



SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 19 No 2

March 2013

Message From the 2013 Rector

It is an honor and privilege to have accepted the call for Rector of this year's Via De Cristo Coed Weekend #33. VDC has been a life changing experience for me since I was a participant during VDC #21 in 2006. As I begin to assemble the team, I want to thank each of you in advance for your prayers and support. I am blessed, truly blessed, to be part of this AWESOME movement. At this time I would like to present the weekend's verse:

Let us thank God for his priceless gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15 Good News Translation)

I would also like to introduce our Head Spiritual Leader...Pastor Tom Dunham.

Stayed tuned, as there will be more to come.

Mike Stein

Meet Scott Malcomson, New Member of the Secretariat

I grew up living in a small rural town, Stewartville, MN. At age 13, my family relocated to Rio Rico AZ. I love camping and while in MN was able to go with the youth group from Church, to the Boundy Waters Canoe Area in Northern MN for a week's adventure up there. In Rio Rico my family helped a small Lutheran Church grow from meeting in the stables to building a Church in our own.

After High School I moved around a bit went back to MN, but as an adult, much too cold up there. Went to Albuquerque, Tempe, El Paso, and back here to Tucson.

My mother Norma resides in Green Valley, a brother in Des Moines IA, and a brother and sister here in southern AZ. I have 2 sons: Kyle, his lovely wife Aby and my awesome Grandson live in Phoenix. Ely, my handsome teenager, lives in El Paso. Ely is very involved with the High School Band and the Marching Band. He's in the drum line and went with the School's Marching Band to Disney Land last year.

I always found a Lutheran Church as a base for Worship and am happy here in Tucson.



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Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo 2013 Secretariat

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Introducing a New Member to the Secretariat

I am Michael Eckelbarger. I moved to Tucson in 2002. I work at Honeywell as a Program Manager/Sr Support Specialist.

I have 3 sons, Michael II, Bradley, and Jason and have 1 Grandson, Austin Michael and a Granddaughter on the way, Autumn Marie. Michael II and his wife Holly recently moved to Chicago, but my other two sons and Brad's wife Cayla live in Tucson.

I attended Via de Cristo #17 in 2004 and was a member of Secretariat from 2005 to 2008. I have attempted to stay active in the organization by serving whenever possible. I also love serving on the Tirosh weekends. I hope to be a positive influence to our community and for our Lord Jesus Christ. I have a strong sense of community and I would encourage all of you to not just attend the Ultreyas but to encourage others to attend as well.

I would urge you all to make those calls to our brothers and sisters who have been absent from our gatherings. If you need a ride call.



Message from the Retiring LAY DIRECTOR

I want you all to know how fortunate I feel and how much I have enjoyed being on Secretariat these last few years and serving as Lay Director for the past year.

The Lutheran movements of Via de Cristo and Tirosh are an integral part of the future of the Lutheran Church and to be a part of all of this has been where my heart is.

However, after considerable prayer and talks with the Lord, He has encouraged me at this time in my life to free up some time to be with my wife Barbara, children, and grandchildren. But I will be around and thanks again for the opportunity to serve on Secretariat.

In His Grace and Service,

Bill Wardle

Gaslight Theater Sold Out

According to our treasurer, we made nearly \$1,000. This does not include Thrivent money that is still to come and there is money yet to come in from ticket sales. We sold \$295.00 on the 50/50 tickets. The winner received \$147 and VdC earned \$147. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a success.

Do you have a Fry's Shopping Card?

If you shop at Fry's, you can help earn money for VdC! You buy a card for \$5.00. It comes with \$5.00 on it so it doesn't cost you anything. Then you put money on the card. It's like a pre-paid charge card. It doesn't cost you anything and VdC will receive a percentage of what we spend. They will be available at the Ulteyas or you can contact Laura 468-1779.



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Rectora's Report
SALVdC Women's Weekend #32
November 8-11, 2012
Cindy Stein, Rectora

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

I want to thank the Secretariat first of all for entrusting me with the leadership of this women's weekend. I have not received a greater blessing in my life than what I experienced for the past nine months of planning, organizing, and carrying out this task which God gave me. Though there were struggles, there were also many joys and an incredible amount of growth in my faith through the entire process. The weekend itself went very smoothly and was filled with emotion as early as Friday noon by the participants. They were quickly moved by the Holy Spirit and shared a great deal of personal issues throughout the weekend.

