



Valle Crucis Conference Center

Post Office Box 654

Valle Crucis, NC 28691

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOONE, NC
PERMIT NO. 34

Good News
4 Quarter 2016

WWW.VCCONFERENCES.ORG



GOOD NEWS

A Publication of the Valle Crucis Conference Center

December 2016

Season's Greetings

From all of us at the Valle Crucis Conference Center, we hope you have a healthy, happy holiday season, no matter your tradition or style of celebrating. Your presence here at Valle Crucis is the best gift of all. I pray that the New Year will see you back here, sitting in front of the fireplace at the Inn, enjoying a quiet retreat at our Hermitages, or walking the beautiful trail up to the waterfalls. Wherever you are, I hope you remember Valle Crucis as a special place, a spiritual home.

This season of giving, remember the peace you found here in this special place. Please take a moment to consider your contribution to the Valle Crucis Conference Center. What does Valle Crucis mean to you?

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your presence. And may your New Year shine as beautifully as the meticulously waxed floors in the Inn.

Yours in Hospitality,

Margaret



Planned Giving Opportunities

Many wonder what their legacy will be. It's a simple thing to leave a financial legacy that demonstrates your commitment to a ministry of hospitality. Mention the Valle Crucis Conference Center in your will, and that legacy will live on for many generations. Remembering VCCC in your will, in a retirement account, in a trust, or in an insurance policy is the simplest way to ensure a continuing ministry of hospitality here in this sacred valley for years to come.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned gifts are a variety of charitable giving methods that allow the donor to express his or her personal values by integrating charitable, family, and financial goals. You don't have to be wealthy. Planned giving is a means by which anyone concerned with the wise use of his or her personal resources makes a considered choice about their ultimate disposition.

Planned giving offers a special way to:

- Create a legacy which expresses the giver's deepest convictions;
- Respond thankfully to God for diverse resources by sharing wealth, both spiritual and material;
- Contribute to VCCC's ministry of hospitality for generations to come and provide financial stability for the future;
- Raise this ministry to the level of family in a person's estate plans;
- Earn potential tax advantages for the giver and his/her heirs.
- Planned gifts provide opportunities to *participate* in this ministry of hospitality - to make a difference and to enrich people spiritually.

We are the seeds of the future, for those who succeed us. We are called to partner with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we have to give to those who will follow. Planned giving is one way we can meet the call.

For more information, please contact Executive Director Margaret Love at **828 963 4453** or director@vccconferences.org or Michelle Robinson, Development Director of the Episcopal Diocese of Western NC at **828 225 6656**.



Top 5 Best Things in 2016



5. New hardwood flooring in Dining Hall corridor
4. New community partnerships and events
3. Extensive Renovations to the Bunk House, including 2 new interior bedrooms with separate bathrooms for chaperones
2. Beautiful new landscaping and farm program
1. New VCCC family member, Daniel Love!



The view from Hunt Hill towards the Inn, November 2016

2016 Donors

Memorial Donations

Ronald James Beaton
Sandy & Dorcas Jones

Rev. Carl Cunningham
Ernest & Mary Armstrong

Roy Flint
Francis & Sybil Pressly
Diana Mast White

Gloria B. Hinson
Fred D. Hinson

Reginald Archibald Holtz-Ballew
Lynn Schmissrauter

Emily Toll Hopkins
Charles H. Toll

Dot & Harding Hughes
Jean C. Hughes

Shirley Hyland
Mark A. Hyland

Nina Reid Miller Johnson
Gris Miller

Laura Huntley Stone
Keith T. Martin*

Margaret McRee Keener
Barbara C. McRee
Gail P. McRee
Brad & Elizabeth McRee
K.W. & Jane McRee
Betty S. McRee
Troy & Martha McRee

Mary Kick on her Birthday
Sandy* & Dorcas Jones

Arthur Korff
Anne Korff

Margaret Lawton
North American Academy of
Piping & Drumming

Elizabeth Matthews
Society of the Transfiguration

Bill Muir and Dan Greene
Sandy* & Dorcas Jones

Ed Neigh
The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver
Liz Faries
Cathleen J. Nixon

Sydney Stewart
Sandy* & Dorcas Jones

Laura Huntley Stone
Elizabeth B. Kennedy
Keith T. Martin*
Mike Newton-Ward
The Rev. Helen Tester

Nell Brewer Taylor
Sandy* & Dorcas Jones

Carlton Whelan
Sandy* & Dorcas Jones

Andy White and Arthur Korff
North American Academy of
Piping & Drumming

Honoraria

Sandy Jones and the NAAPD staff
Fay and Randy King

Margaret Love
Amy W. Cole*

Wendell Seaver
The Rev. Jane G. Smith
Betty Bowles Haywood

Matt Talbot Men's Group
John H. Kirkman

The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor
Karen B. Kassinger*
Georgia G. Herring
The Rev. Jane G. Smith
William C. Spencer, Jr.

