

# THE FOURTH DAY



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GROWING  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
LEADERS

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## A Brief History of Cursillo

As The Cursillo Movement was born in Spain from a pilgrimage of youth to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela. The first Weekend sanctioned by the Catholic Church occurred in 1949. Cursillo was started partly to prepare leaders for personal spiritual pilgrimage, and partly to heal the bitterness from the Spanish Civil War.

Cursillo was brought to this country by Spanish air force personnel training in Texas after World War II. The first Weekend in the U.S. was held in Waco, Texas in 1957, and was conducted in Spanish. In 1961, the first English-speaking Cursillo was held in San Antonio, Texas.

About 1975, Episcopal Bishop Thomas Fraser had heard of Cursillo, and was supportive of the movement. Two couples, Fred and Mary Lou Wedler, and Betty and Neal Shanks, with quiet support from the Bishop, decided to secretly investigate — and attended a Cursillo in West Texas. They came back to NC, contacted the Catholic Bishop of Charlotte — “Big Mike Bigley,” who told a group of Charlotte Catholic Cursillistas to assist this fledgling group. The first Cursillo Weekend Teams in NC were made-up of Catholics from St. Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro. All Candidates were Episcopalian.

There's some debate where the first NC Cursillo was held: it was either at Northgate Motel, or the Holiday Inn on Cone Blvd — in Greensboro on 9/23-9/26/1976 — as an all male Weekend. **(Continued on Page 2)**



## Reidsville Outreach Center

My name is Tom Ham and I made Cursillo #72 at the Summit. I sat at St. Joseph's table and I worship at St. Thomas Parish in Reidsville, NC.

After making my Cursillo, I felt more enthused and refreshed. I have served on 12 teams and since my retirement from teaching in 2002, I have spent a lot of my time volunteering at the Reidsville Outreach Center here in Reidsville. I am currently President of the Board and the Warehouse Manager. I am at the center 7 days a week doing a variety of tasks. These include making food pickups, keeping records in the warehouse, and checking clients in on food distribution day each week.

The Reidsville Outreach Center is a non-profit food pantry located here in Reidsville. We are a member agency of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC. This enables us to purchase food supplies at greatly reduced prices. We were started by two people putting in \$25 apiece and it has grown from there. We are located in a former tire store with an office, restrooms, and three bays of space. We now have a database of 557 clients currently eligible to receive food each week on Thursdays. We have a current annual budget of over \$75,000. **(Continued on Page 2)**

## A Brief History of Cursillo (Continued from Page 1)

Cursillo #2 was a female weekend, October 28-31, 1976 at St. John's, Vianney Hall, Asheville, NC. Bishop Estell followed Bishop Fraser, was supportive of Cursillo, worked on one of the Weekends, and is reported on that Saturday night, just before posters were presented, came into the room sporting a white t-shirt that read, "Take this job & shove it!"

The first Knitted Cross Nametags were worn on Cursillo #4, May 12-15, 1977.

Roman Catholics did not hold mixed Weekends, so when the Episcopalians went to coed Weekends (after Weekend #4), Catholic support was terminated. Cameron Cooke was the Rector of #5 — the first coed Weekend, which was held at Camp Betsy Jeff Penn.



A total of 28 Weekends were held at Betsy Jeff Penn, a 4-H Camp, beginning with #5, in 1977. 70 weekends were held at Brown Summit, the last of which was Weekend #93. The next few Weekends went back to Betsy Jeff Penn, and then #100 was held at Camp Walter Johnson in 2010.

50 females have served as Lay Rectors; 51 males have served as Lay Rectors. Secretariat approved title change for Weekend Lay Rector to Weekend Leader, effective with Cursillo #103.

Four Weekends were held in 1977 and 1979; five Weekends were held in 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985; three Weekends were held from 1986 until 2001, and we have gone to two Weekends as of three years ago. *Note: If you have Weekend pictures, please forward to Tom Ham for archiving, and redistribution to our website.*

Cursillistas from The NC Episcopal Diocese were instrumental in starting the Cursillo Movement in Southern Virginia. Today, it is believed over 8 million have made their Cursillo.

In 1980, Pope Paul II, addressing the first National Italian Ultreya in Rome:

"Your movement, which recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, devotes itself to drawing forth from Christians a commitment to live lives consistent with their faith — whether individually or as a community — and to bring this ferment to the environments where you live.

You have discovered anew the explosive truth of the evangelical message: God, Father of all, comes to us as we encounter Him in Jesus Christ to reunite us through the grace of the Spirit in one family which is the Church.

In her we are truly able to experience even now the love which will be the inexhaustible fountain of eternal joy in heaven. Here then is the synthesis of all Christianity. This is the news that all human hearts hope for without realizing it. Therefore dedicate yourselves more and more to being tireless apostles in your environments.

My apostolic blessing goes with you as a pledge of this divine grace which enable you to live forever."

*Historical information was developed by David Trask (WNC Cursillo), Calvin Hefner, Fran Huske, Jeanne deWard, Jan Millar and Sid Chadwick — from numerous attics, garages, conversations, and websites.*

## Reidsville Outreach Center (Continued from Page 1)

I take pride in helping those persons who for one reason or another do not have the resources to adequately provide food for their families, especially in the tough economic times we are now facing. I enjoy interacting with the clients wherever I may run into them in our community.

I believe part of the desire to help these folks comes from my Cursillo experience, and the renewal of these experiences each time I serve on a team.

*Tom Ham — Cursillo #72, St. Thomas, Reidsville, NC*

## 35th Anniversary Celebration

Thanks to all of you who attended the Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Fourth Day Seminar at All Saints, Greensboro, November 12th. Photos of Cursillo Weekends beginning with NC Episcopal Cursillo #1 (1976) will be available to view on the website. Thanks also to the team who worked diligently for a successful gathering. The Rt. Rev. Chip Marble preached and celebrated the Eucharist.

Our Diocese was represented at the National Episcopal Cursillo Conference held October 28-29, in Phoenix, AZ. by Jan and Dave Millar (All Saints, Concord) and myself, serving on the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee. Dave serves as the National Treasurer for the NECC. Elections were held for National Officers, Lay and Clergy Representatives for Regional positions. I will continue to serve as the Southeast Region Layman Representative on the NECC. You may read the text of the keynote presentation October 28 by retired Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dorsey Henderson (Diocese of Upper SC) here: [www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org/BishopHenderson.pdf](http://www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org/BishopHenderson.pdf)



As we move forward in the Church Year and approach 2012, the Secretariat has a full schedule of meetings, trainings, and an upcoming Cursillo Weekend #103 in May, 2012. Fran Huske (St. Martin's, Charlotte) will serve as the Weekend Leader and will be assisted by Angie Forde (St. Martin's, Charlotte) and Sid Chadwick (St. Clement's, Clemmons). The Secretariat may propose one Co-Ed Cursillo Weekend a year at Camp Walter Johnson to be held in the Spring. If you would like to serve on the Team for Christ, Cursillo #103 or have a Participant to sponsor, the forms of application are on the website: [www.nccursillo.org](http://www.nccursillo.org).

This coming year the Secretariat will focus on task forces for Cursillo for Young Adults, a Cursillo for Men followed by a Cursillo for Women and a Bi-Lingual Cursillo weekend. The Task Forces will be led by parishioners and clergy who are not members of the Secretariat.

Members of the Secretariat will be charged to assist in re-establishing Ultreyas in areas of the Diocese where Ultreyas were once held. The Fourth Day will be studied in detail with guidance from the Holy Spirit to rebuild the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of North Carolina. We hope to meet with Bishop Curry to assist in preparing the Clergy to learn and to participate in the Cursillo Movement so that more Parishes will have Christ-Centered Leaders to assist the Clergy.

