

Good News

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER • SPRING 2001

Deeply Rooted on Sacred Ground

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mission Trip to Ecuador



It was a little over a year ago at the national meeting of the Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers (ECCC) that our organization decided to accept an invitation for a special mission trip. On Sunday, November 5, 2000 the Vice President of our VCCC Board, Diana White, and I, along with 14 others, journeyed to Ecuador to help Bishop Neptali Larrea make one of his many dreams a reality. We were to join with lay people from his diocese to work on the construction of Centro San Jose, a conference center for the people of Ecuador. Our group from the United States was a diverse one and included 6 Episcopal Conference Center Directors and board members, an architect, and 7 relatives of the directors. We ranged in age from 14 to 60 years old.

We arrived in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, located in the Andes mountains at approximately 9,000 feet about 11:30 PM and after finding our luggage, some of which did not arrive for 3 days, were driven through the streets of Quito at breakneck speed to our hotel for the night. After receiving an introduction from our group leader, Peter Bergstrom from Camp Stevens in California, we all went to sleep.

We were up early the next day ready to transfer our bags to the Diocesan Center in Quito and then make the journey to the Conference Center site located an hour north of Quito. Upon arriving at the Center, we were met by the Bishop, his wife and their son who gave us a tour of the property at Centro San Jose. Much of the land at the present time is leased to local farmers who are growing strawberries, beans, corn and melons. Since land not being actively used in Ecuador can be claimed by squatters, the Bishop wants to have a presence at all times on this beautiful piece of land which overlooks an incredible gorge. After an introduction by the Bishop Larrea, we were all ready to go to work.

That first day we dug dirt and carried it by armload and wheelbarrow to fill in the ditch where the water line and septic lines were laid. This was not easy as we tried to get used to the tools or, more specifically, the lack of tools in Ecuador. All the members of our group had brought hammers, drills, extension cords, circular saws, gloves, and other assorted tools (which we donated to the Diocese there) but none of us had brought good shovels, a pick axe, or any tool suitable for the concrete-hard dirt of this area of Ecuador.

We started the project with 10 volunteers from an Episcopal church in Santo Domingo, located to the west of Quito. Some of us worked helping saw and hand up the very heavy roof beams to Julio the Ecuadoran foreman, working with Richard Young, from DuBose Conference Center in Tennessee and Jay Everts the architect for the project, our project foremen. The Bishop's wife, Alexandra, assisted by 4 other Ecuadoran volunteers, supervised the cooking of our lunch which consisted of soup, rice, vegetables and bananas.

Volunteerism is almost unknown in South America; one of the Bishop's dreams is to teach the lay people in

Continued on p. 9

Our special thanks to these individuals & organizations for their generosity in giving to the Center in recent months.

CONTRIBUTIONS

anonymous
 John W. Goodrich, Jr.
 Gwendolyn B. Gambill
 The Byerly Foundation Inc. of Hickory
 Mr. and Mrs. Harding Hughes, Jr.
 Diana M. White
 The Rev. Cris and Charlotte Greer
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 D.D. Eshelman
 Walter and Jennifer Browning
 Kirby Brown
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Steineger, Jr.
 Charles S. Forester
 Ralph F. Tilden
 The Rt. Rev. Robert H. Johnson

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Jim Hatch by Gary Swartz and Sally Hatch
 In memory of George White by Marie and Albert Calloway
 Ernest Townsend by Lucy S. Townsend
 In memory of the following
 William P. Gideon
 Chalmers W. Poston
 Asenath Murfee Averyt
 Carroll Jones DuBose
 by Billy DuBose and Mary Jeffcoat
 In memory of The Rev. Alfred P. Chambliss
 by Emma A. Chambliss
 In memory of Louise Howry McRae
 by the Rt. Rev. James and Mrs. Coleman
 In memory of John B. Roberts by Barbara Roberts
 In memory of Jack Finan and Carrie and Ivan Weathers
 by Mary W. Finan
 In memory of Lindsley Phelps Marsh by Emily J. Nichols
 In memory of Dr. Bernard S. Linn by Linda Loy
 In memory of Mrs. Emily Toll Hopkins
 by Charles and Jane Toll
 In memory of Jack Jones by Elizabeth Anne Jones

