

# THE FOURTH DAY



## Folk singer McKendree will entertain at NECC



Fran McKendree

Fran McKendree, a nationally known folk singer, songwriter, guitarist and recording artist, will perform in Charlotte on Oct. 17 during the annual conference of National Episcopal Cursillo. His appearance, at 8:30 p.m. in the Hilton Charlotte University Place just off Interstate 85, will be open to everyone registered for the conference. That includes those attending Saturday only. The one-day fee of \$135 includes the meetings, exhibits, workshops, two meals and the concert.

McKendree's performance will be a highlight of the conference, which runs from Thursday, Oct. 16, through Sunday, Oct. 19. Cursillistas from the United States, Mexico, Canada, the

Caribbean, New Zealand and other distant places are expected to attend.

"Fran is a virtuoso musician and composer," said the late Bennett J. Sims, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Atlanta. "His theological insight, poetic gifts and musical originality are enhanced by a luminosity of soul."

The conference will take place at 8629 JM Keynes Drive off Interstate 85, near the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. From northbound Interstate 85, take Exit 45A; going south on the interstate, take Exit 45B.

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### Performer has shifted eyes upward

Fran McKendree grew up in rural Connecticut, where he began to play the guitar and, later, to sing. In high school he sang in a trio that won a talent contest and with it a slot on a folk music radio program. He was hooked.

He began playing in coffeehouses in and around Syracuse University. In the Glen Falls, N.Y., area, he formed a four-piece folk-rock ensemble called McKendree Spring. Early in its career the band played several weeks at the famous Bitter End, where its members shared billing with such talents as the Everly Brothers and James Taylor. McKendree Spring

went on to record seven albums and toured with some exciting artists in the 1970s in the United States, Great Britain and Canada.

At the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland is an attribution that reads: "Experimental and innovative, McKendree Spring mixed blues, folk and country with a progressive musical vision." The band performed in such places as Carnegie Hall and the Fillmore East, and it gave the first-ever rock concert at Radio City Music Hall. In 1975, the group disbanded.

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The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, the bishop of North Carolina, will make the keynote address at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17. The conference theme is “Run the Race, Keep the Faith.”

To help Cursillistas from the Diocese of North Carolina attend the conference, the Secretariat has approved 30 scholarships of \$100 each. Bill Fierke of St. Paul’s, Cary, the Secretariat’s treasurer, said last week that scholarships are still available. To apply for one, send an e-mail request to [billfierke@bellsouth.net](mailto:billfierke@bellsouth.net).

Each day the conference will begin with the celebration of Holy Eucharist – at 10:15 a.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. These services will be open to the public.

Calvin Hefner of Charlotte, a former lay director of the Secretariat, is the conference chairman, overseeing the organization and preparation of the conference for National Episcopal Cursillo. Volunteers for the Diocese of North Carolina work for various

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As a solo artist Fran McKendree signed with Arista and played such memorable gigs as one in New York’s Central Park with Jimmy Cliff as the headliner. McKendree went through what is called a “soul-searching period,” and he and his wife, Diana, found and soon joined a small Episcopal church in their NYC neighborhood.

That opened a new spiritual path and led him to move to Cape Cod. There he began to work with youth, build houses, and make furniture. Eventually he acknowledged a deep longing to make music again. Working through the Episcopal Church, he began to develop a new calling: giving concerts, leading workshops, coordinating conferences, making keynote presentations.

McKendree has released several CDs and has produced albums for other artists as well. He and Diana have moved to Hendersonville, N.C., where they live and operate Teerivane Studios. He is awed by the spiritual and artistic journey he has made and has written of his hopes to “remain thankful for and receptive to the movement of God in my life, and to do this in a humble, energetic manner. . . .”

## LEADERS WORKSHOP

On Thursday, Oct. 16, an Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop will be conducted from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. at the Hilton Charlotte. Registration, which includes breakfast and a lunch buffet, is separate from the conference and will cost \$95. To register, call 843-488-2956 or visit [nationalepiscopalcursillo.org](http://nationalepiscopalcursillo.org) online.