Mildred Tester's ministry at VCCC
The Rev. & Mrs. Tim & Beverly McRee

Dale Townsend and Wendell Seaver
Diana Mast White

38th Valle Country Fair and all the wonderful volunteers
Bob & Polly Capps

VCCC Staff
Susan B. Morgan
Fay King
Bob & Polly Capps

"No one has ever become poor by giving." ~ Anne Frank

The Rev. & Mrs. Jim & Diane Abbott
The Rev. Augusta Anderson*
Peter Armstrong
Mary Armstrong
James* and the Rev. Cynthia Banks
Tom Boyle
Bob & Iona Brigham
Walter G. Browning*
Amy W. Cole*
Contemplative Outreach of NC
Lisa Cooper
John & Faye Cooper
The Rev. Robert Copenhaver
Claude & Judy Courbois
Patricia Czar
Daughters of the King of Western NC
The Rev. Dr. Jon Davis
The Very Rev. Todd Donatelli
Episcopal Church Women of WNC
Thomas W. Eshelman &
The Very Rev. Jeanne Finan
Diane H. Flynt
Marta Force
Chuck Forester
Susan A. Fox
Gus Galloway
The Women of Grace
Episcopal Church
Andrew Greer
Pat Hardee
Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.
Randy Headley
Georgia Herring
Fred Hinson
Gary & Donna Hipp
John Holler
Holy Cross Episcopal Church
Cecil & Sandra Hudson

Dee Irwin
Jink & Diddle Fiddle School
Sandy* & Dorcas Jones
Karen B. Kassinger*
David Keller
Verdery & Mary Ann Kerr
The Rev. Elizabeth Lilly*
The Rev. Dr. G. Richard Lobs, III
Bill Logan
Linda Loy
Karen T. Lumpkin
Jack & Colleen Mahaney
Fred A. Martin
Mast General Store
William R. Melgaard
Bobbie Morelock
Brenda Morie
The Rev. Dorothy Pratt*
The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher
The Revs. Robert & Patricia Reuss
Tammy M. Smith
William C. Spencer, Jr.
Sue Spirit
Tracie Stuart
James R. Sturdivant*
The Rev. Sam Tallman* & Mike Zuravel
The Right Rev. G. Porter Taylor
David & Judy Wall
Dr. White McK. Wallenborn
The Women of
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church
Mark C. Weatherholt
Betsy Willis
John B. Youel
*Denotes 2016 Board member



Reflection

Cameron Mathison

This trip is a unique and powerful gathering. We have all gathered here for one week because we want to see change. Change in a world that is becoming more and more cold, cruel, and dangerous. That is one of the most important reasons why we go out of our way and leave our comfort behind. We are showing that the world does not have to be such a dark place.

This idea of Me, Myself, and I and selfishness as the only way to succeed in life is wrong, and in fact, far from being successful. It's not really much of a life to live if you care only for your self. All of us here hold the key to life that the selfish lack. We have the gift of Love. Love is the most powerful tool God has given us.

Now I know what you are all thinking. It's probably, "Oh, you are one of THOSE people." Love is stronger than what many think, however, Love gives people the will and reason to fight, such as those who serve in the military to protect others. Love can either make someone extremely happy or sad. Love is eternal.

The people we are helping this week will always remember the Love and compassion we have shown them. Those who can see our efforts will see our compassion to people we are meeting for the first time. We are like the stars, shining brightly in vast darkness. We are the glimmers of hope for the Earth.

What we do now is important, because even after we die, our Love and compassion will shine throughout history just like how a star shines for thousands of years after its death, to the people on Earth.

Cameron was a participant in a HomeWorks volunteer work group sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. The Mission of HomeWorks of America is to show God's love by repairing homes of homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development, and empowering communities to meet the needs of their members. Individuals of all faith backgrounds are invited to join and share in this service of love, giving thanks to God for miracle after miracle. The VCCC has hosted this wonderful group of young people for several years each June. We are so grateful for their presence here at VCCC and their compassionate work in the High Country.

New Board Members

The VCCC Board of Directors is a volunteer body that sets policy and vision for the Conference Center. The Board also helps with fundraising, development, and programming, and guides the executive staff in major decision-making. Board members serve 3-year terms, with a maximum of 6 years at a time. If you're interested in learning more about becoming a Board member, contact Margaret Love at director@vccconferences.org or call 828 963 4453.



Ross Bulla

Ross is the founder and president of The Treadstone Group, Inc., which mitigates risks and threats to national security interests and public- and private-sector assets, and enforces and acquires intellectual property rights worldwide.

As a volunteer professional, Mr. Bulla has served at all ranks, including chief in the rescue, EMS and fire services. Ross serves on the board of directors of the Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse & Child Advocacy Center, and on the East Lincoln Rescue Squad Park management committee. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, with a BS in Criminal Justice and a second major in Psychology. Mr. Bulla is an Eagle Scout. He is also a member of St. Peter-by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Denver, NC and has most recently served an active role in the Transition Committee for the Bishop search for the Episcopal Diocese of Western NC.

Ann Holtz

Ann is responsible for event coordination for Awakening-Soul, a powerful ecumenical event that combines art, music, worship, nature, community meals, intentional conversation, and silent reflection to shape an experience. This role draws on her gifts of hospitality, administration, analysis, and process design.

Ann is also an independent consultant working with groups and individuals as they deal with issues of transition. She has extensive experience in leading retreats, developing and implementing training programs, and facilitating intact work groups, teams and congregations. By training, Ann is a chemical engineer, a behavioral scientist, and a spiritual director.

Ann has served on the VCCC Board before, from 1999 to 2001. She is a faithful and passionate retreatant at the Hermitages, visiting at least once a year.