HONORARIUM GIFTS

In honor of Mrs. E.E. "Bonnie" Hogg
 by her daughter Suzanne Madison Hogg
 In honor of the Staff of the Valle Crucis Conference Center
 by Louise Hatch
 In honor of the Class of 1941 by Mary W. Robinson
 In honor of Gayle and Peg Averyt
 Ella and Billy DuBose
 by Billy DuBose and Mary Jeffcoat

In honor of the Bryan Family by Darryl Chambers
 In honor of Jane Roberson by Susan B. Roberson
 In honor of the friendship of Suzanne Toll Peltason and Elizabeth Bonner Hogg at the Valle Crucis School
 by Diane Hogg Flynt
 In honor of Benares and Jody Finan-Eshelman
 by Tim and Dianne Finan
 In honor of Tom Eshelman and Jeanne Finan
 by Wayne and Donna Sue Shannon
 In honor of Rachel Redinger by Robyn A. Redinger
 In honor of Tom Eshelman's leadership by John Huie
 In thanksgiving for blessings by the North American Academy
 of Piping and Sandy and Dorcas Jones
 In appreciation for the Boone Country Dancers
 by John and Theresa D'Ausilio

SEPTIC/SEWER REPLACEMENT FUND

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 Bev Gaines
 Robert and Julia Keely
 Ernest and Margaret Caudill
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 Ralph F. Tilden
 In honor of Coach Randy McDonough
 by Peter and Mary Coffey
 In honor of Tom Eshelman by Jane and George Jerry
 In honor of Tom Eshelman's leadership by John Huie

APPLE BARN RESTORATION FUND

In honor of the following
 Dorsey, Mark and Hunter Elliott
 Anne and Kate Thurston
 Thad and Dianne Eshelman
 J. B. Eshelman
 Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Herr, Jr
 Jack and Corky Hartman
 Mrs. Louise S. Ansberry
 by Tom Eshelman and Jeanne Finan
 In memory of Ian Hartman
 by Tom Eshelman and Jeanne Finan

CROSSES FOR GUEST ROOMS

Diana White

OTHER GIFTS

Firewood by Townsend Logging Company
 Ping pong table by Vance and Shirley Shepard

“...to work, pray
 and give for the spread
 of the kingdom of
 God.”

...Ecuador

Continued from p. 1

his Diocese about volunteering their time and energy in this project. This was the first time in his memory that a group of Ecuadorans had volunteered their time to help a group of Americans also volunteering their time, to work together on a project in his country.

The first day seemed long as we tried to grow accustomed to the lack of oxygen at 10,000 feet and to the hot Ecuadorian sun. Indeed, we were all very happy when we reached the end of the day. Three of us piled in the Bishop's car with his wife driving and the remaining members of the group climbed in the back of the Bishop's Chevy pickup truck. We all came to know his truck intimately during our stay as it was our chief transportation vehicle for the hour long ride back into the city. It was quite a sight to see 15 of us crammed in the back of the truck as the Bishop drove us down the mountain to the Diocesan center for dinner and then sleep.

During our time there we worked and ate side by side with the volunteers from Santo Domingo and their priest Juan. We dug holes for the concrete fence posts (wooden ones would be eaten by the ants), grouted the beautiful tile work in the shower and bathroom areas, laid the roof on the dormitory, dug holes for the new gates to the center, mixed concrete (right on the ground!) and other smaller jobs needed to get the dormitories ready for occupancy.

But it was not all hard work. We took time for pickup soccer games (to the delight of Ecuadorans of all ages) organized by Van Beers from Camp Wright in Maryland; to talk with our new found Ecuadorian friends (Diana White's excellent Spanish was a life-saver for us all); and to break bread together around a make shift table of boards set up on pillars of bricks (which will be used in the construction).

