

# SONBEAM

*Via de Cristo Newsletter*

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November - December 2015

## HE MAKES BEAUTIFUL THINGS

There is a recent television show that I have taken a liking to. It's called "Fixer Upper" from HGTV. It's about a couple who own a business of real estate renovation. It falls in line with several other similar home improvement shows, but this one is a little different. This show tries to capture the couple's character and relationship with each other, as well as the clients they serve. It's a clean, funny, positive television program that shows some incredible transformations when the prospecting home buyers put their trust in the couple.

The business of real estate and "flipping" has exploded over the last 20 years. Some real estate investors go through neighborhoods looking for homes that have potential. With the right amount of attention and resources, these homes eventually become something great while fulfilling the needs of others. There are the distressed homes that are falling apart; big projects that take several months to complete. Most remodels fall into the medium category of general upgrades and remodeling, like walls knocked down or updated kitchens. Lastly, there are houses that need very little change, sometimes referred to as 'turn-key' homes. These homes are often just spruced-up with a little landscaping and fresh paint, ready to move in with little to no action needed.

It goes without saying that the more distressed the home is, the longer the remodeling schedule will be to restore it. Houses that undergo the extreme makeovers are typically the ones that catch the eye of everyone. You know the type... the train-wreck houses that were abandoned or foreclosed on. These are the houses that need the foundations built up, completely new exteriors, and major electrical and plumbing upgrades. These are also the ones in the end that are absolutely beautiful, having the beauty all along but just needed the designer to showcase it in a whole new way.

**Did you know that Jesus is in the "flipping" business? As an investor, He is looking for homes that have hidden value.** To us, older and distressed homes may seem to have little value, but not in Jesus' eyes. He sees them as something great. The Master Designer can see through the weeds and overgrown bushes and trees. He knows that with the right amount of remodeling, the home can make a difference in the lives of others.

**The First step is buying the property... which He did on a cross over 2000 years ago.**

**Demolition is the next step.** This is when the dumpster comes to dispose of all the old and discarded garbage that the house was holding onto for so many years. Walls get torn down, the foundation gets shored-up, and big structural changes begin to take shape. This is the time the most visible transformation happens.

**Next, He begins the rebuilding.** Repairing the roof for damage and leaks, replacing the electrical and wiring, adding a few new rooms or maybe just re-purposing the old ones. Each and every day, something is repaired, replaced, or re-designed to for an improved work and flow.

**Why would He pay an extraordinary amount of money for such a piece of property?** Because He knows that when He is finished, the home will be substantially more valuable.

- **He bought you for a hefty price. He sees potential. He sees the impact you will make on others when He uses all the great features you have,** and then expands on them.
- **He sees the seasoned and rich history** you have and wants to preserve it in order to tell a story.

*(Continued on next page)*

- **He wants to take your features and showcase them** for others who can benefit from them.
  - **He wants to give you curb appeal and make you attractive** to others who are passing by.
  - **He longs for you to trust him as the Master Builder**, and that you will be pleased with the outcome when He is finished.
- Jesus is in the 'house-flipping' business. He is renowned worldwide as the Leader in restoration and remodeling.**

Welcome to Sonbeam, Via De Cristo, Inc (LLC ©)... A wholly owned subsidiary of Jesus Christ! We specialize in repurposing the lives of those who the Master has invested in. As a creative compilation of construction and quality design, we have become an industry leader in both residential and commercial remodeling and design! And not only do we offer remodeling services, but VdC also specializes in real estate, with agents spanning all of West Central Florida!

Do you know of a potential customer who could benefit from the services of Sonbeam, VdC? It's never too late to refer potential candidates! Our "teams" are standing by, waiting to answer your call. We look forward to serving you in bringing His hopes and plans alive in your life and in the lives of others!

In His Service-

*Michael Marquart*

Lay Director Sonbeam Via de Cristo

## Words from the Spiritual Director

*"Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; 19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." Psalm 33:18-22 (KJV)*

Very seldom in life does anything of value occur by accident. God allows incidents to affect us, to try our metal and to challenge our faith but the end is for our benefit and growth. When we experience our weekend we may come away encouraged and charged to do what is right but immediately the enemy is laying plans to destroy what is good from our blessing. Jesus told us, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Satan is always at work against the things and people of God. We must resist his efforts and deny his lies.

The important thing we can rely upon is the presence of God, the Holy Spirit, to help us and to remind us what Jesus has plainly told us in His word. There are many activities that support and strengthen our daily faith. None of which will help us by accident! Our lives are to be intentional! Jesus didn't redeem us by accident. We were not saved by accident. We will not be overcomers by accident. We are to be prepared and exercised intentionally to follow God's leading and purpose in our lives. The purpose of the Piety card is to help us to be intentional in our safeguards against the wiles of the enemy. "Be prepared", is the motto of the Boy Scouts but it should also be a reminder for us too.

