

The Upper Room



Fairfield County Tres Dias

October 2009 #259

Editor: Nancy Gasper fcngasper@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT....

You know, it happens to me again and again....I'm sitting there with my cup of coffee, doing my morning Bible reading, not bothering anybody, when – BANG – it hits me, another passage that describes something great about Tres Dias. The other day this happened when I was reading from Psalms 78-79. Now the 78th Psalm is a right on the money summary of God's relationship with the Hebrew people up to King David. I loved the way the New King James Version puts it in verses 41-42:

Yes, again and again they tempted God,

And limited the Holy One of Israel.

They did not remember His Power:

The day when He redeemed them from the enemy.

These words were written about people thousands of years ago, but it could just as well have been a prophetic voice referring to our world today! And you know what really struck me? It was the phrase "And limited the Holy One of Israel." We forget what the Lord has done for us, we tempt him in so many ways, and the result is our world today has put a limit on God.

So now the beginning of Psalm 79 is no picnic. The people are experiencing the result of turning their backs on God. I couldn't help but think how people today might relate to that. But it is how that Psalm ends which makes me think of Tres Dias:

So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture,

Will give you Thanks forever;

We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

Tres Dias is a gathering of people celebrating what God is still doing in our lives! That's what so special about the Rollos on the weekend. Lay people getting up and sharing what God has done in their life. For many candidates, they never heard something like that, and it blows them away! And when the people of Tres Dias sing praises to the Lord....we **PRAISE THE LORD!!!** Then I think of how we as Pescadores, blessed by our Lord, share that blessing with others through sponsoring candidates. Those candidates then become Pescadores and before you know it they are sharing the blessing by sponsoring candidates themselves. Within Tres Dias that is how we "show forth Your praise to all generations" but within our community a generation only takes a year or two.

So don't stop sharing, praising and sponsoring. It's a beautiful, beautiful thing!

DeColores,

Gordon Quimby

WEEKEND NEWS

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Men's #92

Rector: TBA

April 22-25, 2010

Women's #92

Rector: TBA

May 13-16, 2010



WOMEN'S # 91 DESCADORES

NAME		CHURCH AFFILIATION
Dorothy	Lenart	Nichols UMC
Myong Cha	Ferrara	New Life Community Church
Patty	Ambrose	New Life Community Church
Eileen R.	Doyle	Mary Taylor Mem. UMC
Priscilla	James	Mary Taylor Mem. UMC
Patty	Dayton	Jesse Lee Mem. UMC
Dorothy	Rodgers	St. Andrews Episcopal
Diana	Bartelt	Eastchester Pres.
Shari	Kelly	New Life Community Church
Sharon	Jenkins	New Life Community Church
Lorna	Nichols	St Agnes
Doris	Sanders	New Life Community Church
Martha	Merillat	Walnut Hill
Pamela	Lauzon	Great Hill UMC
Victoria	Taloni	Redding Cong. First Church
Benedetta	Iorillo	Resurrection Church
Rhonda	Mitchell	Norwalk UMC
Marilyn	Willet	Norwalk UMC
Ellie	Schurman	Black Rock Cong.
Jacquie	Kirchoff	St. Mary RC Church
Kelley	Rocca	Stepney Baptist

WEEKEND UPDATE

The Spiritual Life Center will now include a prayer/palanca room for the community. It will be on floor B1-rooms 13-14. It will be furnished with writing supplies at the desk, or you might just want to stay and pray. This room can be located by entering the front circle driveway and parking past the candidate entrance. To your right will be a sidewalk that goes down several stairs, once inside, go up one flight of stairs, it will be your first room on the left. There will be outside signs. The Chief Aux on the weekend will make sure the door is unlocked in the morning and locked at sunset. This room has been given to us by the courtesy of the sisters. Please enter and exit using this door only and do not use any other rooms or hallways. We are grateful to have these new rooms available to us, it will be a great way to get that last minute palanca in.