Wednesday evening we shared an outdoor Eucharist, with Bishop Larrea celebrating, assisted by the 2 Ecuadorian priests, as well as two priests in our group, Paul McQueen from Florida and Marsha Hoecker from Vermont. This was a truly wonderful way to finish our first 3 days with our new found friends. The next morning found everyone in tears as we waved goodbye to the Ecuadorian group from Santo Domingo who were leaving for their 6 hour trip home, traveling in the back of an army truck. Yolanda Ricaurde, one of the wonderful women in the group, told us that many people in Ecuador believed that Americans are so wealthy that we never wash our clothes but just throw them away when they become dirty. She told us she could never come to America because she could not afford to throw away her clothes. Statements like that really made us realize not only how

truly wealthy and blessed we are here in America (even if we don't throw away our clothes after one wear), but also how important trips like this one are in coming to know people face to face and communicating with one another about our countries. Our shared love of God and our membership in the Episcopal church bind us together in marvelous ways beyond many barriers.

As the Santo Domingo group pulled away from the Center, we were soon joined by another group of men, mostly refugees from Columbia, and their priest. These men were displaced farmers who had lost their crops and live-stock when the American government, as part of the drug war, had sprayed defoliant on their farms to eradicate the cocoa grown in their area. Unfortunately, the defoliant had killed all the crops except, ironically, the cocoa crop. Apparently the Episcopal Church is the only organization doing anything to help these displaced farmers and their families.

We finished our work at the Center with a trip to the Ecuadorian equator monument and a tour of the Old Town part of Quito. Our entire group learned a lot about ourselves and our faith during this time spent working with the Ecuadorian people and their visionary Bishop on this project. Hopefully as more groups go to Ecuador to help the Bishop, their Diocesan Conference Center will become a completed reality. He dreams of a place where his people can learn about volunteerism as well as deepen their faith and understanding of the Gospel through work, study, prayer, fellowship and fun.

I am grateful to Bishop Johnson, our Diocese and to the Board of the Valle Crucis Conference Center for their help in making this trip possible. I am also grateful to the Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, Inc. and Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis for their help in the design of this project. It was a true gift to experience God at work in another part of the world. I look out over the southern Appalachian mountains here and feel connected in a special way to that faraway diocese in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. God's presence and love surround and embrace us all. If you would like to contribute in anyway to this project or are interested in taking a group there, please contact me at the Conference Center. Let us all keep the Episcopal Church in Ecuador in our prayers.

Tom Eshelman, Executive Director

"The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects."

—Thomas Berry

Our Heritage

(continued from Winter issue)

The letter that follows was written by Mrs. Emily Toll Hopkins, the headmistress of the Valle Crucis Girls School, to all the girls in 1937. The original letter was typed (with mistakes XXXX out) on onion skin paper and donated recently to the Conference Center by Shirley Hyland.



circa 1937

Dear Shirley,

I have been thinking over our last school year and wondering how we can make some improvements and strengthen our tradition. In such a small school as ours every girl who returns a second year is a bearer of tradition and it is so much easier to perpetuate our faults than our virtues. You know how often the excuse is made, "Everybody does that. I tried to stop it but it doesn't do any good for one to stop it when everybody else does it." If you multiply that by twenty or thirty you have a bad result, while everybody has a perfectly good will to keep the rule – or whatever it is under discussion. I thought I would mention a few of the things that seem very little in themselves but in the aggregate make the difference between being civilized and being savages. There is the matter of going through doors and letting them slam shut, throwing a scrap of paper or trash on the ground or out of windows, sitting down when the older people present haven't found chairs, shouting in the hall for someone, not returning books to the library and magazines to the hall table, chewing gum in class, and not introducing dates to chaperones. These things are almost too petty to mention, but the old girls can establish customs about these matters

that will make everybody more comfortable. (Then there is the smoking rule. It is very important not to smoke anywhere except in the appointed place, my study, or wherever it is. The place of smoking is more important than anything else about the rule. The danger of fire is a real one, and it will be considered a very serious offense to smoke except in the appointed places. The important thing as far as the new girls are concerned is that those who have not already formed a habit of smoking should not take it up.)

