



# Good News

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER • FALL / WINTER 2010

DEEPLY ROOTED ON SACRED GROUND

"With life as short  
as a half-taken  
breath, don't plan  
anything but Love."

— Rumi

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT



*Time flies quickly...*

**T**his year has really seemed to fly by quickly. From our harsh, cold and snowy winter, we moved right into spring and then came a hot, dry summer. Fall swooped in and left and now it is winter again. We have already had our first cold snap and snow flurries, even as I write this in early November.

The weather, the economy yes, life is full of challenges. But life is also full and good. It is the relationships we have with one another that make this true.

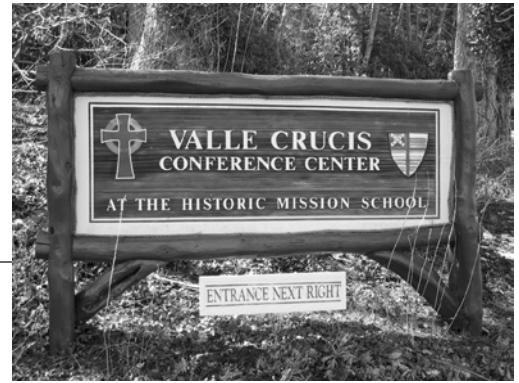
We appreciate all of the wonderful connections we have with so many folks around the country. Folks who remember us from their past and folks who are currently using our facilities on a yearly basis for their retreats, their family reunions, their colleges and schools and camps. We have a history not only within our church but with each of you whether you are able to be a giver or not.

At this time of year when your mailboxes are stuffed to overflowing with many requests from many worthwhile organizations we hope that you will remember your connection with us at The Valle Crucis Conference Center and send us a check. Please remember Large or Small, we do really appreciate them all.

—Tom Eshelman, Executive Director

# Thank You

Donations since June 2, 2010



## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Rev. Jane G. Smith  
Karen Kassinger  
Lori Easterlin  
The Episcopal Church Women  
of Western North Carolina  
St. Mary of the Hills - Blowing Rock NC  
Gary Hipp  
The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker  
Corrina and Page Stallcup  
Kelly A. Shippe  
Dr. And Mrs. Gordon Irwin  
Elizabeth and Sidney Morgan  
Susan and Tom White  
Anonymous Bagpipers - 4  
Dick McGraw  
Geraldene and Bob Ward  
William Harper  
Anne and Arthur Korff  
William L. Pritchard  
Cathleen J. Nixon  
Liz Faries  
Samuel V. Tallman  
Duchess Simon  
Barry Freeman  
Judy and David Wall  
The Mr. And Mrs. James Andrews Fund  
from the Winston-Salem Foundation  
Jim and Rose Andrews  
Dr. Paul S. Andrews  
Jim N. Andrews, Jr.  
Fiddletree Music Company and  
Moria and John Turner  
Margaret and Dick Beckman  
Kathryn S. Thompson  
Diana Mast White  
Robin and Larry Byerly  
Iona and Bob Brigham  
Libby Purcell  
Susan B. Morgan  
The Byerly Foundation Inc. of Hickory

Ruth C. Clontz  
The Rev. Jeanne Finan and Tom Eshelman  
Mollie and Richard Lance  
Alva and Robert Browning  
The Rt. Rev. G. Porter and Jo Taylor  
Margaret and James Neill  
Nelia and The Rev. Carl Cunningham

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of The Rev. Cristina Condit  
by Marilyn Welch  
In memory of Mildred Clark  
mother of Dorcas Jones  
by Reay and Joan Mackay  
by The Rev. Robert T. Copenhaver  
In memory of Dr. Larry Simpson  
by Dr. White and Lucy Wallenborn  
In memory of Kathryn G. Clark by Walter Clark  
In memory of Matt McConnell  
by Lisa A. Frazier  
In memory of Mettaleen Sigmon  
by Laurie Carter  
In memory of Shirley Hyland by Mark Hyland  
In memory of Robert E. And  
Betty Jane Selby Robillard  
by their son Rick Robillard  
In memory of our friend Reno DiPasquale  
by Dorcas and Sandy Jones  
In memory of Robert E. And  
Betty Jane Selby Robillard  
by their son Richard L. Robillard  
In memory of La Mena Nichols Browning  
by The Rev. Jeanne Finan and Tom Eshelman