The Secretariat will be developing a three-to-five year Strategic Management Plan in February at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, led by an outside facilitator.

If you have an email or a snail-mail change of address, please send your changes to Jan Millar, Executive Secretary: [jmillar@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jmillar@carolina.rr.com). If you are willing to serve the Cursillo Movement in our Diocese or have any questions, please contact me at [calvin@calvinehfnr.com](mailto:calvin@calvinehfnr.com).

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

## Fourth Day Seminar & 35th Anniversary Celebration

Cursillistas from around the Diocese gathered on Sat. Nov. 12 at All Saints in Greensboro for a Fourth Day Seminar following Cursillo #102. In addition, the forty-seven participants celebrated the 35th anniversary of Cursillo's presence in NC.

Chris Hicks welcomed the group and led us in a prayer circle, an ice breaker, and an Ultreya. It was thrilling to small-group with our brothers and sisters from far and near. Miriam Dixon, a Cursillista with limited eyesight, gave the Witness Talk, sharing her story with the group. While listening to her life experiences, we were reminded of how we can be called to serve others with similar challenges as our own. The Rev. Margie Holm, a priest from Roanoke Rapids, gave a thoughtful response.

Ray Rogister and Linda Priddy-Hundley added laughter to the joy of the day by performing two skits. Jan Millar gave food for thought on the topic of Piety, and Calvin Hefner did the same with Study. **(Continued on Page 6)**

## Fourth Day Outreach Activities

**Appalachian Service Project** – Volunteers make homes warmer, safer, and drier for needy families in rural Central Appalachia. [www.asphome.org](http://www.asphome.org)

**Augustine Project** - 1-on-1 tutoring program in reading for struggling students. [www.AugustineProject.org](http://www.AugustineProject.org)  
Alice Rainey: [askalice2004@gmail.com](mailto:askalice2004@gmail.com), Director - Barbara Yuskevich: [yusk@windstream.net](mailto:yusk@windstream.net)

**Crop Walk** – Annual walk in cities all over the country to raise money to combat hunger. Manning Huske: [huskelaw@bellsouth.net](mailto:huskelaw@bellsouth.net)

**Daughters of the King** – Spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to life of prayer, service and evangelism. Jan Millar [jmillar@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jmillar@carolina.rr.com)

**Education for Ministry (EFM)** -Educational program with focus on life as ministry and understanding that ministry.  
[www.sewanee.edu/EFM/EFMAboutUs.htm](http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/EFMAboutUs.htm)

**Epiphany Ministry, Inc.** – Ecumenical Christian ministry for young men and women who are in custody of Juvenile Custody Facilities. Weekend models based on Cursillo and similar movements.  
[www.epiphanyministry.org](http://www.epiphanyministry.org)

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW)** – Women of the Episcopal Church join in worship, prayer, study, service, and fellowship. [www.ecw.nc.org](http://www.ecw.nc.org)

**Habitat for Humanity** – Builds/rehabs homes for low income families. Manning Huske: [huskelaw@bellsouth.net](mailto:huskelaw@bellsouth.net)

**Hospice Music Makers** – Singing for/with patients and their families at end of life. Angie Forde: [angief2754@aol.com](mailto:angief2754@aol.com)

**International Order of St. Luke the Physician** – Ecumenical organization dedicated to Christian Healing ministry.  
Dr. Elizabeth Allen: [eallen510@gmail.com](mailto:eallen510@gmail.com)

**Kairos Prison Ministry** – An outgrowth of Cursillo. NC – Jeanne and Earl deWard: [jdeward@earthlink.net](mailto:jdeward@earthlink.net), SC – Edna Otterbourg: [ednotterb@aol.com](mailto:ednotterb@aol.com)

**Pastor's Guild** – Visiting elderly/shut-ins in parish. Fran Huske: [fph@bellsouth.net](mailto:fph@bellsouth.net)

**Red Cross** – Olivia Storey: [Rstorey28@aol.com](mailto:Rstorey28@aol.com)

**Room in the Inn** – Small groups of homeless folks are overnight guests at a church during the coldest months. Olivia and Dick Storey: [Rstorey28@aol.com](mailto:Rstorey28@aol.com), Manning and Fran Huske: [Huskelaw@bellsouth.net](mailto:Huskelaw@bellsouth.net), [fph@bellsouth.net](mailto:fph@bellsouth.net)

**Stop Hunger Now** – International hunger relief organization. Meals are packaged by volunteers in an assembly line.  
Olivia and Dick Storey: [Rstorey28@aol.com](mailto:Rstorey28@aol.com), [www.stophungernow.org](http://www.stophungernow.org)

**Transformation Network** – Organizations, churches, and individuals in Charlotte, NC area whose goal is to reduce recidivism and help former inmates become productive members of society.  
[www.crmintegrators.com](http://www.crmintegrators.com), Angie Forde: [angief2754@aol.com](mailto:angief2754@aol.com)

**Urban Ministry Center** – Day center for people experiencing homelessness. [www.urbanministrycenter.org](http://www.urbanministrycenter.org)  
Angie Forde: [angief2754@aol.com](mailto:angief2754@aol.com)



***"For as the body  
without the spirit is  
dead, so faith without  
works is dead also."  
James 2:26***

## Passing It On

This time last Friday, we were together in the classroom at Camp Walter Johnson, beginning our short course in Christian Living. When I think about how much we have grown in one short week, it is amazing. We have made new, dear friends. We have watched the wonders of God's grace and seen His love shared in abundance.

I have thought of each one of you all week. I have seen your faces, Dick, Olivia, Ryan, Bruce and Doris as you listened and then shared your thoughts.

To the team members, "thank you" seems a small tribute. However, you know the magnitude of your contribution as you followed Christ's message in Matthew 28.

To Marty, Jane and Marvin, your well-chosen words, the scriptures and your example of dedication to Christ's work set a gold standard.

To Earl and Jan, your support began long before the weekend and gave us all the stability we needed in moments of wondering if we were on the right track.

To Dave, your attention to detail was and continues to be most important to Cursillo #102, and in our prayers for Cursillo #103, and all those to follow.

To Tom Ham, our Coordinator, please know there would not be a Cursillo Weekend without your dedication, knowledge and hard work in bringing the trailer, unloading the trailer, going into shop every night, meeting every need of every servant team, and reloading the trailer at the end of the weekend.

To Mary, Jerri, Chris, Earl and later, very important additions, Bruce and Genny, your music made our hearts sing!

To Sid and Martha, your people skills and your desire to reach out with God's love to Ryan, Dick, Olivia, Bruce and Doris, marked the success of the short course in Christian Living.

*Laura Felts, Lay Rector Cursillo #102 — Cursillo #81, St. Thomas, Reidsville, NC*



**Front Row (L-R):** Tom Ham, Doris McLean, Laura Felts, Jan Millar, Earl Barber, Jeannie deWard, Martha Balsley, Richard Masline **Second Row (L-R):** Mary Beth Masline, Ruth Alden, Betty Melchert, Mary Ham, Bruce Nash, Rev. Jane Holmes, Ray Rogister, Dick Storey, Elizabeth Thompson, Edna Otterbourg **Third Row (L-R):** Olivia Storey, Jeri Jeffries, Genny Hinkle, Dave Millar, Robert Selby, Rev. Marvin Aycock, Rev. Marty Stebbins, Sid Chadwick, Ryan Lia McLain, Chris Hicks (Photo by Tom Ham Photography)

## In His Time

My name is Jeanne deWard; I made NC Cursillo #87, and sat at the table of St. Mary Magdalene. I worship at St. Paul's, Cary. Please pray with me: Come, Holy Spirit... "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:14)

When I was young, I gave up on prayer and on God, because he just didn't live up to that promise – or so I thought. I neglected to realize that, while he answers prayers, he does it in his time, not in ours. So this evening, I am going to tell you about Jackie and Chuck, and about how God answers prayers, in his time.

