


VIA DE CRISTO OF OHIO P.O. BOX 53081 CINCINNATI, OH 45253		FIRST CLASS MAIL	PRESORTED <hr/> FIRST-CLASS MAIL <hr/> U.S. POSTAGE PAID CUYAHOGA FALLS OH PERMIT NO. 137
		Mailed 10/03/03	
Women's #50 Weekend Oct 16 - 19 Columbus	CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!!!!		
Sign up on the 72-hour Prayer Vigil for the Weekend.			

UPCOMING WEEKENDS AND EVENTS IN 2003 & 2004

WOMEN'S #50 - OCT 16-19 Rectora - Laberta Swinehart
MEN'S #52 - APR 29-May 2, 2004 Rector - Jim Caldwell
WOMEN'S #51 - MAY 20-23, 2004 Rectora - Mary Ann Sauer
MEN'S #54 - SEPT 23-26, 2004 Rector - TBD
WOMEN'S #53 - OCT 7-10, 2004 Rectora - TBD

Above Weekends site Holy Cross Catholic Cursillo Center Downtown Columbus

MEN'S #53 - JUL 15-18, 2004 Rector - TBD
WOMEN'S #52 - JUL 22-25, 2004 Rectora - TBD

Above Weekends site St. Leonard's Retreat Center - Avon, OH

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT MEETING - JUL 22-25, 2004

At Johnson Bible College in Knoxville, TN

SCHOOL FOR LEADERS - November 1 , St. Stephen, Stow

PRAY FOR THE WEEKENDS, THE RECTOR, AND THE TEAM

---- OFFER YOUR SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE ----

ATTEND GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA



De Colores!

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6 Rev. Oct 14

October 2, 2003

From the Lay Director

Dear friends in Christ,

My family and I recently traveled to Western New York to attend the Christian event called Kingdom-Bound, held every year for the past 17 years at Darien Lakes Amusement Park. This trip made it our second visit to the event and it was worth every minute! To give you a sense of the event, there were over 18,000 men, women, and children singing praises to God, listening to fantastic speakers, and taking in all the sounds and sights of the amusement park. Probably most of the children were more interested in the park than Kingdom-Bound but I could be wrong. We had the opportunity to worship with Michael W. Smith, Rebecca St. James, Alvin Slaughter, Paul Baloche, Phil Keaggy just to name a few of the headliners. Jars of Clay performed at the main stage as did Denver & the Mile High Orchestra, Salvador, Newsboys, and others. The music was awe-inspiring! The park was exceptionally enjoyable with roller-coasters and all that junk food! However, I was most impressed by the speakers' messages. I was particularly moved by the message given by Bill Wilson, the founder of an inner city Brooklyn streets-ministry. I'd like to recap his message for you here... I used this message for one of my Reunion study groups.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus meant by Luke 17:32? I'd like you to open up your Bibles to Luke 17:32 and read it. It is a simple text... almost forgettable, actually. Luke 17:32 reads, "Remember Lot's wife." Okay... what's so spectacular about that? Remember Lot's wife? Why? Why would Jesus, in the midst of explaining the End Times to the disciples ask them to remember Lot's wife? First of all, who was Lot's wife? Do we know her name? What did she look like? If we remember our Sunday School lessons, we know that Lot's wife was a salty person (pun intended)... she was the person who looked back to Sodom and was immediately turned into a pillar of salt.

So why does Jesus mention her here in Luke 17? Why is Jesus calling our attention to this disobedient woman? If nothing else, Luke 17:32 makes us ask a lot of questions... questions centered on intent, Jesus' intent to be exact. To get a better understanding of Jesus' intent, we need to go back to Genesis, to the story that captures our attention, to a story of disobedience and consequences, to the story of Lot's wife. We find her in Genesis, Chapter 19. We read of the depravity and immorality of Sodom, the very city that intrigued Lot and caused a rift between Lot and his uncle, Abraham. We find that Lot has moved his family from the tents that were set toward Sodom to actually living in the wicked city. God sent angels to guard Lot's family, to lead them out of the city to the mountains. Lot pleaded with the angels to let him and his family travel to a small city in the plains called Zoar. There, Lot and his family would find protection, would find sanctuary. God granted Lot his request and the family began their journey toward Zoar. The Bible tells us that the journey was at least a full day and a half, because Lot and his family reached Zoar after the sun had risen the next day.

