

SD VDC Newsletter

June 2010

* South Dakota Via de Cristo * www.sdlvdc.org *

Update from the Secretariat Lay Director

I am the new lay director for our Via de Cristo movement. I will do my very best to serve in this position.

At our Secretariat meeting on March 6, 2010, we decided to change our criteria for leadership. It will no longer be necessary to have the Rectors of a weekend be Lutheran. We will however insist that the head Spiritual Director be Lutheran.

This will enable our movement to draw on the pool of qualified leadership people that are not Lutheran.

The decision for moving our 2011 weekends earlier was discussed

and passed. The Men's weekend will be January 20, 2011 and the Women's will be January 27, 2011.

Other things discussed at our meeting:

A new listing of secretariat members on the website.

To print all new manuals for our use.

To try to have secretariat meetings 4 times a year.

To get more newsletters out (somewhere in this newsletter, there will be a form for you to fill

out if you may want to receive your newsletter through E-mail or regular mail. You must return the form, or we will not bother you with further newsletters.

To equip communities to get grouping and ultreyas

To encourage communities to pray for and ask for guests to attend a weekend.

All in all, we decided that we should get back to the basics and support one another through this wonderful program of renewal called Via de Cristo.

God's Peace — Ed Hanson

Mark Your Calendar! 2011 Date Change

2011 Weekends have moved

January 20-23 Men January 27-30 Women

2011 Rectors

Sean Potas will be the Women's Weekend Rector. Her verse is from John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.*

Don Burmeister will be the Men's Weekend Rector. His verse is from Matthew 6:33-34 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Inspiration from the Spiritual Directors

The tomatoes will soon be planted, and then the wait will be on. I will try to do everything right this year in hopes of producing bigger, better and "sooner" fresh tomatoes. A little research on the internet brought me into contact with a website that offered 10 tips to growing bigger and better tomatoes. The tips included the usual suspects such as, watering tips, planting depth, fertilizer application and the like. Not included on the list of tips is the hardest component of all when it comes to growing tomatoes; waiting. Waiting is hardest of all, because unlike all of the other components of producing tomatoes, waiting teaches us to rely upon things that are not under our control. You cannot rush a tomato plant. You can help to provide optimum growing conditions, but a tomato plant just will not be rushed, cajoled, manipulated, or otherwise conned into producing faster than what its own internal mechanisms will allow for. So, in a word, we wait...and wait...and wait. We wait with eager anticipation of that first full size, ripe tomato dripping with homegrown flavor. Whether it is put into salads, served as a side dish, or loaded into a BLT, we wait with high expectation for that first tomato. Thus, we wait.

Some people are better "waiters" than others. Some of us pace impatiently or drum our fingers in our waiting. Others stand by patiently, and calmly observe the slow unfolding of events. Throughout our lifetime, we find ourselves waiting for many things. Every day brings us small times of waiting for such things as waiting at a stop sign or traffic signal, waiting in a checkout line, waiting to hear the weather forecast, waiting for a phone call. Life can also cause us to wait for large matters, such as waiting through a loved one's major surgery, waiting for word on a job prospect, waiting for a call from the Oncologist's office, waiting to hear from a loved one in a war zone, or waiting upon God for answers to the deep uncertainties in our lives. King David of Old Testament fame spoke of waiting in many of the Psalms attributed to him. Although he was the greatest king in Israel's history, and was also described as a man "after God's own heart," David often found himself in trouble and in need of God's divine grace. In Psalm 40, David gives honor to God who rescues him from an unspecified distress. Here are his words:
Psalm 40

1 I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD

David certainly knew the business of waiting. Many times in the Old Testament, David prays and then waits for God to act on his behalf. Waiting is a part of every believer's faith journey. Waiting tests our character, teaches us patience, and reminds us of the One who is ultimately in control of all things. Waiting offers an opportunity for reflection, and for the examination of our priorities.

The next time you find yourself waiting for a traffic signal to change, or for a tomato to ripen, remember that waiting is part of God's design. It is often for our benefit. The tomatoes will ripen in their own time. In the mean time, we wait.....

In Christ,
Pastor Jerry Merkouris

4th Day News

An FYI for all of the 4th Day Community about Ultreya:

For most of us, the world we live in today keeps us so busy that we seldom have time to join together as brothers and sisters in Christ. In saying this I am reminded of the words of Hebrews 10:23-25 NLT

Without wavering, let us hold tight to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of His coming back again is drawing near.

