

# SONBEAM

*Via de Cristo Newsletter*

Volume 38, Issue #1

January - March 2017

## Who We Are and What We Stand For

As the new Lay Director of Sonbeam Via de Cristo, the first thing I wanted to do was to better understand who we were and what we stood for.

During my weekend #45 I felt the love of Christ and received a better understanding of what Grace was. I felt the love of Christ from all of the team. I felt connected from the beginning and have been blessed to be on many teams. VDC is a true family to me.

We have over 50 different Churches represented in our movement, including Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of God, Baptist, Episcopal and more. Different denominations may have different doctrines and different interpretations on what the Bible says. We generally go to Churches that most closely match our beliefs and how we interpret the Bible.

I believe that Christ was born, Christ died, Christ has risen, and that we are saved

by Grace. In all the denominations mentioned above, Christ is the center of their faith. There are some churches who believe they have all the answers and if you do not accept their doctrines then you are lost. I worship a loving and forgiving God, that loves despite my sinful ways. I strive to be Christ like in all things that I do but that does not mean that I always succeed.

When I was about 15 one of my Pastor's sermons was: **"If you woke up tomorrow morning and it was against the law to be a Christian could they find enough evidence to convict you?"**

I am sorry to say going to Church on Sunday morning for an hour is only circumstantial evidence. What do you do the other 6 days and 23 Hours? How do you treat your neighbor, how do you treat and act around the people that you work with? How do you treat the people that you are in contact with

*(Continued on page 2)*

**"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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in your daily comings and goings? When people see you, do they see Christ in you?

In one of the talks on a weekend, a team member said that he always read his Bible on lunch break. One day while he was eating lunch one of his co-workers came over to him and asked if he could talk to him about a problem he was having. He said that he

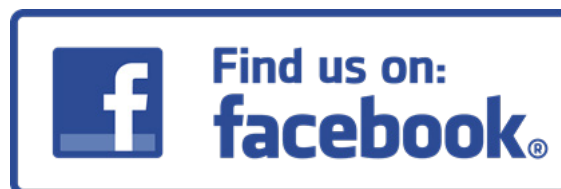
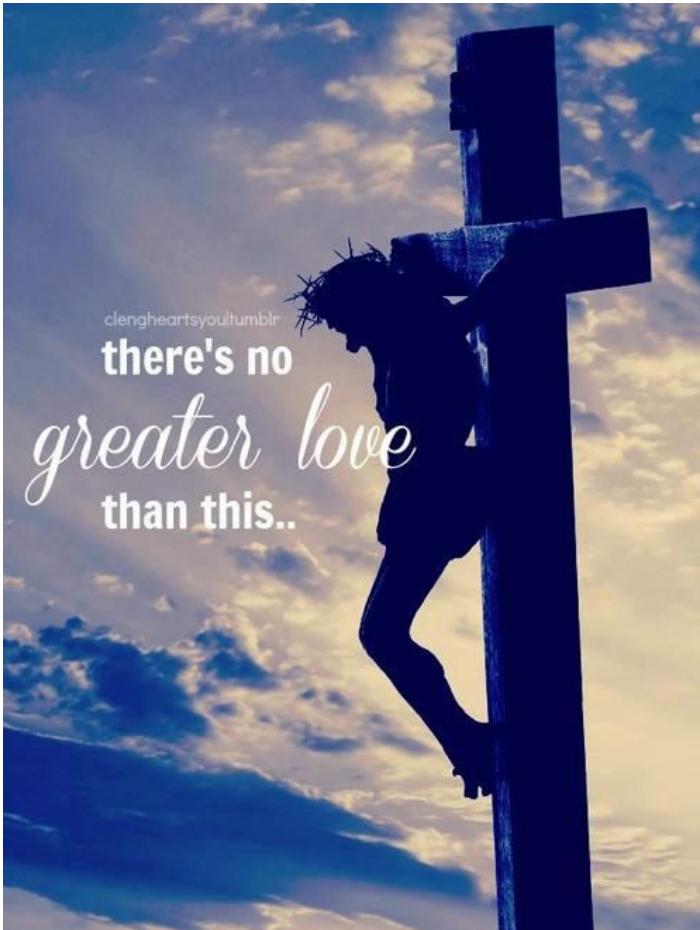
had been watching him for some time and perceived him to be a Christian. To me, for someone to say that they perceive me to be a Christian would be the greatest compliment I could ever get. The world is watching us, what message are we sending out?

