

SONBEAM

Via de Cristo Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue #2

March - April 2015

Is it too early to start talking “Spring”? Not here in Florida! Welcome to the Sunshine State... where it’s a balmy 80 degrees at least 11 months out of the year. OK... That’s probably an exaggeration, but if I told you the mosquitoes were as big as cockroaches, and the cockroaches were the size of small cats... you’d agree wouldn’t you?

One thing’s for sure; it’s a new year and there is a lot going on here in Sonbeam. And while the Spring weekends are just a few months away, we are already deep into planning and preparations for what God has called us to do. Rector John and Rectora Kristin have been busy calling their teams to begin the all-important process of building what will become the backbone to Weekends 64. While they’re busy making phone calls, I want to ask every one of you reading this newsletter to be prepared.

Be prepared to do something this Spring. Be prepared to be called by John,

or by Kristin, or by the Lord himself on your heart to come serve. Many people receive a call to be a part of the weekends. Many of those can’t make it for whatever reason, and that’s understandable. What’s not acceptable is knowing you should serve, feeling the urge to come serve, and saying ‘no’ to that urge. There is a LOT happening in this movement, and if you’re not careful you could miss out on what He is doing in active, on-fire and vibrant hearts who are ready to take His message further. I have long said that the Lord calls teams that number in the hundreds... but only receives return calls from around 60-70 a weekend.

Here’s just a snippet of what’s been happening throughout Sonbeam VdC:

For those who haven’t been to Rotary’s Camp Florida in a while... you’re in for a shock. The camp continues to

(Continued on page 2)

**“For this is the message that you heard from the beginning,
that we should love one another”**

1 John 3:11 NKJV

(Continued from page 1)

expand and improve on its humble beginnings. They have recently acquired some of the adjacent property and are planning even further expansions. They continue to renovate the existing pavilion and cabins, and the grounds are looking even better than before. It is truly a gem in West Central Florida, and we are appreciative of the relationship we have been able to foster with the Rotary, the Rotary board, and the new camp director.

Within our leadership team here in Sonbeam, we have the distinct pleasure of welcoming in some new and spirited individuals who will be bringing their talents and knowledge to a group who is already laying building blocks for the future. David and Bobbi Lind are stepping into the roles of Pre-VdC and Treasurer respectively, and we have Katherina Crowder and Adriana Lee, sharing the At-Large position. These folks bring experience, drive, and leadership to an already great team, and I couldn't be more excited for what the future holds.

Secretariat is currently about half-way through the daunting task of tackling two very large and necessary projects... compiling an Operational Handbook for the movement, and the implementation of Master scripts for teams. For anyone who has been even remotely involved in the planning or preparation of the weekends or Ultreyas, both of these items have been badly needed for a long time. I'm happy to report that we will soon have a resource to go to for all such things. While it may not be all-inclusive out of the gate, it will answer many

questions and bring uniformity to all those wanting to help and need to know how.

We were notified earlier this year that the Florida Secretariats were awarded to host the NLS annual meeting in 2018! Several members of our Florida community were a part of the last National Gathering at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach in 2013. We are excited, and are eager to help in bringing this great event back to Florida... and will need your help in making it happen. With 3 years to prepare, there's no reason we can't begin to participate and donate our resources to make it a success.

Finally, I want to encourage you, your family, your reunion group, and your church. Sonbeam exists to enrich and equip the individual for Christian action in their homes and communities. Won't you consider sponsoring a new brother or sister in Christ to attend a VdC weekend? There are people out there who have been putting off this great chance to experience God's abundant grace. Won't you encourage them to attend? Bless someone by sponsoring them this Spring and getting them on the roster soon. You'll end up getting blessed yourself in the process!

Be Blessed... Be a Blessing... and I'll see you at the next Ultreya.

In His Service-

Michael Marquart

Lay Director Sonbeam Via de Cristo

BE BLESSED.....

BE A BLESSING.....

