

SONBEAM

Via de Cristo Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue #5

September - October 2015

UPDATES FROM SECRETARIAT

It's August ...The long stretch of summer heat, back to school for many, & the annual meeting for Sonbeam VdC!

We're halfway through the year & continuing to accomplish quite a bit on many levels. If you missed the meeting, here's a brief recap:

Congratulations and welcome to new Secretariat members & those continuing another term: David & Bobbi Lind, Pre-VdC & Treasurer; Sue Miller-Cinelli, Communications; Jerry Brown, Purchasing; Katherina Crowder & Adriana Lee, At Large co-chairs; & Sue Neal, At-Large.

To date we don't have anyone to fill the Physical Arrangements/Facilities or Prayer-Line coordinator positions. Remember, you can help without the commitment. Don't worry about what direction He wants you to go, just start moving! The Lord will guide your willingness. You never know what to expect when you put yourself in the path of the Holy Spirit.

The Sonbeam VdC handbook was recently ratified & adopted. This has been a long time in the making, and will technically 'never be finished'. The handbook serves as a guide for many responsibilities that go overlooked or questioned. However, it was not created to be the answer to every question, nor should it be. As the movement grows and adapts, so will the handbook. Look for the most recent version to be posted on-line in the very near future.

Sonbeam is on Facebook! We've been talking about this for some time now as it continues to grow. For many, using Facebook as a means for prayer requests is easier than trying to navigate the Yahoo groups we have been using. The short term plan is to continue to use both until our website is upgraded. (See the article asking for you to express your preferences in this newsletter & please respond) We will continue to monitor the

options before us as we look for the easiest and most effective way to communicate with the community.

Speaking of website... there are some neat and exciting things happening behind the scenes on Sonbeamvdc.org! We have recently been looking at ways to not only bring it current with some of the newer concepts out there, but also looking at ways to make the website work harder for us! Stay tuned and visit often. You never know what you may find!

The Sonbeam calendar is about to start filling up quickly with events and get-togethers! Look for upcoming fundraisers, dinners, picnics, and gatherings after the first of the year to help foster the 'ole fashioned' community that once was, as well as get newly adopted members involved. There's always something to do with VdC, so don't wait for the call to a team or the occasional Ultreya be active.

Speaking of get-togethers, the Florida Secretariats are teaming up to put together a Grand Ultreya next February. Visit the website for information as it becomes available.

Now is the time to pray about whom you will sponsor for the 2015 fall weekends. Pray for Rector Dan and Rectora Joy as they continue to build the Lord's Teams to use their Gifts on these weekends. Pray about who the Lord will put on your heart to sponsor this fall. Lastly, pray about how you will participate in the next 12 months. There are opportunities for prayer palanca, green palanca, and talent palanca serving.

There's a lot more happening that I can't speak to just yet, but know this... the Lord is moving in mighty ways! You might not want to miss this bus. *Stay tuned!*

In His Service,

Michael Marquart

Secretariat Updates Continued

FUND RAISERS

Bobbi Lind – Treasurer

Fund Raiser #1 - Babe Chick Jars

I'm really excited! I turned in the coins & folding money from the Babe Chick jars and we have already raised over \$155. That enough to sponsor an entire "chick"! It's not too late to participate. Just fill the jars you took home from the Ultreya and bring them back next time. If you didn't get one –just bring in your change in any container. Be part of the great work God is planning.

Sue Neal – At Large

Fund Raiser #2 Thrivent Members

If you are a Thrivent member you already have at your disposal the **Action Teams Program**, which allows a member to receive up to \$250 twice a year to help pay for food for a weekend or a team meeting, sponsor candidates, or provide for other needs for the weekends like crosses or books. Please talk to a member of the Secretariat for more information on how you can utilize this tool.

Fund Raiser #3 "Spaghetti Dinner"

February 6, 2016 - 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Plan to come out for an early Valentine's Day "Spaghetti Dinner." Tickets will be available at the Post Weekend Ultreya. **Save the Date!**



Fund Raiser #4

Sonbeam VdC Logo Items for Purchase



The Secretariat is excited to announce that we will soon have our very own **Sonbeam Via de Cristo** shirts for sale in a large variety of styles and sizes. The name and logos will be beautifully embroidered on the shirts. These shirts can be ordered one at a time. Every shirt sold will raise money for VdC.

