

SONBEAM

Via de Cristo Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue #1

January-February 2010

Rectora Report

Sonbeam VdC Weekend #54

The presence of our Lord was truly evident from the moment He laid the names for the Core Team on my heart! We met twice in June and twice in July at Vi's house beginning with a light supper and then got right down to work making excellent use of our time together. Each member submitted names I could contact to join us on the journey. Letters were sent in waves with the majority of letters sent in the initial mailing. After allowing time for the mail and time for them to pray about their response (about a week total), if I didn't hear from the person, I followed up with a phone call and then, if necessary, with an e-mail requesting a response. Mailed out additional invitation letters as needed.

"God showed up and showed off." How truly blessed and humbled I was to have had the privilege of being Rectora for Women's Weekend #54. It's a once in a lifetime experience that will live in my heart forever. We received many compliments throughout our team meetings, which I attribute to the beautiful servant heart of every single team member. That servant heart carried right through the weekend, and made the whole weekend flow peacefully. I praise God for honoring all the prayers offered on behalf of the candidates, the team and me. Our God, and this community, is awesome!

PRE WEEKEND - Blessings

Scheduled two Saturday meetings each for August, September & October. Worked well, did not conflict with Ultreya's and Leader's Workshop. The Core Team's "can do" attitude was unswerving and had an infectious effect on the entire team. Had a good balance of team members who have served on several teams and those who were first timers and/or had not been called to a team in a while. The team bonded right from the start; even with the few team changes we incurred, they were almost transparent. Head Cha and Assistant Head Cha provided general team training allowing time for individual cha teams and specialty chas to meet in their respective groups. Commu-

nication flowed as needed between team meetings. Head Cha lovingly reminded me of my role when my "Martha" personality kicked in. Prayer chas kept us "covered and smothered" in prayer from the get-go. Head Music Cha was fantastic as computer cha substitute while our Head Computer Cha was away July through September. Our cooks prepared lunch for us at each team meeting - we asked for a \$5 donation, which covered the cost of food and the childcare providers. In addition, team members brought food items to each meeting for the church's food pantry and there was \$153.00 left from the food and childcare funds, which we donated to the church. Send-off was held in the Screened Chapel, which eliminated having to reset the dining room. Head Cha did a great job of developing a "training" piece for the "opening" as this was our first time serving with send-off being held at camp.

PRE WEEKEND - Opportunities

Recommend the Spiritual Director list be updated; i.e., info is incomplete. There are several names that weren't even familiar - perhaps they could be contacted to see if they even want to be on the list. *(continued on page 2)*

Community Calendar

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Feb 13 | Community Workshop, 8:30 AM
FUMPP |
| Feb 15 | Newsletter Deadline |
| Mar 27 | Picnic Fund Raiser, 3:00 PM
Lake Seminole Park - Shelter #10 |
| May 1 | Post VdC, 4:00 PM
UTREYA, 5:00 PM
Our Savior Lutheran Church |
| Jun 12 | Business Meeting, 5:00 PM
Northwest Presbyterian |

Secretariat

Lay Director

Wayne Baker

wbaker@sonbeamvdc.org

Asst Lay Director

Dianna Voss

diannavoss@sonbeamvdc.org

Secretary

Billi Ott

bott@sonbeamvdc.org

Treasurer

Edith Scheer

escheer@sonbeamvdc.org

Pre-VdC

Keith and Phyllis Hand

kphand@sonbeamvdc.org

Post VdC

Barbara Bridgeman

bcutty@sonbeamvdc.org

Outreach

Dennis Galbreath

dgalbreath@sonbeamvdc.org

Leaders

Darwin Reedy

dreedy@sonbeamvdc.org

Physical Arrangements

Chuck Ott

cott@sonbeamvdc.org

Purchasing Agents

Jerry and Jane Brown

jbrown@sonbeamvdc.org

Local Palanca

Denise Bentley

dbentley@sonbeamvdc.org

Extended Palanca

Carole Moskowitz

cmoskowitz@sonbeamvdc.org

At-Large

Kaiwa Miller

kmiller@sonbeamvdc.org

Dale Voss

dalevoss@sonbeamvdc.org

Prayer Line Coordinator

Jan Foster

jfoster@sonbeamvdc.org

Spiritual Directors

John Foster

johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org

Bill Sistar

bsistar@sonbeamvdc.org

WebMaster

Mike Schreiner

mschreiner@sonbeamvdc.org

Rectora Report *(from Page 1)*

Would be great to see some new faces and we won't wear out the familiar ones. As a side note, it was very difficult and time consuming getting responses from pastors (especially the males).

