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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)



Since the late 1980's, our family has always leapt for joy when they spot the first amaryllis kit for sale in mid-November. The large box decorated with a vivacious colourful bloom has always found its way home with us. Sometimes we have bought a few to give away to older relatives or friends but an amaryllis kit was always the treasured gift to our household before Christmas.

I remember when our children were very young how we placed the dead-looking bulb into the almost feathery-dry soil provided with the kit. I remember the eagerness of

our children's fingers, tucking in the soil around the top stem of the bulb and then

carefully measuring the water to pour slowly over the plant. We set it aside, adding a label to record the date and time of our first action.

As the days went by, each morning our amaryllis plant surprised us with signs of growth. First would appear a shoot and then slowly, ever so slowly for a young child, the height increased. Finally, a few weeks later came the plumping of the buds at the tip of the long stem. It was always a great moment when the first of the blooms greeted us on one morning, causing us to erupt with joy and amazement. By the time Christmas arrived, the plant was usually in full bloom with several flowers and often a second stem with its blossoms surprised us by the new year. The decorating of the Christmas tree was always magical when we put it up a week before Christmas but it was nothing like the anticipation of what the amaryllis would show us each morning as we came down to breakfast.

Our family learned much from that amaryllis plant. Beyond the obvious lessons about teamwork, routine, and patience, how much about life, death and resurrection we understood!

As I glance outside in the middle of January, the sudden warm weather has washed away much of the snow and revealed a dull brown, dead-looking setting. A glimpse of the bushes and trees nearby tell the same story: winter's spell of death is everywhere. Perhaps that is why the amaryllis is still my favourite winter plant. Its story of death and resurrection helps me focus on the truth of Jesus in my life: nothing can defeat the power of love through the power of God's Spirit working in us and through us. With my brothers and sisters in Christ, the transformation that can occur in the lives of the people I meet drives me to work hard with many of the facets of Cursillo.

In 2017, we see the beginning of new opportunities to love those around us. In the face of a changing world where our neighbours are the victims of job loss, disease, marriage breakdown, addiction, abuse, indifference and hopelessness, God calls us to look after them. Moreover, God invites us to care for those we don't know, to challenge us to increase our love of those different from ourselves but nonetheless in need. In short, God calls us to transform our world by using the power of love to speak to those in need,

Our awareness of God's special love for us arrives at unpredictable times.

Transformation comes from God. At unexpected moments, God's grace occurs and it happens in God's time.

Your Secretariat is busy trying to find ways to enliven and reinforce what the Cursillo method teaches. Cursillo's Fall 2016 series of educational events on Prayer and Study were successful in engaging Cursillistas and non-members to refresh and renew these parts of their lives. Thanks to the Rev. Stephanie Pellow and the Rev. Mona Goulette for leading the Prayer workshops and to Shirley

Kitchen, Rachel Pritchard and Carol Summers for directing the Study workshops. Watch for more workshops later this year.

Later in 2017, we are looking forward to an Ultreya especially for the Hamilton and Burlington area on March 26th at the Cathedral, a first in the Hamilton / Burlington area for a long time. Following the next Cursillo Weekend, we are planning a Diocesan Ultreya, in Brantford, for June 11th. We had a successful Diocesan Ultreya in November of 2016 and special thanks go to the Church of the Transfiguration in St. Catherines for hosting it. Our Paulette Switzer works incredibly hard to make everyone's Fourth Day a transforming experience.

This past month or so we have become partners in what I believe will transform even more lives here among us. Jan Collinson and Anne Gould are firming up a team for Weekend #52 (May 25-28). The beautiful rustic setting of Crieff Hills Conference Centre will help nurture those attending. Please pray for people who need a closer walk with Jesus. This is one task for all of us to help transformation occur,

In 2018, the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Triennial conference will take place under our sponsorship. Already, the plans for June 20-24 are starting to form under the leadership of Tim Standish. Since it involves Cursillistas from all parts of Canada, the potential for transformation on many levels is immense. What an opportunity to show God's love for so many!