(continued next page)

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Note: If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call any of the Secretariat members. Also, anyone from the community is welcome to attend the Secretariat meetings.

Via de Cristo of Ohio
P.O. Box 53081
Cincinnati, OH 45253

For all you hikers out there, a full days walk across the plains, through the night, and into the next morning would be about 30 to 40 miles worth of travel. So, as best as we can approximate, Zoar was about 35 to 40 miles away from Sodom.

We also know, from Scripture, that God did not start raining down sulfur and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah until Lot was safe in Zoar. Which brings us to the question at hand... what about Lot's wife? We also read in Genesis 19 that Lot stepped into Zoar but Lot's wife, from behind him, turned and looked back. It was at that fateful moment, Lot's wife was turned to salt. After journeying 35 to 40 miles, after suffering the hardships of giving up everything she owned, giving up her life in Sodom, you would think that after 40 miles of travel, she'd have Sodom out of her system. She had but to take one more step and she would have been in sanctuary, she would have been safe. Take your index finger and put it about a centimeter from your thumb. She was that close to reaching the goal, she was that close to making it. She almost made it. How many times have we experienced that? We were that close... we almost made it. We almost had it!

Was this a story of disobedience? Absolutely. Was this a story of consequences? You betcha. But for Jesus' intent, there was more to the story... this was also a story of perseverance. You see... it takes courage to begin the journey. Lot's wife had courage. It takes some strength to begin following Jesus. Lot's wife followed intently, making sure she didn't turn around to see what was happening. But, ultimately, it takes stamina, grit, and determination to finish the task. Jesus was telling his disciples that the journey was just beginning for them... and He is telling us the same thing. To reach Zoar, we need to take the last step. We cannot look back at our past with desire to relive the old glory, to relive those bygone memories... when we do, we take our eyes off Jesus and ultimately we will pay the price. Jesus is waiting in Zoar. He is encouraging us to step in, to reach sanctuary, to be one with Him. Are you ready to take that step? Let's take that last step together.

God Loves You and So do I,

Kevin

FROM THE RECTORA



If you think that as Rectora of this weekend #50, It is my weekend, think again. As all of our team members have learned, this is God's weekend. It is His awesome team and He has His own agenda. The team and I are only His humble servants to relay His message to the pilgrims that He is calling.

God uses community to be His servants, too. It has been a little scary when God has taken over our meetings. In our devotions we learned how God shaped us to be His servants through our

S - Spiritual Gifts

H - Heart

A - Attitude

P - Personality

E - Experiences

Thank you all for your prayers to God and always glorify Him for what He has done and what He will do. God is in control of the VDC Women's Weekend #50. We are just saying "Here I am, Lord, send me."

