



De Colores
Ministries
of Grand
Rapids

DeColores Newsletter

March - April 2007

On the web at www.decoloresgr.org

Dear DeColores Community,

Weekend # 203 was a powerful GOD-filled weekend. The men were able to: "Come Just As You Are" and leave as ambassadors for CHRIST.

Thank you all for your support and prayers, it was wonderful to see how many of you came out into the cold and snowy Michigan weather to support the candidates and team. **Thank you!**

I thank East Congregational Church for opening up their hearts and doors to us. I know that DeColores was also a blessing to them. May the Lord continue to minister to our Sisters and Brothers at East Congregational. **Praise GOD!**

We have had our four follow up meetings which were all well attended. There were 27 of us at the last meeting. It is always a blessing to share our victories, concerns and prayers with other men in the presence of GOD. **Amen?** We still have our combined potluck with the women's weekend # 204 and I look forward to the fellowship.

Now may we focus our sights on the fall weekends and I encourage you to sponsor a fellow candidate. There is no better present than the gift of salvation that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ.

DeColores

Jonn Belding,
Rector, Weekend #203

Welcome the New Crucistas from Men's Weekend #203, March 4, 2007

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Chad Broersma | Jameson VanDam | Bob Signor | Mike VanderKlipp |
| Bruce Blalock | Brian Clemenshaw | Lyn Nelson | Gerald (J.P.) Powney |
| Fred Snyder | Fred Plainte | David Cook | Chad Griffeth |
| Jeff Lovell | Aaron Vandenberg | Rodney Hensley | Ronald (Ron) H. |
| Mike (Wally) Walcott | Gerry Brown | Nicholas (Nick) Smith | Mackey |
| Tim Dieffenbach | Vern Wolters | Craig Scott | Chad Medema |
| Craig Hancock | Dave Shoemake | Chris Brummel | Michael Stoiko |

Upcoming Events

The Fall Men's Weekend is being held on September 20-23,
Rector: Chuck Dykhuizen, Co-Rector Ray Schauble, Church: Cascade Christian

The Fall Women's Weekend is being held October 4-7
Rectoress: Micki DeRuiter, Co-Rectoress Jan Smith, Church: Oakdale Park CRC

DeColores Community,

Wow! What an honor and a privilege it has been to serve as Rectoress of Weekend #204. I am overwhelmed with God's blessings. Words are inadequate to describe the experience of this weekend for it is "beyond words." This was God's weekend and we were richly blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

All of us who shared in the experience of #204 were truly called for that time and that place to gather together and be renewed in the presence of God. Our lives will never be the same. We thank the De-Colores community for your support and prayers for this weekend.

For me, this experience is another *big* step on my faith journey. I look forward to what the Lord has in store each day. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve in this role.

May all of us continue to daily be open to the Lord's call and seek ways to "Grow in our Faith" through piety, study, and action.

I am a truly blessed servant of the Lord.

DeColores,

Jackie McGee

Rectoress, Weekend #204

Welcome the New Crucistas from Women's Weekend #203, March 18, 2007



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|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sharon Bouman | Diana Howerton | Pam Plainte | Kathleen Stoiko |
| Pamela Dykhuizen | Lori Landwer | Sally Aitchison | LaVonne Venema |
| Hilda Frazier | Lisa Lerversee | Gail Simmons | Thelma Walkington |
| Michelle Hamilton | Ann Mackey | Nikki Simmons | Sophia Witte |
| Emily Hancock | Sandy Mackey | Lori Snyder | Amanda Wood |
| Kristie Houseman | Tami McMillan | Lori Spoelstra | |



De Colores Board Activities

The De Colores board has this year been reviewing one of the foundational principles of both Cursillo and De Colores. Cursillo sprang from the vision God gave to Bishop Juan Hervas in the 1940's. The original intent was for mature, responsible Christians to be renewed and grow, then return and become more effective servants in their Catholic churches. At that time, men were less likely to attend church and accept an active role. The implementation of Cursillo in 1949 was the fulfillment of Juan Hervas prayers. De Colores came from the Cursillo movement as the Protestant equivalent.

It is widely documented that fewer husbands than wives attend church. That trend has continued from Juan Hervas' time and worsened. Marriages are under great attack in our society. Fathers actively involved in their child's spiritual life are becoming less common, and the effect is dramatic. Increasingly, the task of leading children to the Lord has been left to the mother.

A study by Richard Egan in 2002 shows some of the effect of parental behavior on children. If both father and mother attend church regularly, 33% of their children will become regular attenders. If only the mother attends and the father is an irregular attender, only 3% of children become regular church attenders. If a father does not go to church, there is a 1 in 50 chance a child will attend church.

The original Cursillo movement as envisioned by Juan Hervas was for men only. Having husbands attend before wives was instituted when women were included, to very strongly encourage the husband to attend. The focus was still on getting men active in their churches.

