



GOOD NEWS

A Publication of the Valle Crucis Conference Center

June 2015

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*Deeply Rooted on
Sacred Ground*

Good News
2 Quarter 2015

21st Century, Here We Come!

Living and working in this special place brings constant reminders of Valle Crucis' rich history. From the gleam of the freshly waxed hardwood floors in the Inn, to the chalkboards in the Annex, to the Apple Barn's lingering scent of hay and echo of leather shoes tapping out the beat of a country dance, this place brings us the best memories of our past like nothing else, and is a big reason why our guests keep coming back year after year.

We must keep pace with the times, however, and our Web presence has fallen short. While we maintain active Facebook and Twitter pages, our web site has become outdated and difficult to navigate—a static volume of archived materials, rather than a living assistance to our ministry of hospitality.

With the help of a Boone-based web development company and some very talented programmers and designers, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new site: www.vcconferences.org.

While it is still a work in progress, and there are bells and whistles we will add later on, you can check our building availability; see when our programs are; check out our different accommodation and meeting space options; and donate securely online through PayPal.



Check out www.vcconferences.org and see what wonderful things are happening here!



Labyrinth in the lower field, April 2015

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THANK YOU

Valle Crucis is so very blessed to have donors like you. We appreciate every gift, large or small, and consider it imperative to be good stewards of the gifts we are given. If we inadvertently left your name out, please accept our sincere apologies!

Memorials, March - May 2015

Barbara Jane Abernethy

Sandy & Dorcas Jones

James F. Baker

Sandy & Dorcas Jones

Rev. Richard Wainwright Barber

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Well-Spring Retirement Community
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Honoraria, March - May 2015

Wendell Seaver by Verdery Kerr

John Earl by Jane S. Earl

Rudy Whitley by Stuart & Edie Tugman

Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor by Chuck Forester

Matt Talbot Men's Group #140 by John H. Kirkman

Want to see your name here?

We welcome donations of any size. Donate securely on our web site at www.vcconferences.org or mail to P.O. Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691.



2015 VCCC PROGRAMS

COME SPEND SOME TIME ON SACRED GROUND



Women Writer's Workshop: Return to the Valle

Thursday, Aug 20 -

Sunday, Aug 23

\$290 for program, meals, and
lodging (Commuter rate available)

Katerina Whitley

Return to Valle Crucis, or start
anew, in this intensive
exploration of the written word.

You need not have attended a
previous writers' weekend to enjoy this August
retreat. Deepen and hone your craft, get to know
some wonderful women, and enjoy the beauty and
tranquility of Valle Crucis for a long weekend.
What could be better? Katerina Whitley is the
author of 8 books and is a gifted teacher and
spiritual director.

"Still Life"

Friday, September 25

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

\$40 (includes lunch)

Rebecca Husband-Maynard

"Be still and know that I
am God." We all know
and love that verse, but
how often are we truly
"still"? Join Rebecca for a
day apart from routine and
the daily grind - a time to
rest, reflect, and rejuvenate as we are "still" long
enough to listen for the voice of God. We will be
introduced to various ways of being "still," as well
as creative spirituality opportunities. Rebecca is
an ordained Baptist minister and founder of
Stacking Stones, an ecumenical ministry
providing retreats and spiritual formation. She
received a M.Div. from Eastern Baptist
Theological Seminary.



Advanced Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat: Deepening the Silence

Sunday, Nov 29 - Sunday, Dec 6, 2015

\$520 includes 7 nights lodging, meals, and program

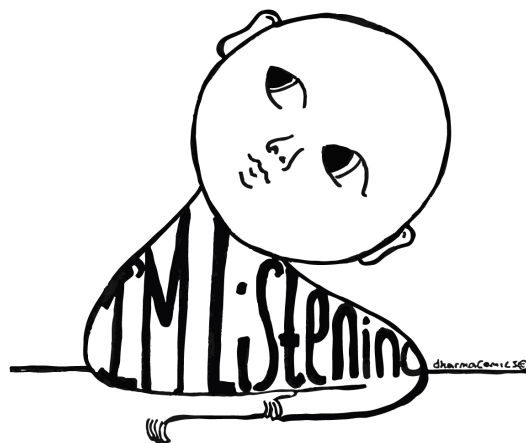
Becky Hannah, Joan Ricci, the Rev. Robert Cook

This retreat is designed for those who would like a
more prolonged experience of centering prayer
and who are interested in entering into the more
profound levels of spiritual practice in an
atmosphere of silence, solitude, and community.

