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# CURSILLO NEWSLETTER



**"SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND WE  
SHALL BE CREATED, AND YOU SHALL  
RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH."**

## News from Our Lay Director, Lydia Dyson

Hello!! My name is Lydia Dyson-Cersley. I worship at St. David's in North Chesterfield. I made Cursillo #161 and sat at the table of St. Tabitha.

Today I want to ask you two questions (there are no wrong answers) and then answer them from me and a few others.

What is the reason you made your Cursillo?

What is holding you back from serving on the Secretariat or team?

My reason for making my Cursillo is probably a little different than most. When my husband and I came back to the Episcopal church, we quickly settled in and wanted to become more involved. Several friends in the church suggested Cursillo. I was so excited. In my youth I had been involved with the youth group, I had made my Happening. My parents had made Cursillo 11 and 12. I would be a second generation Cursillista. The hard sell was my husband, but with some friendly persuasion from our church friends he finally agreed. (If we had to make our Cursillos separate and he had to go first, I would still be waiting.) Christ filled our hearts that weekend. And sent us both on our new journeys. Allen's was with our church and mine the diocese. I was on a mission to seek ways to preserve Cursillo for others. So, they could have what I have found.

Which leads me to the answer of question number 2.

I did not hold back. I served on my first team a year after my Cursillo, #163 with Jim Thurman. And at the 4th Day gathering for the weekend, I was asked to be on the Secretariat. After some time of discernment, I said yes. Serving on the Secretariat has been so rewarding. I have made many lifelong friends that I would not have met if it were not for Cursillo and the Secretariat.

So now it is time for the advertisement. The Secretariat is looking for volunteers to fill several positions. Please think about it.

- ✚ How has Cursillo helped you?
- ✚ How can you help give that experience to others?
- ✚ Where do you see Cursillo in the next 5 years?
- ✚ How can you help to ensure that Cursillo will be here in the next 5 years?
- ✚ Look deep in your heart. Where is Christ leading you? What is He saying?

I am always here for you. Please feel free to reach out. [lydia.dyson.ld@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.dyson.ld@gmail.com)

DeColores!!  
Lydia



## SECRETARIAT MEMBERS:

*Grateful for your gifts and talents!*

Lydia Dyson – Lay Director

Susan Grimm+ Head SD

Les Ferguson + SD

Susan Summerlin – Weekend  
Coordinator

Bill Anspach – Treasurer

Carol Gibbs – Servant Community

Cornelia Taylor – Palanca

Tammy Rogers – 4<sup>th</sup> Day

Mike Gaydos – Comm/Website

Nancy Comfort – Secretary

**PLEASE PRAY ABOUT JOINING US!**



### CHANCO PRAYER GARDEN

A friend of Chanco has taken this time of “pandemic” and created beautiful Stations of the Cross pavers to be installed in the Chanco Prayer Garden sometime in the near future. Each station is a unique piece of art and designed and created to depict Christ’s journey through the “The Stations of the Cross.” This is a wonderful addition to the Spiritual offerings Chanco is known for by allowing us a contemplative walking addition to the Prayer Garden.

Look for further information after the project is complete.

## CURSILLO WEEKENDS 2021 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2020 has and continues to be a challenge for all of us and now its impact is flowing into 2021.

In our November meeting the Secretariat found it necessary, once again, to delay weekend # 168 originally planned for Spring 2020 to Fall 2021, October 7-10. Our first consideration is to ensure the safety of all who would be a part of the weekend, as well as ensuring the conditions allow the weekend to fully achieve the Cursillo experience.

We encourage each of you to pray for this weekend, the team and those who may attend as candidates. Please also pray that conditions will not require us to postpone it yet again.

Please take this news back to your parish community and all those who may be working alongside potential candidates. We want all to know that we will continue to make the best decisions we can to ensure attendance of a Fall 2021 weekend will be safe and be the Community experience we all treasure.

Team and Candidate applications can still be submitted, please pray about sending yours!

Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ.