Now to come to more important things. I enclose a list of necessary clothing and equipment that I am sending to the new girls. The points to emphasize on this are: rubber heels, shoe polish, mending equipment, and warm enough socks, skirts, and caps and gloves for hikes and trips in the truck. All clothing must be marked.

A list of the necessary fees is also enclosed. These are expenses that you had last year or that someone else had for you. The fee for transportation is a new departure. We think it will save you money from your spending accounts and it will help you to keep out of debt and to keep others from being in debt to you. We can hire buses to Boone or to the mountains more economically than you can spend the money individually. The transportation fee will provide all necessary trips to doctor or dentist, all mountain trips and a number of good picture shows. If you want to go at sometime that is not provided for everybody, then you can use your spending money. I think you will find that your spending money goes farther and you will not miss any interesting trips.

The medicine fee is for the first aid medicines, and ordinary routine medical supplies. Any special prescriptions beyond a dose of aspirin or castor oil, etc, will be extra. I hope none of you will have need of anything of the kind.

The art fee is for those who take art. I hope everyone of you will want to do a little weaving and you can bring pieces to cut up to make a rug, or buy the materials for anything else you would like to weave for yourselves.

The athletic fee is for balls, lime for the tennis court, and other incidental expenses. If there is any surplus in

the fund we will use it for special swimming parties at Banner Elk or a bowling or skating rink party.

I would like to speak of attendance at church and evening prayers. Our whole school is based on the assumption that the Christian religion supplies the most joyous, the most liberal and the most completely satisfactory way of life that the human family is capable of attaining. The church teaches that we should go to Church once on Sunday and say our prayers twice a day. We try to make our services short and pleasant.

For those who accept the dogma of the Christian faith as true this minimum of worship is a simple duty. For those who do not accept this teaching there is another consideration. It is more important for a non-believer to go to Church than for believers. Christians cannot escape a knowledge of non-Christian doctrine because it is continually presented to them, but non-Christians cannot appreciate the Christian point of view unless they go to Church, and they cannot form a really liberal opinion unless they see both sides. Besides this there is a social obligation to enter into the activities of those with whom you are living. Anyone who comes to this school and does not attend a minimum number of religious services is missing a large portion of the education offered here and is failing to make her contribution to the group that she owes it. There is no rule of the school that requires anyone to be at Church or at prayer services (except when the prayer service accompanies a general assembly, where attendance is required), however, she should make up her mind to avail herself of all opportunities and we consider the religious services as the central feature of our program. If you happen to be out of sympathy with the religious views expressed in our common worship we ask you to attend the minimum of services specified above as a courtesy to those with whom you live. This may seem like a quibble to say that we do not require your presence but we expect you to come. The distinction is this. If you are absent from a class you get zero, or if you are excused you are required to make up the work. You are required to come to class or suffer a penalty. If you do not come to Church once on Sunday and at least once a day to the family prayers you are missing a large part of what the school has to offer and are acting in an anti-social way. There is no penalty involved. There is no obligation beyond that of being public spirited. That's enough about that.

School opens for the old girls on Tuesday, September 22. The new girls are to arrive on the 23. This will give you a day to get settled. In so far as it is possible you will have your choice of rooms and roommates.

I have preached long enough. This will save at least one sermon when you arrive. We teachers are preaching sermons to ourselves too and are going to try to make improvements in our departments. This letter written just alike to all of you; much of it does not apply to each of you. You can forget the part that doesn't apply.

With love,
Emily Toll Hopkins

BITS & PIECES

Center Needs

Do any of our readers have a four wheel drive pickup truck they would like to donate to the Conference Center? Ours is on its last legs after years and miles of wonderful service hauling wood, trash to be recycled, supplies etc. If you have a truck to donate, please call Tom for more information.

