

# SONBEAM

*Via de Cristo Newsletter*

Volume 38, Issue #3

July - September 2017

## The Heart of a Servant

In today's world taking care of our family needs, work, relaxing after work, watching the ball game on tv and getting the kids to all of their events it is hard to find time to be a servant. The thing about life is that we find time to do the things that we really want to do. By looking at the time we spend on the things that we do we find out where our real priorities are.

We as Christians sometimes, **instead of being Christ centered**, get so wrapped up in the world that it is hard to find time to fit Christ in to our schedule. We have the attitude that we are here to be ministered to rather than to be equipped for ministry. There is no question that if we as Christians are going to grow and mature into Christ-like character, we must experience progress in giving of ourselves in ministry to and for others.

Christ's plan and that which produces maximum blessing to the world and the church is servanthood. Servant living stands opposed to the primary concerns we see today where the focus of our culture and society is more on our own personal happiness and comfort. Simply put, our modern day society, and this includes a great number of Christians, is focused on making self-satisfaction its goal and indeed its religion. There is much more concern for self-fulfillment than for pleasing God and truly serving Him and others as seen in the life of Jesus.

The reason we have our weekends at VDC is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities. Piety, Study and Action are the three legs of the tripod that is the foundation of our weekend. Within the 72 hours of the VDC weekend we hope to open the hearts to a more Christ like life and to be a better servant of our living Christ through servanthood.

*(Continued on next page)*

One way to be a servant in VDC is to serve on Secretariat. At our Annual Meeting in September we will be electing chairs for 10 open positions: Treasurer, 2-At Large, Communications, Leaders, Outreach, Pre-VDC, Post-VDC, Prayer Line Coordinator and Purchasing Agent.

To find the Roles and Responsibilities of these Positions go to:

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

Click on [About us](#), then click on [Our Handbook](#) then click on [Sonbeam Via de Cristo Handbook \(no addendums\)](#)

As you are led to serve, please submit a short bio outlining your church and community involvement to [thenderson@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:thenderson@sonbeamvdc.org). If you have any questions, please email me.

We at Secretariat hope that all of you will prayerfully consider the call on your heart to be a servant and to help our VDC organization move forward.

Our next Ultreya will be at: Prince of Peace Lutheran church

455 Missouri Avenue

Largo, Fl.

On Saturday July 15

This is across from Largo High School

Secretariat will meet at 2:00 pm

Ultreya will be at 5:00 pm

# ULTREYA

## SECRETARIAT & STAFF

### Lay Director

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### Treasurer

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### Post VdC

Vacant Position

### Communications

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### Outreach

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### Leaders

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### At-Large #1

Vacant Position

### At-Large #2

Vacant Position

### Spiritual Directors

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JULY 15:

Our next Ultreya will be on July 15th at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Avenue, Largo, FL. (located across from Largo High School). Secretariat will meet at 2:00 pm; Ultreya will be a potluck dinner beginning at 5:00 pm with worship service following. We hope that you will be able to join us.

### SEPTEMBER 16:

Our Annual Business Meeting where we will be holding elections is scheduled for September 16th, location to be determined.

### DECEMBER 2:

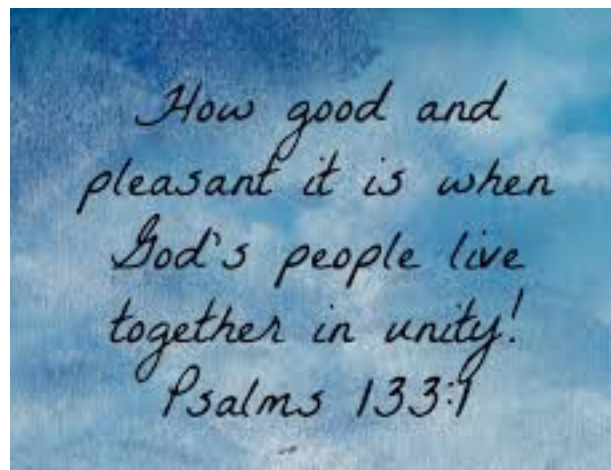
Our post Ultreya will be Saturday December 2nd location to be determined.

## FALL WEEKENDS #68

Men – November 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> - Rector – Jimmy Ashcraft

Women – November 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Rectora – Chris Klafs

Visit [sonbeamvdc.org](http://sonbeamvdc.org) and/or Facebook for additional dates as available.







