

# The Upper Room



Fairfield County Tres Dias

April 2009 #255

Editor: Nancy Gasper [tdfcngasper@gmail.com](mailto:tdfcngasper@gmail.com)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT....

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*The signs of spring are in the air! Birds are singing, grass is growing, leaves are budding (kind of almost sounds like the verse of a song we all know so well). Yes, it is an exciting time of year, a time of new growth. This too, is a time of new growth for our Tres Dias community. Your Secretariat has been working hard to develop programs that will help to energize our community and help us to focus toward the Great Commission given us by our Lord: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" Matthew 28:19a.*

*I encourage you to read with interest, the articles within this issue of the Upper Room which feature teams focused on Community Development. Our May and June issues will focus on Communication and Weekend action teams.*

*On behalf of the Fairfield County Tres Dias community, we very happily welcome all the new Pescadores from Men's #90 and Women's #90A. I hope to see you at the upcoming Secuela at the Eastchester Presbyterian Church in the Bronx on May 2 at 7:00 PM. I also extend an invitation to you as well as the entire community to attend our next Secretariat meeting, which is also our annual meeting on May 12 at the Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien. It will begin with 7:00 PM and we will make every effort to conclude it with communion by 9:00. The primary purpose of this meeting is to elect the new leadership to serve and support the weekends in the immediate future and beyond. The annual meeting is a time of worship, prayer, song, business and fellowship. The annual meeting is for all the community and should be attended by all. In addition to a new slate of officers, we will also elect delegates to the Secretariat. Delegates are voting members of the Secretariat and help to shape the decisions that ensure that this community is following the Essentials of Tres Dias and help to support the 4 weekends that we host each year.*

*Let us all remember that the weekends do not happen without us serving, using our many gifts for His ultimate glory. There are many committees that work hard before, during and after the weekends to make them a success. This is an excellent way to live out your Fourth Day and to experience Piety, Study and Action with the Christian Community.*

*"Our responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ." Eph 4:12-13 (NCT)*

*There is much to be done to bring others to know Jesus in a closer way. It is through your service and witness among others which will make this possible.*

*I'm looking forward to seeing you at Eastchester Presbyterian on May 2 and at the annual meeting of the Secretariat on May 12.*

*In His service, DeColores,*

*Peter Brown, President TDFC Secretariat*

# NEW PESCADORS – WOMEN'S #90A

<b>W E L C O M E</b>	PESCADOR	CHURCH AFFILIATION
	Elaine Connolly	Eastchester Presbyterian
	Nancy Ann D'Amico	Non-affiliated
	Rev. Cynthia Dodd	1 <sup>st</sup> & Wesley United Methodist Church
	Patricia H. Ford	Trinity Episcopal Church, Southport
	Helen Kane Knight	St. Mary's, New Haven
	Brenda Kunin	Watertown United Methodist Church
	Stacie Midolo	Naugatuck Valley Community Church
	Sandra Morgan	Mary Taylor United Methodist Church
	Betty Noone	First Church of Christ
	Myrtle Smith	St. Augustine P.C., Bronx, NY
	Denise Stack	Watertown United Methodist Church



## UPCOMING WEEKENDS

*Men's #91 – Rector: TBA – September 17-20, 2009*

*Women's #91 – Rector: TBA – October 22-25, 2009*

## SECRETARIAT

**Secretariat meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except for July, August and December) at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien at 7:00pm.**

**All Pescadores are Welcome to Attend—Please arrive at 6:45 pm**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 – ANNUAL MEETING**

**Future Meetings:**

June 9, 2009

September 8, 2009

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# ACTION TEAMS

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Team Leader: Mickey Pennacchio

***For He satisfies the longing soul,  
And fills the hungry soul with goodness.  
Psalms 107:9***

Our candidates come to the weekend looking to fill a longing in their souls. That need can not be filled with religion but can only be filled with a closer and more personal relationship with Christ. We remove all our separate religious practices at the front door and gather as a community of Christ followers. In unity, we receive an intimate connection with our Lord, Jesus.