Jackie has two children, Chuck, the older, and Libby, who is my sister-in-law, married to Earl's brother Perry. Chuck was always a hard case. He was in trouble with booze, in trouble with drugs, and in trouble with the law from the time he was a teenager. As an adult, he spent much of his time in one correctional institution or another. Jackie never gave up on Chuck. She prayed for him constantly, and visited him faithfully, wherever he was – and some of those places were among the meanest you can imagine.

At one point, Chuck was in prison in South Carolina during a riot. Afterward, Jackie and her husband Bud found they could not get in touch with Chuck. No one in the prison system seemed to know where he was – and no one seemed to care much, either. Jackie would not leave the prison officials alone – she insisted that they had to locate her son and tell her where he was so she could come to visit him and see for herself that he was all right. Privately, Bud and Libby believed that he was probably dead – perhaps that he had been killed and buried or just thrown away somewhere during the riot. They thought they might never know what had happened to him. But Jackie refused to give up.

In church this morning the Gospel reading told about a mother who was a lot like Jackie. She had a daughter who was plagued by an evil spirit and she begged that Jesus would heal her. But Jesus refused her because she was a Gentile, and he felt that his ministry was only with the Jews. But the woman persisted, telling Jesus that even dogs are allowed to eat the children's crumbs that fall from the master's table. For her faith and her persistence, Jesus granted her wish and healed her daughter.

Jackie was just as faithful and persistent. She never stopped praying for Chuck, and she never stopped badgering the prison officials. Her search was finally rewarded – Chuck was located. He was in solitary confinement, in "the hole", unable to move or ask for help because he had been severely beaten by the rioters, thrown down a flight of stone stairs and left to die. His back was broken, and he was near death. Jackie and Bud managed to get him transferred to a hospital, and Jackie sat by his side for weeks as he gradually recovered. He had to learn to walk all over again, but he did finally recover.

When Chuck was released from prison for the last time he was getting close to fifty. He had hepatitis C, a devastating disease that is very common in IV drug users. It destroys liver function, and is the most common cause for those needing liver transplants. Treatment is effective in only 30% of those treated, and is both protracted and horribly debilitating. However, after an initial course of treatment, the doctors refused to treat Chuck further, because he had returned to drinking and to cocaine use.

At this point, Chuck looked like a walking zombie – he was painfully thin; his skin and the whites of his eyes were yellow from jaundice, and he had that haunted look that people have who do not have any hope in their lives. When I would ask Jackie, "How's Chuck?", she would shrug and say, "He's dying." And that is what we all thought. During this period, Jackie moved in with Perry and Libby, and allowed Chuck to live in her house – the house that she had lived in for her entire life; the house she had raised her children in. Chuck one evening left a hamburger cooking on the stove while he stepped outside and drank a beer. The stove caught the curtains on fire. Jackie's house burned. **(Continued on Page 7)**

## Fourth Day Seminar **(Continued from Page 3)**

David Zoernig and Calvin Hefner had scanned over 100 team pictures from the last 35 years and had intended to show them during the day. Since they were unable to follow that plan, they had a notebook available with the pictures in it. A list of Cursillos starting with #1 was posted, which included the location of each weekend. Sid Chadwick presented the history of Cursillo in the US as well as in NC.

Delicious punch and beautiful butterfly cakes were enjoyed at the celebration. A highlight of the day was the music, played by the team led by David Zoernig. Bishop Chip Marble concluded the day appropriately with Eucharist and sermon. He then challenged us to live out Fourth Day with energy and dedication as we begin our thirty-sixth year in the Diocese.

*Fran Huske — Assistant Lay Director to the Secretariat*



## In His Time (Continued from Page 6)

During this time, emphysema gradually crept up on my brother-in-law Perry. He became progressively sicker and weaker, and more and more dependent on Libby and Jackie. Today he is almost entirely bedridden, unable even to get out of bed to make himself a sandwich. As Perry grew worse, it was then that God stepped in. Chuck started going to Narcotics Anonymous. He stopped the cocaine use and even stopped drinking. He went to meetings every day, sometimes several in the same day. He started to look better. Jackie prayed and prayed and prayed that he would keep going to meetings and stay clean, and he did.

Chuck just celebrated his sixtieth birthday. He also celebrated his re-birthday – four years clean and sober. He now sponsors other men in the NA program. He also smiles a lot, and Jackie does, too. She is so proud of him. And Libby told me, "I just don't know what we would do without Chuck to help us out these days."

And that is how God performs miracles – in His time.

*Jeanne deWard — Cursillo #87, Table of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Paul's, Cary, NC*

## What Is A "Kairos Weekend"?

"I was in prison, and you visited me..."

Every year, my boss notes on our calendar for a particular weekend or two, "Jeanne in prison." This sometimes gives new people pause – "What on earth," they wonder, "Is Jeanne doing in prison?" Or, as a little girl in our church tearfully asked her mom, "What did she DO?" What I am doing is working a Kairos weekend. The best way to describe Kairos is that it is very much like a Cursillo weekend, except that it is conducted behind bars, sometimes in some of the toughest prisons in the country.

"Why do you do it?" I am asked. "Why not give your time to more deserving people?" "Why do you bake cookies – and ask me to bake cookies – for criminals?" "Aren't you afraid to go in there?" The questions are understandable. I can only answer that I have received more from working with the ladies inside than I ever gave. As for giving only to those who are deserving – how do we measure that? When Jesus spotted Zaccheus in his sycamore tree, or Mary Magdalene seized by demons, he did not ask if they were deserving – he loved them and he healed them.



The motto for a Kairos weekend is "Listen, listen; love, love," and that is what the team tries to do. It is amazing to watch the changes in the women from the time they come in Thursday night – uncertain, fearful, apprehensive – through closing on Sunday night when they get a chance to share what the weekend has meant to them.

Sometimes a lady will say, "I just came for the food." It is true we bring them three home cooked meals a day, the kind of food they never get inside, and it touches them deeply that people care enough to spend their time cooking for them. But again and again, you hear them say at the end, "I came for the food, and the food was wonderful, but I had no idea that my heart and soul would be fed too."

One of the most deeply spiritual times is on Saturday night when we hold the "forgiveness ceremony." Each person – team and participants alike – is given a piece of paper and told to write on it the names of people she needs to forgive. Then a large punch bowl is filled with water, and each person drops her paper into the bowl. As the water is stirred, the paper dissolves. Many women say that watching that list slowly disappear seems to lift a huge burden of anger and hatred that has been weighing them down for far too long. Afterward, as they are going back to their dorms, each lady is given a dozen perfect home baked cookies and is told to give them to someone she needs to forgive. The stories they have to tell on Sunday morning about the people to whom they gave those cookies, the spirit in which they were given and that in which they were received, are amazing. I have often thought that I would not have the guts to do that – to walk up to someone who despises you, who has deeply hurt you and say, "I want you to have these cookies and to know that I forgive you." But they do it.