To me being a Christian is 24 x7 and is a verb not a noun. To me being a Christian is something that you do, not something that you are. Francis of Assisi is said to have said, **“Preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words.”**

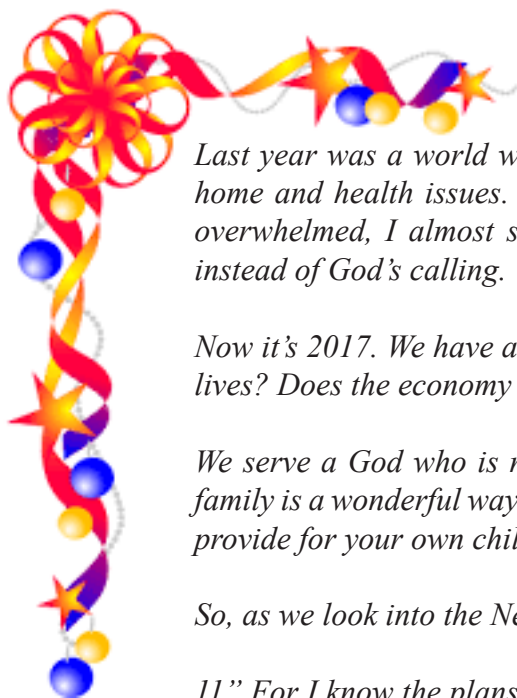
This is what I see in Sonbeam Via de Cristo, that we love and accept everyone coming for the weekend as they are and for who they are. We are to show the unconditional love of Christ and the Grace that we are so blessed with. They should see Christ in us. We need to remember that **we** cannot and do not fix or save anyone. Christ does all the work, we are just the tools that He sometimes uses.

I do not know everything and do not claim to have all the answers, but I do pray to God for guidance’s continually.

All things thru Christ our Lord,  
Tom Henderson, Lay Director  
Weekend #45



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



## A New Year and More Promise

*Last year was a world wind year for me. Business was unpredictable, we had a crazy election year, home and health issues. On top of all this, God called me to be the Rector of weekend 67. Feeling overwhelmed, I almost said no. What a blessing I would've thrown away had I chosen my needs, instead of God's calling.*

*Now it's 2017. We have a new president and more uncertainty. Does any of this determine my life, our lives? Does the economy dictate our happiness and joy? Or does our sovereign Father rule?*

*We serve a God who is not only Almighty, but He's our Father as well! And being a member of the family is a wonderful way to live. Think about it. Which of you would not move mountains to protect and provide for your own children? How much better it is when your Father OWNS the mountain?*

*So, as we look into the New Year, always remember what God says to you in Jeremiah 29:11.*

*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."*

*When you live by this truth, fear loses, boldness takes hold and promises abound.*

*JLYASDI!  
Eddie Velez,*

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## Women's Weekend # 67 Wrap Up

*Women's Weekend # 67 was "The Best" weekend ever!*

*I say that because every weekend is "The Best", as they each are unique and very special.*

*17 sisters in Christ came to experience the Grace of God in many new and refreshing ways. From the feedback I have received all were blessed with transformed lives in some way! The Holy Spirit was working from early Friday morning to bind those tables groups together. What a joy to see why He had chosen each Rollista to give her particular talk and the tables that He created.*

*The team was absolutely amazing as we overcame many obstacles throughout the team formation and in the final days before the weekend. God had all of us in the palm of His hand the whole time preparing each of us for service.*

*Community support was fair at best and I am grateful for each one who made the sacrifice to come out and serve, especially the men who came to Serenade on Saturday night.*

