

# THE FOURTH DAY



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NC Episcopal Cursillo  
P.O. Box 221145  
Charlotte, NC 28222  
[www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org)

## Becoming A Franciscan Through Cursillo

In the early 1990's I was called to "quiet time." The Society of St. John the Evangelist had a retreat house in Durham, North Carolina, to which I applied for five days of silence. I was asked, and agreed to a retreat leader, as this was a new experience. Mid-morning of my second full day an elderly Brother came to my room and we discussed the days of silence. He offered the following passage from Revelation 15:20, *Listen! I am standing at the door knocking, if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.*

I pondered this scripture verse for four days, wondering why this was given to me. I thought that I had opened the door to Jesus.

Two years later, in the midst of EFM studies elsewhere, there was talk of Cursillo. I thought, "What a strange name!"

I began inquiring about Cursillo and was told that I would probably not find Cursillo welcoming because of my sexuality. I thought, well, I'll just see how I fit in. I found a Sponsor and was whisked away to the Diocesan retreat center in North Carolina. The team and participants were accepting and lovable. During the healing service, I sat and watched as people moved forward; shaking, crying, and more tears after speaking with a spiritual advisor. I was not about to take part in anything like that, and actually felt uncomfortable. **(Continued on Page 3)**



## Living The Fourth Day

Have you ever had to have a jumpstart on your car? Usually that means your battery is "kaput," but sometimes a little TLC gets it back to working order, and your car runs like a top.

Your Cursillo weekend is like that. You go along smooth sailing, go home Sunday night, still running real good. The first week great; second week — real good, as well as the third, still good. Suddenly, it starts to sputter and eventually stops. Can't find time to be bothered. Then you recall your Fourth Day, and the commitments you made that Sunday afternoon — and it gives you a start, and once again, it's smooth sailing.

It's hard in the beginning to start a group or join one, but it will pay dividends. You will find new friends and other untold benefits. There will be times, just like your car battery, when you will need a jumpstart; it's not always going to run like a top, but you will enjoy the ride.

*Jim Herlihy — Cursillo 12, St. John's Episcopal, Florida Diocese*

## Meeting Notes — National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) - 2/3/11

The National Episcopal Cursillo Committee convened in Concord, NC on February 3, 2011 hosted by All Saints' Church in Concord. The Committee members braved blizzards and high winds to arrive for their work together, and all traveled to and from the meeting safely. The Executive Committee began their work on Thursday morning with a wonderful breakfast followed by worship. The Executive Committee completed recommended work from the finance servant community and approved a preliminary 2011 Conference Budget, a NEC personnel handbook, the purchase of a new office computer, and finalized paperwork for the office administrator's enrollment in The Episcopal Church's lay pension plan. The Executive Committee then met all the newly elected district representatives for an orientation time. The full Committee arrived Thursday evening and we shared our study of the book, *In Constant Prayer* by Robert Benson. Everyone felt that the book was challenging, and we commend it to you for your study. The first day's work concluded with Compline.

The Committee continued their work on Friday and Saturday, and concluded with an Ultreya Saturday afternoon, jointly attended by Cursillistas from the Dioceses of NC and Western NC. Our special thanks to All Saints' Church in Concord for their gifts to us of hospitality, space and resources. We are most grateful for Dave Millar, who served as host community coordinator, and, especially, for Jan Millar, who cooked, cleaned and cared for us. Jan had a marvelous kitchen team who helped out, but Jan was the one who made sure we left the meeting weighing more than when we came! A final thanks to Calvin Hefner who coordinated the airport arrivals and Ken Parker who coordinated the departures for the entire Committee. As you can tell, the logistics for a NECC Committee meeting are somewhat like those of a three-day weekend: lots of behind the scenes work so that the Committee can efficiently and effectively do their work. Thanks to everyone who helped!

**(Continued on Page 4)**



## An Update From the NC Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Lay Director

The National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) met in Concord at All Saint's Parish in early February. All members arrived safely and mostly on time even though the weather across our nation had cancelled and delayed many airlines. Many thanks to Judy Cheek, Fran and Manning Huske, David Zoernig, Steve Bondy and Bo Proctor who transported the NECC members from the airport to Concord.

Your Secretariat members along with Rt. Rev. Chip Marble met with the NECC to exchange ideas concerning the Cursillo Movement in our Dioceses. Bishop Marble gave a most interesting overview of his experience with Cursillo and the various weekends he supported as the Bishop of Mississippi.

The 2011 National Episcopal Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, October 27-30. Pre-Registration will soon be available on the NEC site at [www.episcopalcursillo.org](http://www.episcopalcursillo.org). If you have not attended a NEC conference, make plans to attend this one. The Conference theme is "Live in the Sonshine."

