



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1

February 5, 2017

Happy New Year

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching”. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

ORDER OF THE GROUP

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, page 42

PIETY

1. With what spiritual aids have you nourished your vital union with Christ this week?

Morning Offering _____ Meditation _____
 Worship and Communion _____
 Chapel Visit _____ Prayer _____
 Personal Prayer _____ Family Prayer _____
 Examination of Conscience _____
 Spiritual Direction _____ Other _____

2. What was the moment in which you felt closest to Christ?

STUDY

3. What have you done to better understand the gift of God?

Bible Reading _____ Books _____
 Periodicals _____ Tapes _____
 Others _____

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ACTION

Spread his love to others How? Visits (Matthew 25:31-40)

4. In what way did you share CHRIST with the world so that others might know and love HIM BETTER? In your family? In your profession? In your environment? Were you successful? Were you disappointed?
5. Activities of the group.

APOSTOLIC PLAN – GROW AS A CHRISTIAN – PLAN AHEAD!

An Apostolic Plan is any endeavor which brings someone closer to a life in union with Christ!

6. What are you planning for next week? Piety? Study? Action?

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching”
 (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

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January is a great time to get back to the basics in our spiritual life- Our journey with Jesus Christ-GLYASDI-Butch

Co-Ed Weekend #2....aka CO2

VdC CO2, our 2nd co-ed weekend, is coming together right now. The basic facts are:

- April 27-30
- Camp Otyokwah (<http://otyokwah.org>) (southeast of Mansfield)
- Rector Mike Meier ([614-753-3685](tel:614-753-3685), mpmeier@hotmail.com)
- Head Cha Jackie Lann
- JOHN 14:1-7
- "I AM the Way"

As you all know, Pilgrims are the critical piece, and right now is the time to talk to those friends, neighbors, family members, and others about this opportunity. We could also use a few more Team members willing to deliver a rollo.

Imagine that you hear a rumor about this guy in town who welcomes anyone into his family and that each and every person who seeks him out has all of their debts forgiven. You might scoff, saying "That's too good to be true!" You probably wouldn't dash over and introduce yourself; instead you might hang out across the street and observe those going in and coming out. You would look for evidence that there was truth behind the rumor. If those people coming out seemed happier and more at peace, you might take the next step and cross the street or you might strike up a conversation, still looking for confirmation.

Now imagine that the person sitting next to you on Sunday morning is one of these people who are looking for confirmation that Jesus will deliver on his promise for someone just like them. What evidence are you giving? Will anyone in your environment be won over by your life?

Jesus told us that He is the Way. YOU might be part of the Way for someone and you may not even be aware that they are watching. It is hard for me to think of myself as a model Christian and yet I am forced to take on that role just because I publicly acknowledge that I am a Christ-follower.

Has Jesus delivered for you? How does anyone know? Christ and I are counting on you.

De Colores!

Mike Meier, CO2 Rector

* (For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Fourth Day shepherd Dave Lann, vdclann@yahoo.com or 330-296-6929. He can look in the VdC Archive for names of people in your area and give you their most recent contact information.

What is a story of faith you could share with others? Remember your thoughts when you heard the stories in the rollos on your Weekend? Someone you'd invite to a weekend can have that experience. Or you could help provide the experience as a Team member. You also know how you feel when you read the faith stories in the Newsletter. Help someone else to feel that way. Send your story by email to vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or by US Mail to 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813.

Weekend Orientation Training Set For Saturday, February 18

For any member of the Ohio Via De Cristo community who has never worked on a team during a weekend, there will be an orientation in February (formerly Leaders School). Three weekends have been scheduled for this year and Rectors have been calling their teams. The training will take place at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bellville on Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

During the training, attendees will learn "the behind the scenes" activities of the weekend, the background of the weekend and other "nuts and bolts". After attending the three hour training, all who attend will then be eligible to work a weekend.

If you would like more information about this training or would like to register to attend, please contact Dick Brenneman at dbbrenneman@embargmail.com or call (740) 694-1755. If you plan on attending, your pre-registration would be appreciated for a correct count for handouts and other items.

Dick Brenneman

Rector and Weekend Team Orientation

A Message from VdC Ohio Spiritual Director

As many of you know I am newly retired from pastoral ministry beginning officially January 1, 2017. I'm not really sure exactly what it means to be retired. I know my Sunday mornings are very different for me and Jeanne. For one thing we are able to sit together. What a blessing that is! Sundays have always been important to me, of course. But now there is new anticipation and expectation for me. I can't wait for the next Sunday's worship to come. It is really and truly the most important time of the week for me.

Now I find myself in a time of discernment. The question that gnaws at me: "What does God have in mind for me now?" The question is not will I be involved in Church but what will my role be. It is that our vocation, our calling, is to be people who live and believe that we are loved by God in order to love others with that love we have received from God. Love is more than a feeling love is what we do.

