



Good News

VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER • SPRING 2000

Deeply Rooted on Sacred Ground

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*"This is what I am,
God's pencil. A tiny bit of pencil with
which he writes what he likes."*

—Mother Teresa

This wonderful quote was shared with me several years ago by a friend, the Rev. Mimsy Jones. How true it is that we are all God's pencils! We are not flashy magic markers or glitter pens but just plain old pencils that need to be constantly sharpened with God's love and wisdom throughout our lives. Here at the Valle Crucis Conference Center we are trying our best to be God's pencils. We try to let God write with us in everything we do here at the Center: in the way we make the beds and clean the rooms, in the way we prepare your food, in the way we greet you upon your arrival, in the way we develop and present new programs, in the way we lay a fire for you. We want these little things—our tiny pencil marks—to make your visit with us a memorable and a spirit-filled one. May we continue to do as Mother Teresa did her entire life: let God use us to write grace and hospitality in our daily world.

—Tom Eshelman, Executive Director



Rocking chairs waiting patiently for you!

*"Jesus Christ is not a problem to be
solved, but a mystery to be experienced."*

—Herbert O'Driscoll

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

John W. Goodrich, Jr.
The Rev. Brian Suntken
Ann Hinson
Jim & Louise Hatch
Tom Glovier
Gwendolyn B. Gambil
Michael & Lenora James
Terrance W. Bobka
Tom Eshelman & Jeanne Finan
Elliott and Nivia Woodaman
Dorothy D. Eshelman
The Rev. Kale and Amory King
Charles S. Forester
Arthur & Anne Korff
Brig & Ellen Klyce
The Rev. Tim & Beverly McRee
William Dubose & Mary Jeffcoat

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Mary Emma Wood Lewis
(attended Girls School)
by Sarah W. Welch
In memory of her mother Doris A. Wood Weavil
by Sarah W. Welch
In memory of H. Lindsley Phelps Marsh by Emily J. Nichols
In memory of the Rev. John R. Lodge by Richard Syler
In memory of Mrs. Emily Toll Hopkins
by Florene B. Fratcher
In memory of Lazell Pack Putnam by Vendol P. Jordan
In memory of Bobbie Rupp by Edith C. Traver

HONORARIUM GIFTS

In honor of Al & Katie McCloy by John & Eileen Leach
In honor of Florene B. Fratcher by Mary W. Robinson
In honor of Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman
by Jack & Corky Hartman
In honor of David Felmet by Roy & Madeline Davis
In honor of Tom Eshelman by John C. Huie

SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

Diana White for Drum & Dance Workshop
Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman for Washington Heights
Youth Services Academy Easter Retreat
Edith C. Traver for Washington Heights Youth Service
Academy Easter Retreat
Tracy and Betty Lamar for the Washington Heights
Youth Service Academy Easter Retreat

SEPTIC/SEWER REPLACEMENT FUND

Wanda Hinshaw
Pam Demas
Diane Robertson Kibbe
John W. Goodrich, Jr.
Mary W. Finan
Margaret B. Beckman
Stephanie Abbott
Mary Ellen Harris
Kirk & Shirley Rose
Allen & Thora Chilson
Francis & Sibyl Pressly
Harding & Dorothy Hughes
Nancy & Fred Bell
The Rev. Cris & Charlotte Greer
Marion Stone
The Inn at the Taylor House, Inc. by Chip Schawb
John and Shirley Hyland
The Byerly Foundation Inc. of Hickory
Janet Wallace
Robert & Julia Keely
Joy Oakes & Thomas Cassidy
Lee & Nancy Wakeman
Lisa & Fred Martin