The weekend is a special time but is only the beginning of a renewed believer's journey. As a community, we come along side and gently guide our Pescadores in their walk as Christ followers. We encourage them, development a relationship with them and ground them in Biblical truths. We nourish our souls in fellowship by participating in small groups, attending Secuelas or joining a leadership team.

After attending my Weekend last spring I had a strong desire to be in fellowship with the other Christian leaders in Fairfield County and join this Apostolic Movement.

Open your hearts and pray to see if God is calling you to lead the way to joyfully welcoming and integrating our new members into our loving community your special desire also. Together we want to create and expand our community membership involvement.

If you feel impassioned, let's make the time to get to know one another and share our ideas on how to demonstrate His love to others.

We plan on holding monthly meetings to set measurable and attainable goals to extend our love to all Fairfield County Christians. Please feel free to contact me at [jpshakeitup@yahoo.com](mailto:jpshakeitup@yahoo.com).

***So that your joy may be complete, love each other as I have loved you.  
John 15:11***

## TENT REVIVAL



Team Leader: Nancy Gasper

I am very excited about planning our 1<sup>st</sup> Tent Revival, planned for this coming Summer. I am in need of help from our dedicated community in the planning process, with hopes of making this an annual event.

If you are interested in assisting in any or all of these areas, please contact me at (203) 878-0336 or [tdfcngaspe@gmail.com](mailto:tdfcngaspe@gmail.com).

- Site location (preferably a public area, i.e. park). Was thinking about Booth Memorial Park in Stratford, right off the Merritt Parkway. Would love to hear about other possible locations.
- Obtaining a speaker, music, entertainment, etc.
- Advertising

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This event is open to all pescadores, families, friends and local communities. Plan to have this on a Saturday, possibly from 11 am -5 pm. Visions of this would be to have it a family oriented outing, with picnic lunches, music, witness talk on "Inspiration from the Tres Dias Experience", face painting for children, biblical story or skit, and whatever you may think will bring this event as an uplifting experience for all who attend.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY COORDINATORS



Team Leader: Jim Lang

One of the biggest parts of the Tres Dias experience is the 4<sup>th</sup> Day and the glue that helps hold our church communities and these activities together is our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinators. As this action item is pursued, we will be recruiting 4<sup>th</sup>

Day Coordinators for each church community or group of small churches in an area. Through 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator gatherings, these people will understand their role as a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator, be encouraged and supported in that role, and share ideas with the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinators of other churches.

There are so many opportunities for 4<sup>th</sup> Day communities such as having palanca parties for upcoming weekends, hosting secuelas, involvement in reunion groups, studying and worshipping together, sharing the Tres Dias experience, and so much more. Our church 4<sup>th</sup> Day communities strengthen and feed us as well as support us in our spiritual journeys. We are excited to be building this area and thus nourishing our Tres Dias Community.

If you think God is calling you to fill this type of role, look for more details about this area later this year and in early 2010.

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## TRES DIAS COMMUNITY NEWS

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### ACTION

*"I was in Pier One in Westport one lunchtime and a lady walked into the store, and hollered out loud, "Who's car is parked out front with the DeColores bumper sticker on it?." I went up to her and told her it was my car. She instantly hugged me and said "DeColores" and proceeded to tell me she had just moved up from Florida and was in a Tres Dias community down there and couldn't find one up here and was so excited when she saw the bumper sticker on my car. I told her all about Fairfield County Tres Dias and gave her the website information. That lady has subsequently contacted us and would like to become involved in our community. This just goes to show you, that the Tres Dias community lives amongst us."*

*Submitted by: Linda Wechter*

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## FOURTH DAY JOURNEY

### ***God is Leading Me to Speak...***

I have to admit some things that are quite private in order to express what Christ does for me today. About 3 years ago I was approached by a Jehovah's Witness couple and I admitted to them that I was dead in Spirit. We started a bible study that continues to the date of this writing. I was also approached by a brother in Christ who invited me to a Tres Dias weekend. I attended men's 87 and my breakthrough was nearly complete. That summer I was standing outside an AA meeting in Guilford and, looking in the sky, I realized that there was no possibility of the non existence of God.

