



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter
Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat

De Colores!

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 2

February 15, 2014

A Message from the Ohio Lay Director Butch Seeley

Dear Via de Cristo Community,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this month's Newsletter you will see Ohio Via de Cristo's ***Five-year Strategic Plan***. The plan is a ***four tier approach***:

TECHNOLOGY

COACHING EFFORTS

WEEKENDS

FINANCIAL

It will take the ***Ohio Via de Cristo Community working together***, empowered by the precious ***Holy Spirit*** to get it done. Won't ***you please join me***; won't you please stand with me and put ***your shoulder to the wheel*** of this ***powerful movement***? Please stand with me and the members of the Secretariat. It will take ***conversation and action***.

The ***Secretariat has taken foundational steps*** on the Five-year Strategic Plan over the last few months and has moved aggressively over the last few days. ***Please join us! By the Grace of God we will move forward.***

Also in this month's newsletter are copies of the ***co-coaches' Mission Focus*** and the State map of the ***seven mission field areas***. You will notice that ***we need co-coaches in some of the areas***. ***Won't you volunteer?*** You will further notice there is an emphasis on Fourth Day activities as well as other focal points.

I want ***to maintain an open discussion with the statewide Community***. It is more fruitful to have open dialogue instead of things festering or matriculating through a rumor mill with half the facts. This is an ***open invitation to the Community to call me with your concerns, ideas, and/or offer of service. (1-800-337-2667)***

We have ***two immediate challenges***, along with others: (Yes, I know the Holy Spirit is in the mix and Yes He will have His way).

Having enough Pilgrims to hold a weekend: considering who should be invited, the number of applicants, essentials, table dynamics, Team-Pilgrim dynamics, expenses, etc.

How weekends are held: considering essentials, the adiaborous, anemic Fourth Day activity, Team calling and preparation, lack of consistent Community support, etc.

Both are equally important; without one, the other ceases to exist as a concern.

This is a call to action! My credo as Lay Director is: ***"A LOT MORE TALK, AND A LOT MORE ACTION!" Prayer, Prayer, Prayer, and action empowered by the Holy Spirit.***

I firmly believe God has a plan to awaken His precious movement in Ohio. I believe He is orchestrating events and people to that purpose. I believe that God wants His movement on fire in Ohio. Christ is counting on us!

We will move forward. To God is all the Glory!

God loves you and so do I!

Warren (Butch) Seeley #28

Lay Director

A Message from Spiritual Director Pastor G. Karl Gaston

(as presented to the VdC Annual Meeting on February 1, 2014)

Knowing Grace/Living Grace

I have been thinking and praying about what to say to you today.

One of the things I've noticed about after dinner speakers is often times they will warm up the audience with some jokes. Here is my attempt.

Lutherans are conditioned by certain liturgical responses. The pastor says a certain phrase and the congregation responds without missing a beat. One Sunday the sound system was not working properly. So the first words out of the Pastor's mouth were "There's something wrong with the microphone." The congregation responded "And also with you"

A child was saying her goodnight prayers. She concluded..."Bless mommy and daddy...And dear God, take good care of yourself, for if anything happens to you we are all sunk. Amen."

Okay, now that has been taken care of let me share with you what's been rolling around in my head lately.

A few months back I was watching "Morning Joe" on MSNBC. They were doing a rare religious segment. The guest was talking about a book which he had written. The title of the book is One Way Love. The sub-title is "Inexhaustible Grace For An Exhausted World". He sounded very Lutheran. Then I heard him say he was Billy Graham's grandson, but his last name was not Graham. His name: Tullian Tehividyian. Well, I had Jeanne download the book on my Nook and read it immediately.

I couldn't put it down. The more I read the more I thought he must have gone to a Lutheran Seminary or maybe even been a Lutheran pastor. I wondered how that could happen in the Graham family. I discovered that he is Senior Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Much of what I'm going to say to you today will be based on what I read in One Way Love.

I have come to love the Via de Cristo movement. I believe it is what it says it is: "a brief course in Christianity." I have talked with so many who have attended a Weekend and have had a life-changing transformation of faith. A familiar report is, "Now I know what grace is" because they experienced it on the Weekend.

Yes, grace is at the heart of who we are and how we understand faith as Lutherans. Of course that doesn't mean we are the only ones in the Church who understand grace. But it was a core concept for Martin Luther as he echoed the scriptures, "We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from works of the Law."

I believe it is vital and essential for us to know what grace is and then to incorporate that grace into our daily living. Knowing grace and living grace is to inform our relationship with God and with our neighbor.