We can also sell additional logo items, which we would have to purchase in quantity and pre-pay before selling.

However, before we make a commitment to investing in this fund raising effort, **we need input from the Via de Cristo community as to your interest and the kind of items you would be most likely to purchase.**

We are considering "items that can be on the go" with us, that will be seen and possibly promote interest in the Via de Cristo movement.

Please choose your favorites of the suggested items that you may enjoy and give suggestions.

??????

Coffee Mugs? Travel Mugs ?

Lanyards ? Magnets ? Key chains ?

Pens ? Pencils? Other ideas?

??????

We need your thoughts and ideas **by 9/20/15**. Please **Contact Sue Neal** by texting or calling 727-259-3129 or emailing @ sneal@sonbeamvdc.org.

Continued on page 3

Pre-VdC – David Lind

The teams have been meeting & are preparing for weekend #65. Now we need now lots of candidates. Four have expressed interest, but no firm commitments yet.

I can guarantee you that neither Rector Dan nor Rectora Joy want to just fill the room with people. They are looking for good, strong candidates. So, what makes a good, strong candidate?

First, a good candidate is someone God puts on your heart. For those of you that just made your weekend, it is tempting to run through the list of people you know and come up with a sizable list of all the people that you know *just HAVE* to experience a weekend like yours.

Not everyone will experience a weekend the same way you did. I felt that way and sent a couple of people through the VdC weekend experience and it doesn't seem they received it with as much joy and excitement as I did. I have sent others through after much prayer and the response was much different. So make sure that those names you have thought about are also prayed about!

Second, a good candidate is someone who already has a strong relationship with Christ. This is a person where you can see God using them to minister to others in their circle.

For a strong, seasoned Christian the VdC weekend can be a blessing, for a new Christian, it can be quite overwhelming.

Please keep these two things in mind as you consider who God is asking you to sponsor for the coming weekend.

**Local Palanca –
Clo Molloy & Shirley Phillips**

Sign-up Sheets for Palanca Donations for Fall weekends have been provided for team members to sign up. Teams, please fill them up.

Sign-up Sheets will also be available at our Ultreyas. Your donations are needed and appreciated.

Be thinking about Palanca items you or your Reunion Groups can provide for the Candidates. Ideas will be on display at Ultreyas. These little items given at the weekends are very meaningful to the candidates.

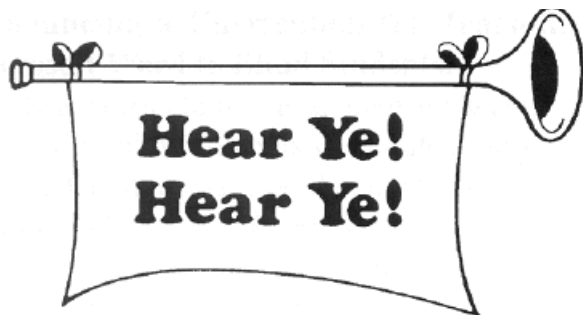
Remember Prayer is the most important Palanca of all. Please pray for the team members and the candidates already registered. Pray that Community members will pray about who they can sponsor and then follow through with those that God puts on their hearts.

Leaders – Leslie LeFleur

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Workshops, so be sure to:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS –
DON'T MISS THIS!**

**Fall Leaders Workshop
Saturday, September 26, 2015
Time: 8:30 AM TO 1 PM
Location: 1st United Methodist of PP
9025 49th Street North, PP**



How do *YOU* prefer to *HEAR* from your VdC community? We are conducting a poll to find out what *YOU* want!

Do you want to receive prayer needs, news and information via Email; VdC Website; Facebook; or Phone?

Please make your preferences known by emailing, calling, texting or writing to:
Sue Neal, At large

Phone: 727-259-3129
Email: sneal@Sonbeamvdc.org
Mail: 3073 Oaklawn Av. #B
Largo, FL 33771

**Make Your
Preferences Known!
Respond by Sept. 20th**

Find us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/groups/sonbeamvdc



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September/October, 2015

9/20/15 – DEADLINES FOR POLLS

How you want to communicate with VdC?
Preferences on Logo fundraiser items?