Some folks have the uninformed view that life should be without disappointment or trial but you know from your own experience that is untrue and unrealistic. We are dependent on God to guide and protect us in the trials of life until we reach the other side. Our Piety, Study, and Action help us remain in tune with the LORD's plan and His resources to guide us safely to the other shore. The Word of God contains so much of what is happening almost on a daily occurrence that we might continually encourage each other in the face of every trial. His presence and His provision are strong pillars for living.

Beloved of God, He will never leave us or forsake us! Let us go forth everyday in the knowledge and strength He provides, to share the truth of the Gospel and help those without that knowledge. We are to help them develop their own relationship with Christ our Redeemer! All preparation has been made and God is willing. We must plan and intend to be a blessing to others so that Jesus is glorified in someone else!

God loves you, and so do I! God bless you!

Pastor Dick White

## **NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

We are so excited about our new VdC website [same address], which has been set up by our Webmaster, Michael Schreiner. It is attractive, user friendly, with the ability to do so much more than we could do with the previous one. We so appreciate Michael's work & skills to make this happen. Please don't forget to thank him for all he does for Sonbeam VdC.

We also want to thank Karen Allen who does such a great job of setting up and printing our newsletters. It is an exciting time to be in VdC – with so many new ideas and enthusiastic people willing to step up and make things happen.

Sue Miller, Communications

### **LEADERS**

The Leaders Workshop was well attended and went very well. Thank you to all who participated by leading and attending the workshops. Thank you Denise Galbreath for all your great work.

Leslie LeFleur, Leaders

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

#### **Remember our fund raisers.**

- Babe Chick Jars
- Thrivent Members
- Spaghetti Dinner on 2/6/16.
- Sonbeam VdC Logo items for purchase

Katherina Crowder & Adriana Lee, At Large

### **PALANCA, EXTENDED**

What you put into Via de Cristo is what you get out of it. This is also true as a board member. Consider this your invitation! Is God calling you to serve & make a difference in His Kingdom? Sometimes God calls those He has gifted to share their talents with this community. He also calls those who think they "could never do that job". God does this so that He can be glorified. If you "could never" then "He can". In our weakness, He is strong. As God takes us into the future, consider how you may be blessed and be a blessing to serve on the board.

God changed my life when I made my weekend 20 years ago. I became a part of this family, loving and serving the Lord. After serving on the board in Extended Palanca for more than 3 years, I will say you WILL be blessed!

Dana Marquart, #26 Extended Palanca

### **PALANCA, LOCAL**

**WE NEED YOU** to donate food, paper items, & supplies for Rollo room. Many items haven't been spoken for. Prices have increased as the cost has increased. Please consider asking your reunion groups or church groups to help by donating for food or other supplies.

*Prayer is the most important Palanca of all* – please sign up to pray & ask your groups to be praying for the candidates and the teams. The success of the weekends depends on the presence & power of God. The teams need to be filled with Faith, Hope & Love, & covered with Godly Wisdom and Protection. "With God all things are possible." We are depending on God for eternal results as He depends on us to do "small things with great love."

Shirley Phillips and Clo Malloy, Local Palanca

### **PRE-VDC**

The candidates for Weekends #65 are coming in. We need to continue to pray and see if God is calling someone to the weekend through you. If so, be obedient and invite them. Help is available with sponsorship, if needed.

Dave Lind, Pre-VdC

### **POST-VDC**

I have secured locations for Ultreyas into March, 2016. See Community Calendar for updates.

Christy Wilson, Post VdC

### **PURCHASING**

Purchasing has already received the funds needed from the Treasurer & has started working on making out the order for the coming weekends.

Keep those candidates coming. It would be a real blessing to have a "full house" on both the men's & women's weekends.

Blessings, Jerry Brown, Purchasing

### **SECRETARY**

The Minutes of the last Secretariat meeting will be posted on the website.

Lynn Conlen, Secretary

### **TREASURER**

Things are looking very good & new fundraising possibilities are being put into action.

