

# El Tinterito

## September, 2009



### WHO'S WHO: ST. SWITHUN

#### In case you were wondering...

St. Swithun lived in medieval times - he was born around 800 AD and died on July 2, 862. Not much is known about our beloved Swithun, but we do know some things. He became one of the most well-known and prominent saints of his time. He is best known today as the saint to pray to when in a drought - but more about that in a minute!

St. Swithun was born during the reign of King Egbert of Wessex and was ordained into the priesthood by Helmstad (Bishop of Winchester between 838c - 852c). While there is no factual evidence to support this, he may have been a Benedictine monk and Prior of Winchester. Evidently, he became quite popular because he caught the attention of the king. King Egbert charged St. Swithun with the tutelage his son Ethelwulf. (Oh just-for-fun trivia: the suffix -elwulf means "noble wolf".) The king, having a deep-seated bent for spirituality, considered St. Swithun a close friend.

Now, a little info on the king himself: King Egbert of Wessex (King of Wessex from 802 until 839) gained control over much of the southern portion of England after several battles. He was heralded by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the "Ruler of Britain". (And no, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is not a newspaper but a collection of historical medieval writings that chronicled Anglo-Saxon history.) The importance here is that these were very wealthy kingdoms, hence King Egbert of Wessex was quite a prominent figure in the medieval Anglo-Saxon landscape. Ethelwulf succeeded him as king and appointed St. Swithun bishop of Winchester. The diocese of Winchester was one of the wealthiest English sees, and its bishops were often politically prominent Englishmen. So, you see that our Swithun wielded great spiritual and political influence, although his influence weighed in most heavily on the spiritual side of the fence.

So, for the fun stuff. St. Swithun was a great builder of new churches and restorer of old ones. In spite of his prominent position, when he gave banquets he invited the poor, not the rich. He traveled on foot. His most famous miracle was that, while crossing a bridge, he restored a woman's basket of eggs which had been deliberately destroyed by some malicious workmen.

Now, what about the drought deal? Well, while on his death-bed apparently St. Swithun begged to be buried outside his cathedral along the north wall. This was so that his grave "might be subject to the feet of passers-by and to the raindrops pouring from on high". (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swithun>). In 971, legend has it that a heavy shower occurred by which the venerable Swithun expressed his displeasure at his remains being removed. Today, St. Swithun is best known for the tradition that if it rains on St. Swithun's day - July 15th - then it will rain for 40 more days.

Our Via de Cristo table for staff is named St. Swithun's. The name for the table came from the Episcopal Cursillo movement, where St. Swithun's table is still affectionately referred to as "St. Swithun's in the Swamp". In Anglican and Episcopal usage, "St. Swithun's in the Swamp" is a common name for "any church".

AND THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS ALL SHE WROTE!

-Janet Thorp, Training Director



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**It's Never Too Early** --to invite a friend or loved one to share in the very special love and friendship of a Via de Cristo weekend. Let's get busy and get all our friends there to walk with Jesus and experience 4th Day love.



As a sponsor please be sure to fill out the sponsor's form of your participant's application and send them both to Valerie von Bergen, our registrar. Both forms must be sent in for the application to be considered complete and accepted. The forms and Valeries's address can be found on our website.

## Grande Ultreya, Saturday, October 3rd

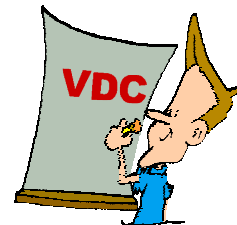
Just one more week until our Fall Grand Ultreya! Dust off that recipe book of Potluck dinners and bring your favorite dish to share. During this Grand Ultreya we will also be holding a short business meeting of the recently formed LVDCNT. But the most important activity of the Grand Ultreya is a time to fellowship together, eat great food and worship together. So come meet the most recent 4th Day Members and reconnect with some 4th Day you might not have seen in a while.



There is a time change for the Grand Ultreya. It will now start at 6:00 PM. It is being held at King of Glory, Dallas. 6411 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy, Dallas, TX 75240-6406.

