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## Cursillo Weekend #110

Weekend #110 took place April 20-23, 2023 at Camp Walter Johnson in Denton, NC. The Theme "Our God is an Awesome God!" played out spectacularly for three days. The weekend was led by Barb Magee with assistance from Cathryn Lamb and Ann Lockhart, and a host of support team members. Twelve pilgrims made their Cursillo and were touched by the outpouring of palanca and prayers. We were graced with the appearance of Rt. Rev. David Bane for a talk on the Sacraments. Clausura was celebrated by Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson and was well attended.

***DeColores!***

## Cursillo Came to Me

I had just been fired from my job, I had a new house, young children and a loss of a substantial part of my income. I felt fear, anxiety, and unsure of what to do. I stewed for a week or two and one Sunday as I'm leaving church a friend tapped me on the shoulder. "I want you to go to Cursillo", he said. So surprisingly I said yes and attended. That was 1977.

The talks, meeting new people, the time to think and the clarity of the material were all a part of an exciting and uplifting experience. The effects of that weekend are still with me in deepening my faith and giving me a new approach to life.

So, you will know, Cursillo is Christ centered and there are 15 talks, 5 each day, Clergy meditations and daily Eucharist. There is also great music. Cursillo is a Diocesan program and has the support of our Bishop. Cursillo is found in many states in the US and many foreign countries. There is more information about Cursillo on our website, [nccursillo.org](http://nccursillo.org).

The Cursillo weekend begins late on Thursday afternoon and ends on Sunday afternoon. The experience of a community of faith feeds us and helps us with our issues. Following the weekend, we get together on a regular basis to continue to share our life and faith. This continues our contact with the warmth and friendship we experienced at the weekend.

It has helped me. Come on.

*Contributed by Cameron Cooke*



## My Cursillo Weekend

My name is Jessica Simandle. I worship at Trinity, Mount Airy. I made my Cursillo in the Diocese of NC #110, and I sat at the table of St. Mary Magdalene. If you had asked me before arriving on April 20th what I had hoped to gain from attending this Cursillo, I would have answered that my work, my relationships, how I spend my time and money- are they pleasing to God. I have always strived to be God's A+ student. Now, I am no theologian. But I am actively seeking a deep and meaningful relationship with God. I always took pride that I studied my Bible. I memorized scripture. I highlighted meaningful passages. If you read the notes in the margin you will see "this pleases God" written over and over again.

I wanted to return home from my Cursillo weekend- hopefully believing God patting me on my head, saying "Good job, Jessica. Two thumbs up." I heard Rich Mullins (who wrote the song, "Awesome God", which was our theme) say one time, "We never understand what we're praying. And God in His mercy doesn't answer our prayers according to our understanding, but according to His wisdom."

So, I think it was our morning chapel in which Deacon Pam spoke and God used her to step all over my feet in the illustration of the Rich Young Ruler. She explained that according to the young man's understanding- he was living it right. He too thought he was an A+ student of God. Like me, he felt pretty good about himself. That was how he measured his goodness. And although this might not have been Pam's point- what God spoke to me in that moment was all my efforts at being "good" is getting in the way of God having a deeper relationship with me. I was already worthy; I didn't need to garner favor from God in order to get to sit at the cool table with Jesus.

But the Lord wasn't done talking yet. He revealed to me that not only does Christ love and accept me as his own, but he also whispered to me that you don't have to do it by yourself, Jessica. You were designed to follow the Way in community with fellow believers. So as much as I have detested group projects since I was a kid, sitting at the table of St. Mary Magdalene I saw the value of community as we shared our diverse experiences through conversations. As we prayed together. As we ate meals. As we rose early to sit with our morning cup of coffee, and me not caring that I still had bed head and in my pajamas.

So, throughout the weekend no matter the subject of the talk, what the Lord said I was to learn was "to surrender" on repeat until I yielded, and it began to permeate me. The pastor of my childhood said to our congregation, "if that don't light your fire, you've got wet wood." This weekend rekindled my flame, increasing my spiritual energy. It left me wanting to serve God with action and courage by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the end, I am so thankful I could spend the weekend on Kairos time, rather than Chronos time. Without the distractions of a schedule- the unexpected and unknown offered an opportunity to find God within myself and in other pilgrims through this beloved community. Saying "yes" to life's callings is so weird! "Yes" generates change, loss, upheaval, and a ton of work. But it also generates awe, adventure, regeneration and gratitude.

Decolores!

*Contributed by Jessica Simandle*



## Grand Ultreya

Grand Ultreya was held May 13, 2023 at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in High Point. About 30 people attended, including most of our newest Cursillistas! Jessica and Carol gave beautiful and inspirational talks about their Cursillo weekend experiences. The Eucharist was celebrated with all three Spiritual Advisors from the weekend participating.

The next Grand Ultreya will be held two weeks following weekend #111. A date for the weekend has not been settled upon, but it will likely be after Easter in 2024.

## Ultreya

ULTREYA was held Sunday, September 16 via Zoom. If you missed it, the next Ultreya will be Sunday, November 19 from 5:00pm until 7:15pm. Look for an e-mail invitation with a link from "NC Cursillo."

If you would like to give a witness talk, provide a response, or serve and celebrate in any way, please contact Cameron Cooke.



## Ultreya Agenda

**5:00 Welcome and Introductions**

**5:30 Opening Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

**5:40 Break into Zoom Rooms for Reunion Groups**

**6:20 Ten-minute break**

**6:30 Witness talk**

**7:00 Clergy response**

**7:10 Music postlude**

**7:15 Closing Prayer**



## Upcoming

- ♦ **Secretariat** October 7, 10:00—2:00 at All Saints, Greensboro (in person!)
- ♦ **Ultreya** Sunday, November 19 at 5:00pm via Zoom
- ♦ **Secretariat** Thursday, December 7 at 7pm via Zoom
- ♦ **Weekend #111** Spring 2024
- ♦ **Newsletter** Winter 2023 (submissions welcome any time [annlockhart1@gmail.com](mailto:annlockhart1@gmail.com))

## Support Cursillo

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