



# GOOD NEWS

A Publication of the Valle Crucis Conference Center

September 2015



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*Deeply Rooted on  
Sacred Ground*

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Good News  
3 Quarter 2015

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## Fall is in the Air

Summer is always a busy time for the Valle Crucis Conference Center. We host the North American Academy of Piping & Drumming and the Jink & Diddle Scottish Fiddle School, which keep us busy from late June through early August. Interspersed with the music schools, we welcome the North Carolina Herb Association's Wild Herb Weekend; the Blood, Sweat & Gears charity bicycle race, and several church groups. Whew! We love the summer and the wonderful music and friends it brings, but we also welcome the quieter time of autumn!

Of course, it doesn't slow down too much during the cooler months. We're hosting a great program by renowned speaker Rebecca Husband-Maynard on September 25 (check out Page 3). And we're looking forward to supporting the Valle Country Fair on October 17 (see the write-up on Page 4), as well as welcoming the many church, non-profit, wedding, and family groups that routinely visit us during this time. We're excited to announce new opportunities at VCCC, too. Beginning on September 15 at 6:00 p.m. and continuing weekly, join us for yoga in Johnson Hall (see Page 3).

We also use the fall to re-group. Our property staff is getting ready for maintenance to the Bunk House and the Inn. The administrative office is already preparing for next year—completing reservation agreements, gathering information for the 2016 budget, and planning how to get the word out about this wonderful place.

Would you like to come back to the mountains? Book your stay soon! And may your fall be filled with delightfully crisp air, beautiful fall colors, and the excitement of the changing seasons.



Drummer, North American Academy of Pipe & Drum, July 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, June - September 2015

### **The Honorable Timothy I. Finan**

Sandy & Dorcas Jones

### **Lola Conway**

Michael A. Conway

### **Laura B. Stone**

C. Michael Newton-Ward

### **Ed Neigh**

Tom Eshelman & the Very Rev. Jeanne Finan

Sandy & Dorcas Jones

North American Academy of Pipe & Drum

## Honoraria, June - September 2015

**Terry & Deana Coleman** by Diana White

**Jim & Brenda Lowman** by Brenda Binning Lowman

### Want to see your name here?

Generous donations such as yours help us continue our ministry of hospitality.

Donate securely on our web site at [www.vcconferences.org](http://www.vcconferences.org) or mail to

P.O. Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691.



## 2015 VCCC PROGRAMS

COME SPEND SOME TIME ON SACRED GROUND



### "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: Deepening the Silence

**Sunday, Nov 29 - Sunday,**

**Dec 6, 2015**

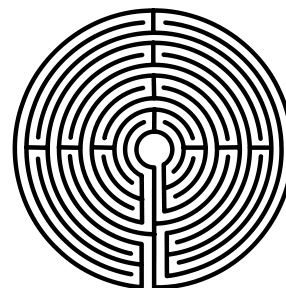
\$520 includes 7 nights

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.



*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.vcconferences.org](http://www.vcconferences.org) and on page 5. You may also register for any of our programs by calling the office at (828) 963-4453.



## Call for 2016 Programs & Presentations

Are you interested in presenting a talk, workshop, or program at VCCC in 2016? Do you have a passion for teaching and knowledge of a subject that interests others? Programs can be half-day, full-day, weekend-long, or week-long. For guidelines and policies on presentations, general information, and to submit a proposal, visit [www.vcconferences.org](http://www.vcconferences.org) or call or email Margaret Love at (828) 963-4453, [director@vcconferences.org](mailto:director@vcconferences.org).



## Yoga for Every Body

**When:** Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

**Who:** Appropriate for all levels

**Beginning:** September 15, 2015

**Where:** Johnson Hall First Floor

**Suggested donation \$5 per class**

cash or check

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat

**Instructor:** Lia Pardy, CYT LMBT #4318





## Ed Neigh May 22, 1945 - August 8, 2015

We are heavy-hearted to report the sudden death of long-time North American Academy of Piping & Drumming instructor and friend of the Conference Center, Ed Neigh.

After graduating from Wilfred Laurier University, he taught History and English at Northwestern Secondary School in Stratford, and

later served as a teacher-librarian there and at Listowel Secondary School.

