

# A PLACE APART

News about Shrine Mont Advent 2011

AN EPISCOPAL RETREAT CENTER OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

## From the Executive Director

By Kevin Moomaw

It's hard to believe that as I write this letter Shrine Mont is getting ready to end our 2011 season. On behalf of my staff I want to thank all of you who came to Shrine Mont this year. Overall it has been a good season and we saw increases over the previous year in parishes on retreat, families on vacation and the Diocesan camps.



photo: Paul Harris

Kevin Moomaw

As you read this newsletter you will learn about many of the things that are happening at Shrine Mont and our future needs. You will also see a list of those who gave to support our work in our past fiscal year (April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011). Shrine Mont is deeply thankful to all who made a donation and I hope you will be generous in 2011.

In this current economy Shrine Mont has worked very hard to provide the best services at the most reasonable cost and our numbers indicate some success in achieving our goals. I believe we did our part and I thank you for doing your part and continuing to come to Shrine Mont.

In the past year Shrine Mont made some changes that were very well received by our guests.

- We added two electric golf carts to our fleet of vehicles. This reduced our dependence on pickup trucks and our consumption of gasoline while helping keep the Shrine Mont environment more safe and tranquil. Our hope

is to acquire a few more electric vehicles in the coming years and while there will always be a need for pickup trucks you will see fewer of them in our future.

- The rehab of Stribling cottage was well received by those who stayed there this season. This project which cost about \$70,000 was funded entirely by donations. We are deeply appreciative to all who gave to make Stribling a better cottage.
- Mary Moomaw and Kirk Gibson hosted a hospitality tent at all the camp openings. So often people who drop their children off at the camps have no idea that Shrine Mont is a full service conference and retreat center. The feedback from the hospitality tents was very positive and I hope that if you are dropping a camper off next year you will stop by and learn more about Shrine Mont or just say hello.

These changes are very exciting and we look forward to building on them in the coming years. My personal goal is that Shrine Mont gives you and everyone who stays the best experience possible.

Thank you for a great 2011 season and I look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Moomaw

## St. Andrews Cottage to be Rebuilt

This fall as Shrine Mont winds down the 2011 season, contractors will descend on St. Andrews cottage and begin demolition to make way for a new St. Andrew's. This \$475,000 project will give Shrine Mont another cottage with handicap access, winter use and maybe air conditioning. Funds are still being raised to complete St. Andrew's. Please contact Kirk Gibson, Director of Development ([cgibson@shentel.net](mailto:cgibson@shentel.net)) if you would like to make a contribution to this effort.



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## Bonnet and MacPhail appointed to Shrine Mont Board of Directors

Bishop Shannon announced that he has appointed Brian Bonnet of Arlington, VA and The Rev. Alexander MacPhail of Woodstock, VA to serve on the Shrine Mont Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2012.

Mr. Bonnet is a member of St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington and has been a life-long attendee at Shrine Mont through the camps, parish retreats and family vacation. Brian and his wife Sonia were married in the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration in 2008. Mr. MacPhail is the rector of the Beckford Parish which is comprised of Emmanuel Church, Woodstock and St. Andrews Church, Mt. Jackson. The Beckford Parish is the geographic home to Shrine Mont. Mr. MacPhail is a child of the valley having grown up in Bridgewater, VA and has served at the Beckford Parish since 2005.

The Rev. Deborah Rutter and Mr. Joe Paxton will be leaving the Shrine Mont Board after serving more than 12 years. Ms. Rutter served as the chairman of the development committee and Mr. Paxton has served as the



Mr. Bonnet



Mr. MacPhail

Vice President of the Shrine Mont Board and chairman of the finance committee. At a recent board meeting Bishop Shannon expressed his deep appreciation to Ms. Rutter and Mr. Paxton for their hard work and leadership during his transition as Bishop and President of Shrine Mont.