*The closing is always such a blessing as the candidates share from their hearts what Jesus means to them and how they grew closer to Jesus over the weekend. Weekend #67 transformed us to return to serving our Lord as Princess Warriors, armed and ready to be used by our Lord of Lords and King of Kings!*

*To God be the Glory!  
Old Rec Ruthie McConnell  
Romans 12:2*



## SECRETARIAT & STAFF

### Lay Director

Tom Henderson  
[thenderson@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:thenderson@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Asst. Lay Director

Jim Ryan  
[jryan@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:jryan@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Secretary

Lynn Conlen  
[lconlen@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:lconlen@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Treasurer

Bobbi Lind  
[blind@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:blind@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Pre VdC

David Lind  
[dlind@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:dlind@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Post VdC

Vacant Position

### Communications

Sue Miller-Cinelli  
[scinelli@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:scinelli@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Outreach

Chris Klafs  
[cklafs@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:cklafs@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Leaders

Leslie Le Fleur  
[llefleur@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:llefleur@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Physical Arrangements

Ricky Neal, Ray Stitchler, Daniel Galbreath  
[rneal@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:rneal@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Purchasing Agent

Jerry Brown  
[jbrown@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:jbrown@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Local Palanca

Denise Bentley  
[dbentley@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:dbentley@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Extended Palanca

Kimberly Stauder  
[kstauder@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:kstauder@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Prayer Line Coordinator

Wendy Kinka  
[wkinka@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:wkinka@sonbeamvdc.org)

### At-Large

At-Large  
Vacant Positions

### Spiritual Directors

Pastor John Foster  
[johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org)

Pastor Richard White  
[rwhite@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:rwhite@sonbeamvdc.org)

Pastor Mary Ashcraft  
[mashcraft@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:mashcraft@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Karen Allen

### Webmaster

Michael Schreiner  
[mschreiner@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:mschreiner@sonbeamvdc.org)



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JANUARY – MARCH, 2017

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017 @ 10 AM**

#### COMMUNITY & SECRETARIAT WORKSHOP

Seabreeze Church

10321 75<sup>th</sup> Street

Largo, FL

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017 @ 5 PM**

#### ULTREYA

**Secretariat meeting @ 2 PM**

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

812 E. Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

**SATURDAY, March (TBD), 2017 @ 5 PM**

#### ULTREYA

**Secretariat Meeting @ 2 PM**

St. David's Episcopal Church

145 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803

**MARCH 1, 2017**

**DEADLINE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**APRIL – JUNE, 2017 NEWSLETTER**

**FALL WEEKENDS #68**

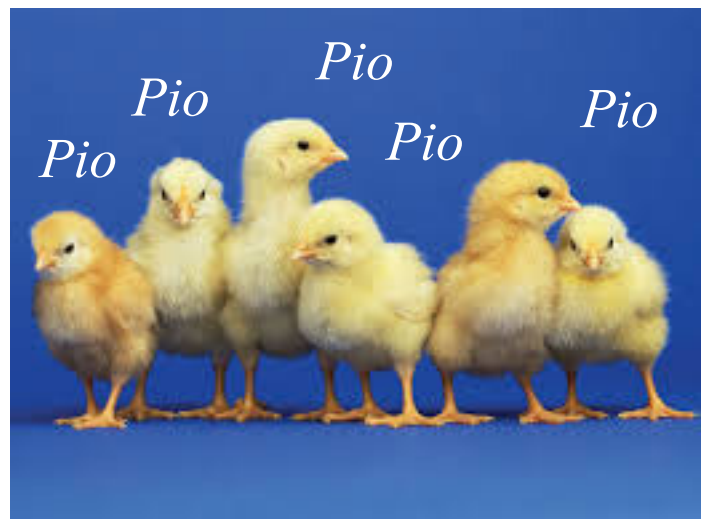
**Men – November 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>**

Rector – Jimmy Ashcraft

**Women – November 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

Rectora – Chris Klafs

*Welcome to all new Babe Chicks!*





# WORDS FROM A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

## Preparations

Don'tcha just love those times when we get together for some kind of celebration? We surround ourselves with family and friends, either play games or watch a game on television, and just enjoy each other. There's usually some good food involved – sometimes someone cooks the entire meal and sometimes everyone brings a dish. My wife and I were in a couple's reunion group once that would have a group celebration at Christmas, full of food and good times and lots of happy memories.