THE WEEKEND – Blessings

The love of Christ came shining through each team member as they served our Lord and the candidates. I took the time to go into the Prayer Chapel alone Thursday afternoon to “empty out” thus clearing the path for our Lord to do His work on the weekend. Cooperation, charity and love were evident in the actions of all. I, personally, never saw a frown and truly felt the love of the whole team. “Chain of command” was obviously followed because I had no idea if there was any problem outside the Rollo Room. A debt of gratitude goes to the Head Cha and Assistant Head Cha for a phenomenal job! Our prayer chas kept the camp totally covered and smothered in prayer. Cooks from the Men's Weekend came and lent a helping hand – great palanca! Community help was appreciated and gave the chas a break. Cooks were quick to express appreciation to the community. The NEW STOVE is in kitchen! Building used by Mail, Palanca and Computer chas was wonderful - providing easy access to all areas of the camp. There were no major dietary or medical restrictions. Medical chas and Hat Person did provide quick response and called 911 for a Rollista who was not feeling well which resulted in a trip to the hospital. We had to insist the Assistant Head Cha leave shortly before the Cross Ceremony due to excruciating back pain. Hat Person was a great resource and was quick to give words of encouragement and positive reinforcement to team members.

THE WEEKEND – Opportunities

Electronic equipment – our Head Music Cha stated VdC had purchased two sound systems, each of which came with two (2) microphones, two (2) microphone cables, two (2) speakers and a cable for each speaker. That makes four (4) of everything. Missing are two (2) microphones, two (2) microphone cables, a speaker cable and one (1) microphone stand which she had personally donated. Additionally, the microphone cords are taped in places and the plug for one of the speaker cables is bent. Noise was coming through the sound system in the Rollo Room from nearby interference (sounded like a radio station). This was very distracting especially at the front of the room. Recommend looking into a way to prevent this in the future either by use of a filter or similar device. Prayer Chas shared and recommended removing from inventory the multiple of mismatched candleholders that aren't used and are taking up valuable storage space.

OTHER

To assist in preparing this report, we “borrowed” the questions Dianna Voss asked her head area chas to complete on her weekend. Questions are attached – they are a great help! I would recommend offering them to future Rectors/Rectoras to use as they see fit.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rodgers
Rectora, Womens Sonbeam VdC #54



Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits. (New King James Version) There was a sense of lifted spirits in the Secretariat meeting 12/5. If the Lord was weighing the spirits of the community participating in these past weekends #54, I think He would use the word “encouraged.”

Were you also encouraged by the increased community involvement during the weekends? If you were a part of it, you were! Your loving spirit and servant hearts were on display. Your prayers truly mattered! There were 35 folks helping to set up for the men’s weekend and about a dozen for the women’s. There were many, many singers for both serenades. The special meal attendance was 3 times as crowded as it had been! Kudos to those who showed up for tear down on the women’s Sunday! Those 15 happy, rested countenances truly helped Chuck get the trailer packed and made work lighter for Carol’s team. The last 2 people left camp for 5 pm closing at 4:55 pm! Closing numbers, maybe 50, were MUCH better (last ones were less than 10, and yes, that is no typo!)

I would encourage you to come out to camp for help in the kitchen—the one area we STILL need more help. And I challenge you to greater community participation in 2010 and BRING A FRIEND!

But be glad and praise the Lord for the encouraging signs that our beloved VdC community is recovering--for it is when we give of ourselves in Christian service that we find ourselves in Christ.

Dianna Voss
ALD

Notes from Leader’s

Come and learn – come and share; it is The Lord’s work!

Leaders Workshop is Saturday, February 13, 2010 at First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park, 9025 49th Street North, Pinellas Park 33782.

8:30 AM FELLOWSHIP, SNACKS, BEVERAGES

9:00 AM GENERAL SESSIONS – SANCTUARY

10:30 AM WORKSHOP SESSIONS

12:30 PM LUNCH – FELLOWSHIP HALL

1:00 PM EXPECTED CLOSING

Babysitting will be in Alford Hall from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Community Workshops include Rector/Rectora; TableLeader/Rollo Preparation; Spiritual Directors; Computer Chas; Palanca/Mail Room Chas; Cooks and Servers; 4th Day/Babechicks; Cha Chas and Cha Cha Team Leaders; and Prayer Chas.