John & Faye Cooper
Beverly Gaines
Susan Davenport & Edgar Spigle
The Rev. Carl & Nelia Cunningham
Meredith M. Brook
John and Jacquie Pickering
Dorcas & Sandy Jones
Dr. J. Roland & Anne Carter
Sally B. Hatch & Gary Swartz
The Rev. Jim Dannels
Mrs. Ann Bennett Willis
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Canton NC
In memory of William M. Caudill
by Margaret & Ernest Caudill
In memory of Beryl Scuitti, Welch Tester & Jeanne Nadolni
by Fred & Peggy Mast
In memory of George White by Diana Mast White
In memory of Bill & Mary Burnham by Marilyn Welch
In memory of Mary Luoma by Dorcas & Sandy Jones
In memory of Buck Stowell by Dorcas & Sandy Jones
In memory of Hamilton Workman by Pamela M. Barrett
In memory of O.A. & Lousie Jeffcoat
by William DuBose and Mary Jeffcoat
In memory of Jack Finan by Mary W. Finan
In honor of Liberty Laubinger by Polly Laubinger
In honor of "The Extended Woods Family Reunion"
by Michael McKinney
In honor of Phillip Blundell by Bill & Carolyn Wilson
In honor of Bill and Mary Chambers by Darryl Chabers
In honor of our parents & our family
by Dagmar & Wright Sherrard
In honor of Ella & Bill Dubose
by W.P. DuBose & Mary Jeffcoat
In honor of Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman by C. Lee Cagle
In honor of UNC fans everywhere by Tim & Dianne Finan
In honor of J.B. Eshelman by Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman
In honor of the entire VCCC Staff
by Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman
In honor of Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman
by Billy DuBose, Mary Jeffcoat & Will DuBose
In honor of Jeanne Finan & Tom Eshelman
by Mary W. Finan

LABYRINTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Anonymous (numerous gifts)
Episcopal Church of the Messiah, Murphy NC
Bob and Pat Reuss
Church of the Incarnation, Highlands NC
Mona Abinader

CROSSES FOR GUEST ROOMS

In honor of Helen C. Roper by Michele, Greg & Gabriel
Lucy Allen
Thanksgivings for: The Rev. Scott & Diane Oxford;
Tom Eshelman & Jeanne Finan; Harriett & Hugh Bennett;
Susan and Jim Smitherman; Claire & Tom McDonough;
The Rev. Carl & Nelia Cunningham; The Rev. Muriel & Jim
Moore; The Rev. Cris & Charlotte Greer; and
Virginia Allen Cooper
by Faye and John Cooper
Olive Wood Cross from Bethlehem by Ruth Warner

OTHER GIFTS

Framed paintings by Eloise C. Wall who was an art teacher
from 1936-1940 from Ralph Tilden
Framed painting of a Christmas Tree which was probably
painted by Ida O'Keefe (sister of Georgia O'Keefe) who was
an art teacher in 1936 from Ralph Tilden
2 recliner chairs
by Bill and Sherri Knox
Framed print of Christ
by Ben Long given by Genie Stone

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

BITS & PIECES

Molasses

Our world famous molasses (YES! It is truly world famous as we now even have fans in Western Australia!) is now for sale at the Mast General Store in Valle Crucis. You can also still purchase some in the office. The price is \$3 for a half pint; \$6 for a pint, and \$12 for a quart. According to many who have sampled it, this year's batch is one of the best we have had over the years.

Mailing List

Please let us know if you are receiving more than one copy of the newsletter or if you wish to have your name removed from our list. You can write, e-mail, call or fax us your request. Thanks for helping us be good stewards of our resources.

Gifts & Donations

A gracious thank you to all of our many friends who made year-end gifts to the Center. Because of your continued generosity we have made great strides in raising the needed money for our septic field, and our annual fund which helps support our general operations.

There are also other ways in which you can give to the Center and our many ministries. You can give gifts of stock; you can remember us in your estate; you can give to our scholarship fund; you can give to our newly started landscaping plan; or you can

give in-kind gifts to the Center. We appreciate all gifts, large or small. They all help to further the ministry of the Gospel here at the Valle Crucis Conference Center.

Wish List

• *Spiritual books* for our library • *Games* (in good condition and with all the pieces!) • *Videos* (in good condition) • *Writing tables* or small desks for guest rooms • *Crosses* (to hang in individual guest rooms) • *Love seat* or small sofas (must be in good condition)

Staff Promotions

Here at the Valle Crucis Conference Center we are blessed to have many wonderful and dedicated employees. Recently, we promoted two of our employees into new positions.

Many of our guests have experienced the smiling face and wonderful laughter of Deana Coleman, recently promoted to Assistant Housekeeping Supervisor. Since she started work at the



Center in 1997, Deana has met many of our guests as she cleans the buildings on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Deana graduated from Watagua High School in 1990 and is the daughter of our head housekeeper Debbie Rupard. She is married to Terry Coleman and lives in Newland with her Chihuahua named Peanut. In her spare time she is an avid drag racer

and has raced all over North Carolina and Tennessee, often winning her class. She loves cars and working with her husband on their race cars. She also loves the relaxed atmosphere at the Center, our wonderful guests, and as she says, "This is a great place to work!"