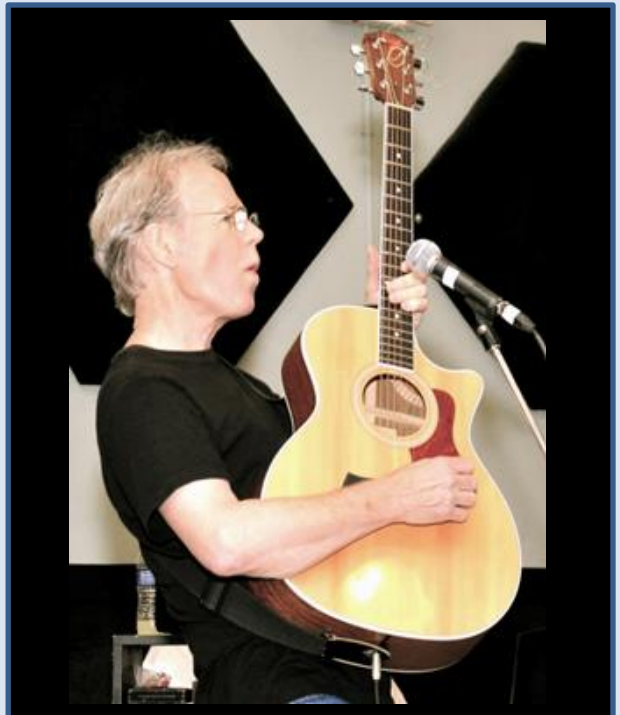
branches of the Host Committee, an umbrella council for the in-state volunteers.

Robert Selby of St. Clement’s, Clemmons, heads the Host Committee. To volunteer, call Robert at 336-831-4801 or send e-mail to [scbhcentral60@yahoo.com](mailto:scbhcentral60@yahoo.com).

Dave Millar of All Saints’, Concord, is in charge of housing for delegates in the homes of volunteers from churches in the Charlotte area. If you can offer rooms for people at the conference, or if you want to stay in a home, send an e-mail to Dave ([dmillar@carolina.rr.com](mailto:dmillar@carolina.rr.com)) or phone him (704-782-1318 or 704-796-0536).

Hear McKendree sing on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbtndf9Lg-8&list=UUcfcCIB-8t-HhoE3JmMGAPQ&index=6>



# Bishop's spiritual biography challenges Christians' hearts, minds, consciences

by Sid Chadwick, lay director,  
N.C. Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat

## BOOK REVIEW

*Crazy Christians: A Call To Follow Jesus*,  
by the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Morehouse Press,  
ISBN-13: 978-0-8192-2885-7. E-book available from  
Nook, Kingsbury, Noble, Amazon Kindle, Kobo.

This book comes across as an abbreviated personal biography from Bishop Curry. His voice is heard on every page — practically in every paragraph. He's truly an Episcopalian, one with a deep family heritage from North Carolina.

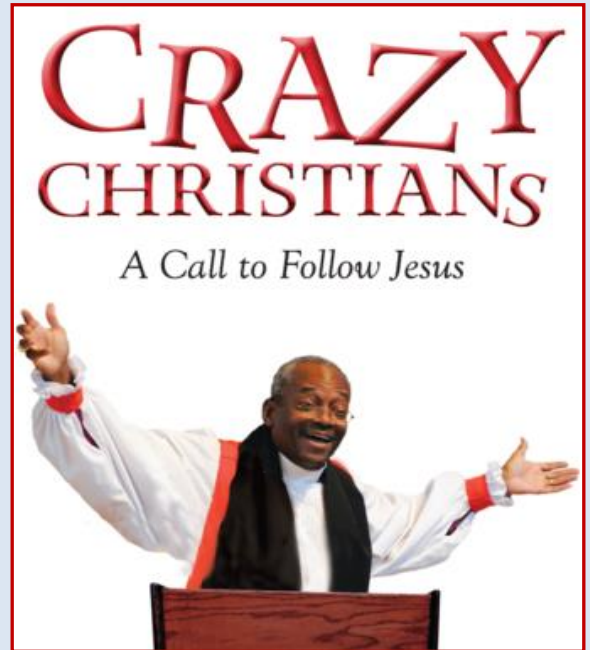
His writing is elegant. It's substantive. It's inspirational — and I don't consider myself easily inspired by what I read, as I might be if I were hearing a speaker in person.

Reaching back deeply into American culture, and particularly Southern culture, Bishop Curry digs into your heart, into your mind, and into your conscience. When you read this personal journey from him, that effect is inescapable.

To give me, his reader, a sense of who he is, how his spiritual life has evolved, and what he's about, he provided each of his annual addresses to the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, in order, from 2001 until 2011, plus his address to the 77th General Convention to The Episcopal Church in 2012.

After meeting him and then reading this spiritual biography, I know that he's the "real deal" — a disciple of Jesus Christ, a guide for this age in the spirit of Galilee that our society needs. He is committed to his role and is holding back nothing.

In a time of seemingly relentless radical social disruption, the book delivers a spiritual message



Source: [http://trinityandbeyond.ecdio.org/digital\\_faith/events/3160480](http://trinityandbeyond.ecdio.org/digital_faith/events/3160480)

that needs to be heard by each of us, by our families, by our neighbors and by those we love.

The message from Bishop Curry in this book leaves me challenged on a deep, personal level.

I believe if you have the courage to read *Crazy Christians*, you will be challenged, too.

*James 2:26*: 'For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.'