Richard Rohr writes in "Yes, And... Daily Meditations": "I think we know the love of God much more when we can 'do love' than when people tells us we are lovable. (That just feels good!). We can always disbelieve the second, but the first is an unexplainable power from beyond ourselves. We know we are being used, and the 'Living Water' is flowing through us . (John 7:38)

So let the love of God flow through you in what you say, what you do, and what you think. In VDC terms live into your 4th day!

Pastor G. Karl Gaston

VdC Ohio Annual Meeting Coming in Early Summer

The Ohio VDC annual meeting will be held this year on June 17th at the Mt Gilead State Park Pavilion #1 with fellowship starting at 1:00 pm. The annual business meeting itself will begin at 2:00pm followed by Worship with Holy Communion, and the pot luck dinner will begin at 3:00pm. The Ohio VDC Secretariat will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers and a selection of drinks. Please bring with you a side dish or picnic snacks or dessert to share. We will have 25 tables and there are a bunch of electrical outlets available. We will have music, live and digitized, to lift our thanks to the Lord in song. The fun can go all evening! We will be setting up activities for everyone after the dinner. If you have corn-hole boards, bocce, basketballs, Frisbee golf discs, etc., please bring them to share and enjoy. We have a nice fireplace in the pavilion where we can roast marshmallows and sing around the fire into the evening hours.

The Mt Gilead State Park is located east of the City of Mt. Gilead off of route 95 west from I 71. The Park has 59 camping sites available if you would like to make a weekend out of the meeting. The very nice web site for the park is <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/mountgilead>. From there you can get directions, a park map and make your reservations for your camp site. This web site is very well done so you can see which sites are available and where they are located if you want to reserve close to each other. The camping sites are \$25/ night and have electric only or full camper hook ups. There are two cabins but only one is available since I have one booked already for my family over the weekend. It is \$32 per night. Everything is first come first serve, so reserve your campsite right away! Those who pray together should also play together! **GLYASDI**

Utreya News

Utreyas in the **Akron-Kent area** of Ohio are often the third Saturday of a month, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent, at 4:30 pm at 600 S. Water Street, and potluck will be included. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

Cincinnati area Utreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. For questions, please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797.

Bellville Utreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship, Holy Communion, Potluck with table service and drinks provided. Call Ken & Josie Riling, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573 for questions.

North Dayton Utreyas are usually the third Saturdays of every month at 7pm at the United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton, OH 45315. (Bring snack to share.) For questions, please call Wes Scoates at 937 533-7605.

COLUMBUS ULTREYA IS RESURRECTED

Once each quarter, From 5:30pm-8:30pm, All at All Shepherds Lutheran Church, 6580 Columbus Pike [RT 23] Lewis Center, Ohio. 43035.

Saturday March 11, 2017

Saturday September 23, 2017

Saturday December 9, 2017

For more information contact Warren [614.332.1357](tel:614.332.1357) or Wendy [614.332.1352](tel:614.332.1352) Seeley. Details coming!

An Utreya is planned for spring at Divinity Lutheran Church, for the **Parma/Cleveland area**.

More information coming. Contact Leslie Crowe, leslie.crowe@aol.com or 440-842-7409 or Judy Junker, JudyJunkmail@aol.com or 440-845-2115 with questions.

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Adviser

This is the February VdC Newsletter so this will be my “Valentine’s Day” edition! The first song that popped into my head was “Oh How He Loves You and Me” by Kurt Kaiser. For more than forty years his name has been synonymous with Christian songwriting. In 1992, he was awarded a special Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for his contribution to the Christian music industry.

Kurt began writing songs in 1992 when he partnered with Ralph Carmichael to write a musical called Tell It Like It Is. From this musical came Kurt’s very popular song “Pass It On.” Since then he began to write very seriously and has now written more than four hundred songs. “One day I came across the line, ‘Oh how He loves you and me,’ and I wrote it down. I remember very well writing it across the top of a piece of manuscript paper, and that’s all I had. I then sat down to think about that phrase and the whole song quickly came to me. I could not have spent more than ten or fifteen minutes writing the whole of it. That’s how rapidly it all came, the lyrics and the melody together. A problem crept up when the Copyright Office in Washington said that there was not enough original lyric to warrant granting a copyright. I was extremely disappointed because I knew the song was very singable. A couple of days went by and I decided to write a companion verse, or a second set of lyrics. I sent it back to Washington and this time I got the copyright.”

“Oh How He Loves You and Me” has traveled far and wide into the hearts of millions of people. Many Hymnals have included it. There is no telling how many times it has been recorded since it was written in 1975. The message of Christ’s journey to Calvary, showing just how much He loves you and me, is truly soul-stirring.

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me. He gave his life, what more could he give?

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show. What He did there brought hope from despair.

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.

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My favorite line is, “He gave His life, what more can He give?” What is yours?

