



March 2023

## Community!

When people ask the question, "What is the big wow about attending a VDC weekend?" There is no single answer. All of us have been asked and done our best to respond without sharing the surprises and the best response really doesn't answer the question. The many ways the weekend impacts us varies from person to person. I know couples who attended the same weekend and their answers are different. God's Grace wraps us up where we are in our life and faith journey to carry us forward. For me my attitude changed with idea talk when the speaker made some reference to the person who didn't want to be here and had more important things to do. For others it is the piety talk or morning worship or serenade. The list is endless. As I look back at the blessings of the past 22 years, the one piece of the puzzle that continues to grow and touch me is the community. This shared experience and agape love that binds us like a family is alive and growing. Those connections are started with the people at our table as guests. From there it grows and grows. Every time you serve together or show up for an event the bonds get bigger and stronger. This Christian community is the foundation that keeps us together. This community is a requirement to keep this wonderful gift of the VDC thriving. This community is alive, healthy, and starting again to grow. Last September we had our first event in almost three years at Agape. 38 of us met for Renewal Weekend #4. We were blessed with a wonderful serenade of 4 people. As small as it was, it was also a shining example of community and God's unwavering hand in our lives. It was Chuck Wolfe's last VDC activity. It was also a wake-up to how much COVID had impacted us. When Jim Bailey was called as Rector for M#106, we had big concerns about getting a team together. In my rollo at RW#4 I said our active community was 50-60 people. Two years earlier we had over 100 people at the serenade for M#105. COVID had hit VDC and our churches really hard. Would Jim be able to assemble a team? If he did, would guests want to come? Jim said yes and M#106 was added to our prayer lists. Jim and Linda Evans did a lot of heavy lifting to assemble their team. That meant picking up the phone and calling past team members within the community. Some people just needed a little push. Others just needed to be asked to support the community and they jumped on board. At one Secretariat meeting they had 16 team members. Two weeks later they had 38. The same thing happened with sponsors and guests. Our worries were wasted energy. God had it under control. One of the scariest things to say yes to is being a serenade leader. You pick music, call your pals, and hope you not are walking into the dining room alone. Diane Colin and Lynn Hess say yes. Again, God showed up. 50+ people walked into the dining room on Saturday night. It was such a gift. In the six months since RW#4, our active community has more than doubled. Bonnie Clinton is the Rectora for M#107 (14-17Sept). When we talked last week she said she might have to turn down team applications if the current rate of applications continues. That is hard to comprehend that our community has become this active since RW#4 in September. The Holy Spirit is at work and we are blessed. At the Secretariat retreat in January, I asked the following question, "Do we have enough support to hold two weekends in 2024". The answer was an overwhelming yes. I had my doubts. Based on the past few weeks, I was wrong.

Last year the Nominating Committee was me. I spent several months was unable to fill all of our open positions. This year Lynne Hoffman volunteered to head the Nominating Committee. Kris Sloman and Lindsey Daugherty joined Lynne on this project. In less than a month they had filled all six of our open positions. Four those who have volunteered to serve are new to Secretariat. This is another joyful sign of God answer prayers. Big thanks to the committee.

There is a great deal of energy within our community. I am in awe of all that is happening. Ultreyas and reunion groups are critical in our 4th day. These two key components of the VDC keep us accountable and connected. I encourage each of you to support the Secretariat efforts to re-start Ultreyas in the Triangle, Triad, and Charlotte areas. The beach group has a system that is working. I can't say everyone attends every event, but our numbers keep growing. I would also encourage you to look for Ultreyas outside your local area and attend. If the drive is too far, call a member of the community and spend the night. Be intentional! Reconnect with that team member or table mate from a past weekend. We have currently called the Rector for M#108 in February 2024. Mixed #109 is scheduled for the September 2024. Before COVID we were successfully having three weekends a year? Do we need to think about a third weekend in 2024? Do we need three weekends in 2025? Those answers are tied to the community. If we are filling teams and turning people down, then we need to add another weekend. That is a problem I look forward to having. The Via de Cristo is about building and equipping Christian leaders. We love weekends, serenades, Ultreyas, and reunion groups. Being together impacts us in ways we never expected. With all that we have to celebrate, remember we can't stay on the mountaintop. We are called to go back to our local church and community to be Christ's hands and feet. I pray your Lenten journey is a time to reflect as we anticipate the joy of Easter. I hope to see you at the M#106 Babe Chick Ultreya on March 18. The Ultreya is at St. Paul's in Wilmington at 11:30. If you are there, you might have a surprise or two (don't anticipate).

Secretariat meetings are open to anyone in the community, except when we are in executive session. Executive session only happens when we are voting on future rectors and dealing with personnel matters.