Devotion on Sabbath time:

As a member of Sonbeam VDC from the very beginning, I feel that this time between weekend 67 and 68, is a time to step back and breathe in God. I have taken some information from “Soul Salsa” by Leonard Sweets.

We as the body of Christ and the Church seem to have been running so hard to get things done that we have lost sight of what these weekends are about. We call it a retreat when we invite folks to come on a weekend, but we know it is not what most people see a retreat to be. It is far more intense, intentional and organized. But our goal is to bring people face to face with Christ.

I think this space between weekends is not wasted space but healing and resting space. It has been a time to look at what caused us to lose our vision and unity. The reason I have been involved so long is because I have taken time away to make sure I was doing this for God and not for me.

I am blessed to always come back with a renewed spirit and joy for what God does in my personal, spiritual life and serving life. Way back in 1989 when I asked my husband Jim to make a weekend, the only reason he said yes, was because he saw the commitment and joy I felt for this movement.

What I have seen lately is lost joy and commitment. So why is this happening???

“The art of Godly living involves how you choose to spend your time. Since time has replaced money as the prime scarcity.” One example they gave from the book was a man who loved sailing and he was building his own boat. Day after day, year after year, he worked on this project. He was 80 years old and when asked why, he said he loved sailing, but when asked when was the last time he sailed there was a long pause ---

“The pilgrim's problem is not one of working too hard. When you are on mission, there is no such thing as getting ahead. You are always behind and working too hard. The pilgrim's problem is not having spaces to recuperate in so his soul can catch up, so that he doesn't leave his soul behind.”

We jumped off running and let our personal feelings separate us from the mission we were called to serve. To bring folks face to face with Christ and then go home and recuperate to revive our souls to serve.

My prayer is that we take this time to see the mission has not changed, the need is still there but we have to take the time to revive and heal our souls. God has not changed who we are, what we are to do, nor how we are to accomplish the goal. We need to go back to the basics of being a team of servants with the mission –Making peace by making friends, being friends, and bringing friends to Christ.

May the peace of Christ abide within all our souls and may this time bring us back to a united group of Christians,

Pastor Mary Ashcraft/JHMUMC

\*\*Items in quotes are from the book\*\*

# Men's Via de Cristo Weekend #68

## November 9-12, 2017

### TRUST AND OBEY

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

WOW! Here we are, the summer of 2017. The Leaders Workshop is behind us and the Weekends are coming up QUICK! Have you asked any one to attend the weekend in November. VDC has spent a time of prayer and reflection, now is the time for ACTION! Pray then act.

I have 80 % of my core team in place. I hope to start core team meetings in August. I will be calling , IM, emailing, and Facebooking the men God has chosen to be on His team. I make lots ( and lots) of mistakes. I would encourage men to call, email, IM , or Facebook me if you would like to make sure I didn't miss you on the list.

God is totally blessing , leading, guiding, and directing my path.

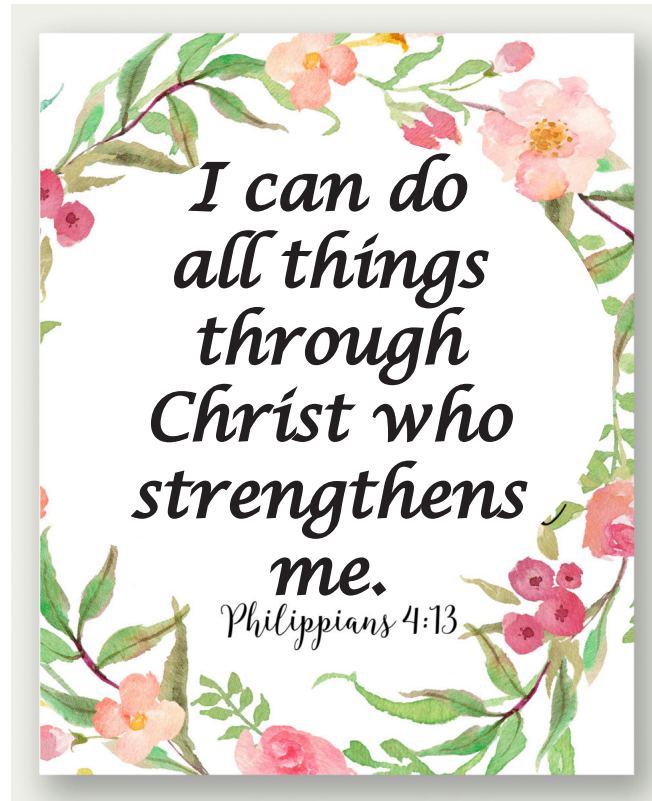
# TRUST AND OBEY

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

# Women's Via de Cristo Weekend #68

## November 16–19, 2017



*Thanks be to God to be even though a bit scary and honored and humbled to be Rectora for November:*

