



STRAIT FROM THE



Volume 3
August/September 2005



Welcome Pilgrims Weekend #31!!

De Colores!!

It's hard to believe that we are more than half way through the year! Where does the time go? It seems that we are all so busy with things in our lives, family, work, and church. What about personal time? Don't forget to take at least 10 minutes a day to spend some quiet time with our Heavenly Father. It can make quite a difference...

I have been praying for all of our new Pilgrims; that they are back in their environments using the new tools they received during the May weekend. I pray that our community has open hearts and minds to welcome these new sisters. It was a *very* spirit filled weekend. I was out on

site in the Agape Tent all weekend and have never felt God's presents so strongly! Wow, these women were on fire for the Lord! It was exciting to witness the wonderful things going on during this weekend.

Thank you community for participating in all the activities "behind the scenes" during the Women's Weekend #31. To those who came out to support the team and provide prayer Palanca in the Agape Tent.



SECRETARIAT ELECTIONS

Your community is led by a secretariat of 15 positions. Each term is for 2 years. To keep the secretariat renewed and vital, members may only serve for two terms. The terms expire on an alternating basis so that only about half of your leadership chairs are elected each year. Do you have some great ideas for "Stirring up the Spirit" of this

community? Has this community given you a gift you would like to pass on by helping to facilitate the goals of Via de Cristo? Do you know someone who you think has the dedication and a passion for this ministry? Now is the time to step forward. Please contact Jan Fry, Sheila Bender or Sandy Moore (Nominating Committee) and let us know you are interested, or speak with

Thank you for being sponsors, prayer warriors, helpers on food day, baking at home, gift Palanca, Sunday morning serenade, chapel visits, and most especially - the PRAYERS. THANK YOU for stepping up at the last minute and volunteering to help out where it was needed. Our community is AWESOME!

God Bless you my brothers & sisters in Christ.

-Sheila Bender

Local Palanca
Chairperson

the person currently in that position for more information. Positions up for a 2 year term are:

- Leaders
- Outreach
- Treasurer
- Pre VdC
- Local Palanca
- On Site PA
- Secretary

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Ordination

Carolyn Rogers has invited the community to attend her ordination. She says that attending her HOF Via de Cristo Weekend #10 was the beginning of her realization of a call to Christian ministry. Her ordination will be Sunday, August 21, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at Winter Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 760 Lakemont Ave. Please RSVP to Carolyn by August 10 to 407-671-3000 after 1:00 p.m. God's blessings to you Carolyn!

We Are On A Mission!

How exciting the closing of Women's Weekend #31 was! I am sure we all left the sanctuary renewed in our mission to serve Christ. The pilgrims and the team members of this weekend were blessed beyond measure after this three day encounter with Christ. It is my prayer that we can propel this momentum towards building and strengthening our community relationships.

As you are aware, our spring weekends met with some challenges. Most notably, our community did not reach outward to share the gift of a weekend with the men of our congregations. Men called to serve on the team were unavailable. The plea for help with the camp tear down was answered by only three dedicated servants. **What do you see as our challenge?** Please let me or another Secretariat member know.

Your Secretariat voted at recently not to hold fall weekends this year. They voted instead to concentrate on strengthening the community and celebrating Heart of Florida's 20th Anniversary. The first HOF weekends were held in December 1985 with the

Anniversary Party!

help of many other Florida communities. The celebration will be held on Saturday, November 12 at St. John Lu-

theran.

Along with this decision, the Secretariat also decided it was important for HOF to have a mission statement. A short, clear mission statement will guide us in all our decisions. **Over the next months we will be working on this with input from you, the community.** Following is the mission and purpose of Via de Cristo from the National Lutheran Secretariat and an excerpt from the Heart of Florida bylaws for our consideration.



**NLS MISSION STATEMENT:
BY GRACE, WITH THE HOLY
SPIRIT, WE CHALLENGE
LEADERS TO DISCOVER AND
ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL
CALLING, ASSISTING THEM TO
INFLUENCE THEIR ENVIRON-
MENTS WITH THE GOSPEL.**

The Purpose of Via de Cristo is, above all, to see the

world reconciled to Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:20). We believe that Jesus, in the great commission, has challenged every Christian to "go into the world and make disciples" (Matthew 28:18-20). By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Via de Cristo is an effective method through which He affirms His original charge to us. It is one of several methods available to the church today to renew and increase a faith that is already a gift to believers.

HOF Bylaws: *"It has been organized to develop in Christians a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in Christian ministry, and the desire to continue to live the life of Grace, personally and together with their brothers and sisters in Christ."*
"HOF VdC as part of the total body of Christ, is an instrument for renewing the church and transforming the world by the fullness of Christ's ministry through His church, both laity and clergy."

Please participate by **writing a mission statement and submitting it!** All will be welcomed and considered!

Blessings,

Sandy Moore,

Lay Director

Schedule of Events

- 1—First Day of School—Seminole County
- 8—First Day of School—Orange County
- 20—Faithfulness Ultraya @ Prince of Peace Lutheran, 7:00 p.m.
- 21—Carolyn Rogers Ordination @ Winter Park Christian Church, 3:00 p.m.