TRES DIAS COMMUNITY NEWS

LIVING THE 4TH DAY

A JOYFUL NOISE



When I attended my candidate weekend in 2002, the first thing I became aware of was the music. It seemed to flow through the activities and talks like a river, wide and peaceful at times, and rapidly spraying over rocks and shores at others. It carried me through the weekend and it just seemed to be always there, like the Spirit that filled the room and the peace that settled on everyone's shoulders as we listened, talked and prayed. I was drawn to the music like a child to the beach. I wanted to get close to the musicians, watch them fill with joy and enthusiasm as Rich Gallagher, the music director, selected one tune after another. One of the reasons the music was so comforting to me was that it was familiar. I had come to know many of the songs during an Alpha course, with Dave Sayer playing the keyboards and leading us in song. It was providential that I chose to go on a weekend when Dave was on team, for it didn't take much time before he let me play his keyboard between "sets." I wasn't very good, and I had never played in public, but this was during a break, when no one was really listening, so I just let the music flow.

I knew Dave played professionally, so I assumed all the "band" members did. But I was wrong. Some were fairly experienced, but some were just like me, recently inspired to break out of the confines of solitary confinement, if only for a weekend. What I remember of the band members was how much fun they were having, with Lloyd Johnson pounding out a steady beat on his congas, all the guitarists strumming the rhythm and Dave's accompaniment. Well, at least one of the other members of team noticed my interest in the music, and filed it away for future reference - John Braun.

A year later, I was reunited with John and Lloyd when I was blessed to serve as an auxiliary. I was assigned to the main room, the center of all the action, close to the tables and the musicians. I was in awe of the "band" once again, and this time, I paid more attention to the role of the music director, John Monroe. He made it seem like it wasn't a job at all, but a joyous occasion filled with spontaneity and enthusiasm, with no need for preparation or practice. He called out the page and we sang. The musicians followed his lead flawlessly, with the beat of Lloyd's congas keeping everyone in time. The improvisations were executed with ease, and everyone in the band began and ended each song in unison.

The keyboard was back on the next weekend I served on when Dennis McCarthy was Rector in 2006. Once again John Braun and I were on team together, and once again, I couldn't pass up an opportunity to test my talent thanks to Dennis' generosity. I was fascinated at how effortlessly he wrote the weekend song. I was hooked on the weekend music and John Braun knew it.

A year later, I was back on team, Lloyd's team, with Curtis Hayes as the music director and John Braun as an aux (he gets around). Well, this was the weekend it happened, I played keyboard, my very own, purchased just before the first team meeting. I may have arrived, but I was not at all ready. The team was gracious and very helpful, and by the weekend, I actually knew a few of the songs, though most had a chord or two that eluded me from time to time. Playing alone is a lot easier than playing with a group. Nobody ever warned me about keeping time with others. Thank God for Lloyd's congas, once again, doing all the work of keeping the beat audible and clear. Well, it was on this weekend, that I met Ken Cornish, another talent who not only played an instrument (guitar), but also wrote his own songs.

Ken went on to become music director in 2008, and I was blessed to be called onto that team at the very last minute, just before the weekend started. Since I had come to know so many of the brothers from prior weekends and *Secuelas*, I felt at home and very welcomed. It seems that one of the things that happens on the weekend is the Holy Spirit takes hold of the smallest talent and spins it into praise and glory. Inspiration literally means the drawing in of breath and many of us who have had the pleasure of drawing in the breath of God on the weekend, have found it too precious to keep inside. I believe that is how songs get written on the weekend; it is a natural outpouring of love for God. Quite a few songs came out of that weekend, some serious and some fun, but all precious.

