

TRIPOD



Newsletter for Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (MECM)

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By Ellen Harland
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"Babe Chicks"
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Special Announcements

2025 Cursillo Weekend

MECM Weekend #150
LaSalette Retreat Center, Attleboro
April 3-6, 2025

Shruti Kulkarni is now a
Lay Chaplain of The Episcopal Church!
Congratulations on her New Ministry!
You can watch the Rite of Commissioning [here](#).



Secretariat Update

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Spring/Summer seasons are a time to focus on rebirth and renewal. The secretariat has been praying about how to re-energize our community. Four of us actually attended a zoom conference put on by the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (ECM, formerly National Episcopal Cursillo). It was reassuring to learn that we are not alone in our post-covid reorganizing. In fact, ECM is willing to help us, which may lead to a Leaders Workshop in the future. Lots of prayer and planning will be needed for that.

In the meantime, we are working on restarting the Servant Community. This was an integral part of our community, and helped to share the tasks that were falling on the secretariat. One place we are starting is to remind our community that our Secretariat meetings are open to anyone interested to attend our zoom meetings, to see "how we tick"! Our meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month, except in August. Please send an email to Tripod@masscursillo.org if interested so we can share the zoom link with you.

I want to announce, I have stepped down from being Lay Director of MECM. In view of my husband, Bill's current medical issues, I need to let go of some of my several "jobs". This wasn't easy for me to surrender this position, as Cursillo was life changing for me, and I believe that Cursillo is still a valuable tool to deepen people's love of the Lord. I have not left the secretariat. The good news is that Linda Wall and Cyndi Hopkins have stepped forward to be the Co-Lay Directors, and this will be beneficial to everyone.

The next weekend is scheduled for April of 2025. This gives us plenty of time for the "pre-cursillo" part of prayer and discernment for sponsoring candidates. Christ is counting on us. Please keep the team in your prayers, as they are in the early stages of team formation.

May the Holy Spirit guide us all in everything that we do.

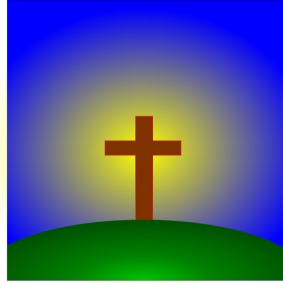
Faithfully,
Ellen Harland

Summer 2024

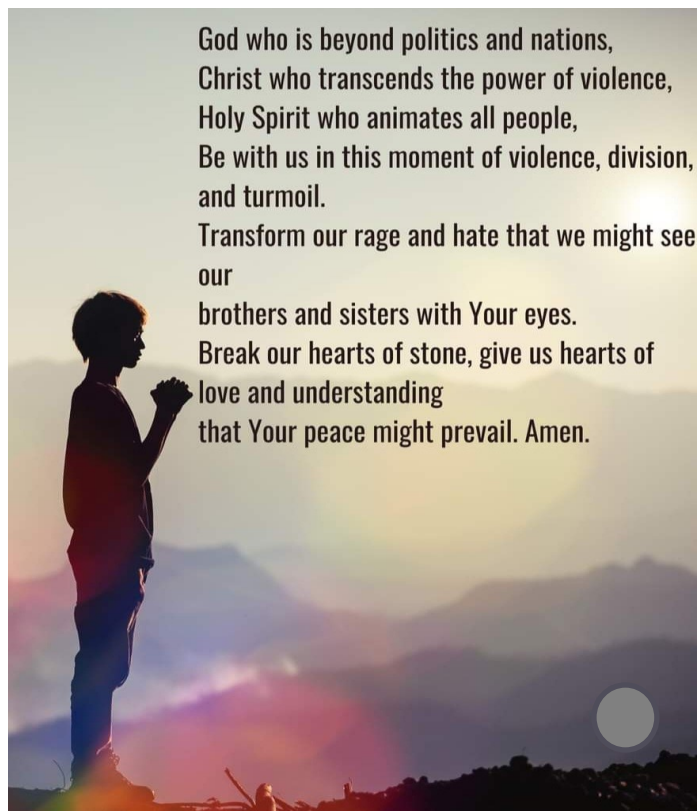
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Don't worry About Anything;
Instead Pray about Everything.
Tell God What You Need, and Thank Him
For All He Has Done.
If you Do This,
You Will Experience
God's Peace
Philippians 4:6



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DeColores!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ellen Harland and I got to know each other as volunteers for a monthly Taize Service. Over perhaps ten years, Ellen had repeatedly invited me to attend Cursillo. On about the fourth invitation, I finally took the leap of faith. Partly because I trust her. Partly because I felt like I was at a comfortable, stable, stagnant place in my relationship with God. My typical engagement was focused on "doing" things for our church, with only a little attention on "being".

Last Fall I was honored to be a weekend attendee. An initial impression included how easy it was to engage with everyone. A happy surprise was the presence of folks I already knew from Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton: Deb and Eric Forsberg, Lisa Puls, Karen and Lee Conley.