After much discussion and prayer, your De Colores board voted to return to the original policy, in effect before 2000, requiring the husband to attend first. The focus is on the husband, to strengthen the marriage. The time of waiting for a husband's positive answer should be a time of intense prayer for the husband, not only by the wife but the sponsor and all who care deeply. Attend any closing and listen to the number of men who would not have attended a Weekend without lots of extra encouragement, urging and prayer. However, if after this time of prayer the husband will still not attend, his wife may attend.

The Lord has blessed De Colores greatly. How can De Colores not do everything in its power to encourage a husband's spiritual life and to ask God into the marriage? A husband's spiritual life is at stake, a marriage is at stake, the future of the children is at stake. What wife would not want her husband to renew his spiritual life, to improve the marriage relationship?

In consideration of these issues, the wording added back to the De Colores Constitution is:

Article VI: Selection of candidates

B. Husbands must attend De Colores prior to spouse. In the event a husband has not attended, the wife may apply if husband does not want to go or is unable to go, but the wife will not be invited until after a one year waiting period.

C. Wives of husbands who have already attended a weekend do not have priority. For this reason, the wife should get applications in at the same time as her husband.

The effective date of this change is June 1, 2007. Applications already in are not affected. The sponsor's role becomes even more important. Sponsorship was originally intended to be a long-term relationship, both before and after a Weekend. This will be addressed in a future newsletter

Your thoughtful and prayerful comments and concerns may be expressed to any member of the board.

DeColores Board Members

President Couple:

Marilyn & Denny England (616) 942-0124
mdengland@iserv.net

Vice President Couple:

Lin & Bobbi Snider (616) 433-8000
lins5star@charter.net

Past President:

Ron & Tammy Schoolaart, (616) 866-3675
tschoolaart@comcast.net

Spiritual Advisor:

Peg VanDyke (616)-247-1948
pegvandyke@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Melode LaHuis (616) 887-0037
melolah@aol.com

Treasurer:

Kathleen Smith (616) 291-2130
bk091678@comcast.net

Pre-DeColores (Applications):

Doug and Leslie Price, (616) 527-1835
douglas.lezlie@sbcglobal.net

In-DeColores:

Jack & Pat Verbrugge (616) 531-1606
pjverbru@sbcglobal.net

Post-De Colores:

Ralph & Regi Valentine, (616) 531-7444
pine4108@comcast.net

Communications:

Karl & Connie VanDyke (616) 245-0200
karlvandyke@tds.net

24 hour Renewal:

Jim & KayLyn VanderVeen 616 363-8739
kaylynv@comcast.net

Member Representative:

Mike & Stephanie Taylor: (616) 682-0336
taylor-s@comcast.net, or taylor-m@comcast.net

Historian:

Linda Jonker (616) 784-2162
lajonker@msn.com

National Rep:

Jim & Barb Davies, (616) 942-5408
jdavies246@aol.com

Important dates to remember!!

Renewal Weekends:

Men's Weekend: May 18-19, Rector: Doug Metivier, Co: Jim VanderVeen, Church:Northlawn UMC

**Women's Weekend: June 8-9, Rectoress: Nancy McGuinness Co: Sally Robinson,
Church: Third Reformed**

For information or applications contact: Kaylyn & Jim Vanderveen 616-363-8739 ,
kaylynv@comcast.net or Paul & Nancy McGuinness 616 241-5731 or guinnessmc@sbcglobal.net.

**The Fall Men's Weekend is being held on September 20-23,
Chuck Dykhuizen Rector Co-Rector Ray Schauble. Church: Cascade Christian**

**The Fall women's Weekend is being held October 4-7
Micki DeRuiter Rectoress Co-Rectoress Jan Smith. Church Oakdale CRC**

DeColores Board meeting will be 9:30 AM, **May 12** at 3rd Reformed Church, 2060 Michigan St. NE.

Ultreya will not be held in May!! Leadership is still needed for this board position. Prayerfully consider serving the community in this role.

DeCo Tec Weekend April 27-29

DeCo-TEC stands for Teens Encounter Christ. It is for teens ages 14-18. This is a time for a young person to reflect on his/her walk with God (website: www.decotec.org). The next Weekend will be:

**DeCo TEC 83 at Thornapple Community Church, April 27, 28, 29, Tim Mosher Director, Pam Herin Co-Director. Weekend theme: Our Savior, Our God Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14
Holy Hour: Friday April 27, 7:30 PM**

The **DeColores website** is up and ready for you at www.decoloresgr.org. There you'll have access to application forms & where to send them, sponsor duties, information on coming events, newsletters, sign-up for e-mail newsletters and links to other DeColores communities.

E-mail Newsletters are not going out this month. You are getting a hardcopy while a better e-mail delivery system is being put in place. Current and new e-mail requests are still on file for use when the delivery can be assured. My apologies for those who did not get the January - February Newsletter. You can find all the newsletters on the website if you think you missed one.

Each quarter, De Colores tithes all contributions . The money is donated to local organizations which help the needy in a variety of ways. The recipients for the first quarter on 2007 are Dwelling place and the Salvation Army. Your generosity keeps giving even between Weekends. Thank you Lord.

DeColores Ministries
of Grand Rapids, MI

DeColores Ministries
P.O. Box 150263
Grand Rapids, MI 49515-0263

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