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# *Rainbow* **Newsletter**

*“Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day such was the appearance of the splendor all around. This was the appearance of the glory of the Lord. Ezekiel 1.28*

## **1. Lay Director** *(Susan Little)*

Last spring I decided to try my skills at knitting so I joined a weekly group of women at our church. They were eager to show me the basics of casting on and a few different stitches. I even learned how to retrieve a dropped stitch! Although I could not attend every week, I was very proud at being able to create a dish cloth using the plain knitting stitch. I have been working on more dish cloths with fancier edging and hope to graduate to bigger items in the fall. However, I am very grateful to have acquired this new skill, especially because it has taught me a few things about God

and the way God works in community.

Psalms 139 verse 13 reminds us that God “created my innermost being”. The psalmist asserts “You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” and concludes in verse 14 that “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful. I know that full well”.

The complexity of our human body and its intricate workings are the results of God’s intentional work in us. When we contemplate the technological advances in surgery and medicine which bring healing and wholeness to our bodies, sometimes using invisible lasers and microscopic techniques, we can easily conclude with the psalmist that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made”. Whenever we question our purpose in

life, this part of the psalm reminds us that God's Spirit is willing and ready to work within us to bring glory to God.

The 'knitting together' is an important understanding of how much God loves us, both as an individual person and also as a part of the human family. When applied to Cursillo, we begin to appreciate the ways God is working among us to make known the love of Jesus Christ for all people. When applied to Cursillo, we begin to 'see' the ways God uses our friendships and our relationships to bring out the best in one another and to create something lasting.

There are a few reasons why I think God is at work 'knitting' the fabric of Cursillo. Consider the recent search which Secretariat is launching to find new places for our Cursillo Weekends to occur. Finding the geographic centre to both Niagara and Huron dioceses is the target so that Cursillistas from both dioceses are not always advantaged or disadvantaged. In knitting, it is important to create space between each stitch so that a flexible fabric results. If it is too tight, it will be inflexible. Similarly, too much space between stitches will make the fabric too loose to be useful. The tension between the stitches on the needles is the challenging part of knitting and, through experience, the best product results when there is a good relationship between the knitting needles and the yarn. Too much pulling or pushing creates something useless. The result of our search will be a new facility which can deliver a Cursillo Weekend in the best way possible to meet the needs of its participants.

In addition to our search for a new conference centre, our membership is growing together in wonderful ways. Our new friendships from Weekend 51 have given us examples of new groupings and new Christian experiences. Throughout the weekend and the Team training events, we discovered people with a wide background of experience, skills and talents. Recently, some have been asked to share these with the Wider Community during the Empower workshops offered this October on Study and Prayer. If you look at the facilitators, you will see both familiar and unfamiliar names. Knitting them together will create new experiences and life for us all, strengthening the fabric of our lives.

Knitting is also occurring in the membership of Secretariat (the central committee of Cursillo Niagara / Huron) while saying good bye to a few members, like Rod McDowell, Victoria Baldwin and Larry Collinson. It is also welcoming new members like Anne Gould, Shirley Kitchen and Jan Collinson, Working with new and not so new members on a busy committee like Secretariat is a gift we have at the heart of our Cursillo. God is challenging us in Niagara and Huron dioceses to 'grow' Cursillo. As we begin the new program year, we are not sure what results the 'knitting' that God is doing among us will create. The Psalmist reminds us that God's "works are wonderful. I know that full well". (v.14). Therefore of one thing we are sure: God is working on this 'new creation' through us and among us, and we are definitely ready to do our part.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17 Ultreya!

Susan

## 2.

### **Spiritual Director**

*(Rev. Stephanie Pellow)*



One Sunday in August, the following phrases made up parts of the Collect, Prayer over the Gifts and Prayer after Communion.

“Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

“Give us the grace to live as faithful children.”

“May we who have been nourished by holy things live as faithful heirs of your promised kingdom.”

The theme of faithfulness, not through coercion or fear, not for social status or obligation of membership but as a free choice runs through all three prayers. Whenever I think of Christians I have met through Cursillo, I see that theme of choosing faithfulness embodied in them. To those who are retiring from our Secretariat at this time, I want to say a hearty “thank you”. Your faithfulness as children of God, dedicating your freedom to service through this organization has been much appreciated. I also fully anticipate that those coming onto Secretariat bring the same attitude of faithfulness with them as they begin to learn their new roles.