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Words from the Secretariat

Communications - Sue Miller-Cinelli

We are unique among God's creations, made in His image. He is a God of relationships and communication. As His children, we are encouraged to be in relationship and communication with His family. We are to love one another. There are so many ways to show our love --a life giving word, a note, a prayer, a listening ear, a smile, a handshake, a pat on the back, a hug.

Could we get to know someone new? Are we too shy? Do we hesitate in fear of being rejected? God's perfect love casts out fear! Focusing on God's love takes the focus off ourselves and lets God love another through us. Be His vessel.

Do we have a praise, a word of thanksgiving, or a testimony to share? Why not share it in writing for the newsletter. Ask God, He will show you.

Extended Palanca -Dana Marquart

As we prepare for the spring weekends I am reminded that this time last year there weren't enough candidates and we had to forgo the weekends till the fall. Let's be praying and asking men and women of faith to come and be blessed on the next set of weekends.

Extended palanca is gathering and preparing for a great spring weekend! Blessings, Dana

Leaders - Leslie LeFleur

By the time you read this, we will have experienced another informative and inspiring "Leaders Workshop." It is important to "study to show ourselves approved" for all God calls us to. These workshops are a great opportunity to equip ourselves with Godly wisdom. It is also time for fun, fellowship and refreshment. If you were unable to attend this one, please don't miss another.

For those of you who already know "lots of good stuff" leaders are always needed to conduct classes. Please contact me at 727-542-9604 to volunteer.

Local Palanca - Shirley Phillips & Clo Malloy

Thank you to all of you who have already signed up for palanca for the weekends. Due to rising costs, the prices on palanca items must conform to be more in line with the actual costs. Thus, all prices are being raised by 15%.

There is good news for you who signed up early --- you will not be asked to meet the increased price. Of course, any extra money you are led to give will be gratefully received.

The physical palanca items are tangible expressions of God's love. Please pray about how you can help to show God's love to the participants on VdC weekends # 64 and sign up for items on the palanca list at the Ultreyas, the Leader's workshop or your team meetings.

Pre-VdC - David Lind

Hello Community! I am excited at the opportunity and privilege it is to serve the Sonbeam VdC Community in the role of Pre-VdC.

As of this writing, we already have 2 each men and women confirmed for the upcoming weekends! I know of 2 more men and 2 more women as possible candidates! We're off to a great start! Keep those applications coming!

I am looking forward to seeing what God is going to do through you, the community, as He places individuals on your heart to spend a weekend set apart for His purposes! See you at the Leader's Workshop!!

Prayer Line Coordinator - Wendy Kinka

Thank you for praying for all the requests on the prayer line and please continue to pray for the upcoming weekends.

Purchasing - Jerry Brown

I am presently working with the Rector/Rectora to finalize menu choices for the upcoming weekends. Please pray with me that we will have an abundance of candidates for the weekends to proceed. Blessings.

Secretary - Lynn Conlen

[Secretariat Meeting Minutes available on VdC website]

Newsletter & Database Support Report

Submitted by Pastor John Foster

Almost two years ago, your Secretariat began to centralize its record-keeping using Access Database program. The original task was to bring together all of the contact information, stored team records, and previous weekend directories so that better reports could be generated for the new Rectors and Rectoras and a newsletter could be mailed out to those who wanted one. What a challenge that was and continues to be!

Now that we have consolidated that information, the task of verifying and updating continues to be ever before us. We have tried to get the community to respond with their information with varying degrees of success, yet we continue to learn of changes to the contact information **after** some were hunted down by the already busy Rectors and Rectoras. We have even tried to get the Post Office to help us with verifying the addresses, but most of the responses we get from them are based more on whether the mail is deliverable rather than whether the addressee is actually still living there.

