

# ***Holy Play***

***A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication***

## ***Holy Play***

*Gus Martschink, Editor: Men's # 11*

*Holy Play is just that! **Holy**...a word with many definitions that stands alone on its own spiritual merit. **Play**...informative, accurate, and timely with no sermons or lectures. This is the title of your S.C. Via de Cristo newsletter that will be sent via e-mail to the community prayerfully the first of each month. So with two small words, we are going to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ things that are or have happened, meaningful stories, and have fun doing it!*

*We are a merry band of authors not above levity on occasion. It is our belief that author work should be thoughtful, professional, and positive with a bit of "holy play." It is in this creative spirit that your writing gifts will be honored. I'll be asking people for submissions, however, please know you are welcome to submit an article any time.*

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### **Easter Hope**

Jim Ullery, SCVdC Lay Director

One of my fondest memories of my pilgrim weekend was the realization that I had so many Brothers and Sisters. I always wondered growing up what it would be like to be in a very large family. While I loved being in an immediate family with one brother, the appeal of multiple brothers and sisters was always there. As with any family, there are disagreements and sometimes "knock down drag out fights", but in true families the love never fails. The reason that love never fails is that like our lives, love is a gift from God and his gifts last.

In this season as we anticipate the suffering, death and most assuredly the resurrection of our brother Jesus, hope reigns eternal. The last few years, our precious Via de Cristo movement has had many challenges, but as with the promise of Easter, we look to new life. Not that Via de Cristo needs resurrecting, but as the Spring offers new growth, I believe that Via de Cristo shows many green sprouts and beautiful blooms. God Loves You my Brothers and Sisters and so do I.

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**Publication # 1: April 1, 2012**

Gus Martschink: Editor

336-202-9047

[gusmartschink@hotmail.com](mailto:gusmartschink@hotmail.com)

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#### **Sponsoring Pilgrims...A Mountaintop Experience**

Linda Estee: Women's # 10

To my brothers and sisters in Christ. As we prepare for our statewide Via de Cristo reunion on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Camp Kinard, I have been reminiscing on my pilgrim weekend. What an intimate, loving, grace filled gift I received. It was not my mountaintop however. I have grown closer to Christ from that day forward.

When I first became part of a team, I realized the weekends could not exist without pilgrims. Al and I began praying for pilgrims and sponsored over 40 individually and by helping others through the steps of sponsorship. Yes, this has been my mountaintop!!

Remember, a weekend kept to yourself is not fulfilling Christ's instructions to us... "Go and make disciples of all nations." Take the most important step for Via de Cristo and become a sponsor for Christ. God loves you and so do I.

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#### **My Fourth Day, Fifteen Years Later**

**Ruth Butler: Women's # 3**

The fourth day! "What?" We say, "Does it have real meaning?" The answer is decidedly yes. For me, it started 15 years ago.

I returned to my job as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher on Monday after a nice weekend with some very pleasant people in a lovely rural setting. I was entering my fourth day. It was a fairly normal day-happy, rowdy, active students, the usual altercations-really a normal day. Then while on yard duty at lunch, I heard a group of girls singing a song I'd sung on the weekend. I began humming under my breath with them. I started praying a prayer as I drove to school, or when a particular troublesome event occurred. It happened often. My fourth day had begun.

And so it went. Each day, a memory of those three days at Camp came back-an early morning prayer, a sharing of faith with another, a story of a personal walk with Christ, the beauty of God's creation in an early morning sun. I became aware of the presence of Christ.

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I continue to work in my fourth day; each day is a new beginning in a new year.

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