



SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 17. No. 3

www.soazviadecristo.org

September 2011

Weekend News

Co-Weekend #30, November 10th – 13th 2011

Rectora, Dorothy McLean

Verse: Mark 5:19b “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

Co-Rectors: Louis Liss and Linda Perry

Head Spiritual Director, Pastor Dan, Co-Spiritual Director Pastor Tom

Head Cook, Dave Strong, Co-Head Cooks, Mike Stein and Suzie Strussenberg

Application deadline, with all required signatures, is October 30, 2011

See your VdC church representatives

Report from Rectora:

Team selection is almost completed. The Core Team is meeting for the third time on Saturday, August 27, 2011. We have decided on five team meetings to be held on Saturdays in October. Team meetings will start a little later this year as we have team members coming from Sierra Vista and Phoenix. Pre-registration forms have already begun arriving, so if you know folks who want to attend, please tell them not to hesitate! Also, we covet your prayers – for team and participants.

2011 Team Meeting Schedule:

Saturday October 1, Mt. Zion

Saturdays October 8th & 15th American Lutheran

Saturdays October 22nd & 29th Tanque Verde

POST WEEKEND - Ultreyas and Grouping

Beginning last year it was decided to hold Ultreyas on Sunday afternoons instead of Saturday evenings. It's been great to see more people attend. So, surprise!, change can be very good!! If you are attending please consider asking a friend to join you for the next Ultreya. Or you could offer someone a ride. If you haven't attended for a while think about coming again. Ultreyas are marvelous as we share, sing, worship, listen, and laugh.

Secretariat is interested in learning who is grouping - when, where, etc. If you are not grouping would you like to? Grouping is so much more important than I ever thought it would be. It keeps me close to lovely people, gives me the opportunity to have deep conversations, keeps me aware of where my focus should be and strengthens my walk with the Lord as well as really getting to know my grouping sisters well. Grouping is such an integral part of the weekend experience. Grouping forms will be available at the August 7th Ultreya Mt. Zion



VIA de CRISTO CHURCHES and PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Abounding Grace— Virginia Reymer, 745-3052, Cell-331-9313

Email- vareymer@aol.com

American Lutheran—Pastor Kim Taylor, Church— 623-3661

Email- revkrt@aol.com

Beautiful Saviors—Pastor Kathryn Schlechter, Church- 744-2665

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Christ Lutheran Vail- Nancy Taylor – Home 954-3583

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Dove of Peace– Larry Paxton,—Cell— 444-2519

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Lord of Grace—Richard Krohn,- Home- 744-2335 Cell 940-0504

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Mt. Zion—Rhonda & Bob Warner,— Home-883-7138, C- 883-0627

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Resurrection—Mike Skilsky,—Home– 722-2775, Cell– 400-0674

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Sierra Vista Lutheran– Pastor Mark Perry,—Cell– 907-5508

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Streams in the Desert—Betty Whaples, H 721-4200 or Church 971-0047 & Scotty Gulbandsen Home 795-2200

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Tanque Verde—Joe Smothers & Dee Sundby, –Church 749-1606

Email- jsmothers01@comcast.net & coyodee@comcast.net

Our Savior—Pastor Andrea Wilson Home 546-1535 Church 327-6521

Email- turtlesister3@hotmail.com

THE 2011—2012 SECRETARIAT

Dorothy McLean-LayDirector-dorothy.j.mclean@us.ul.com

Betty Whaples—Asst. Lay Director

Pam Endrihs—Treasurer—pendrihs@gmail.com

Vivian Wilsdon—Secretary—vwilsdon@yahoo.com

Sandy Holm—Pre-Weekend— smilnirisheyes@cox.net

Bill Wardle—Three-Day— WLWdoc@aol.com

Bev Kercheval—Post-Weekend—b.kerch@yahoo.com

Cindy Stein—Palanca— candmstein@comcast.net

Bob Kridler—Communications— bobkridler@msn.com

Pastor Tom Dunham— Spiritual Director—

pastortom@streams.tuccoxmail.com

Ultreya

October 9, 2011 from 4-6 pm

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

Address: 4520 W. Ajo Way

Witness talk, music, service project, and communion service

The VdC store will have items for sale on display

2012 Gas Light Theater Date is:

March 16th

Details in next newsletter

No date has been scheduled for the next servant school at this time...