New Items for Sale!

We now have refrigerator magnets for sale in the office. Assorted views of the Inn, Annex, Apple Barn, St. John's Church and Holy Cross Church. Only \$1.50 each.

New this year are Conference Center sweatshirts with our rocking chair picture on the front. These sweatshirts are pre-shrunk Fruit of the Loom 88% Cotton/12 % poly and are available in the office for \$18 (M, L & XL) and \$20 (XXL).



"Chief" Davis with 5 racks of wood for the fireplaces.

*"We had 26 people
in our group - we heard not
one complaint - all had a
wonderful time."*

—Jeanne Sauceman



PROGRAMS 2001

APRIL THRU DECEMBER

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER
AT THE HISTORIC MISSION SCHOOL

*Join us for one or more of these programs
being offered here at the Center.
You can come away for a day of quiet or
a longer workshop.*

HOLY WEEK RETREAT

April 9-13, 2001

Come away for a single day or for the full week. Morning and Evening Prayer will be read at the Center. Noon Day Prayer, Wednesday evening Healing Service and Eucharist, Maundy Thursday foot washing and Stations of the Cross on Friday will be offered at the Church of the Holy Cross, adjacent to the Center. You are invited to participate in all these services or you may choose to follow your own schedule of meditation, prayer and reading. Our indoor labyrinth as well as our two outdoor labyrinths will be available all week. This time is for you to be still and know. Please note that this is not a directed retreat and because of the meditative nature of this retreat it is limited to adults only.

Cost: 1 night \$35; 2 nights \$60; 3 nights \$80; 4 nights \$95
(fees include 3 simple meals per day and lodging.)

PROGRAM DAY: BE THOU MY VISION

Monday, April 23, 2001 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Facilitator: The Rev. Elizabeth Canham

Celtic Christianity was earth centered, poetic, humorous, mystical, and deeply respectful of feminine wisdom. In our modern, desacralized world we need to find paths back to a personal relationship with the landscape and Mother Earth. This Program Day is designed to help us explore the holy in the ordinary through Celtic poetry, meditation, journaling, creativity and worship.

Cost \$35 (includes lunch)
Elizabeth Canham is the Executive Director of Stillpoint
Ministries in Black Mountain, NC

WEEKEND WORKSHOP: YOUR LIFE AS STORY

April 27-29, 2001
Facilitator: Judy Teele

Through readings, reflection and journaling participants are given the tools for discovering the story in their lives. We are each the protagonists of our own narrative. There is a golden thread that pulls us forward on our journey towards wholeness as we search for the unique God-given potential and divinity at our center. Examining our life experiences, we often find that we have been the heroines and heroes of our own mythic journeys. As we shape the haphazard and scattered events of our lives into story, we are able to illumine the path ahead during times of change and transition. Sponsored by the Southlands Institute and the Valle Crucis Conference Center. Judy is a teacher, retreat leader and writer. She is a graduate of the Retreat Leaders Training Program of Stillpoint Ministries and has done work with Ira Progoff's Intensive Journal methodology.

Cost: \$160 (includes 2 nights lodging, meals and all course materials) Participants are encouraged to bring their journal with them to this workshop.
Class size limited to 15 persons and must have at least 8 persons.

HONEY IN THE HEART: DRUM BUILDING WORKSHOP

April 27-29, 2001
Instructor: Tom Harris

Drumming is an ancient and powerful practice which all cultures have used through the ages to create community, celebrate personal and community milestones, facilitate healing and guide spiritual growth.

This is our third year for this popular program. You will have the joy of creating your own West African-style drum. This course is designed for people with little or no prior experience in woodworking. All materials and tools are provided and workshop participants will select from

beautiful cherry, black walnut or heart pine for their drum. Tom Harris will also instruct the workshop group in basic drumming as you enjoy performing some traditional West African music.

