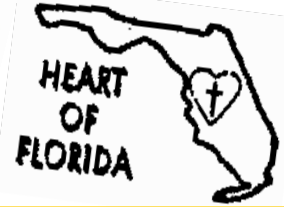


STRAIT FROM THE



Spring-Summer 2007
HOF VDC Community



We are an Easter People and Alleluia is Our Song!

Our Ultreya in March was an event that was very meaningful to me. Pastor David Ludwig and David Ludwig, Jr., together, (I call them the dynamic duo), spent a wonderful hour reminding me of that which had such powerful impact in my life. My Baptism. On the weekend I spent at Via de Cristo, the message traveled from my mind to my heart. God chose me! At my Baptism, I was called by name, I was special, I was a Child of God....I was HIS! Nothing can restore your self confidence or your mission in life better than that. But what next?

During this past Lenten season, I chose for my devotions to re-read "He Chose the

Nails" by Max Lucado. Through this study and Mr. Lucado's very vivid descriptions of what Jesus did for ME, how can I not contemplate my future walk? For Me, Christ endured the leather straps of the whip, He was spat upon, He wore a crown of thorns upon his head, He had spikes driven into his hands to hold him to the cross. At the cross He removed His seamless garment and suffered the indignity of nakedness, failure and sin. My sin and yours. He changed places with us and left for us his seamless garment, coordinated, unified, uninterrupted perfection. He did this all for us!

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene visited the tomb and found

it empty. She rushed out to spread the news. That is what we, as Easter people, are commissioned to do. Spread the good news to whoever we encounter. It can be any where, to any one. Simple acts of kindness and caring or greater acts of great good. Give witness to the power of the resurrected Christ by loving others with whatever gifts, great or small, that you have been given. It is our calling to listen as Christ calls us by name and then to go into our own small corner of the world and give witness to the truth that He is Alive! Alleluia! We are an Easter People and Alleluia is Our Song! <><

~Sandy Moore
Lay Director

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Seven Secretariats of Florida to sponsor the National meeting in 2009!!!!

What an honor it would be to host the 2009 National meeting. Keep your eyes & ears open - more news to come!

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

NLS 2007 Annual Meeting

Hosted by Indiana and Kentucky, the NLS 2007 Annual Meeting will be held this summer **July 26 - 29, 2007** in Indianapolis on the campus of the University of Indianapolis (www.uindy.edu). The theme: "The Race Set



Before Us". The weekend promises to be filled with inspirational worship services and enlightening seminars given by great speakers. Learn what other movements are doing to grow! For more information about the meeting, visit www.viadecristo.org/annualmeeting/2007/2007.htm. <><

Financial Facts

The Easter Breakfast was an unqualified success! Thanks go to the 125+ hours that the many volunteers worked to feed the masses. Thanks goes to the many who donated money to insure that we met our goal of \$1600 so we could received the maximum match from Thrivent. After expense our net was \$1813.73 for a total of \$3413.73 following receipt of the matching funds. This will leave us with a bank balance of \$7077.41. It may sound like a lot but two weekends, newsletters, community storage, expenses to send representatives to the National Lutheran Secretariat are among the expenses that will rapidly dwindle our account. So, thanks to the community for this vote of confidence in our ministry. <><

~Bill Pohlada
Treasurer



Let His
Light
Shine

A special **THANK YOU** goes out to **Ashley and Ameah** for their help at the Easter breakfast! The girls showed their servant hearts as "Dining Room Managers" and made sure a pleasant dining experience was had by all!

We could not have done it without you, thank you for your true example of leadership. God loves you and so do we!!!

~The HOF VDC community



From the Spiritual Director . . .

"When Via de Cristo becomes a church within a church we are out of sync with our God given purpose." That is (paraphrased) what National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) member Jerry Lemcke said at a recent meeting.

The purpose of Via de Cristo - and all the expressions of Cursillo is to renew the individual through means of the weekend and then to send them home to renew and serve the congregation of which they are members. But when we are out of sync with this godly purpose we start to think of our activities as serving Via de Cristo. And the difference is so subtle it is hard to see, but the results are deadly. Just as St. Paul told the Corinthians in chapter 13 the difference between doing good with or without love is subtle but immense.

We are planning the next pair of weekends, identifying and inviting team leaders and members, making

Palanca, raising money. We gather for "reunions" and "Ultreya" but if these do not serve to strengthen the congregation but only thinking of ourselves as a movement, then we are nothing more than a noisy cymbal or clanging brass. We do not invite candidates so that weekends can be filled, we offer weekends so that individuals can be renewed. We do not group or Ultreya so that we can be with each

"When Via de Cristo becomes a church within a church we are out of sync with our God given purpose."