One Kairos graduate who has been out of prison for a number of years told me that when other residents asked her, "Who'd you give your cookies to?" she said, "I ate them." "That's not what you were supposed to do!" they said, shocked. "They told me to give them to somebody I needed to forgive," she said, "and there was nobody I needed to forgive more than myself." Since that time she has done a lot of forgiving and a lot of healing. Now she herself works Kairos teams, and has proven to be a tremendous inspiration to the new resident participants. **(Continued on Page 8)**

## What Is A "Kairos Weekend"? (Continued on Page 7)

As in a Cursillo weekend, there are talks and music, skits and posters. There is a lot of crying and a lot of laughing. There is a lot of praying and a lot of sharing and a lot of just plain fun. I don't know anyone – team or resident – who has not come away changed. I have even heard Corrections Officers say that they want to work Kairos weekends when they retire, because they see what happens during a weekend and want to be part of it.

There are many ways to be involved in Kairos – if you don't feel ready to go inside with the team, perhaps you can be part of the outside team, and help to cook the meals to be taken in. Perhaps you can bake cookies, or write letters to the participants. Remember what your Palanca letters meant to you when you made your Cursillo? Then you can imagine what they mean to a person in prison. These are people many of whom have never felt valued or loved; to know that people outside the prison, people who don't know them, cared enough to write them a personal letter is a very powerful message.

And you can pray. One of the things we do for each weekend is ask people to pray for the resident participants and the weekend, and, for each person who agrees to pray, we make a link of a paper chain with the name of the person praying. During the weekend, we put up the chain, piece by piece, until it encircles the entire room, a visible reminder to each resident that she is loved and prayed for. Names of other prison residents are put on white paper – a reminder that people in many prisons, in many places, are praying for them. Prayer is critical to every single weekend.

So get involved, in whatever way is comfortable for you. (And, by the way, though I have written about women's Kairos, because that is what I am most familiar with, there is also a men's Kairos, as well as programs for incarcerated children and youth.) To learn more go to the NC Kairos web site, <http://kairosnc.org/> We would love to have you!

*Jeanne deWard — Cursillo #87, Table of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Paul's, Cary, NC*

## My Spiritual Journey

I have never not been aware of the Presence of God in my life. I was baptized on Trinity Sunday at the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, MA by my Grandfather. From that day the priests and brothers of St John's along with the Sisters of St Margaret were very important in my growth and learning. At the age of seven I "demanded" to be Confirmed (the age in the parish was 16 at the time) so that I could sing in the choir. At the time I had a brother who had been born with a congenital heart defect and I had learned that the weeks when we went to church and my parents received communion were much different (read better) than the weeks when we didn't get to church. I wanted whatever they had. I may not have fully understood it, but I did understand that the Eucharist could sustain me through anything, and it has ever since. The sisters patiently prepared me and I was confirmed.

Throughout my life God used many (the priests, the sisters, my Godparents and many members of the parish and classmates) to lay down a firm foundation of prayer, worship and trust in both God and God's people. The Thursday evening following Confirmation I attended choir rehearsal and began a musical education which God has used in all sorts of ways ever since. Much of my learning about God after that came through music and nature. That is still where I hear the voice of God most clearly.

At the age of three months I was carried in a pack basket to the tops of the mountains in the Presidential Range of the White Mountains in NH. I climbed Mt. Washington the first time under my own steam at the age of six, and learned that I could do most anything. I was also an active Girl Scout and we did a lot of camping and wilderness hiking. It was in the New Hampshire mountains that the majesty, mystery and protection of God seeped into my awareness and my very being.



At college I was active in the Campus Ministry for a while and learned to lay read and fulfill all of the altar guild responsibilities. After the death of my fiancé in Viet Nam I didn't darken the door of a church nor consciously pray for several years. I somehow knew God was there but I was too angry to acknowledge that presence. God got through to me from two directions at once. I was "HOUNDED" until I would play guitar for a Friday evening service a classmate was planning to celebrate her friend's ordination anniversary. It turned out this was a charismatic prayer group and I allowed myself to get "trapped" into playing for them regularly. From this God built on the foundation of prayer and I learned to read and study the bible as a regular part of my life and discipline. The same week I encountered the University Chaplain in the dining hall who "INSISTED" that I come and talk to him. I did. I don't even remember what he said that made me explode, but I did and while I screamed and threw every book off his bookshelf he just sat there. Talk about unconditional love and acceptance made visible. When I collapsed in a puddle of tears he gave me a shoulder to cry on, and then together we cleaned up the mess. This was not the first time, nor would it be the last, when the Grace of God and the amazing unconditional love washed over me, but it was perhaps the most crucial time. After I was through crying we picked up the office together. I figured if he could forgive me I would have to forgive myself and maybe even forgive God. This was when I learned that it really was ok to get angry at God. (Continued on Page 9)



## My Spiritual Journey (Continued from Page 8)

A short time later I found myself attending a Cursillo weekend in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manchester, NH (#66 and sat at the table of Faith). On Thursday evening we were asked to say why we were there and I said, "Truthfully, to get my friends and mother off my back!" Cursillo provided me a structure to bring together what I had learned about God, God's people and myself over the years. I relearned the necessity of the balance of prayer, study and action in my spiritual journey and the need for Spiritual Direction and a group of people to help me to stay focused and reflect on what God was up to in my life and in the lives of those around me. I have had a group reunion of one sort or another since the week after my Cursillo when I found myself talking to a couple of folk in the cafeteria before class. They had never heard of Cursillo but they were seeking God and became very important spiritual friends.

As I approached graduation with my degree in music I could not find a job in the field, and I wasn't cut out to spend eight hours a day in the practice room to be a professional musician. By this time I was active in the church again and steeped in a rich prayer life. All the jobs I found were nursing related. Finally I got a job through an agency as a receptionist. It turned out to be in a pediatrician's office. The second week I was there his nurse got sick and he had me doing all of her job within a week. I am a little slow sometimes, but I finally got the message. Before I knew it, I was headed back to school for my nursing degree.

After graduation I worked in the newborn intensive care unit at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC, and living in Alexandria, Va., less than a mile from Virginia Seminary (God's sense of humor). Much of my job involved working with parents who were dealing with the impending death of a very sick infant or with the death of the "dream of the perfect" infant. I felt ill equipped to help many of them. One morning on the way home from a long night's work I stopped to see if "just anyone" could take a course. Before I left I was registered for an ethics class and a New Testament class. To make a very long story short I got sent to my Bishop who made me a Candidate for Holy Orders to be a Deacon. This was the beginning of the Diaconate as a full and equal order in the Diocese of Maryland. After several false starts with the new program I felt called to go to seminary and Bishop Leighton sent me with his blessing. Because at the time most scholarship money available was for "young men" and I would have to continue working, I went to Virginia Seminary. I entered with the first class after women could be ordained as Priest. There were 11 of us living on campus and the seminary didn't know what to do with all of us. It was a time of learning again to trust as well as of learning the academic lessons. Much of my time was spent educating faculty and classmates about the Diaconate.



After I was ordained Deacon (the fourth woman ordained in the Diocese of Maryland) the Bishop used me in every Diocesan liturgy he could, and sent me to "help out" as needed in nearly every parish in the Diocese over the next several years. It was his way of exposing the Church in Maryland to ordained women, and also to the Diaconate as something other than the six months before ordination to the priesthood. It also exposed me to the breadth of the church. I continued to work full time as a Nurse Educator and served as Chaplain to the same hospital.

Four years after my ordination to the Diaconate those around me at the hospital and in the parish (lay and clergy alike) kept telling me I was called to be a Priest. For a long time I ignored them, and God. The Rector I was working with suggested I work with a discernment group and put the question to rest one way or the other. Finally on the Feast of St Stephen in 1984, I went to see the Bishop. By the 26th of February, 1985 I had an ordination date. Nothing moves that fast in the Diocese of Maryland, so I figured this must be what God wanted. I have not doubted it for one minute since the moment hands were laid on my head.