Suggestions—Questions—Feedback

Darwin Reedy, Leader’s Chair. 727-579-1026 or ddreedy@tampabay.rr.com

Home Page: <http://www.sonbeamvdc.org>

You are also welcome to e-mail or call any member of the Secretariat listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Being properly trained and prepared is the Sonbeam VdC Way.

Your Sonbeam Via de Cristo Newsletter

will be printed and mailed next issue, so all articles need to be written and sent to Julie Gull, Communications Director, by February 15, 2010.

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Via de Cristo #55 WOMEN'S Team

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The praying and planning journey for Women's VdC #55 has begun! Words cannot describe how honored and humbled I am preparing for the women God is calling to this spring weekend, April 15th -18th.

I hope each of you are talking with God about who He would have you sponsor for the upcoming weekends – or if you are to sponsor. Please talk to God about man before talking with man about God. If you are led to sponsor, please turn in your completed, signed forms in a timely manor. This will bless the Pre-VdC team and make your candidates process much smoother.

The Lord has laid 1 John 3:1 on my heart for the weekend verse. It is such a precious verse to me as it is the one my Daddy used to heal me and restore me into the beautiful Father-Daughter relationship I have with Him. May He be preparing those coming to receive afresh the love He desires to lavish upon them.

Calls to serve on weekend #55 are in the process. Please be in prayer for the team God is gathering together that they be unified in Him, humbled in spirit and equipped by Him to serve however He calls.

I am excited to share that our team meetings will be at my home church, Faith Fellowship in St. Petersburg. Our 1st team meeting will be January 23rd!

Thank you for joining in prayer for Rector Andy White and myself and for the teams God is preparing and calling and for those He has planned for the Spring 2010 weekends.

God Loves You and So Do I,
 Rectora Lisette Ratcliffe

Core Team

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Men of God! Listen for a CALL!

WEEKEND #55

Men of God, listen for a call—from the Lord foremost and from Rector Andy next! He will be continuing to call those for team #55.

Some decisions have been made regarding team meetings. They will be at FUMPP on January 30; February 13 (Leaders' Workshop) and 20; March 6, 20 and 27 (Team Commissioning). Keep these dates in mind as you pray.

The verse is Psalm 100: 4 & 5. Read them and feel His power!

I am pleased that Norm Hatter will be a Spiritual Director and Bob Gaskins will head the kitchen! Great food for both the body and the soul!

Ask now, "Who will I ask to experience this life-changing weekend?" Then listen for God's answer.

God bless you all,
 Rector Andy White

All in God's Timing

by Spiritual Director Betts Huntley

Part 2; the conclusion of Director Huntley's story from the 2009 November-December Sonbeam VdC Newsletter.

...he told me something else: that here was a church family who loved the Lord and loved their church. Hmmm. That sounded familiar. I think I knew right then that this would be where we would be going. But there was a small problem. There were several hoops to jump through, and their former minister would need to stay there in the church's manse (minister's residence) until the end of June. It also happened that we would need to be moving at the end of the June. It all worked out. We jumped through all the ecclesiastical hoops and started there July 1, 1986. Talk about timing!

Some of the members there had been praying for a minister who would be in Via de Cristo or who would be willing to be a part of VdC. And it just happened that Bill Sistar, whom I had met before back when we were in college, was in Via de Cristo. "What is Via de Cristo," I asked him. And that's how we got into Via de Cristo.

Eventually, after almost twelve years, we began have the familiar feeling that the Lord had a new task for us: my retirement. How did we know? By praying for guidance by our family life, our health, and the life of that congregation in Safety Harbor. I retired in February 1999. I also had a "small stroke" just before retirement. No one questioned the decision after that!

