

# The Abraco



## Vermont Tres Dias

February/March  
2015

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### President's Letter



Dear Pescadores,  
The anticipation and planning are well underway for our fall weekends. I ask you to pray constantly for the team to come together under our Lord's direction. Also pray for God's guidance for your answer if you are asked to serve.

On behalf of the whole community I want to thank Jeff Cyphers and Marilyn White for accepting God's call to serve as rectors this fall. Truly a blessing.

Now is the time to begin praying that God would touch the hearts of those whom He has selected to

be pilgrims this year. We all can encourage fellow Christians to attend but only He can create the desire.

I am excited to tell you that at our last secretariat we decided to fill the positions on the visitation committee. I said fill but it certainly is not full. If you have a calling to share about how Tres Dias can impact church leadership please contact me. I know from first hand experience that there are many churches that do not know anything about our mission. Namely training, supporting and

encouraging church leaders. I believe that the task of the visitation committee is to seek invitations from interested churches and go to them with a clear overview of our mission. Three people have stepped forward so far; Karen Warner, Janet Smithers and Jim Guiel. Did I say I am excited?!!

There is no time like the present to put on the Palanca hat. Prayers, service or whatever you can do will be used to glorify our Lord and Savior.

DE COLORES

May He bless you

*Dick Michaud*



### 2015 Spotlights

- Be in prayer for the upcoming weekends. Rectors will start the process of picking people to be on team.
- Thank you for those of you who have offered to host Secuelas. Please see the last page for site listings.
- Mid summer, we have a picnic. It is in July, so mark your calendar now for July 18th. This is a great time to bring someone that you may have been talking to about attending a weekend, as it is an Open gathering.

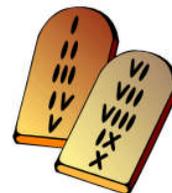
### The Essentials by Bernadette Tracy

The years pass quickly as most of us know all too well and with the passing of time there is the hope of gaining something in its place. Job 32:7, "I thought age should speak, and increased years should teach wisdom." As the gray hairs have won out

over the brown on my head, and I count myself amongst those who are "mature in years", I can say that I have learned a few things that are what I would count among "The Essentials."

My views on life and God in particular, have

changed radically over time. As a child, God seemed to be a mystical figure sitting up in the sky watching my every move. He was the great judge who ruled without mercy



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# The Essentials

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or compassion. As a teenager, He was the killjoy to all the fun I wanted to have. Despite these negative images, I accepted Christ at the age of eighteen, realizing that I needed Him, more than He needed me. My first year of salvation was a joyous one. I wanted to know and experience this new relationship with the utmost intimacy. I decided I would live for God so I strived forward longing to be good enough to be worthy of this call.

These strivings led to failure and fueled the return of my view of God as the great judge who was impossible to please. Ending up in a cycle of performance based faith, I struggled to know what it was that God wanted from me and how I was going to deliver. I read and read, taking in as much information as I could hold. It filled my head, but not my heart. I tried to fit into the world of Christianity, and began the tedious task of trying to "walk



the talk". I tithed, I studied scripture; Christian radio played in my car. I remained confused. All my efforts failed. I was a faker.

And so, I wandered, living in the arid land of spiritual dryness, thirsty but unable to find water. I became lukewarm, not fully in, sitting on the fence of indecision; the world or God. It was not that I did not try or that I did not care, I just could not face being a failure in my attempt to please Him. I was assaulted by guilt fed by the ready spoon of the enemy.

Over the passing of time with the addition of gray hairs, I have learned a few things through the patience and grace of our Lord. They are as follows:

No matter how I feel or what happens in my life, quite simply: God is Good *Psalm 107:1*

No amount of striving will help me, the end result of my own righteous acts are like filthy rags. *Isaiah 64:5*

Apart from Him I can do nothing. *John 15:5*



God's answer to my striving, my weariness and burdened heart is, "Come and rest". *Matthew 11:28*

Where do I find what I need to "walk the talk?" By His divine power, the Lord has given me everything I need for life and godliness. It is only in Him that I live and move and have my being. *Acts 17:28*

I was not meant to live my life in Christ on my own or in my own strength. Faithful is He that called you, He will also do it. *1 Thessalonians 5:24*

God is the one who began the good work in me and will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*

So simply put, the burden is off of my shoulders and onto His. I am free to trust and rest in His Faithfulness and follow with obedient abandon. His invites you to do likewise.

De Colores, I  
n His Love,  
*Bernadette*



## Web Page update information!



### New Look!

We have moved the web page and changed the look! If your computer has the old site in it's memory, you may need to clean out your history and cookies. Make sure the address comes up as [www.vttresdias.org](http://www.vttresdias.org) and

nothing else! Then you will be directed to the new site.

### Calendar Items!

The calendar items are always on the home page. Each news item will be updated by date and you will always know what is happening! At the bottom of the calendar, you will see an 'Add' button. If you want to have your personal calendar linked with this Tres Dias calendar, just

click there! You will never miss any important information again!

### Email address'

Along with the new hosting of the web site, we have the ability to create new email address's. We have created two so far, they are:

[president@vttresdias.org](mailto:president@vttresdias.org)  
and  
[communication@vttresdias.org](mailto:communication@vttresdias.org)

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# Web Page update information! (continued)



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We will be discussing any others we may want to add at the February Secretariat, so come along and give us your input!

We will use the 'President' email that will move along with the change of presidents, which will bring consistency to that position and communication with that

position. The 'Communication' email address will be used for the monthly news and weekend information that is emailed out.

## Documents

We have re-posted the usual documents on the web site. You can download your application form, sponsor form, and brochure. Also, we have posted the Statement of Faith, Committees Responsibilities and the by-laws

We hope you visit the site often, and find it useful for spreading the good news of this organization!

## Your Tres Dias Officers

President—Dick Michaud  
VP—Richard Chamberlin  
Secretary—Joan Cook  
Treasurer—Cheryl Lake

## Your Committee Chairs

Weekend Committee  
Wayne & Karen Warner

Post Weekend & Housing  
Barbi Langdon

International Palanca  
Lorinda Michaud

Application Committee  
Marilyn White

Communication Committee  
Janet Smithers

Team Screening Comm.  
Jerry & Beth Cole  
Jerry & Kathleen Sullivan

Food Committee  
Anita Norton

Visitation Team  
Jim Guiel, Karen Warner  
Janet Smithers

International Representatives  
Ron & Barbi Langdon

Spiritual Director Committee  
Ron Rilling, Fred Tomaselli  
and Paul Ciampaglia

## Are you ready to Sponsor?

Do you know what it really means to be a sponsor? We all know the obvious things:

- Invite a friend to a Weekend
- Help with application
- Get candidate's minister to sign the application
- Write a Palanca letter
- Do kitchen Palanca
- Attend the closing

- Take Pescadore home from the Weekend

That's it, right? Wrong! That is only a very small beginning. Are you aware of how really big a decision it is to sponsor someone? Are you aware that your responsibility does not end with the trip home after the Weekend?

More in the next newsletter!!!

*Secretariat at 5:00 p.m.*

*Clip &*



*Save*

*Secuela at 6:30 p.m.*

## Upcoming Secretariats and Secuelas

**February 21** Newbury Bible Fellowship, Newbury, VT

**March 21** No VT Secuela but you are invited to attend the NH Secuela

**April 18** Would you like to host a Secuela?

**May 16** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Albans, VT

**June 13** The Ridge, Brookfield, VT

Barbi Langdon can be called at: 603-787-6119 to arrange hosting a Secuela