~Jerry Lemcke

other again, but so that we can be renewed and strengthened to go home and serve all - not just those of us who have gone through a weekend.

Each of us is called to serve. I am asking the Pastors who receive this letter to consider the calling to serve with me as a spiritual direc-

tor on the fall weekends, for the whole time or just a portion, and to talk to other pastors about the renewal they will enjoy by doing a weekend as well. I am asking us all to prayerfully look at our motivations in inviting candidates, and to invite more, spread the seed broadly, invite others to the groups and Ultreya gatherings, and generally help renew them now.

Easter is a time for new life -- it is the eternal 4th day -- it culminates in Pentecost and the gifts of God for this day. Let us use those gifts to love and serve. And as we do so, God will direct us along the Via de Cristo. <><

De Colores!
~Pastor Paula



Faith for the Coming Season

When I listen to TV weathermen, I hear the sound of summer approaching. Higher temperatures, sunnier days, reminders to be cautious at the beach. What they aren't saying yet, but I hear, is that summer storms are coming with the threat of hurricanes and damage. In April I flew to Boston to support a son who was having spine surgery. I stayed with a cousin who drove me into Boston daily, bringing her prayer shawl knitting to stay busy when time with my son was long.

We drove the scenic route through suburbia. Blocked roads and overflowing ponds threatened our drive. New England had been hit unexpectedly with spring hurricane winds and

rain that damaged the coast and drenched residential areas. Still, we ploughed through. We had to believe God had everything under control though it was a threatening sight to see, and we looked for hopeful signs.



The coming months in Via de Cristo are filled with hope as we prepare for a holy overflow of the Spirit in transformed lives. We are the support team, dedicated to prayer and letting no roadblock limit what God wants to accomplish. We can invite someone to experience the spiritual rekindling Via de Cristo presents so they can grow in ministry, or we can offer to serve on

team while they are renewed. You have an application in your hand today. The prayers that hold us together and renew our faith for the coming season will lead you to where it needs to go. If you happen to be knitting while you pray, listen for the sound of fall approaching. <><

*With you in the journey,
~Karen Hanson
Pre-Via de Cristo*



Beeb's Babbling Reviews

Helloooooo!!!
Every newsletter we will be hosting a column review on books, movies and websites. If you have any suggestions, ideas or information to share, please contact me so we can be sure to share with the other members of our VdC family. **In this edition of Babel...**



BOOK:
"The Marriage Masterpiece" by Al Janssen
Focus on the Family marriage book of the year!

As a wedding gift, this book of encouragement will help the foundation of your marriage, whether you are just starting out or needing to pump it up. See and feel the plans God has for your marriage!



MOVIE:
"Facing the Giants"
Starring Mark Willard and Terry Catt in a

Georgia small town as they learn through a high school football team that nothing is impossible with God. You will laugh, scream, cry and have faith. Great for the whole family!

WEBSITE:
www.beliefnet.com/
is a multi-faith e-community that offers insight into everything from Christianity to Zoroastrianism. Check it out!



OTHER VDC COMMUNITIES:
<http://www.sonbeamvdc.org/>
Check out one of our sister communities from the 7 Secretariats of Florida. They're in the Tampa area and it's pretty neat that they have a link to our website!

SHOPPING:
<http://www.palancagifts.com/>
This website sells products that are a great choice for Palanca gifts, just in case you are unable to create some of your own.

Do you have any recommendations on books, websites, movies or any other ideas you'd like to share? Contact Beeb's Winters or Tammy Ortiz at communications@hofvdc.org.

“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” James 5:16

The purpose of VIA de CRISTO is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities. One way our community can become more active witnesses for Christ is by encouraging other communities through Palanca. **Palanca is prayer.**

To the right is a list of **upcoming U.S.A. VDC weekends for the months of June and July.** I encourage your reunion group to pick a weekend and pray for the lay and clergy coordinating these weekends and most importantly their pilgrims. Won't you also consider sending a gift Palanca, especially from your reunion

group??? What a blessing to the pilgrims this would be..... **Cut out one of the boxes to the right and begin your Palanca TODAY!** God Loves You my brothers and sisters in Christ, and so do I.... <><

*~Nancy Cifuentes
Your Extended Palanca
Chairperson*



June 2007 - Wisconsin: Wisconsin Sunrise VdC, Coed #6: June 21-24, Send Palanca to: Richard Pettitt 772 Dogwood Dr. Beloit, WI 53511

July 2007 - Colorado: Colorado VDC, Coed #26: July 12-15, Send Palanca to: Paul Bunker 9395 W Friend Dr. Littleton, CO 80128

