminded that this was where Columbus had first landed as he explored the Americas.

Eight of us were coming from Arkansas, to provide Vacation Bible School for about 150 children. The local congregation, "Catedral Metodista De Holguin," was making interpreters available for us.

VBS went great, but by the time we left, we had received as much as we had given. We saw the power of God ALIVE in that congregation:

- We had the privilege of visiting "home churches" every night. In those home churches, we were a part of the singing, dancing, drama and preaching.
- We experienced a prayer vigil for the church, which they do every Friday night from 10 to midnight.
- Night after night, we witnessed between three and eight people accept Christ into their lives.

Not only did our VBS students learn, but we did, too! We saw a different way of life.

Nestled near a harbor, the ocean is important to their lives (for example, all baptisms occur in the ocean). Life revolves around the town square. There was an old fort, and we got to visit it. Although a few of the wealthier families have old cars from America or Russia, most people must get around by walking, biking, or by a horse and buggy.

We decided to pool our money and were able to buy nine bicycles for the local missionaries, helping them be able to cross the countryside more easily.

We had a lot of fun – and started what I hope to be life-long relationships.



### ARPP # 25: What a Blast!

Another successful, and fun-filled, Pilgrimage is behind us, and we have four new 4th Day members in our family. We welcome Butch Burks, Imogene Reid, Carolyn Sims, and Becky Walker!

Led by Moderator Bob Buckalew, new and experienced volunteers came together, overcame challenges and had a great Weekend.

At one moment, everyone was in earnest discussion, then the next minute all were laughing and sharing the love of God with each other.

Joyful singing and music were peppered throughout each day, and delicious fudge, cookies, candy bars, and other snacks seemed endless. (Is it true that all diets are forgiven for these four days?)

With candles burning and soft music in the Chapel, Erin Kaye and John Arnold led worship sessions which reached hearts, and invited Participants and volunteers alike to reflect.

At breaks, Participants or volunteers could be seen visiting on the porch which

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## ARPP-25 (cont.)

overlooks the lake or strolling in peaceful solitude, deep in thought.

Behind the scenes, volunteers were constantly going to and fro, building to building, setting up or tearing down for segments.

As we look ahead to ARPP#26, we can once again volunteer to help Participants experience the love of Jesus Christ.

Applications to staff are available on our website: <https://pilgrimage-arkansas.org>.



Vicky Davis decorates Susan Joplin's bare head with a smile to celebrate her successful treatment. :)



Music Chas David Boatright, John Arnold, Tom Boehmer, Marcey Berry and Lee Bennett introducing a segment.

## Recipe: Easy and Delicious BBQ Chicken and Beans

(from Vicky Davis)

### Chicken

Place 2 lbs chicken breast in crockpot; add salt and pepper to taste.

Mix:

- 1 cup BBQ sauce
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup zesty Italian dressing
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce

Pour mixture over chicken, and cook 3-4 hrs on hi, until chicken internal temperature is 165 degrees.

### Beans

Cook in a separate crockpot for the same amount of time as the chicken:

- 1 can each:
  - kidney beans,
  - pork and beans,
  - black beans
- 1/2 diced green pepper
- 1/2 diced red onion
- brown sugar to taste
- BBQ sauce
- a little mustard

## From ARPP Council Chair

*As Chair of ARPP, I greet you!* And welcome to our first edition of the ARPP Newsletter!

We have just finished the 25th ARPP Weekend -- one filled with joy and love. For 12 ½ years now, we have been helping Participants encounter the love of God and giving them tools to be better prepared to change their environments In Christ. Wow!

### National Goings-On

The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of ARPP went to the Cursillo/Pilgrimage National 4th Day meeting in August. We learned two important things.

- First, the National Council adopted a new, clear, and motivating Purpose and Mission Statement, which we are already beginning to use. (see related article page 4, "What is ARPP all about, anyway?")
- Secondly, we learned that some communities around the nation are being forced to examine and move to alternate sites in order to try to reduce costs.

### Our Own Attempts to Reduce Costs

The ARPP council has also carefully considered ways to reduce the cost for Weekends. Like other Pilgrimage communities around the nation, we also must be good stewards.

After prayerful consideration of various alternatives, the Council has decided to move the Fall 2017 (ARPP #27) Weekend to Camp Paron, in order to decrease our Pilgrimage costs by several thousand dollars per year.

This location is near Paron, Arkansas, approximately 15 miles west of our Ferncliff. The camp is just off Highway 9.

The Fall 2017 Pilgrimage will be a trial weekend; we will evaluate after that Weekend.

*Yours In Christ,  
Ron David, ARPP Chair 2016*

## Giving Tuesday: Your Pilgrimage Donation Doubled!

...November 29: A day to make a difference

If ever there were a time to give to Pilgrimage, this is it. Read on...

Right on the heels of two of America's largest "shopping" days (Black Friday and Cyber-Monday) comes the nation's largest "giving" day: Giving Tuesday.

### Donations Matched 100%

This year, on Giving Tuesday **only**, your gift to ARPP can be doubled.