Then early this year I began to have less and

less energy and stamina. Medical tests (lots of them) showed why. The heart valve that had been replaced in 1994 was itself slowly wearing out. The "warranty" had run out on it. I had had the "new" valve for 15 years, and we had gotten our money's worth on it! So what next? My cardiologist said we should watch and wait. Then in August of this year I began to hear something that we had not heard before, a telltale murmur. I reported that. Then early in the morning of October 5th, I couldn't breathe! Martha took me to the ER and the staff there began to work on me - oxygen, iv's, the works. Bit by bit I was breathing easier. It turned out I have congestive heart failure! That was a surprise! It also got everybody's attention. We went back to see my cardiologist twice. This time we talked about a redo of the heart valve. Eventually it must happen. But when? That was the question! The doctor talked to us about not doing it too early and maybe having to do it all again a third time, and doing it too late, when it would be too late! We realized he was talking about God's timing. I have an appointment with the same cardiac surgeon who gave me the valve in 1994. I imagine we'll talk about timing some more. I now feel a great deal of relief and hope that the Lord will once again be faithful in His timing. After all, He is very, very good at His guidance by orchestration and timing! Jesus came in "the fullness of time." Everything He does is timed just right!

Pastor Betts is recovering well after his heart surgery; continue to pray for him and Martha.

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Pastor John Foster

a Spiritual Director's Biography

My wife, Jan, and I became part of the Sonbeam community when we made Weekend #14 back in the old days at Camp Keystone. I sat with my brothers at the Table of Mark. At that time in my life, I was a Registered Respiratory Therapist and had just gotten married to Jan. I served on several weekends in many different positions (cha, specialty chas, rollista), but it wasn't until 1999 that I began a professional change started by God calling me to be a Chaplain. I attended Asbury Theological Seminary and graduated in 2005 with a Masters of Divinity. In the Church of God, one must serve as a Commissioned Minister (2001-04) and a Licensed Pastor (2004-06) before becoming ordained. I was ordained in 2006 by the Church of God at the Oak Grove Church of God in Tampa. During this time of education, I also received additional training in Chaplaincy by Tampa General Hospital & Northside Hospital. In 2003 I received training in Prison Chaplaincy by Polk Correctional Institute. I began serving as a Spiritual Director on VDC weekends once I became a licensed Pastor.

Since ordination, I have been working as a relief pastor (sermons, marriages, funerals, baptisms) and providing a ministry to the incarcerated, primarily at Zephyrhills Correctional (ZCI), which includes counseling, preaching, and teaching. I am the local administrator for a Baccalaureate program (Biblical Studies) to the inmates at ZCI and a mentor for an inmate who completed his Masters in Theology and is currently working on a Doctor in Christian Counseling.

I was an active member of the Kairos Prison Ministry program at several prisons (Polk, Hardee, Sumter, and Zephyrhills) both as a lay person and clergy for approximately 15 years. I was even a Rector at Polk Correctional in 2000 just prior to entering seminary. I am currently serving as the Spiritual Advisor for Central Gulf Coast Area 11 and have been since 2005. I have served on two of the three prison's weekends (ZCI and Sumter) with the third prison's weekend (Hernando) interrupted by illness.

Becoming one of your Spiritual Directors is both a humbling and a fulfilling experience for me. My father, PK, was a Spiritual Director who found that the VDC experience could have a powerful effect on

whoever would make that weekend. He first told me about weekends like these in the 1970's. It wasn't until my marriage to Jan that I felt God leading me into this community. I was elected as a Spiritual Director because Pastor Betts Huntley's health prevented him from continuing. He has been both a friend and a mentor for me, and I look forward to his help as I make myself available to you, the community and family of Sonbeam Via De Cristo.

Left Behind (Almost)

by Spiritual Director Betts Huntley

When we were young and living in Charlotte, NC, we used to drive down to Myrtle Beach, SC in the summers to visit with my mother's sister and her family.

I remember one of those times that we "smuggled" our dog Cotton into the car and didn't reveal him to Dad until it was too late to turn back. Dad was a good sport about it. Cotton used to ride in the back, standing, with his head resting in the corner of the seat. He would go to sleep that way, his little back end sagging, then standing up straight when he started to go to sleep. We would drive to the beach; Cotton joining us in the fun. He loved to romp. We would pick him up and drop him in the ocean water and watch him swim back to shore, where he ran around and rubbed his face in the sand to get the salt water out of his eyes. On this occasion, we all piled into the car to return to Bob and Julia's house when suddenly Mom noticed that Cotton was not in the car! So we turned around and headed back to the beach. There was Cotton, forlornly looking for our car. When we drove up and called him, he came running and jumped into "his" place in the back! We were all so relieved that we had not left him on the beach! He must have felt terrible and scared, left behind until he saw the car and us. After that, we never again had trouble coaxing him into the car, not after being left and we had returned to get him.