**From the Assistant Spiritual Director, Les Ferguson+**  
*Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your faithful....*

One of the principal functions of the Cursillo community is to foster the formation of a vital Christian Community in action. Most of the time that community is nurtured and sustained by the ongoing practices of Group Reunion, Ultreya, and Cursillo weekends. Each of these has been a cornerstone of our movement's vitality, each is something we have become familiar with over our lives as Cursillistas. Then 2020 happened and we had to regroup and fall back, to regather and find hope and God's grace in our disorientation.

In the past months I happened upon a little book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer entitled *Life Together*. In his book, Bonhoeffer paints a picture of the life Christians live as active witnesses of God in the person of Jesus Christ in the world. While he reminds us that we are best when we live as the body of Christ in community. Yet Bonhoeffer reminds us that the real work we do is to take the witness, not to believers but to the wider world.

An invitation to examine his writing, but his book lays a pattern of Christian life that begins in community, spending time together, spending time alone, searching and praying about our ministry, and coming together in confession and communion.

It is in that process that the community is formed, finds its norm, finds nourishment for the journey, finds challenges for growth, and is ultimately reconstituted - more focused on the mission of being witnesses for God. Maybe that's what is happening to us in our 2020 journey - a time of renewal in our life as a community and as Christians.

The process Bonhoeffer lays out is challenging and filled with a period of self-reflection. But it is out of that self-reflection we are reenergized for our ministry and given the reward of community and communion. But the process may require us to strip away the "things" we hold dear to relocate the nexus of our relationship with God.

I invite you to join the Secretariat as it does the work of finding a vision that will sustain the Cursillo community in Southern Virginia as we emerge from 2020 into our future.

Ultreya!





**ANNOUNCEMENT!**  
The Spring Weekend 2021  
Has been moved to The Fall Weekend  
October 7-10, 2021  
Rector-Travis Kennedy  
We are still taking applications

We give you thanks, almighty God, for all the benefits You have given us. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen

The Secretariat gives thanks for you with love at Thanksgiving

**Sponsorship...Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ! & Living the Fourth Day!**

*My Name is Tammy Rogers.  
I made Cursillo 149 in the  
Diocese of Southern Virginia  
and I sat at the table of The Way!*



*That was not the hardest part of the Cursillo weekend but a close second! Saying those words each time we introduced ourselves during the talks was not an easy icebreaker. However, little did I know how encouraging it would be to me to be able to say that introduction now and for years to come! I did not understand so much of Cursillo as I was going through it. Honestly, I was glad when it was over. I felt wrung out after that weekend. Now I realize, no it was not the weekend, I was wrung out before I started.*

***But the rule of life** that was created from the experience of the Cursillo weekend and the community of brothers and sisters in Christ I have become a part of, who help me continue to develop my rule of life could only come from the love of God.*

*I encourage anyone who recognizes leadership in the lives of those in their Parish to invite them to attend Cursillo. Since my Cursillo I have served on three teams, I have served on the Secretariat for the past 3 years, and most importantly I have been encouraged to grow deeper in my relationship with the Lord through grouping with my fellow Cursillistas. I most enjoy the community and being with friends who love one another deeply and who live to Make a friend, Be a friend, and Bring a friend to Christ!*

*Ultreya!*

*Tammy Rogers*

**Cursillo was a thing to go to** so my wife could attend a Cursillo weekend. That was in 1991. Since then it has slowly become inter-woven into my life. If I have difficult decisions to make, I depend on my life experiences and I pray to God for guidance to make a wise/correct choice. This method was used at my workplace and is used at my house with my family. Cursillo has slowly and quietly moved from being just another thing that I have done in my life, to something that is used every day of my life. Cursillo has added a fullness to my life with new friends, learning to play the guitar and Christian music in general, and continues to help me build and renew my relationship with God. Being on the Secretariat just seems like the next step in my walk with God and helps to ensure our movement will continue.

Bill Anspach  
Treasurer



## **We Serve Because....**

### **Christ is Counting on Me**

#### ***SHORT AND SWEET: CURSILLO CHANGED***

##### ***MY LIFE - By Carol Gibbs***

But let's be clear: It was not the Cursillo weekend that changed my life. It was – and still is – the Fourth Day.