Love from your servant in Christ,

Laberta Swinehart

Ohio Women's Weekend #50
Oct 16 - 19 , 2003

Names received by Registrar as of Oct 14


Women's Team #50			Pilgrims and Sponsors		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position on Team</u>	<u>Home City</u>	<u>Pilgrim</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Church, City</u>
Laberta Swinehart	Rectora	Columbus	Judy Coppersmith	Pr. Doug Pretorius	Presbyterian Church, Bellville
Donna Gough	Head Cha	Westerville	Paula Funfgeld	Cathy Doering	St. Paul Luth, Sharon Center
Pastor Al Sager	Spiritual Director	Westerville	Kara Thomas	Ann Towne	St. Paul Luth, Sharon Center
Pastor Denise Sager	Spiritual Director	Aurora	Marj Kruse	Donna Gough & Alex Seyerle	St. Matthew's Episcopal, Westerville
Lorraine Miller	Chapel Cha	Sandusky	Lee Ann Beck	Beth & Ralph Minton	Christ The King Lutheran, St. Clairsville
Karen Lindsey	Music Cha	Ashland	Jen Lyman	Gloria Kemmet	Abiding Christ Luth, Fairborn
Cindy Hiles	Palanca Cha	Newark	PJ Musser	Lynn Ayer	Abiding Christ Luth, Fairborn
Julie Purner	Asst. Palanca Cha	Westerville	Jennifer Case	Lynn Ayer	St. Paul's United Methodist, Lusby, MD
Jackie Lann	Go-fer Cha	Sunbury	Danielle Mirmohamed	Wilma Keller	none listed
Mary Ann Sauer	Co Head Kit. Cha	Kettering	Ann Hughes	Linda West	Abiding Christ Luth, Fairborn
Carol Haroldson	Co Head Kit. Cha	Kettering	Alwine Stull	Carol Pretorius	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Ruth Lindsey	Kitchen Cha	Ashland	Diane Litten	Carol & George Powers	St. John's Lutheran, Newark
Angie Florea	Kitchen Cha	Cincinnati	Bethany Wallace	Carol Miedell	All Saints Luth, Worthington
Phyllis Wahl	Kitchen Cha	Columbus	Leann Fourman	Kevin Ayer	Abiding Christ Luth, Fairborn
Lisa Lang	Kitchen Cha	Newark	Amy Hodges	Dave & Jackie Lann	St. Luke Lutheran, Gahanna
Sharon Gsellman	Kitchen Cha	Stow	Sarah Zipf	Dave & Jackie Lann	New Albany Christian Church, New Albany
Lucy Gesell	Head RR Cha	Sandusky	Sally Burk	Dave & Jackie Lann	St. Luke Lutheran, Gahanna
Kyleen Ayer	Rollo Room Cha & Asst. Music Cha	Dayton	Mary Blaha	Pr. Allan Sager & Debbie Frieme	Trinity Luth, Ft. Worth, TX
Gloria Kemmet	Rollo Room Cha	Beavercreek	Shana Berger	Kathie Burrows	Living Word Luth, Westerville
Patty Huston-Holm	Table Cha	Canal Winch.	Sandra Nichols	Doug Nichols	St. Luke Lutheran, Gahanna
Carol Pretorius	Rollo Room Cha	Bellville	Nancy Pierce	Dan & Lynn Steffey	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow
Lynn Ayer	Ideal Rollo	Dayton	Melissa Fox	Ann & Thad Ness	none listed
Amanda Hiles	Laity Rollo	Newark			
Deanna Hall	Piety Rollo	Westerville			
Lynette Wahl	Study Rollo	Columbus			
Vickie Delynko	Action Rollo	Granville			
Cathy Doering	Leaders Rollo	Wadsworth			
Wilma Keller	Environment Rollo	Newark			
Nancy Larson	CCA Rollo	Columbus			
Alex Seyerle	Silent Professor	Columbus			
Karen Schneider	Backup Rectora	Cincinnati			
Dan & Lynn Steffey	Fourth Day Couple	Stow			

The emergency phone # at the center is :

614-221-1809

THURSDAY & FRIDAY Oct 16 & 17	
Thursday	Send Off - 7:30 PM at Grace Lutheran in Columbus on Refugee Rd.
Friday	
Ideal	10:00 AM
Habitual Grace	11:30 AM
Laity	1:40 PM
Actual Grace	2:55 PM
Piety	4:45 PM

SUNDAY Oct 19	
Gather In Kitchen 5:45 AM	QUIETLY!!!
Wake-up Serenade - 6:00 AM	
Environment	9:15 AM
Day in the Life of Grace	10:10 AM
Christian Community	11:35 AM
Group Reunion / Ultreya	1:15 PM
Closing - 5:00 PM	At Grace Lutheran in Columbus on Refugee Rd. (Directions on next page)

SATURDAY Oct 18	
Study	9:00 AM
Day in Life	10:20 AM
Apostolic Action	1:15 PM
Obstacles to Grace	2:55 PM
Leaders	4:20 PM
Serenade Practice 5:00 PM	At Livingston United Methodist Church , Directions on next page
	
Serenade	6:30 PM

Directions to GRACE

**SEND-OFF & CLOSING
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4500 Refugee Road , Columbus**

From Cleveland - Take I-71 South. In Columbus, take I-270 East and continue to the I-70 exit. Take I-70 West exit to next exit, Hamilton Rd. exit. Turn left onto Hamilton and proceed past Eastland Mall to Refugee Road. Turn left onto Refugee Road. Grace Lutheran is on the left about 1/4 mile.
From Cincinnati - Take I-71 North. In Columbus, take I-270 East and proceed as in Cleveland directions.
From Eastern Ohio - Take I-70 West past the I-270 outerbelt. Proceed to Hamilton Road exit and proceed as in Cleveland directions.
From Western Ohio - Take I-70 East. Proceed through downtown Columbus and continue to Hamilton Road Exit (317 S). Bear right onto Hamilton road and proceed as in Cleveland directions.

