



The Rooster Crows

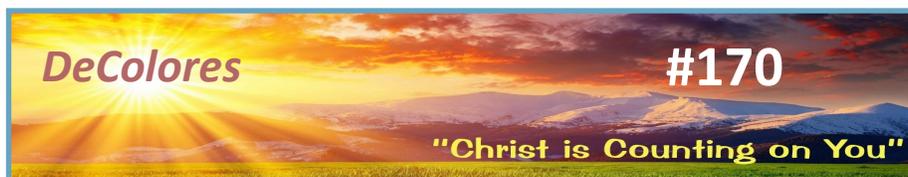
2023 Winter Edition

Cursillo Coed Spring Weekend April 27-30, 2023

Bruce Comfort, Lay Rector

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Soon we will hold our 2nd Cursillo weekend since Covid-19 in 2020. I am encouraging you to submit your applications to serve on this weekend or sponsor a candidate. A team is being formed **now** so don't delay. Also the weekend **can not** happen without candidates. Please pray where Christ is calling you and be part of Cursillo #170! I look forward to hearing from you soon. Visit the website cursillodiosova.org for applications. Being part of #170 by sponsoring someone is also making a friend, being a friend and bringing a friend to Christ!



News from the New Lay Director, Nancy Comfort



I made Cursillo #82 in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, I worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church and I sat at St. Lucy's Table.

I am humbled and excited to serve as your Lay Director for 2023. Serving on the Secretariat is a wonderful environment where Christ lives through each of the members. I greatly appreciate each member who have agreed to serve on this Secretariat. We could not hold weekends or Fourth Days without each of you. This is my third time serving throughout the years and I treasure each experience. If you haven't had the opportunity my hope and prayer is... you may one day. I would like to acknowledge Bill Anspach as he moves from Lay Director to

Servant Community. I thank him for so many years as Treasurer and Lay Director serving the Cursillo he wants so much to survive. Thanks Bill!

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ



I would also like to acknowledge Carol Gibbs who served for four years as Palanca Chair and Servant Community later in this newsletter. Years ago, as Bruce and I entered our church two ushers Alice and Robbie Robinson would greet us, hand us a bulletin and ask us if we'd thought about going to Cursillo. We'd smile and look like a deer in the headlights and take our bulletin and our seats. This went on each week this sweet elderly couple would ask the same question. Then our best friends lives were so different than ours, and found we wanted some of what they had although we didn't know what this thing called Cursillo was, but trusting our sponsors we experienced Cursillo and found a "Rule of Life." Cursillo for me is about living the Fourth Day, that rule of life. To worship each Sunday, to serve where Jesus calls me in my church and outside my church doors. I thought I had a relationship with Christ, by worshipping each Sunday, taught Sunday School but it was when I made my Cursillo I truly found where Christ was calling me as a lay person.

After my Cursillo I felt a longing to serve and looked to the various ministries in my church to serve - Acolyte, Lector and Eucharistic Lay Minister (LEM.) I started with Acolyte thinking "I could carry a torch." God wasn't calling me to only worship and serve Him in my church sanctuary, He was calling me to share what I had learned through my Cursillo experience.

Living my Fourth Day by grouping, attending Ultreya (the list goes on) has taught me what is important or should be important in my life. Yes, I love my family and keep them close to my heart, but Christ wants more of me. My best friend taught me that gift, that special place in my heart for serving others in my church and outside those doors. To find a relationship with those who seek

Christ and those who have found Him. Serving is that place. Whether it is on a Cursillo weekend, a visit to an assisted living facility or picking up a friend who can no longer drive to church. Cursillo opened my eyes to the gifts God gave me. Cursillo prepared me to be a leader although I am an introvert, Cursillo gave me the courage to serve Christ and to say "Yes" Christ can count on me." Cursillo asks me not to stop serving, in my church, my community, or a Cursillo Weekend. God asks me to be faithful, to share what I have through Him and to make a friend, be a friend and to bring a friend to Christ.

Cursillo Spring Weekend April 27-30, 2023 at Chanco on the James is fast approaching. I ask each Cursillista to pray about serving, by **sponsoring** a candidate, and praying for those who will serve and those who will attend this weekend.

May others experience what God has already given and that you will share.

May serving on a Cursillo weekend be your moment closest to Christ.

May you sponsor someone so they too will experience



Christ has no body now on earth , but yours, No hands but yours, No feet but yours, Yours are the eyes through which is to look out Christ's compassion to the world; Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now. Amen.

And, may you find joy always in serving the Lord!

How do we live our Fourth Day? Check your grouping card will help you live that Fourth Day! Piety, Study and Action! If need a new card contact me, I would be glad to get you a new one!