As I write this, we will be getting together as a community this evening at a post Ultreya. Tables of new cursillistas will be getting together and remembering the weekend they just made and interacting with some of the team that helped to make their weekend special. Immediately following the post meeting is the ultreya where our new cursillistas meet the community and are absorbed into our larger family. The evening will be filled with laughter, food, song and sharing! What could be simpler? What could be more fulfilling?

For those who are in charge of hosting the Ultreya, they knew that their work of planning and getting the rooms ready for all this fun started much earlier than the morning of the Ultreya. Plans had to be made, keys gotten to unlock doors, helpers to setup chairs and tables – lots of details! Preparing for a weekend?!? WOW!!! Five to six months are needed to get ready for 3½ days and close to 80 people (or more). Teams called and trained, talks written, prayers prayed, palanca gathered and prayed over, letters written, schedules made...

Why do we do all of this? Why don't we just show up and throw it together at the last minute? Can't we just kinda rough out the preparations and let whatever happens happen? Won't the Holy Spirit make sure that everything necessary gets done?

*<sup>30</sup> Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, <sup>31</sup> Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And having my delight in the sons of men. <sup>32</sup> "Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup> "Heed instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. <sup>34</sup> "Blessed is the man who listens to me"*  
(Proverbs 8:30-34a NASB)

All through the Bible we see the Lord's preparations – He never was caught off guard by circumstances, but was ready *"in season and out."* He commanded us to go to all nations, *<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Mat 28:20 NASB) We are commanded to be like Jesus, perfect in our preparations to all peoples, male and female, and to remember that He is with us always, ready to lend a helping hand.

Let us remember that as His representatives, we want His training to go as well as we remembered our weekend to have gone. We want our level of work to be as if the Lord Himself did it – perfect in every way! We want our times of celebrations to be just as special as the best ones we remember.

*Pastor John Foster*  
Spiritual Director



# The Secretariat reports:

## Recording Secretary – Lynn Conlen

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10*

We are still seeking individuals to serve on Secretariat to fill vacant positions. Now is the opportune time to experience the inner workings of the Board and be an integral part of an organization that touches so many lives.

There are **two “At-Large” positions open** for those who might be willing to help wherever there is a need. While most of the Secretariat positions have defined responsibilities, an “At-Large” person helps and assists as needs arise and you are able. It is an ideal way to put your foot in the water without fear of drowning.

**Another vacant position is “Post VdC”.** This person’s main responsibility is to arrange the location site for weekend closings (two local Brandon churches are currently participating) and to oversee the location and coordination for each Ultreya. While this may appear to be an overwhelming task, once a church agrees to host an Ultreya, you simply work with a member from that church who coordinates the potluck, babysitting and worship service with help from other members of the church and the VdC community.

Consider praying about serving in this way and if God leads you, contact me or one of the Secretariat members about your interest or if you have any questions.

## Treasurer - Bobbi Lind

Ever wonder where your sponsor money or team fees go? What about Green Palanca? Any idea how the money received gets disbursed? Glad you asked! Almost 70% of the team and candidate fees goes to paying Rotary Camp Florida for the use of the facility. Most of the remaining 30% goes to food and supplies for the weekend. Now, as those who have served on a team know, we also collect donations for specific weekend palanca (e.g. bacon, orange, juice, Rollo room roses). These donations help offset the food and supplies costs.

In addition, many give general, or green palanca, to be used wherever needed. These funds go toward music licensing fees, liability insurance, Ultreya supplies, host church gifts, and newsletter expenses. Each of these are important in their own way.

God has been very gracious and enabled us pay all the weekend expenses for Men’s and Women’s

Weekends #67 and have a healthy balance remaining in the checking account to allow us to continue to introduce others to our wonderful community.

