



# Good News

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER • FALL/WINTER 2003-04

DEEPLY ROOTED ON SACRED GROUND

“Once again our stay exceeded our expectations. Thanks for helping us build a heritage and memories for our children.”

—The Stuart  
Family Reunion



A YOUNG DANCER HAS FUN AT  
THE COMMUNITY SQUARE DANCE IN THE  
APPLE BARN

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### THE RAISING OF FUNDS

What is the simple truth about fund raising? The simple truth is that it's hard on all of us. It's hard on you because you have to listen to my pleas and it's hard on me because I have to ask and ask and ask again. I know at this time of year, your mailbox is filled with requests for many worthwhile causes, all of whom are asking you to share your gifts with them. And in this newsletter, you will find our request for your help, too.

I was heartened by a passage in one of the Gospels about the value of being persistent. Just as we must be persistent in our prayers, I feel that I must be persistent in my repeated requests for funds for the

Valle Crucis Conference Center. I ask because I believe in our ministry here. I ask because I know we need your support to continue to grow and thrive, to continue to serve those who come knocking at our door for hospitality. And the simple truth is that I ask because I have faith that we shall receive.

Our Board, our guests, and I can all have endless wonderful ideas of how we'd like to renovate our buildings, add more bathrooms, create retreat housing, finish Bishop Johnson Hall or complete the very expensive sewer project, and more (and this doesn't include the pressing day to day needs to keep this historic and sacred property in first class shape), but without the funding, all these ideas remain just paper dreams. It takes money (the results of fund raising) to make those dreams become reality. Raising those funds is part of God's call to me and to you!

So yes, it's hard. You have to listen to me and you have to decide with whom you will share the gifts God has given to you. And it's hard on me because I have to ask. But I believe all the challenges God calls us to are not easy. So I pray and yes, I ask that you will be called to contribute to the good work we do here at the Valle Crucis Conference Center. Thank you for your gifts—whether large or small— we appreciate them ALL!

Tom Eshelman, Executive Director

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

—Winston Churchill

*"May you have warm words on a cold eve, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door."*

—Irish Proverb

# THANK YOU

*Our Special Thanks to these individuals & organizations for their generosity in giving to the Center in recent months.*

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Anonymous  
Susan Benton Morgan  
Anne and Arthur Korff  
Robert L. Boyd  
Roy and Madeline Davis  
Katerina Whitley  
John Goodrich  
Maria R. Lichtmann and Robert J. Schneider  
The Grace Episcopal Church Women, Morganton  
David and Roberta Yates  
In memory of Arthur Jorolemon  
by Sandy and Dorcas Jones  
In memory of Elaine Holden  
by Tom Eshelman and Jeanne Finan

## IN CELEBRATION

In celebration of the marriage  
of Jody and Natalie Eamonn  
by C. Lee Cagle  
In celebration of the ordination  
of The Rev. Jeanne Finan  
by Julie and Van Spear

## IN THANKSGIVING

In thanksgiving for our 29th wedding anniversary  
by Ann and Larry Lane

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of James Monroe Herman  
by Ralph Tilden  
In memory of Katharine Johnson  
by Rachel Dillard  
In memory of Scott and Emily Myers  
by the Adult III SS Class of  
Temple Baptist Church  
In memory of Edward F. Tester  
by Roger and JoAnn Adkins  
In memory of Chalmer W. Poston  
by Billy DuBose and Mary Jeffcoat  
In memory of her brother Jack Finan  
by Roberta E. Kelly

## HONORARIUM GIFTS

In honor of the ordination of  
the Rev. Jeanne Finan  
by C. Lee Cagle  
In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary  
of Bill and Shirrelene Seaver  
by Jeanne Finan and Tom Eshelman  
In honor of the birthday celebration of  
John E. Cooper, Jr.  
by Faye Cooper  
In honor of Edwin and Harriett Poston  
by Billy DuBose and Mary Jeffcoat

## BISHOP ROBERT H. JOHNSON HALL

In honor of Sandy Jones  
by Dr. White and Lucy Wallenborn  
Michael and Debbie Galleher  
Dorothy D. Eshelman  
The Rev Brian Cole and Susan Weatherford  
David and Roberta Yates

## SEPTIC/SEWER REPLACEMENT FUND

Charles and Cathy Barkley  
Nick Fernando  
Elizabeth M. Faries  
Gerald and Sandra Calhoun  
Dick and Margaret Beckman  
Chuck Forrester  
The Rev. Canon Jane Smith  
Glenn and Martha Farthing  
Harding and Jean Hughes  
Scott and Dawn Jensen  
The Rev. Jeanne Finan and Tom Eshelman  
Geraldene and Bob Ward  
In honor of Sandy and Dorcas Jones  
by Graham and Sharon Scott  
In honor of Billy DuBose  
by Edwin Poston  
In memory of Katharine Johnson  
by Diana Mast White