Penelope "Penny" Wood was promoted to Assist. Food Service Director in 1999 and does a great job preparing food for our diverse guests. Penny graduated from Appalachian State University with a major in Women's Studies in 1997. Penny enjoys the sense of community and support she receives from both her fellow employees and the guests. She likes nurturing our groups with good food in this sacred setting.



When she is not busy in our kitchen, Penny likes to bird watch, read, mountain bike and work in her garden.

We are delighted to have such dedicated people on our staff!

Throw your money down our drain!

Our septic and sewer project is in its final stages before actual construction begins. We have been blessed to receive over \$173,349 in the form of individual donations, gifts and grants towards this important and necessary project. We still need \$69,651 to reach our goal of \$243,000. If you can help us or know of

anyone who would be willing to assist, please do so today.

This may be your last chance to throw your money down our drain!

Our special thanks go to the Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina who made an additional generous grant of \$10,000 towards our septic/sewer project as an end of the year gift to the Center.



New Board Members

At the December meeting of the Executive Council of the Diocese of Western North Carolina the following were approved as members of our Board of Directors:

- Jaan Ferree
Incarnation, Highlands
- Judy Teele
Grace, Morganton
- The Rev. Tim McRee,
St. Andrew's, Canton
- Brian Cole
St. James, Black Mountain
- Our officers for 2000 are
- David Yates, President;
- Diana White, Vice President;
- Ann Holtz, Secretary and
- Billy DuBose, Treasurer

Our many thanks go out to the following members of the Board who finished their terms in November after many years of dedicated service: John Goodrich, Sally Hatch, The Rev. Randy Ferebee and Harper Thayer. Our hats are off to you for a job well done!!

*Hospitality
is one form of worship.*

— Jewish proverb

It is an honor to be asked to write a second article on halcyon days at Valle Crucis. Additional stories from the 1930's center around one gentle and very witty native, Monroe Herman. My childhood memories were reinforced by my father's delight in telling "Monroe stories" until his dying day at 96 years old!

Mr. Monroe, as I called him, plowed with a team of oxen—stubborn beasts named Buck and Bill, who refused to work unless they were cursed at! When he was taking his turn (as was the custom of the native farmers) to plow the church farm behind Mrs. Sarah Wagner's house, his cursing became so intense that she, a pious lady from the North, came out and reminded him "that he was laboring in the Lord's Acre", as indeed the church farm was called

Another day, Mr. Monroe was attempting to plow some new ground when his ill-fitting, store bought teeth encumbered his cursing ability. In desperation he removed his false teeth and placed them on a stump. His technique immediately improved and Buck and Bill plowed the field in record time. When he returned to the stump to retrieve his teeth, no teeth were to be seen, but his faithful dog, Ned, was standing beside the stump wagging his tail and smiling! (I remember Ned and he actually was able to raise his upper lips over his side teeth in a way that definitely looked like a smile!). Monroe questioned Ned about the whereabouts of his teeth, and after some choice commands, Ned ran off a little way, dug up the teeth, and returned triumphantly, carrying the teeth in his mouth and sporting an even larger grin! Monroe rinsed them off in a nearby branch and said that they fit better than they ever had!



Monroe Herman with his still.

Our Heritage

Ralph Tilden serves on our Board of Directors and grew up spending every summer in Valle Crucis with his family. This is part one of a two part recollection.

MONROE STORIES, HOOT OWLS & BLACK SNAKES, IS VALLE CRUCIS REALLY A PLACE?

Another favorite of my father's features Monroe walking slowly along the River Road with a toe-sack over each shoulder. A friend a-settin' on his porch, hollered, "Monroe, watcha got in yer sack?". Monroe answered in his soft-spoken style, "Snake bit medicine" (the local term for moonshine). When the friend hollered back, "What's in t'other sack?", Monroe replied slowly,

"Sny - akes!"

Still another Monroe story, told to me by Bill Welch and Doris Bliss, occurred before 1919 when the Mission School Annex burned to the ground, and before Monroe married Artie Mitchell. He had been seeing a particular student, and she agreed to meet him under the Crab Orchard Creek bridge (just below the school) one Saturday midnight with the promise that they would elope and "get hitched". She packed her belongings and climbed out of an upstairs window, and waited nervously under the bridge. Hours passed and there was no sign of Monroe. About dawn he arrived to find a terribly frightened and distraught young girl who demanded an explanation. Even in his youth, he replied in his characteristic, slow style, "I thought ya could take a joke". Needless to say, the student was not able to climb back into her room unnoticed and was dismissed.