In the coming months, I ask that you consider adding a little extra to the green palanca baskets or to team or sponsorship checks to keep our local movement fiscally healthy. Remember, we are a not-for profit, 501C3, organization so additional donations are tax deductible.

## Outreach – Chris Klafs

Our flyer states the focus of the Via De Cristo Movement is not on itself but on the local church. It is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members to demonstrate and represent Christ in their homes, churches and community.

I would love to reach as many churches as I can to show and tell about our wonderful VdC family. The next weekend will be in the Fall with wonderful sponsors who will be a friend and bring a friend to Christ and then on to VdC when it is time. Please be in touch with me. In His love and service, Chris #24

## Extended Palanca – Kimberly Stauder

It blesses me to serve Sonbeam Via de Cristo of Tampa Bay as your Extended Palanca Coordinator! I like reaching out to other three day communities worldwide--providing our prayer palanca posters for their weekends and letting them know of our scheduled weekends---which is almost always reciprocated. Other coordinators are joyful, kind and very receptive. Here are a couple of links in case you want to get a jump-start praying for other communities once the New Year kicks in: <http://www.viadecristo.org/links/links.php> and <http://www.3dayol.org/>. Thank you.

## Pre VdC – David Lind

Weekends #67 are in the books. Thanksgiving and Christmas are past and we are now beginning a new year. At our last meeting in December, the Secretariat voted to postpone Weekends #68 until the fall allowing us to regroup.

Due to the new contract restrictions imposed by Rotary Camp Florida, we can’t afford to wait until the last minute to see if we have enough candidates to move forward. We need to know well in advance. So, I am asking you to start today to prayerfully consider who you will ask to be a new candidate for Weekends #68.

We really need to know if we have enough candidates, not 2 weeks out, but 90 days out. That means

*(Continued on page 7)*

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instead of the end of October, we need to know we have enough candidates by **August 1<sup>st</sup>**!

This means invites need to go out soon. While it may seem early to us, it helps everyone. I know several people I have asked to attend the weekend have said they need a longer notice to get the time off.

I am sure God has already placed someone on your heart to ask. Don't hesitate or procrastinate to ask that man to attend November 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> or that woman to attend November 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Let's not get by with a goal to have enough to have a weekend, let's set a goal to have so many signed up, we need to have a waiting list!

#### **Leaders – Leslie LaFleur**

- Assisting John Foster in calling members of the community to update Reunion Group status and current members.
- VdC joint Community and Secretariat brainstorming workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 10 am at Seabreeze Church, Largo, to explore ways to increase community involvement to ensure the future of Sonbeam VdC.

#### **Local Palanca – Denise Bentley**

New palanca sheets will be available at Ultreyas. Wendy Kinka (Prayer Line) and I are Coordinating to ensure the accuracy of prayer palanca.

#### **Physical Arrangements – Ricky Neal**

Thank you to Larry Hendry, Daniel and Tyler Galbreath, and everyone who helped set up and tear down on Weekends #67.

#### **Prayer Line Coordinator – Wendy Kinka**

Prayer requests being posted on Facebook and Yahoo groups as well as phone calls to those without computers.

#### **Purchasing – Jerry Brown**

Another set of weekends are completed. Still looking for someone to step up and learn the purchasing position duties while I am still able to do it and train someone.

#### **Communications – Sue Miller-Cinelli**

- **Data Base – John Foster:** Data base has been brought up-to-date and reports sent to Weekend #67 Rector and Rectora.
- Reunion Groups are being centralized from Post VdC to data base. Only OPEN groups will be published.

# Announcing.....



**SECRETARIAT NEEDS YOU  
POSITIONS VACANT:  
POST VDC  
AT-LARGE (2)**

**Happy  
New Year!**



**BRAINSTORMING SESSION  
SECRETARIAT & COMMUNITY**

**JANUARY 21, 2017 AT 10:00 AM  
SEABREEZE CHURCH  
10321 75TH STREET  
LARGO, FL**

THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES, BUT THE

# WORD OF OUR GOD STANDS FOREVER

Isaiah 40:8

**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 four (4) 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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