Your Secretariat has several new members who have not served before and we welcome them and their ideas to the Cursillo movement. New members are Donna Ryder, Bill Fierke, Ralph Schofield, Sid Chadwick, Jeanne deWard, Genny Hinkle and Jan Millar (complete listing in this newsletter). All Cursillistas are welcome to attend all Secretariat meetings. They begin at 10:00 AM and end around 3:00 PM. We are a traveling Secretariat and are holding our meetings in each of the three regions so that you may attend a meeting when we are in your region. The Secretariat meeting schedule is included in this newsletter and all Parishes where we will be meeting will be on the website. Please plan to attend a meeting in your area and let us know how we can serve you or your region.

The Diocesan Episcopal Cursillo Weekend #101 is quickly approaching, May 12-15, 2011. The new facility, Camp Walter Johnson, can house twenty-eight participants. Please go online to [www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org) to print off a Participant and Sponsor registration form. The cut-off date to receive deposits and Registration forms is April 11, 2011. "Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ." The date for Cursillo #102 has not yet been established. If you are interested in serving on a Cursillo team, the Team applications are online.

A Secretariat task force is investigating Parish-based Cursillo weekends, for which the Cursillo weekend activities are conducted in a Parish setting. A Parish-based weekend is more economical, and we want to save you some money. If you would like to serve in any capacity on this task force, please let me know at: [calvin@calvinehfevner.com](mailto:calvin@calvinehfevner.com).

*Chaplain Calvin E. Hefner — TSSF 2011 Secretariat Lay Director*

## Becoming A Franciscan Through Cursillo (Continued from Page 1)

Nonetheless, before long, the Spirit lifted me forward with tears in my eyes, and my nose running. As I approached the spiritual advisor, I told her I wanted to open my heart and my life to accept Jesus, the Christ, as my Lord and my Savior. At that time, I felt the Presence and knew that my life was being transformed.

Upon completion of my Cursillo experience, I went to the Parish's assistant rector, who is still my spiritual advisor, and asked him who in the Parish was on fire for Jesus. He thought for some time, replying, "No one in this Parish has a relationship with Jesus."

I came from a Parish of 1,200 members and could not believe that no one had that love and relationship with Jesus, the Christ. He said, "If you want to be with people who love and want to follow Jesus, consider becoming a Franciscan. They live the Gospels of Jesus, the Christ."

I applied for Aspirant status and was accepted after many months. The Franciscans moved slower then, compared with today. After four years I was professed.

As I look back on my Franciscan life, and the Scripture on which I was to meditate, the door was opened as I made my Cursillo, and my Cursillo took me to the life of St. Francis. Cursillo gave me confidence in my Parish life to become a Spiritual Formation leader for six years, a Chaplain for prison ministry and a Franciscan Chaplain for our area. Through the Cursillo movement I have sponsored about 18 Cursillistas, served on many teams, served as Lay Rector for both the Western Diocese and the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. I now serve on our Secretariat as Lay Director. I also serve on the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee as a layman representative for the Southeast Region and serve on the Cursillo Leadership Development Committee.

I found that Cursillo gave me an excellent foundation to live the life of a Franciscan with Piety, Study and Action.

*Chaplain Calvin E. Hefner — TSSF 2011 Secretariat Lay Director*

## Part Of My First Day

Recent Sunday Early Services have elevated my awareness of the Book Of Matthew, and its powerful passages.

On reflection from these scriptures, I've come to understand that we're either "spiritual and social engineers, or we're spiritual and social parasites."

A text I recently finished, requiring me to read little more than one or two pages a day, was written by John Pollock, titled *The Apostle, A Life of Paul*. The author moved me to understand that Paul's ministry was a mission of personal conscience, and integrity — to who he was, and what he loved, and respected. His repeated public humiliations and hardships over his multiple decade ministry seemed to create an ongoing, elevated understanding in him of what Christ's Gospel was about — hardships didn't seem to slow his understanding and follow-through — but rather enhanced his spiritual development and focus — he was to spread The Gospel — everywhere he went. And each destination and challenge gave new meaning to how The Gospel was to be interpreted, and delivered!

The text has dramatically changed my understanding of Paul's ministry, and the letters Paul wrote, to which we and Christianity benefit. I recommend it to anyone who wants to be recharged, or has the courage to look inwardly at yourself.