In 1937 the Hughes' handsome cottage on Clark's Creek Road was chosen to be the place for the honeymoon of the Rev. Matthew George Henry (later to become Bishop of Western North Carolina) and his bride, "Sprink." Although I was only seven, I remember that my father and his drinking buddies thought that the "preacher" might desire some moonshine on his honeymoon and presented him with a pint of Valle Crucis' finest. The nuptial gift did not amuse "Sprink", but she got even with the locals by wearing short shorts to the Mast and Farthing stores. I can still hear my mother and Miss Minnie "clucking like hens" and exclaiming in a decidedly disapproving tone, "wearing shorts on her honeymoon, and her married to a preacher!" This inauspicious beginning, however, led to a beautiful

and enduring marriage and a strong episcopacy for "Preacher" Henry!

The flood of August, 1940, was devastating to Valle Crucis. People were drowned in the raging Dutch Creek (the bodies of two men were washed over the falls, one of which was found in Elizabethton, Tennessee!), and there was considerable property damage in both valleys. The entire upper valley became a boiling lake as three creeks emptied their furor from the surrounding mountains. Tall, ancient oak trees surfed the creek currents, remaining in an upright position! A large two-story house, the home of the Ben Farthing family and then of Henry and Pansy Taylor, located on Highway 194 at the origin of Clark's Creek Road, was washed away as all the water in the valley created an insurmountable force attempting to drain into the narrow gorge connecting to the lower valley. Only the spring house of this imposing home stands today! Even the courses of the creeks, which had

formed the St. Andrew's Cross in the valley (the origin of the name, "Valle Crucis"), were changed so that now one has to take a large leap of faith to make out a cross!

The Southern Appalachian spirit has always been strong; if the English can have a stiff upper lip, the mountain people certainly have a stiff upper SPIRIT! In the days following the devastation of the flood, the local residents would venture a walk to one of the two stores, and Mr. Mast or Mr. Farthing would "check them off" as survivors. One of the last to appear was a woman called "Cethy," who had walked from her home on Dutch Creek beyond the falls. Mr. Mast was relieved to see her and asked, "Cethy, did you lose much

in the flood? Her answer came out in a hesitant, soft voice, "No - o - o, not much. Jis my cow, part o' my house, and my husband. Not much."

In the decade following the flood, my father brought a battery-operated radio to our cabin (it was hard to run a radio on kerosene!). It soon became a favorite thing to do for our close friends, the Hermans, to climb the mountain to the cabin every Saturday night, and we all listened in reverent silence to the Grand Ole Opry from Nashville and National Barn Dance from Chicago. Our favorite performers

which land his family owned). After Scotty's death, Lulu Belle, born Myrtle Cooper in Boone, went on to serve two terms representing Avery County in the North Carolina General assembly.

Some Saturday nights after our "Mountain Music parties," James Herman, in his early teens, would spend the night with us in the cabin. The children slept on cots in the main room, while my parents slept in a small partitioned-off bedroom. After the lamps were blown out, we children liked to play a game of improvising a continuous ghost story, with each child taking a turn of three minutes. When it came James's turn, he was tired and sleepy after a long day on the farm. He had difficulty creating a story line, so he tried to fill up the time by repeating, "And the hoot owls hooted, and the hoot owls hooted." We were trying to be polite and hold back our amusement, but soon there began a low giggle in the bedroom which immediately spread throughout the



The Tilden Family

were the legendary Lulu Belle and Scotty Wiseman, highly successful Blue Grass team from Spruce Pine – actually natives of the High Country! Minnie Pearl from East Tennessee ran a close second when she drawled, "Ah'm s'proud ah c'd come!". Minnie Pearl, who had been a classmate of Sue Taylor at Ward-Belmont College, was a well-to-do lady who discovered early how to make a good living and have fun doing it! Lulu Belle and Scotty made it to the top in the world of Blue Grass, both singing and playing guitar and banjo. Scotty composed many hits, including "Homecoming Time in Happy Valley", "Have I Told You Lately that I Love You?", and "The Brown Mountain Lights" (as seen from Wiseman's View,

small cabin into a huge explosion of laughter! James' contribution to the story that memorable Saturday night lived vividly in the consciousness of our family. Even today when we lose our train of thought or have a "senior moment," we say "And the hoot owls hooted, and the hoot owls hooted."