After much discussion in our Secretariat meetings, we decided to listen to the readership of these newsletters. It was decided (moved/seconded/passed) that we would limit the mailing of newsletters to **only those who notify the database** that they wish to continue to receive a mailed newsletter. However, just indicating where you get the newsletter is not enough as you will have to **also** give us your complete contact information. Don't assume that we know it and please PRINT your information. Response to this request will also place you on the list for receiving a mailed or whether you can read it on our Website location (www.sonbeamvdc.org/). All those who do not respond at all will be dropped from receiving a mailed newsletter.

Cut out the form below and send it to: Sonbeam VDC, PO Box 2582, Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2582

Thank you for your assistance.

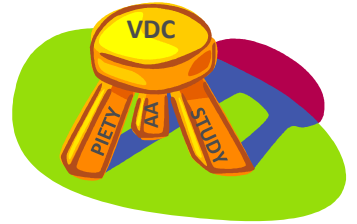
Name _____		
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Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Home Phone # _____		Cell Phone # _____
email Address _____		
Church Name _____		
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Reunion Group _____		
Location _____		Time _____
Newsletter Preference: _____ Mail _____ Read on Website		

ULTREYA

Ultreya! What does it mean and what is it for?

Ultreya is a Spanish derived from the original Latin meaning "Onward!"

Ultreyas are held that so that our community can have a climate of friendship, with members that share their life experiences based on our tripod, Piety, Study and Action! Therefore, if you are a new cursillita or one that has been around a while, make sure you take the opportunity to participate in Ultreyas so that we can all stay connected to one another and share our 4th day walks with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Our next Ultreya will be on

March 14, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church in Lakeland.

I hope that you all make the effort to travel to Lakeland for a time of food, fellowship and fun. As always, bring a dish to share, or two if you can, and the spirit of worship.

Looking ahead, our next Ultreya after that will take place on

May 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at P.M. at Lake Palms Community Church, in Largo,
for the team commissioning. We also have our Post VDC Ultreya scheduled for

**May 30, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. for table reunion and dinner starting at
5:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church in Seminole.**

Reminders and directions will be sent out via the VDC e-mail chain closer to those dates and can also be found on the website. If you, your reunion group, or church folks would like to host an Ultreya, please contact me as I will be scheduling the remainder ones for this coming year. Let's see how many new churches, or churches who hosted in the past, we can get on board.

Last, but certainly not least, if you are not currently in a Reunion Group, stop what you are doing and call me immediately!!! I will make sure that we find a reunion group that works for you and if that one does not work, we will find another. There is no excuse for any of us to go without the support of our fellow brothers and sisters; we all need to be active in group reunion. God never intended us to be alone, look at Adam. God created him a companion, right? Now I can't promise any match making, this is not E-Harmony, but I will do my very best to get you connected with a group.

I am excited about this new position and I look forward to serving you all.

Christy Wilson #18

Post VDC

cwilson@sonbeamvdc.org

863/205-3375

Reflections from a Spiritual Director

“All Things Good”

Have you ever had one of those days, weeks, months, or years where your life just doesn't seem to be going in a good direction? We know that Jesus made sure to tell His disciples that following Him would not always be easy, but did He really say that it would never have any good moments? What about our well-wishing family and friends who tell us that having a bad outcome just means that a good one will be coming along soon? Does God ever allow us to go through darkness just so we, or someone watching us, can grow from that experience?

Early in the morning on February 1st, a Kairos prison ministry buddy of mine passed on into the welcoming arms of Jesus after a long struggle with throat cancer. Where was the good that came out of the last two years of his life?

If we consider how many people prayed for a continuation of his life, for the well-being of him and his wife, and for those who took care of him during the treatment times, we begin to see how wide a net that intercessory prayer had on all those that he touched during those years. What else was in God's Plan for Chuck?

