

# The Abraco



## Vermont Tres Dias

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### 2016 Upcoming items to be praying for

- Choosing the Men's Rectors for 2016 and 2017. Choosing the Women's 2017 rector. Jennifer Smithers is slated for 2016
- Looking for a new site for holding our Weekends. We definitely will have the Inn for 2016, but probably not after that. If you know of any place that should be looked at, call the Richard Chamberlin

## President's Letter

December 2015



Dear Pescadores,

The weekends have come and gone, they are such a blessing to all. God is good, each and every time. To the new Pescadores, Greeting and May God bless you all with fresh horizons and a deeper service to our King. Thank you community for all the sacrifices, dedication and work that comes before

and after the weekends. Great Job!

Christmas is upon us now with all it promises and hope. What a gift our father has given us. We celebrate His arrival and anticipate His return with baited hearts.

Please read below about the December gathering on the 19th and I hope to see you all there.

Merry Christmas!

*Richard Chamberlin*  
President

[A poem by Howard Thurman](#)

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart... And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.



## December Gathering!

Celebrate the birth of our Savior by joining Pescadores and friends at Northfield Bible Fellowship on December 19th. The festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Pot Luck Blessing! Bring

a hot dish or dessert to share.

Following the dinner will be a Yankee Swap gift exchange. (value between \$5 & \$10) This will be a great time of fun as the group starts taking

those popular gifts from one another!

Bring a gift, and have a wonderful evening!



Please check your email before you leave. If the weather is bad, we will send out a cancelation notice.



## Note from a returning friend

Dear Pescadores,

As Dick Ellis' pastor for 23 years, perhaps I could say a word to the Tres Dias community. I cannot remember exactly when Dick made his weekend, but I am guessing it was in the early 1990s. I also do not recall if he served on team. However I can say this (broken record warning, for any who know me) - Job One of Tres Dias is to raise up leaders in the local churches. As much as we need people who serve Tres Dias in order for the movement to accomplish its purpose, and as grateful as I am for those who serve (and I am VERY grateful), the effectiveness of Tres Dias is found in its impact on those who return from the weekends and how they live for Christ in their local churches.

In this way, the Vermont Tres Dias community will be blessed to know that it had exactly this impact on Dick, and through him on the church. Dick was an active part of the



church from the earliest part of his life. However, I believe there was a significant difference in the spirit (through the Spirit) of his service there because of his Tres Dias experience. The United Church of South Royalton was served well by Dick Ellis before he went to Tres Dias, but we were blessed all the more because Dick (and so many others) had experienced the Spirit of Christ on a Tres Dias weekend. I praise God for what He has done in so many churches through Tres Dias.

De Colores!!

*Jim Proctor*



(For you new Pescadores, Jim Proctor pastored the United Church of South Royalton for many years. While there, he served on the Spiritual Director's committee and many VT weekends. He was called to Pastor in Corinth Maine a few years ago, but we are glad to share that God has called he and his wife Caryl, back to the Vermont area, serving in St. Johnsbury. We look forward to seeing you soon!)

## Thoughts from new Pescadores

My take away - was Love - the love of Father God, His Son, my Lord and Savoir Christ Jesus and the active love of the Holy Spirit. This love I have known for years yet it was presented and demonstrated in ways where I was surprised and challenged while being left feeling full to the brim. I have been through other training and retreats- still I was blessed by the attention to detail in the teaching given by both ordained and laymen- this put learning on level ground- from the only one



who really teaches, the Holy Spirit. I felt safe and cared for with new friends- I knew I was surrounded by people who loved the Lord and know how to love one another. I was continually surprised by the numbers of people who took part in the weekend to serve in multiple ways; the Mananita surprised me to tears. How others are willing to show their love by getting up so early to travel so far to sing a song... only in His love. I see my challenge now is to grow in this love and not hold it selfishly. Thank you for being His Hands

of Love

In His Love,

*Sue Green, Pescadore #55*



I went into this weekend with an open heart and an open mind, because I trusted the friends who recommended Tres Dias. I had no idea what I was getting into, but the weekend was more than I could ever expect or dream of. It was a naturally gorgeous setting, spiritually uplifting, powerful and overwhelming at times. It was one more step in my walk with God. It caused me to think and think and think. I picked up a couple of

*(Continued on page 4)*



# The Angel Gabriel's most Sensitive Mission



*As the tall, stately angel rose and walked toward the front of the chapel, there was a buzz among the cadets. Gabriel was a living legend. He cleared his throat.*

I've been asked to speak to you today about what I've learned throughout my career.

Foremost is this: we are servants of the Most High God. This lesson I learned not during my days here at the academy, but from a human being, a girl.

I had been summoned before God to be briefed on a new mission. He told me:

"Gabriel, you have a most delicate assignment. I am sending my Son to redeem the earth. To do this he must become a human himself. Your mission is to announce this plan to the young woman I have chosen to be his mother.

"Her name is Mary. She lives in the village of Nazareth in Galilee. She is betrothed to be married. That means that she is already considered a wife, though she is living at home until the final ceremonies a few months from now. And Gabriel ... she is a virgin."

He went on to describe my role and brief me on the various contingencies, concluding with these words. "Gabriel, by all means, be gentle."

I arrived one spring morning as Mary was climbing the path from the well and came to where I was sitting on a large boulder.

She's only a child, I thought when I first saw her — only twelve or thirteen. Betrothed at that age? But such were the customs of that place and I

was assured that the Father knows what he is doing. As she approached, I stood, dressed as I *always* dress — long white robe, golden sash, and so forth.

"Greetings, Mary," I began.