That's about as close as I can get to what it means to be awake in the Spirit. I realize that I never had a life but that all life is God's. We are each expressions of His one Life and that is our Reality. As human beings we have the thought stream that is our expression as His children. With freedom we can turn our thought to the world or to its Source. If we return to God what is God's, our very life, He teaches us what is required to walk with Him as true representatives of his divine family. To ensure our success he gave us the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) and our Lord Jesus to instruct us and guide our behavior in order to fully turn back to our rightful place with God.

So, turning back to source is my 4<sup>th</sup> day journey. Prayer, meditation and careful examination of motives are crucial in order to speak honestly to Him. I ask God that I speak more to Him than to people in the world. I don't want life to be choked with the thorns of the world so that the Word is diminished. I have a deep sense of abiding peace that remains with me. This is the "peace of God that surpasses all thought". (Paul said this somewhere but my web site can't find it)

Today I'm facing the same challenges that so many of us are facing. I was told that my services will no longer be required after June this year at the high school I've been employed at for the last 3 years. I realize that God has given me every job I ever had, and my cooperation with what is occurring will find me in my next job, whatever that is, and whatever the road provides. To live in Christ's loving principles is to live in joy and peace without need of fear. Some days I feel it more that others, but I refuse to abandon my life to negativity in any form.

I could go on about how God is leading me to speak in my church. That is mostly about when to speak and when to remain silent. In the end, it's all about love.

Submitted by: Bob Crosman

## STUDY

### **BRCC Women's Weekend Retreat: Hidden Treasure: Beautiful in God's Eyes**

*"My Purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all treasure of wisdom and knowledge."*  
Colossians 2:2-3

One hundred and sixty friends and BRCC members attended the annual women's retreat in the beautiful Farmington Marriott March 27-29 for an emersion of prayer, worship and fellowship. This years' featured speaker was author Sharon Jaynes who shared with us the "Hidden Treasure: Beautiful in God's Eyes". The event

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was coordinated by our Women's Spiritual Director, Sherry Thorne and Committee chair Linda Atkinson. Dottie Dodd and her alter ego "Miss Pennyworth" MC'ed the weekend with humor and insight.

The weekend began on Friday night with worship music provided for us by the Greater Bridgeport Christian Fellowship Worship Team lead by Stacy McClellan. By the end of the weekend we had embossed the song "All Around" into our hearts.

Sharon Jaynes skillfully lead us through three sessions illuminating how we are beautiful in God eyes, wounds become beautiful scars and how to invest your treasure by dreaming God-sized dreams.

Sharon Jayne's personal testimony exemplifies how great our God truly loves us. Her vivacious personality allowed the disclosure of her own painful journey palpable. She incorporated entertaining videos that were truly hilarious. Her stories are expanded upon in several of her books which can be purchased on her web site at [www.SharonJaynes.com](http://www.SharonJaynes.com).

Sharon led us first through the lies Satan tells us and fills us with the feelings of inferiority, insecurity and inadequacy. These feelings keep us in bondage and not free to experience a relationship with God. It is not until we view ourselves as God views us, as His precious children, that we can be fully used by God to do His purpose for our lives. Our "scars" are wounds that have healed which God used to mold us into the women He wants us to become. We tearfully shared our personal stories of healed wounds.

During the next session we were encouraged to move past our wounds and accept forgiveness. To forgive others who have hurts us and to forgive ourselves for our past mistakes. We can not change our past but we can change what we do with it. If we pick at a scab the wound never get a chance to heal. Forgiveness unlocks your heart to freely love God. Forgiveness is not saying it was OK but releasing the past. We forgive others because Jesus forgave us so we can be used for His glory.

Sharon invited us to come and dream with God. God calls us beyond our ability because He will do the battle for us. He chooses the lowly, weak and broken so we can give God all the glory. He speaks to us through his word and calls us to be valiant warriors. Power follows obedience. When you start to hear from God and it doesn't make sense to you, move anyway. If we are obedient we will lead very exciting lives. God has a plan for us. Just jump in but remember to never let go of His hand.