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:26-28 NIV)

This morning, I was watching a movie called the Jazz Singer. Jess Rabinovich was a cantor (someone that sings the prayers in a worship service, e.g. in a synagogue) in New York City, who was being called out of his family's heritage of being cantors to being an entertainer. The movie portrayed his life as being a series of breaks from his former life and family into a new one, filled with change and pressure and a new life in California. His wife divorced him and his father declared

that Jess was now “dead to him.” The pressures of an upcoming television appearance finally drove him to drop everything and leave for almost a year. How could all of these experiences work for good?

Just as in the story of Job, the reasons for the changes in our lives are according to the Plans God has for us. Jeremiah also reminds us of this when he said, “11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” (Jer 29:11-12 NIV)

At the end of the movie, the stubbornness of Jess was eroded by the timing of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), a come-back opening in New York City, and his new wife's encouragement. Jess then became the Lead Cantor during the Service and afterwards tried to patch things up with his father. What finally broke through his father's stubbornness was a picture of Jess' baby – his grandson.

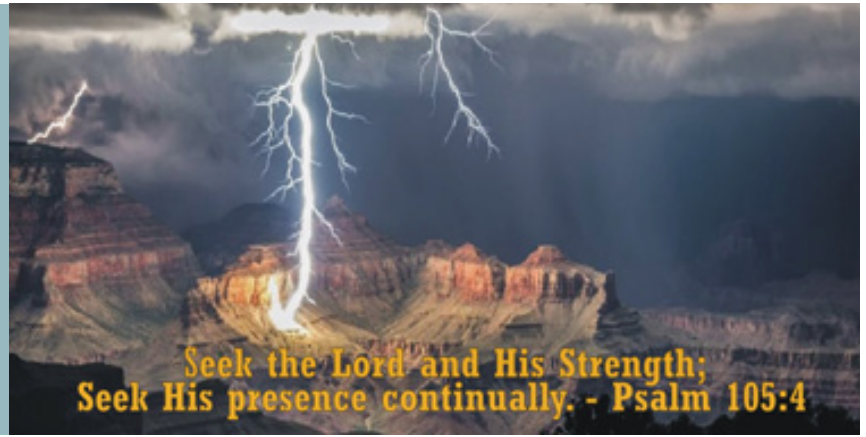
Life is complex and so are the situations and problems we encounter. 1st Corinthians Chapter 13 reminds us that we won't see clearly what is going on in our lives until we join God in heaven. We have been promised that the Lord will not only never leave or forsake us, but that He will be with us and go before us. (Deut 31:6-8) We need to be strong and courageous, relying on the strengths of the Lord. He alone has a plan for our lives and the lives of those with whom we come into contact. How our problems work out have everything to do with God's Plan and not the “good” that we'd like to see happen.

Finally, we need to keep the lines of communication open between God and ourselves. Prayer and knowledge of how God works will help us realize that the outcomes that we see have a greater purpose. Whether we see it now or later is not as important as knowing that God loves and cares for His own. The goodness that comes from His Plans is to be trusted.

John Foster,
Spiritual Director

Sonbeam Men's Via de Cristo #64

May 14 - May 17



I have really seen God's hand at work since I got the call asking me to pray about being the Rector on Men's VDC #64. He has shown me that we can all spend more time on our knees talking to our Father. He has answered many prayers and some of the answers came in unexpected ways.

One answered prayer is the group of men, with hearts for the Lord, which he has assembled as the core team.

Head Cha Jerry Brown
Back-up Rector Doug Fogh
Assistant Head Cha Dan Johansen
Head Prayer Cha Jerry Lindsay
Lead Spiritual Director Pastor Dick White
Head Computer Cha Skip Young.

Another answered prayer is the Team that He is knitting together as He brings us closer to Him and to each other. Please continue your prayers for both the Men's and Women's team as we continue to prepare for the weekends.

“Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ”

Now is the best time to speak to Jesus about your friend so that you can speak to that friend and invite them to be a candidate on these weekends. If God has laid a friend's name on your heart, please don't delay in doing your part – asking them to set aside three days to draw closer to Christ.