Please challenge yourself and attend the August Ultraya where we will work to develop the mission statement and listen to your ideas. The Secretariat had a few: 4 potluck Ultrayas per year with fellowship activities between (game nights, concerts, action activities). What do you think? We will be listening.

August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 ☆
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Matthew 7:1-5 (NRSV)

[Jesus said,] "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

The Word of God

2005 Heart of Florida Via de Cristo Secretariat

Lay Director	Sandy Moore (407-885-0532) email: sandymoore@cfla.com
Secretary	Joyce Rodriguez (407-382-6652) email: joyceE@YR@msn.com
Treasurer	Pam Hoepner (407-898-1752) email: pamah@flh@nol.com
Leaders	Jim & Diane DeMark (407-897-3669) email: jdemark@cfla.com
Music	Jill Hieroux (407-281-6309) email: jhieroux@gmail.com
Local Palanca	Sheila Deeder (407-887-2883)
Extended Palanca	Jan Fly (407-896-7435) email: flyj@bellsouth.net
Physical Arrangements (On Site)	Rich Bub (407-895-6768) email: bub_r@bellsouth.net
Physical Arrangements (Off Site)	Del & Martha Harrison (407-876-0121) email: mharrison@cfla.com
Outreach	Open (please contact Sandy Moore if you are interested in this position)
Post Via de Cristo	Heli Blasberg (407-387-1620) email: hblasberg@cfla.com
Pre Via de Cristo	Artie Grindle (407-696-3789) email: artie363@aol.com
Communications	Tammy Ortiz (407-340-2868) email: vdc@tammy@earthlink.net
Spiritual Director	Pastor Dave Ludwig (407-366-5705) email: dchidpud@aol.com
Spiritual Advisor	Pastor Tom McKee email: tmckee@cfla.com

Remaining 2005 Ultreyas!

Mark your calendars for the last five Ultreya in 2005 based on the *Spiritual Fruits of the Holy Spirit* spoken by Paul in Galatians 5:22.

August 20, Faithfulness Ultreya held at Prince of Peace Lutheran, Semoran Blvd. and Curry Ford Road at 7:00PM. Please bring finger foods. Drinks and eating ware are provided.

September 17, Gentleness Ultreya and Community meeting held at Northland Distributed Annex, 17/92 and Dog Track Road at 7:00PM. **Potluck at 6:00PM.** Drinks and eating ware are provided.

October 15, Self Control Ultreya at Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Colonial and Rouse Road at 7:00PM. Please bring finger foods. Drinks and eating ware are provided.

November 12, "The 20th Anniversary Celebration of HOF Via de Cristo" held at St. John Lutheran at 7:00PM. **Potluck at 6:00PM.** Drinks and eating ware are provided.

Babysitting can be provided if you call Bob Blasberg at 407-381-1620 at least one week before the event.



September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17★
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Schedule of Events

- 5—Labor Day
- 17—Gentleness Ultreya and Community Meeting at Northland, A Church Distributed, 6:00 pm (Potluck), 7:00pm Ultreya
- 17—Secretariat Elections for:
 - Leaders
 - Outreach
 - Treasurer
 - Pre Via de Cristo
 - Local Palanca
 - On Site Physical Arrangements
 - Secretary

The Power of Music...

Music. Listening to Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor on organ. I can hear it as I write this and no instrument is playing any note. Only my mind gives sound to a piece of musical drama. That is the power of music. The power to soothe a crying baby. The power to move feet to tap and hands to clap. The power to make us remember.

What a gift God has given us in music. Last September, I waited in line at the post office on a Saturday morning, a certified letter waiting for pick-up. I was unemployed, Charley and Frances had worn me out,

and Jeanne was expected to hit sometime during the night.



What new bad news would I receive in letter form? Anxious tears began to rise in my eyes. Not there, standing in line; I could not allow them to fall there. Not in front of strangers. I sang in my mind the song, "The Joy of the Lord is My Strength", over and over until the welling up and pressure in my eyes retreated from

the dangerous potential of overflow. The words were not fancy. The tune not in a league with Bach. But the result was as powerful as listening to that fugue. When God is present, the simple becomes strong.

Sing your song to Him. Of joy, of sadness, of fear, of celebration. He will hear.

*-Jill Heroux
Music Leader*

"When God is present, the simple becomes strong."

Internet and Email Security

The internet and emails have become a very effective tool of communication in today's world. We can send messages to those individuals who are never home, or their phone is always busy. We can spread the word to many people at the same time and they will receive it quickly. We save postage. But, along with this marvel are the pitfalls.

There are many out there seeking to invade our privacy and trick us into giving access to our computers. Please take the time to learn of the recommended security steps you should take to safeguard yourself and the others with whom you communicate.