Centering prayer is a silent form of prayer that
directs a person's attention toward God. It is a
prayer form with ancient roots in the mystical and
monastic tradition of the Christian faith. Centering
Prayer periods are offered daily, as well as
opportunities for contemplative worship, individual
meetings with retreat leaders, hiking the
Conference Center grounds, walking the labyrinth,
and time for solitude and reflection.

Retreat leaders are Becky Hannah, co-coordinator
of Contemplative Outreach of Western NC, and
Joan Ricci Thome, presenter of contemplative
prayer retreats at the Oratory and St. Francis
Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, NC. The Rev.
Robert Cook, Vicar of Christ Church, Walnut
Grove, NC is spiritual director for the week.

*Due to the length of this retreat, each participant should
have an established practice of Centering Prayer for at
least a year. This retreat is limited to the first 20
registrants. Participants must stay on campus and plan
to attend the entire retreat.*



Program registration form can be found at
www.vccconferences.org and on page 5. You may
also register for any of our programs by calling
the office at (828) 963-4453.

© Leah Perlman www.DharmaComics.com

VCCC Recipes

Strawberry Pie

James Andra, VCCC Chef

"My mother makes this pie every year. The custard adds an extra something delicious to an early summer favorite."

Makes 2 pies

Ingredients

For strawberry filling:

2 1/2 c. water

2 c. sugar

5 Tb. cornstarch

1 3 oz. package strawberry flavored gelatin

2 quarts fresh strawberries, sliced

For custard:

1 Tb. sugar

1 Tb. cornstarch

Pinch of salt

1 beaten egg yolk

1 c. milk or heavy cream

1 tsp. vanilla

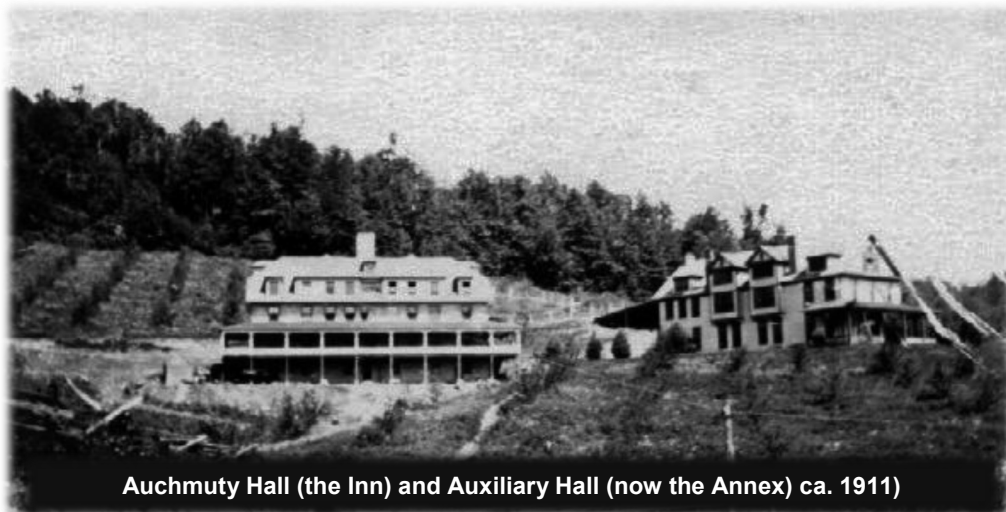
Serve with:

Whipped cream

Mint leaf garnish

2 9-inch pie shells

- Preheat oven to 400°. Line pastry shell with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Bake at 400° for 8 minutes. Remove foil; bake 5 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack.
- Heat the water, sugar, and cornstarch for the strawberry filling in a medium saucepan, stirring until dissolved. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate for 15-20 minutes or until slightly cooled. Add strawberries and fold gently to coat. Set aside.
- For custard: mix the sugar, cornstarch, and salt with the egg and milk or cream, and heat gently. Stir constantly until thickened. Take off the burner and add vanilla.
- Let custard cool and spread in the bottom of pie shells. Cool completely before adding berries.
- Arrange halved berries on the top of the pies in a design. Serve with whipped cream and garnish with mint, if desired.