## LANDSCAPING FUND

Wendell J. Seaver

## ROCKING CHAIR FUND

In celebration of the marriage of  
Jody and Natalie Eamonn  
by Mary W. Finan  
Tim, Dianne, Matthew and Patrick Finan  
Tom Eshelman and Jeanne Finan

## OTHER GIFTS

Sofa bed by Francie and Ralph Hall  
Herbs by Meg Shelton  
Piano for Bishop Johnson Hall  
by Donna Littlejohn  
Benches for pond by Adam Galleher  
for his Eagle Scout project  
Valle Crucis Abbey Book  
by Jim and Rachel Smith  
Book for library by Brian Cole  
Lamp for the library  
by Tom Eshelman and Jeanne Finan

*"Could not ask for better service and personal consideration"*

—John Parcels, Sermeiss Fall Conference

# BITS & PIECES

## THE HIGH COUNTRY

**CONSERVANCY** has completed work to buy conservation easements on 73 acres of the hayfields, Hunt Hill and the area behind the Director's house off Dutch Creek Road. The Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Cannon Foundation and the Farmland Protection Agency have all played a large part in securing these easements. All funds received will be placed in an endowment fund for the future of the Conference Center.

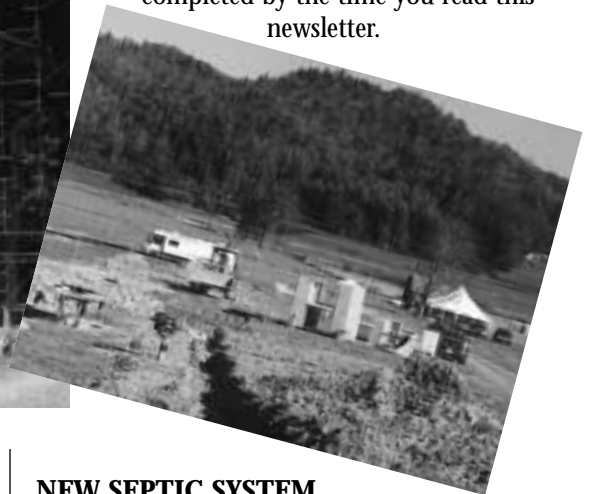
In August we were able to re-paint the **APPLE BARN**. A portion of all rentals for the use of the Apple Barn go towards a fund for its upkeep and maintenance. In addition, in September we were able to fund a much needed new roof for **CRAB ORCHARD HALL**.



**ADAM GALLEHER** of Boy Scout Troop # 160 completed his Eagle Scout Project early this fall. Adam built and installed 3 wonderful and very sturdy benches around our pond off Dutch Creek Road. Thanks Adam!



**THE CONSTRUCTION OF BISHOP JOHNSON HALL** continues with the roof completed, all doors and windows finished, the heating system and duct work installed, pipes for the plumbing are in, septic system dug and installed and the electricians should have their work completed by the time you read this newsletter.



You are always welcome to make a **DONATION IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE** by giving a rocking chair for

only \$150. We will find a place on one of our many porches around the center for each chair purchased, and create a plaque honoring your gift.

**IN THANKS** for your donation of \$150 we will give you a hand-made wooden cross crafted from the wood of our beloved Catalpa Tree that for years stood by the entrance to the Dining Hall/ Annex. If you wish to leave the cross at the Conference Center, we will be glad to hang it in a room with a plaque in your honor or in memory of a loved one.

## NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM

Chris Ryder, Inc. began our long awaited work on the new septic system for the Inn and the Annex in late August. Construction has proceeded on schedule with a few minor glitches encountered along the way. They hope to finish the construction by the end of December.

## WE HAVE NUMEROUS REMINDERS OF YOUR VISIT

to the Valle Crucis Conference Center for sale in the office. There are t-shirts, sweatshirts, note-cards, postcards and refrigerator magnets. In addition we have lots of books related to Valle Crucis for sale. There is *Missionary Life in Valle Crucis* by Susan Fennimore Cooper, signed copies of *Valle Crucis* by David Yates and William Bake, *Valle Crucis A History of An Uncommon Place* and *My Valle Crucis in the 1930's* by Harding Hughes Jr., *Dobie 'n' Me in Hoot Owl Holler* and *Echoes from Hoot Owl Holler* by Doris Smith Bliss and *The First Valle Crucis, Seventh-day Adventist Church and Church School and Other Mountain Stories* by Ruby Clark Demyen.