## HONORARIUM GIFTS

In honor of Arch and Brenda Rothrock  
by Stacy Thompson and Kent Rothrock  
In honor of Valle Crucis Girls School student  
Lacy McCord Hayes  
by Robert C. Hayes and Catherine H. Bell  
In honor of our children and grandchildren  
by The Rev. Jeanne Finan and Tom Eshelman  
In honor of Father Thomas Keating  
by Lynn McLure

## HERMITAGES

In thanksgiving for our hermitage ministry  
by John Oglesby  
For trails and landscaping by Karen Kassinger  
Bench in memory of The Rev. Rick Hoecker  
"Our love is eternal in Christ"  
from Chloe, Max and Maria Hoecker

## LANDSCAPE & GARDEN FUND

In memory of Mary Kick and  
Grandma Baker Lull  
by Dorcas and Sandy Jones  
Wendell J. Seaver

## OTHER GIFTS

Framed Celtic Cross in memory of Mildred  
Virginia Clark mother of Dorcas Jones -  
3/18/19-3/17/10 for guest room  
by Dorcas and Sandy Jones  
Framed quotes, cross stitch and quilt pieces and  
books for library by Barb Landreth  
Leather chair and ottoman  
by Temple Throneburg  
Weeding, plants and work in  
Dick Tippett Memorial Garden  
by members of the  
North Carolina Herb Association  
Weeding and planting at the hermitages  
by Karen Kassinger  
Plans for fireproof furnace room  
by Dennis Lehman and Glen Walker

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*"Life isn't  
tied with a bow,  
but it is still  
a gift."*



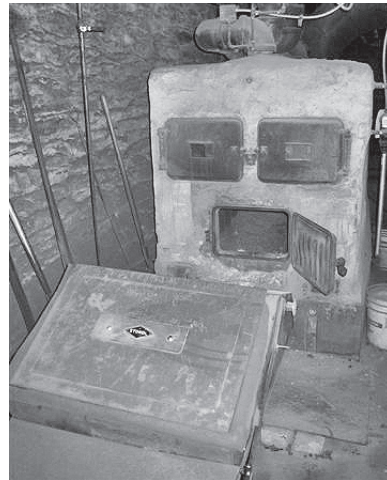
## Our Hermitages...

Our hermitages use has exceeded all of our expectations, hopes and dreams for this year and for that we are grateful to all of those retreatants who came for stays of one day up to 2 weeks for writing, reflection, prayer and just plain rest. We appreciate all the referrals from those who have stayed. We have expanded our trail system and listened to the many suggestion we have received on how we might improve on our accommodations. This fall we planted a maple tree and 4 rhododendrons in the center of the large gravel parking area sponsored by a very generous donor. We will do more planting in this area as well as add 4 benches for sitting and contemplation. We are always looking for additional donors to sponsor more benches for the trails. Please e-mail me if this would interest you.

## Fond Farewells & Hello's

*"It's always bittersweet..."*

December is always a bittersweet month for us as we say goodbye to a few of our fantastic board members who have served for the past several years. Karen Kassinger from Athens GA; Katerina Whitley from Vilas NC; Chuck Forester from Wilkesboro NC and Richard Lance from Canton NC. A big thanks to these amazing people for their dedicated service. They will be missed. But the sweet side is we are welcoming four new members to our board of directors. The Rev. Beth Lilly from Newton NC; The Rev. Brian Cole from Asheville NC; Walter Browning from The Woodlands TX and Susie Morgan from Boone NC. We are excited and look for great things as they help guide this wonderful and sacred place on it's next journey!



