

Strait from the



Nov/Dec 2006



HEART OF FLORIDA VIA DE CRISTO COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

First Comes Thanks *~by Karen Hanson, Pre VdC*



Our community received eight reasons for giving thanks this month. They bring to mind Zechariah asking, "Who despises the day of small beginnings?" Eight new pilgrims gathered for their Via de Cristo weekend last month. What they received in community through the

Spirit will bring seasons of harvest for a lifetime. When God speaks about beginnings, it's with the promise of fruition from planted seed. He invites us to wait for the seeds to sprout, trusting he will complete what he starts. We look ahead with grateful anticipation for how the weekend will permeate their lives.

Are you waiting for God to grow something? In a way that will cause your heart to swell with thanks? While you wait, he invites you to despise not what you see, because he is working through all the details in ways you cannot fathom,

with purposes grander than any of us can know. Meanwhile, God still gives reasons to be thankful, and partners with whom we hope.

As we enter the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, join another cursillista by walking your Fourth Day together. Help someone in a simple way. Water someone's spiritual seed. Give the gift of hope. Long before the fruit comes, let your hearts swell with thankfulness. There must be at least eight ways to do that J.

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Welcome Weekend # 33 Pilgrims!

Introducing our newest Via de Cristo Cursillistas!!

Most of their home churches are listed to the right so if you happen to be there, seek them out for a big welcome!

- Maci AmRhein*
- Terry Aycrigg*
- Lisa Bott*
- Wanda Crocker*
- Christa Dees*
- Norma Mark*
- Beverly Warner*
- Laura Young*

Rejoice in the Lord
New Hope Fellowship
Spirit of Joy
Northland
St. John Lutheran

Welcome Babe Chicks!
God Loves You and
So do We!!!

Heart of Florida Via De Cristo Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop and nurture Christian leaders to reach out with Christ's love in faith and acceptance to those in our churches and communities.



The Baby and the Diaper -by Sandy Moore, Lay Director



"Mary gave birth to her first-born son, wrapped Him in a diaper and laid Him in a manger" O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever"

One of the great truths of our faith is that we do not have to go through the work, claw or scratch our way to God to make ourselves acceptable to Him. Our God comes down to us, accepts us just as we are and gives Himself to us. In His giving is forgiving and His divine love generates new life.

Soon we will be in the season of the year when we remember that all this giving is wrapped up in a tiny baby, Jesus. Yes, He is our

God, who created the universe and He is a human man, born to a virgin, Mary, who wrapped Him in a diaper. In Hebrews 4:15-16 we learn this double nature well. "Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, because He was tested and tempted in every way that we are. Yet He did not sin. Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, where we will find mercy to help us in our time of need."

What a great reason for thanksgiving! This is why we gather for worship on Thanksgiving Day and throughout the following season of Advent and Christmas. That is why we can live

our lives with faith and trust in our God... We remember the One who was willing to wear a diaper and to be crucified just for us.

God Bless you and your families as we join in Thanksgiving and then celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Brother and Savior, our Lord.

Calling All Reunion Groups, Where are You in Your Faith Walks?

-by Bob Blasberg, Post VdC

Has your faith been in a rut lately? Are we praying enough in our reunion groups? Are we visiting the altar once a week, every month or not at all? Are we actually going over our green cards in some fashion? Or are we having get togethers just for the social atmosphere of eating and being together? We all know that God calls us to serve Him. But, are we truly praying with honesty to Him for our needs and others; and then serving? Personally, my faith is on a roller coaster and my reunion group surely helps me to keep focus on God and others, rather than me.

Do you feel more of a need lately to focus on

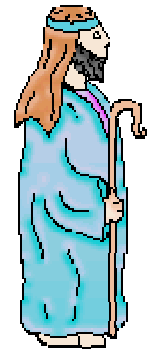
others around you? Do you find yourself needing to be fed more by others who are in your midst? If you have never been in a reunion group, now may be the time to join.

We have included a list of existing reunion groups on page 5 of this issue of Strait from the Heart, or you can find a frequently updated version at: <http://www.hofvdc.org>. If the days and times or the locations are not convenient for you, I encourage you to start a new group with pilgrims that were on your weekend. Start today!!!!

