



# GOOD NEWS

A Publication of the Valle Crucis Conference Center

March 2015

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Wendell J. Seaver  
Business Manager

*Deeply Rooted on  
Sacred Ground*

Good News  
1 Quarter 2015

## New Beginnings

*My new favorite saying is, "A bad day in Valle Crucis is a great day anywhere else!"*

How lucky, how graced are we all, to have experienced Valle Crucis? I have been really and truly blessed with the position of executive director. My family – husband Kurt and daughter Ada, along with a rotating cast of dogs, cats, fish, and frogs – and I are constantly amazed and delighted with how far God has brought us.

Great things have been happening here at the Conference Center. We have engaged in two ambitious renovation projects – a new poured urethane floor for our aging kitchen, and brand new replacement windows for the Mission House.

The Mission House was built in 1896 to accommodate the missionary students traveling through the valley on their way to preach the Gospel across the mountains. Now the house is temporary home to vestry retreats, youth groups, women's groups, writers, musicians, and many others. New windows will mean fewer drafts, more energy efficiency, a greener building, and more comfort for our guests. Look for opportunities to help give the old sash windows new life in the near future!

Valle Crucis will be host to some wonderful new and returning guest speakers and weekend learning opportunities. As the days lengthen and the soft air of spring returns, look for our outside Labyrinth to be restored, etched in stone and grass into the field near the creek. We will be preparing our woodland and waterfall trails for new adventures, airing out the Hermitages for spring, and welcoming groups from across the United States to renew their spiritual journeys with us. I hope you'll join us in this new beginning for the Valle Crucis Conference Center.



Executive Director Margaret Love



Morning mist over Hunt Hill, October 2014

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- 2015 Programs & Weekends
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## Donors: Fourth Quarter 2014



### THANK YOU

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

Rebecca Baggett  
Rev. Alison Carmody  
Amy Cole  
Claude Courbois  
Stephen Dees  
Tom Eshelman  
Agnes Farthing  
Susan Fox  
Holy Cross Episcopal Church  
Sandy & Dorcas Jones  
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Lesley Morgan  
Dorrie Pratt  
Anne Rawls  
Wendell Seaver  
Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor  
Convent of the Transfiguration  
Winston-Salem Foundation

### Esther Elizabeth "Bonnie" Hogg

Many former students of the Valle Crucis Mission School for Girls hold treasured memories of their time here.

One such student was Esther Elizabeth "Bonnie" Hogg, who passed away on January 26.

Bonnie attended Valle Crucis School and LaGrange College in Georgia. She was a Girl Scouts Troop Leader and spent many summers as the Waterfront Director at Camp Pine Valley in Meansville, GA.

"Miss Bonnie" taught swimming for decades with the Girl Scouts and community swim programs in Georgia and Alabama. Bonnie and her husband, Cliff, were avid sailors and competed in regattas all over the Southeast. Late in life, Bonnie skippered her own sailboat, named *Hotflash*, to many Chattahoochee Sailing Club championships.

Bonnie loved her time at Valle Crucis; she often said, "All that is good in me came from my time at Valle Crucis." We are truly blessed to have remained in Bonnie's affections after all these years.



Esther Elisabeth "Bonnie" Hogg

## Memorials

**Rusty Stout** by Sandy and Dorcas Jones

**William Kannapaux** by Sandy and Dorcas Jones

**John Cornelius** by Members of MAAAMR

**Dixie Farthing Huff** by Agnes Huff

**Elizabeth Matthews** by the Convent of the Transfiguration

**Rudy Whitley** by Katerina Whitley

## Honoraria

**Tom Eshelman** by Claude Courbois

**Margaret Love** by Holy Cross Episcopal Church and Tom Eshelman

**Want to see your name here?** We welcome donations of any size. Visit our web site at [www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis](http://www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis) or mail to P.O. Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691.

# 2015 VCCC PROGRAMS

## COME SPEND SOME TIME ON SACRED GROUND

### Finding Meaning in the Cross

**Friday, March 27** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$40 (includes lunch)

*Jim Banks*

What does the cross mean to you? Do you struggle with the idea of atonement? What else have Christians throughout history believed about the cross? What does it mean that Jesus died for our sins? Through teachings, scripture readings, meditations and group discussions, you are invited to construct your theology of the cross. Jim Banks is a spiritual director, teacher, retreat leader and clergy vacancy consultant. He received an M.A. in Religious Experience from the University of Wales and completed a two-year program in Spiritual Guidance from the Shalem Institute.