Yes! The potential for us to help transform the lives of those around us is limitless. When we find ourselves at the end of the day wondering what we can do to make a difference in the world, these are just a few ways you can help:

1. You can spread the love of God by praying regularly for the Cursillo movement.
2. You can regularly study scripture to keep a close connection to God's wisdom and voice.
3. You can also pray for people who are considering bringing a friend to Christ or thinking about how to introduce the Cursillo method to those who need a closer relationship with God.
4. You can pray about saying 'YES' when asked to provide a witness talk at an Ultreya or be on a Weekend Team
5. You can donate regularly or authorize prepaid withdrawals to provide financial support for the work Cursillo does in Niagara and Huron.

These are just a few ways to help transform the world, making a difference right where you are. Remember the joy, which took root in your life once you recognized God's presence in it?

I invite you to remember the joy St. Paul expresses in his epistle to the Philippians in working "to press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus" (3:14)

Such a transformation in the lives of those who God puts in our path is what we are hoping to win for Christ. Such a transformation is just like the one that occurs

when the dead-looking amaryllis bursts into bountiful blooms and beautifies the world around it. God teaches us with many simple lessons!

Ultreya!

Susan Little
Lay Director, Niagara/Huron Cursillo

2. Treasurer *(Renee Anderson)*

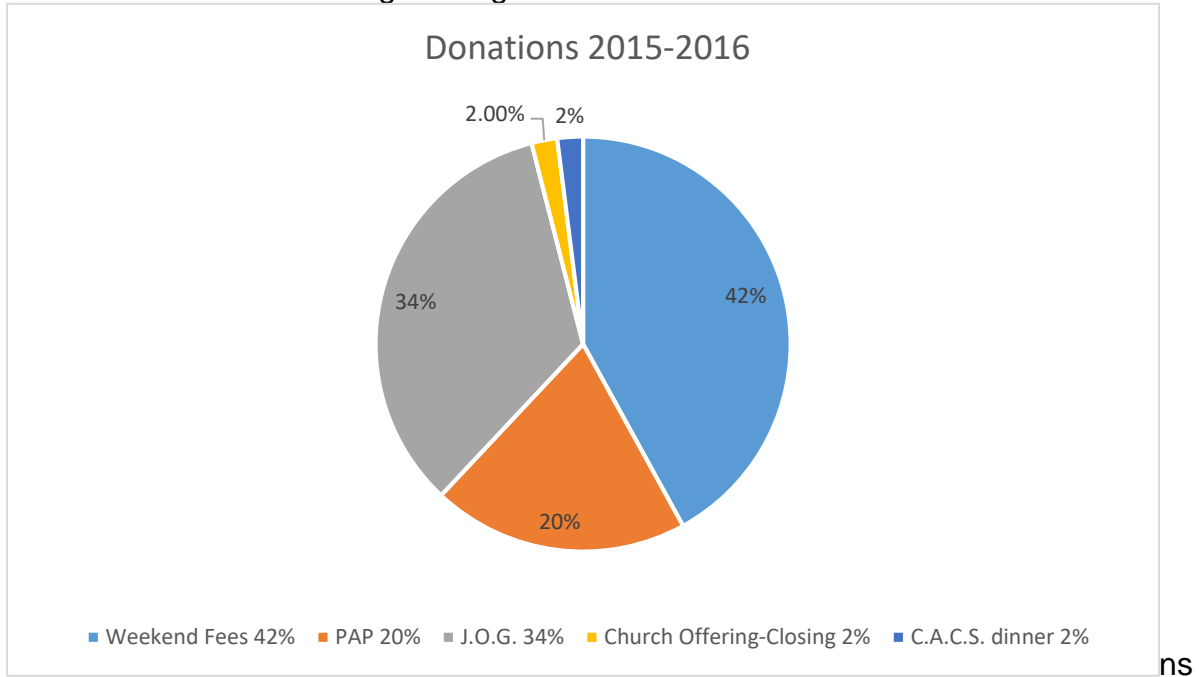
There is so much energy running through the veins of Cursillo at this time. We are excited about many events that will be taking place this year and next. That's not to say that 2016 wasn't equally as good; with weekend 51, a new venue, new Ultreya church-sites, and educational workshops in both Huron and Niagara dioceses. It is equally wonderful when it spills over to our church-life. After all that is the way it is supposed to work! God is working through the veins of Cursillo and promises always to be with us when we are one with Him. In service as a licensed lay reader of my church, choir member, and Anglican Fellowship of Prayer rep, I continue to say "Yes" as I did for my weekend back in 2006 and show my faith through *action*. As Treasurer of Niagara Anglican Cursillo, I am also looking into ways to communicate to the wider community and make donations a reality for the future of Cursillo. Right now, we are looking into e-donations or e-transfers to enable ease of registration fees and make it easier for you to contribute your gifts to Cursillo. We contemplate that arrangement to take place this year. Please watch our website (www.niagaracursillo.org) and