Tom Harris has worked in the field of experiential education and adventure therapy for twenty years. He has been building drums and teaching West African drumming to youth and adults for the past five years and has built over 400 drums during this time.

This year you will have the choice of building an Ashiko, a Sangban, a Dun Dun, or a Djembe.

Cost: Ashiko \$290; Sangban \$365; Dun Dun or Djembe \$390 (includes all materials to build your drum, 2 nights lodging and all meals)

The drum you make is yours to take with you when you leave.

Limited commuter space available: \$260

Class size is limited to 12 people

Please indicate your choice of wood on the reg. form

Deposit of \$100 is required for this class

2ND ANNUAL AFRICAN DRUMMING & DANCE WEEKEND FOR YOUTH

May 4-6, 2001

Instructors: Tom Harris, Chuck Cogliandro and Mohamed Diaby

A weekend of drumming and dance. Bring your own African drum or rent one for only \$15 if you do not own your own. The primary audience for this event is youth and young adults but all ages are welcome.

Cost: Adults \$160 - Youth 12-17 \$130 (special rates are available for participating chaperones of groups of at least 10 students and for chaperones not participating in workshops. Please call for more information)

Price includes 2 nights lodging, all meals and all instruction during the weekend.



PROGRAM DAY: WITH OUR LABYRINTH

Monday, May 21, 2001
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Facilitator: Tom Eshelman

Spend a day walking our labyrinth and learning more about this fascinating tool for meditation and prayer.

Cost \$35 (includes lunch)

THE SECOND ANNUAL WRITERS GATHERING

July 29 - August 3, 2001

This Gathering brings together writers of varying ability levels and inspiring and dedicated teachers whose love of writing is contagious. This five day event brings

community and nurture to the creative spirit and fosters fearlessness in the often-daunting face of writing. This years writers will include Robert Morgan, author of *Gap Creek*; Judy Goldman, author of *The Slow Way Back*; Jannisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*; Anne Turkle, a professor of creative writing at Warren Wilson College and Anthony Abbott, a poet and professor of English at Davidson College. Our writers will lead workshops, classes and discussions.

If you wish further information please contact the southlandsinstitute@aol.com or request a brochure by calling 828.433.6818 or the Valle Crucis Conference Center. The Valle Crucis Writers Gathering is sponsored by the Southlands Institute and the Valle Crucis Conference Center.

Cost: \$675 which includes 5 nights lodging, all meals, workshops and more

STUDIO WORKSHOP WITH NOYES CAPHEART LONG

August 9 - August 12, 2001

In this 3 day studio workshop Noyes will present an entry level watercolor workshop. Noyes, a retired art professor (Appalachian State University/ 1969-97) is an experienced watercolorist in both traditional and non-traditional methods. Noyes will acquaint you with the process through demonstrations and one-on-one contact. This will be the third consecutive summer workshop Noyes has offered at the Center. Space will be limited to 12 persons, so interested persons are advised to register early. The workshop will start after dinner on Thursday and finish on Sunday morning prior to services at Holy Cross Church. Upon registration all participants will be sent a supply list.

Cost: \$180 includes 3 nights lodging, all meals and workshop. (does not include materials)

Limited commuter space available at \$120
Class size is limited to 12

LABYRINTH BUILDING RETREAT: PLAY AND PRAY ON THE LABYRINTH

August 13-16, 2001

Facilitators: Jaan Ferree and Tom Eshelman

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool for centering and prayer. During this retreat we will explore the history of labyrinths and walk the three types of labyrinths currently available at the Center. Participants will also have the opportunity to construct an outdoor labyrinth on the center grounds. There will be free time available for journaling, hiking and reflections.