# Our Heritage



Mary Wright  
with "friend" —  
Spring 1941

*Edited by Tom Eshelman*

## **MARY WRIGHT ROBINSON REFLECTIONS ON SCHOOL LIFE IN VALLE CRUCIS**

*Editors Notes: The following are excerpts from a letter written in March 1998 to Harding Hughes, Jr., by Mary Wright Robinson who was a student at the Valle Crucis Girls School and spent 4 years attending the school. Harding was doing research for one of his books about the Valle Crucis community. I met and knew Mary at Calvary Church in Memphis, TN where I was a member from 1989-1997. She was so excited when she found out that my new job would be as the Director of the Valle Crucis Conference Center, her old school!*

I grew up in Columbia, SC, and arrived at Valle Crucis at the tender age of 13, an eighth grader. I did not select the school it was chosen for me. My aunt/guardian and the women at Trinity Church provided scholarship money for me to attend. In the fall of 1937 Mrs. Emily Toll Hopkins, a Wellesley graduate, was principal. It is my understanding that the year before, at her arriving, the school made the change from industrial arts, possibly from rural with agricultural focus, to academic. We took college board exams and I got a scholarship to Furman although I was unable to raise the rest of the necessary money to attend. At a later date (twelve years later) I attended classes at the University of South Carolina. I do know that my education at Valle Crucis was the equivalent of at least a Junior College degree in the liberal arts.

We had to care for our rooms, two weeks rotating jobs waitress, pot washer (eliminated my sophomore year as I recall), cook's helper we loved that job we could eat in the kitchen with Alma and Earl Tester. No cow-milking or harvesting. Saturday was a big morning in the basement laundry. I think we must have taken care of our own clothes, but it must not have been a big deal I only remember the sponging and steam pressing of my woolen skirts.

We never knew who had scholarships or who didn't. We did know who had fine clothes and bigger allowances. It was pretty obvious; but I don't remember us making judgement on that score. We had our prejudices, Democrat/Republican, North/South, annual "wars", and we competed for grades. There were no boys attending and no grades below eight. Mart T. Barkley [another classmate] came to us from Appalachian [which is now Penland School of Crafts], an elementary school near Burnsville, also long defunct since the 1950's. Valle Crucis. He later served parishes in Philadelphia, PA.

continued on p.4



## Our Heritage Continued . . .

The Gloviers Tiny and Pop it will take a whole chapter to tell about them. Let me save that for another time, it's past 10 o'clock pm and I'm getting sleepy, perhaps tomorrow. The Glovier family was an integral part of the life of the school. They sat at the same northeast table for nightly meals while each week (or was it each 2 weeks?) the faculty and students rotated and changed table partners. Malcolm and Doug, the sons, attended public high school in the valley, catching the early morning school bus; Jo the older daughter got married in 1939 or 1940 and moved away. Miriam was in Charlotte or Raleigh being a reporter, I think. Eight people sat at the square tables. The girls liked to sit at the Glovier table, and the male presence among us was generally welcomed. Tiny was nurse and housemother. Pop managed and worked the apple

orchards. I would guess that the family stayed there through the summer apple trees need care then as well, and the summer guests needed a housekeeper supervisor and nurse. Perhaps you can find a Townsend or Caudill or other older survivor than you or me, or maybe Howell Cook to tell you about the importance of the apple orchard to the economy (jobs) in that depression era. One of my saddest disappointments when I stopped there briefly in late summer 1978 was no apple trees, just a few sad stalks on the hill above. Welch Tester was conference director then, but he was on vacation, so it was a rather unrewarding visit. He was another important male influence, active in YPSL (Young People Service League now the EYC) and our school social life saturday night dancing in the dining room. I learned that Welch has died since that year.

Tiny and Pop's little house on the hill [now called the Farm House] was always open to the girls on weekend nights. We would walk with our dates up there, make popcorn and roast marshmallows in the fireplace. Another loss when I visited again in July 1994 was the bridge that connected the second floor dorm and the dining-room was gone. One of our favorite sitting places on warm days. Change is difficult I sympathize with Rip van Winkle!

If any of us girls would get together each of our memories would fill a book each with our own versions. I was called MarWright, slurred together; we had Mary G, (Gilmore Marsh), Mart T or "Tedo" (Barclay), Mary L. Griffin, and Mary Grimes (she joined the WACS; she did not recognize me, nor I her until after we passed each other in a hall at a Memphis VA Hospital).