*Sid Chadwick — Cursillo 100, St. Peter's Table, St. Clement's, Clemmons, NC*



## Rocky Mt./Tarboro/ Wilson/Scotland Neck Area Ultreya

The Rocky Mt./Tarboro/ Wilson/ Scotland Neck area Ultreya is meeting on the first Sunday of each month. They gather at St. Michael's, Tarboro at 6:00 for a pot luck followed by music, laywitness talk, and reunion grouping. Anyone curious about Cursillo as well as all Cursillistas are warmly welcome to come join us. Contact Ray Register at 252-985-4907 or rayregister@embarqmail.com for any questions.

## God Is Winking At You

In an e-mail recently, Sid Chadwick gave me credit for the term "godwinks." As much as I'd love to say that I came up with the idea, it's actually the brain child of writer Squire Rushnell (and yes, he does capitalize the "Q"). The book *When God Winks* was recommended to me by one of my friends in my reunion group. What a blessing!

"A godwink," writes Rushnell, "is what some people would call a coincidence, an answered prayer, or simply an experience where you'd say, 'Wow, what are the odds of that!'" What does it mean? Rushnell says it's "a message of reassurance from above, directly to you, out of six billion people on the planet, saying 'Hey, kid . . . I'm thinking of you! Keep the faith! You're never alone.'"

How about an illustration? When our church, St. Clement's, was just getting started and we were worshipping in the chapel of a funeral home, we were hard pressed at times to have a priest. That particular Sunday, there was no priest, no acolyte. Just me. I was standing out front waiting for 11 o'clock to come, thinking about my Morning Prayer service ahead and feeling sorry for myself because there weren't very many people in the sanctuary. All of a sudden, I saw this gorgeous Jaguar up on the hill at the intersection. I'm not proud of this, but I said a little prayer. "Please, God," I said, "Let that Jaguar turn in here for church." We were poor, trying to raise money for land and a priest (and everything else). What do you know . . . the car made the turn and a lady named Cindy got out

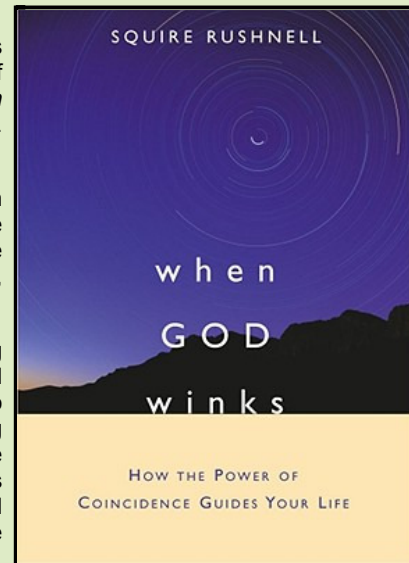
and came in to church! She turned out to be a very active part of our young church with a gift for fundraising and organization! Now if that wasn't a godwink, I don't know what one is.

It was more than a "feel good moment." It was an affirmation that we were on the right track as a small community of faith, that God was watching after us.

I have MANY godwink stories. Rushnell suggests that you spend some time doing "godwink mapping", digging up the godwinks that we've overlooked, forgotten or ignored. You do that by looking for the turning points in your life, "those crossroads when your life's path took a whole new direction." Think of them as signposts on your journey of life, giving you guidance on where to steer your life.

Often at reunion meetings, my "moment closest to Christ" is a godwink. I've learned to really pay attention to these moments. They are God speaking to me. Are you paying attention?

*Walt Joyce — NC Cursillo 100, St. Clement's, Clemmons, NC*



## Meeting Notes — National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) - 2/3/11

**(Continued from Page 2)**

The NECC meeting included time for district meetings, group reunion, worship and subcommittee work as well as time for the work of the entire Committee. The NECC approved a preliminary budget for the 2011 Conference in Phoenix, prioritized a list of possible workshop topics for the conference and discussed the pending decision about a keynote speaker. The communications subcommittee was given approval to hire a website vendor to upgrade our web hosting capabilities and to improve our ability to provide the entire Fourth Day community with materials and information more quickly. The publications subcommittee completed work on the revision of the "Secretariat" book for the library and also mapped out a better method to get NEC materials and library translated into Spanish. Watch for news of the Spanish materials being available later this year. The Cursillo Leaders Development subcommittee focused their work on identifying dioceses in need of support and also developing ways to strengthen the Fourth Day activities within Episcopal Cursillo.

The Committee approved our participation in a nation-wide ecumenical survey of Fourth Day movements. The survey will be distributed to all cursillistas by e-mail and we hope that you will watch for the web link and that you will take the short survey. The NECC will be able to extract the information and have a better sense of the health of Episcopal Cursillo and will also be able to compare that data to other Fourth Day movements. Please help us with this effort.