Ed will be most remembered for his contributions to bagpiping in Ontario and beyond. His lifelong passion for bagpiping began as a student. He later studied extensively with John MacFadyen and Donald MacLeod in Scotland, and became a world-class player and a renowned theorist and practitioner of *piobaireachd*, the classical music of the Great Highland Bagpipe. He was among the first non-Scottish players to be successful in the Scottish competition circuit, and he won many prizes including the Dunvegan Gold Medal. He was Pipe Major of the Guelph Pipe Band, which under his leadership took first place twice, and second place five times, in the Grade 1 North American Championship. Ed taught countless pupils, both at home and here in North Carolina at the NAAPD, as well as adjudicating widely in North America and Scotland. In recent years, he was the instructor for the Paris Port Dover Pipe Band. Ed's piping legacy will continue through the many people he mentored and influenced.

The Valle Crucis Conference Center expresses heartfelt condolences to Ed's friends, colleagues, and family, and especially to his partner Darlene Carreiro. Donations to the Ed Neigh Scholarship Fund at the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming can be made on the NAAPD web site, [www.naapd.org](http://www.naapd.org).

## *Saturday, October 17, 2015*

is the **37th Valle Country Fair**, set here in gorgeous Valle Crucis. Holy Cross Episcopal Church members and VCCC staff come together for months in advance to plan this harvest-season community celebration.

Holy Cross volunteers start making jams and jellies in June. On the day of the Fair, apple sauce is boiled in copper kettles to make apple butter; vendors offer unique art and crafts; the smell of Brunswick stew, chili, and other delicious Fair food wafts through the air; and dulcimer, guitar, and banjo music echoes through the valley.

The Mission and Outreach Commission of Holy Cross ensures that all proceeds are distributed to local people in need, some through grants to local non-profit organizations that serve Watauga and Avery Counties. Most of the proceeds help individuals and families with emergency needs—to help pay rent or utility bills, put food on the table, keep a car running, fill a prescription, or purchase medical equipment.

The Valle Crucis Conference Center is proud of the partnership developed over more than 30 years with Holy Cross, to provide such a wonderful service to the community. Conference Center staff assist with parking and infrastructure, help with emergency management, and share the resources of the Conference Center in support of the Fair.

Come on out on **Saturday, October 17** to enjoy local music, lots of homemade food, fun crafts, and the kids' activity area. You'll have a great time knowing that every dollar you spend on Fair day will help those with the greatest needs.



# 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!

“Still Life” \_\_\_\_\_ \$40

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

\$40 registration (includes lunch)

Advanced Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Deposit

Sunday, November 29 - Sunday, December 6

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

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.vcconferences.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).

## Cool new toy

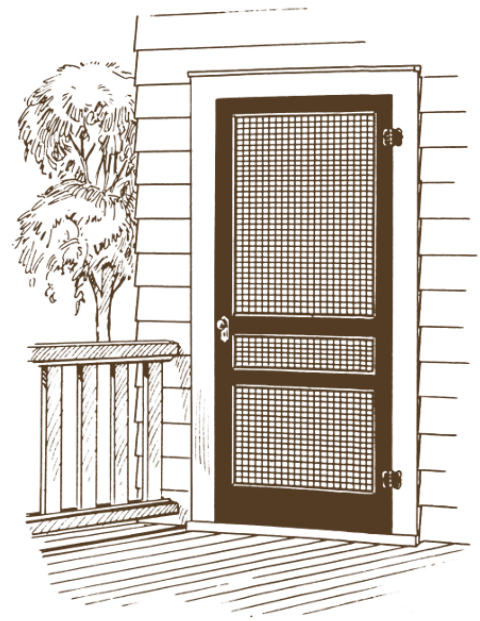
Friend of the Conference Center and Valle Crucis resident Dan Shepherd recently donated this shiny red DR Field & Brush Mower to VCCC. Our maintenance staff were pretty pleased with all the attachments and gadgets. Thank you, Dan, for your support!



Shiiiiiny!!

## Making meetings easier

A generous donation of an Optoma data projector has opened up new ways of enabling groups to better meet their A/V needs. Thanks to VCCC Board member Walter Browning, the projector will be available for groups for a small fee on a reservation basis. The only catch is that we must allow the Browning family to watch their favorite movie, *What About Bob*, on an as-needed basis. Thank you, Walter!