As Spiritual Director of Cursillo in Niagara, it has been my task and joy to encourage Cursillistas in their faith and to help develop leadership within the organization both for our own prosperity and that of the church in the Diocese of Niagara. One of our tasks in 2015-16 was to re-ignite interest in and commitment to regular group reunions. It is easy for any of us to say that we really don’t have time for one more meeting but can we become conscious of the fact that this meeting is the foundation of everything else we do? It is a safe place for interpersonal care, prayer, and encouragement. If you are grouping regularly, I applaud and encourage you to continue. If you have lost or not made this important connection in Cursillo I would also encourage you to reach out and reconnect. It is refreshing and uplifting – like going to a spiritual spa with good friends. In the past year we have moved ahead with our partnership with Huron Diocese welcoming new Cursillistas from Huron and engaging two priests from Huron, Archdeacon Graham Bland and Rev. Mona Goulette, as Weekend Spiritual Advisors. Along with our Lay Director and Huron Liaison, I will be meeting with Bishop Linda Nicolls in London in September to further this partnership. Bishop Nicolls has attended Cursillo.

During the past year, I have often worn two hats. As there was no Pre-Cursillo Chair, I assisted Marion Bailey, Weekend Chair, with the tasks usually assigned to Pre-Cursillo. It is my hope to hand those tasks over to a Pre-Cursillo Chair as we set up our Secretariat in October. I am also hoping that there will be a priest on Secretariat to prepare to take over the role of Spiritual Director in September 2017. My tenure has been a long one and I feel it is time for someone else to bring fresh ideas to the role. In the interim, I will continue to serve as faithfully as I am able because Cursillo is one of the vehicles through God has given me the freedom to serve.

Respectfully submitted

Rev Stephanie Pellow

**Be a friend,**  
**Make a friend,**  
**Bring a friend to Christ**

**3. Treasurer**  
(Renee Anderson)



From the Treasurer

There is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but what we do have is the promise of God's love for all mankind. Looking at the spectrum we can see the beauty of light and water coming together to make this awesome sight. Think about it. Whenever we see the rainbow we stop or pause, look and appreciate this phenomenon that comes from God's own creation. The colours touch every aspect of our lives. We live in colour, we love colour, and colours make us happy.

How appropriate then for us, as Cursillestas, to have a "colour" song. We use the colours to dress up our fiesta times, our dinners, our décor during the weekends and more. And how amazing is it that the light that shines through water to make a rainbow also shines in our lives. The light that is Jesus. Jesus was there in the time of the first rainbow, he is with us now and will be for all time. That is very comforting and reassuring.

The Bible relates to the rainbow or "bow" from Genesis (9:13-16) to Revelations (4:3, 10:1), from beginning to end. Yet it is never the ending for us. Even as we read and study our Bible, we are prompted to go back to the first books because the books are linked to each other in one way or other. It is God's Word linking us to the past and to the future.

We can use this rainbow or covenant concept to link us to one another. As Cursillestas and those looking to make their first weekend through a friend, we can find solidarity in this program that has been a life-saver and life-changer for so many for decades. It gives us the tools we need to be servants to one another, pray for one another, laugh and have fun with one another, because we have the common link of Christ. We can go out into the world equipped with these tools to help and comfort our brothers and sisters around us, as so many are already.

As we move into another year, please keep Cursillo in your prayers and, if you are able, perhaps support the work that is being done with a donation. These donations make it possible for others amongst our wider community to be given a chance to experience Cursillo and the love and support it brings.

*Renée Anderson*

**4. 4<sup>th</sup> Day Chair**  
(Paulette Switzer)

As I sit down to write this report I have seen the Holy Spirit "work in more ways that we can ask or imagine".

We continue to work as a Servant Community.

We hosted the CACS meeting April 18-20th. I was honoured to serve at the Agape meal.

Week-end 51 was held May 26-29th at Crieff Hills Conference Centre. This was the first combined Niagara-Huron weekend. I attended both Moonlighting and closing. The Holy Spirit was working through the wider community as we welcomed our new Cursillistas who will be sharing Christ's light.

Our Diocesan Ultreya was held June 12th at St. John the Evangelist in Kitchener. This was well attended by around 40 people. Rachel Prichard was our witness speaker and Heather Garland gave the lay response.

Our music was provided by Susanne and Margaret.

We enjoyed fellowship and a potluck.

Our AM will be September 18th at 3PM at The Cathedral.

Paulette Switzer  
4th Day chair





## **5. Weekend Coordinator**

(Marion Bailey)

I had no doubt that saying “Yes” was the right thing for me to do when I was asked serve in the role of Coordinator for Weekend #51. Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to learn and grow in my personal walk with Christ.