John Braun wasn't on that weekend, but the spirit that moved me to start playing so many weekends prior whispered to him when he was chosen as Rector for this past weekend, and I found myself saying "Yes" to the job I both respected and feared more than any other, music director. What I learned over the years is something I have heard many say over and over again. God doesn't always call the equipped, but God equips those He calls. God did a good job surrounding me with talent, with three ex-music directors on team, Tim Peiffer, John Monroe, and Ken Cornish. He also dealt out a few interesting challenges. I had no congas to keep the beat. Without Lloyd, I would have to come up with something different. Chuck Schif brought his didgeridoo, which we called "Didgy." Didgy, is an Australian Aboriginal wind instrument; a hollowed out eucalyptus branch which is blown to produce a deep resonant sound that can be used to warn sailors on foggy nights. Chuck and Didgy did a great job adding much needed dimension to the sound, but we still needed more. The guitar section was well equipped with the talents of Matt Winward and the three MDs (Tim, Ken and John), and Kel (Richard) Kelly provided the clarity of a xylophone and the rhythm of the maracas, but it wasn't the same as having drums. We needed a drummer to help me keep time, since I was running the risk of rushing ahead or falling behind the guitars. As always, when the team is missing something important, God provides candidates to do the job, and the drummer on the weekend was Henry Smalls Jr. I started Henry on a couple of plastic containers, using a set of drumsticks Kel got at Disneyworld, but we needed more sound. It just so happens, my keyboard has settings mapping keys to a variety of drums. So, after weeks of practice, struggling to find the perfect blend of sounds and the best way for the members of the band to follow my beat using the keyboard as a keyboard, the solution was simple, let go and let God. With Henry on the keyboard, using it as a drum set, Kel on Maracas, Chuck on Didgy, Matt, Tim, John and Ken on guitars, and the entire gang on vocals, God's plan came together and the job of music director came to a blessed end as we raised our voices in worship to the Newsboys' song, singing: "All God's Children Singing Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, He Reigns."

Submitted by: Bill Cusano

PIETY

NEVER too old to Volunteer!

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others" Philippians 2:3-4.

In June there was a plea at my church seeking teachers for a one week Vacation Bible School with the theme of Biblical Water Miracles. The hours were 9 AM to noon, and my full time job started twenty miles away at 1 PM on those days. I knew it should be a tight squeeze, and I might be exhausted because I am a senior citizen, but I signed up anyway.

The first day was a challenge. The registration of preschoolers through fifth graders was 350 students. The middle graders had an enrollment of one hundred. It was a lot of kids to say the least. My assigned group of third and fourth graders was nine, but one transferred out to be with a friend in another group.

The only time during the tightly planned day that my group—did I mention they were all boys?—were alone with me for a lesson was in an overcrowded room with six tables of some fifty students. The rest of the time I moved with my guys to recreational activities, dramatized Bible stories, arts and crafts and the favorite, recreation outdoors on the water slides. I felt like a leader of the pack, with no one recognizing me as the alpha dog. Hmm... I thought of leashing them, but what would the parents say? Then my five years as a pet-sitter kicked in. How could I get dogs to pay attention? Ah, the answer was simple.

At home around midnight after the first day I started a prayer journal for each of my students. I wrote down their physical appearance, something memorable from that morning [one student dunked his whole head in a large basin of water for over a minute] and listed prayer requests I chose for each.

The second day I showed up with needed colored pencils and markers that my group agreed would enhance the few that we had at our table. As I approached each student [seated far apart from one another in the sanctuary pews] I showed them the booty and extracted—instead of a dog biscuit—a single Tootsie Roll from an ample bag. I could tell I had their attention by the line that followed me for the rest of the day, the rest of the week.

Each night I reviewed my journal, checked off the requests that had already been answered, added more information, and mourned the boys that never showed up the second day or the rest of the week. My group was down to six but I prayed for all of my assigned students.

On the last day for a finale, at the closing singing the leaders were called to come up. My boys literally guided me with hands on my back, and it wasn't only a stage performance to be witnessed.

As we leaders strung out on the platform exerting whole body gestures to my favorite David Crowder Band song, "Every move I make I make for you, Jesus..." I watched as half of my group stood on the farthest pew not only singing and doing the motions, but flashing me the thumbs up and peace sign. Quite a memorable exodus! Well, I have a souvenir photo to help commemorate God's faithfulness in bringing sheer joy out of a fear of failure due to aging.

