

# SONBEAM

*Via de Cristo Newsletter*

Volume 35, Issue #1

January - February 2015

What were you doing a year ago? Do you remember who you were with, or what was consuming your day-to-day? Remember the things you were celebrating? Remember the things that consumed you, or those that you were worried about? Ever look back and see what God has done in your life for a period? A year ago this time, I know our family was in an ocean of uncertainty. And while God was with us without question, it was still a path I never would have chosen. As we remember the birthday of our little Melanie, I still struggle at times to understand the 'whys' to our paths. While it may be very cliché, life is still too short. God has given us a finite amount of time to do His work here on Earth. And if you are waiting for the next opportunity, make sure you don't wait too long to the point where you've missed it entirely. A year ago, there were people to witness to. A year ago, there was work to be done. A

year ago, there were people who needed to be awakened and encouraged. What did you do? Did you make that phone call, or stop by that person's place to talk? Did you take the time from your busy schedule to make time for those who needed to hear from you? Twenty years from now, you won't remember what was discussed in that meeting at work, but you will remember the relationship you fostered or that family member you witnessed to. I can't begin to explain why we as a community lost so many dear family members this past year. All I know is that the Lord saw it fit to call them home. It was the end of a season. And just like in the spring, the cycle will start all over again. Don't wait. Don't put it off. Don't say you'll do it later... you're not guaranteed 'later'. The Spring weekends will be forming very, very soon. Plan on getting involved this year in VdC. Plan on coming to an Ultreya. Plan on coming to the camp to participate. Plan

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**"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.  
The words I have spoken to you—  
they are full of the Spirit and life."**

John 6:63 NIV

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on taking time out of your busy schedule to help bring blessings to those who need to be awakened and encouraged. Plan on talking to that family member or friend about making a VdC weekend. Give them the chance to respond. You never know what the Lord has planned in their life... to do something great all because of a question you

will ask that He has placed on your heart. Life is too short. You still have work here on earth that He has called you for. He will carry out His work in His people. Let your life be that channel of grace to someone this coming year.

In His Service-

*Michael Marquart*

Lay Director Sonbeam Via de Cristo



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### **OPEN POSITIONS:**

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*Open Position*

#### **Physical Arrangements**

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#### **At-Large**

*Open Position*

## News from the Secretariat

### Extended Palanca - Dana Marquart

Hello from extended palanca! I am now collecting letters from communities around the world. Let us continue to be in prayer for our brothers and sisters also. Weekly emails are on the prayer line. Dana Marquart #26

### Leaders - Leslie LaFleur

Please read separate article regarding the Upcoming Leaders Workshop in February. Please plan to attend and encourage others to do so. Volunteers are needed to lead workshops. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to lead a workshop. Your help will be much appreciated. Leslie LaFleur

### Purchasing - Jerry Brown

I am happy to report that purchasing was done through the last set of week-ends without my beloved wife Jane. I am proud to be able to continue in the position and look forward to the next set of weekends in the spring. Blessings to all for your encouragement and support through the loss of Jane. Jerry Brown

### Secretary - Lynn Conlen

As I was writing my annual Christmas newsletter (yes I'm one of those who sends a 'family update' note each year) I realized that this was a year of reconnection for me – with family and friends. Cousins who I haven't seen in over 30 years and are scattered all over the country came to visit the area. Then I took a trip home this summer and spent a wonderful week with my best childhood friend who I hadn't seen in over 10 years. It made me realize how blessed I was to have these opportunities before I had waited too long -- before the window of opportunity had closed and I was unable to travel any longer or that friends and family had passed. I give thanks to God for guiding my cousins who visited me and for pushing me to venture back home for a visit. My wish for the New Year is that we never wait until it's too late. Lynn Conlen

### Communications – Sue Miller-Cinelli

I have really enjoyed serving on the Secretariat this year – working with & getting to know more of you. It has been a year of joy, as well as a year of loss, "... but we do not grieve as those who have no hope", for we know this world is not our home & we are just passing through on our way to a far better place. But, while we can, let us be filled with and pour out the Love of God, through Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit into every life we meet along the way. Let those Rivers of Life Giving Water abundantly flow to all who thirst. Sue Miller-Cinelli

**DON'T MISS THIS!!!**

# **SPRING LEADERS WORKSHOP 2015**

**DATE:** *Saturday, February 21, 2015*  
**TIME:** *8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Light Breakfast)*  
**LOCATION:** *1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PINELLAS PARK*

*On our Weekends, we learned we are all leaders in our environment. If we recognize that we are leaders, then we want to learn how we can best lead.*

*Each year, in preparation for our Spring and Fall Weekends, we have a wonderful opportunity to benefit from training workshops, open to all of the VdC Community, whether they are working on an upcoming weekend or not.*