The calling of team members was a challenge, mostly due to a lot of health issues. Several times we thought we had the team in place only to have another person drop because of their health or a work situation. Satan was doing his best to make our planning difficult but God definitely took over and created a wonderful experience for our 16 participants. In total we lost 5 Rollistas and 2 Cooks prior to the weekend and had to recruit new team or fill in with back-ups. We had 4 core team meetings starting in May and 6 team meetings starting in September. Each team meeting was designed to reflect on our verse for the weekend (Be still, and know that I am God), create a close emotional bond as a team, and make the preparations needed for the weekend. Our second team meeting was held in combination with the men's team and team building activities were done jointly. This was done mainly to facilitate attendance to Servant School held that same day for any new team members that had not gone through that yet. It also turned out to be a wonderful blessing to have the two teams join together for the day and unite in their efforts. One thing I may have done differently from the past during team meetings is I did not have experienced Rollistas give their back-up talks for practice. All the primary talks were done as practice and all the new back-up Rollistas gave their practice talks as well. I felt that if a Rollista was very experienced with giving talks they did not need to give the practice back-up talk. As it turned out, we had one Rollista drop right before the weekend and one of the Co-Rectoras (Laura Eskridge) had to write a talk in 3 days so she was not able to give it as practice during a team meeting. God was so good and gracious by blessing Laura with the words she needed and her talk was wonderful. We did also have quick team meetings each night on the weekend to touch base on what went well and what didn't. This also gave us time to discuss any special needs of the participants.

We decided to use the weekend schedule that had been used for the Co-ed #30 weekend by Dorothy McLean and so had Buenos Noches Saturday night instead of Mananitas Sunday morning. I am convinced that this is a much better way to go. It does make for a busier day for the cooks, however, we rearranged a few things in the schedule for that day to make it easier on them.

Thursday night actually started on time and went very smoothly. We did the Transformation Stations thanks to Rhonda Warner, our Music Director. Friday went smoothly with a great deal of participation and sharing on the part of the participants right away. They were very creative and eager to share with each other. Several things were changed on Saturday



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from the previous year. One thing that we changed was the foot washing during the day on Saturday. It actually was planned but there was so much discussion in the rollo room about the very thing done and the participants did not know we had missed anything. I do still think the foot washing is an important thing to do and maybe should be done on Friday or Sunday instead of Saturday if Buenos Noches is going to be held on Saturday. The other thing that was rearranged Saturday was the second palanca run. This was moved to right after Buenos Noches which gave the cooks more time during the day for other things. It also worked well for the participants as we gave them more time to stay up that night and read through their palanca since they didn't have to get up early for Mananitas.

The agape meal was so beautiful with a bountiful number of men singing to the women and an incredibly delicious meal served by the cooks and community. The participants were very touched by the meal and by the invitations they received to the meal. I think Buenos Noches went very well with each participant coming through the door within 10-15 seconds and not a lot of waiting in between. There was also a good number of community there, though I felt it would have been nice to see more. The participants were very touched by Buenos Noches and seeing their loved ones watching them come in.

Sunday morning's worship service was supposed to be held at the outdoor chapel, however, it was only 34 degrees that morning and so we held the worship service in the rollo room. Clausura was a very meaningful time for the participants and each woman took a turn coming to the microphone to give her thanks to God. The community attendance seemed lower than at Buenos Noches, however the participants were thrilled that people would come to greet them again.

