



The Taste

newsletter for Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

www.tasteofgrace.com

Message from Lay Director

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers in to his harvest field."

- Matthew 9: v37-38

As the teams gear-up toward their weekends the one thing they need above all else (except lots and lots of prayer) is someone to serve. I'm sure you know someone who needs some quiet time (apart from the singing and the bad jokes!), away from the world and all its distractions. Someone who would like to spend some time focusing on Christ and His Grace - that is His gift to us all. Invite that person to come on a weekend.

Don't forget that a sponsor's responsibilities are not to be taken lightly. It is up to you to get that person to and from the site, to make sure his/her mind is at ease over the weekend and not thinking about the mundane. This might mean looking after kids or providing a meal or caring for a pet. Don't forget those letters too - if you forget, the 4th day chas will come looking for you.

Speaking of 4th day; if you're not a member of the team there are many opportunities to help out on sight. We always need people praying in the chapel, so please feel free to come by.

Please don't forget the prayer scroll and the serenade. too. Which brings me to - the secretariat has decided to use a mixed-gender serenade from now on. That means you can serenade both groups if you want to! Lastly we would love to see you at the Ultreya and Send-Off. Please come if you can.

God loves you and so do I,
Simon Prior

Prayers & Praises

- Pray for Taste of Grace Via de Cristo - the secretariat, the rector and rectora and teams as they prepare for Weekend #3.
- We ask for prayers of healing for those fighting cancer and other illnesses. May they feel God's presence and find strength in His love.
- Pray for everyone that God is putting on our hearts to be invited to the upcoming Via de Cristo weekends.
- Thank you Lord, for Your goodness and everlasting love!
- We pray for everyone who is fighting for peace.
- Our 4th day prayers continue for all of the cursillistas from Taste of Grace Weekends #1 and #2.
- Pray for a "servant heart" as you continue to serve God in whatever way you are called.

And all God's children say "Amen".

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Happy Valentines Day!

Food for Thought from our Spiritual Director

“What the World Needs Now”

Remember that Burt Bacharach hit of the late 60s (or was it the early 70s)? I’m talking about the song called “What the World Needs Now”.

February is the month that is all about paying homage to the sentimental subject matter of Burt’s song –the subject is—*love, sweet love*. It seems to me that a lot of people take a hearts- and-flowers approach to solving the unrest, the hatred and disease, the death and destruction in this global neighborhood of ours. Starry eyed and dreamy, emotions misting over and throats lumping up, they shake their heads over the doleful news bulletins that daily bombard one’s Pollyanna imaginings of harmony and world peace. And these starry eyed dreamers wax Bacharach-like echoes of *what the world needs now, is love, sweet love. That’s the only thing that’s there’s just too little of*.

This is the soap opera attitude of a solution to the woes of the world. There is another approach, friends.

I think what the world needs now is Jesus.

More than ever, Jesus, with his radical viewpoint on forgiveness, Jesus with his total reliance upon his Father in heaven, Jesus with his counter-cultural exhortations to find power in meekness, to become strong through

weakness, to gather riches by giving them away, and to find life by being willing to lose it.

I’ve made several hospital calls this past month. One of those calls unexpectedly became a crisis call. The patient had suddenly taken an unbelievable turn for the worse. What does a pastor do in such a situation? How does one ‘minister’ to a family in shock, a family in deep pain, a family whose equilibrium has been as disrupted as any nation suffering the ravages of war and unrest? There are no words, my friends. There really is nothing one can say or do. . .except bring them Jesus.

Assurance of Christ’s presence, his grace, his forgiveness, his understanding, his mercy and his love, brought near to ears that may have already stopped hearing words in this world, bring peace to not only the patient, but also to the family as they overhear. That is the power of the Savior we bend our knees before. Power, even, in the indirect touch of his words.

I understand now, more clearly, the condition of that bleeding woman who was healed simply by touching the hem of His garment. He offers a cure for the world’s ills that goes beyond heart-shaped boxes and sugary sentiments. He offers us cross-shaped love, and Calvary lined hope.

Be the bearer’s of God’s most powerful weapon against death and destruct-

tion. Just bring someone Jesus.

A woman had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had sent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment, because she thought, ‘if I just touch the hem of his robe I will be healed’. At once, she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

- Mark 5:26-29

Lenten Devotional Opportunity

Many, many good things have been written about Mel Gibson’s movie, “The Passion”, which eloquently portrays the passion, and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. People who have seen the movie say that it is something you ‘experience’ versus something you simply ‘watch.’