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bishop Curry will make the keynote address to the National Episcopal Cursillo Conference at 7 p.m. on Oct. 17 in Charlotte.

Sid Chadwick made Cursillo No. 100, sat at St. Peter's Table, and worships at St. Clement's in Clemmons.

**'We need some Christians who are as crazy as the Lord. Crazy enough to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God — like Jesus. Crazy enough to dare to change the world . . . into something close to the dream that God dreams for it.'**

– Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry in *Crazy Christians*



## Elegy for an adopted brother in Christ: He let God's light shine brightly in him

**Fourth  
Day  
Thoughts**  
by Walt Joyce

Last week I lost one of my closest friends. Not only had I known him for 20-plus years, but we had shared many things together over the years, some good and some bad. In many ways, he was more than a good friend. He was like a brother to me; and, as an only child, I feel a heart-wrenching loss.

His name was Bob McGee. He was the Episcopal campus minister serving Wake Forest University, Salem College and UNC School of the Arts. I met Bob early in my first stint as senior warden at St. Clement's when I was looking for a long-term supply priest. We met for lunch. He was smiling and outgoing, not at all like most of the Episcopal priests I had known up until then.

And he kept surprising me for more than two decades with his humor, his faith and his light. I picked that last word on purpose. He had the light of God shining in him all the time. He seemed to smile through everything. He and I suffered together through the slow deaths of our fathers. We suffered through problems with kids, Bob's divorce, challenges with diocesan committees and budgets and many other now-seemingly trivial events in life. Bob's light (God's light, really) shone through it all. I'm feeling really sorry for myself right now, because

I have lost his closer presence. I took it for granted, and now I can't say good-bye. I write these short pieces to talk about the "Fourth Day." I guess what I've learned from Bob are two things:

- Don't put it off. The Fourth Day is here! Live it to the fullest. Love deeply, laugh heartily. God calls us every day. Sometimes he even sends us. We need to go now, not later, not when it's more convenient.
- Let your light shine. Or, maybe better put, let God's light shine brightly in you. When the light shines, it warms all and blesses all.

I feel Bob's (God's) light right now, shining down on me from Heaven. And I rejoice that God gave me the touch of his hand, the warmth of his hugs and a glimpse of the brightness of his soul. God bless you, brother.

*Walt Joyce made Cursillo No. 100 and worships at St. Clement's in Clemmons*

## At the Tea Garden

by Margaret Hasse

My friend and I mull over the teas  
displayed in square jars  
with beveled glass labeled by type.  
Each name seems part of a haiku:  
"After the Snow Sprouting." "Moon Palace."  
"Mist Over the Gorges."  
I'm drawn to green teas  
with unoxidized leaves that don't wither,  
hold their grassy fragrance  
like willow under snow in winter.

The proprietor offers real china for the Chinese tea.  
Animal bones, fine ground, give whiteness,  
translucency and strength  
to the porcelain that appears delicate,  
resists chipping.  
The rim of the cup is warm and thin.

My friend's lips are plush: her lovely  
mouth opens to give advice I ask for.  
We talk about memory of threshold events,  
like a first kiss or a poem published.  
She can't remember . . .

I tell her about my brother-in-law's  
chemotherapy — his third bout of cancer.  
He wants his family to put a pinch  
of his ashes in things he liked:  
his banjo, the top drawer of his desk, the garden.

I wouldn't mind becoming part  
of a set of bone china that serves tea  
in a cozy teahouse smelling of incense,  
cinnamon, musk, and carved teak.  
I'd like to be brought to a small table,  
sit between friends' quiet words,  
held in hands so close that breath  
on the surface of warm drink  
makes mist rise over their faces.

"At the Tea Garden" by Margaret Hasse, from *Earth's Appetite*. © Nodin Press, 2013.  
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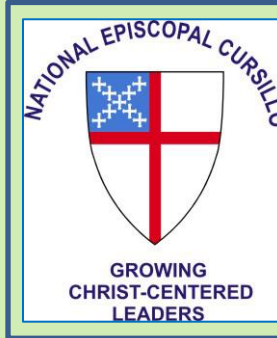
*Submitted by Bruce Nash, who made Cursillo No. 100 and worships at St. Clement's in Clemmons.*

## North Carolina Episcopal Cursillo Secretariat Calendar 2014

**Meeting Schedule:**

**September 20, November 15**

*Meetings are held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4211 Wayne Road in Greensboro. They run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Cursillistas are encouraged to attend.*



The Fourth Day is published by the Secretariat of N.C. Episcopal Cursillo under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of NC.

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Comments about this newsletter or suggestions for future ones are welcome. To add a name to our mailing list or correct an address, please contact Steve Hoar, the editor, at [stephenwhoar@gmail.com](mailto:stephenwhoar@gmail.com) by e-mail or phone 919-876-1752.