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Whaples @ 721-4299

June Treasurer's Report

Via de Cristo received offerings of \$84 from the June Ultreya and \$58.65 from the April Ultreya. Our liability insurance premium of \$300 will be due soon. \$2500 of the Tirosh fund was invested in a one-year CD at the Wells Fargo Bank for a .15% interest, leaving \$270 in the Tirosh account.

The Via de Cristo Store

Lynda Reeves is operating the VdC store from her home. She brings a variety of items for sale from the store and displays them at the ulteyas. This is an attempt to raise money for the VdC weekends. Lynda recently purchased denim shirts and had the Southern Arizona VdC Logo embroidered on them. She offers the shirts in several sizes. She takes orders at the ultreya and delivers them at the next ultreya. Her home number is 744-6943 and cell # 235-7913.

DELEGATE'S REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL Via de Cristo LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT (NLS)

The NLS Annual Meeting was held July 28 –31, 2011 on the campus of Queens University (Presbyterian school) in Charlotte, NC, and was hosted by the Western North Carolina Via de Cristo. There were approximately 200 volunteers involved to put on the meeting at a cost of \$40,000.

Nearly 200 visitors and delegates from 24 states attended the annual event that celebrated a 30-year Curisillo history in the USA and the 25th birthday of the name Via de Cristo. Special brightly colored tie dye T-shirts were available to help celebrate. The attendance roster showed the following VdC members representing their states: Florida 35, South Carolina 5, Texas 3, North Carolina 72, Colorado 13, Arizona 2, Pennsylvania 3, Wisconsin 5, Georgia 3, Utah 3, Tennessee 9, Illinois 6, North Dakota 1, Ohio 7, Maryland 1, Minnesota 10, Virginia 3, Indiana 2, Michigan 4, Oklahoma 2, Missouri 1, West Virginia 1, California 2, and Oregon 1. There were 50 first-timers present and 68 voting delegates. The movement is now represented in 30 states with 44 Secretariats and over 100,000 Cursillistas.

The daily morning schedule included worship (with various outstanding praise teams), and Bishops and Pastors presented outstanding messages. Following the worship service there were small groups, forums, and business meetings. The afternoon agenda was comprised of seminars (the way, the truth, and the life), regional meetings and dialogues. Following dinner there were small group sessions, forums, photo shoots and a hospitality hour. The hospitality hour included food, praise music and home made desserts. The daily meals were served in the university cafeteria and on the breakfast menu was a white and grainy mixture called grits (optional). The meals were outstanding and plentiful.

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At the Anniversary Forum, several speakers who were instrumental in helping to form the National Via de Cristo movement, presented interesting historical information. They related poignant stories from VdC past as well as how their experiences affected their ministries. A film was shown of Eduardo Bonnin, the founder and rector of the first Curisillo. His message of the Curisillo was God's Unconditional and Unlimited Love, which could be found by taking the time to pray and reflect. Bonnin insisted the weekend be simple, direct, and concrete. He said the greatest enemies of a movement are those who promote it without understanding it. The most important part of the Curisillo is first finding yourself and then finding God. The first key essential of the weekend message is simply God's love - Grace. The second key essential of the weekend message is "Keep it Simple."

Tracy Schmidin completed two three-year terms. This was her final report as president of the NLS Board.

Grace and peace to each of you and thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving on the NLS Board.