YSIC, Nancy

PS: That invitation is so important - grab a bulletin and invite!

WORDS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
REV. LES FERGUSON

**“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”
John 1:14 NRSV**



What is an epiphany? From a human perspective, Merriam-Webster tells us that an epiphany is, “an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.” Sometimes, the greatest epiphany we have is the awareness of something that is clearly present but somehow out of view in our present reality.

One of the tenets of Cursillo is the idea that God is present and active in our communities, even when we don’t see God’s presence. We strive with others on their journey to a deeper understanding of God’s presence in their lives and at work in the communities we live in. Part of the goal of Cursillo is to encourage us to live with the expectation that we will, in fact, see the presence of God in the world around us. Finding God’s presence often takes concerted efforts – efforts to learn to seek “better” or to get out of the Holy Spirit’s way as the Spirit points to God at work.

We, in Cursillo and more broadly in God’s church, are in a prime position to see God at work in new ways all around us.

God promises to come among us and lead us forward. God equips us to work together with the goal of becoming more aware and alert to God’s gracious presence.

The work can be challenging but, when we live and work in community, we are more able to hear and see where God is calling us. More able to continue to apply God’s strength to do the work that is needed and not depend on our own strength.

As we pray for our community and our ability to live out our faith, we should find hope in our struggles and challenges. God assures us that as long as there is work for us to do, God will continue to lead us in community by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In our Epiphany journey, I pray we find a way to reapply the tenets of Cursillo and revitalize the work we have committed ourselves to during our Cursillo journey: make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. God is with us and leads us in the journey when we let God do that.

De Colores and Ultreya!

Rev. Les Ferguson

OUR SECRETARY

My name is Courtney Wheeler and I made Cursillo #161 in this diocese and sat at the table of St Tabitha. I have been a part of the Secretariat since 2020. For the last year I have served as the secretary and it has been an invaluable experience. As you can tell by my weekend number, I'm fairly new to the community and this role has given me the opportunity to learn so much about Cursillo in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and about our community. I have met and gotten to know people I might not have otherwise met, many of whom I know will be lifelong friends. Being part of the Secretariat has been a blessing and such a rewarding experience!

*The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's word to him or her.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



We remember all our brothers and sisters in Christ who have passed in 2022. Each have touched us in many ways, beyond measure. May each rest in peace.

ULTREYA 2023

Tidewater

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
224 S. Military Hwy.
Norfolk, VA 23502

February 24, 2023 at 7:00pm

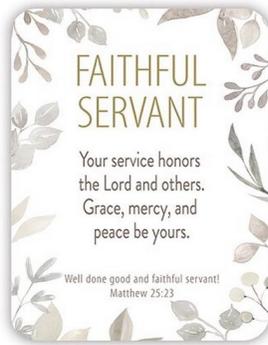
Peninsula

Coming soon

Richmond

Meet Every 2nd Saturday
of the month at 11:00am
at St. Michael's Bon Air

LEAVING—SERVANT COMMUNITY– Carol Gibbs



If you want to know what “Cursillo” is all about all you have to do is look at Carol Gibbs. Carol has served faithfully for the last four years on the Secretariat. She has held positions of Palanca Chair, Servant Community, Shed Head, a Fourth Day event she takes action and accomplishes the task. Carol has made banners, diagrams and tablecloths as well. Whatever the need, Carol steps in and as her Cursillo Cross says, **“Yes! Christ can count on me!”**

She was instrumental in revising the Rector’s Manual, gathering Cursillistas’ to assist her in providing input to sections of the manual from start to completion.

Carol has served 4 years, a number of weekends in many positions; Head Chapel, Head Table, Head Kitchen, Rector, Assistant Rector, and brought the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (National Cursillo) Leader’s Workshop to Southern Virginia where many were able to partake in this learning event, broadening our leadership skills. **Carol Gibbs** your presence will be missed, but we’ll see you on a future Cursillo weekend for sure! Take care in new adventures good and faithful friend.

THANKS BILL!

OUR OUT GOING LAY DIRECTOR BILL ANSPACH

Hello Everyone,



Another year has gone by and it is time for me to step down as the Cursillo Lay Director. I am very happy that Nancy Comfort felt the calling to take my place. I would like to thank everyone for all the help and support you have given me during the COVID –19 “time out” and then getting Cursillo #169 Weekend up and completed. I will still be on the Secretariat for one more year as the Servant Community representative so please help me during the weekend cleanups and other events that might occur.

Don’t forget that Cursillo Weekend #170 (April 27-30) is forming now and needs candidates, team members, and all the support we can give Bruce Comfort!