## Special Thanks to

Stephen Brody, a Hermitage guest who saw a need and acted on it. Thanks to Stephen, the Hermitages will have brand new screen doors to catch the mountain breezes while keeping bugs and other critters out. The doors will be lockable, with movable storm partitions, and in an attractive bronze color that will match the aesthetics of the Hermitages. Thank you, Stephen! We are blessed by your generosity.

## 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.

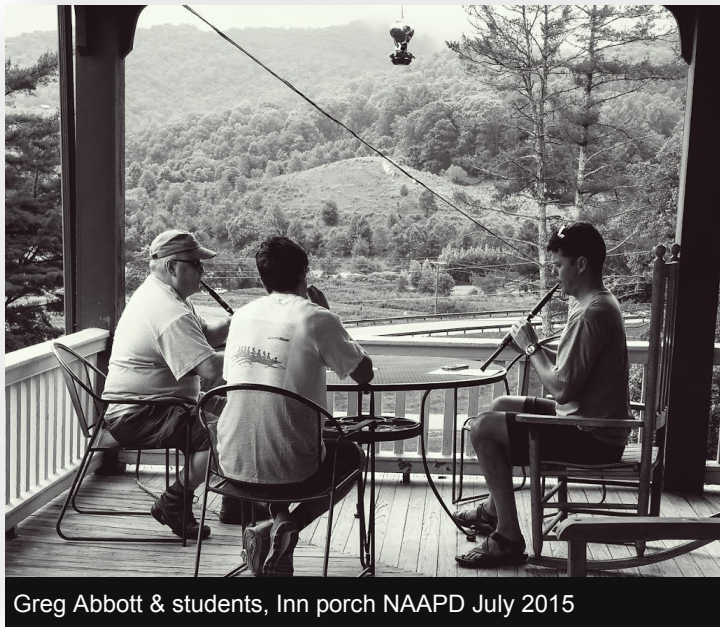
A bequest through a will is one of simplest ways to make a deferred gift to Valle Crucis Conference Center. There are many ways to make planned, deferred or legacy gifts, some of which feature significant tax advantages for the donor or the donor's heirs.

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

Now in their 43rd year of operation, the North American Academy of Piping & Drumming meets for five sessions every summer. The Valle Crucis Conference Center is very lucky to host these talented musicians. This summer turned bitter-sweet as Ed Neigh, extraordinary musician, teacher, and friend has passed away.



Greg Abbott & students, Inn porch NAAPD July 2015



Palmetto Pipes & Drums practicing, NAAPD July 2015

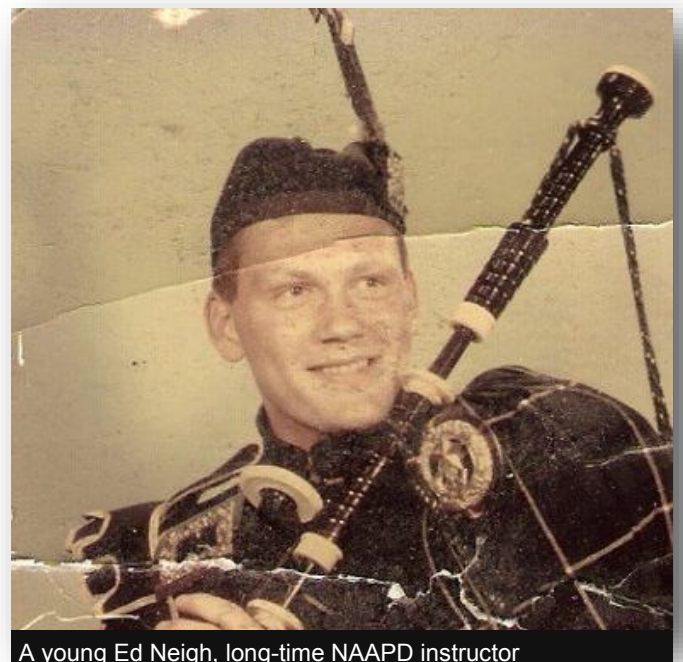


Pipevine swallowtail enjoying the Inn garden, July 2015



NORTH AMERICAN  
ACADEMY OF  
PIPING & DRUMMING

[www.naapd.org](http://www.naapd.org)



A young Ed Neigh, long-time NAAPD instructor



## Valle Crucis Conference Center

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### Good News 3 Quarter 2015

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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](http://www.vcconferences.org) or call (828) 963-4453.