July 2007 - Minnesota: Lutheran VdC of Minnesota, Men's #488: July 12-15, & Women's #489: July 19-22, Send Palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

June 2007 - California: VDC of So. CA & Central Valley, Coed #30, June 21-24 Send Palanca to: HM McKinsey 37460 Torrington St. Palmdale, CA 93550

July 2007 - Florida: Sunshine VDC, Men's #98: July 19-22, Send Palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317



2007 Heart of Florida Secretariat



Lay Director

Leaders

Secretary

Treasurer

Physical Arrangements (On-Site)

Physical Arrangements (Off-Site)

Communications

Pre Via de Cristo

Post Via de Cristo

Extended Palanca

Outreach

Local Palanca

Music

Spiritual Director

Spiritual Advisor

Sandy Moore (407-886-0532) email: moores@cfl.rr.com

Jim & Diane DeMark (407-897-3669) email: jdemark@cfl.rr.com

Joyce Whitehill (407-657-7072) email: joyceEWYR@msn.com

Bill Pohlad (407362-1731) email: sablebill@cfl.rr.com

Ken Raue (407-277-7526) email: vdc4opa@aol.com

*****OPEN*****

Tammy Ortiz (407-340-2868) email: vdctammy@earthlink.net

Karen Hanson (407-977-0418) email: svenska77kh@aol.com

Tammy Bryan (407-658-8505) email: helenbryan@bellsouth.net

Nancy Cifuentes (321-274-5158) email: nana_cif@earthlink.net

Jim Detzel (407-389-6155) email: jim_detzel@hp.com

Beebs Winters (407-695-3821)

Marty Collins (407-381-0317) email: martycollins@adelphia.net

Pastor Paula Hepola-Anderson (352-429-2690) email: zion34736@yahoo.com

Pastor Tom McRee (407-774-6639) email: tmcree@cfl.rr.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

De Colores!!

I greet you in the name of the Lord.

Heart of Florida

VDC Weekend

#34

Men: October 11-14 & Women: October 18-21

Please join us in praying for the pilgrims, clergy, sponsors, rector/a and all those involved in coordinating our next Heart of Florida VDC Weekend this Fall 2007.

Your Palanca offerings through writing a note, sending a gift, cooking a meal, attending send-off, going to church, singing a song, giving a hug, prayer and fasting are all sacrificial actions.

It's not too soon to consider how you and your reunion group will offer Palanca to the team and Pilgrims of weekend #34



CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!

Mail Palanca for HOF VdC Weekend #34 to:



Heart of Florida Via de Cristo
c/o St. John Lutheran Church
1600 South Orlando Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Attn: Beeks Winters

HOF 2007 Elections

Your Vote Counts!

Did you know...

- ✓ That several of our states, including California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington, became states by just ONE vote?
- ✓ That in 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson, our 36th president, became a U.S. senator by a ONE vote margin?
- ✓ That the HOFVDC secretariat election is less than 4 months away?



There are many ways you can get involved in our community and tell us what you think. Run for a position. Vote for a candidate. Ask God how He can use **YOU**. . .

In 1789 when the constitution was finally approved and the time came for the new republic to elect its first president, there really was only ONE choice.....George Washington- and he was unanimously elected. Today we have choices! The HOFVDC Secretariat community has several open positions:

PRE VIA DE CRISTO - responsible for coordinating sponsor and pilgrim communications prior to a VdC Weekend, up to and including send-off. Maintain a database of potential pilgrims, process pilgrim applications, communicate weekend information to sponsors and pilgrims, and after checking in pilgrims and team at send-off, call the names of team and pilgrims to board the vans. At Send-Off, the Pre Via de Cristo is responsible for arranging opening prayer by a pastor and a pastor to serve communion to the community following send-

off.

Local Palanca- shall encourage the provision of palanca for the weekends by the HOF community by publicizing needs for prayer palanca (24-hour prayer vigil schedule), food palanca, and gift palanca (table, pillow and rollo room) and letter palanca to the pilgrims. Arrange for and host the Weekend Food Prep Day and seek Agape Tent coordinators for each weekend.

On-Site Physical Arrangements - responsible for the coordination of all weekend supporting activities that take place on the retreat site just prior to, during and immediately after each weekend, except for the Agape Tent. On-Site Physical Arrangements trains the Head Outside servant on their responsibilities for Set-Up and Teardown and orients the Kitchen team in their duties.

Off-site Physical Arrangements - responsible for the coordination of all weekend supporting activities that primarily take place at Send-Offs and Closings. This includes transportation of team, pilgrims and luggage at Send-Offs and Closings as well as any palanca items that are brought to the church by Send-Off. Position is also responsible for the set-up and clean-up of all areas of the church that are used during the Send-Offs and Closings.