By the way, we were the only group out of the scores of them that had a name—chosen by the boys on the first day: The Water Devils.

*Submitted by: Jinny Foldoe turned 62 in July and a Pescador of Women's #87.
She is a member of Black Rock Congregational Church, Fairfield, CT.*

ACTION

Saying Yes To Jesus

Last spring at Men's 90, I first met new pescador, Taveren Knight. He shared with me the vision that God had placed on his heart for a residential recovery center that worked with the lost and hurting introducing them to God and helping them to begin a walk with Him. He used two phrases that stuck with me, "You can't do it alone", and "I just have to keep saying 'yes' to Jesus".

Jump forward six months and saying “yes” is making the vision God gave Taveren come true. A few months ago, he connected with Pastor Julia McCarter of the Deliverance Temple in New Haven, CT and began heading up their Outreach Center. The church owns a house that currently has tenants but is being vacated and will be set-up as a short-term residential recovery program that focuses on helping people who are willing to address their struggles with God as a part of the solution. In the meantime, Taveren is working with a group of men (and a few women) on a daily basis. They are also in the process of acquiring another house to fix up and use.

I had the blessing of spending a day with him and the men to see what God was doing there. The day started with breakfast, prayer, and an opportunity to pull apart a scripture that one of the men selected. After breakfast the men went to work on the roof of the garage next door which they are preparing to be the base of operations for their “Trash to Treasures” program which will allow them to take in old furniture and fix it up to be resold. One of the men collected all the others’ laundry and spent the morning washing and drying everyone’s clothes. At noon the Pastor came to lead a prayer study where the group prayed and supported one another and invited the Holy Spirit to bring healing to those who were seeking it. Then everyone went up to the gathering room for lunch followed by Bible study. The afternoon included more work on the roof while Taveren, myself and a couple of others went into the office. Through all of this was time for life lessons, listening to others struggles and stories and encouraging them to know and seek God for help. The men were very transparent and are hungering for Jesus. The day ended with dropping some of the men off at a local homeless center and spending some time talking to one of the leaders there about the issues that face the lost in New Haven and how we, as Christians, can make a difference.

Taveren has been saying “yes” to Jesus and the vision God shared with him is becoming a reality. What action is Jesus asking you to take? Have you said, “YES!”?

Submitted by Jimmy Lang

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING



Several of our community members have had deaths of loved family members recently. Please keep in your prayers: **Richard and Nancy Kelly**. Richard's Dad died in September just after Richard served on the Men's 91 Team; **Nancy Ossewaarde** (Jon) and **Trudy Higgins** (Gary), whose father, Peter died, also in September; **Elaine Lund** from New Hope, PA, whose husband, Harry, died in March; **Jim Sibley**, whose brother-in-law died in VA. May they all be comforted by their faith in our Lord, and know there is a better life to come.....

We want to give thanks for successful surgery for **Nancy Gasper** and **Ruth Lewis**, and pray that their recovery time is short and pain-free, and filled with hope for a stronger life when they can be in our presence once more. We ask God to bless their families as they care for them. Keep them strong and healthy, and filled with His Spirit. Also, keep **Ed Wheeler** in your prayers.

Our prayers for encouragement and health are with **Sue and Dave Johnston**, currently of Virginia, as they face difficulties in their life.

Knowing there are others among us who need our prayers and love, we lift them to God in prayer. May all be touched by His Spirit and healed.



THANK YOU TO BETHEL UNITED METHODIST for hosting the August 30th Upper Room mailing...organized by Richard Kelly (AKA Kell), and assisted by Steve Temple and other pescadors as well as a great group of "youth" helpers.