—To be continued in the next issue

"...Make weekends last longer!"

--Sardis Presbyterian Church
Charlotte, NC



PROGRAMS 2000

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 SILENT RETREAT

- April 17-21, 2000
- Facilitator: Jeanne Finan

Come away for a single day or for the full week. We will observe times of Greater and Lesser Silence. 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 services, but you may choose to follow your own schedule of meditation and reading. This time is for you--to be still and know. Because of the silent and meditative nature of this retreat, it is limited to adults only.

- Cost: 1 night \$30; 2 nights \$55; 3 nights \$75; 4 nights \$90 (includes 3 meals per day and lodging.)

HONEY IN THE HEART: DRUM BUILDING WORKSHOP

- April 28-30, 2000
- Facilitator: Tom Harris

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

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 woodwork. All materials and tools are provided and workshop participants will select from beautiful cherry, black walnut or heart pine for their drum wood. Tom Harris will also instruct the workshop group in basic drumming; you will 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 four years. He is an active member of the T.H.E. Percussion Choir in Atlanta, and was one of the drummers in the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics.

- Cost: \$290 (includes tuition, materials, 2 nights lodging and meals). **The drum you make is yours to take with you when you leave.**
- Commuters: \$260
- Class size is limited to 12 people.
- Please indicate your choice of wood on the registration form. Deposit of \$100 required with registration.

LABYRINTH VOLUNTEER TRAINING

- April 30 – May 2, 2000
- Instructor: Jeanne Finan, Labyrinth Facilitator

For those of you who are already experienced with walking the labyrinth and who seek to learn more and be trained as one of our volunteers who can help us facilitate labyrinth walks here or in your own communities, there will be a training session starting Sunday, April 30 at 5 p.m. and ending Tuesday, May 2 at 2 p.m. Check in at the Center is anytime after 3 p.m. on April 30.

- Cost: \$95 for members of parishes in the Diocese of Western NC; \$150 for members of parishes outside the Diocese. The training fees include 2 nights lodging, 6 meals and all course materials. Commuter fees are \$60 for Diocesan parish members and \$110 for those outside the Diocese.
- Class size is limited to 18.

MAY QUIET DAY

QUIET DAY WITH THE LABYRINTH

- Monday, May 22, 2000 / 10-3:30pm
- Facilitator: Tom Eshelman

Spend a day of quiet and prayer walking the labyrinth.

- Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)

CREATIVITY. GOD'S GIFT TO US.

USING OUR CREATIVITY IS OUR GIFT
BACK TO GOD

- May 23-24, 2000 / 3:00pm-3:00pm
- Facilitator: Jaan Ferree

This workshop will create a sense of wonder as each participant discovers their own individual ability to create. Working through the mental blocks that may keep us from reaching out in creative expression, Jaan will nurture and guide the repressed creative to take chances. Based on *The Artist Way—A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* this workshop will be experiential, fun and informative.

- Cost: \$100 (includes all materials, 1 night lodging, and all meals.
- Limited commuter space avail. \$75
- Class size limited to 15
- The labyrinth will be available

CREATING A HOME FOR YOUR HEART

- June 7-8, 2000 / 3:00pm-3:00pm
- Facilitator: Jaan Ferree

Your home tells a story about you— is it the story you want to tell? Based on knowledge of environmental psychology, interior design, and Feng Shui, this workshop will assist you in creating your own personal paradise, where comfort and safety rule, cherished possessions abound, and change flows freely in support of your self-expression and happiness. Bring a sketch of the floor plan of your home along with the concerns, desire, and dreams for your life. You can create a home for your heart in which your soul will sing.

- Cost: \$100 (includes all materials, 1 night lodging, and all meals
- Limited commuter space avail. \$75
- Class size limited to 15
- The labyrinth will be available

THE VALLE CRUCIS WRITERS' GATHERING

- The Valle Crucis Writers' Gathering held at VCCC will take place from July 30-August 4, 2000, with successive weekend gatherings scheduled for December 8-10, 2000 and March 9-11, 2001.

The Valle Crucis Writers' Gathering offers solitude and support in a remote and historic mountain setting that

inspires and refreshes. The goal of the gathering is to bring community and nurturing to the creative spirit and to provide a place where gifted teachers encourage writers to discover their unique voice. Programs are carefully designed to build a community of support, to develop writing skills, and to foster fearlessness in the often-daunting face of writing.