Outreach -serves as the organizer and coordinator for all outreach activities for Heart of Florida Via de Cristo. Encourages the community to ask friends to attend a weekend and link pilgrims moving to Central Florida from other VdC communities to VdC activities and Secretariat resources.

Secretary - record minutes of all HoF Secretariat and Community meetings, file the minutes in the corporate record book and handle all official HoF correspondence. The Secretary will maintain an accurate database to include all information about members of the community and serves as archivist for HoF.

Treasurer - shall receive all HoF funds, deposit them in a banking institution having Federal deposit insurance, pay all bills approved by the Secretariat, maintain accurate records of all receipts and disbursements, assist with fund raising activities sponsored by the Secretariat and provide such reports as may be required by the Secretariat. The Treasurer maintains the official records for the Heart of Florida Via de Cristo community.

Leaders Chairperson (s)- shall be responsible for the continuing education of the Fourth Day community in the theory and practice of the VdC method. Leaders shall be responsible for all HoF team training materials and manuals and shall provide two training sessions for team leadership. Leaders shall also be responsible for the presentation of a Next Step Workshop after each set of weekends. Shall serve as Vice-Chairperson(s) of the Secretariat and perform the duties of Lay Director in his/her absence.

Lay Director - is the chief executive officer of HoF and shall represent HoF to the community and other - VdC organizations. As Secretariat Chairperson, he/she shall call and conduct meetings of the HoF Secretariat and Community, coordinate the work of the Secretariat and any other committees or groups within the HoF, and ensure to the best of his/he ability that the policies, procedures, aims and goals of the HoF are carried out.

For a FULL job description of any positions listed, contact Sandy Moore. If you are interested in a position, or know someone who is, please contact anyone on the Secretariat so their name may be presented to the nominating committee. <><

~Your 2007 Secretariat

Utreyas!

June 16 - 6:30pm: *Prince of Peace*
>Potluck Party/Work Ultreya
We will be making Palanca and repairing banners. This event is sponsored by all reunion groups.

July—join us at the NLS Annual meeting in Indiana!

August 18 - 12:00n til ? Beach Party Ultreya at Cocoa Beach (location on the



beach to be provided via email and website, or call Tammy Bryan for information.)

September 15 - 6:30pm:
Northland, A Church Distributed
>God's plan for our Fourth Day Walk.

*****OCTOBER WEEKENDS*****

****Men's—October 11-14**

****Women's—October 18-21**

*****CONTINUE TO SIGN PILGRIMS UP!*****

November 10: *St. John*
>4:45pm: Weekend #34 Reunion
>6:00pm: Pot Luck
>7:00pm: Ultreya

Please make 2007 the year to invite your non-Lutheran Cursillo friends and non-Cursillo friends and lets make some more connections! <><

The Word of God

Helloooooo!
Beebs Winters-Ward here...
I need to share something with Youn's...

Ever since we have been married and even before that, my husband has been pushing for us to have a "threesome". The idea sounded good to me since he mentioned it, and the more I thought about it, the better I liked the idea. And now, that we have "threesomes", the better our marriage, life and environment have become. Thanks God... for joining us in our "threesome". . .

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12 - New Living Translation)

What were those words? (reprinted from July 2005)

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:

Via De Cristo—Way of Christ

Cursillo—a short course

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

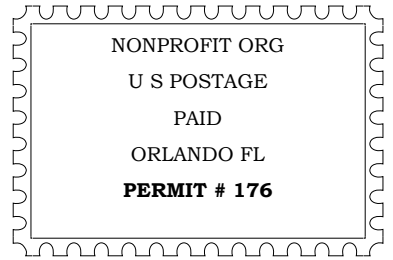
Be a Friend

Bring a Friend to Christ!



Spring-Summer 2007

Via de Cristo
c/o St. John Lutheran Church
1600 South Orlando Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32789
communications@hofvdc.org



Find us on the Web!



www.hofvdc.org

Bulk mail is not forwarded, so PLEASE email us at
communications@hofvdc.org
or visit the website with updates to your address.

Heart of Florida Via de Cristo

Strait from the 

Newsletter Notification Request Form

To receive an email notification about the next and all future editions of the Strait from the Heart Newsletter, please email Sandy at moores@cfl.rr.com, or complete the form below and mail it to:

*VdC Newsletter Notification
c/o St. John, 1600 S. Orlando Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: & State: _____ Zip: _____


Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____@_____

Write in print letters and be very clear to make sure we reach you!

Thanks!

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.