THANK YOU TO EASTCHESTER PRESBYTARIAN CHURCH (In the Bronx!) for hosting the October 4th Upper Room mailing...organized by Lois Daniels.. Thanks to the following pescadors we were able to complete the mailing in just "One Hour"! Angela Andrews, Basil Blake, Freddie Bell Berti, Nat Christian, Janice Daley, Lois Daniels, Charles Glenn, Frank Hall, Daphne Jones, Dora and Lloyd Johnson, Kenny Myers, Minnie McGlashan and Diane Stephens.

Prayerfully consider hosting a future mailing. Call 203-377-3026 or email: bjmg@sbcglobal.net. Blessings...*Brenda/John (Braun)*

Upcoming Secuelas

If your church would like to sponsor a secuela, please contact Posey Griffin at:
posey@fogertyknapp.com or 203-938-3438

Springdale UMC

1116 Hope Street, Stamford, CT 06907

Friday, December 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Directions:

Route 15 South:

Take exit 36 for CT-106/Old Stamford Rd
Turn right at CT-106 S/Old Stamford Rd
Continue to follow CT-106 S
Turn right at Woodway Rd
Turn left at Hope St
Destination will be on the right.

I-95 North North:

Take exit 8 toward Atlantic St
Merge onto S State St
Turn left at E Main St
Turn right at Glenbrook Rd
Turn left to stay on Glenbrook Rd
Continue onto Hope St
Destination will be on the left

The parking for the church is behind the building, we will make it clear where to go. Unfortunately at this point we do not have handicap accessibility (while a person would be able to get to the sanctuary and fellowship hall, the bathrooms are stairs away).

Covenant Church of Easton

Easton, CT

Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Directions:

Route 15 (Merritt Parkway) South:

Take Merritt Parkway South towards New York
Take the FAIRFIELD(CT- 59) exit towards EASTON, exit number 46
At Exit bear Right onto CONGRESS ST
Turn Left at Traffic Light onto EASTON TPKE
Take your first Left - Arrive at destination

Route 15 (Merritt Parkway) North:

Take Merritt Parkway North towards Connecticut (New Haven)
Take the FAIRFIELD(CT- 59) exit towards EASTON, exit number 46
At Exit bear Right at Traffic Light onto JEFFERSON ST
Turn Right at next Traffic Light (GE Headquarters) onto EASTON TPKE
Go over the Merritt Parkway bridge.
Go Straight at the Traffic Light.
Take your first Left - Arrive at destination

TRES DIAS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY SECRETARIAT

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

All Pescadores are Welcome to Attend — Please arrive at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Future Meetings:

January 12, 2010

February 9, 2010

March 9, 2010

April 13, 2010

May 11, 2010

June 8, 2010

If you need to update your address information please notify our database manager:
Peter Brown at 203-794-1654 or Pbrown654@sbcglobal.net

TDFC Holiday Fellowship Event: Handel's Messiah as performed by New Haven Symphony Orchestra

Bring your family and friends to this wonderful Christmas celebration – join with other Pescadores at this musical reunion event on Sunday, December 20 as the New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO) chronicles the life and death of Jesus Christ in music and chorus. The NHSO is the fourth oldest symphony orchestra in America, performing its inaugural concert in 1895. The First Congregational Church of Madison, CT is a 302-year old congregation located approximately 15-minutes drive north of New Haven.

TDFC Pescadores and family / friends are eligible for a group discount on tickets (\$24 per ticket). If interested or desire more information contact Richard “Kel” Kelly at 203-743-0090 who will coordinate the ticket order and seating cluster for TDFC.

Handel's Messiah



Sun, Dec 20, 2009 | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm First Congregational Church of Madison, CT

Chronicling the life and death of Jesus Christ, *Messiah* is noted for its magnificent power, and brings audiences to their feet with its climactic Hallelujah chorus. Join the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Music Director William Boughton, and the voices of the The Cathedral of Saint Joseph Choir in a performance of the Christmas portion of Handel's epic masterpiece.

For more information visit <http://www.newhavensymphony.com/>
First Congregational Church Madison, CT (www.fccmadison.org)