Top : Class of 1941. Sue Williams, Francis Stevenson, Dorothy Brown, Anna Mae Cook, Lacy McCord, Jacqueline Heaslip and Mary Wright.

Lower: Mary Wright relaxes on the "bridge" between the Inn and the Annex.

*Shepherds do not make sheep; Sheep make new sheep!"* —George Hunter



# PROGRAMS 2004

APRIL THROUGH AUGUST

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER

AT THE HISTORIC MISSION SCHOOL

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*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.*

## PROGRAM DAY

WITH KATERINA WHITLEY

Monday April 26, 2004 - 10 AM - 3 PM

Who is Saint Paul? St. Paul is quoted to justify all kinds of opinions and prejudices. What is the truth of his words? We will look together at the most misunderstood of all the apostles the first and greatest missionary of all times. What is the new scholarship on St. Paul? What does the interpretation of Paul and Empire have to do with us? How does this change our limited concept of Paul as the preacher of "justification by faith"? And most especially: What does St. Paul really have to say about women?

Katerina is a noted author and teacher. Her books include *Speaking for Ourselves* and *Seeing for Ourselves* in which Biblical women tell their own dramatic stories.

- Cost \$35, includes lunch

## SIXTH ANNUAL AFRICAN DRUM BUILDING WORKSHOP

May 7-9, 2004

Come spend a weekend immersed in the sights and sounds of building your very own African Drum. Under the expert guidance of master drum builder Tom Harris you will spend the weekend sanding, staining, oiling, wrapping, shaving and playing the drum of your choice. This is one of our most popular workshops and Tom will delight you with his knowledge of African Drum building. No previous woodworking experience necessary and all ages are welcome!

- Cost: Ashiko \$300 or Djembe \$400 (includes all materials to build your drum, 2 nights lodging, and all meals)
- *The drum you make is yours to take home with you.*
- Limited commuter space is available: call for prices
- Class size is limited so please register early
- Except for the Djembe whose shell is imported from the Ivory Coast please indicate choice of wood on your registration form. (Black Walnut, Heart Pine, Ash or Cherry)
- Deposit of \$100 is required for this class

*"We'll be back for the  
18th time next year"*

—Guy Ross, North Carolina Herb Association

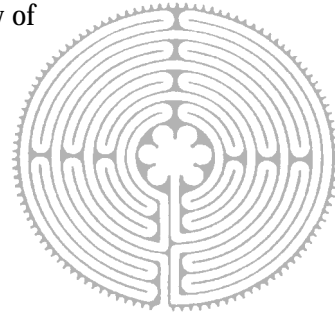
## PROGRAM DAY

WITH OUR LABYRINTHS

Monday, May 17, 2004 - 10 AM - 3 PM

Please come and join us for a day spent in looking at the history of labyrinths, walking our three labyrinths and taking some special quiet time to rediscover this ancient meditative tool of relaxation and talking with God. Tom Eshelman will facilitate this day.

- Cost - \$35, includes lunch



*"If you wish to know the divine,  
feel the wind on your face and the  
warm sun on your hand"*

—The Buddha

## ECW WORKSHOP

WITH THE REV. JEANNE FINAN

*Praying and Playing with Hildegard of Bingen*

May 21-23, 2004

Come away to the high mountains and the pristine beauty of Valle Crucis for a women's retreat which will focus on the life and work of an amazing 12th century woman. Mystic, poet, composer, dramatist, environmentalist, and doctor, the Benedictine abbess Hildegard, was an extraordinarily gifted woman who inspired women in her century and continues to inspire women today.

The Rev. Jeanne Finan will lead the retreat using original meditations that reflect the life of Hildegard and her relevance to our own lives.

This Workshop is limited to women in the Diocese of Western North Carolina first and then will be open to the public. To get your name on a waiting list please call Tom at 828-963-4453

For women in our Diocese please call Joan Summerfield to make a reservation at 828-437-1592 or e-mail her at [summerfield@visatech.net](mailto:summerfield@visatech.net)

If you wish to stay over for the Program Day with Liz Canham please make arrangements with Tom at 828-963-4453.