Tullian wrote "We live in an exhausted world." You know, I felt exhausted just reading about that. Just check out various polls that tell us what people are feeling and concerned about. A majority of people in our country feel like we are moving in the wrong direction. Incomes for the middle class are stagnant. People are worried about the present and pessimistic about the future.

People are living with too much guilt, too much stress, too much uncertainty in daily life. We live in a world that lives under what we call, spiritually, the Law. The Law is conditional. If you do this, that will happen. You do something for me, then I will do something for you. The Law is the opposite to grace. The dynamic works like this:

If the Law is the first word, then Grace is the last word.

If the Law exposes, then Grace exonerates.

If the Law disguises, Grace delivers.

If the Law accuses, Grace acquits.

If the Law condemns, Grace saves.

The Law says you're cursed. Grace says you're blessed.

The Law says you're alone. Grace says God is with you.

The Law says you're not good enough. Grace says you're accepted, forgiven, and have new life.

Paul Zahl wrote, "Grace is love that seeks you out when you have nothing to give in return."
 Robert Capon wrote, " Grace works without requiring anything on our part. It's not expensive. It's not even cheap. It's free."

Definition: Grace is an unconditional acceptance by an unobligated giver. It's one way love.

Wow!! Grace feels sooo good when we are receiving it. The problem is, not understanding what grace is. The problem is, how do I live the grace we have received when it comes to relationships in my life.

That is the question that I've been living with for some time now. Like the Liberty Mutual commercials. We live in this world with other human beings. We make a lot of mistakes, often times without even realizing it.

A few Sundays ago in my sermon I latched on to an exercise to share with the congregation. I had the people write down this: "I am a child of God

Deserving of love and respect

God will use me today to change the world."

The instruction was to look in the mirror when you first get up in the morning and say that.

"I am a child of God." That defines who we are. It's what our Baptism tells us.

"Deserving of love and respect." That comes from God's grace.

"To change the world." That defines our purpose for living. Love God. Love your neighbor. It's that simple.

We can live grace when we believe that Emmanuel God is with us.

When we believe Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus

When we recognize each day involves dying to sin and rising to new life with Christ

When we hear the words of Jesus "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more"

There are no ifs, ands or buts about God's grace – Knowing God's grace/living with God's grace.

TREASURER'S REPORT 01 February 2014

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Primary Expenses 2013 \$10,758</p> <p>Funds Received 2013 12,,716</p> <p>For a detailed report, contact Treasurer Chuck Fahnestock, charles.fahnestock@wright.edu or 937-878-6468</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Balances as of 31 January 2014</p> <p>Checking \$431.29</p> <p>Savings <u>\$7,949.57</u></p> <p> 8,380.86</p> <p>Restricted(Scholarship Fund) \$960.00</p> <p>Unrestricted Funds Available \$7,420.86</p> |
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VdC has received the promise of two gifts which will match your donations. Assistant Lay director Raleigh Sandy will match all donations up to \$1,000 given by the end of 2014. Retiring Lay Director Cathy Doering will match all donations up to \$1,000 given during February 2014. WE thank them for their great generosity and encourage each of you who are able and willing to send your donation to Via de Cristo, P.O.Box 530081, Cincinnati, OH 45253.

We extend our great appreciation and thanks to retiring leaders Cathy Doering, Gloria Kemmet, Jane Koch and Karen Schwartz for their strong commitment of work on Secretariat and care for Via de Cristo. Blessings and joy to each of you!

So, what about YOU?

Help Wanted:
CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU !
 Call Butch Seeley [1-800-3372667](tel:1-800-3372667)

U **L** **TRE** **Y** **A**

A Grouping of Groups
@

Trinity Lutheran, Kent
Saturday, February 22, 2014

Gathering 4:30 p.m.
-Fellowship

Meal 5:00 p.m.
**-Bring a dish to share for an awesome
pot-luck supper**

Worship and Discussions 6:00 pm
-Songs, Scriptures, Sacrament
Faith sharing and table discussions

Questions/Directions... Call Dave Lann
@ [330-296-6929](tel:330-296-6929) vdclann@yahoo.com
Pr. Doug Fidler
@ [330-603-8360](tel:330-603-8360) pastorfidler@trinitykent.org

Hope you can join us! Pass the
word to others you know and invite them!

North Dayton Area Ultreya will be this Saturday February 15, and they are held the third Saturdays of each month, 7:00 pm, at United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Road, Clayton OH 45315. For questions, please call Wes Scoates at 937-533-7605 or Pr. Mel Musser at 937-719-3005

Cincinnati Area Ultreya will be Saturday, March 1 at 4:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1553 Kinney Ave., Mt. Healthy 45231. For questions, call Kevin and Irene Hoch, 513-931-8797.