If you cannot find a group, let one of our Secretariat members know, or send an

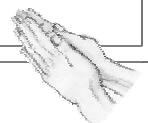
e-mail to: webservant@hofvdc.org.

If you are already in a reunion group but it is not listed at <http://www.hofvdc.org>, please help us update our list by sending an e-mail with the correct info to: webservant@hofvdc.org. Then invite someone new to join your group. Grow in servant-hood and faithfulness.

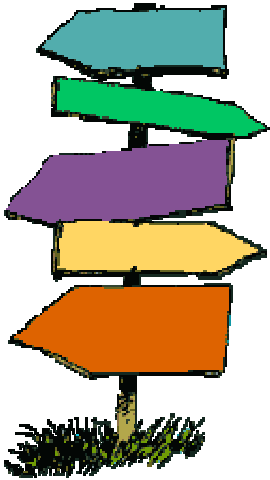


PRAYER WARRIORS WANTED!

The VdC community has an email prayer chain! If you are interested in praying for our community, please email bnblasberg@cfl.rr.com to sign up! Prayer is the best Palanca you can offer!



Where are we Going?? ~by Sandy Moore, Lay Director



Welcome Pilgrims from Women's Weekend #33. What an awesome weekend! This humble outside servant enjoyed every minute of our time together! I hope we have given you the tools to make your Fourth Day journey a grand adventure! Join a reunion group, talk to your pastor and ask what you can do to further the mission of your congregation. Remember, you can be a leader in many, many ways!

During the next several

months, your Secretariat will be exploring our future direction, setting dates and the location for the fall weekends and electing weekend leadership. What is your vision? Where do you think we should be in ministry? What does Via de Cristo mean to you? Are you willing to serve? Where are we as a community? We want to know your thoughts and ideas. Please email me or any Secretariat members found on page 7 your thoughts and ideas. Our

emails are listed in this newsletter, or visit the website and email from there. Check the website often for updates! This is your community, let us hear from you!



Dare to accept a Challenge ~by Beebs Winters, 2007 Local Palanca

Hellooooo!

First off, I would like to thank my Heavenly Father for giving me opportunities to serve Him more and more! I would also like to thank everyone who pitched in to help me through my first experience as your Local Palanca Servant and for helping fulfill the Palanca needs for weekend #33. It is because of you that the weekend was a success. All for God's Glory!

And now, I offer you a challenge... My challenge is that all reunion groups and bible studies and/or individuals to begin working

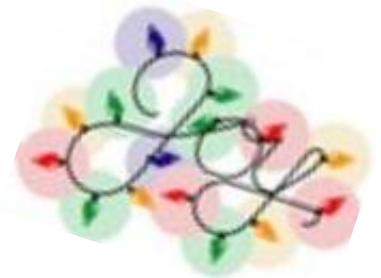
on Palanca now, instead of waiting a month or two before the next set of weekends. I know it's a little less than year away, but every day we should be doing Palanca anyway so why not at least start thinking about it now?

"BUT I'M ALREADY PRAYING BEEBS, WHAT MORE ARE YOU ASKING OF ME? Of course Palanca is prayer, but Palanca also refers to the various items that are received during the weekend. The butterfly pins, dove coins, bookmarks, etc. —all those colorful things that we use throughout the year that remind us of God's

overwhelming love for us sent through our community. Do you remember how you felt when you received it? Why not prepare now to share that same feeling with someone?

So ... do you accept my challenge? Will you or your group make Palanca early? Or serve at a soup kitchen for a weekend? Or pray for our next pilgrims now instead of later? God expects it and is counting on you! What do you say? I dare you....

I love you but God loves you more!



Lemon Jell-O

For those of you that enjoyed Nancy Blasberg's Lemon Jell-O at the September Ul-treya, or for those of you that indulge every-so-often, Nancy has graciously offered to share her recipe! Yummy!