The Committee also had the opportunity to meet with Bishop William Gregg and Bishop Chip Marble, assisting Bishops of NC, and to also meet with the Secretariat for the Diocese of NC. We shared best practices from NC and from around the country and we talked about opportunities to strengthen the Cursillo movement. Our thanks to the NC Bishops and Secretariat for taking time to meet with the NECC.

*The Rev. Pat Miller — NEC President*

## My Fourth Day

Practicing what we learned during our Cursillo weekend is not difficult when all is going well in your life. We are inclined to say thank you and to remember that we are blessed.

Remembering Piety, Study, and Action is not terribly difficult when things are going badly. After all when life is not working according to our plan we occasionally consult God for ideas and may even pay attention to His suggestions.

The challenge is when you are in the middle. The intensity that brings things into focus during times of joy or struggle is missing when we are plodding along doing fairly well and staying out of trouble. We get distracted by the everyday mundane and neglect to allocate time that could be spent seeking to strengthen our spiritual life.



- When you are in the middle you are most vulnerable to the snares of the hunter [read the Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis to understand how that happens].
- When you are in the middle you float along which makes you less able to stay spiritually grounded.
- When you are in the middle it is like wearing a pair of glasses with an out of date prescription, you can see but the edges are fuzzy.

Setting aside even a small time for prayer [Piety] and reading [Study] enables us to be better able to respond in grace when an opportunity for ministry [Action] comes before us.

*Andy Blair — SW VA #2 (1978)*

## Happening Was My Introduction To Cursillo

In the Diocese of Pittsburgh 3 people from other states had been involved in Happening and now wanted to start it in Pittsburgh. Happening is modeled after Cursillo and was designed for teens. I became very involved and we worked to get the Cursillo #1 scheduled. In those days the idea was that the man would go first and then two weeks later the wife. I had to go even though I knew everything that would be going on. I played guitar and was asked to help with the music. I know that all of the people thought I was a TEAM member, but I was not.



Hearing and seeing all that went on that weekend was really great. Cursillo is put on by our peers, people who share what they were like and how God changed them. How depressed they were and now they have the Joy of the Lord. Wonderful stories to show the path to the Lord and enhances the scripture you have heard or read. Having been an Episcopalian my entire life and being very active in the church plus married to a priest, I found that being on the weekend help me to focus on what God had done for me and now what could I do for him? Every time a Cursillo is put on each person comes away having had a unique experience. "How was your weekend?" Starts you thinking "How do I explain?" Sometimes we don't have the words, AWESOME! fills the bill.

For 14 years I have been involved with prison ministry. It has been a joy to go into the prison being God's Ambassador seeing their faces as they have received forgiveness, heard about the Grace and Mercy of God and hearing what Christ can do for them.

"All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." Through Cursillo I found a way to bridge that gap. Hope you will try it.

*Gaynell Jennings — Pittsburgh #1, St. Fidelis*

## Cursillo Questionnaire For Clergy (Taken from ARKANSAS EPISCOPAL CURSILLO - 1/18/10)

Question	Background
1. How did you come know about Cursillo?	What is the source of the clergy's awareness of the Cursillo movement?
2. What do you know about the Cursillo movement?	What is the clergy understanding of the Cursillo movement. Do clergy know that the "Cursillo" has multiple parts, which include the weekend, and the 4th Day (grouping and Ultreya), etc.?
3. What impact do you see the Cursillo movement having on our Diocese?	Has the Diocese been affected by the practice of the Cursillo movement, positively, neutral, negatively, etc.?
4. What impact do you see the Cursillo movement having on your church?	Has your church been affected by the practice of Cursillo weekends occurring in the Diocese?
5. Does your church have members who have completed a Cursillo weekend?	This question shifts the focus from "general impressions" to specifically their own congregation.
6. What feedback have you received from your parishioners about the Cursillo movement?	What is the impression shared by members of your church towards the Cursillo movement?
7. What are the experiences your parishioners have expressed to you about a completed weekend?	This question serves as feedback through the clergy about church members who have participated in a weekend and how those that have not completed weekend encounter new Cursillistas.
8. What are the experiences your parishioners have expressed to you concerning their Fourth Day (Group Reunion/Ultreya)?	This question serves as feedback through the clergy about church members who have participated in fourth day activity.
9. Is there anything else you would like us to know or that you want to add concerning Cursillo?	Opens the discussion.

### Cursillo #101 — May 12 - 15, 2011

The Cursillo three day weekend will be held at the beautiful Salvation Army Camp Walter Johnson once again. Camp Walter Johnson is located near Lexington, NC and is centrally located in the Diocese.