The movie opens in select theatres on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25). Make plans to see it sometime during the season of Lent. It might be an excellent opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors who haven’t had a lot of religious experience.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
✠ Pastor Kathy

**Make a friend,
Be a friend,
Bring that friend
to Christ!**

Calendar of Events

March 13 – 5:00 pm, Ultreya
(location to be determined)

April 22 - 25 - Spring Taste
of Grace VDC Men's
Weekend #3

April 29 – May 2 -Spring
Taste of Grace VDC
Women's Weekend #3

July 22 - 25 - NLS Annual
Meeting at Johnson Bible
College in Knoxville, TN

Nov. 4 – 7 – Fall Taste of
Grace VDC Men's Weekend
#4

Nov. 11 – 14 - Fall Taste of
Grace VDC Women's
Weekend #4

From the Rector

So - OK! So where has all the time gone? We ask that question a lot, don't we? OH MY! The time keeps going by faster and faster - sound familiar? It seems like yesterday I was called to be Rector of Taste of Grace #3. I was absolutely floored! WHO ME!!!? But as I discerned the call, time began to slow down. I think God got me on His time to help me through this process. Then I was directed to 1 Peter 2:5. "And now God is building you, as living stones into His spiritual temple..." WOW! What does that mean? Notice 'stones' is plural, not singular? The commentary states when you are called to a task, others are called to work with you (team?) Together, your individual efforts will be multiplied

(candidates??). Look for those people and join with them to build a beautiful house for God (COMMUNITY!!!). Need-less to say, I found my direction.

Today, I am pleased to say Taste of Grace has a wonderful servant team. During our training sessions we have touched on some of the aspects of servanthood; being called by Christ to be servants just as Jesus chose to serve others; servanthood is not just serving others, but is receiving as well and that humility is a necessary element of spiritual leadership. As we continue to prepare for the weekend, it will be these qualities of servanthood that will meld us as a team into one body so that a pilgrim will be able to say he met Christ on his weekend.

Well, time is beginning to creep up again. It's not too soon to begin to talk to someone about Via De Cristo, but remember; TALK TO GOD FIRST ABOUT ASKING SOME-ONE TO THE WEEKEND.

Bob Deverick, Rector
Men's Weekend #3

You have given us a new commandment to love one another even as You have loved us; so we must love one another. By this all men will know that we are Your disciples, if we have love for one another. – John 13:34-35



From the Rectora

The women's team for TOG #3 is up and running. We have had two training meetings and are scheduled to meet February 21st, March 6th and 20th. We are a great mix of several VdC movements with experienced and unexperienced members.

When I was asked what our theme for the weekend was I really didn't have one. My husband, Larry, joked we're the team without a theme. That's not really true because *Jesus* is the only theme we need. We do it all for Him. Our goal is simple, to help others find a closer relationship with our wonderful Lord and master. To that end the team is striving. Please keep the team in your prayers as we prepare. And boldly invite others to experience sitting at the feet of Jesus for a weekend.

Your Sister in Christ,
Deborah Herrman, Rectora
Women's Weekend #3

“Needs List” for Weekend #3

- Unscented candles
- Snacks
- Pop
- Bottled Water
- Poster Board (200)
- Kleenex
- Spiral Notebooks
- Banner Stands

If you would like to donate any of the above items, please contact Tim Mulder at (630) 820-8777 or by email at praisingpenguin@aol.com

Team Rosters for Taste of Grace Weekend #3

*I want to walk in a way that is worthy of the calling with which I was called,
with all humility and meekness and patience. – Ephesians 4:1-2*

POSITION	MEN'S TEAM	WOMEN'S TEAM
Rector/Rectora	Bob Deverick	Deborah Herrman
Head Cha	Ed Walter	Laurie Anderson
Spiritual Directors	Pastor Randy Willers	Pastor Kathy Flores
	Pastor Dave Klak	Pastor Craig Sagebiel
Ideal	Dave Lyon	Sarah Kiser
Laity	Tom Hernandez	Amy Peterson
Piety	Paul Strohman	Charisse Jesiolowski
Study	Mike Hamilton	Sue Scruggs
Action	Gene Vincent	Traci Little
Leaders	Scott Hoecker	Valerie Jensen
Environment	Joe Claar	Clarice Cold
CCIA	Dick Volker	Karen Goy
Silent Professors	Gregg Bickus	Denise Jones
	Jim Shaw	Karen Deverick
Head Inside Cha	Tim Mulder	Michele Koniewicz
Kitchen Chas	Tim Mulder	Theresa Conklin
		Kelly Scruggs
		Judy Hansen
Head Outside Cha		Jeni Thomas
Utility (Dorm) Chas	Al Ashby (Head)	Nancy Johnson
	Harvey Bolton	Erika Gordon
	Robert Borger	
	Mike Bryant	
Prayer (Chapel) Chas	Merle Polson (Head)	Lynn Lyon (Head)
	Lenny Koniewicz	Debbie Claar
	Frank Marshall	
4 th Day (Palanca) Chas	Simon Prior (Head)	Bev Hansen (Head)
	Rob Bordenaro	Sarah Larsen
	Colin Kirchner	
	Gary Stetins	
Music Chas	Jeff Berry (Head)	LaDonna Strakis (Head)
	Reno Caneva	Cindy Penzenik
Rollo Room Chas	Dave Little (Head)	Leslye Mack
	Chuck Conklin	Carolyn Progress
	Ed Little	Denice Lafferty
	Andrew Kjos	Tina Hamilton
	Frank Brozek	Melinda Mattas
Prayer Warriors	Jim Twidell	Lenae Kirchner
	Don Wooden	Joy Borger
	Karen Deverick	Anita Kube
	Harry Benner	Millie Dyer
		Peggy Ashby
		Donna Weaver