Time has gone by quickly with many unexpected turns. These years have not been easy for the Church; or for those of us who love who love her, nor has it been easy for Via de Cristo. Whereas our movement has grown in some areas, unfortunately, it has diminished in others. We were excited to add new Secretariats, and saddened when a few older communities stopped participating. Our hopes of having a coordinator position, funded and filled by now, were short circuited first with campaign understanding, privacy issues and then by national economy. No, it has not been easy, but the Lord has been faithful and we carry on with confidence because we know where true strength comes from and WHO holds the future.

The board has worked together to support struggling communities, we spent some time building and assisting new Secretariats, we enjoyed participating in a weekend training that will make a wonderful model for CE 301, we have come up with job descriptions for a group of regional people to assist the Vice President of Outreach and we have been building bridges with our international community.

Our boundaries have been tested and, I believe they will continue to be tested. Boundaries regarding who is qualified to be a Spiritual Director on our weekends; denominational matters and greater issues; what, if any, technology belongs on weekends; communion issues; leadership issues with Secretariats and on weekends; copyright laws and music licenses are just some of the concerns that come our way. Many Secretariats want us to tell them what to do and we cannot. Unless the issue is in direct violation to our constitution we will continue to be a resource to make suggestions and recommendations based on our fundamentals, our history and the essentials of the movement that each Secretariat agreed to.

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Via de Cristo must stand firm in our roots! We are offering a method to help us be more effective as God's people. The NLS has tried to be clear that we are not about the issues; we are about the grace. We are here to teach a method for renewing the face of the earth! We are here to create relationships, with Christ as the center.

One of the best ways I can think of for each Secretariat to learn those roots – to learn what is essential to understanding what we are about – is to attend these national meetings. Here the story never changes. Here the essentials will always be celebrated as fundamental to who we are and why we exist!

This is a double anniversary year. One is the formation of the National Lutheran Secretariat at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Atlanta, Georgia in 1981. The other is the renaming of our movement to Via de Cristo in Ottawa Lake Michigan in 1986. We are excited to have people here that were in attendance for both these events! These were times of bold initiatives by regular people who felt called by God to do something special –the same is true today! Who doesn't need a closer relationship with the risen Christ and the people He came to save.

My hope and prayers for this weekend are that you are filled with the Holy Spirit and inspired by the weekend. I also hope that we find a way to make the national coordinator's position (executive director) a reality.

Elections were held to elect a new President to the NLS Board and a secretary. Ed Brostl was elected the new president and Magdala Ray was elected secretary. Ed is a Diaconal Minister and was called to Faith Community Lutheran Church in Berthoud, Colorado where he has worked since September 2007. Magdala is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, Florida. She is a professor at Palm Beach State College. Steve Gielda returned to another term as Vice President of Outreach and Pastor Doug Givan returned as Spiritual Director.

The delegates approved a motion made by the recommendation of the Executive Board to establish of a volunteer Executive Director position. The position is to be voluntary with expenses covered for a period of twenty-four months. A proposal was also approved to change the dues/fee structure to better support the NLS budget and to better assist the smaller VdC communities.

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The Southern Arizona VdC is in Region One - West. There are seven regions across the United States. Region One is the largest geographical region that includes California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. Wyoming does not have a Secretariat. Three of the Secretariats in region one did not send delegates. The visitors and delegates of region one were asked to send cards to the absent Secretariats letting them know we missed them.

The delegates and visitors from Region One met and discussed the difficulties of the land size of the region the problem of having meetings to include all the Secretariats. Suggestions were made regarding electronic conferencing. Another suggestion was to hold a regional conference in Las Vegas, Nevada that would be a central location. Most of the time was focused on the 2012 NLS that will be held in Denver, Colorado.

The treasurer's report indicated that 42 of the 44 Secretariats submitted annual dues. Thank you for allowing me to be your delegate from the Southern Arizona VdC. It was an inspirational time and I learned so much about VdC. It was so nice to have Virginia Rymer there. I wish more visitors could attend the 2012 NSL Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado next year. I hope you would pray about it.

God's Peace,
Bob Kridler