This journey of a lifetime has taken me (and will continue to take me) through all manner encounters with the Holy. I am eternally grateful that I had no sense of being called to the priesthood until it was a possibility. This journey has also taken me places I never expected and it has been a very hilly journey, full of its ups and downs.

I continued to be active in Cursillo and when the Pope "uninvited" those of us non-Roman Catholics who had been active, I became a prayer warrior and worked in the background with many to bring Cursillo to the Episcopal Church. While I served on the National Committee I had the opportunity to visit many Dioceses around the country. I have also been privileged to be part of the leadership for conferences, workshops and retreats. I have served the Secretariates in three Dioceses, and lost count of the number of weekends I have served on in 5 very different dioceses. Often the only constant in my life has been the community and support of the Cursillo family. It has enabled me to be open and to trust what may come next. God has provided abundantly and I continue to trust that this will always be so.

*The Rev. Frances F. Cox —Spiritual Advisor to the Secretariat*

## Fourth Day Thoughts

My dear wife is a 1st grade teacher, so in the summer, we often relocate the household to our small lake condo on Lake Norman. We are so blessed to have this place. Just looking out the window at the water has a calming effect that is hard to describe. Since we're at the lake most of the summer, we don't get back home to church for a couple of months except occasionally. It also means I miss a lot of my Saturday Morning Reunion Group meetings. At St. Clement's we call it "Men's Group," because it's all male, but we use the format for a Cursillo reunion, so I guess it qualifies for that too.



Now that we're all back in the swing of the school year, we're all back to regular schedules and I'm popping over to the church on Saturday morning to have a cup of coffee with my good friends at church. Not doing that for a while really helps me appreciate what I have in this little meeting where we discuss, piety, study and action in the context of the "Fourth Day."

Just like any discipline – daily reading, daily prayer, exercise, meditation – this weekly gathering has become an important part of my life. Like the old saying goes, "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Taking off a couple of months from "Men's Group" made me appreciate what I have there.

Our lives are so complicated and stressful nowadays. My wife worries about budget cuts, kids with all kinds of learning problems, "adminis-trivia", our own kids, the economy, our country — and on, and on and on. I worry too — about money, auditors at work, our company as it recovers from the recession. I worry about the world my son (who is 17) is getting ready to enter as a young adult.

All of this comes down to one thought. Christ said, "Come unto me, all you that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you." They call these the "comfortable words" in the prayer book. And boy, do we ever need them

now.

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

## My Ministry by Miriam Dixon (personally delivered at 35th Celebration)

I was born January 1, 1955. The year is important to my story for I was supposed to be born in March. At that time, until the mid-fifties, premature babies were losing vision for an unknown reason. A doctor suspected it was excessive oxygen given to babies in incubators that caused the loss. My parents were not allowed to touch me and I was not strong enough to be breastfed. I was born at 3 lbs. 5 oz. and went down to 2 lbs. 9 oz. My older sister said I looked like a scrawny chicken. (I still love her!) I had only a 30% chance to live. After 5 weeks in the hospital I came home. I attribute my nurses and doctors for saving my life and the other for saving my vision. One believed the theory and the other did not. One would go in and raise the oxygen and the other would go in and lower it. I survived.

By age 4, I learned that everyone did not look out of one eye at a time. My acuity is not 20/20 now and I can only switch eyes; I cannot merge the images together. 3-D movies, stereoscopes and binoculars mean nothing to me. I do not know what I am missing.

My years in school were like a rollercoaster. I would excel one year and almost fail the next. The doctors told my parents this was normal for retinopathy of premature children, and to be patient. I enjoyed school. I wanted to excel but learning was hard for me. It took me a long time but I did achieve. My favorite subjects were math, spelling and reading.

I was slow in reading because I could only use one eye at a time, so I could not scan as many words. I loved to read. I had grown up with books. My father began reading when he was three so there were books in every room of our house – even the bathrooms. I grew up surrounded by books.

In 2nd grade, I would tell my teachers that I wanted to work with the visually impaired. My teachers would say to me I would change my mind. (Teachers should never say this to a child!) In 6th grade, I started my "training" for working with the deaf-blind by finger spelling to my best friend during class. Later we were given permission – from the teacher – to continue, after a class meeting – as long as we were able to keep up our class work.

My interest in the visually impaired did not wane and I was not going to be deterred by any of my teachers. I took sign language in college, UNC-CH, majored in psychology, and read to blind students for their course work. In the summer of 1976, I worked for two weeks at the Pre-Adolescent Adjustment Program for blind and visually impaired children at Meredith College in Raleigh. **(Continued on Page 11)**

## My Ministry (Continued from Page 10)

After college in 1977, I decided to take Braille for fun as an interest. I found my passion! I learned it so easily and quickly. I was surprised. I was living at home at the time as I had through my college life. (I am Tar Heel bred!) I would Braille up into the early hours of the morning. My parents became accustomed to the pound, pound, and pound of the Braille writer as a lullaby to put them to sleep in their bedroom down below.

My mother suggested I become a Braille teacher. Where would that be? Again, my wise mother suggested I enter the new Social Work for the Blind program at UNC-CH. I told her no, I would make a terrible social worker. She said do it anyway. Get yourself in the door. I took my mother's advice. We were both correct. My internship was at the NC Rehabilitation Center for the Blind. I liked working with the students at the Center but I did not like the coursework. The staff was looking for a Braille teacher; the requirement was completion of the very course I was taking. According to my future boss, I would not make a strong social worker, but he could tell I would make a very good teacher. He hired me as the new Braille teacher starting in January 1979, and I was an official social worker drop-out. Now nearly 33 years later, I am still teaching Braille to adults who have lost their vision and also to the deaf blind to read again. My two passions – reading and Braille, at long last, have come together.

The Center is the best kept secret in NC; no one knows about it unless they need the services. When people ask me what I do, their response is "That is a wonderful ministry!" For years I took offense to this comment, how dare people put down, or have pity for the blind. They are still who they were before they lost their vision. It is not depressing to work there. There is a lot of laughter and successful blind leading the blind. All sorts of thoughts went through my head. That comment made me cringe.

Today, I know I had the wrong idea about "ministry." I knew I could not change people saying this to me, so I accepted it. I began to embrace it. In Cursillo and Education for Ministry, I learned what ministry really means. It is reaching out to others. I minister to my students and they minister to me.

**Romans 12:3 Gifts of Grace** — "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

I have witnessed some wonderful people in my work but I have also seen absolute tragedies. Most have been normal eye conditions: diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinitis of pigmentosa, etc.; there has also been a lady who attempted suicide by blowing her face off; another took the Bible verse about plucking your eyes out if you have sinned, literally; another attempted suicide by jumping off a university building. All of these can be considered tragic but there can be resurrections as well. At times I tell students that their blindness is the death of the sighted world and the birth into the blind world. In some instances, some of the students have better lives as blind individuals than as sighted individuals. As in the case of the student who jumped off the building, he is developing and improving Braille technology. Rather than one line of cells, he has wanted to make a full page Braille display for the technology since he began learning Braille with me. He is presently doing this over at NC State.

It is true that working with the blind and visually impaired is my ministry. It is more than just my 8-5 job. I do minister to them but they also minister to me and fill me up spiritually. It is so gratifying working with them. I also minister to the blind and visually impaired outside of work. I am a member of the consumer advocacy group, NC Federation of the Blind, to work on blindness issues in the community and a team member of Raleigh Outlaws, a blind and visually impaired bowling league (a 60 member league which is the largest in the country). I also co-founded the NC Braille Literacy Council, which members from different agencies deal with issues related to Braille.