*There are break-out sessions for each of the positions needed on a weekend--from Cha Cha to Rector/Rectora and everything in between.*

*It is also a great time to fellowship with our VdC community and get to know each other better.*

*There are also opportunities for those who have served in various positions to participate in training others. Workshop leaders are always needed.*

*Please contact Leslie LaFleur at 727-542-9604 if interested in leading a class.*

*God has continued to prove Himself faithful and just during 2014 and we are looking forward to a wonderful 2015.*

*God loves you and so do I.  
In His Service,  
Leslie LaFleur, #26*

# Reflections from a Spiritual Director

“Do you get it?” A question asked in a variety of contexts, from a parent coaching a child on a homework assignment to the president of a board of directors making sure the members of the board understand the implications of a proposed major shift in a marketing strategy.

“Do you get it?” might well be a question asked by our God of us who profess to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We have just celebrated the coming of God into our world in the flesh and blood Jesus. We have acknowledged that though this happened historically some 2000 years ago, it has daily implications for us today, not the least being God can be trusted to fulfill all of God’s promises in God’s own good way and in God’s own good sense of timing. So we say!

Yet, one of the most vexing issues is our desire to “use” God as our own toy or tool in setting up how we want life to be. This isn’t that much different than our spiritual fore-parents being told to manage the Garden of Eden by its

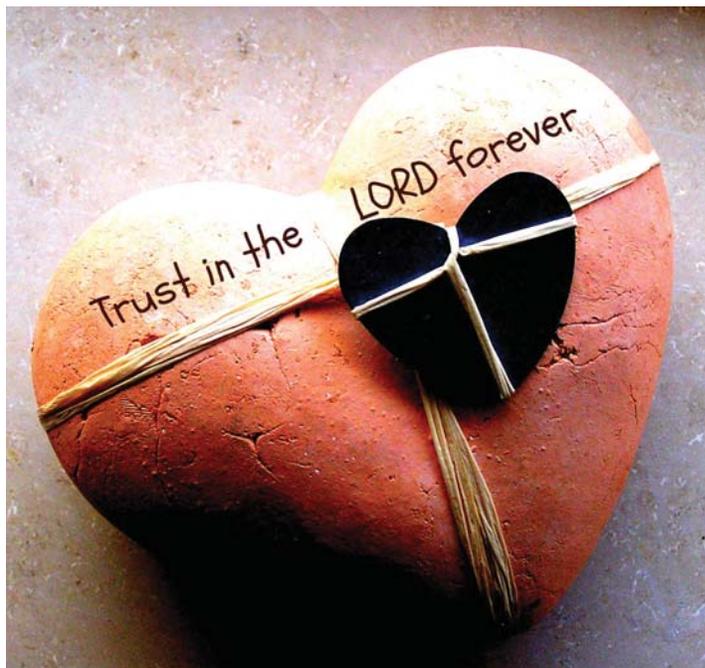
Creator, yet essentially telling the Creator how they wanted to do it.

Two Bible verses shared by the Apostle Paul strongly encourage us to let go and let God be in control. To the Galatians (4:4a) he wrote, “in the fullness of time God sent God’s Son.” Additionally, he told the Corinthians, “in Christ Jesus all of God’s promises find their yes.” In other words, because God has kept the greatest of all promises, we can trust God to keep every other promise!

As we move forward in the year ahead, none of us knows what it will bring! But we can trust the God who does know, and the God who has fulfilled the greatest of all promises, and the God who most assuredly will fulfill every other promise.

So, do you get it? It may not sound theologically polished to state it this way, but I believe it is quite spiritual: “Relax! Chill out!” Do you get it?

Pastor Jerry



# *Greetings from Rectora Weekend #63*

*Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.*



Greetings Sonbeam Community,

Via de Cristo Women's Weekend #63 is now in the past. We wound up with 59 fabulous Team members and 23 enthusiastic Candidates for the weekend. God has blessed us greatly with His grace and love.

We could tell that God was in charge in a mighty way. The worship was meaningful as always; the pastors and rollistas did exceptionally well with their rollos; the candidates had good table discussions. We had some fun times and surprises as well. I am thankful for all the prayers and help from Sonbeam community.

I pray that during this Christmas season that each of us will depend on God for all our needs and that He will bless our families in many ways. Some of us need extra strength to get through tough times; some of us have health issues; some of our families need reconciliation; all of us could show more of God's love and caring in our everyday living. Lord, help all of us to recognize and be thankful for all of your wonderful blessings.