Auchmuty Hall (the Inn) and Auxiliary Hall (now the Annex) ca. 1911)

PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND COMPLETE ALL FIELDS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ YES! Please add me to the VCCC email list!

Women Writers Workshop 2: Return to the Valle

Thursday, August 20 - Sunday, August 24

\$290 On Campus; \$178 Commuter Rate

_____ **\$90 Deposit**

_____ On Campus

_____ Commuter

“Still Life”

Friday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

\$40 registration (includes lunch)

_____ **\$40**

Advanced Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat

Sunday, November 29 - Sunday, December 6

\$520 for 7 nights lodging, meals, and program

_____ **\$100 Deposit**

TOTAL DEPOSIT AMOUNT: _____

Deposit deducted from total fee. Balance due on the date of program.

Roommate request _____

☐ Single room request (based on limited availability)

Special diet, allergy, medical, mobility or other information that will help us prepare for your stay _____

Return this complete form with your check (payable to VCCC) to the address below.

You will receive a registration confirmation by email.

VCCC, PO Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691

General Program Information:

- Because class sizes are limited, they fill up quickly. Early registration is encouraged.
- Prices for multi-day programs include room, board, tuition, and materials. **Most rooms are double or more occupancy.** Due to the limited number of single rooms, we cannot guarantee a single room. Please notify VCCC in advance if you have any medical needs such as diet or different ability accommodations.
- We welcome service/guide dogs, but we cannot allow pets.
- We are a smoke-free facility. Smoking is permitted outdoors in designated areas.
- **Deposits are non-refundable.** We appreciate that unforeseen circumstances may arise that may prevent your attendance; in that case, we will consider your deposit a tax-deductible donation to our ongoing ministry.
- We serve hearty, nutritious meals. Our kitchen will happily meet dietary requirements if notified in advance of your arrival.
- Unless otherwise informed, VCCC will consider your registration as permission to use photographs, audio/video recording of you for telling the story of Valle Crucis in print, Web, and other media.
- Unless otherwise noted, conferences begin with registration and check-in at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Conferences close after the Noon lunch on closing day. To assist our housekeeping staff, we request that you complete your check-out prior to lunch on closing day.
- Committed to the principles of equal opportunity, VCCC makes its programs available without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexuality or gender expression, disability, age or national origin.
- Registration forms for programs can be found on our web site, **www.vccconferences.org**. Please feel free to make photocopies to pass along.
- We are located 9 miles outside of Boone, NC (2 hours from Asheville, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte).

Selma, March 2015

Jim Banks

[Ed. note:] This memory is provided in acknowledgement that even though Valle Crucis often feels removed from the world, we celebrate and participate in the larger life of Christ on Earth. Jim Banks joined in the Selma Jubilee March as a chaperone for the St. Luke's, Boone youth group.

Sixty youth and adults from the Diocese of Western North Carolina traveled to Selma, Alabama to commemorate the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. We slept on the floor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Selma.

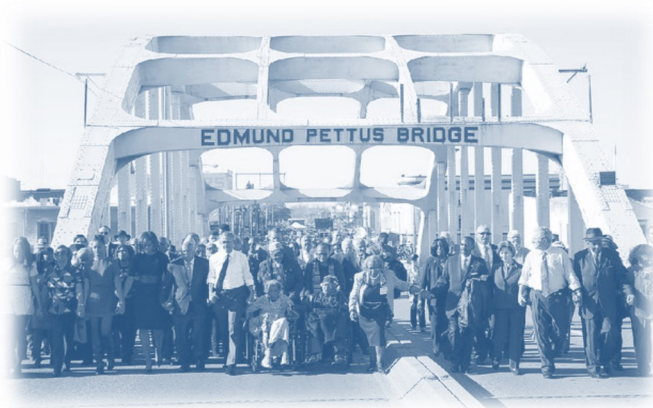
On Saturday morning, we quickly became aware of the growing crowd outside. Security was intense because of the president's appearance. The line seemed endless—one block, then another and another. The experience of waiting, which was common over the weekend, was met with remarkable calm and patience by everyone. I never heard a complaint or an angry word; I think we all just knew we were present at something much bigger than ourselves. As we waited, I asked some of our neighbors where they were from. One woman remarked that she hadn't seen so many people since attending Martin Luther King, Jr.'s funeral as a girl.