Ingredients:

- Two small or one large pkg/s of Lemon Jell-O

- 2 cups of boiling water
- 1 cup of cold water
- 1 (12oz) Cool Whip
- 1 can lemon pie filling or Robertson's Lemon Curd 11.3oz

Directions:

Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Stir until completely dissolved. Add cold water. Refrigerate Jell-O until it is

almost totally jelled. With electric beaters, beat in lemon pie filling/lemon curd and cool whip. Beat at high speed until thoroughly mixed and thickened. Makes about a 9x11 pan size. Refrigerate until very firm.

THANKS NANCY!!!!

New Ultreya Program in 2007 ~by Bob Blasberg, Post VdC

Starting next year there will be a new Ultreya program for us to share in as a love feast of the Via de Cristo community. They will be usually happening on the third Saturday of the month. It will be a time for the Via de Cristo community to come together in fellowship. Sometimes we have a delicious meal too prior to the festivities.

Our vibrant Tammy Bryan has been elected to head the Post via de Cristo's special events in 2007. She looks forward to sharing with you even more her love of Christ that she has already shared with our community. These Ultreyas will delight and deepen your faith. Guaranteed!!!

Look for the January/February "Strait from the

Heart" newsletter for more details. For now, reserve January 20th and February 3rd for our next two Ultreyas. Tammy will share the details with you in January. =

Coming!
The first Ultreya
of 2007!
January 20,
Stay Tuned for
Details!



What's Love Got to Do with It? ~by Tammy Ortiz, Communications

I am a fact person. I like hearing or reading about facts, so I spend a lot of time researching on the internet or reading books. I look up words in the dictionary too, even if I know the definition.

The other day I was on page 838 of Webster's New World Dictionary and found the word LOVE. There were 15 numbered definitions. I also looked on the internet at <http://www.dictionary.com> and that displayed 28 definitions! Neither list included co-joined words such as "Love apple"; "love beads", or "love bugs", so that list grew even more! As I read each one, my eyes scrambled to find the words "Patient", "Kind", "Rejoice", or "Truth". NONE OF THESE WORDS APPEARED! And only the first 2

of the 28 internet definitions resembled what we are taught as Christians in 1 Corinthians 13.

No wonder there is so much confusion in the world, these definitions tell us what love means! We allow the world to dictate how we should love by consulting with a dictionary rather than the bible. We minimize Loves meaning by using it to describe a physical relationship, a great book or movie, a pair of shoes (as in "I Love those shoes!", a food or place and everything else. This is not what God intended and He tells us so throughout the bible! How sad for us when we don't realize that God is love and all He wants is for us to love each

other as He loves us... unconditionally.

But you don't have to believe me, just visit <http://www.biblegateway.com> and type in the word "love" in the Quick Search box. My research showed me that the amount of times the word "love" appeared in the Bible search which was 697 times, is about the same as number of pilgrims that have experienced a weekend with the Heart of Florida Via De Cristo ministry in the last 20 years.

Next research project: *How I can further show "love" to my brothers and sisters in Christ?*

Coming!
February 3rd
Grand Ultreya!
The Seven
Secretariats
of Florida.
Jacksonville, FL
2:00 pm
Watch for
Details!

Welcome New Secretariat Members!

At the September business meeting and Ultreya, the community elected the following individuals: Beebs Winters (Local Palanca); Nancy Cifuentes (Extended Palanca); Marty Collins (Music); Tammy Bryan (Post VdC); Sandy Moore (Lay Director); Tammy Ortiz

(Communications).

Our deep and heartfelt gratitude goes to those leaving the Secretariat. What outstanding and willing servants you have been: Jan Fry (Extended Palanca); Bob Blasberg (Post VdC); and Del and Martha Harriman (Off-Site VdC). You will be

missed, but we know you will remain as active members of the Heart of Florida community!

(The names of the 2007 Secretariat are found on page 7 of this newsletter.)