Because the program will continue throughout the year, it is expected that the support gained from meeting, studying and working together will extend to long-term writing partnerships among peers.

Our faculty are inspiring and encouraging teachers whose love of writing is contagious. Discussion and workshops are not manuscript oriented, but will cover a variety of genres and include topics particular to the writing life.

FACULTY:

Anthony Abbott: Tony is a poet and teacher and has been a professor of English at Davidson College since 1964, where he is recognized as a gifted and inspirational teacher. He was named the Charles H. Dana Professor of English and was honored with the Thomas Jefferson Award for Teaching. His first book of poems, *The Girl in the Yellow Raincoat*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. His second book of poetry, *A Small Thing Like a Breath*, was published in 1993.

Judy Goldman: Judy Goldman's first novel, *The Slow Way Back*, was published in September 1999 and is in its third printing. She is also the author of two books of poetry, *Wanting to Know the End* and *Holding Back Winter*, and her work has appeared in numerous literary journals, anthologies and textbooks. A local commentator for National Public Radio, she teaches at writers' conferences throughout the Southeast.

Janisse Ray: Writer and activist Janisse Ray lives on a family farm in the coastal plains of southern Georgia. Her nonfiction manuscript about growing up in a junkyard in the ruined long-leaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast, *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, was released in October of 1999. She has published essays and poems in many magazines, reviews, journals and anthologies. *Naming the Unseen*, her

chapbook of poetry about biology and place, won the 1996 Merriam-Frontier Award from the University of Montana. Janisse is currently at work on a manuscript about rural community, as well as a full-length collection of poems. As an environmental activist, she is working to slow the logging rate in Southern forests.

William Least Heat-Moon:

William Trogdon, writing under the name William Least Heat-Moon is the author of two best-selling classics, *Blue Highways* and *PrairieErth*. His books have received widespread acclaim and extended stays on the New York Times bestseller list and elsewhere. *Blue Highways* was selected by Time magazine as one of the five best non-fiction books of 1983 and by the New York Times as a notable book of the year. His latest book, *River-Horse-A Voyage Across America* has recently been published with a first serial in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Heat-Moon has written for *Time*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and the *National Review* among others.

Ann Turkle: Ann believes that we can all write well if we write about what we care deeply for and we keep on writing. She agrees with educator Parker J. Palmer that "we need to listen to what our lives are saying and take notes on it, lest we forget our own truth or deny we ever heard it." Finding and articulating our personal truth is a writing project for a lifetime. Ann directs the undergraduate writing program at Warren Wilson College where she earned an MFA in fiction writing. She also has a PhD from Florida State University and has published poetry and nonfiction in journals, magazines and newspapers.

- The cost for the five-day gathering in July is \$675 and includes tuition, 5 nights lodging, all meals (and a \$50 non-refundable deposit). Space is limited so early registration is highly recommended. For further information or to request a brochure on this workshop call 828-433-6818 or fax 828-438-4929 or email <WritersGathering@aol.com>.

*"Thank you! Excellent
service start to finish!"*

—Greg Griffin
St. John's Church, Atlanta, GA

TOUCHING YOUR CREATIVE CENTER

- August 10 - 13, 2000
- Instructor: Noyes Capehart Long

This workshop is designed and intended to help participants unlock and discover a creative approach to picture-making. Prior visual experiences are not essential. Using basic materials and selected visual concepts, Noyes Capehart Long will lead you through avenues of visual thinking that stress individuals rather than formulaic solutions in picture-making. Participants will examine the role of empathy in the art-making experience and the value of individual accomplishments. This workshop could provide the perfect "jumpstart" for those who want to make pictures but lack essential motivation. This three-day workshop will place a premium on bolstering self-confidence and the elimination of fear and intimidation. Participants in the 1999 program (Discovering the Artist Within) may find some "familiar" territory, but the expanded format will allow for the introduction of new information. **It is important for all participants to know that we will not be stressing the importance of realizing "finished" pictures.** Basic supplies will be provided, but participants are invited to bring along any favorite supplies (except oils).

