



Good News

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER • DECEMBER 2004

DEEPLY ROOTED ON SACRED GROUND

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace . . . you are among the top 8 percent of the world's wealthy."



BLESSED BY MEMORY CHALLENGED BY HOPE

"Blessed by Memory, Challenged by Hope" was the theme for our 83rd annual convention here in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. It was also our first convention to be convened by our new Bishop, G. Porter Taylor. This theme really resonates for the Valle Crucis Conference Center as we are truly blessed by memory and we have great hopes for our continued ministries here in this sacred place.

We have abundant memories here at the Center: memories of Bishop Levi

Silliman Ives, Brother William West Skiles, The Rev. William French, and all the brothers of the Order of the Holy Cross. There are also all the children who attended school here when it was known as The Mission School; the girls and young women who attended and taught when we housed an Episcopal boarding school for girls. There is Emily Toll Hopkins, headmistress extra-ordinaire of the girls school, all the seminarians who attended the Southern Rural Church Institute, and our many retreatants and group attendees over the years. We have been and continue to be a place for making memories for incredible young people from our Diocese who have attended spring and fall conferences over the years and our many friends who bring the sound of bagpipes, Scottish drums and fiddles to this place. We cannot overlook the people who have worked at the Valle Crucis Conference Center in the past and those who work and care for this place on a daily basis right now. How blessed we are to have so many friends!

We are blessed to count you, our readers, as friends as well. And, yes, you know that what is coming next in this report is my annual end of the year message and appeal for funds. If you have contributed to the Valle Crucis Conference Center in the past, my hope is that you will continue to support us from the abundance God has given you. If you have never sent us a contribution, I ask that you prayerfully consider a donation this year. Your donation makes you a part of the ministry of hospitality that we practice here every day. It is through your generosity that we are able to live and grow into our future. As much as we cherish our history, the blessing of our memories, it is the challenge and the wonderful possibilities of the future that excite us most. Thank you for blessing us as a friend.

—Tom Eshelman, Executive Director

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving" —Mother Teresa

Thank You

CONTRIBUTIONS

Jeff and Joanna Carroll
John R. Tuton and the Rich Family Reunion
Ernestine Tuton and the Rich Family Reunion
Matthew, Beverly and Timothy Hinson
Lee and Kay Carroll
The Rev. Walter W. Dawson
The Rev. Brian Cole and Susan Weatherford
Arthur and Anne Korff
Susan B. Morgan
The Rev. Timothy and Beverly McRee
Sandy and Dorcas Jones
Bill and Shirreleene Seaver
Harding and Dorothy Hughes, Jr.
Mike and Helen Morgan
Charles B. Huntley
The Rev. and Mrs. James Hindle
Jean C. Hughes
Matthew and Erin West
The Faith & Freedom Class
from The First United Methodist Church, Cary NC
Nivia and Elliott Woodaman
St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church
Trinity Fellowship Church
Book signing and sales donation *From Anger to Zion*
by the Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor
The Byerly Foundation Inc, of Hickory
David Finck
Dick and Margaret Beckman

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Emily Toll Hopkins
by Laura Toll Carkener
In memory of my beloved wife Betty Orr
by Roy Welch
In memory of Emily Toll Hopkins
by Charles Toll
In memory of David Kick
by Sandy and Dorcas Jones

HONORARIUM GIFTS

In honor of Tom Eshelman and the Reverend Jeanne Finan
by Lucy and Clem Gunn
In honor of Bishop Robert H. Johnson
by The Reverend Muriel and Jim Moore
In honor of all the volunteers past & present of the Valle Country Fair
by Bob and Polly Capps

HURRICANE RELIEF

Anne and Arthur Korff
Virginia and Texas Songbirds
Lynn and Robert Grandle
Cynthia Dunlap
Edith Hooks

GIFTS FROM OUR BAGPIPER & DRUMMER FRIENDS

Richard Landeck
Rogers Branson
Lori and Steven Waters
Jeanne and George Hardie
Johanna Schuster and Brian Yates
Pamela M. Barrett

BISHOP JOHNSON HALL

Diana Mast White

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of the Diocese of Panama and The Rev. Glenda McQueen
by The Reverend Jeanne Finan
by Tom Eshelman
by Diana Mast White
by the Valle Crucis Conference Center