I have attended business conferences and self help workshops, so was expecting something a little similar. In those experiences, attendees greatly outnumbered the staff. The crisis was realizing that every single person involved with producing the weekend, and there were many of you, did so for just two people. For just me. That has made a lasting impression. What a fabulous illustration. God's love is an unearned, undeserved gift. God's love, demonstrated by people of faith, shared freely with each other.

I am inspired. In the wake of the weekend, my attention on being a practicing Christian has increased. Pervious behaviors have been energized: prayer, scripture meditation, bible reading, and enjoying Christian music. A new habit of daily devotional is now established. The most important result for me is a "next level" acceptance of God's gift of grace. Of God's ongoing presence and promise. Of my place with God's people. Of our common bond with each other.

I have an enduring, deep gratitude for all the faith, commitment, effort and time spent by the Cursillo community. Producing the weekend is surely a labor of love. I am refreshed. You are appreciated.

May the peace of the Lord be with you and remain with you all,
Harry Peebles
MECM #149 Babe Chick

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DeColores!

God is Counting on You

“Christ is counting on you, and I on God,” I responded, as a cross was placed over my head at Cursillo #149. I think of these words each day as I slip on the cross. A prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Avila mentions ...

“Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours...”

On the back of the crucifix are the words, in capital letters, GOD IS COUNTING ON YOU. I make a new commitment each day. I acknowledge that I must make God available to bless the world with my mouth, supply my feet to do good, and have my eyes ready for God to look compassion on this world.

I may not know why I encounter certain people, places, or circumstances. I’m fine with that now, God may need me to supply hands, feet, and eyes.

An anonymous poem, tells the story.

No matter what others
are doing, my friend,
or what they are leaving
undone, God is counting
on you to keep on the job,
till the very last battle is won.

The Lord is counting on you
to be true.

Yes, others may work, or others
may shirk, but remember,

GOD IS COUNTING ON YOU.

Larry Bennett
MECM #149 Babe Chick

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Biography – Linda Wall

De Colores! I'm Linda Wall from All Saints' Episcopal Church, Attleboro and am writing to introduce myself. I've been married for 56 years to my husband, Richard. Our daughter Stacey is a Cursillista. No grandkids but three personable grand-beagles.

Forty five years ago my life was forever changed when I attended a Cursillo weekend. I could never have imagined how real Jesus would become, how He would teach me and sculpt my faith journey. He did this through the team on that 1979 weekend. He continued all these years, showing up in the faces and hands and prayers of countless Cursillistas.

I share the Lay Director position for MECM Secretariat with Cyndi Hopkins. Filling Ellen Harland's shoes is not possible but together Cyndi and I will, with God's help, be of service to the community. We are grateful to have Ellen's continued guidance and the wise and witty support of the Secretariat. Much has changed and we are still here and vibrant and committed to listening to God's guidance. There are so many beautiful Christians whose lives can be deeply blessed by the unique experience that is Cursillo. I am eager to participate, to lead and grow again and again. Together we can continue to be friends, make friends and bring friends to the tenderness and power of God through Cursillo.

Faithfully,

Linda Wall
Co-Lay Director

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Out Of State Palanca – by Linda Wall

One of the highlights of any Cursillo weekend is becoming aware that the circle of God's love is even bigger than the powerful and moving prayer and sacrifice we've come to know as palanca, Receiving notes, prayers and all manner of spiritual offerings from our wider community, for our journey is a profound experience we carry with us forever. Expanding that community to include areas all over the country, seeing their prayers and sacrifices on paper is spiritually mind blowing!

As Cursillistas we have the opportunity and privilege to return the favor! We get to do palanca for weekends far and wide. We get to send our prayer and sacrifice to total strangers and touch their lives as ours have been touched.

Please make a plan to sit down and write a note, gather with your reunion group or other cusillistas or plan a palanca party and put your compassion, prayer and sacrifice on paper. It could even be a Zoom party! Then send it to: tripod@masscursillo.org. We will make sure that it gets to the weekend in time. Please plan far ahead as the mail can be slow. Palanca should be sent six weeks ahead so it has time to reach us, get bundled up and then time to reach the weekend.

Here are some upcoming weekends:

The Diocese of central Gulf Coast, Alabama	September 15
Diocese of Texas, Navasota	September 19
Diocese of Upper South Carolina	October 3
Diocese of Central Florida	October 4

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Regroup, Renew, Restore!!

MECM Cursillo Renewal Prayer

Lord, help us to be like you, and remind us why we love what we do for you. Shine in us as we try to regroup, and in our commitment, find our focus for bringing your love to our communities and to the world.

Renew our hearts Lord. Give us the strength we need to move through life's disappointments, and guide us in the direction that you want us to go so we don't become hardened by them.

As we walk this journey with you Lord, restore our passion for you, and for making friends, being friends, and bringing friends to Christ!

Amen

Cyndi Hopkins, Secretariat & Rectora for 2019 Cursillo weekend #148

In Memoriam

Cursillistas that will be held in our hearts forever...

Rev. Steve Fregeau

Mal Gurney

Kathy Jeffrey

Carol MacKenzie

Rev. Jonathan MacKenzie

Judy Outman-Conant

Elgin Summerfelt

Al Westerlund

Margaret Westerlund

Dick Wright