Facebook for updates and, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you a productive, healthy, and spiritual year ahead. Ultreya.

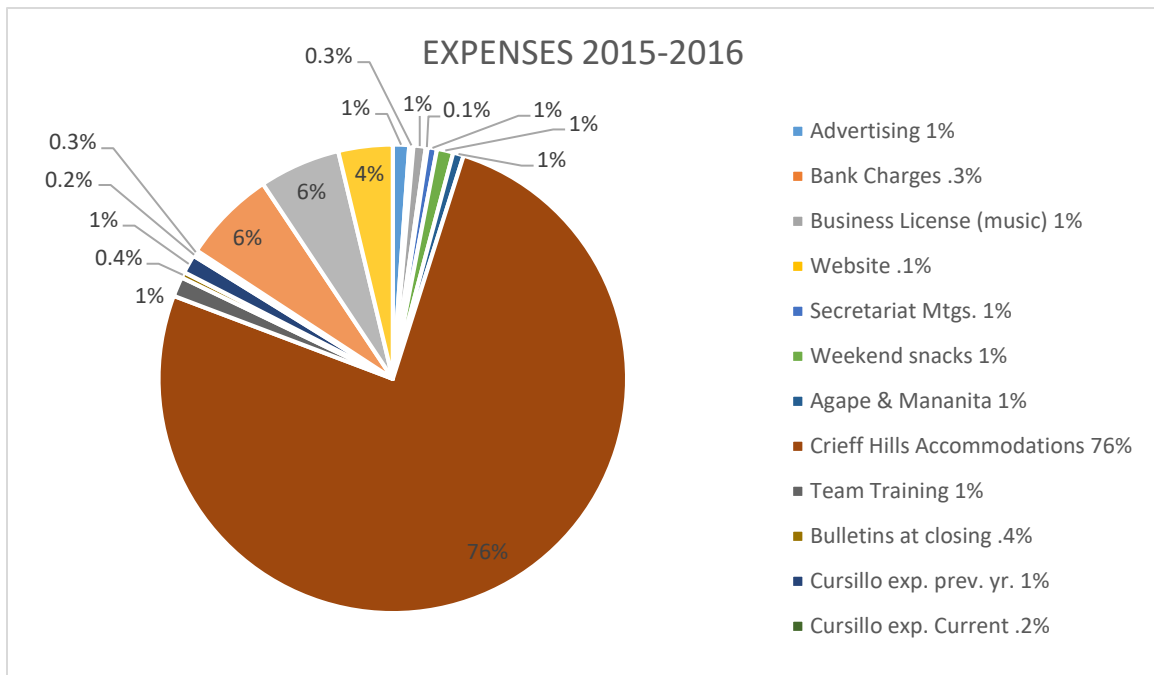
Submitted by,
Renée Anderson

Niagara Anglican Cursillo – Donations



Received and how they are used.

Allocation of Revenues on Financial Statement Year Ending June 30, 2016 distributed at the Annual Meeting.