FLOWER GARDEN FUND

In memory of Boyd Caudill Shull
by James and Eleanor Church

ROCKING CHAIR FUND

In memory of our friend James Fontenot by the
North American Academy of Piping & Drumming
Sandy and Dorcas Jones
Dane and Beverly Laughlin
In memory of Peggy S. Adams sister of Mildred Tester
by the board and staff of the Valle Crucis Conference Center

LABYRINTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Billy Clark
Beatrice Bumgardner
The Rev. Jeanne Finan

CROSSES FOR GUEST ROOMS

3 crosses by Deborah Brogden

OTHER GIFTS

Microwave and electric range
by Ron and Becky Million
Clothes hangers
by anonymous donor
2 DVD players
by anonymous donor
2 wrought iron tables with 8 chairs for Inn porch
by Wendell J. Seaver
Love seat
by Robin and Larry Byerly
Quilt pieces for Bishop Johnson hall and other rooms
by fiber artist Danby Ludgate
Used prayer books
by St. Mary of the Hills - Blowing Rock NC
Sound System wiring for Bishop Johnson Hall
by Audio Video Headquarters



PROGRAMS

The following is just a taste of a few of the programs we will be offering in 2005. For a full listing please see our spring issue of Good News which will be mailed sometime in March 2005. However, you are welcome to sign up and register now for any of the following programs...

**PROGRAM DAY:
ALL YOU THAT ARE WEARY**

...with *The Rev. Jeanne Finan*
Friday April 8, 2005, 10 AM - 3 PM
\$35 includes lunch

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

Even in today's culture of overwork, stress and always caring for others before ourselves, Jesus' invitation to give us rest still stands open. Come away for a Spring day in the mountains to lay down your burdens and join others in a time of quiet, reflection and guided meditations to explore the spirituality of rest and sabbath-keeping.

The Reverend Jeanne Finan is an Episcopal priest serving as the Associate Rector of St. Mary of the Hills, Blowing Rock. She is the author of the book *Remember Your Baptism* (Cowley Publications) and is completing her second book which shares the same title as this program day.

**PROGRAM DAY:
RESURRECTION IN OUR LIVES**

...with *The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor*
Friday, April 29, 2005, 10 AM - 3 PM
\$35 includes lunch

Come away for a day to reflect upon resurrection and our Christian identity as Easter people. A gifted writer, preacher and Bishop of Western North Carolina, The Right Reverend G. Porter Taylor, will guide this program day and share his meditations on resurrection. There will also be time for silence and your own personal exploration of how you see Jesus resurrected in your daily life.

**7TH ANNUAL
AFRICAN DRUM BUILDING WORKSHOP**

May 6-8, 2005

Tom Harris will again lead this extraordinary program of African sounds and drum building. Join with others as you make your very own Djembe or Ashiko. Chose your type of wood from Ash, Pine, Black Walnut or Cherry for your Ashiko. \$300 for and Ashiko and only \$400 for a Djembe. Limited commuter spaces available.

**PROGRAM DAY:
A DAY WITH OUR LABYRINTHS**

...with *Tom Eshelman*
May 16, 2005, 10 AM - 3 PM
\$35 includes lunch

Learn about the fascinating history of this ancient tool of mediation and prayer as you spend a day walking our indoor and outdoor labyrinths.



CREATIVE DISCOVERY ARTISTS WORKSHOP

...with *Noyes Long*
August 9-7, 2005
\$230.00

Noyes Long will once again lead a four day retreat which will explore the creative discovery of the spirituality of art and how art can effect the very fabric of your life. This annual workshop is always a sell-out and is limited to only 15 participants so we suggest you make your reservation early.

**COME AND SEE:
A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

...with *The Rev. Brian Suntken*
August 12-14, 2005
\$180.00

Throughout the Fourth Gospel, persons are invited to "come and see" the awesome works of God brought to completion in the ministry of Jesus. As do the other Evangelists, John records real events, but goes beyond them in interpreting these events to make the meaning of Christ clear and gripping. This gospel challenges us, as it challenged the first readers, to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that by believing, we may have eternal life. Come spend a weekend with this gifted, humourous and challenging teacher and leader. There will be plenty of time for reflection, walking, hiking in addition to class time with The Reverend Brian Suntken and the other participants.



VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER

AT THE HISTORIC MISSION SCHOOL

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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 G. Porter Taylor
Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

Valle Crucis Conference Center

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VALLE CRUCIS
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Good News
~SPECIAL EDITION~

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Happy
Holidays
from all of us