This being said, I would like to encourage all of you who are not currently attending a small group or Ultreya, to search one out or start one of your own. All you

have to do is be a willing servant for God, trust Him and know that He will equip you and His Holy Spirit will guide you, and as Paul's encouragement to the Philippians and to us,

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.
Phil. 4:13

My wife and I have been attending Ultreya since we went through our weekend in 2000. It is a blessing to be able to worship, share in each other's joys and struggles, hear how God blesses us through our struggles, and lift each other up in prayer. Our Ultreya's usually start with the Holy Spirit Prayer, a time of worship and praise in song, a short devotion which leads into a time of discussion and sharing, and we close with prayer. We try to meet for no more than 2 hours but it is usually as the Spirit leads. You can also use your little green cards you received at your

weekend as guides. I don't believe there is a wrong way as long as all glory and honor goes to God.

As far as how often to meet, it's entirely up to your group. We typically meet the 2nd Sunday evening of each month with a few exceptions. In May we meet the 2nd Saturday and have a barbeque/potluck which ends our meetings for the summer. On the 2nd Saturday in September we kick off again with a fish fry/potluck. It is great to get together as God's family no matter how you do it. You just need to "DO IT"!!!!

If you have questions about anything please feel free to give us a call or email us. We would love to talk to you. 605-664-1388 or diede@iw.net

In His Service,
Mike & Dee Diede

Yankton, SD

National Palanca Representative needed for South Dakota Via de Cristo

I am wanting to hand off the reins to someone to prepare and receive the National Palanca mailing that we use on our weekends. This involves about two mailings a year to share greetings from us to other VdC movements in the US and bring/send the mailings you receive to our weekends to be shared after the second Grace talk. The secretariat provides money to cover postage, etc. I also have a hotmail account set up to receive and/or send the National Palanca also as an option. I am willing to talk to anyone interested in doing this to share what I've done and help you get started. Feel free to contact me – 402-337-1644. Margaret Svitak

Lost and Found

Found: a book entitled God's Word For Each Day A God's Word translation.

Some Metal butterflies, maybe wall hangings

Contact Lynette Mennen if these are your items.

Secretariat Members

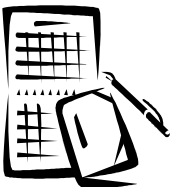
POSITION	NAME	PH NO.	E-MAIL ADDRESS
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR	REV CRAIG BOCK	712-274-6829	craigandkathybock@gmail.com
ASST SP.DIR.	JERRY MERKOURIS	605-582-7019	jmerk@alliancecom.net
LAY DIRECTOR	ED HANSEN	(O) 605-256-9647 (H)605-256-2431	FSTEDDY@IW.NET
ASST LAY DIRECTOR	<Position is OPEN > Volunteers welcome		
TREASURER	ED HANSEN	(SAME AS ABOVE)	
SECRETARY	LYNETTE MENNEN	712-943-1864	lynettemennen@gmail.com
PALANCA	MARGARET SVITAK	402-337-1644	finelyground@live.com
COMMUNITY REPS			
	LONNIE & MARGARET SVITAK	(SAME AS ABOVE)	
	MIKE & DEE DIEDE	605-664-1388	diede@iw.net
	GARY AND LYNETTE MENNAN	712-943-1864	l3g4kits@longlines.com
	ALLEN & BETH ABRAHAM	605-480-2705	inthedustaba@live.com
	LINDA FRANCKSEN	712-938-2094	slfrancksen@aol.com
	JULIE LESKO	712-252-2017	jlesko5366@gmail.com
RECORDS KEEPER	JULIE LUEBKE	605-529-5162	jluebke@gmail.com
WEB MASTER	RODGER WENZLAFF	605-665-6207	rodgaw@gmail.com



Future Newsletters <ACTION REQUIRED>

Name: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to receive future newsletter via email Email address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to receive future newsletters via regular mail Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not wish to receive future newsletters (<i>default option if you do not return this form</i>)



Cut off the bottom portion and Mail to:
SOUTH DAKOTA VIA DE CRISTO 227 N Egan Madison, SD 57042