## PROGRAM DAY

WITH THE REV. LIZ CANHAM

Monday, May 24, 2004 - 10 AM - 3 PM

LIFE IN A HAZELNUT: A retreat with 14th century English mystic JULIAN OF NORWICH who perceived God's love for a devastated world in a small hazelnut. Major wars in Europe, the Peasants Revolt and the decimation of England's population by bubonic plague left many feeling hopeless, helpless and without God. Julian ministered to people on the street outside her "anchorhold" and to many other distressed Christians as she assured them of the Love-cloak that God wraps around each one and of our "tender Mother Jesus" who heals, holds and nurtures us. She speaks to our time and place through her writings and the day will offer meditations, quiet time, and creativity.

We are blessed to have Liz Canham come to Valle Crucis to lead this day of reflection and retreat. Liz is a gifted writer, priest and spiritual director. Her programs are always well attended and sell out quickly.

- Cost is \$35 which include lunch

## THE CREATIVE IMAGE:

A JOURNEY IN SELF-DISCOVERY WITH NOYES LONG

August 5-8, 2004

We are blessed to have the very talented artist Noyes Long back at the Conference Center for another workshop dealing with the creative and spiritual side of art. This workshop is open first to those who have taken it before and will be limited to 15 participants. We recommend that you sign up early as it always sells out quickly.

- Cost: \$225 includes 3 nights lodging, all meals and workshop. (Does not include materials)
- Limited commuter space available at \$175



## PRAYING THE PSALMS

WITH THE REV. BRIAN SUNTKEN

August 13-15, 2004

One approaches the psalms with a sense of awe and mystery. The psalms have been sung and prayed by men and women throughout the ages. They have been a timeless source of inspiration and spiritual wisdom. The psalms remain at the heart of the liturgical life of the Church. Choosing various psalms exploring the depth of human expression and experience, Brian Suntken will share his approach to praying the psalms. Using scholarly resources and personal witness, Brian will illustrate his belief that the psalms, having been written for a culture and context far different from our own, still speak to us today with undiminished power.

If you have never met Brian or taken one of his workshops then you are in for a real treat. Brian will take you on a journey of faith through stories, humor and his obvious love of God and the Bible.

- Cost: \$180 includes 2 nights lodging, all meals and the workshop
- Limited commuter space available at \$140

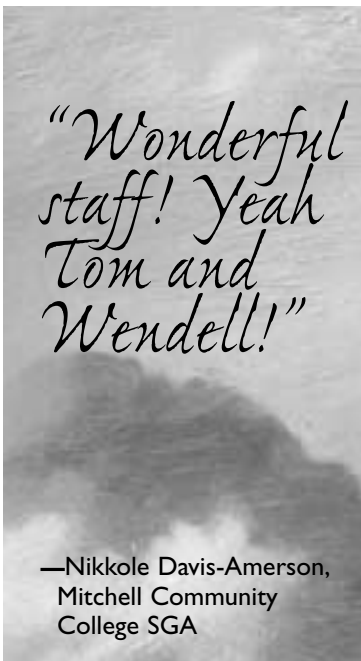
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*"As you know I drive past VCCC at least several times a day and I was struck this past weekend by the folks sitting on the porch of the Inn. It was a beautiful morning and the porch was full of folks rocking. I could imagine their delight in feeling the peacefulness of the valley watching the morning sun. And then it hit me that I get to see and feel that every day - how lucky we are to live here!! Then around the next corner, another group was circled up in their rockers on the porch of Crab Orchard Hall - every rocker rocking! I guess rocking chairs take us back to when we were babies and rocked by our parents. Some of my fondest memories of my girls were rocking them for hours when they were small enough to be held!"*

—Brenda Binning, Valle Crucis Resident and Board Member

## Scholarships

If you wish to apply for a limited number of scholarships which are offered for some of our programs please call for more information.



## 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 non-refundable, non-transferable 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 Program Day and will not need lodging.

(if you wish to arrive the night before a Program Day, please call to check on room availability.)

Enclosed: \_\_\_\_ Nonrefundable, nontransferable deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Full payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am attending the Drum Building workshop. \_\_\_\_ I will build a Djembe (no choice of wood).

I will build a Ashiko and my choice of wood is: \_\_\_\_ Black Walnut \_\_\_\_ Heart Pine \_\_\_\_ Ash \_\_\_\_ Cherry

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

AT THE HISTORIC MISSION SCHOOL

Telephone: 828-963-4453  
Facsimile: 828-963-8806  
E-Mail: [vccc@highsouth.com](mailto:vccc@highsouth.com)  
Web Page: [www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis](http://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

Valle Crucis Conference Center  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Boone, NC  
Permit No. 34

Gaston Day School students try out their team building skills at their fall retreat.



# Good News

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR  
ADDRESS AND CALL OR  
E-MAIL US IF IT IS NOT  
CORRECT. THANKS!**