There were issues this year with using Tanque Verde Lutheran Church. They had a lot of new staff this year who were not used to Via de Cristo and didn't understand what the weekends were about. Early on in the planning both the men's and women's teams had a meeting with Fred Heinrich (who was experienced with VDC), the new Preschool Director, and the new Education Director to work out using the various rooms and time limitations. This was all worked out with everyone in agreement of what was discussed, however, right before the men's weekend Fred retired and a new church Administrator was hired (Jim Pene). Due to a few things that went wrong during the men's weekend, the women's team was requested to have a meeting with Jim Pene and work out some concerns that TVLC had for VDC using their facilities. During the meeting it was requested that a copy of our liability insurance be given to them and that we sign a document agreeing to quite a few terms about using the facility. Several of us from the women's team were in attendance at this meeting and left feeling a bit discouraged since it appeared that Via de Cristo was no longer being considered a ministry of TVLC. Jim Pene also brought up the issue of payment for using the facilities which had always been a donation in the past. Everything was worked out in the end, however, the relationship between TVLC and Via de Cristo was somewhat strained. I pray that this will not be the case with future weekends. It may be wise to look at other facilities for future weekends. .



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I would like to say that most of the cook team we had this year were rookies, and yet I think they did the best job that I've seen a cook team do in all the weekends I've served. Thanks to Lynda Reeves (Head Cook) and her two Co's Suzie Strussenberg and Lorrie McGee. The participants thoroughly enjoyed every meal and couldn't wait to see what would happen the next time they gathered to eat.

In summary, I would like to say that I fully understand the term firmly flexible now and just how to rely on God for every step I take. He has taught me, through this weekend, how to depend on him more than I ever have in the past. I believe this women's weekend was a tremendous blessing to the 16 participants that went through it and I believe many of them are eager to serve in the future. Thank God for all the blessings he provided us on this #32 women's weekend!!!

In Christ,

Cindy Stein, SALVdC #32 Rectora

A PARTICIPANT'S THOUGHTS ABOUT TIROSH

Going into the Tirosh weekend I had no idea what to expect. All I knew was almost everyone at my church wanted me to go, and people that had gone before said it was a life changing experience. Once I got there I could tell it was going to be an awesome weekend. I stepped out of the car and people immediately took my bags for me. The people there were like walking agape every chance they could they would show you how much they loved you. It was amazing watching how God used those people to bless me and the other kids there. Overall I had a amazing experience!

Nate Rasmussen, Desert Hope

Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring that Friend to Christ

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2013

The meeting and registration forms to attend the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2013, Thursday, July 25 through Sunday, July 28, 2013, at the Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida can be found in the national Via de Cristo publication Conexiones. To local the forms: Google: www.viade Cristo.org. Click on newsletters, the click on the January issue of Conexiones and find the registration forms.



TIROSH #15

After a five year hiatus, Tirosh came back to Tucson – and what a powerful weekend it was! We had a team where rookies outnumbered veterans, but the enthusiasm level was off the charts. After a year of planning and calling and praying, and five team meetings full of instructions, prayer, practice, more prayer, questions, doubts, and prayer, we welcomed nine young ladies and fourteen young men to the Tanque Verde campus for what turned out to be a spirit-filled weekend of love with the Lord.

The Friday schedule was experimental in that we kept all of the activities of the first day, but instead of having 13 hours in which to perform them, we shortened it to 6 hours. Amazingly, it was the only day that came off without a hitch! The next two days were extremely flexible with activities being moved around, swapped with others, shortened, and generally not in line with what “WE” had planned, and all went according to God’s supreme plan. Nothing was left out, everything was meaningful, and the weekend progressed through all of its parts – ending exactly on time!

From the vantage point of the back table, it looked like everyone “got” it, everyone enjoyed their journey into God’s time, and most want to come back next year to serve on team for Tirosh #16. Our HARVEST celebration is on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013 at Streams in the Desert from 4 – 6 PM. (This is Ultreya for Tirosh.) We would like all of our VdC community to come to the HARVEST to welcome and get to know our newest members – they are an awesome bunch of young folks! We also ask you to prayerfully consider serving on team next year when you are called.

In His service, and in His love,

Dorothy McLean



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Book Review

Church-Going Insider or Gospel-Carrying Outsider A Different View of Congregations by Judith McWilliams Dickhart - Part of the SPLASH! Series of resources, a program of the ELCA Growth in Excellences in Ministry Project

Are we always to be either the insider or the outsider? Is it possible for each of us or at least some of us to be “both/and”? When we get to the discussion about “outside and inside” it seems that we will generally stick to things that are comfortable. I am wondering if we are being called to learn a completely new and different way of “being” in the church and “doing” church? “Out beyond the ideas of right doing and wrong doing there is a field, I will meet you there” Rumi.