Team and Participants have great accommodations at the camp with the participants lodge housing twenty-eight persons with two people to a room with a private bath. The lodge has a sitting area and small kitchen. The classroom and chapel are within a short walk to the lodge and dining hall. All facilities are handicapped accessible. The dining hall overlooks a beautiful lake and serves buffet style with the food being exceptional. Dietary needs are accommodated.

Registration forms are available online at [www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org). Registration is \$175.00 with some scholarship money available. The deadline for Registration is April 11, 2011.

Please pray about the person in your Parish who God thinks is ready to make a Cursillo. Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ.

*Submitted by Chaplain Calvin E. Hefner — TSSF 2011 Secretariat Lay Director*

### 2011 Charlotte Ultreya Monthly Meetings

January 16 – All Saints Concord – Speaker: David Miller  
 February 5 – All Saints Concord – Speaker: NEC Secretariat  
 February 20 – St Marks Huntersville  
 March 20 – Holy Comforter  
 April 17 – St. Lukes  
 May 12-15 – Cursillo #102 Weekend  
 June 4 – Day of Deeper Understanding – Greensboro  
 June 19 – All Saints – Speaker: New Cursillistas  
 July 17 – St. Martins  
 August 21 – Holy Comforter  
 September 18 – St. Andrews  
 October 16 – St. Martins  
 October 27-30 – Cursillo #103 Weekend  
 November 20 – St. Johns – Speaker: New Cursillistas



## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat 2011 Calendar

**Secretariat meeting** - May 7, Winston-Salem (Elect Assistant Lay Rectors)

**Cursillo #101** – May 12-15, SACWJ

**Day of Deeper Understanding (DDU)** - June 4 - Greensboro

**Secretariat meeting** - August 6, Charlotte, St. Andrews (Elect-Spiritual Advisor(s))

**Secretariat meeting** - October 1, Raleigh (Elect Secretariat Members)

**Secretariat meeting** - December 3, Winston-Salem (Welcome and Orientation of Secretariat Members)

## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo – Secretariat 2011

### LAY DIRECTOR

Calvin Hefner TSSF  
5518 Lancelot Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28270-0422  
c38hef@carolina.rr.com  
C: 704-574-0545

### ASST. LAY DIRECTOR

Fran Huske  
741 Larkhill Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
fph@bellsouth.net  
H: 704-362-4107

### SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

The Rev. Frances Cox  
4510 Highberry Road  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
ffcox@aol.com  
O: 336-854-6217

### SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

The Rev. Deacon Robert Thomas  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
1725 North New Hope Rd  
Raleigh NC 27604  
rwteagle1@aol.com  
O: 919-231-6767, H: 919-285-2338

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Jan Millar (Ex Officio)  
606 Mirawood Trail NE  
Concord, NC 28025  
jmillar@carolina.rr.com  
C: 704-918-8645

### TREASURER

Bill Fierke (Ex Officio)  
907 Springwell Cir.  
Cary, NC 27511  
wfierke@aol.com  
C: 919-349-0634

### COMMUNICATIONS

Sid Chadwick  
P.O. Box 859  
Lewisville, NC 27023  
sidchadwickcc@gmail.com  
O: 336-945-0645

### PRE-CURSILLO

Ralph Schofield  
400 Fayetteville St., #401  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
wolfpackRalph@gmail.com  
C: 919-832-6562

### FOURTH DAY

Jeanne deWard  
4513 Ness Dr.  
Apex, NC 27539  
jdeward@earthlink.net  
C: 919-281-1118

### SUPPLY COORDINATOR/PALANCA

Tom Ham  
903 Country Club Dr.  
Reidsville, NC 27320  
tjhamiii@nuvox.net  
C: 336-349-7261

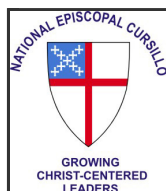
### SERVANT COMMUNITY

Donna Ryder  
65 Sailfish Court  
Clayton, NC 27520  
dryder@nc.rr.com  
H: 919-763-0786, C: 919-610-6638

### TEAM TRAINING

Genny Hinkle  
415 Deadmon Rd.  
Mocksville, NC 28028  
gnyyhinkle@yahoo.com  
H: 336-753-6817, C: 336-782-1813

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Feel free to contact us with comments and/or suggestions for future newsletters. If you would like to add a name to this newsletter's mailing list or correct an address, please contact Sid Chadwick.

Sid Chadwick  
Publisher  
[www.chadwickconsulting.com](http://www.chadwickconsulting.com)  
[sidchadwickcc@gmail.com](mailto:sidchadwickcc@gmail.com)  
336-945-0645