Please keep both teams for Weekend #3 in your prayers!

Palanca

✠ *Lord help me to give abundantly, someone is learning to receive.*

True palanca is intense prayer and sacrifice on the part of the outside community for the community being formed in the three-day weekend.

Prayer times are still available for our 72 Hour Prayer Scroll. Sign up now – contact Amy Prior at 815-834-1385 or by email at: amyprior1@aol.com

If you would like to provide any palanca for the upcoming weekend, here's the approx. count:

Pilgrims only	30
Team only	40
Roll Room	50
Everyone	70

Community Info for Weekends #3

SEND OFF
Thursday Evening, 7:00 pm
Men's 4/22, Women's 4/29

SERENADE
Saturday Evening
Practice begins at 6:00 pm
Men's 4/24, Women's 5/1

CLAUSURA
Sunday Afternoon, 4:00 pm
Men's 4/25, Women's 5/2

All of the above events will take place at Dixon Valley Camp and Retreat Center in Newark, Illinois. For map and directions go to:

www.dixonvalley.com

Reunion Groups

If you belong to a reunion group we need to hear from you. We are trying to keep a record of the following information:

- Day, time & place your group meets
- Name of people in your reunion group and their original VDC weekend

Also, if you don't belong to a reunion group yet, let us help you find one. Contact Donna Weaver for more information.

Taste of Grace VDC Secretariat

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Spiritual Director

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Weekend

Ed Walter
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815-254-0198

Post-Weekend

Position open

Secretariat Report

The following report was from the Annual Meeting held on January 10, 2004.

- Approximately 42 members of our Taste of Grace VDC community were present.
- Treasurers Report: Bank Balance as of 12/31/03 was \$6,305
- Pam Sagebiel volunteered for the position of Pre-Weekend Chair. A vote was taken and passed.
- Post-Weekend position is still open.

Standing dates for the Secretariat Meetings are the 4th Sunday of each month at 4 pm (location varies).

**Message from
the Editor**

“For even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”
– Mark 10:45

Once again I am using this scripture verse for my closing article of the newsletter. With our Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekend #3 quickly approaching, thoughts are on “serving”...whether it be on team, as a sponsor, a prayer warrior or as a witness to others in our day walk.

This week I was reading a Songs 4 Worship Daily Devotional about the song “Make Me a Servant” and I’d like to share a short part of that devotional.

“Throughout the Bible, we read of God’s choosing humble servants to convey His power. Their lives didn’t revolve around developing spiritual gifts, finding something great to do for God, or even becoming the best they could be. Instead they asked: Who can I help? What can I do to fit in with God’s plan? What need is God calling me to meet? As a result, they changed the world.”

Now is the time we should each do the same. Take a personal inventory of your time and talents – how can God use you to “serve” others right now, right where you are?

First, you have to believe that others can experience the power of God’s grace through you. And second, you have

to trust that God will give you the strength and prepare you to use whatever gifts He has given to you. Remember, “God doesn’t call the prepared, He prepares those He calls.”

As you read the words to the song, which are printed below, why not use them as a prayer to God. Ask Him to use you, a meek and humble person, to walk in a way that is worthy of the calling He has placed on your life.

Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant,
Humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up
Those who are weak.
And may the prayer
Of my heart always be,
Make me a servant,
Make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

My prayer is that you will find a way to serve, with love for others and happiness in your heart. Remember, God Loves You and So Do !!

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of “The Taste.” Each month we strive to meet the needs of our Taste of Grace Via de Cristo community. If you would like to submit newsletter items please contact me.



Shalom,
Donna Weaver, Editor

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.”
– Psalm 34:8

**Database
Maintenance Form**

Please PRINT your name and check appropriate box, then PRINT new information in space provided.

Name:

Change of address

New Address:

Updated Info

Email:

Other:

**Delete me from
your mailing list.**

Effective date of change:

*Send all forms to:
Donna Weaver
905 Old Magnolia Drive
Conway, SC 29526*