Reunion Groups

Reunion Groups



WOMEN'S REUNION GROUPS			
Day/Time	Location	Contact	Reunion Group Name
Monday, 7:00PM	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Parlor	Peggy Stafford (407) 897-1177	
Monday, 7:00PM	St. John Lutheran Church	Diane DeMark (407) 897-3669	
Tuesday, 7:15AM	Barney's @ Waterford Lakes	Pam Rousseau (407) 925-1451	
Tuesday, 9:00AM	Village Inn, University Blvd., East of 436	Daisy Mansbach (407) 629-1273	
Tues 1st & 3rd, 11:00AM	St. John Lutheran Church, Chapel	Jeanneal Engelke (407) 296-0786	Tuesday's with God
Wed, 1st,3rd,5th 5:30PM	St. John Lutheran Church, Lounge	Donna McRee (407) 774-6639	WWW.4.God (Wed. Women's walk with God)
Wed, 1st,3rd,5th 6:15PM	St John Lutheran Church, Shaefer Hall	Beth Davidson (407)-898-9422	Can-Can Sisters
Wednesday, 8PM	Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church	Patti Linman (407)-281-9317	New Journey
Thursday, 6:00PM	St. John Lutheran , Back Entrance/Chapel	Marty Collins (407) 381-0317	Spiritual Seeking Sisters
Thursday, 8AM	Tammy Bryan's Home	Tammy Bryan (407)-658-8505	Fairway Faithfuls
Thursday, 8:30 AM	Prince of Peace, then out for breakfast	Carlene Lemcke (407) 277-2606	
Thursday, 10:00 AM	Members Homes	Jane Pohlad (407) 699- 6817	
Thursday, 7:00 PM	Members Homes	Sheila Bender (407) 657-2683	St. John Home Hoppers
Friday, 7:00 PM	Members Homes	Beebs Winters (407) 695-3821	God's Chicks
Saturday, 9:00AM	Members Homes	Ina Wheeler (407) 273 -7754	The Joy Belles
Saturday, 9:30 AM	Mead Gardens, Winter Park	Nancy Blasberg (407) 381-1620	Mead Garden Morning Glories
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Cherie Nocks (407) 277- 2198	



MEN'S REUNION GROUPS		
Day/Time	Location	Contact
Tues, 2nd & 4th, 7:00 AM	Shakers, Edgewater Drive in College Park	Robert Dietz (407) 650-9092
Wednesday, 7:00AM	Perkins Restaurant, Route 436 at I-4	Cory Caslow (321) 261-0883
Wednesday, 7:30 AM	Village Inn, University Blvd., East of 436	Harold Mulder (407) 672-1712
Wednesday, 6:00 PM	St. John Lutheran Church, Room 115/Chapel	Bob Blasberg (407) 381-1620
Thursday, 6:30AM	Denny's, E. Colonial and Alafaya	Glenn Brown (407) 898-7600
Saturday, 8:00 AM	Toojays, Colonial at Bumby	Don Bonesteel (407) 339-9531
Saturday, 8:00 AM	Steak & Shake, Aloma Ave and S.R. 436	Leo McCloe (407) 366-0739
Saturday, 8:00 AM	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Chapel	Jerry Lemcke (407) 277-2606
Saturday, 7:30 AM	McDonald's, Aloma Ave at Howell Branch Rd	Bill Pohlad (407) 699-6817

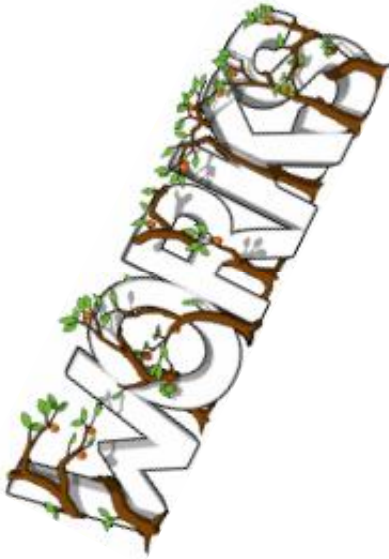
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PLEASE visit <http://www.hofvdc.org> to provide an update to your address. Include an email address as our goal is to move towards using the internet as many companies are doing to minimize postal expenses. We appreciate your support!



A New Chapter, A New Experience

~by Ken Raue, On-site Physical Arrangements



Welcome new pilgrims! Women's Weekend #33 will mark a new chapter in your lives as you take your weekend experience into your daily life.