To be sure, our Fourth Day isn't possible without the weekend. But the transformation in my life didn't happen during the three days at Chanco. It has been a journey. A journey built on seeking a life of piety, study, and action. Reinforced through grouping week by week, month by month, throughout the 27 years since I made my weekend.

Cursillo, as I'm sure you know is a "Short Course" like a racecourse, not a classroom course. The three-day weekend is a sprint. The Fourth Day is an endurance race, to be run for the rest of your life. It is about developing a Christian way of living, and just like a race it requires discipline and commitment.

I know all that sounds heady and noble. But in my reality, it's usually two steps forward and one step back. Year after year, just doing the best I know how.

Someone training for an endurance race puts in the same effort. The training must be consistent and well centered; focused on the goal. Just imagine what the impact would be if the training were inconsistent? What if every day there was a new coach, a new method, a new goal?

Several years ago, I began to perceive that the emphasis of our Cursillo seemed to be moving away from the Fourth Day. And instead, it seemed to be focusing on the excitement of the weekend.

What I saw was a great deal of energy centered around making the weekend better by adding practices or changing things up or adding truly colorful programs that offered fun for the team but did little or nothing to deepen the Candidates understanding of Christ or the Christian life. Everyone seemed to have had very good intentions but many of their ideas were not rooted in an understanding of the Cursillo Method or the philosophy of the weekend.

Let's be honest. Really honest. How many new Cursillistas go home and successfully form a group and begin to attend Ultreya? How many folks seeking to serve on team "tidy up" their Fourth Day by finding a group and starting to attend Ultreya a little so they can serve on team, but they drop it soon after? How many Ultreyas have attendance that comes anywhere near an accurate reflection of the number of Cursillistas in that area? How many folks attend the Closings? How many attend the Fourth Day activities? How hard is it to find willing hands to serve?

**Cont.- SHORT AND SWEET: CURSILLO  
CHANGED MY LIFE - By Carol Gibbs**

In a nutshell, the answers to those questions tell us that the focus of the weekend and sponsorship is not on the Fourth Day but rather on the excitement of the weekend. If this is true, we have turned the Cursillo method on its head – now we are building small groups in order that we might have weekends. The weekend has become the goal – not fully living into the Christian life.

I believe that's why I'm serving on the Secretariat. I began to pray on these matters asking God to guide our community, as he would have us go. And as I prayed a whisper came into my head saying, "so what are you gonna do about it?"

I believe every one of us serving on the Secretariat has heard that whisper in some form or the other and we've all been working very hard to do our part.

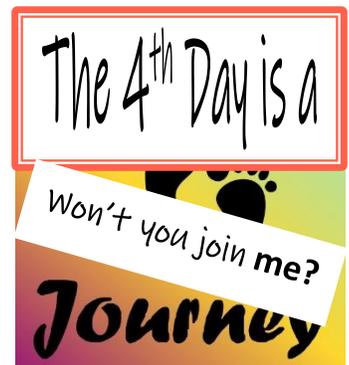
We have reviewed and made public all our Cursillo policies. We have formalized and documented the work assignments of the Secretariat members in order to pass that knowledge on more efficiently. We revitalized the web site, and we continue to seek ways to make all of our communication forms more effective.

And lastly, we have rewritten the Rector's Manual to include more clear and concise guidance for the Rector, as well as guidance sections for every one of the teamwork groups and individuals. We also included much, much more emphasis and guidance concerning the Cursillo Method and the Philosophy of the weekend. Sure, there's still more to be done especially with regards to the Forth Day. But NOW and in the FUTURE, I believe you can trust the Secretariat to continue to seek ways to strengthen our Cursillo ministry.

I can see the powerful impact that a consistent Fourth Day practice has had in my life. I can see it in the lives of my group over the 18 years we've been together. And I have seen it in the lives of so many others in our Cursillo community. I trust the method that can produce such transformation and I will use every gift at my command to see it prosper. That's why I serve on the Secretariat.