The theme that came to me was from Matthew 14:27-33 (NIV). **“But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”**

It seemed to me to be appropriate that we should take this passage to heart as we were stepping into uncharted waters, aligning representatives

from our two Dioceses to one Secretariat and going forward to our first officially combined weekend!

Team training began with a *Core Team* meeting on Friday, April 1, 2016 at St George’s Anglican Church, 99 Woolwich St, Guelph. Thanks to Rev. Ralph Blackman, Rector for his welcome. *Team Building* began on Saturday, March 5, 2016 followed by Pot Luck Supper at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, 114 Fergus Street South, Mount Forest. We were warmly welcomed there by the rector Rev. Shirl Christian. (Rev. Shirl is a Cursillista, a talented musician and has recently moved to the Niagara Diocese. We look forward to seeing her again.)

*Team Training/Building* continued on Friday, April 15 - Saturday April 16 and Friday, May 13 - Saturday May 14, 2016. The Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> session completed the training with the Moonlight at the Church of the Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Road West, Hamilton. We were welcomed warmly by the rector, Rev. Michael Deed, and Tim Standish.

The team was as ready as it could be for Weekend #51 – May 26 – May 29, 2016 at Crieff Hills Community, R.R. # 2, Puslinch!

**“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.**

I challenged the team to ask themselves – “what exactly are we doing?” Personally, I didn’t know quite how to articulate this – so I went to the Cursillo Library and found a publication on the Authentic Three Day Weekend. The first page says that the Cursillo Weekend did not happen by chance or as an afterthought when the Movement was formed. It was structured over a period of years and developed from lived experience – experience with God and life. This booklet can be found on line at



[http://episcopalcursilloministry.org/online\\_library.htm](http://episcopalcursilloministry.org/online_library.htm) along with other free Cursillo publications. I encourage you to browse.

Information from this publication identified 'The goal of the Weekend' as the empowerment of Christians to go into the world, equipped to witness to the wonder of being the Church. The Authentic Three Day Weekend is where the life of grace and the Cursillo Method become real and applicable to the lives of the participants.

The role of the Coordinator is to be a facilitator: to stand back and allow room for the working of the Holy Spirit. At every weekend, each team member has an integral role to play and each person is blessed with the responsibility of completing a very unique Cursillo Weekend Team – No two people are exactly alike, therefore, no two teams are exactly alike. Christ meets us exactly where we are!! There will be no other experience like it and none has gone before. The only similarities lie in the method – a reliable and time proven method -- The Cursillo Method.

***But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"***

You will notice some things were different on Weekend #51. Our venue was different. Habits have to evolve and be flexible in order to work. Our distance variations are great. Team #51 came from Tobermory; Owen Sound; Orangeville; Grand Valley; Caledonia; Dunnville; Puslinch; Wellesley; Hamilton; Burlington; Milton; Brantford. You will notice that our team training schedule reflected a living and moving and driving team. Thanks to the team who drove the distances. Thanks to those who attended the Moonlight on a different day and different time at a different venue. Thanks to those who drove participants to a new venue. Thanks to those who attended the Mañanita, the Agape and the Closing! It would not have been the same without you.

***Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"***

I am always amazed how tired and yet, replenished I am at the end of a weekend. We are each offered an opportunity for growing friendships and for personal growth. What an awesome God we have, who replenishes more than that which we give. We welcomed eleven new Cursillistas to our Wider Community Fourth Day Walk!

***And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."***

Ultreya!

Marion Bailey  
Coordinator, Weekend #51

## 6. The Witness Box

*'Cursillista testimony of their journeys in Faith ,Study & Action'*

### *Cursillo*

(The beginning of an amazing personal journey.)

May 27, 28 and 29, 2016 was the most recent 3 Day Niagara and Huron Anglican Cursillo Weekend of Christian discovery called Cursillo Weekend #51 at Crieff Hills Conference Center in Puslinch, just south of Guelph. This weekend of introduction to a 'Short Course on Christianity' was joint effort of both Huron and Niagara Dioceses. My weekend was weekend #47 in May of 2012 a pivotal moment in this Christian's journey as many who have attended a weekend will tell you – there is no turning back! We use the Spanish word 'Ultreya' which roughly translated means 'ever forward'. I don't know about you, but as a Christian sitting in my pew, loving the service ..... but somehow, when I went home, I found I was unfulfilled. Have you experienced that feeling? I was a contributor to our church community; I cared and I did what was necessary, but still.....