Cost: \$225 which includes 3 nights lodging, all meals and workshop materials
Limited commuter space available at \$200

A WEEKEND WITH THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

*"Like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in
my hand, says the Lord"*

August 24-26, 2001

Facilitator - The Rev. Brian Suntken

The prophet Jeremiah lived during a time of tremendous change and conflict. His words of warning and of hope were rejected by his people. And yet, in the face of persecution he continued to proclaim the "Word of the Lord." Over the course of three days, you will examine and reflect on Jeremiah's call to ministry, his lamentations over God's people, his use of metaphor in proclamation, and his vision of hope for the future. How do the experiences of Jeremiah relate to my life? Does the prophet's voice still speak today? Can I find the hope in the message of this prophet who lived in the seventh century BCE? Where is God calling me to ministry? These and other questions will be explored over the course of the weekend. Brian is a gifted teacher who makes the Bible come alive in our day and time.

Cost : \$135 which includes 2 nights lodging,
all meals, and workshop

Limited commuter space available at \$110

Class size is limited so please register early!

CLUTTER CLEARING: MAKING SPACE FOR GOD

September 14-16, 2001

Facilitator - Jaan Ferree

Clutter is stuck energy, energy that has far reaching effects physically, mentally, emotionally and spirituality. In this retreat we will examine the real reasons for clutter, and discover useful suggestions for clearing away those blocks. You can then create an environment which inspires you and sustains your inward journey.

Cost : \$160 which includes 2 nights lodging,
all meals, and workshop

Limited commuter space available at \$135

Class size is limited so please register early!

ART AS PRAYER A BENEDICTINE RETREAT

September 16- September 21, 2001

Facilitator - The Rev. Elizabeth Canham, D.Min.

This retreat will explore creativity in the context of a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, worship, silence, community and rest. You do not have to be an artist to participate in this event which will include workshops on painting, clay, journaling, poetry and music. This program will start at 5 PM on Sunday and go through noon on Friday.

Cost: \$795 which includes 5 nights lodging, all meals,
workshops and tuition

All inquiries for this retreat should be directed to:

Stiltpoint Ministries, 51 Laurel Lane,

Black Mountain, NC, 828-669-0606, Stiltpnt@aol.com

CREATIVITY UNBOUND: DISCOVERING WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU'D LOST

October 7-12, 2001

Facilitators - Olivia Woodford (Founder of the
Healing Theatre); Dr. Elizabeth Rose; and the
staff of Southlands Institute

A week of questioning, taking risks, imagining and exploring new ways of thinking and being. Through painting, theater and music the inner artist who often goes unheeded in our harried lives is encouraged to emerge and a creative spark ignited. Play, a willingness to trust and follow impulse and imagination opens us to the mysterious process of creativity. For further information contact the southlandsinstitute@aol.com or request a brochure by calling 828.433.6818 or the Valle Crucis Conference Center. Creativity Unbound is sponsored by the Southlands Institute and the Valle Crucis Conference Center.

Cost: \$675 which includes 5 nights lodging,
all meals and workshops

EXPLORING THE SACRED SELF THROUGH THE ART OF THE MANDALA

October 26-28, 2001

Instructors: Laura Lanier and Dorrie Pratt

Discover your innate talents for creativity, spirituality and healing in a repeat of this popular workshop. Mandala is the Sanskrit word for "sacred circle". Mandalas have been used for thousands of years as a method for facilitating the integration and healing of the mind, body and spirit. In a loving, safe and supportive environment, you will learn to use simple tools to produce these luminous symbols of healing. No art experience is necessary. The labyrinth will also be available as an additional tool for mediation and prayer throughout the weekend.

Laura Lanier and Dorrie Pratt are members of Grace Episcopal Church in Asheville. Their talents have contributed to many parish projects, and both are active seekers on a spiritual path.

Cost: \$175 (includes all materials, 2 nights lodging
and all meals)

Limited commuter space available: \$125

Class size is limited to 12

PROGRAM DAY: WITH OUR LABYRINTH

Monday, October 29, 2001

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Facilitator: Tom Eshelman

Spend a day walking our labyrinth and learning more about this fascinating tool for meditation and prayer.