We heard many speeches: the mayor, the governor, Rep. Terri Sewell (AL), Rep. John Lewis (GA) and finally President Obama. In his introduction of the president, Rep. Lewis admitted that when he marched on that bridge fifty years earlier, he never thought he would later return to introduce an African American President of the United States. I recalled what it was like for me to

grow up in the 1960s. I didn't know what it was like to be prevented from eating where I wanted, using a public restroom, or enjoying the right to vote because of the color of my skin. I was barely aware of the movement that was sweeping the country and I certainly never imagined that one day I would attend such an important event in Selma—where I would be a welcomed minority, where a joy-filled crowd could celebrate so much progress since that day known as *Bloody Sunday* and yet recognize that more bridges still need to be crossed.

Our chance to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge came the next day. We joined the march as it swept by, following the same route as the original Selma march. Although it took us a couple of hours to get across that incredibly crowded bridge, it didn't matter because this

was a happy day. I lifted a camera over my head to take a picture of the jubilant crowd. An African American woman next to me asked if I would take a picture for her because she wasn't tall enough. I smiled at her and helped her capture the moment. Yes, this was a happy day!



MAKE A BEQUEST OR OTHER PLANNED GIFT TO VALLE CRUCIS

The Valle Crucis Conference Center is thankful to be the beneficiary of bequests from friends who love the people, place, spirit and mission of VCCC and want to ensure that it will flourish in the future.

A bequest through a will is one of simplest ways to make a deferred gift to Valle Crucis Conference Center. There are many ways to make planned, deferred or legacy gifts, some of which feature significant tax advantages for the donor or the donor's heirs.

For more information about making a deferred gift to VCCC through a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, charitable lead trust or other planned giving vehicle, consult your legal, estate planning, or financial advisor. You may also contact our office at (828) 963-4453.

Bits and Pieces

Valle Crucis Sunday

Lisa Underwood

From a writing prompt at the Women Writers Workshop held in May.

Sunday morning: a hawk glides like silent prayer across the bright blue sky. A robin sings solo on the split-rail fence; a chorus of birdsong ringing through the charreusse trees. The smell of fresh-cut grass rises from the roadside meadow where dingy cows graze beside snow-white calves. A procession of cars ferries the faithful up the winding road to church, but today this weather-worn rocking chair is my unpolished pew; this empty notebook my confession and my redemption. As precious words spill onto white pages, my soul writes its own fresh liturgy. **The birds sing hallelujah.**



Early morning mist in the lower field

Walter Browning 2015



The Inn in full April flower



Wisdom School workers restore the Labyrinth



Johnnie, Dale, and Terry planting apple trees in memory of Debbie



Valle Crucis Conference Center

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Good News 2 Quarter 2015



The Valle Crucis Conference Center is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. Located on over 450 acres of mountain woodland and verdant farming valley, the Conference Center is truly one of the more beautiful places on Earth. With its beauty comes a sense of timeless spiritual grace that transcends denomination or faith tradition.

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 Valle Crucis Conference Center is located in the historic Mission School, featuring buildings dating from the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, nearly all of which are on the National Historic Register.

The Conference Center is open year-round to accommodate groups of 5 to 150. Rates include three hearty, nutritious meals a day and arguably the best towels in Western North Carolina lodgings.

To inquire about availability of our accommodations or meeting spaces, or to learn about our Hermitage retreat cabins, visit our web site at www.vcconferences.org or call (828) 963-4453.