Thanks again, YBIC,

Bill Anspach

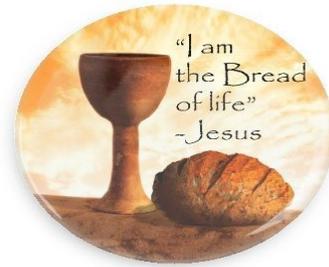
Crave Him

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

Why is it that when we say, "This is the last potato chip I'm going to eat," five minutes later we're looking for more? Michael Moss answers that question in his book *Salt Sugar Fat*. He describes how America's largest snack producers know how to "help" people crave junk food. In fact, one popular company spent \$30 million a year and hired "crave consultants" to determine the bliss point for consumers so it could exploit our food cravings.

Unlike that company, Jesus helps us to long for real food-spiritual food-that brings satisfaction to our souls. He said "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).

By making this claim, He communicated two important things: First, the bread of which He spoke is a person, not a commodity (v32). Second, when people put their trust in Jesus for forgiveness of sin,



they enter into a right relationship with Him and find fulfillment for every craving of their soul. This Bread is everlasting, spiritual food that leads to satisfaction and life.

When we place our trust in Jesus, the true Bread from heaven, we'll crave Him, and He'll strengthen and transform our lives.

Daily Bread May 19, 2022



The Episcopal Cursillo Ministry presents
"Jesus is alright with me"

January 28th at 1:00 p.m.

The ECOMC (Episcopal Cursillo Ministry) invites you to join their 2nd National Virtual Event.

The program will begin with a thoughtful and motivating talk. An opportunity to share where your relationship with Jesus is today.

For more information to register go to:

EpiscopalCursilloMinistry.org

2023 SECRETARIAT MEMBERS



Spiritual Director, The Rev. Dr. Susan Grimm
Spiritual Director, Rev. Les Ferguson
Lay Director, Nancy Comfort
4th Day Coordinator, Allen Cersley
Weekend Coordinator, Mark Crosthwaite
Technical Support, Mike Gaydos
Treasurer, Kim Garber
Palanca, Stephanie Long
Communications, Ana Nowland
Secretary, Courtney Wheeler
Servant Community, Bill Anspach

2023 SECRETARIAT WELCOMES MARK CROSTHWAITE!

Mark joins us in January 2023 and will hold the position of Weekend Coordinator.

We are very thankful Mark has said “YES” to become a member of the Secretariat this year!

He Made Cursillo #56 in the Diocese of Indianapolis. He sat at St. Anne’s Table. Mark worships St. David’s, N. Chesterfield. He is a member of the Vestry. David serves as the Head Usher as well.

Mark enjoys his 17 year old son, Jonathan, a Senior in High School.

We look forward to serving with Mark on the Secretariat!



SECRETARIAT WELCOMES KIM GARBER

I made Cursillo 166 and sat at the table of Gods Love. Stephanie Long was my table leader. We worship at St Michaels, Bon Air. I am the Vice President of Fair and Responsible Banking with TowneBank. I hold my undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond, MBA in Leadership from Averett University and pursuing my Doctorate in Strategic Leadership from Regent University.

My husband Greg and I are empty nesters with the exception of two rescue pit bulls and one cat. In my spare time I enjoy reading, spending time with family and friends, and hanging out with my husband.

Dear Friends,



As most of us realize Cursillo in our diocese is on life support. It has been declining for a few years but COVID put a knife in its heart. It is time now to breathe life back into one of the great renewal programs in our Church. What can you do to help accomplish this worthy goal.

We invite you on **Sunday 12 February at the 10:00** am service as we have our very first Cursillo Mass **at Emmanuel Virginia Beach**. We will have two talks in place of the sermon, lots of singing out of our Emmanuel Blue songbook , announce an upcoming weekend and in general celebrate God in a joyful and enthusiastic way. A spring weekend is planned for *April 27-30th* and we already have an experienced and inspirational rector assigned, Bruce Comfort, and he has assembled a great team.

We encourage you to come and see this very first time event to build enthusiasm for Cursillo as a program and the upcoming weekend in particular.

All Cursillistas' Ultreyas are invited to participate in this service. Make this day **your plan** to attend church and rearrange your schedules to accomplish this worthy ministry. We know there may be other responsibilities with your family members (sports, breakfast etc.) but do pray about attending. Cursillo needs you at Emmanuel on this day to show your physical and spiritual support. Cursillo is too good not to share, too good not to pass on.

Bring a friend or even better a potential candidate. Your support is truly needed.

YBIC, Curt Womble

DeColores & Ultreya