Expenses listed on Financial Statement Year Ending June 30, 2016 distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Notes:

1. Many of the expenses incurred throughout a fiscal year by members are returned in donations.
2. C.A.C.S. – Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat – we are obligated to support the national level of Cursillo. Representation is also required. Please visit the website www.anglicancursillo.com.
3. In 2015-2016 Weekend #51 was substantially subsidized by a generous donation to enable a manageable fee by team and participants.
4. Niagara was the site for the C.A.C.S. meeting in the spring 2016 which also included a dinner organized by your secretariat. Nearly the total cost of that meeting was covered by personal commitments by your secretariat.
5. Donations are given to churches who offer a place to meet i.e. secretariat meetings and team trainings. To name a few we are thankful to Church of the Nativity, Church of the Resurrection and the Cathedral for these considerations.
6. Not listed in expenses legend: AM supplies .3%; C.A.C.S. annual dues 6%; C.A.C.S. rep trip to Nfld. 6%; C.A.C.S. mtg., dinner, snacks 4%.

Did you know only 16 people donate to Cursillo by PAP?

Ways *you* can donate to Cursillo:

- **Preauthorized form: Any amount starting at \$5.00/month see website for form**
- **Cheque to the treasurer, any time of the year.**

No, I didn't know that.

I think I'll do that today!

Remember, Cursillo does not do any fundraising. Your continued support is appreciated.

3. Pre-Cursillo Report *(Heather Garland)*

Our next weekend is Weekend #52, May 25-28, 2017. Please think and pray about someone you may like to attend this weekend. Don't forget to invite them, the worst that can happen is they say no, but remember, the seed has been planted and may bear fruit at a latter time. Planning is also underway for weekend 53 October 19-22, 2017. Stay tuned for more details.

4. Weekend Chair *(Jan Collinson & Marion Bailey)*

Weekend #52 is fast approaching. Keep the team and participants in your prayers on their weekend May 25-28. We are at the Crieff Hills Conference Center in Crieff. The weekend 52 team is still being finalized by Coordinator Jan Collinson and Assistant Coordinator Anne Gould.

5. 4th Day Chair *(Paulette Switzer)*

As I sit down to write this I came across a passage from St. Paul's first Letter to The Corinthian's Chapter 10 verse 24 (Do all Things for The Glory of God) "do not seek your own advantage, but that of another".

Also the words of the Servant Song comes to mind. I sometimes have a problem with the line "Pray that I may have the grace to let You be my servant too."

We had a Diocesan Ultreya Nov 20th at the Church of The Transfiguration in St. Catherine's. Our purpose was to reach out to The Cursillistas in The Niagara area of the Diocese. It was well attended. Laurie McDowell gave the Witness Talk on Study, Rodd McDowell gave The Clergy Response and Pam Battersby gave The Lay Response. Thanks to Susanne Adams and Margaret Wilding-De New for the music.

It was challenging because there was a very bad windstorm and the power went out. The power came on "And God said Let there be light"

The fellowship and potluck was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to The Church of The Transfiguration for Their hospitality as well as the Cursillistas from the Niagara and Fort Erie area.

The next regional Ultreya will be at The Cathedral in Hamilton on Sunday March 26th at 3 PM. potluck for follow.

The Milton -Acton Ultreya will be at St. Alban's Acton Feb. 10th at 7:30 PM.

Submitted with Respect.

Paulette Switzer

"Make a Friend, be a Friend, bring a Friend to Christ"



6. Communications

(James Gould)

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We are on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.niagaracursillo.org

Getting this **Newsletter** out to our **Cursillistas** and keeping you informed of what is happening in our **Niagara and Huron Cursillo** movement via the niagaracursillo.org website is a great privilege and I can only pray I am up to the task.

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.

Please contact me at

niagaracursillocomm@gmail.com with any

inquiries, if you find something missing, if you wish something added or if there appears to be a mistake.

Remember if you change your email address 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, **Ultreya!**

***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."***

1st Corinthians 12: 4-6

Ultreya