My ministry does not stop. Most recently I observed a gentlemen in church who had an enormous eye patch. It was white and huge like he had just returned from the hospital and came straight to church. I did not know him. I observed him as he lit a candle at his pew. I prayed for his healing. I later learned that he had his eye enucleated because of a tumor in the eye – and I learned his name. He was in the weekly prayer during the service and has been for weeks. I decided to give him a book on how to cope as a person with monocular vision, like myself, but how to adjust after having had binocular vision. I wrote him a note: You do not know me but this is my story ... and this is my gift to you. I gave him my contact information if he needed me. I gave the note and book to our vicar, Miller Hunter. A few days later I received a very kind email. The book to him was a great resource but the note meant more to him — that a person who did not know him would reach out and pray for him. He wants to meet me but we have not made contact at any church function.

(Continued from Page 16)

## President's Letter — Not For The Faint Of Heart

Following where God leads us is not an easy task. God's path is often circuitous and filled with unexpected stops and starts. Yet, as disciples of Jesus Christ we are expected to take on the task of being faithful to God and God's purposes; and that is a path which many others decide not to take. Even in places where people often profess that they are Christians, we don't always see people living their faith openly and with conviction. But we are those who persist along the path even when others do not join us. We are Cursillistas -- we are those who have chosen a particular way to live out our discipleship. Cursillo is one model of living a faithful Christian life; however, it is not for the faint of heart.

Cursillo is about modeling a faithful life even when no one seems to walk with us on the journey. Some Cursillo communities have decreased in numbers and other Cursillo communities find themselves aging without young people in their midst, so what are we doing wrong? Perhaps we are not doing anything wrong. Remember that God's path has lots of turns and stops and starts so we can't assume that the Cursillo model is not working in those places where the movement is declining in numbers. I believe that God continues to use the Cursillo model of life to equip disciples for ministry. I also believe that we are not always giving Cursillo our best efforts. For example, if you were to ask people who had attended a Cursillo weekend if they are in a group reunion, over half would say "no". If you were to ask if they attend Ultreya regularly, again most would say "no". So you see, we are not doing a very good job of equipping those who attend a weekend to go out and live the 4th day!

The 4th day is not for the faint of heart. The 4th day is our faithful listening to God and doing what God asks us to do. The challenge before us is to help make disciples who have the stamina to live as Christ in the world. I wonder if we have somehow forgotten how to walk with others on a faith journey. So many times, people are sponsored to attend a weekend and they have no idea that they are committing to a lifelong pilgrimage which incorporates group reunion and Ultreyas, along with personal study, prayer and ministry in their home parish. We need to tell people that they are going to a Cursillo weekend to be equipped for the rest of their life and that means a commitment to more than 3 days of rollos.

Now is the time to show the Church that although the Cursillo 4th day is not for the faint of heart, that it is still one of the best ways to change lives and to enrich ministry in our parishes. The only way that the Cursillo movement will work is if each of us take on the challenge of faithfully living the 4th day. When we participate in group reunion and attend Ultreyas, then we are spiritually equipped to help others into faithful group reunions and attending Ultreyas. When we are a friend, we get our friend into an active 4th day pattern. When we and our friend are active in the 4th day, that is the time to bring that person to a 3 day weekend. We have gotten the process backward for too long and it shows in how many people never find their 4th day disciplines.

Cursillo has much to offer the church and we are the only ones that Christ has to bring these particular gifts to the Church. Christ calls us to depend on Him and then to stay on the path of faithful discipleship living the 4th day model so that we are equipped to bring others to Christ. Living a Christian life is not for the faint of heart, but it is what we do every day with God's help.

*The Rev. Pat Miller — National Episcopal Cursillo President  
(Reprinted from **The 4th Day Magazine** - The official publication of the National Episcopal Cursillo)*



## Sponsorship

The key to a good weekend and having an effective Fourth Day is sponsorship. Sponsors are to identify people whom the sponsors believe will be potential leaders. Sponsors can identify the environment in which these potential leaders may be able to make that environment more Christian.

Remember, the Fourth Day is about being Christian leaders in our day-to-day environments. We study the environments and the people in them. We stay connected to Christ and his church through the practices of piety and studying Scripture and being part of the Christian community. We stay accountable and are encouraged in our actions by participating in Group Reunion and Ultreya. Because of our growing relationship with Christ, we desire to reach out to the environments we study as part of our burning desire to bring the world to Christ.

Cursillo's goal is to change the world for Christ. Our individual role is to make this change one environment at a time, one person at a time by being a friend and bringing the friend to Christ.

The sponsor is not just a person to bring a candidate to the weekend. The sponsor lives the life of a Cursillista, an apostle, and models that life to the candidate. Ideally, the sponsor brings the candidate into the life of the Fourth Day, before the candidate has ever been through the weekend, by getting the candidate involved in a Group Reunion and Ultreya. Accountability to each other is important. Life in community is necessary to live in the world and to change it. **(Continued on Page 13)**

## Sponsorship (Continued from Page 12)

The sponsor is not let off the hook at the end of the weekend. Encouraging the continuing growth of the apostolic life of the new Cursillista is necessary. The weekend is not all there is to Cursillo. The weekend gets us on the same page and describes a method by which we can live our lives as Christian apostles to the fullest. Cursillo IS living the Fourth Day to the glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

As a sponsor you must follow at least these steps:

1. Select your candidate, who you think has a potential as a Christian leader.
2. Pray for the person
3. Contact the clergy of the potential candidate for the clergy's feedback. Things happen in a person's life that the clergy know but that others may not know. Some of these things could be too distracting for a person to benefit right now from the weekend and a life in the Fourth Day.
4. Pray for the person.
5. If you get an OK from clergy, ask the person if they would like to participate in the weekend. Describe Cursillo, not just the weekend.
6. Pray for the person.
7. Bring the person to Ultreya and Group Reunion. This can happen at any time in the process, the earlier the better.
8. Pray for the person.
9. Help the person prepare for the weekend. Assist with cost if that is appropriate.
10. Transport the person to the weekend.
11. Ideally, do not work the weekend. Focus on prayer and being present at the closing and Fourth Day activities during the weekend.
12. Transport the new Cursillista home.
13. Encourage the new Cursillista to participate in Group Reunion and Ultreya. Help the new Cursillista get into a group. Carpool with them to Ultreya.
14. Continue praying and encouraging the new Cursillista in this new walk with Christ as an apostle.

It is only together as the body of Christ that we can be Christ-like in the troubled world in which we live. Ultreya.

*From THE LEVER newsletter of the Heartland Episcopal Cursillo by Rachel Swaney, St. Michael's, Independence, MO*

## NCEC Secretariat Abbreviated Minutes (August 6, 2011 - St. Martin's, Charlotte, NC)

Present: Calvin Hefner, Jeanne deWard, Bill Fierke, Tom Ham, Fran Huske, Jan Millar, Laura Felts (Lay Rector for Cursillo #102) and Sid Chadwick.

Absent: Frances Cox, Donna Ryder, Ralph Schofield, and Deacon Bob Thomas.

1. Fran Huske lead Opening Prayer at 10:07.
2. Fran Huske: Discussion re. "The Secretariat" booklet; challenge — how to develop diocesan Ultreyas.
3. Reports from:
  - A. Executive Secretary's May 7th Meeting Minutes approved.
  - B. Treasurer's Report.
  - C. Spiritual Advisors Update Discussion - for upcoming Cursillo #102.
  - D. Cursillo #101 Report from Jim Holliday.
  - E. Cursillo #102 Report from Laura Felts re. preparations.
  - F. Name Tag design for Cursillo #102 was decided.
4. Committee Reports (Note: Calvin requested that Committee Reports be forwarded-distributed prior to future Secretariat Meetings.)