## Donations

*"Large or small,  
we appreciate  
them all."*

Our coal furnace in the Inn has reached the ripe old age of 65 years old as far as we can tell. It has warmed so many guests through the long, hard, cold winters here at Valle Crucis. Our staff has shoveled more loads of coal that any of us care to remember over the years. For the past few years we have had to struggle to keep this wonderful but old piece of our history going and now it is time to replace her with something more up to date, cleaner and fuel efficient. If you can help us out with this unexpected expense of \$50,000 we would appreciate that help and all the checks we can get and we promise not to burn them!

## New Facebook Fan Club!

*"Join up today!"*

Our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/thevallecrucisconferencecenter](http://www.facebook.com/thevallecrucisconferencecenter) has been a wonderful tool for keeping our friends around the country informed about what is happening here all year long. We are able to welcome groups to the Conference Center as well as post photos of our many maintenance projects, groups using the center, archival photos and lots and lots of other great stuff. It is a wonderful way to keep and stay connected in this busy far reaching world of ours. Please join the 440 others fantastic, friendly, fun-loving facebook fans today!



# PROGRAMS 2011

AT VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER

*Come spend some time  
on sacred ground.*

## ■ Program Day

### Embracing the Invitation to a Holy Lent

Friday, March 4, 2011, 10am-3pm

\$35, includes lunch

Facilitator - *The Rev. Jeanne Finan*

With our lives so busy and full, Lent has a way of sneaking up on us. Suddenly it is Ash Wednesday and we really have not taken the time to prepare for this holy season. Come away for a day of preparation as we look toward the soon to arrive season of Lent. Using scripture, poems, and prayers that focus on penitence, forgiveness and reconciliation, as well as time for silence, writing and exploring the surrounding beauty of Valle Crucis, accept the invitation to come away to a holy place to prepare for a holy season.

• The Rev. Jeanne Finan is an Episcopal priest who serves at St. John's, Asheville. She also leads retreats, offers spiritual direction and loves words. Jeanne is the author of *Remember Your Baptism: Ten Meditations* (Cowley Publications).

## ■ Program Day:

### Walking Our Way Through Lent

Friday, April 1, 2011

10AM - 3PM – \$35, includes lunch

Facilitator - *The Rev. Jeanne Finan*

Using the labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross, we will walk and pray as we move along our Lenten Journey. A brief introduction to both the history of the labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross will be offered, but the real focus of the day is to walk and pray, emptying our minds and hearts, making room for the soon-but-not-yet resurrected Jesus.

Please wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes and bring a journal. There will be lots of handouts and plenty of time for questions.

• The Rev. Jeanne Finan is an Episcopal priest who serves at St. John's, Asheville. She also leads retreats, offers spiritual direction and loves words. Jeanne is the author of *Remember Your Baptism: Ten Meditations* (Cowley Publications).

## ■ Program Day:

### Sacred Pauses: Balancing Daily Work & Worship

Friday, April 8, 2011

10AM - 3PM – \$35, includes lunch

Facilitators - *The Rev. Elizabeth Canham*

In the monastic tradition the community pauses seven times a day to remember who they are as God's worshipping people. Those of us who live and work outside the cloister are able to adapt

this practice and to enrich each day by taking a few moments to pause and remember God's presence. Macrina Wiederkehr's newest book *Seven Sacred Pauses* offers brief prayers and contemporary psalms that can be used for this purpose. The workshop will offer suggestions for creating our own rhythm of prayer pauses to enrich daily life and experience. Macrina's book will be available for purchase.

• Elizabeth Canham is a noted author, retreat leader and spiritual tour leader.