Cost \$35 (includes lunch)

*"We had a fabulous time - the Bunk House is very
comfortable and conducive to a retreat."*

—Steve Weisz - Tusculum College

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NEW YEAR'S EVE LABYRINTH RETREAT



What better place to be on New Year's Eve than walking our labyrinth with other spiritual

seekers. This year's retreat will start on Saturday, December 29, 2001 and end after breakfast on Tuesday, January 1, 2002. Your facilitators will be Jaan Ferree and Tom Eshelman. More information later this year.

Cost: \$225 which includes 3 nights lodging, all meals, and workshops



Last New Year's Eve Participants

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

- **Class Size:** We are committed to keeping our class size small as we believe it is in the small group environment that learning and spirituality flourish. Because class sizes are kept small, classes fill quickly. Early registration is encouraged!
- **Price and Room Policies:** Listed prices for programs include room, board, tuition and materials. Most accommodations are double, triple or quadruple occupancy. If you prefer a single room, we will try to accommodate you though we cannot guarantee this until check-in when the final availability of single rooms can be determined. Please notify VCCC in advance if you have any medical needs such as diet or disability accommodations. We are unable to accommodate pets or provide childcare. Smoking is not permitted in any building.
- **Meals:** We serve home-cooked, nutritious meals. The fare is hearty. Our kitchen staff will try to accommodate any special dietary needs if they receive 14 days prior notice. If you have any dietary questions, please give us a call.
- **Timing:** Unless otherwise noted, conferences begin with registration and check in at 4:00 p.m. on opening day, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

They close after the 12 noon lunch on the closing day. To assist our housekeeping staff, we request that you complete your check out prior to lunch closing day.

- **To Register:** A nonrefundable, nontransferable deposit of \$50 is required for each course **except for single day programs when a non-refundable payment in full is required.** Please mail your check with the completed registration form.
- **Directions:** You will receive directions to the conference center with your registration confirmation. We are easy to find and are located just 9 miles outside of Boone, NC (2 hours from Winston Salem; 2-1/2 hours from Charlotte). The closest airports are Hickory, NC, and Johnson City (Tri-Cities), TN, both approximately 90 minutes from the Center.
- **Commuters:** A limited number of spaces are available in each program for commuters not requiring lodging. The fee does include three meals per day as mealtime is an important part of the program's fellowship. Those who choose to commute are encouraged to make a commitment to full participation in all meals and community activities.

REGISTRATION

(Feel free to copy this form but please use one form per person)

Event for which you are registering: _____

Starting Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Your Faith Tradition: _____

** I would like to room with _____

___ I will not be staying at the Conference Center but will commute

___ I am coming for a Quiet Day and will not need lodging
(if you wish to arrive the night before a Quiet Day, please call to check on room availability)

Enclosed: ___ Nonrefundable, nontransferable deposit of \$ _____

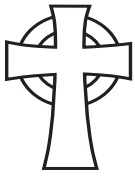
___ Full payment of \$ _____

For drum making workshop please choose the wood for your drum ___Cherry ___Walnut ___Pine
and the kind of drum you'd like to make ___Ashiko ___Sangban ___Dun Dun ___Djembe

Please return this complete form with your check (payable to "VCCC") to the address below.
You will receive a registration confirmation with any further information necessary.

VCCC, PO Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691

** When requesting a specific room mate(s), registration forms and deposits should be mailed together.



VALLE CRUCIS
 CONFERENCE CENTER
 Post Office Box 654
 Valle Crucis, NC 28691

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Boone, NC
 Permit No. 34



**VALLE CRUCIS
 CONFERENCE CENTER**
 AT THE HISTORIC MISSION SCHOOL

Telephone: 828-963-4453
 Facsimile: 828-963-8806
 E-Mail: vccc@hcisp.net
 Web Page: www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Valle Crucis Conference Center is to inspire, by loving example and service, those who break bread with us and share in the quest for spiritual renewal, Christian community and stewardship of this sacred place.

The Right Reverend Robert H. Johnson
 Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

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