Reports were received from/Discussion occurred re.: (1) Palanca and Supply Coordinator (Tom Ham); (2) Pastoral Plan/Pre-Cursillo — Ralph Schofield unable to attend this or previous meetings, (3) Fourth Day (Jeanne deWard to have update for next meeting); (4) Communications Committee (Sid Chadwick); (5) New Business, (6) Fourth Day Workshop Discussion (7) Lay Rector Selection, (8) Parish Ultreyas, (9) Secretariat By-Laws, (10) Parish-Based Cursillos, (11) Young Adult's Cursillo, (12) Sacristan position to care for the Cursillo Linens and Altar Supplies, and (13) Calvin's Lay Rector's Report.

Upcoming Events: (a) Secretariat Meeting – Sept. 3; (b) Cursillo #102 – Oct. 13-16, (c) 4th Day Workshop and Grand Ultreya 35th Anniversary Celebration — November 12th, and (d) Secretariat Meeting – December 3rd — All Saints, Greensboro.

## Living The Fourth Day

The first time Dotty and I heard about Cursillo, was when some good friends asked if they could sponsor us to go to a three day weekend. We inquired about the weekend and what it entailed and with some trepidation and not knowing what to expect decided to go. This decision was one of the best decisions we have made for our Christian growth; for it is written: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13)

The three day weekend came and went before we knew it, and all the thoughts and experiences were lost in our minds and emotions. Our best understanding culminated with the Fourth Day, when all the workers, sponsors and new Cursillistas were gathered together to share in a climate of sincerity, trust, and sharing. It is written; *"Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Ephesians 3:19) We experienced this love of Christ where all are able and have something to share, teach and learn by asking questions and giving suggestions.

With the three day weekend behind us, it's not surprising that we may have only a vague grasp on the importance of the concepts which were delivered on the third day. Of course these concepts were intended to prepare us for the Fourth Day, which is the beginning of the rest of our lives in service to our Lord and fellow Christians as leaders for Christ. It has been said that Cursillo activities are not meant to be a substitution for active, committed weekly involvement in parish worship and ministry. This is a true statement, but it is also true that parish life and the ministry are enriched and enlivened by Cursillistas at every level of service who are living out a life of piety, study and action while practicing it through group reunions and monthly Ultreyas. Remember, it is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives! Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you are not willing to move your feet. Even though you can't see Him, GOD is there for you always, as it is written; *"... I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* (Matt. 28:20)



I encourage everyone to join a Group Reunion for their personal strengthening and Christian growth. Dotty and I have learned from our respective groups that it is a wonderful thing to meet with like-minded Christians to share our lives, joys, sorrows, and prayers, and to be strengthened by one another's experiences. As we think of the Fourth Day, remember, there are several things we can learn on the Fourth Day, looking ahead with trust in the Lord and having a prayerful heart and mind. I will leave you with these thoughts:

1. Have a more centered life, having Christ at the center with prayer, study and fellowship.
2. Have the mentality of apostolic action as leaders in the work of Christ wherever it may be.
3. Have more commitment and be involved with Christ in His Kingdom here on earth, united as leaders in one body of Christ.
4. Have the understanding of others, knowing each other's gifts and talents and work in coordination as one.
5. Be willing to make sacrifices, putting aside personal needs and directing the time, talent and treasure to the Lord's work.
6. Be willing to measure the pulse of the group at reunions and promote "friendship and love."

Remember the words of Christ when the scribe asked *"Which is the first commandment of all?"* (Mark 12:28) Jesus answered this; *"The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."* (Mark 12:30) *"And the second is like, namely this, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:31)

Now remember when you attend the next Fourth Day, to develop and strengthen co-workers and to help serve the larger community of Cursillistas, supporting them in their work of transforming environments serving and showing forth the love of Christ.

*From FORWARD newsletter of the Cursillo community of the Diocese of San Diego by Gary Baty*

## Are We Sending Mixed Messages?

Have you noticed that in the life of the Cursillo Movement some people are turned on and others get turned off? This is a discussion that can be far reaching, for we know that the Church is filled with all sorts and conditions of people, and the candidates that are sent to weekends are not always open to living a Christ Centered life of Piety, Study and Action. Sometimes Candidates are ill prepared by their sponsors concerning the Cursillo Movement or the weekend itself, so they come unprepared. As with any Christian endeavor, the Cursillo movement must do their own preparatory work, but we rely on the movement of the Holy Spirit for our success.

It is inadequate to simply think that the Cursillo Method and teachings are not for everybody and then place blame on a candidate who "does not get it." The core message of Cursillo is to live an active, Christ Centered, prayerful, informed, worshipping, servant-based Christian Life. The Cursillo method is rooted in the classic expression of living a balanced Spiritual life, and taught in an environment of self-sacrifice and love. Yes, some people are not ready to live into that message, but the hard reality is that sometimes our own Cursillo traditions and local customs play a large role in obscuring the core message. When that happens, the Good News of God in Christ is not proclaimed with authenticity and power, and the core message of living for Christ is lost because we have let our personal agenda get in the way of the Holy Spirit.

I remember going to my first Ultreya in 1977, and I ran away from the movement for seven years. Why? I was invited to an Ultreya and what I experienced was a local Parish-based charismatic praise event. This Ultreya did not have a Lay Witness, or a Gospel response. There is nothing wrong with a prayer and praise meeting but don't call it an Ultreya, because this experience had little to do with Cursillo. With no Clergy presence the required Gospel response will always be missing. This happy charismatic prayer circle followed their own agenda and on that night, it did not follow or reflect the Cursillo method. Local customs can and do obscure and de-power the Cursillo Message and Method. Ultreya is a regular training ground for the sharing of our faith stories through a Witness talk. If we do not talk about what we are doing for Christ in the safe environment of the Cursillo Community, how can we possibly do so in the world. Ultreya follows and reinforces those patterns that we learn on the Cursillo Weekend. We gather together in Prayer. We work in Small Groups where we can share our walk with Christ. We then hear a prepared short talk about one aspect of what we have been doing for Jesus. The community responds to the talk. A member of the Clergy offers a Gospel Response relating the witness to the scriptures and the theology of the Church. This pattern of the Ultreya will again and again reinforce the fundamental method of the Cursillo Movement.

**When a team serves Christ and the candidates rather than their own agendas then the reality of love in action is present.**

I know others who felt that their Cursillo Weekend was a near cult-like brain washing event. They experienced what felt like a sleep deprived weekend, being kept up late and awoken early. They felt controlled and manipulated by the team at every turn so all the surprises could be more deeply felt. The Authentic Cursillo weekend model when followed, allows meaningful time for breaks and personal reflection, thought and prayer. If your Weekend is always running behind schedule this means your local customs have gone beyond the outlines and you have added more and more local optional tradition to the weekend. A two hour Sacrament talk will derail the core message of the weekend. More is not always better, most often it is just more. Attempting to enhance a surprise is an attempt to shove the Dove. Let the extras go and give your candidates a break and let the Holy Spirit move in her own good time. Study the Authentic Outlines in the Cursillo Library and compare it to your local outline and manuals... Then simplify, simplify, simplify. Allow your weekends to be Grace- Filled, and natural, move away from the three day frenetic slog with more and more important things that have little to do with the core message. The Authentic Cursillo Weekend experience works because the Holy Spirit moves and God gives the growth, not because we have done more and more to convince candidates of our message.