*My verse is Philippians 4:13, New King James Version. (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.)*

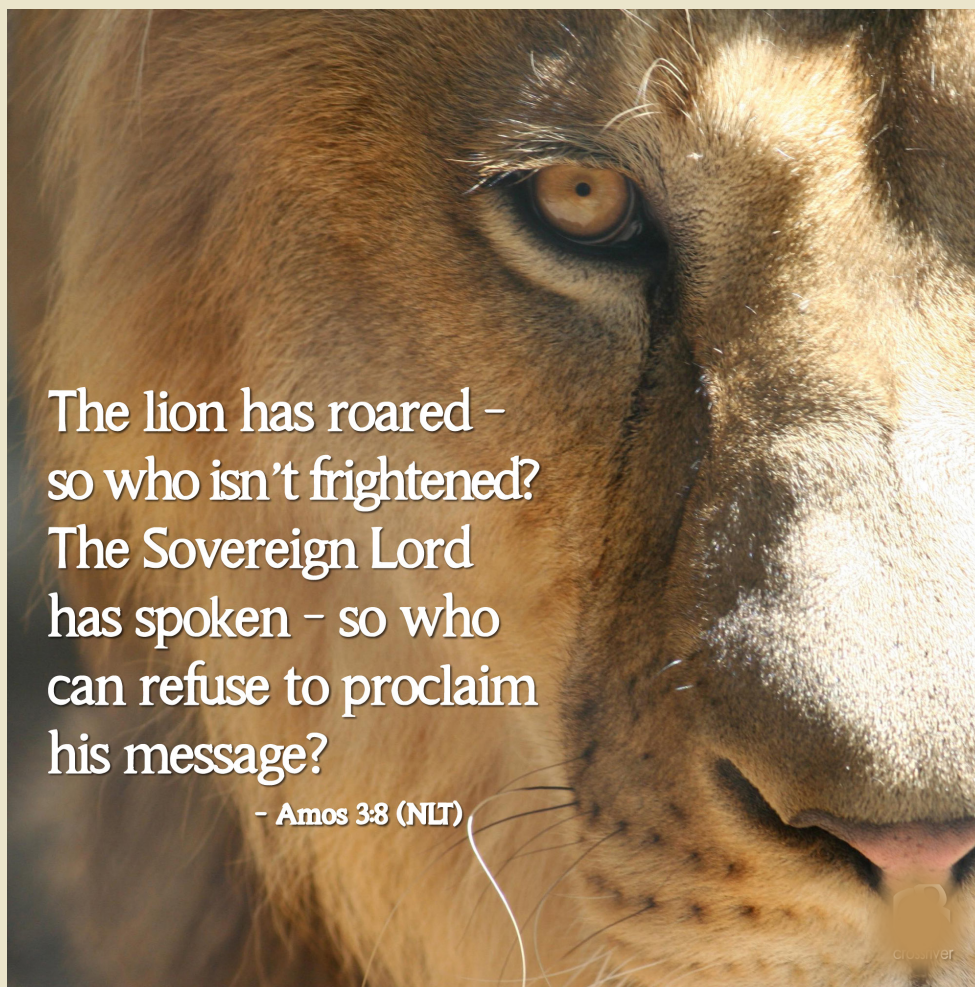
*I am just calling Gods team with His help. When my core team is complete, we will pray that the He will call to this team for Him.*

*Our team meetings will be at Hope Lutheran Church in ST Pete.*

*I believe always God is in Charge! And I pray for all before I call.*

*In His love and service  
Upcoming Rectora  
Chris Klafs*





The lion has roared -  
so who isn't frightened?  
The Sovereign Lord  
has spoken - so who  
can refuse to proclaim  
his message?

- Amos 3:8 (NLT)

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

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

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## 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 3 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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