YSIC,

*Carol Gibbs  
Cursillo # 166  
Table St. Teresa  
Holy Comforter*



## SERVING.... ON THE SECRETARIAT

As the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator

By Tammy Rogers

My experience on the Secretariat as Fourth Day Coordinator has been both rewarding and challenging. Many times, I have wondered how those before me were able to get it all done. Fortunately, my brothers and sisters in Christ join with me when challenges arise. The gift of the Holy Spirit is on each member of the Secretariat. Because we work to stay in Communion with the Lord our gifts launch out toward Him and we are blessed to complete our tasks together.

I am looking forward to a strong future for the Secretariat and the Cursillo movement. I know that over the past three years our commitment to be strong leaders that the Cursillo Community could count on has been challenging at times. But we have been working towards what God's plan is for this Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. We love our brothers and sisters and want to make each decision with prayer and discernment.

I hope that if anyone is interested in serving on the Secretariat they will pray and ask for God's help to discern how one might serve this wonderful community that is Cursillo.

Ultreya!

Tammy Rogers



## Why I serve on the Secretariat

My name is Nancy Comfort, and I am serving on the Secretariat for the second time as the Secretary. My first time probably 10 years ago I served as the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator and the Weekend Coordinator for Women, times have changed, and we now have one combined weekend coordinator.

I so have enjoyed serving with many amazing and gifted brothers and sisters in Christ over these years and always so glad I said **YES** to the invitation from the Bishop's office with a phone call and letter. That is how it was done back then, of course I felt very humbled by the invitation.

Each position I served has been a gift from those who passed it onto me giving me the encouragement and excitement of the position to do this thing called SECRETARIAT.

Serving with many I did not know was also a gift, taking me out of my "comfort zone." I know many of you knew Father Bob Kerner and Jim Duval, how blessed I was to have served with them. And so many others, we were strangers but now friends in Christ serving together.

We truly need members in 2021 and would love to see you join us. At present we meet most times via Zoom due to the COVID-19 virus, several times a year at Chanco and occasionally at an area church. The Secretariat is made up of individuals from all over the Diocese of Southern Virginia and with our Zoom meetings it would maybe make it more feasible for our western area to serve at this time. Please pray about accepting the invitation and join us in 2021. It will be an exciting time after the pandemic to gather once again.

Contact via the website [cursillosova.org](http://cursillosova.org) anyone on the Secretariat if interested, we would love to chat with you!

DeColores,  
Nancy Comfort, Cursillo #82,  
St. Lucy's Table,  
St. Peter's, Norfolk



## The Summons

**John L. Bell &  
Graham Maule**

**Will you come  
and follow me if I  
bought call your  
name?**

**Will you go where  
you don't know  
and never be the  
same?**

**Will you let my  
love be shown?**

**Will you let my  
name be known,  
will you let my  
life be grown in  
you and you in  
me?**

## THE FALL NEWSLETTER

We hope you have enjoyed the articles from various members and their experience while serving either on the Secretariat, a Cursillo memory, and/or principle Functions of Cursillo.

If you would like to share yours for possible submission in a future newsletter, provide 200 words or less Nancy Comfort. [comfort\\_1@cox.net](mailto:comfort_1@cox.net)

Enjoy!

DeColores & Thank You!

### REMINDER!

**ULTREYA VIA ZOOM NOW BEING OFFERED  
BY THE SECRETARIAT**

Ultreya Schedules are listed on the website, be sure and check when your area next Ultreya is and schedule it via Zoom. To schedule the Zoom Ultreya contact Lydia Dyson for more information to use Zoom.

**The Secretariat wishes you,  
your family, and friends'  
blessings this Advent and  
Christmas Season. Look for  
the "Winter" edition of our  
Newsletter in 2021**

*The Secretariat is also taking safe measures for Covid-19 by wearing our masks donated by Carol Gibbs and keeping social distancing to be safe and well!  
Everyone be safe!*