Our personal testimonies help encourage others. I want to share with you how I was able to experience this wonderful Women's Weekend. A few days before the weekend, the team was assembling the packets and needed hands to help ease the workload. I was working and told one of the organizers that I wasn't able to go this year because of financial constraints. It so happened that there was a cancellation and I was able to take her place. When I was making traveling arrangements, I was given a lead to the person who was leaving in thirty minutes and lived only a block way from my house. When I arrived, the room where there was space available happened to be with my two closest friends from church. If you didn't believe in God you could say it was a series of coincidences.

A month ago I put the sign up pamphlet into my Bible and asked God in prayer that if it was His will, I would like to go but I couldn't sign up because I didn't have the money. When registration came and went I remove the pamphlet and told God it was OK with me that it must be His perfect will that I didn't need to be there this year. He wanted me to see Him work out all the details to show me how real and powerful He is and to Give Him all the glory. I am sharing this with all of you to give encouragement.

All around All around ... Ev'rywhere I look ... Your love is all around

Mickey Pennacchio

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# PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING

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If you know of any in need of prayer from our community please notify Jane Vink at [vinkhaljane@yahoo.com](mailto:vinkhaljane@yahoo.com)

Please pray for Bob and Betsey Crosman of Guilford, for the passing of her brother. Also remembering, Rich and PC Schnell's father, who recently passed on to the heavenly kingdom of our Lord.

Idun Allerton, whose husband, John and son, Barry, passed away. Let us keep Idun in our prayers. They were active Tres Dias people for many years.

Prayers of encouragement and healing for Maureen Herrmann, Deb Scudder, and John Braun.

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## TRES DIAS INTERNATIONAL

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***Tres Dias International*** now publishes an electronic newsletter three times a year. Go to [www.tresdias.org](http://www.tresdias.org) / newsletter / Spring 2009 for the most recent issue.

### ***Upcoming Meetings***

**July 10-12, 2009** International Assy & Secretariat Tres Dias of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

**Oct 16-18, 2009** International Secretariat Tres Dias of New Hampshire

There is a group of Fairfield County Tres Dias members that will be attending the Cleveland Assembly & Secretariat in July. Further information will be provided if you are interested in joining the group.

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## WEEKEND UPDATE

Praise God for more community opportunities! You no longer have to sit in your car writing that last piece of palanca, or miss out on sending someone palanca you had forgotten about. The Sisters have agreed to give us two extra rooms at the Spiritual Life Center. We will now be able to write palanca and pray on site during Tres Dias weekends. The designated rooms will be B-1 and B-2 at the end of the hallway previously NOT allowed to be used by Tres Dias. You will enter the area by the sidewalk to the left of the building (when you are facing it) in the circle. You will proceed to go up one flight of stairs; the rooms are the first ones on the left and across the hall on the right. We will have signs made. At no time are we allowed to wander around the building! Kindly write your palanca, pray, and leave through the door in which you came. The Chief Aux will make sure the door is open first thing in the morning and locked at sundown. These rooms will be supplied on the weekends with palanca writing materials and be able to be used for prayer. There are many ways to contribute to the weekend just ask! We thank the Sisters for their added hospitality.

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# Upcoming Secuelas

If your church would like to sponsor a secuela, please contact Ronnie Bicknell at: [rbickn@yahoo.com](mailto:rbickn@yahoo.com).