If you want to join us, drop me a email and I will get you the details. Our upcoming meeting schedule is:

13March – Zoom (6:30-8ish)

22April – In-person at Holy Cross in Clayton (9-12ish)

May – Zoom – date TBD

June – In-person - TBD

GLYASDI

Doug

## Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I hope you are enjoying this lovely spring weather! Once the Dogwoods start blooming, my heart sings with the hope of an upcoming spring and Easter. I am pleased to announce that Sarah Value has agreed to serve as the new Outreach Co-Chair on the Secretariat! Sarah will be taking over the vacancy created by Don Seeber as he took over the Vice President position. I want to take a moment to thank Don for his leadership, organizational skills, and vision in developing the ambassador and liaison roles. His commitment to furthering Christ's church in our communities is admirable. Sarah has also graciously agreed to be the Ambassador for Good Shepherd in Elizabeth City. Her willingness to serve and advance our VDC community is truly inspiring! Look for her next month in the Weave as she introduces herself. Although the list of ambassadors and liaisons continues to grow, there is still a great need at many churches in our community. If your church does not currently have an ambassador, expect to hear from either Sarah or myself in the near future.

God's blessings on your Spring!

Lynne Hoffman  
Outreach Co-Chair

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## God is Good!

It was great to have Mixed #106 come to fruition after 3 years of waiting and wondering! As shared in a previous article, Operations has been busy getting all of the inventory "cleaned up" and organized over the last few months. We appreciate all of the support that has been given across the ENCVDC community! Without it, the overall success of operations for Mixed #106 would not have gone as smoothly.

In being as transparent as possible, the inventory belongs to all of the community; the chairperson(s) is only the facilitator to make sure processes and procedures are in place for having an effective weekend. Here are a few more items that we are continuing to work on: Thanks to Tommy Oates for getting the new door for the storage trailer. Over the next couple of weeks, the old door will be replaced. This will hopefully help to keep our "creatures" from visiting and leaving their presents. For that reason, it is necessary to update the VDC Inventory Procedures to correlate with "after COVID". Those procedures will be updated and included in the Lead Chas Manuals.

What does this look like? That is what we would like this group to help us with as well as other ideas that have not even been thought of.

GLYASDI,  
Heather Whitehead



## Decolores!

Mix #107 is a little over 6 months away!

Team applications and verbal commitments are coming in. If you have given a verbal commitment, please get your application to me as soon as possible. We are excited to see who else will answer God's call!

Applications can be submitted to me at:

bonnieclinton@hotmail.com or  
P.O. Box 22365, Knoxville, TN 37933

The team meeting dates (below) are now set and we are currently making plans for team meeting locations.

May 20, 2023  
June 24, 2023  
July 29, 2023  
August 19, 2023

Please continue to pray for Mix #107 as we discern God's direction for this weekend. Christ is counting on all of us!

Thank you to the ENCVDC community for your support for of Mix 106 – all the prayers, palanca and serenaders. It was an amazing weekend!

GLYASDI!  
Bonnie Clinton  
Rector, Mix #107  
336-254-2122



# PALANCA

## Remember in Prayer

- Those caring for aging family members.
- Those who have lost loved ones,
- Those struggling with chronic illness.
- Those living in war-torn parts of the world.
- All refugees and families left homeless by war, poverty, or crisis.
- Victims of natural disasters.
- Victims of the multiple mass shootings in the past year.
- Victims of the War in Ukraine, specifically.
- Everyone who is impacted by Covid-19 in one form or another.
- Please pray for our President Terry who is having health issues.

## Secretariat Dates to Remember

**2 0 23**

March 13	Secretariat meeting	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
April 22	Secretariat Meeting	9:00 am - 12:00 noon
May 18	Secretariat Meeting	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**Eastern North Carolina Via de Cristo Secretariat  
2022-2023**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>
President	Doug Austin	919-235-8476
Vice-Pres	Don Seeber	910.540.2974
Secretary	Marcia Driscoll	910-899-7090
Treasurer	Marie Lewis	704-763-2848
Archivist - Database	Elisabeth Lockley	336-212-1165
Archivist - Web Master	Charissa Aclin	240-286-5446
Leaders	Steve Buch	919-349-7536
Music	Lizy Coleman	919-455-8788
Communications/WEAVE	Marcia Driscoll	910-899-7090
Fourth Day	Leslie Aschemeier	910-742-9107
Operations	Heather Whitehead	919-6397434
Outreach Co-Chair	vacant	
Palanca	Judy Park	276-791-2000
Pre-Weekend	John Colin	919-616-3912
Spiritual Director	Pastor Dwight Shellaway	336-317-4452
Spiritual Director	Pastor Carolyn Remaklus	919-345-4646
Spiritual Director	Pastor Dale Cline	980-777-2426