We need information about ULTREYAS anywhere in the state of Ohio to publish in the De Colores Newsletter. Please contact editor Nancy Martin at vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or at (419) 886-4420 or (419) 571-6315 with information or with the name of someone else who might have the information. **If you would like help to organize an Ultreya in your area**, contact Warren Seeley, 614-332-1357.

What is the story of your faith experience, your VdC weekend experience, your Fourth Day experience? What was your call from the Holy Spirit to say something to somebody or do something for someone? Who has been your angel from God? Please share your story by email at vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or by US Mail to 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville OH 44813. Someone in our Community will be blessed by it.

Ohio Via de Cristo Five Year Strategic Plan

Create and communicate a clear vision and mission statement.

Work closely with all available resources, National Lutheran Secretariat, Regional Outreach Coordinator-Mark Carson, etc.

Put Constitution and Bylaws in place.

Once the Strategic Plan is adopted by the Secretariat, it should be reviewed and monitored for progress/accomplishment.

Transparent communication to the community by all means possible.

TECHNOLOGY

Appoint a Technology Team (3-7 people) to embrace and bring the movement to appropriate technological advances, Graphic Design.

- 1). Presentations at the weekends, Road shows, Leadership school, power point, etc.
- 2). Pod casts, Skype, webinars, etc.
- 3). Social Media, Facebook, twitter, etc.
- 4). Website enhancement, maintenance, links, etc.
- 5). Smart phone technology, apps , text, notifications, etc.
- 6). Community bulletin board, "looking for a group", ultreyas, etc.
- 7). Establish easy sponsorship template on line.

COACHING Efforts

- 1). Seven co-coaches in place with state divided into seven areas.
- 2). Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the seven co-coaches.
- 3). A minimum of seven informational luncheons for Pastors, at least one in each area per year.
- 4). A minimum of forty-nine church visits, at least seven in each area per year.
- 5). Co-coaches to provide leadership and correct data regarding Groups and Ultreya in their assigned areas.
- 6). Establish a firm Ultreya in each of the seven areas.
- 7). Establish fruitful relationships with synods, Bishops, ELCA, NALC, etc.

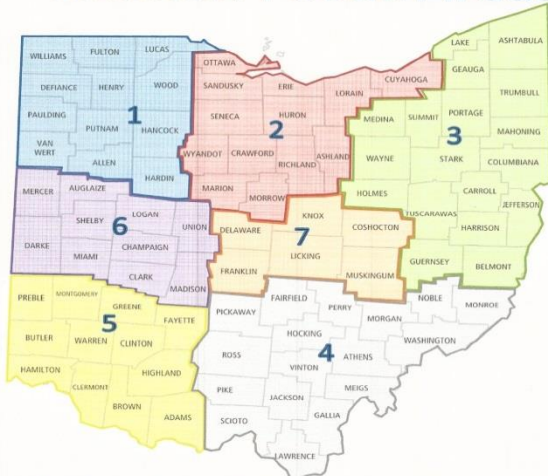
WEEKENDS

- 1). Establish clear unwavering guidelines for the minimum Pilgrims that will be required to have a Weekend.
- 2). Establish a waiting list procedure for Weekend attendance; we prefer this to deferring attendance.
- 3). Establish clear and unwavering criteria for being called to work on a team.
- 4). Appoint a task force to locate back up locations for Weekends, Grand Ultreyas, Leadership Schools, etc.
- 5). Consider embracing technology on the Weekends as appropriate.
- 6). Consider Congregational sponsorship of a particular Weekend.

FINANCIAL

- 1). Establish an on-going gift strategy for the movement.
- 2). Establish a long-term Estate gifting program.
- 3). Seek out grants from foundations for some of the strategies that will require funding.
- 4). Consider some appropriate partnerships with Christian businesses to generate revenue, directory-web advertisers?

co-coaches Mission Focus Areas



Via de Cristo of Ohio

- Co-coaches**
- Mission Field 1 – needed
 - Mission Field 2
Ken and Josie Riling
Others needed
 - Mission Field 3
Jane Koch
Mike and Carol Yaquinto
Dave and Jackie Lann
Pastor Doug Fidler
 - Mission field 4 - needed
 - Mission Field 5 – needed
 - Mission Field 6
Sean Quinn
 - Mission Field 7
Ryan Wilcox
Sandy Mueller