09/26/15 – LEADER'S WORKSHOP

Saturday 8:30 am to 1pm

First United Methodist of Pinellas Park
9025 49th Street, Pinellas Park, 33782

10/03/15 – ULTREYA & TEAM COMMISSIONING

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
705 Michigan Avenue, Palm Harbor, FL

- Secretariat meets @ 2pm
- Dinner @ 5pm [bring dish to share]

11/12/15 – MEN'S WEEKEND #65

Rotary Camp, Brandon, FL

- Set up – Thursday @ 9 am
- Serenade – Saturday @ 6 pm
- Closing – Sunday @ 4:30 pm
@ Apostles Lutheran Church

11/19/15 – WOMEN'S WEEKEND #65

Rotary Camp, Brandon, FL

- Set up – 9 am Thursday
- Serenade – 6 pm Saturday
- Closing – 4:30 pm Sunday
@ Apostles Lutheran Church

12/05/15 – POST ULTREYA [Location TBD]

- Secretariat Meets @ 2 pm
- Tables meet – 4 pm
- Dinner – 5 pm [bring a dish to share]

02/06/16 - VDC FUNDRAISER

"Spaghetti Dinner"

Tickets available at Post Ultreya

Sonbeam VdC Weekends #65



“She Did What She Could” ... Mark 14:8

Five words of Jesus that will challenge your life

Dear VdC Sisters and Brothers,
Words cannot express the comfort I felt in the assurance God gave to me to answer the call to be the next Rectora. I am both humbled and excited to accept the challenge and covet all your prayers for these coming weekends.

God has assembled a joyous team to assist in the work before us. Our core team is willing and able to carry out each assignment. They include: Carol Brandt (my daughter), Head Cha; Katherina Crowder, Assistant Head Cha; Janice Todd, Head Computer Cha; Barbara Kearns, Head Prayer Cha; Ellen McConnell, Head Music Cha; Pastor Jerry Straszheim, Head Spiritual Director and last, but most certainly not least, my dear reunion sister and mentor Shirley Phillips as Backup Rectora.

Our verse is clearly a voice from God -- *“She did what she could”*. We are all challenged to do something to advance His kingdom. We usually think it must be something big when really it is the small things that we do that show the face of Jesus, a smile, a touch or a word.

Let us all move forward with confidence that if we do what we can, with love, we will be a blessing to others and bring pleasure to our Lord. God loves you and so do I. *Joy Feininger, Rectora #65*

“The Lord is my Rock , my fortress, my Deliverer.” Psalm 18:2

God’s Holy Spirit & 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.

God has given me great success in assembling his team of Godly men to give me His guidance and direction, ready to serve in any capacity to do what is needed 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

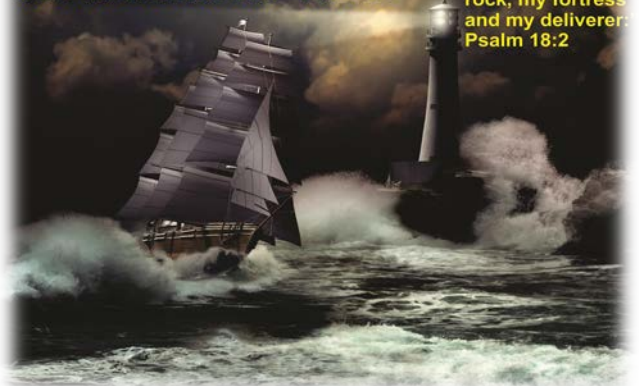
Head Prayer Cha Jim McConnell Sr.

Head Computer Cha Jerry Brown

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. Under His love, by His mercy and living in His Grace, **Dan Johansen, Rector #65**

Men's VdC #65 Nov. 12th - 15th 2015

**“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.”
Psalm 18:2**



ATTITUDE

A Timely Word From Our Spiritual Director

Have you ever asked yourself who in the Bible am I most like? Oh, I've always **wanted** to be like Jesus, but a lot of the time, I end up being like Jonah, going in the opposite direction from the one God has asked me to go. Can God accomplish what he wants even though I am being rebellious? Who gets the rewards when God works through the rebellious servant? Us or the recipients? God saved Ninevah through Jonah's efforts but Jonah remained a bitter servant.

We know from reading Paul that even a rebellious spirit has the opportunity to turn his/her life around. Paul, like Jonah, wanted the enemies of God to die. As a powerful leader in the Sanhedrin, he spent much of his young life working towards that end until he had an encounter with Jesus. Despite all of his personal resources and how he viewed his service, he found that his attitude and service was not what God wanted. God rewarded Paul's spiritual blindness with actual blindness. If Paul was going to actually be a servant of God, he needed to learn a new way of going about it.