Noyes Capehart Long retired from university teaching in 1997 after nearly 40 years of service. Noyes is an active artist with primary interest in watercolor, printmaking, drawing and mixed media. He has been exhibiting on the local, regional and national scene since 1958 and has had works exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art (NYC), the Smithsonian (Washington, DC), the Brooklyn Museum of Art (NY), the Mint Museum of Art (Charlotte, NC) and numerous galleries.

- Cost: \$190 (includes all materials, 3 nights lodging and all meals)
- Limited commuter space avail: \$125
- Class size is limited to 15 people

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

- August 25-27, 2000
- Led by: the Rev. Brian Suntken

Jesus is reported to have asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" The question of who Jesus really was has been reignited in our own time, as scholars, clergy and lay people debate the truth about Jesus. The answer determines what true Christian faith and authentic Christian living are today.

Over the course of three days, retreatants will focus on such questions as; What was Jesus' message concerning the Kingdom of God? Did Jesus know that he was the Messiah? Did Jesus intentionally die to redeem humankind? Was Jesus bodily resurrected from the dead? Was Jesus God in human form? Was Jesus born of a Virgin? What was the connection between John the Baptist, Jesus and the community of the Essenes? Those attending are asked to bring their own questions to be shared and reflected upon by the larger group.

Morton Smith has written, "Trying to find the actual Jesus is like trying, in atomic physics, to locate a submicroscopic particle and determine its charge. The particle cannot be seen directly, but on a photographic plate we see the lines left by the trajectories of the larger particles it put into motion. By tracing these trajectories back to their common origin, and by calculating the force necessary to make the particles move as they did, we can locate and describe the invisible cause." Admittedly, history is more complex than physics; the lines connecting the original figure to the developed legends cannot be traced with mathematical accuracy; the intervention of unknown factors has to be allowed for. Consequently, results can never be more than probability; but "probability," as Bishop Butler said, "is the very guide of life."

You are invited to explore the question, "Who do you say that I am?"

- Cost: \$125 (includes workshop, 2 nights lodging and all meals)
- Limited commuter space avail: \$90
- Class size limited to 15

SEPTEMBER QUIET DAY:

JACOB: THE MAN WHO
WRESTLED WITH GOD

- September 17, 2000 / 10AM-3:30PM
- Facilitator: The Rev. Brian Suntken

Using Genesis 32, we will reflect on the spiritual significance of "wrestling" with God. Who did Jacob wrestle with the night before he reconciled with his brother Esau? Why did the encounter take place at night? Can God be an adversary? Jacob's experience with God leaves him wounded, what is the importance of the wound? How do we wrestle with God in our day and time? What does this story tell us about God? Come and see!

- Cost \$35 (includes lunch)

EXPLORING THE SACRED SELF

THROUGH THE ART OF THE MANDALA

- October 27-29, 2000
- Instructors: Laura Lanier & Dorrie Pratt

Discover your innate talents for creativity, spirituality and healing in a repeat of this popular workshop offered in 1999. 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: \$160 (includes all materials, 2 nights lodging and all meals)
- Limited commuter space avail: \$110
- Class size is limited to 15

NEW YEAR'S EVE LABYRINTH RETREAT

- Dec. 29, 2000 - Jan.1, 2001
- Facilitators: Jaan Ferree & Tom Eshelman

Join us for a 4 day celebration of prayer, meditation, creative expression and walking the labyrinth. There will also be time for quiet and exploring on your own. Our New Year's Eve retreat in 1999 sold out early so we highly

recommend early registration. More details will be available later this year.

- Cost: \$210 (includes all materials, 3 nights lodging and all meals)
- Deposit: \$50 due upon registration
- Limited commuter space avail: \$170 (only 6 spaces available)

OPEN WALKS

FOR THE LABYRINTH

Monday, May 22, 2000

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Friday, June 9, 2000

10:00- 11:30 AM & 6:30 - 8 PM

Sunday July 23, 2000

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Sunday, August 27, 2000

2 :00- 4 :00 PM & 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Friday, September 15, 2000

7:00 - 9:00 PM

All walks are in the Apple Barn -
Donations will be accepted

*If you believe you will see
the glory of God*

—John 11:40

GENERAL 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 *Quiet Days* and the *Holy Week Retreat* when a non-refundable payment in full is required. Please mail your check with the completed registration form. For the *Drum Building Workshop* a deposit of \$100 is required, and your choice of wood. For *The Valle Crucis Writers' Gathering* see course description for phone contact regarding registration.
- **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 60 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

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.
Bulk Rate
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: valleconfctr@skybest.com
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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