While the weekend activities kept you focused on the talks and building your relationship to our Savior, behind the scenes there were many volunteers who worked hard to ensure your weekend was memorable. I would like to name all those who helped setup, arranged for the food, helped take-down and helped pack everything, but

space is limited. So I will just say "Thanks to the Ghost Squad!"

With the next weekend scheduled for the Fall 2007, we have an opportunity to review some of our processes associated with the weekends. Some of the areas that I am looking for volunteers to review include the storage and inventory of our equipment and supplies, purchasing of new materials, the menus to better define quantities per person and the setup and takedown processes.

Again thank you to all the Ghost Squad members for their time during setup and takedown for the weekend. For those who wanted to volunteer but weren't able to connect this time, thank you and let's work towards two great weekends in the Fall.

Want to assist with the reviews, contact me through the website, via email at VdC4opa@aol.com, or via phone at (407) 277-7526. =

Outreach 2006 ~by Tammy Bryan, Outreach

God's blessings are countless and throughout my tenure as Chair of Outreach, I have been blessed to watch God work through Via de Cristo's many servants. In 2006, my life was enriched.

VdC members visiting a small church in Groveland, Fl. received a beautiful wood cross made by a member of the congregation. God's light shone through the words of the Pastor of this church, who later became a blessing to weekend #33. Pastor Paula has blessed many Pilgrims and team members during her 4th day walk and I witnessed that firsthand.

As I watched the members of the VdC community build a Habitat for Humanity home on Westmoreland serving those in need, Romans 1:13 suddenly came to mind. The VdC community did carpentry, painted, dry walled, mowed, taped, sanded, and cleaned. It displayed God's Love to those in need, especially since it occurred during the summer months.

In the middle of serving on weekend # 33, attending the meetings that led to the weekend, and packing to move, Diane and Jim DeMark still found time to open their home for the VdC Pastor's luncheon held on Saturday, September 23rd. They were vital in helping us honor the work of the local Pastors. We served with VdC members from churches all over Central Florida to say "Thanks" to all our of Pastors who lead us in His service and help us grow in study and love for God and oth-

ers. Bless you all for your servant hood – Blessings, Blessings, and Blessings!

God's Holy Spirit touched many as new reunion groups formed and served God with study, Christian support and Praise to God the Father. Reunion groups gathered to paint teen homes, provide food for homeless pantries, feed the homeless, build a home for the needy, and in a thousand ways share God's Love through serving their local churches. Which is what the VdC weekend equips us to do... As I saw fellow Christians feed the homeless, I could not help but think of how Jesus fed the multitudes. In His name, hands and feet are doing His work. My life is so blessed...

My Mother passed away mid October and a few days later God opened a door for me to be called to serve on

weekend # 33 to replace a person that was no longer able to serve. He put me in a place where loving VdC Christians, who were unaware of my loss, showered me with Agape Christian love. As I left the weekend Sunday morning after serenade to attend her funeral, my VdC sponsor was beside me in the car. God Provides!!!!!! I thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him and surround myself with Christian friends who are active in service and growth.

Jesus loves you and so do I...

Financial Facts

~by Bill Pohlad, Treasurer


Weekend #33 fees and expenses have been submitted and paid and barring any unexpected changes, the increase in fees and expense control resulted in a net positive cash flow. I want to thank all team members, pilgrims and 4th day community for their diligence.

As you know there are many expenses during the year besides the weekend. Currently we have a bank balance of \$4473.49, nearly identical to the balance at this time last year. This means we will need another successful fund raiser this spring. =



Dear Rooster...

Dear Rooster:

 Sometimes I have questions about a biblical topic and I don't know who to ask. I know my Pastor is there for me, but I don't always want to trouble him when I know the answer is available elsewhere. Can you recommend someone that can answer my questions?

Sincerely,
~Inquiring mind
Orlando, FL

Dear Seeking:

Why yes there is someone! Me! I am always available to answer any questions you may have, all you need to do is email Tammy Ortiz at: vdctammy@earthlink.net and she will pass the message on to me for a reply! If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does. Rest assured, I am always here for the asking!



Jeremiah 33:3

Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.