How? A group of donors have pledged to match all Giving Tuesday donations to ARPP, up to \$2,500.

This means that if you donate \$100, Pilgrimage receives \$200! Likewise, if you donate \$200, Pilgrimage receives \$400. If you can only give \$25, Pilgrimage still receives \$50.

And donations are tax-deductible, as always.

### Special Needs At This Time

ARPP has important needs right now, in order to continue conducting Pilgrimages. They are not just "icing on the cake," but essentials.

Please study the list, to see if one (or more) of these needs say to you, "Yes! I will help with that!"

### How Will It Work?

On Giving Tuesday, you will see "giving" links (email, Facebook, and website). You can choose how you would like to help.

There will also be a way to ask your friends and family to get involved, to make small donations: those will also be matched!

So, while you are planning (or not) for these two big shopping days, please be praying and planning about GIVING on November 29. Remember: every bit helps.

### ARPP Needs:

- **Loudspeaker:** (Rollo Room);
- **Lapel mikes** (Rollo-givers): both have given up the ghost;
- **Round tables:** (6) (Rollo Room): new tables needed;
- **Storage facility:** to help keep Cha, Chapel, and all materials dry and mold-free between Weekends;
- **Participant lodging:** provide support for Participants who can't afford Room/Board costs;
- **Staff lodging:** provide support for staff who can't afford Room/Board costs;
- **Insurance:** liability policy for protection against accidents;
- **Printed Materials:** help with cost of printing all of the booklets, labels, information and communications.

## Pearls Before Swine (By Stephan Pastis)



## What Palanca Meant to Me

I remember it as though it were yesterday. It was ARPP-9; I had been a total stranger when I arrived -- I was freshly moved into Arkansas from another state, and wasn't even a Presbyterian!

After being put together, our table group had laughed, and had also been nervous at times about a few things we'd been asked to complete, but all had worked out well. We were starting to be a family.

I was sitting with my table-group, and we had done a fair amount of bonding by this time of the Weekend. Jeff Williams had just finished a talk about "Action," and our table

had discussed the needs for action which we each saw in our own individual Christian walks.

We had been given non-stop snacks by people whose only purpose seemed to be making sure each of us was over-fed. I had never experienced in my entire life so much "receiving."

I was humbled by it all.

Then, as we were finishing our discussion, a woman (Sylvia Tate) stopped next to me, and I looked up at her. Her eyes were shining as she gently handed me a white bag with curly ribbon on it. It had my name on it.

What was it?

I opened the bag, and what I found inside moved me to tears: A grown man crying! People I didn't even know had given me something I still treasure to this day. Each time I look at the contents of that bag, I am moved.

I often re-live that moment: feeling how special I am to Christ.

There I was, sobbing with gratitude, and feeling the warm, comforting hands of Sylvia and several members of my table-group resting on my shaking shoulders.

Never in my 55 years had I felt so loved.

ARPP Newsletter enclosed!

## NW Arkansas Renewal Group: Support, Plan, Act



Northwest Arkansas renewal group meets bi-weekly at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Pea Ridge

Greetings from the Northwest Arkansas Renewal Group! We wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend and a memorable Christmas season, sharing Gods love.

As 4th-Day we aim to return to our communities and make a positive impact on our surroundings. We believe God will be our guide and companion, as we grow in His Word and follow His call.

But we soon discover how necessary and important the “support” aspect of our journey is.

In our NWA renewal group, we have found a place where we can support each other. We share friendships, talk about

Pilgrimage, and plan for events in our community. We work together as one.

Should you find yourself in northwest Arkansas on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of the month, please know you are welcome to join us at 6:30pm at the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, in Pea Ridge. We are usually together for an hour or so.

We also look forward to hearing of the success of other renewal groups throughout our Pilgrimage family. God Bless!

*(There are several renewal groups throughout Arkansas, but if you don't have one near you, you can easily start your own. To get some guidance, contact Ron Mullikin or PK Welch. Contact info: log into 4thDay at <https://pilgrimage-arkansas.org> )*

## What Is Pilgrimage All About, Anyway?

It's easy to get the idea that Pilgrimage is just a “flash in the pan” experience. But, in reality, it can change a life forever.

We can remember this, as we constantly re-evaluate the priorities for our own Christian callings.

Recently, the National Council adopted language that explains WHY Pilgrimage exists, and HOW Pilgrimage accomplishes its purpose. The wording is worth taking a good, close look.

### Why Pilgrimage?

“The Mission of Presbyterian Pilgrimage is to prayerfully invite prospective

Participants to a three-day retreat of spiritual renewal, and use that as a basis to continue to enrich the life of Participants every day thereafter.”

### How Pilgrimage Works

“Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a discipline-building process designed to deepen relationships with Christ and give tools which enable Participants to live a balanced Christian life in daily affairs.”

“Presbyterian Pilgrimage begins with a three-day retreat of spiritual renewal, and it can continue to enrich Participants' lives every day thereafter.”

### Key Elements

- Starts with 3-day retreat;
- Extends to life-long effects;
- Provides tools that help us lead more effective daily lives in our Christian walks;
- Deepens our relationships with Jesus Christ.