As Paul Harvey used to say, "and here's the rest of the story..." Paul's life was **transformed!** Up until that moment, **his** attitude directed his life of service, but now it was **God's** attitude that was of primary importance. Paul experienced firsthand what being really obedient to God did for his acts of service. Obedience became his goal and his lifestyle. No longer was he settling for asking God for forgiveness for any mistakes he made along the way, but rather seeing the road God had laid before him and walking, even running down it. You don't make mistakes when you keep your eyes on God!

Are you like Jonah or like Paul? Do you focus on asking forgiveness or running the course laid out before you? Is your life of service one that is filled with the peace that passes all earthly understanding, or not so much? As leaders called by God into the service of Jesus, our wills need transformation. Via de Cristo – the Way of Christ – asks its leaders to model transformation to candidates and to each other. Let's remember that it's not our way but HIS that should be our goal.

God loves you and so do I.
Pastor John Foster



CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

SONBEAM VIA DE CRISTO

P.O. Box 2582, Pinellas Park, FL 33780 – 2582

Date Submitted _____

FOR PRE VIA DE CRISTO USE ONLY

Form Received	____/____/____	Weekend #	_____
Date of Letter	____/____/____	Master ID #	_____
Registration Fee Paid	____/____/____	Check #	_____
Candidate Fee Paid	____/____/____	Check #	_____
Reviewer	_____	____/____/____	_____

Please Type or Print Clearly - Complete All Information – Remember to Sign this Form

Candidate's Name: _____ **Preferred First Name** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Age _____

Candidate's E-Mail: address: _____

Occupation _____ Cell Ph #: (____) _____ Home Phone #: (____) _____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed Number of Children _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse made a weekend? ☐ No ☐ Yes Weekend # _____

Candidate's Place of Worship: _____

Via de Cristo Information: The Via de Cristo Weekend is an intense three-day experience that utilizes modern group techniques to bring the BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN into renewed relationship with fellow Christians, the Church and Christ. It can be physically and emotionally tiring. If you have a physical infirmity or an emotional problem for which you have had or are now undergoing treatment, Via de Cristo may not be for you at this time. Please consider this carefully before submitting a registration. Discuss this with your pastor or sponsor. If you cannot attend the weekend for which you have registered, please advise your sponsor as soon as possible.

Speak with your sponsor about the cost of this weekend. At the conclusion of your weekend, you will have the opportunity to make the Via de Cristo experience possible for someone else on a future weekend.

PLEASE NOTE: You need to be at least 18 years of age to make a Via de Cristo weekend. Persons who are younger than 18 years old are encouraged to attend a Chrystalis weekend. Details can be obtained at www.heartofsuncoastchrystalis.org

In order for us to make your weekend as comfortable as possible, please note the following: (Use back of form if needed)

Impairment of vision, hearing or speech: _____ ☐ See back of form

Medical dietary attention you may require during the weekend: _____ ☐ See back of form

List any physical disability or condition for which special assistance or service will be needed: _____ ☐ See back of form

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR SPONSOR

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Pastor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor's Printed Name _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Candidate's Emergency Contact: Name _____

Relationship: _____ **Cell Ph #** (____) _____ **Phone #** (____) _____

SPONSOR COMMITMENT FORM
SONBEAM VIA DE CRISTO
P.O. Box 2582 Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2582

Please Type or Print Clearly—Complete All Information—Remember to Sign this Form

Date _____

Candidate's Name: _____ **Preferred first name:** _____

Sponsor's Name: _____ **Phone #:** (____) _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Cell Ph #:** (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Sponsor made Sonbeam Via de Cristo Weekend # _____ OR another Weekend _____

Are you in a Reunion, Accountability, or Small Group? ☐ Yes ☐ No - Name of Group _____

How long have you known your candidate? _____ Please list the Servant activities in which your candidate participates. Remember, this weekend's purpose is to train Christians to be more effective in their Home Church or Mission field: _____

As a Sponsor I Understand My Commitments to My Candidate Are:

- To explain the weekend, including post weekend activities.
- To personally escort my candidate to the camp at 6:50 pm for the opening program at 7:00pm and to deliver his/her luggage to the appropriate location for its dispersal. It is suggested you treat your candidate to dinner prior to arrival.
- To actively participate in support of my candidate's weekend with prayer.
- To be present during my candidate's weekend for prayer and working behind the scenes.
- To [obtain personal letters](#) from my candidate's spouse, family and friends, ensuring that all letters are appropriately labeled and delivered to the weekend site no later than 8 pm on Saturday evening.
- To take my candidate from camp at 3:45 pm to the closing service for the weekend (4:30 pm) and after the closing service, to return my candidate to his/her home.
- To immediately notify the Pre-Via de Cristo chairperson if my candidate is unable to attend for any reason.
- **To be responsible for seeing that my candidate becomes active in a reunion group.**
- **To follow-up on my candidate's involvement in VDC activities for at least one year.**
- To assist in paying the \$125 fee. \$75 is due with the candidate registration form and the \$50 balance is due Thursday, two weeks prior to the weekend beginning date.

I have read and agree to these commitments _____

Sponsor's Signature

Check one below:

___ You can pay in full now **OR** ___ You can pay at a team meeting or Ultreya **OR** ___ You can pay the total over time.

Some scholarship money may be available. All requests must be made to the Treasurer.

Candidates need to be 18 years of age to attend a Sonbeam VDC weekend. Please sponsor them for *Chrysalis* if they are under the age of 18(www.heartofsuncoastchrysalis.org). Please also carefully consider the maturity level of those that are of age 18-21 and whether or not they will enjoy a 3 day retreat with mostly older people.

- (1) Send the completed Candidate Registration Form with the three required signatures, your signed Sponsor Commitment Form and a \$75 check to Pre-Via de Cristo at Sonbeam Via de Cristo, P.O. Box 2582 Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2582.
- (2) Be sure to inform your candidate of the date for the weekend Post Ultreya so he/she can save the date now!
- (3) All signatures and the registration fee are required before your candidate's enrollment will be processed.

WITH HIS HELP, I WILL BE A GODLY SPONSOR _____ **Date** _____

Sponsor's Signature required

Secretariat & Staff

Lay Director

Michael Marquart
mmarquart@sonbeamvdc.org

Asst Lay Director

Steve Colkmire
scolkmire@sonbeamvdc.org

Secretary

Lynn Conlen
lconlen@sonbeamvdc.org

Treasurer

Bobbi Lind
blind@sonbeamvdc.org

Pre-VdC

David Lind
dlind@sonbeamvdc.org

Post VdC

Christy Wilson
cwilson@sonbeamvdc.org

Communications

Sue Miller-Cinelli
scinelli@sonbeamvdc.org

Outreach

Chris Klafs
cklafs@sonbeamvdc.org

Leaders

Leslie LeFleur
llefleur@sonbeamvdc.org

Physical Arrangements

Vacant Position

Purchasing Agent

Jerry Brown
jbrown@sonbeamvdc.org

Local Palanca

Clo Malloy
cmalloy@sonbeamvdc.org
Shirley Phillips
sphilips@sonbeamvdc.org

Extended Palanca

Dana Marquart
dmarquart@sonbeamvdc.org

PrayerLine Coordinator

Vacant Position

At - Large

Katherina Crowder
kcrowder@sonbeamvdc.org
Adriana Lee
alee@sonbeamvdc.org

At - Large

Sue Neal
sneal@sonbeamvdc.org

Spiritual Directors

Pastor Jerry Straszheim (Head)
jstraszheim@sonbeamvdc.org

Pastor John Foster
johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org

Pastor Richard White
rwhite@sonbeamvdc.org

Newsletter Editor

Karen Allen

Webmaster

Mike Schreiner
mschreiner@sonbeamvdc.org

An open letter to my Sponsor

Thank you for praying about asking me to be a candidate on the Via de Cristo weekend. I have decided to trust you and I agree to attend. What's next?

To me a retreat may mean a time for relaxation and quiet time alone. Please tell me it is a structured weekend. Make sure to tell me about the fun we will have. You seem really happy when you talk about this retreat, tell me what made it so special for you.

Help me with the candidate application. I have completed my part, however, I would appreciate you looking it over.