Directions to Livingston

**SATURDAY SERENADE PRACTICE
LIVINGSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 E. Livingston Ave, Columbus**

From the North. Take I-71 South to Columbus. Take the US-23 / Fourth St exit (100B). Stay straight to go onto E. FULTON ST. Turn LEFT on to US-33. US-33 becomes E. LIVINGSTON AVE.

From the South. Take I-71 North to Columbus. Take the US-23 NORTH / LIVINGSTON AVE exit (100B), towards FOURTH ST.

**Send Off - 7:30 PM Thursday
Serenade Practice - 5:00 PM Saturday
Serenade - 6:30 PM Saturday at the Center
Closing - 5:00 PM Sunday**

Via de Cristo School for Leaders

St. Stephen, Stow , November 1, 2003

School for Leaders will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2003. The purpose of this school is to provide a better understanding of all aspects of Via de Cristo. Topics covered include: Theology of the Weekend: Dynamics and Psychology of the Weekend: Team Roles and much more. Attend to gain a fuller understanding of your weekend experience. You must attend the School for Leaders to serve on a Via de Cristo team. Application is below. The school starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, running til 5:00 p.m.

The school will be offered **November 1st at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3725 Kent Rd., Stow, Ohio.** The school starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, running til 5:00 p.m. You can register by using this form. Cost is \$10 per person.

SCHOOL for LEADERS REGISTRATION for November 1, 2003

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ Request Friday Night Housing (Yes or No) _____

Church _____ E-Mail Address _____

Attended: Via de Cristo () Other _____ Weekend Number _____

Please enclose a check payable to Ohio Via de Cristo (\$10 per person) and send it with this form to Chris Albrektsen, 2793 Galewood St., Kettering, Ohio 45420 email: jc4vdc@aol.com

Utreya!



For further details on these and other Utreyas in Ohio, contact: Paul Swinehart 614-476-5979

Pauls2303@yahoo.com

Cincinnati - Monthly

First Saturday, 7:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy, contact Kevin Hoch, 513-913-8797

Columbus - Monthly

Fourth Tuesday, 7:30 PM at Linden Lutheran Church, 1230 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus, contact Paul Swinehart 614-476-5979 or Darryl Larson, 614-262-4420 at the church or 614-865-0469 at home.

Dayton Lutheran Utreya - Monthly

Third Tuesday, 7:30 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 901 E. Stroop in Kettering.

For details, call Bob & Mary Ann Sauer at 937-439-9742 or Email: MASAUER@aol.com

Kent - Call for dates and time: Contact Pastor Doug Fidler (330) 673-5445

Marysville Area - Monthly

Third Sunday at First English Lutheran, 687 London Avenue, Marysville. Call Judy Hurl 513/642-4621 or Jeanne Haynes, 513/642-4701

Stow - Quarterly

Contact Gracia Luoma (330) 686-8807

Western Lake County Periodic joint Lutheran-Episcopal Utreya.

Hook up through George Cyphers, 216-951-2906

Western Reserve - Monthly

Second Saturday 7:00 pm, Brecksville United Methodist Church, call Martha Mallen (216) 257-0254

Urbana - Monthly

First Friday 6:30 pm at Church of the Epiphany, corner Scioto and Kenton, Urbana. Joint utreya with Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and now Lutheran! Contact Dick or Marv Swan, 513/484-3189.

Northern Utreya

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

3725 Kent Road

Stow, Ohio 44224

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Bring a dish to share and your songbooks.

Questions or directions to St. Stephen, call or email Dan or Lynn Steffey at:

330-688-9019 dsteffey@neo.rr.com

GET ON THE WEB and check out the Via de Cristo Web sites:

Ohio Via de Cristo Website

www.viadecristooh.org

National Via de Cristo Website

www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website

www.kairosohio.org

Remember the blessings of Palanca mail:

***Sent from the community, but
inspired by the Lord.***