I had a parishioner once ask me, "Why can't the Church be more like Cursillo?" This person discovered for the first time in their life, the reality of what a loving, caring Church feels like. When a team serves Christ and the candidates rather than their own agendas then the reality of love in action is present. How do we do that you might ask, we have weekends so that we can help individuals incorporate into Group Reunions for their continuing growth in Christ. We have weekends so that we can help members of the Church sustain an active Christ Centered ministry in the Church and in their own environments. A Cursillo Weekend can be a foretaste of that heavenly banquet and joyful fellowship, but the real work begins in our 4th Day. If we all prepared for our regular Sunday worship like we prepare for a Cursillo Weekend, with regular prayer, fasting, and the expectation of serving one another in Christ, the local Parish would feel more like a Cursillo Weekend. When the movement fails to live into the core message, that message is lost and the movement dies and we end up offering a 3 day renewal event instead of the full Cursillo experience and spiritual support.

So is your local expression of Cursillo sending mixed messages? **(Continued on Page 16)**

## Remembering Cursillo #102

The drive to Camp Walter Johnson was filled with doubt, anxiousness and fear rose up in me like never before. As I rode in silence I kept wondering what this weekend would reveal to me. Upon my arrival, I was greeted by such nice people and that eased my reservations. Our first group meeting was where I was introduced to all the team members and clergy for the weekend. This is the beginning so I thought.... My name is Ryan McClain and I attend St. Andrew's in Charlotte, NC and sat at the table of St. Thomas.

Since returning from Cursillo #102 I've been asked by friends and family to share what I did and what it was all about. All I can say is that I had a wonderful weekend with people who truly live and practice what's in our Baptismal Covenant. For those that need a refresher it can be found on pg. 304 in the BCP...just a little sacrament being thrown your way. The weekend also teaches you how to live a life in Christ by establishing a solid foundation in the teachings of God's word. You must do these things through Piety, Study and incorporating Action into your daily life.

When you return home from your Cursillo weekend they call it your 4th Day because it's the starting point that lasts the rest of your life, and where you practice the Baptismal Covenant in the life of your church. The weekend renewed my spirit and I have a new focus and purpose in my life. I am becoming an agent of transformation by practicing what I learned from that weekend. I've just given you a sample of how wonderful it was to attend Cursillo. You will need to attend ONE to truly experience the PALANCA.

*Ryan McClain — Cursillo #102, St. Thomas' Table, Charlotte, NC*

## The Greater Raleigh Ultreya

The Greater Raleigh Ultreya met at Christ Church, Raleigh, on August 8, 2011. Music was led by the spirited team of Earl Barber, Suzie Canoutas and Jeri Jeffries. (Some of them even knew all the words to "De Colores"! ) After a delicious potluck dinner, a lay Witness Talk was presented by Jeanne deWard, followed by a lay response from Jeri Jeffries, and a clergy response from Deacon Bob Thomas. The group then split into smaller groups for mini-reunions, followed by more music, prayer requests and, of course, "Weave."

The Ultreya will meet again on September 18th, rather than the usual second Sunday of the month, since that is September 11th, and many churches are remembering that day with special events. Potluck starts at 6:00 pm, and the witness talk will be given by Cuba Suarez, a Kairos graduate and an inspiring speaker. Hope you all can make it!

## My Ministry (Continued from Page 11)

**1 Corinthians 12:4** — "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another, the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

**1 Corinthians 12:28** — "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way."

*Miriam Dixon*

## Are We Sending Mixed Messages? (Continued from Page 15)

Our good work for Christ can be graceful or it can be harmful to our Candidates and the Church. God will always do God's part, but do we? Start by reading from the Cursillo Library and compare your working outlines and manuals with the Authentic Cursillo outlines. How many additions do you have? Ask Yourself... are they really important to the Good News of God in Jesus Christ? If not, leave them aside and make more room for God's Grace and the workings of the Holy Spirit. Make your prime message the presentation of Jesus Christ and how to live into the 4th Day – the rest of our lives.

*From THE FOURTH DAY, newsletter of the Long Island Cursillo by Fr. Rick Simpson, Spiritual Director and Northeast District Representative to the NEC*



## A Wake Up Call

I don't believe that the Baptists, or the Methodists or even the Catholics would send an unruly mob, singing at the top of their lungs, to awake anyone at some ungodly hour on Sunday morning ..... I'm changing religions!

Well, it certainly was a wake-up call to be remembered.

But come to think about it, wasn't that the real purpose of our Cursillo weekend...to provide a wake-up call to all participants to energize their faith; to change from passive to active Christians. And how would one attempt to effect miracle? ... by building a foundation on the pillars of our "three-legged stool": Piety, Study, and Action.

Piety is prayer and trust in God. It allows us to establish a solemn relationship with God, and provides direction in our lives. Study empowers us to acquire a deeper understanding of our faith, and of what it means to be Christians in this world. Action allows us to "breathe life" into piety...to act for, with, and in Christ.

John Kennedy eloquently described this call to action when he said, "...asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own." Action is the central mission of Christianity. We are the body of Christ on earth — His hands, feet, and heart. We are the apostles sent forth to carry out His mission...pass it on.

Dick Storey — Cursillo #102, St. Thomas' Table



**To view or download a **SPONSOR APPLICATION**,  
a **TEAM APPLICATION** and/or a **PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**,  
visit our website at [www.nccursillo.org/forms.php](http://www.nccursillo.org/forms.php).**

## Ultreya Meetings

The Fourth Day Seminar and Grand Ultreya – 35th Anniversary Celebration – was a great success! Approximately 50 people attended. Bishop Marble celebrated Eucharist, and delivered a fine homily to close the day. Many thanks to Fran Huske for her tireless efforts in organizing and recruiting, to Sid Chadwick and Chris Hicks for emceeing, to Calvin Hefner and David Zoenig for designing the poster (and also to David and his talented band for providing awesome music!), and to Frances Cox for assuring us the use of All Saints.

Repeated attempts have been made to contact a spokesperson for each Ultreya or potential Ultreya. So far, we have the following information:

Greater Raleigh meets the second Sunday each month, generally dividing the meetings between St. Paul's in Cary and Christ Church in Raleigh. Contact person is Jeanne deWard (see Secretariat in newsletter).

Winston-Salem and High Point are working to get an Ultreya organized; one or two potential leaders have been contacted; contact Emma Edsel at 336-642-4077, and emmaloucarp@gmail.com.

Charlotte, third Sunday of each month; contact Denise and Doug Spreen: douglas.spreen@gmail.com.

Rocky Mount/Tarborro: 1st Sunday of each month, St. Michael's, Tarborro. Contact Ray Register.

Reidsville: 1st Friday of each month, contact Martha and Tom Bosley: cardsfan@triad.rr.com.

I am in the process of obtaining a contact for the parishes in my area; it would be helpful if other Cursillistas and Secretariat members can help to provide contacts for other parishes.

*Jeanne deWard — Cursillo #87, Table of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Paul's, Cary, NC*

## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Calendar 2012

**January 7** - Secretariat Meeting, St Andrews, Greensboro

**February 10-11** - Secretariat Retreat-Strategic Planning, St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville, NC. Friday, Feb. 10th, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm; Saturday, Feb. 11th, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

**March 3** - Secretariat Meeting, Elect Lay Rectors, All Saints, Greensboro

**May 5** - Secretariat Meeting, Elect Asst. Lay Rectors, Location – TBD

**May 17-20** - Cursillo #103, Camp Walter Johnson

**June 16** - 10:00 – 3:00 pm, Fourth Day Workshop, All Saints, Greensboro

**August 4** - Secretariat Meeting, Elect Spiritual Advisors, All Saints, Greensboro

**December 1** - Secretariat Meeting, Location – TBD

**Secretariat meetings  
are always open  
and Cursillistas  
are encouraged  
to attend.**

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### PRE-CURSILLO

Vacant



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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.

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