One day at coffee hour, I was talking about going to a 'Warden's and Treasurer's Day' workshop to learn more of these duties. My Priest overheard this and suggested that a Cursillo weekend would be a better fit for me (sometimes others know better than you what you need). Well, that weekend changed my whole life as a Christian. It gave me the kick-start or as Richard Rohr says had me 'falling upward' which has kept me seeking ever since. That weekend changed my vision and direction for there was a Spirit present that transcended all.

I am no longer satisfied with a status quo. I have questions and if I ask, Christ will give me the answers; a most patient friend!

Seeking brought me to EFM (Education for Ministry), a natural progression. Biblical study and theological reflection in a group setting where no view is left unturned. The more I study, the more Christian I wish to become. All of this is because of an inspirational and spiritual weekend called Cursillo.

Ultreya and God Bless

Colin Shutt - a Cursillista, a fledgling EFM'er and a grateful parishioner of St. Stephens Memorial Church, London.

*Global Leadership Summit held October 20-21, 2016 recommended by a fellow cursillista. For more information call 800-804-0777 or visit the website [growingleadership.com/summit2016](http://growingleadership.com/summit2016).*



## Cursillo Weekend 51

Cursillo Weekend #51 was, to put it mildly, a truly amazing weekend from start to finish. We gathered at the Crieff Hills Community Centre from May 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. It was, for me, a wonderful experience to be a member of the team. The team came together well with a good mix of both Huron & Niagara diocese representatives. We welcomed 11 new participants from both dioceses and it was wonderful to see how they all came together forming new friendships.

My role as a table enabler gave me the opportunity to watch our participants as they enjoyed worship services and willingly took a part in them. It was a great experience to watch how they enjoyed the talks in the conference room, and discussed each talk after it was finished. Everyone joined in singing songs of praise to the awesome God lead by music from our music team.

We were well cared for by the staff at Crieff. The hospitality was excellent and the dining room staff catered to our many needs with home cooked meals being provided for us. The grounds at Crieff are beautiful and we had time to be able to wander around stopping at prayer shelters scattered about the grounds providing a quiet place to sit.

We give thanks to our clergy team who were so very supportive of us all, and shared their many talents with us all. Our team leaders worked together to give us all a truly amazing weekend which I'm sure will be remembered by all of us as we continue on our 4<sup>th</sup> day journey.....the rest of our lives. Thanks be to God.

Kathy Beattie  
Grace Church, Brantford

## **7. Food for Thought**

The Beauty of God's Creation.

This past July my Husband and I went on a road trip to NFLD. I was not ready for what beauty God created. Every kilometer we drove (7,000 in total) brought new and different scenery. From the beauty of Gros Morne to Bonavista and St. John's. The Holy Spirit was present the entire trip. My Faith sure has been reinforced by the realization that God created such a piece of Heaven on earth.

The next time you go on a vacation or trip take the time to pray and take in God's creation wherever you may go.

Ultreya, Paulette Switzer.

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Visit us at:

[www.niagaracursillo.org](http://www.niagaracursillo.org)

## **8. Communications**

*(James Gould)*

As I finish up my first year as communications chair, I can safely say, what a learning curve. I am very blessed by the great support I received from my "recruited" team. I am slowly learning about webpages thanks to my mentors (Michael Wilson and David Gould). I also am deeply indebted to my editor and word perfect expert for all her help (Anne Gould). As someone once told me "God does not call the equipped, he equips the called" and how true that has been! However there is one thing that God did not equip me with, which would be extremely useful in this job, and that is the gift of ESP or mind reading. The number of times I have been asked why something was not sent out about... to which my reply was, this is the first I have heard about it. Communication is a two way street, I can only disseminate to the website or emails, information that I have received. So please send me an email with the information to be sent on it at [niagaracursillocomm@gmail.com](mailto:niagaracursillocomm@gmail.com) and I will get to as soon as possible (I only check emails once a day).

Please visit our website: go to the **weekend** page for applications and weekend info, go to **upcoming events** for what's up in **study, faith & action**, Ultreyas, workshops and more.

The newsletter is for ALL Cursillistas! Yes it is an important tool for the secretariat to keep all members informed of

happenings. Ideally it is also for fellow Cursillistas to pass on ideas and or events that might help others on their journey.

If there is a Cursillista who needs our prayers contact me and I will gladly get their name to our Prayer Team.

Remember if you change your email address to please let us know so we can continue to keep in touch with you! If for some reason you wish to be removed from the email lists, email your request for removal from the list and I will remove you from our email lists.

Yours in Love and Service,  
James Gould

***Now there are different gifts, but there is the same spirit; and there are different ministries, and yet there is the same Lord; and there are different activities, and yet it is the same God who performs them all in everyone.*** 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:  
4-6