Never, ever, open an email from someone you do not recognize. A banking institution will Never email you for information. Everyone needs a good Internet Security program and a good virus protection and spam blocking program. You should always take care and update them weekly! Then, be sure to include my email address in your address books so your spam filters don't put your Ultreya announcements in your spam folder!



-The Email Committee

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God's Riches at Christ's Expense

Rom. 3:26: This is not only clear, but it's now--this is current history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness. (The Message)

****OR****

God Righteously Applying Christ's Excellence

John 16:15: All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (NIV)

You decide which description of the GRACE acronym you like! 😊

Thanks for JOY, PEACE AND PATIENCE

Many **thanks** to those who attended the Ultreyas on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th attributes of the Holy Spirit since our last Strait From the Heart Newsletter. Those who attended were truly high in Spirit. **Special thanks** to the following people whose kindness, goodness and faithfulness in Jesus made the evenings successful:

February **Joy** Ultreya at Winter Park Presbyterian:

- Pastor William Campbell
- Tammy Bryan - Witness Talk
- Gordon Kiester - Organizer and Participant

March **Peace** Ultreya at College Park Baptist:

- Communion - Pastor Ron Crawford - Communion and Witness
- Bob Dietz - Witness Talk



1 Corinthians 16:14

On Peace, Organizer

- Bob Summerfield - Organizer

May **Patience** Ultreya at Saint John (Team/Pilgrim Reunion Ultreya):

- Pastor Tom McRee - Communion

- Artie Grindle - Praise Talk on Building Community
- Cathedra Winston - Temple Talk on Patience

The highlight of Cathedra's witness was that **we get impatient because we want to do get the things we want "Right Now."** We must realize it is God's time, not ours and put our trust in Jesus. And Jesus comes through!

We **need your help** and your joy in the Lord to build our community up. We all do not have Artie's enthusiasm, but we all can support HOF through reunion groups, attending Ultreyas, making a friend, being a friend, and bringing a friend to Christ!



The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

DeColores Easter People. Much of what I write I borrowed from Our National Lutheran Secretariat Spiritual Director, Joe Nilsen.

What happens on a Via de Cristo weekend is that the Holy Spirit brings us to a new level of intimacy with a God who is as near as the very air we breathe. Bob Dylan wasn't far off when he sang, "The Answer is Blowin' in the Wind".



Jesus told Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The answer does lie in the blowing of the wind of God. His Holy Spirit.

For a few days, we experience a safe environment through thought, witness, and worship. Through laughter, tears, and music, we encounter the One who is as near as our hearts, and as vital as the breaths we take.

This experience must be shared. Sponsor a Pilgrim.

Grace and Peace to you,

Artie Grindle
Pre- Via de Cristo Chair



Examination of Conscience

Do I pray in the morning and the evening? Is my prayer a true conversation with God involving both mind and heart or are my thoughts far from him? Do I make an offering of the day? Do I call for help in time of temptation?

WHAT CAN I DO TODAY THAT WILL SHOW GOD MY DEVOTION AND LOVE TO HIM?

What were those words?

There were so many new words introduced at your weekend that it is likely that you don't recall all of them unless you wrote them down and refer back to your notes. Only, where did you write it? And what did that mean? Here's a quick glossary guide to help you remember:

Cursillo—a short course

Via De Cristo—Way of Christ

Rollo—a talk

Rollista—person giving a talk

Decurio—the interpretations of the talks given that day by each table

Palanca—prayer

Pilgrim—what you are called before you attend a Via De Cristo weekend

Cursillista—what you are called after you attended a Via De Cristo weekend

De Colores—All in Color

Ultreya—(Spanish word meaning Onward) is the larger Cursillo community. It is a once a month reunion for members of the community to meet together to learn and to provide or receive support and encour-

agement that each of us needs.

Make a Friend

Be a Friend

Bring a Friend to Christ!



**August/September
2005s
VOLUME 3**

Via de Cristo
c/o St. John Lutheran Church
1600 South Orlando Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32769

E-mail:
vdcTammy@earthlink.net



Funny Corner

Puzzling Perspective

A father wanted to read the paper, but was being bothered by his little daughter, Susie. Finally, he took a sheet out of his magazine, on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Susie, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together."

After a few minutes, Susie returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was very surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh", she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus in His place, then the world came out all right."



In God's Time

A man is talking to God. The man asks God how much a million years is to him. God says that it's a second. Then he asks how much a million dollars is to him. God says it's a penny.

So the man asked, "God can I have a penny?"

And God replied, "Just a second."

*Let His
Light
Shine*

Greetings VdC Community!

It is our hope that you are having an excellent summer! Can you believe it's just about over???

We ask God to provide:
*comfort to those of you that have experienced loss or health issues this year; *peace and new friends to those who have moved away; *wisdom and patience to those starting school; *patience to those experiencing job challenges, new environments at work and new routines; ...and may God's love surround you in everything you do. His Power is the fuel behind everything we do, even when we forget. **Thank you God** for always being there...

See you at the August Ultreya!

God Loves U & So Do We!

-The Communications Team