Bobbi Lind, Treasurer



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**November 2015 through March 2016**

**11/12 – 11/15/15**

### **MEN'S WEEKEND #65**

**Rotary Camp, Set up – Thursday @ 9 am**  
**1915 Camp Florida, Serenade – Saturday @ 6 pm**  
**Brandon, FL**

**Apostles Lutheran Closing – Sunday @ 4:30 pm**  
**200 Kingsway Road**  
**Brandon, FL**

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**11/19 – 11/22/15**

### **WOMEN'S WEEKEND #65**

**Locations/times same as Men's (See above)**

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**12/05/15**

### **POST ULTREYA**

**First Baptist Church Secretariat Meeting @ 2 pm**  
**1900 Gandy Blvd. Tables meet @ 4 pm**  
**S.P, FL 33702 Dinner @ 5 pm [dish to share]**

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**01/16/16**

### **ULTREYA**

**St. Timothy's Lutheran Secretariat Meeting @ 2 pm**  
**812 East Tarpon Ave. Dinner @ 5 pm [dish to share]**  
**Tarpon Springs 34689**

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**02/06/16**

### **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**St. Timothy's Lutheran VdC Fundraiser Event**  
**812 East Tarpon Ave. Dinner – 5:30 pm to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tarpon Springs 34689 Tickets available**  
**at Post Ultreya**

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**03/19/16**

### **ULTREYA**

**St. David's Episcopal Secretariat Meeting @ 2 pm**  
**145 E. Edgewood Dr. Dinner @ 5 pm [dish to share]**  
**Lakeland, 33803**

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[www.facebook.com/groups/sonbeamvdc](http://www.facebook.com/groups/sonbeamvdc)



## **Logo Apparel Scholarship Fund Raiser**

Yes, we now have the opportunity to purchase apparel with our own Sonbeam Via de Cristo logo AND support our scholarship fund. 25% of all sales are designated to go toward the fund.

[www.companycasuals.com/mlcpromo\\_vdc](http://www.companycasuals.com/mlcpromo_vdc)

Go to above address to select one of the many shirt styles. The full color logo is available for all polos and dress shirts. An 'outline' logo in white or black is the standard logo for t-shirts and an alternate choice for polos and dress shirts.

The website is user friendly, gives a detailed description of each style (including dimensions) and displays all available colors. Purchases can be made online and paid for by credit card or Paypal. All orders submitted and paid for three weeks prior to each ultreya will be processed and delivered to the ultreya for pick up. However, shipping can be requested at an additional cost. For those who do not have a computer or are not comfortable ordering 'online', are concerned about sizing (once embroidered, shirt cannot be returned) or just want to see the shirts first, samples of each of the styles in various sizes will be available at the ultreyas. And yes, orders can be placed at that time.

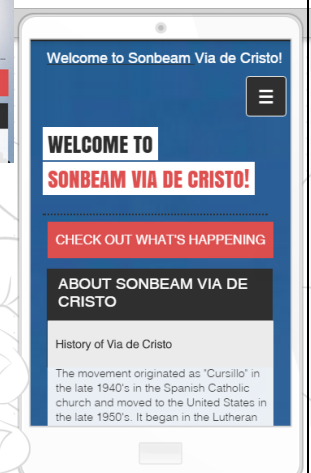
Have Questions? Just email to 'michele@mlcpromo.com'.

## **OUR NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED.**

Three things you need to know about our new website update.

1. The website address will not be changing. It is still <http://www.sonbeamvdc.org>.
2. Same great hallmark content, with a modern look and feel.
3. We've gone mobile!

*Michael Schreiner, Webmaster*



# Sonbeam Via de Cristo Men's #65



God's Holy Spirit and the blessings he provides have truly lifted me since being called as Rector for VdC #65. My prayers are raised to him daily and he continues to answer them in and with amazing grace and regularity.

He has helped to assemble a group of Godly men to give me His guidance and direction while working to make God's weekend #65 everything He desires.

My Core Team is:

Lead Spiritual Director Gary Kindle

Back Up Rector Jim McConnell Jr.

Head Cha John Hildebrandt

Asst. Head Cha Terry Carden

Head Prayer Cha Jim McConnell Sr

Head Computer Cha Jerry Brown

God has given me great success in forming his team of Godly men ready to serve in any capacity. We sorely need your prayers to continue for both the Men's and Women's teams as we prepare to make Weekend #65 a Spirit directed time of awakening for all His candidates. *"Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ"*. Now is truly the time to search your hearts and prayerfully ask our Lord to guide you to the men and women He wants a stronger relationship with, I humbly ask you to act quickly to find those willing and ready to spend three days getting know and love Him better. The Men's weekend is less than a month away and at last count we have 11 candidates with completed paperwork and fees turned in. For those of you who have candidates in the works right now, but have not completed all the requirements, please work as hard as you can to complete them.

Under His love, by His mercy and living in His grace

Dan Johansen, Rector

Men's VdC Weekend #65



## Sonbeam VdC Women's Weekend #65



### *"She Did What She Could" ... Mark 14:8*

Five words of Jesus that will challenge your life

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

It is almost time! The weekends are coming soon and you can feel the excitement in the air.