In His Strength,
John Odom
Rector – Men's VDC Weekend #64

SONBEAM WOMEN'S Via De Cristo #63

May 21 - 24

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6



I was caught by surprise when Michael called to ask me to pray about being Rectora on Women's VDC #64. I am honored to have this front row seat to watch God assemble the on-site team members which will serve the candidates He plans to attend the weekend in May.

I am grateful God has surrounded me with a dedicated core team.

Head Prayer Cha Debbie Carter; Back-up Rectora Karen Emerson; Lead Spiritual Director Pastor Gary Kindle; Head Music Cha Sheri Meilus; Head Computer Cha Billi Ott; Assistant Head Cha Linda Rice; Head Cha Christy Wilson

Team meetings have begun, and we are becoming a unified body.

Please join us in praying NOW for the candidates for weekends 64. After you have spoken to the Lord, speak to potential candidates. Remember, honestly answer any questions they have about what to expect on a weekend and let the Holy Spirit work. Candidate and sponsor forms can be found on the sonbeamvdc.org website.

Whether you are called to be part of the on-site team or serve behind the scenes, YOU have a role in carrying out the work the Lord will accomplish on His weekends.

I covet your prayers for both teams as we prepare to be the hands and feet of Christ.

God loves you and so do I.

Christ's Tool,

Kristen Beiler
Rectora on Women's VDC #64

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sonbeam Via de Cristo

March/April, 2015

03/14/2015	March Ultreya	St. David's Episcopal Church* 145 East Edgewood Drive Lakeland, FL 33803
04/01/2015	Deadline - Newsletter Articles	May/June Newsletter (to be mailed)
05/02/2015	Commissioning Ultreya	Lake Palms Community Church 380 Fulton Drive Largo, FL
5/14-5/17 2015	MEN'S SPRING WEEKEND #64	Rotary Camp 1915 Camp Florida Road Brandon, FL 33570
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	Apostles Lutheran Church 200 Kingsway Rd., Brandon, FL
5/21-5/24 2015	WOMEN'S SPRING WEEKEND #64	Rotary Camp
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	Apostles Lutheran Church
05/30/2015	Post VdC Ultreya Tables Meet 4pm Dinner 5pm	Faith Community Church 11501 Walker Avenue North Seminole, FL 33772
06/10/2015	Deadline Newsletter Articles	July/August Newsletter (website)

*Directions available on VdC website

Updated February 13, 2015

How to (or not) choose a candidate for a weekend

Candidate selection:

- ◆ *Make a friend. Be a friend.
Bring a friend to Christ.*
- ◆ *Pray first*
- ◆ *Understand that VdC isn't for everyone*
- ◆ *Know your candidate*
- ◆ *They must be a baptized Christian*
- ◆ *They must be reasonably mentally stable/
secure*
- ◆ *They should be "on fire" to be involved*
- ◆ *Commits to their faith*