It is obvious that some of us are laypeople and some are clergy and because of that we are going to have distinct and differing views of the Church and the congregation. How clergy and lay approach and perceive Tuesday church council meetings and Sunday morning worship is going to be different. It can and sometimes does cause tension in the congregation-often times unspoken tension. This tension, according to the author can be used for the well being of the faith community. It seems that the resolution of this tension happens through dialog. Sharing our ideas is important but listening to and considering another’s ideas is equally important.

With skillful questions, provocative answers and delightful illustrative material, **Church-going Insider or Gospel-carrying Outsider?** A different View of Congregations details how congregations can become strong as they focus identity and programming on members daily ministries. Author Judy McWilliams Dickhart gives specific suggestions how congregations can find fulfillment as they shake out assumptions that may have kept them locked into narrow frames of mind about their purpose. The book insists that the perspectives of pastors and leaders need to change in order for their congregations to find new vitality, and gives them tools for doing just that.

Judith Dickhart is an educator who has taught in public school classrooms in Texas, supervised education and youth activities for churches in Illinois and Pennsylvania and developed services for Lutheran congregations across North America. During her twenty years as a denominational staff person, she designed processes to strengthen the mission plans of congregations; working directly with many churches and conducting training seminars for pastors, lay leaders and teams of consultants. She has authored handbooks for congregations on such subjects as climate, conflict and transition in changing communities. In recent years she has been a planning consultant to synods and seminaries. Her primary view of congregations is as an active lay member, but she also knows what it is like to be an employee and to be the pastor’s wife.

Quotes from the book:

“Going to church is not enough. It is not the measures of faith, but a means of sustaining faith. It is one place to share the faith, but not the main place. That’s still the world.”

“The church seems to be the place where the Gospel is on display. The task is to bring people to it. But the Gospel is portable, it was not meant to be contained but to be carried.”

“Churches do not need to grow in size to be effective centers of mission. Nor is growth a guarantee that churches will be effective. Congregations become stronger when they recognize that members are their greatest resource for doing mission, when they concentrate on encouraging, equipping and supporting members in their everyday ministries.”

“While we have little ability to influence the outside world directly, we do have power to touch with God’s love people living out there. Eventually, that could make a difference in the world.”



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Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo Balance Sheet

As of December 31,2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Wells Fargo-Checking 1,560.08

WFB Savings Acct. 797.14

Total Checking and Savings 2,357.22

Total Current Assets 2,357.22

TOTAL ASSETS

2,357.22

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity 3,573.91

Retained Earnings 379.07

Net Income (1,595.76)

Total Equity 2,357.22

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

2,357.22



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Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo Profit & Loss January through December 2012

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Contributions and Support		
Individuals	1,080.00	
Fry's Card	236.72	
Memorial	25.00	
Misc. Donations		272.76
Silent Auction		285.00
Silent Auction Cash		15.00
Ultreya		460.70
VDC store		20.00
VDC Team meeting donations		<u>1,844.00</u>
Total Contributions and Support		4,239.18
Earned Interest		3.14
Fundraiser Income		
Annual Gaslight Theatre		900.00
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans		900.00
Annual Gaslight Theatre		<u>3,967.00</u>
Total Annual Gaslight Theatre		<u>4,687.00</u>
Total Fundraiser Income		<u>4,867.00</u>
Total Income		9,109.32

Expense

Banking Expense		16.00
Contributions-svc projects		265.00—1
Convention or Meeting	180.00	
Dues and Fes	150.00	
Fundraising Costs	3,367.00	
Insurance - nonemployee	300.00	
Postage and Delivery	265.07	
Printing and Reproduction	99.98	
Professional Services Fee		
Music License-CCLI	<u>383.00</u>	
Total Professional Services fees		
Reconciliation Discrepancies		-149.00
Supplies and Materials		433.37
VDC Weekends		<u>5,394.66—2</u>
Total Expense	<u>10,705.08</u>	
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-1,595.76</u>	

Net Income -1,595.76

Notes

1 Contributions were given to VDC in order to write 1 check.

2 Two weekends were held in 2012.