She gasped.

"Hail, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you!"

All the color drained from her face. I motioned for her to sit. She carefully removed the full water jug from her head, set it down, then eased herself onto the far end of the rock.

"Don't be afraid, Mary," I said. "You have found favor with God." I waited a moment for her to calm down.

"You will conceive in your womb and bear a son. You are to name him Jesus." She appeared stunned by these words, but I continued.

"Your son will become a great man. He will be called the Son of the Most High God. What's more, the Lord God will give him the throne of David his ancestor. And he will reign as Messiah over Israel forever. Of his kingdom and reign there will be no end!"

I paused. The message shocked *me*; I couldn't imagine the impact it must have had on *her*! She was quiet for a time. Then she asked in her young teenager voice:

"How will this happen, since I am not yet married?"

I answered: "The Holy Spirit will come to you, The Power of the Most High will overshadow you, Therefore your son to be born will be holy, He will be called 'Son of God.'"

Amazing! The Father was prepared to rest his entire Christ-enterprise on this young girl — her response, her whim, her decision. She was to be the mother of God's own Son — so young. I continued to reassure her.

"And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has conceived a son."



## Gabriel's Mission, continued

Mary murmured, "Old Elizabeth? Really? Oh!" I could see just a glimmer of a twinkle return to her eyes.

"Yes, they called her 'barren,' but she's already six months pregnant."

Mary was almost grinning for a moment. Then I saw her smile fade. I couldn't read her thoughts, but could only imagine what she must be thinking.

How could she ever explain this to anyone? Who would understand? Who would ever believe her? Her father would be furious, her mother deeply hurt. And Joseph? There would be no wedding. Her dreams of marriage and family vanished in an instant. And the town fathers? Would they try to stone her?

I had been given one sentence by the Father with which to respond: "Nothing will be impossible with God," I said. "Nothing!"



She was quiet a moment longer, lost in her thoughts. Then she looked up at me with clear eyes and said intently: "Here I am. I am the Lord's servant, his handmaid. Let what you have said come to pass."

She stood up. As she began to lift the heavy

water jug to her shoulder and then hoist it up to her head, I reached to help, but she shook her head and lifted it up herself. As she made her way up the path to the village, her steps were assured, almost a spring to them. At the top of the hill she steadied the jar with one hand and waved to me with the other. Then she was lost from view.

And that is how I met Mary. She taught me what it means to be a servant when it's hard to obey, when there seems to be no hope except God's promise. Mary took the words, "For nothing will be impossible with God," and believed them. Whenever I struggle with obedience, I think of this young girl who began a servant's journey with the words:

"I am the servant, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be! Let it come! I am His servant."

*The tall angel touched the corner of his eye for a moment, then stepped down and took his seat. Gabriel had learned servanthood from an even greater servant than himself — a young virgin from Nazareth named Mary.*

*May we too have a yielded heart like Mary as we serve the Lord Jesus .*

*(Continued from page 2, Thoughts from new Pescadores)*



Will you look at that,  
it is the 'Luc' alike twins!!

books by Steve Chapman about God and hunting, perfect for me, a hunter. The men I met were amazing, the devotionals, the round-table talks, the whole experience was beyond words, topped off with the walk into that church on Sunday evening. I would do it again in heartbeat. The pampering, the men (did I already say that?), the concentration,

the love shown me, was almost drowning at times. It took me days after to absorb it all, and I'm not sure I have yet.

I know we are not supposed to thank people, but I am so grateful for all the little "things" done for me.

These three days truly showed me God's love for me, as I walk through my Fourth Day.

*Mark Tourville*  
Pescadore, Men's #50

### New Pescadores

Mark Tourville	Waterville, VT
Daniel Bartlett	East Randolph, VT
Max Qian	Ottawa, ON
Curtis Snook	White River Jct., VT
Effie Farnam	Randolph, VT
Sue Green	Randolph, VT
Shari Hook	Randolph, VT
Kim Gifford	Bethel, VT
Kimberly Campbell	So. Royalton, VT
Katrina Rice	Randolph, VT
Erica Qian	Ottawa, ON

*(Continued from page 4, Thoughts from new Pescadores)*

It would be an understatement to say I was a reluctant pilgrim. In the past, I had heard of Tres Dias as "a secret organization" and this certainly contributed to my anxiety going in. I encountered instead a loving community of well-intentioned, compassionate people intent on showing and sharing God's love to the fullest. The weekend wasn't always easy, sometimes challenging, but the love of God, made manifest in the actions of

these people, was always present. The setting was beautiful and the moments just sitting and chatting in the sunken living room reminded me of gathering with family. Instead of secrecy, I felt the revelation of individuals from all different denominations coming together to express themselves as Christ's church.

*Kim Gifford*

Pescadore, Women's #55

### Your Tres Dias Officers

President—Richard Chamberlin  
VP—

Secretary—Joan Cook  
Treasurer—Cheryl Lake

### Your Committee Chairs

Weekend Committee  
Wayne & Karen Warner

Post Weekend & Housing  
Barbi Langdon

International Palanca

Application Committee  
Marilyn White  
Lisa White

Communication Committee  
Brenda Berry  
Janet Smithers

Team Screening Comm.  
Jerry & Beth Cole  
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

*Secretariat at 5:00 p.m.*

*Clip &  Save*

*Secuela at 6:30 p.m.*

**December 19th at Northfield Bible Fellowship  
6:00 Pot Blessing followed by a Yankee Gift Swap!**

**Upcoming Secretariats and Secuelas**

**For 2016, please call**

Barbi Langdon at: 603-787-6119 inquire about hosting a Secuela