### Sighs Too Deep for Words:

#### A Right Brain Theology

**Friday, May 8,** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$40 (includes lunch)

*Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor*

Jewish theologian Martin Buber writes, "Real faith means holding ourselves open to the unconditional mystery which we encounter in every sphere of our life which cannot be compressed in any formula." We enter into the sacred drama of the Eucharist week after week because we know we cannot name the mystery, we can only participate in it. This workshop will explore our right brain way approach to the sacred. Bishop Taylor will present the ways in which the arts - poetry, painting, and music - can lead us deeper into the mystery.

### Women Writer's Workshop 1

**Thursday, May 21 - Sunday, May 24**

\$290 for program, meals, and lodging

*Katerina Whitley*

Some people dream and talk of writing, others just do it. Writing is lonely and not easy, but it is the most satisfying expression of our thoughts and feelings. We find that it's much easier to write in the company of like-minded people and with the guidance of a professional who loves to encourage others in the craft of writing. Join this group of women writers to capture memories, define thoughts, express emotions, bring order out of chaos. New writers are most welcomed. A native of Thessaloniki, Greece, Katerina Whitley has worked as a church journalist on the diocesan and national levels, taught at universities, and is the author of six books.

### The Stations at Holy Cross

**Friday, June 5** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Optional lunch 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

\$30 / \$40 with lunch

*Noyes Capehart*

Renowned artist Noyes Capehart will discuss his compelling series of 12 woodcuts in Holy Cross Episcopal Church and his personal spiritual journey while creating them. He received a B.A. from Auburn University and a Master's in printmaking from the University of Missouri. He taught at several major universities. Capehart has been the subject of an Emmy-winning segment on UNC-TV based on his *My Private Diary* Series.

### Men's Work: A Journey to

#### Discovering Your True Self

**Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 14**

\$185 for program, meals, and lodging

*Jim Banks*

This weekend program is designed to support men who are seeking to deepen their spiritual lives and to reconnect with their true selves. The format alternates between presentation, small group discussion, and personal reflection/contemplation. A significant amount of time will be spent outdoors enjoying the natural beauty of the area. Components include an introduction to the Enneagram as the primary coping mechanism of the false self; a discussion of male archetypes and Jesus as ideal man; and a nature-based ritual to help experience our true selves.

### Women Writer's Workshop 2:

#### Return to the Valle

**Thursday, Aug 20 - Sunday, Aug 24**

\$290 for program, meals, and lodging

*Katerina Whitley*

Return to Valle Crucis - or start fresh - in this intensive continuation of exploration of the written word. You need not have attended the May 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?

### "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.

Registration form can be found  
at [www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis](http://www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis)  
and on page Five  
of this newsletter.



# Advanced Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat: Deepening the Silence

Sunday, November 29 - Sunday, December 6, 2015

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

*Becky Hannah, Joan Ricci, 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. The retreat is intended to help develop and sustain a regular centering prayer practice. In addition to several Centering Prayer periods offered daily, you will also have opportunities for contemplative worship, individual meetings with retreat leaders, walks and hiking around the Conference Center grounds, access to our labyrinth, as well as time for solitude and reflection.



Retreat leaders are Becky Hannah (828-702-3518), 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. Joan and Becky have both been trained to present centering prayer by Contemplative Outreach, the organization founded by Father Thomas Keating as a spiritual network committed to living the contemplative dimension of the gospel in everyday life. Please feel free to call Becky if you have any questions about the retreat.

***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.***

## General Program Information:

- We believe it is in the small group environment that learning and spirituality flourish. 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. If you have a medical reason to request a single room, we will do our best to accommodate you; due to the limited number of single rooms, we cannot guarantee until check-in when final availability of single rooms can be determined. Please notify VCCC in advance if you have any medical needs such as diet or different ability accommodations.
- We are a pet and smoke-free facility.
- **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 do their utmost to meet dietary requirements. If you have diet requests, please let us know at least 14 days in advance so that we can prepare accordingly.
- 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.
- Registration forms for listed programs can be found on our web site, [www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis](http://www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis), or included with this newsletter. 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).



# PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to register for the following program(s). I understand that if I am registering for a program weekend, a deposit is necessary to secure my place; for one-day programs, payment in full is expected. You do not need to register for every workshop you plan to attend at once; please feel free to make photocopies of this form. You may also find this form online at [www.hightsouth.com/vallecrucis](http://www.hightsouth.com/vallecrucis).*

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Finding Meaning in the Cross**

**Friday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

\$40 (includes lunch)

\$40 due with registration

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sighs Too Deep for Words:**

**A Right Brain Theology**

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\$40 (includes lunch)

\$40 due with registration

\_\_\_\_\_ **Women Writers Workshop 1**

**Thursday, May 21 - Sunday, May 24**

\$290 for program, meals, and lodging

\$90 deposit due with registration

\_\_\_\_\_ **The Stations at Holy Cross**

**Friday, June 5 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Optional lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

\$30 / \$40 with lunch

\$30/\$40 due with registration

\_\_\_\_\_ **Men's Work: A Journey to**

**Discovering Your True Self**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **Women Writers Workshop 2:**

**Return to the Valle**

**Thursday, August 20 - Sunday, August 24**

\$290 for program, meals, and lodging

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\_\_\_\_\_ **"Still Life"**

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

\$40 (includes lunch)

\$40 due with registration

\_\_\_\_\_ **Advanced Intensive Centering Prayer**

**Retreat: Deepening the Silence**

**Sunday, November 29 - Sunday, December 6**

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

\$100 deposit due with registration

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be commuting to the Conference Center (*not applicable with Centering Prayer Retreat*)

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 and pricing.*)

Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ 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.*

**VCCC, PO Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691**

## Remembering Debbie



The Valle Crucis Conference Center draws good people to work here. There's something about this place that makes you want to care for it, and for each other. We are far more than employees; we're family – sometimes literally, and always in our hearts. This close-knit family atmosphere makes the grief even harder when we lose one of our own.

Debra Jean Rupard was head of housekeeping at the Conference Center for 35 years. She passed away on April 10, 2014 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Debbie was instrumental in growing the Conference Center to a vibrant, dynamic center for learning and spiritual renewal. Always

moving, always doing, and rarely shy about sharing her mind, Debbie was truly a life force in Valle Crucis.

She was born April 16, 1955 in Detroit, Michigan, but her home was in the mountains. Debbie was a member of White Rock Baptist Church, where she loved celebrating her Savior. Debbie loved her family and being a grandmother. She was a true friend to many.



Debbie Rupard with Terry & Deana Coleman

on her work here. Debbie is part of the fabric of this place. May we always remember her.

If you have memories of Debbie that you would like to share, or if you would like to make a contribution toward a tree planted in her honor, please email [yccc@highsouth.com](mailto:yccc@highsouth.com) or mail to VCCC, PO Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC

We grieve, but we also celebrate her life and legacy. The Conference Center is blessed to have her daughter Deana Coleman, her son-in-law Terry Coleman, her sister Joy Trivett, and her friend Dale Townsend all carrying



Mother & Daughter: Deana Coleman and Debbie Rupard



# Bits and Pieces



VALLE CRUCIS  
CONFERENCE CENTER

AT THE HISTORIC



## HANGING OUT

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Ardmore United Methodist Church youth enjoying the late autumn sun on the Inn front porch, October 2014.

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## SHARIN' THE LOVE

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Executive Director Margaret Love and Father Allan McCaslin of Holy Cross Episcopal Church at the December 2014 Board meeting.

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## CHRISTMAS AT THE INN

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A beautiful tree graced the living room of the Inn this year, decorated by the Valle Crucis Mascot, Director's Daughter Ada Love.

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## Valle Crucis Conference Center

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Valle Crucis, NC 28691

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### Good News 1 Quarter 2015

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The Valle Crucis Conference Center is a ministry of the Episcopal Western Diocese of 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 in one of our five main campus lodging facilities, or to learn about our Hermitage retreat cabins, visit our web site at [www.hightsouth.com/vallecrucis](http://www.hightsouth.com/vallecrucis) or call (828) 963-4453.