God loves you, I love you,
Jen Briner

Treasurer’s Report—Raleigh Sandy

Bank Balances December 31, 2016 Checking \$ 617.18 Savings 5,594.79 (includes Trailer Fund \$2,000) Total Balance \$ 6,236.92	If you made in-kind donations via expenses incurred for VdC, send a list of them to Raleigh at 9418 Hacker Farm Lane, Centerville, OH 45458 and he’ll send you a letter authorizing your IRS deduction.
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“VDC Weekend Materials on the Move”

Now that the Ohio VDC no longer uses the Columbus Center, our weekend materials are being stored and transported from place to place in personal vehicles. The Secretariat has been putting money aside to purchase a covered trailer with which to store and deliver the materials to and from the various sites around Ohio.

The Ohio VDC Secretariat is looking to purchase a covered watertight trailer of approximately 400sqft which would be used to hold all of the weekend materials as well as the temporary wall panels. In this manner the materials can be packed and moved easily by anyone with a class III or IV hitch. If anyone knows of a quality used one for sale or has one they may wish to donate, please let Mark Ludrosky or Warren Seeley know. Contact Mark at mludrosky1@neo.rr.com or 330-671-1940. Reach Warren at harleyrider751@ymail.com or 614-332-1357.

Thank you,
Mark Ludrosky, VdC Ohio Logistics Coordinator

PS Perhaps someone artistic would volunteer to paint it?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Co-ed Weekend # 2 April 27-30 at Camp Otyokwa southeast of Mansfield

VdC Ohio Annual Meeting June 17 at Mt.Gilead State Park Pavilion #1

VdC National Gathering July 27-30 at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem NC

Men's Weekend #75 August 3-6 at St. Leonard's Retreat Center in Avon
Rector Fred Gessell, Head Cha Doug Burrows, Spiritual Directors Pr. Paul Schmidlin (NLS Exec. Dir.)
and Pr. Gerry Gosnell

Women's Weekend #79 August 17-20 at St. Leonard's Retreat Center
Rectora and Team TBD

Co-Ed Weekend #3 and Clergy Experience #3 in development for 2018

Further information for ALL of these will be in upcoming Newsletters

VdC Prayer Chain is prayingforvdc@gmail.com
or by phone at 419-884-1573. Vicky Sakala is
Prayer Chain Cha.

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, or does not get the VdCNewsletter but would like to, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

We hope you will “like” our new Facebook Page at
<https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh>

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

Others' Upcoming Weekends to Pray For

River's Edge VdC – Missouri
 Co-ed Spring Weekend 2017 February 23-26
 All God's Children Camp, High Ridge, MO

Eastern North Carolina VdC
 Mixed #96 February 23-26 at Camp Agape

Wisconsin Northern Light VdC
 Team Training Dates: February 11, 25 and March 4, 2017
 Spring Retreat March 16-19, 2017

Wisconsin SonRise 97 & 98
 Men's March 9-12, 2017 Women's March 16-19, 2017

Lutheran VdC of Minnesota
 Men's #646 March 2-5 Women's #647 March 9-12
 Calvary Lutheran, 2508 Washington Ave. SE, North Bemidji, MN

Men's #648 March 9-12 Women's #649 March 16-19
 Trinity Lutheran, 406 W. Main St., Madelia, MN

Blessings and Joy!
 Sherry Patterson, VdC Ohio Palanca Cha

Secretariat			
Lay Director	Warren (Butch) Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com	Palanca Cha	Sherry Patterson (740) 262-0563 dcsfp20@the-franklins.net
Asst. Lay Director	Chuck Fahnestock (937) 238-6170 charles.fahnestock@wright.edu	Registrar	Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com
Secretary	Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com	Documentation	Donna Gough (614) 948-3833 goughdonna@aol.com
Treasurer	Raleigh Sandy (937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com	Rector/Weekend Orientation	Dick Brenneman (740) 398-0945 dbbrenneman@embarqmail.com
Spiritual Director	Pastor G. Karl Gaston (614) 364-3110 jgaston550@yahoo.com	Technology Media Specialist	Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com
coach	Butch Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com	Newsletter Editor	Nancy Martin (419) 886-4420 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com
Logistics Coordinator	Mark Ludrosky (330) 882-4244 mludrosky1@neo.rr.com	Columbus Area Representative	open
Fourth Day Shepherd	Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com	Northern Region Representative	Ken Riling (419) 886-2437 kriling07@aol.com
Prayer Chain	Vicky Sakala 419-884-1573 prayingforvdc@gmail.com	Southern Region Representative	Open
Music Adviser	Jen Briner (614) 901-0896 jenbriner@yahoo.com		
		Contact Butch for info @ open positions.	
		Secretariat meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Director Butch Seeley for the place and time of each meeting.	
		God loves you and so do we!	

Secretariat meetings for 2017 will be in person at 10am in March, May, July, September and November. They will be by conference call at 10am in February, April, June, August, and October.