## Spread the News

This newsletter, the El Tinterito, is distributed by email only. If you know of 4th Dayers who do not receive or use email please print off a copy for them. If possible, please place a copy on your VdC bulletin board at your church.





## VDC Weekend 79 Staff

		<u>Rollistas</u>	
Rector	Carey Newton	Ideal	Patrick Hunt
OR	Sybil Shuck	Laity	Jennifer Isernhagen
Spiritual Dir.	Pastor Ernie Barr	Piety	Miles Holder
Spiritual Dir.	Pastor Janet Kraatz	Study	Carolyn Knudsen
Rectors Cha	Cid Smith	Action	Keith Hauptmann
Music Cha	Mike Mayo	Leaders	Steve Hogan
Food Cha	Tom Wiese	Environment	Kathy Hunt
Food Cha	Susan Johnston	Christian Comm.	Greg Hefner
Palanca Cha	Dailey Taylor	4th Day	Laura Huddleston
Palanca Cha	Wes Berry		
Table Leader	Amber Meyer		

## Help Support the "Grace Weekend Gifts" Program



Although our Grace weekends are free to the participants, they are not "free." We rely on donations from the 4th Day to finance these gifts of grace. Please continue to contribute to the Grace Weekend Fund!

Send your donation to support our Grace weekends to:  
Jim Bingaman, LVDC of North Texas Treasurer,  
1401 Lakeview Blvd, Denton, Texas 76208.

Make checks payable to Lutheran VDC of North Texas.

## Staff Training School

The 9th Staff Training School was held on August 29th. Eleven people attended. As you progress through the day at the school you will remember your own weekend and connect it to what you learn at the school. You will see the participant side and the staffing side..



More importantly, you will see that a VdC weekend leads you directly to your 4th Day activities --- your share of Jesus' work here on earth. When God made us He also gave out assignments for each of us to do in our walk with Him.

Our 4th Day job is to carry out those assignments. God provides you with all the skills and talents you will need. VdC gives you a wonderful method, and a loving 4th Day family to support you and help you accomplish your assigned tasks.



**Webmaster.**  
**Patrick Hunt**

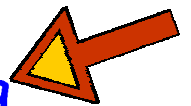
## Your New Website at Your Service

The communications team and particularly Patrick have worked very hard to develop a new up to date website that will allow each of you have a myriad of information at your fingertips.

You will be able to find out dates, times, and places of meetings, covered dish suppers, palanca parties, etc. quickly and easily. More of our 4th Day communication can be done on the internet which will accomplish two things -- one, you will have more information sooner than by email and two, the email load will be reduced.

There are two things the team needs from each of you-- one, that you get the "check website often" habit and two, that you send us the particulars of your ultreya and church activities, Send them to [momt@gmail.com](mailto:momt@gmail.com) and they'll appear on the website in a flash!

The New Website Address -- [vdcnorthtexas.org](http://vdcnorthtexas.org)



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## Palanca Doesn't Have to End With Your Weekend



Out of your Love To Share, Your Health To Spare,  
and as Friends Who Care join our prayer chain  
and let God's power, strength, and joy  
bring you and those you pray for  
His peace and joy.

### FOR HEALING

Emily  
Linda  
Jim  
Jenna  
Paul B.  
Ray  
Sam

### FOR GUIDANCE and STRENGTH

Iris  
Paul and family  
Mom T.  
B. J.  
Pastor Kerstin  
California fire friends  
Paul T.  
Matt N.

### FOR THANKSGIVING AND BLESSINGS

For the hope that God's promise to take perfect care of each one of us in this chaotic time gives us.

In order to keep the prayers current and applicable the list will be started anew with each edition of the El Tinterito. You need not go into detail about the particulars of your request. Just submit the person's name and the category for the prayer. Please give your name and weekend number. You will receive email notices of the deadlines for adding or renewing your name/s to this prayer list.

Pio, Pio, Pio!  
Carpe Diem