I have been thinking about our verse (Mark 14:8). As we have been praying and preparing for VdC weekends #65, our team has been looking at Elisa Morgan's little book "She Did What She Could". We have been asked to consider:

*"What if...I did what I could?  
What if I acted with what I have?  
What if I acted right where I am?"  
What if I acted because it might matter?"*

At our core and team meetings I have discovered all kinds of shared gifts and talents among our God selected group. I've found caring, kindness, compassion, boldness, encouragement, love and so much more. Each one of us has done what she could and then some. God is calling each one of us to step up and step out for Him.

*"What if I did what I could, and you did what you could, and then we did what we could? "*

Maybe we could make our lives something beautiful for God!

On a personal note, Hal and I want to thank you all for your calls, your cards, your prayers and your overwhelming love and support for us during his medical episode. He is doing well and we expect a complete recovery. Please keep up the prayers.

God loves you my Sisters and Brothers, and So Do I

Rectora Joy Feininger  
Women's VdC Weekend #65

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## Weekend Spiritual Direction Changes by Pastor John Foster

A Via de Cristo Weekend "is a Christian renewal effort, inspired by God that works faith and renewal within the Church" (taken from the 1st sentence of the SD Manual). The servants on this weekend are drawn from both lay and clergy across various faith walks. The clergy that accept the call to be Spiritual Directors need to be sensitive to the spiritual needs of both the team and candidates and follow the guidelines of national and local governing bodies, as well as the Rector/a.

Three years ago, we had several female clergy who were able to participate as Lead and General Spiritual Directors, but within a year the female Lead SD went through changes in her employment and could no longer serve as a Lead SD. A couple more female clergy went through changes in their physical health and had to withdraw from any participation. Although we were able to provide men to fill in those positions, many lay women in leadership kept asking for us to find more women clergy.

Your prayers are being answered! Pastor Mary Ashcraft has accepted our call to her to be a Lead Spiritual Director. She has extensive experience in Via de Cristo having made Weekend #3 and serving as a Rectora on Weekend #27. She will be a General SD on this coming Weekend #65 and will be available to be called as a Lead SD next Spring.

In addition to Mary, we are currently reviewing two other applications for Lead SD positions – one male and one female. We are also training new Spiritual Directors for future weekends as they become known to us. Our two newest SDs are Jan Foster and Dan Hummer. Jan made Weekend #14 and served as a Rectora on Weekend #36. She is currently a Licensed Pastor and is now in training to be an ordained Chaplain. Dan is a recent graduate from Weekend #64 and a retired VA Chaplain.

The other change of note concerning the weekends has to do with the Christian Life (Life in Grace) talk. That talk was one of the five "Grace" talks that the SDs gave on the weekend. However, a few years after Sonbeam began; it became difficult for a Spiritual Director to give that Sunday morning talk because all of our SDs, at that time, were pastors of churches. Now we have pastors, chaplains and retired clergy on the weekends, so there is always a pastor who is able to give that talk. Starting with the next set of weekends (#66), that talk will, once again, be given by clergy.

We need your help. There are 2,787 active and inactive cursillistas to draw from for weekend duty, but only 17 are clergy and 4 are qualified to be a Lead SD. Talk to your pastors and encourage them to make a weekend. The more pastors we have to draw from, the more rested our present group of clergy will be.

## Heart of Reunion by Sue Neal

While there is no doubt that my VdC weekend was a mountain top experience, and I still cannot quite put to words all that it meant to me, for me, being a part of a reunion group is that much more.

We receive so much love and grace on our weekend, and we leave, at least most of do, I believe, so full and encouraged and uplifted, we are ready to tackle the world. The world, however, can quickly have other ideas for us, and discouragement and feeling let down can come pretty quickly. This is why I feel that reunion groups are so very important to the VdC movement and to our individual walks with Christ.

Having a reunion group means always being able to be yourself. Trusting your brothers or sisters will listen to you, without judgment, but at the same time encourage your walk in faith and growth in Christ. They will set you right when you need it, and hug and cry with you when you need that. Just knowing they are praying for you can be such an encouragement.

It is through these groups that we really become bonded with other believers, and with the VdC community. Those who do not become a part of a solid reunion group are the ones we rarely, if ever, hear from again. As sponsors, and as part of the wonderful VdC family, I believe we need to really encourage the babe chicks to form groups, starting at the tables on the weekend. Be praying how all of us can reach out in a more effective way to get the babe chicks involved? What can we do at closing or at the post Ultrix to encourage them to get in a Reunion Group? Several people have said they are willing to help get new groups started, by setting up starter groups in various areas and/or form one large group. Several of us are willing to help lead and draw them in to the love and support of the Reunion Group. What can you do to encourage them?



**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 4 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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