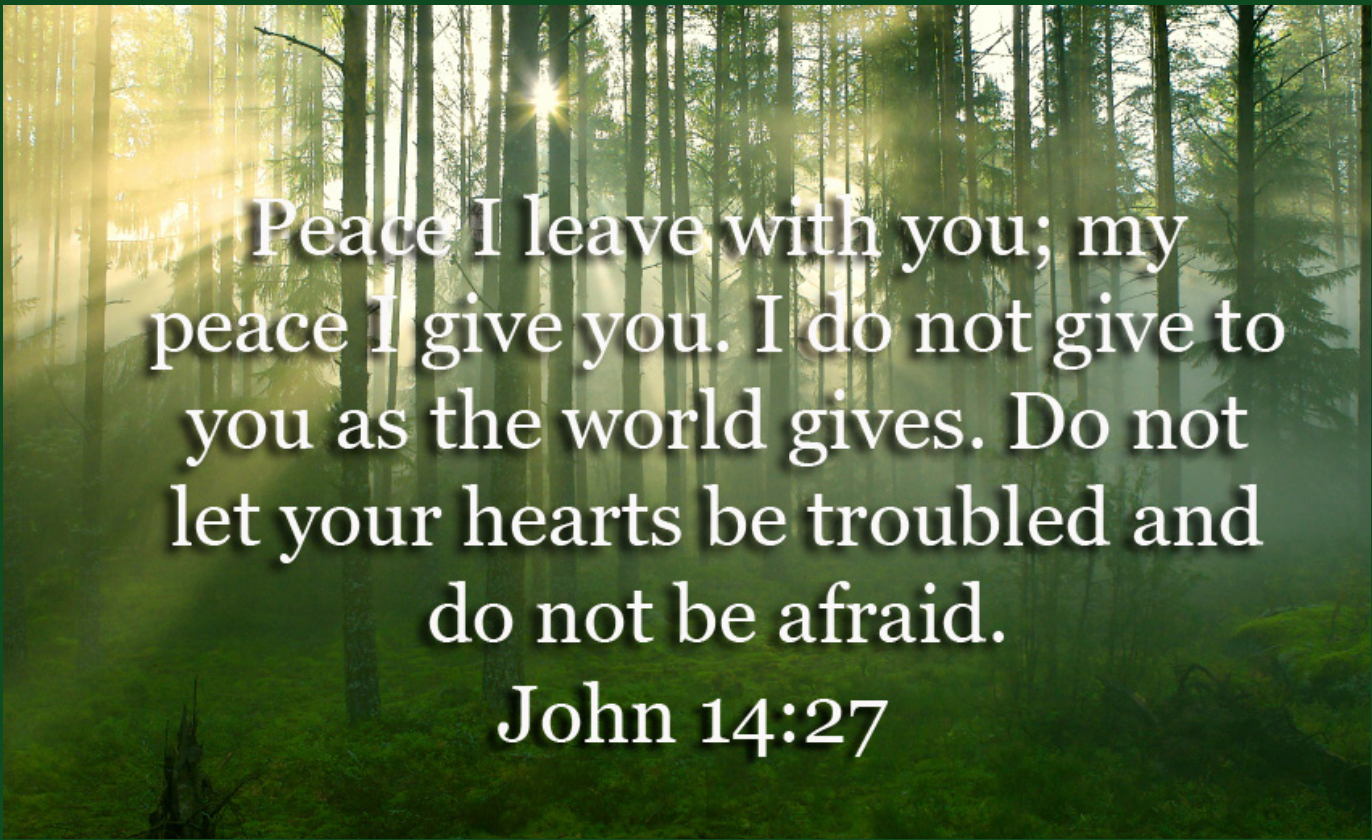
Not appropriate: VdC is not a place to fix individuals who:

- ◆ *Have experienced recent divorce or loss*
- ◆ *Are emotionally unstable*
- ◆ *Are Immature*
- ◆ *Are medically challenged*
- ◆ *Are Inactive in a church*

Sponsor criteria:

- ◆ *Support the new candidate in every way possible*
- ◆ *Getting to and attending the send off with candidate*
- ◆ *Obtaining palanca & letters*
- ◆ *Attending the closing with candidate*
- ◆ *Assisting with finding a reunion group*
- ◆ *Assisting in attending an Ultreya*
- ◆ *Lift up the candidate and their family in prayer*
- ◆ *Support the new candidate in their 4th day*

By: Michael Marquart
Lay Director



Peace I leave with you; my
peace I give you. I do not give to
you as the world gives. Do not
let your hearts be troubled and
do not be afraid.

John 14:27

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.

Help us save printing and postage costs! If you have an email account and can receive this newsletter exclusively electronically, let us remove you from the printed mailing list. If you would like to help with the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter, send Green Palanca donations to:

**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 9 of this publication.

Please choose to read the newsletter online and save on the cost of mailing by e-mailing: johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org

<http://www.sonbeamvdc.org>

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