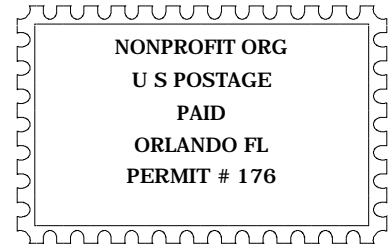


Introducing your 2007 Heart of Florida Via de Cristo Secretariat

Lay Director	Sandy Moore (407-886-0532) email: sandymoore@cfl.rr.com
Secretary	Joyce Whitehill (407-382-8832) email: joyceEWYR@msn.com
Treasurer	Bill Pohlad (407362-1731) email: sablebill@cfl.rr.com
Leaders	Jim & Diane DeMark (407-897-3669) email: jdemark@cfl.rr.com
Music	Marty Collins email: martycollins@adelphia.net
Local Palanca	Beebs Winters (407-695-3821)
Extended Palanca	Nancy Cifuentes (321-274-5158) email: nana_cif@earthlink.net
Physical Arrangements (On-Site)	Ken Raue (407-277-7526) email: VdC4opa@aol.com
Physical Arrangements (Off-Site)	*****OPEN*****
Outreach	*****OPEN*****
Post Via de Cristo	Tammy Bryan (407-658-8505) email: helenbryan@bellsouth.net
Pre Via de Cristo	Karen Hanson (407-977-0418) email: svenska77kh@aol.com
Communications	Tammy Ortiz (407-340-2868) email: vdctammy@earthlink.net
Spiritual Director	Pastor Dave Ludwig (407-366-5705) email: dcludpud@aol.com



Heart of Florida Via De Cristo
 c/o St. John Lutheran Church
 1600 South Orlando Avenue
 Winter Park, Florida 32789
<http://www.hofvdc.org>



Bulk mail is not forwarded, so PLEASE email Sandy at sandymoore@cfl.rr.com or visit the website with updates to your address.



LOVE [luhv] noun 1. IS PATIENT a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person. 2. a feeling of warm personal LOVE IS KIND attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend. 3. sexual passion or desire. IT DOES NOT ENVY 4. a person toward whom love is felt; beloved person; sweetheart. 5. IT DOES NOT BOAST (used in direct address as a term of endearment, affection, or the like): Would you like to see a movie, love? IT IS NOT PROUD. 6. a love affair; an intensely amorous incident; amour. IT IS NOT RUDE 7. sexual intercourse; copulation. 8. a personification of sexual affection, as Eros or Cupid. IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING 9. affectionate concern for the well-being of others: the love of one's neighbor. 10. IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED strong predilection, enthusiasm, or liking for anything: her love of books. 11. the object or thing so liked: The Theater was her great

love. IT KEEPS NO RECORDS OF WRONGS 12. the benevolent affection of God for His creatures, or the reverent affection due from them to God. 13. Chiefly Tennis. a score of zero; nothing. 14. a word formerly used in communications to represent the letter L. verb (used with object) 15. to have love or affection for: All her pupils love her. 16. to have a profoundly tender, passionate affection for (another person). LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL 17. to have a strong liking for; take great pleasure in: to love music. 18. to need or require; benefit greatly from: Plants love sunlight. BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH 19. to embrace and kiss (someone), as a lover. 20. to have sexual intercourse with. verb (used without object) 21. to have love or affection for another person; be in love. IT ALWAYS PROTECTS 22. love up, to hug and cuddle: She loves him up every chance she gets. idioms 23. for love, a. out of affection or

liking; for pleasure. b. without compensation; gratuitously: He took care of the poor for love. 24. for the love of, in consideration of; for the sake of: For the love of mercy, stop that noise. 25. ALWAYS TRUSTS in love, infused with or feeling deep affection or passion: a youth always in love. 26. in love with, feeling deep affection or passion for (a person, idea, ALWAYS PERSEVERES occupation, etc.); enamored of: in love with the girl next door; in love with one's work. 27. make love, LOVE NEVER FAILS a. to embrace and kiss as lovers. b. to engage in sexual activity. 28. no love lost, dislike; animosity: There was no love lost between the two brothers. ~1 Corinthians 13