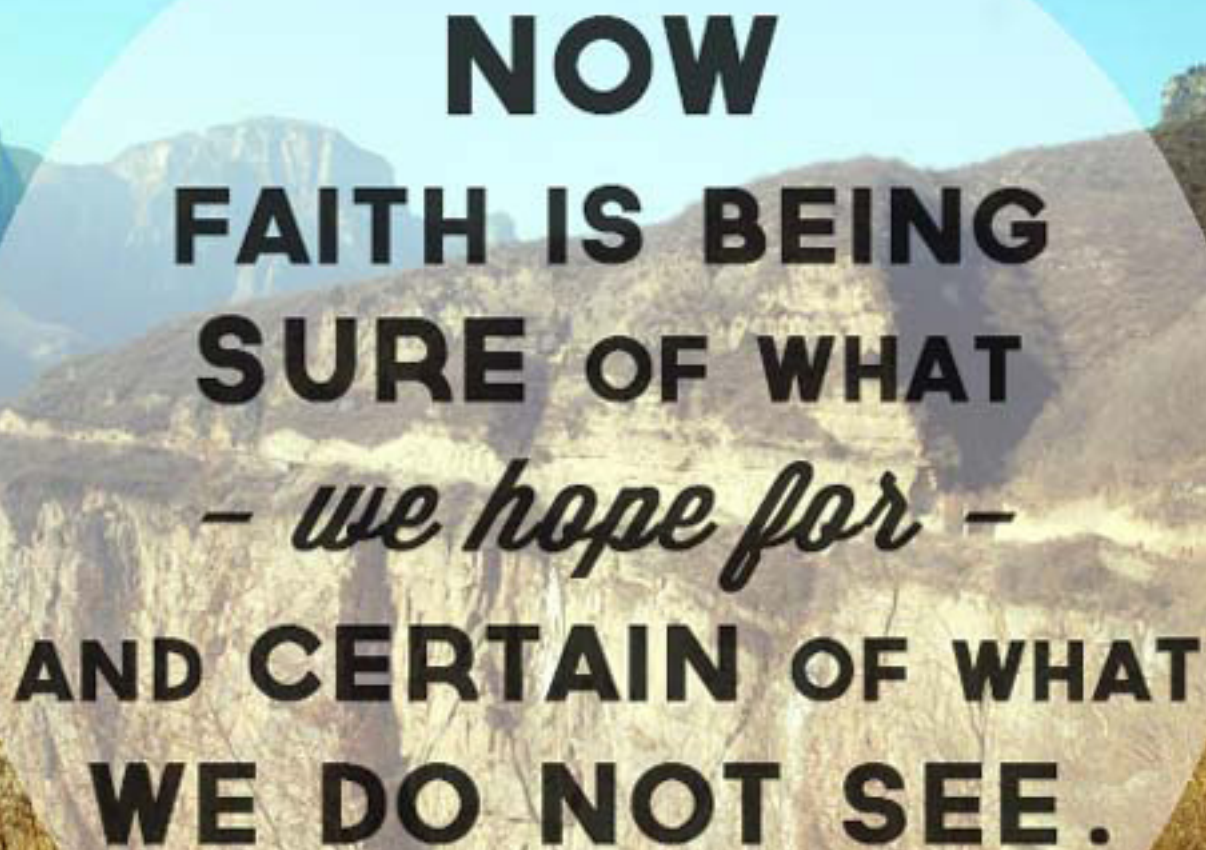
Sponsor, you know the 'set up' of the camp. Tell me there are bunk beds and that others are in the cabin with me. I may be perfectly happy on the top bunk, or I may need a bottom bunk. If I don't know about the bunk beds, I sure will not know to tell you of my needs. Sleeping with a breathing machine is second nature to me, so I may forget to mention I have a c-pap machine. If you know that is how I get a good night of sleep, would you please add that to my candidate application?

Thanks friend, for the invitation. I look forward to spending some very special time away with the Lord and making new friends. I am grateful you invited me!

Your grateful candidate.

[Submitted by Kristin Beiler, Rectora #64]

For
God
so
loved
the world
that he gave his only begotten
son so that whosoever believeth
in him
shall
not
perish
but
have
eternal
life
John 3:16



**NOW
FAITH IS BEING
SURE OF WHAT
- *we hope for* -
AND CERTAIN OF WHAT
WE DO NOT SEE.**

Hebrews 11:1

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.

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

<http://www.sonbeamvdc.org>

**This Newsletter and its contents are
©copyrighted: SONBEAM VDC, INC. 2014**