## **Eastchester Presbyterian Church in the Bronx, NY Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00 PM.**

### Address:

Eastchester Presbyterian Church in the Bronx,  
3154 Fish Ave, Bronx NY. 10469

### Directions:

Take I-95 S to New York  
Take exit #11/BARTOW AVE/CO-OP CITY BLVD onto EDSON AVE - go 0.2 mi  
Turn Right on BARTOW AVE - go 0.3 mi  
Bear Right on E GUN HILL RD - go 0.6 mi  
Turn Right on FISH AVE  
Church is on the Right

## **First UMC of Shelton, Shelton, CT Saturday, May 16th at 7:00pm**

### Directions:

From the New Haven area,  
W. CROSS PKWY  
Take exit #53/STRATFORD/SHELTON - go 0.2 mi  
Turn Right on MAIN ST (CT-110) toward SHELTON - go 0.9 mi  
Continue to follow CT-110 - go 1.8 mi  
Turn Left on MOULTHROP LN - go 0.2 mi  
Bear Right on OLD CORAM RD  
Turn Left on ROCKY REST RD - go 0.7 mi  
188 ROCKY REST RD, SHELTON, on the Left

From Waterbury area  
take Rte 8 exit 13.  
Take right at end of exit ramp  
At first traffic light take right onto Constitution Blvd.  
At second traffic light take right onto Long Hill Avenue  
Follow Long Hill 1.2 miles to Rocky Rest Road  
Take left onto Rocky Rest  
Our driveway is first on the right.

From the South  
I-95 N Take exit #27A/TRUMBULL/WATERBURY  
To CT-25 N  
Take Right fork onto CT-8 N toward SHELTON (CT-15 N)/WATERBURY take Rte 8 to exit 13  
Take right at end of exit ramp  
At next traffic light take right onto Long Hill Avenue  
Follow Long Hill 1.2 miles to Rocky Rest Road  
Take left onto Rocky Rest  
Our driveway is first on the right.

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## Visitation Team

Invite a member of the Visitation Team to visit your Church!

**Help spread the GOOD NEWS about Tres Dias!**

Presentations can be presented during a Worship Service or “afterwards” in a small group setting, Adult Bible Study, or Adult Education sessions and can run 10, 20, or 30 minutes. The presentation will include what Tres Dias is, how it has been a life-changing experience for many people, and how someone can attend a weekend. Resource material will be handed out for their perusal (Tres Dias tri-fold, etc.)

In the meantime, check out the TD website: [www.tdfc.org](http://www.tdfc.org), click on the “Promo-Resource” button and find sample posters and newsletter articles you can use for your bulletin board at church. Also available is a “Clergy Brochure” you can give to your pastor/s for them to learn more about Tres Dias. Please contact Brenda and John Braun (Visitation Team Coordinators) at [BJMG@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BJMG@sbcglobal.net) to arrange for a visit.

**DON'T DELAY --- CALL TODAY !!!**

Thank you to Jimmy Lang for our Visitation to the **New Life Community Church** in New Fairfield, scheduled for May 17th. Also, thank you to Richard Kelly (AKA: Kel) for the invitation for John to meet with the **Men's Breakfast at Bethel United Methodist Church**, on Saturday, May 2nd.

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## CLASSIFIED AD

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**HELP ALWAYS NEEDED...Mailing of the UPPER ROOM!**

Please either email ([BJMG@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BJMG@sbcglobal.net)) or call: 203-377-3026 if your group is available to take on the folding and labeling for the Upper Room mailing. Thank you and Blessings to all. Brenda & John (Braun)

THANK YOU ... to Mary Taylor United Methodist Church for hosting the March Upper Room mailing...participants as follows: Jane Vink, Bev Dean, Debbie Dubien, Cheryl Griffin, Sylvia/Bob Elliott, Mary Lou and Don Hastings, Bob Jordan, Karen Keane, Charles Mebane, Bea Osborn, Faith Reardon and Carol and Dan Walker. They made record time - mailing completed in one hour! Perhaps lunch was the incentive since we started the mailing right after their worship service at 11:30am...Blessings for their steadfastness!

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If you need to update your address information please notify our database manager, Jim Lang at [Jim@ImaginationWorks.net](mailto:Jim@ImaginationWorks.net), (203) 377-1747, or 24 Primrose Dr, Trumbull, CT 06611

**TELESCOPE**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. - II CORINTHIANS 4:18 NKJV

TRES DIAS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
355 Booth Hill Rd  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Return Service Requested