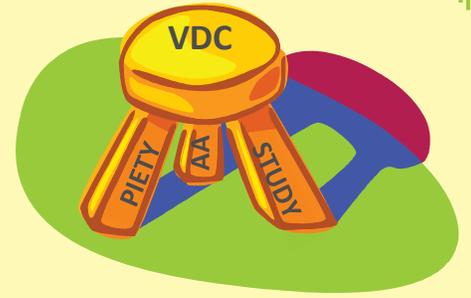
May God continue to bless you in the coming year of 2015. May God continue to help all of us grow in faith and a closer walk with Him.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1.

God loves you all and so do I,

Katie Sistar, Rectora, Weekend #63

# 2014 –A Year to Remember



In the fullness of time, after a long season of preparation and waiting, Weekends #63 came to pass.

Many prepared and waited patiently through the Spring and into the Fall. When the news came out that the Spring Weekends were being postponed until Fall the teams responded positively and persevered.

Most of the team members were able to remain with only a few replacements. The weekends were very successful and were great blessings to candidates and teams alike.

2014 brought many challenges, great losses, and blessings, as every year does. Through prayer, God's presence, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, difficult things were faced in His strength. It makes us thankful to realize that, In Christ, we have resources to draw from that the world cannot give. And we also realize that after going through these challenges we look back and see that we've grown in ways we hadn't expected.

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.”

If you don't know what you are doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get His help and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who “worry their prayers” are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.”  
James 1:2-8 The Message

We were very happy to hear the announcement of the names of the Rector and Rectora chosen for Spring Weekends #64 –John Odom and Kristen Beiler. It's not too soon to begin praying for them as they begin their journey.

*Article written by Communications Director Sue Miller-Cinelli*

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Sonbeam Via de Cristo

### January & February, 2015

01/17/2015	<b>January Ultreya</b> Secretariat Mtg. 2 pm Dinner 5 pm [bring covered dish]	<b>St. Timothy's Church</b> 812 East Tarpon Avenue Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
02/01/2015	<b>Workshop Leaders Needed!</b>	<b>Contact Leslie LaFleur</b> 727-542-9602
02/10/2015	Deadline - Newsletter Articles	March/April Newsletter
02/21/2015	<b>Leaders Workshops</b> <b>8:30 am – 1 pm</b> [Light Breakfast]	<b>First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park</b> <b>9025 49<sup>th</sup> Street, P.P., FL</b>
03/**/2015	<b>March Ultreya (**TBD)</b>	St. David's Church Lakeland, FL
04/01/2015	Deadline - Newsletter Articles	May/June Newsletter (to be mailed)
05/**/2015	Commissioning Ultreya	TBD – Date/Location
<b>5/14-5/17 2015</b>	<b>MEN'S SPRING WEEKEND #64</b>	<b>Rotary Camp</b> <b>1915 Camp Florida Road</b> <b>Brandon, FL 33570</b>
05/14/2015	Set Up – Thursday -9 am	Team & Community
05/16/2015	Serenade – Saturday 6 pm	Community [Ladies]
05/17/2015	Tear Down – Sunday afternoon	Team & Community
	Closing Ceremony - 4:30 pm	<b>Apostles Lutheran Church</b> <b>200 Kingsway Rd., Brandon, FL</b>
<b>5/21-5/24 2015</b>	<b>WOMEN'S SPRING WEEKEND #64</b>	<b>Rotary Camp</b> <b>[see above]</b>
05/21/2015	Set Up – Thursday 9 am	Team & Community
05/23/2015	Serenade – Saturday 6 pm	Community [Gentlemen]
05/24/2015	Tear Down – Sunday afternoon	Team & Community
	Closing Ceremony – 4:30 pm	<b>Apostles Lutheran Church</b>
**/**/2015	Post Ultreya	TBD – Date/Location
06/10/2015	Deadline Newsletter Articles	July/August Newsletter (website)

**Those who trust  
in the **LORD**  
Are as Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved  
but abides forever.**

**Psalms-125:1**

**God's salvation is His blessing.** God blessed the creatures of the sea, the birds of the air, and the man and woman whom He had created. He told them to be fruitful and multiply. An added blessing to the man and woman was to fill the earth and subdue it. They were given stewardship over the rest of God's creation. Saved persons are stewards of God's blessings.

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**Sonbeam Via de Cristo, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2582  
Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2582**

*Sonbeam Via de Cristo, Inc., is recognized as a 501(c) (3) organization by the IRS. As such, donations are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by current tax codes. allowed by current tax codes.*

## **Newsletter Policy**

**We publish our newsletter six (6) times a year online with two (2) of those mailed before each numbered set of weekends. All articles are subject to editing and will be reviewed when submitted. Publication and deadline dates are listed in the **Community Calendar** on both our website and page 8 of this publication.**

**Please choose to read the newsletter online and save on the cost of mailing by e-mailing: [johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org)**

**<http://www.sonbeamvdc.org>**

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