Mission Focus for co-coaches

- Join the Secretariat in corporate prayer for the Via de Cristo of Ohio the second Tuesday of every month from 7-7:30 PM.
- Work in your assigned area to tactfully foster awareness of the Via de Cristo.
- Call on churches within your assigned area to explore the opportunity to introduce Via de Cristo to the Pastor(s) and Congregation(s).
- Be liaisons between the Pastors, Community, and Churches with the Secretariat; be eyes and ears for the Secretariat.
- Attend and assist in the organization of Ultravas and compile data: (who, where and when).
- Gather data of Group reunions: (who, where, and when).
- Attend coffee hours or other opportunities as presented by Christians to provide information about Via de Cristo.
- Assist in the distribution of Via de Cristo informational pieces to people in your assigned area.
- Attend Send off, Closing, Serenade, and encourage the Community to do the same.
- Assist in the enhancement of transparent communication with the Community by all means possible.
- Attend the Pastors’ Informational Luncheons when scheduled in your area.
- Take a Pastor out to lunch once in a while whether they have attended a weekend or not.
- Support the commitment to focus on Weekends, Group, and Ultreya equally.
- Follow up with new Cursillistas after they attend a weekend to help them find a group and encourage Ultreya attendance.
- Attend a conference call or Skype session with the entire coaching staff at a mutually convenient time quarterly.

**Handle these Focus Points in your assigned geographical area as you are able, understanding the commitment.
CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!**

Via de Cristo of Ohio Prayer Chain

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do in the Via de Cristo movement. And prayer for others in need or for yourself is the purpose of this VdC Prayer Chain. Prayers of thanksgiving and joy are also welcome on the Prayer Chain. The email address is vdcpayerchain@gmail.com. Add this to your contacts for easy access when a need arises. Please note that, due to privacy concerns, you should ask permission to include names of individuals before placing them on the Prayer Chain. Otherwise list them by first name only or as "Known to God". We don't want to cause embarrassment for someone.

There is **power in prayer** and when we **pray in community with others**, I believe that power is intensified. There is reference to our prayers being like incense throughout the Bible.

'Let my prayers rise before you like incense.' Psalm 141:3 *Our Good God hears!*

Wilma Keller, Ohio VdC Prayer Chain

UPCOMING VIA de CRISTO WEEKENDS—Registration Forms Attached

Men's Weekend April 24-27

Women's Weekend May 15-18

Registration is OPEN NOW. Use the attached forms for your Pilgrim for the Men's Weekend and save them for your Pilgrim for the Women's Weekend. Mail them to Registrar Kevin Hoch, P.O. Box 53081, Cincinnati, OH 43224

**Will you join with us in corporate prayer for Via de Cristo of Ohio?
It's the second Tuesday of every month from 7:00-7:30pm.**

God Loves You and So Do We!!

Secretariat

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Lay Director Warren (Butch) Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com</p> <p>Asst. Lay Director Raleigh Sandy (937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com</p> <p>Secretary Donna Gough (614) 948-3833 goughdonna@aol.com</p> <p>Treasurer Chuck Fahnestock (937) 878-6468 charles.fahnestock@wright.edu</p> <p>Spiritual Director Pastor G. Karl Gaston (614) 364-3112 jgaston550@yahoo.com</p> <p>Coach Open</p> | <p>Logistics Coordinator Open</p> <p>Registrar Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com</p> <p>Leaders' School Fred Schneider (513) 729-0945 fschneider@fuse.net</p> <p>Documentation Donna Gough (614) 948-3833 goughdonna@aol.com</p> <p>Prayer Chain Wilma Keller 740-522-8920 vdcpayerchain@gmail.com</p> <p>Technology Media Specialist Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com</p> | <p>Weekend Rector Development . . . Karen Schneider (513) 729-0945 kmaschneider@juno.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (419) 886-4420 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com</p> <p>Palanca Cha Sherryl Patterson (740) 751-4057 dcsfp20@the-franklins.net</p> <p>Columbus Representative Sandy Mueller (614) 648-1948 smueller@icloud.com</p> <p>Northeast Regional Representative . . . Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com</p> |
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If you or someone you know has changed a street address or phone number(s) or e-mail address, please send the information to Archivist Christy Brill at goosebrill@msn.com or 614-899-7429 and to Editor Nancy Martin at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com



Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo
www.viadecristooh.org
National Via de Cristo Website
www.viadecristo.org
Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

UPCOMING VIA de CRISTO WEEKENDS

| Men's Events | Scheduled Date | Location | Rector | Last Registration Date * |
|----------------|---------------------|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| * Men's #73 * | April 24 – 27, 2014 | Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio | Dick Brenneman | April 10, 2014 |
| Women's Events | Scheduled Date | Location | Rectora | Last Registration Date * |
| *Women's #77 * | May 15-18,2014 | Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio | Linda Morton | May 1, 2014 |

*"Last Registration Date" is to facilitate communication to Pilgrims from the Registrar and to aid Team planning

PLEASE NOTE: THE ONLY WEEKENDS SCHEDULED FOR 2014 ARE IN THE SPRING!