My hope is that no one who reads this will be "left behind." Not after Jesus came to save us and has promised to come back for us.

The Power of Prayer

I thought I would post some things that God has laid on my heart here and I hope that this will be a blessing for you as well.

I challenge you to more prayer: for each other, for the pastors and leaders of your churches as well as our Spiritual Directors and leaders of VdC, for all those in missions around the world and for God to grow in you a passion for His purpose for your life.

Also, pray for God to reveal to you who He has in mind for you to sponsor on a VdC weekend..He has changed lives through this ministry and you can be a part of that by praying for His candidates to come on the spring weekends and the fall. Don't worry about the financial details right now, but do send in applications! It is not too early! Pray about how God will help you and your candidates come up with the money as well. Pray for Rector Andy and Rectora Lisette as they call their teams and mark your calendars so that you can serve either on a team or behind the scenes.

Lastly, I challenge you to take the time to look up the following Scriptures relating to prayer; read them and meditate on what God has to say to you through His Word: 2 Chron7: 14-16, Psalm 42:8, Psalm 61:1-5, Psalm 65, Matt 6:5-7, Matt 21:13, Matt 26: 41, Luke 11:1, Acts 6:4, Acts 13:3, Rom 8:26, Rom 12:12, Phil 4:6, 1 Thes 5:17.

May God bless you richly as you continue to search for Him in all things, love and serve Him with your lives, sharing the message of His Gospel with others. He loves you so very much and so do I.

Jan Foster,
Secretariat Prayer Line Coordinator.

Purchasing

We have completed the project of transferring the cooks manual, recipes and weekend inventory sheets to an electronic form. The cooks on both men's and

women's team have the new manuals in printed form and will give us feed back on any corrections.

Our next step is to purchase supplies for the weekend. Thank you for your prayers as we learn this new job. GYLASDW
Jerry #31 and Jane #33 Brown

“Mahalo Nui Loa” or Thank You Very Much

Just want to take a few words to say, “Thank you” to everyone on #54 for all of the wonderful prayers, the care and consideration during my illness at camp. As I was in the hospital on Saturday, the serenade by the men over the phone was absolutely beautiful. Also, a very large THANK YOU goes out to Rectora Carol for the beautiful roses that were given to me. You will never know how much that meant to me.

God Loves you my Sisters and Brothers, and so do I
Kaiwa Miller

#43, Rachel



To my brothers and sisters in Christ

It is with a heavy heart I have to tell you that in the future I will not be able to serve on VDC weekends. I will miss that opportunity tremendously because I receive as much spiritual uplifting from you as I give to you and the candidates.

I have known for a while that my elders were not “thrilled” with my involvement with VDC. On Monday night this past week I got their new Pastoral leave report; I can only miss 3 Sundays a year. With having family in Illinois and New Mexico it would be hard for me to take a vacation and not miss a Sunday. Therefore my “Sunday’s off” will be for visiting family and not for serving on VDC weekends.

My prayer request of you is that my elders will see the need and value of VDC and change their minds in the future. Also I would appreciate your prayers for my family and I as we move ever closer to Dad’s going home to heaven.

My prayers continue to be with each of you as you as you continue to serve God in your churches and in the VDC community.

A Blessed New Year to each one of you.
In Christ’s service,
Pastor Gary Kindle

Sponsorship

Now that you have shared Christ with a friend on weekend #54, did you and she make it to the 12/5 and 1/16 Ultreya? Have you and he talked this week about a reunion group? Go to our website <http://www.sonbeamvdc.org> for more information! Have you been holding each other accountable for your walk with our God.

In the future, are you praying for the Lord to show you whom to ask...those friends who are potential or capable leaders with strong and balanced personalities? They should be able to influence their environ-

ments. They should have a specific church home. Are you explaining VdC to them, REFUSING to be secretive? Do you say, “I will explain EVERYTHING to you but if I tell you the surprises, then you won’t be surprised?” “But we have worship daily, great food, talks from lay people and clergy, group activities, fellowship, etc.”

WHAT KIND OF A SPONSOR HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHAT KIND OF A SPONSOR WILL YOU BE?

Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. Begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a “sweet duty.”

2 The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president (no matter how you voted), leaders in business, industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God’s guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. “The least shall be the greatest among you.” Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

If you decide to send this to a friend, you might brighten someone’s day! Pass this on to someone special..... I did.