## ■ Program Day:

### The Healing Power of Forgiveness

Saturday, April 16, 2011

10AM - 3PM – \$35, includes lunch

Facilitator: *The Rev. Charlotte Cleghorn*

Forgiveness may be one of the most difficult things we are called to do as Christians. We know we "should" forgive but so often we do not feel able or even want to forgive another and perhaps most especially ourselves. This day will be a combination of presentation and quiet reflection as we consider what forgiveness is and isn't, and how we might move towards forgiveness into the healing grace of God.

• The Rev. Canon Charlotte D. Cleghorn is an Episcopal priest who has served parishes in Ohio, Maine, Southern California and Western North Carolina. She was the interim priest at St. James, Hendersonville and the Church of the Holy Family in Mills River before going to the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville, where she served on the staff as the founding director of the Centers for Christian Studies (now The Center for Spiritual Resources) for five years. She has been a spiritual director and retreat leader since 1986 and is now happily retired!

## ■ Program Day:

### Jesus and the Parables

Friday, April 29, 2011

10AM - 3PM – \$35, includes lunch

Facilitator: *The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor*

**"I suspect that Jesus spoke many of his parables as a kind of sad and holy joke and that may be part of why he seemed reluctant to explain them because if you have to explain a joke, you might as well save your breath."**

—**Frederick Buechner**

*Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale*

Much of Jesus' teaching was in stories, but seldom were these easy to comprehend. They were stories that gradually open your eyes to see the world in a new way. Part of Jesus' mission was to reorient his followers or to give them a new vision of themselves, the world, and God. Megan McKenna calls Jesus' parables "The Arrows of God" because "they pierce us and make us painfully aware of our need to change the way we relate to ourselves, others, and God. We look and we see. This is how we must live in God's kingdom."

During this program day we will focus on Jesus' parables. We will look at parables of grace, the kingdom, and judgment. Participants are asked to bring a Bible. The day will be mixed with presentation, small group discussion, and plenary.

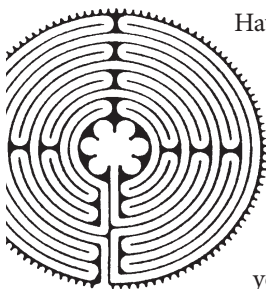
**Weekend Writers Workshop:  
Writing Is What We Do**

Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1, 2011  
\$200.00 includes 2 nights lodging all meals and program  
Facilitator - Katerina Whitley

Many people love to talk about writing a book one day, but they stay with the talk and the dream. The people who have attended Katerina Whitley's writing workshops at Valle Crucis over the past four years spend much more time writing than talking. Spoken words involve the sharing of the writing. The results have been worthwhile, rewarding, friendly and most enjoyable. We invite those of you who are serious about writing, who are ready to stop talking and start writing, to join us. We are a welcoming community of writers: a core group that has stayed together through many gatherings and increases at each workshop by one or two people who have an equally strong passion for crafting the words. Let us know if you are interested, but don't delay because space is limited.

**Program Day:  
With Our Two Labyrinths**

Monday, May 16 2011  
10AM - 3PM - \$35, includes lunch  
Facilitator - Tom Eshelman



Have you heard about labyrinths and want to know more? Now is your chance! In this day long retreat you will learn about the fascinating

history of this ancient tool of walking meditation and prayer as you spend the day walking our indoor and outdoor labyrinths.

Please wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes and bring a journal. There will be lots of handouts and plenty of time for questions.

*"Nothing happens unless first a dream."*

—Carl Sandburg

**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.
- **We appreciate the fact that sometimes things may come up in your busy life that may prevent your attending one of our programs for which you have paid a deposit. In that case we will consider your deposit a donation to our ongoing ministry of hospitality.**
- **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 via e-mail. Please double check your email address for accuracy and legibility. 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).
- **Commuters:** A limited number of spaces are available in each multi-day 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 activities.

**PROGRAM 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, call to check on room availability.)*

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

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

Return this complete form with your check (payable to VCCC) to the address below. You will receive a registration confirmation by email 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

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# Good News



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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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