## Arranging For the Joy of It

Shrine Mont hosted its first annual flower arranging workshop September 23-25, 2011. Women and men gathered for the weekend to learn a variety of flower arranging techniques using local flowers, moss, branches, seed pods, and anything else that nature presented. Shrine Mont gardens were perfect for picking!! Ed and Ellen Hardy have labored for many years on the circle garden and have expanded their love for gardening throughout the entire Shrine Mont campus. What better place to spend a weekend picking, arranging, and soaking up all Shrine Mont has to offer.

"We all just loved the experience there! Shrine Mont at any time is a special experience, but when you add those flowers and flower ladies what could be better. Even the rain hitting that metal roof early on Sunday morning was okay." Said participant Kay Jefferies, Bremo Bluff, VA.

The instructors provided professional instruction, their wisdom of flowers and offered numerous workshops to expand more creative arrangements. Special thanks to instructors Nancy Ross Hugo, Mary Garner-Mitchell and Sue Tolson. Check out Nancy's new book, *Seeing Trees*, which is full of beautiful photos by Robert Llewellyn and describes new ways to observe and appreciate trees. *Seeing Trees* is available at bookstores and at Amazon.com.

Join us next year on September 21-23, 2012!



Kay Jefferies is enjoying her lesson during the Arranging for the Joy of It retreat at Shrine Mont.

**Are you a Baby Boomer in need of a Shrine Mont Camp experience?** Check out Shrine Mont's upcoming Boomer Camp July 15-18, 2012.

[www.shrinemont.com/boomercamp](http://www.shrinemont.com/boomercamp)



## Stribling Cottage Updated

In the spring of 2011 a brighter and updated Stribling cottage opened to guests and has been well received by all. Improvements were made inside and out and include a new patio and parking area behind the cottage. The kitchen, which has not been used for years was reopened and a half bath was added on the ground floor. All the paneling in the building was replaced with brightly painted walls. The electrical work and plumbing were updated and ceiling fans were installed in the bedrooms and living areas.

Stribling cottage has been a mainstay for Shrine Mont and Orkney Springs. The Stribling Select Boarding House has its roots to the mid 1860's when the Stribling family came to Orkney Springs. Bishop Robert Gibson and his family spent their first summers in Orkney Springs at the Stribling Boarding House in the 1890's at the recommendation of family. While at Stribling the Bishop became enamored with Orkney and purchased Tanglewood cottage and the surrounding land in 1902, and the rest is history. Miss Lucy Kimball, granddaughter of the original proprietor was a dear friend to Shrine Mont and left the cottage to Shrine Mont upon her death in 1976.

Funding for this work was given by numerous guests who stay in Stribling and friends of Shrine Mont and Miss Lucy. Shrine Mont Director Kevin Moomaw said "This is a great gift to Shrine Mont and a lasting tribute to those who care so much about the Stribling cottage and Miss Lucy's legacy of hospitality."



*Andy Lafoon (shown) and the Lafoons of Richmond gave their time, talent and treasure to help with Stribling.*

## Tee with the Bishop



*Bishop Jones with the Sysco food golf team from left to right: Barre McClay, Mike Comfort, Chris Harris and Carl Miller.*

The 13th Tee with the Bishop Golf Classic was held on September 11 & 12. Forty four golfers played this event which raised over \$11,000 to support Shrine Mont's ongoing work. This year Sysco won the Bishop's cup for the best gross score. Three teams tied for the best net score: Good Shepherd Burke, Shrine Mont and St. Stephen's Culpeper. St. James's Richmond brought the most golfers in 2011.

Next year's event will take place September 9 and 10, 2012



## Football Camp Returns

After a hiatus of almost 20 years football has returned to Orkney Springs this August. In the mid 1950's St. Stephens School in Alexandria started bringing its football team to Shrine Mont for seven days at the end of August. This tradition, started by the long-time St. Stephens coach Al "Sleepy" Thompson, was an event that everyone looked forward to as a sign of the beginning of the school year and the end of the summer season at Shrine Mont.

Each day players endured grueling two-a-day practices followed by a run up the mountain and a dip in the icy Shrine Mont pool. The evenings were filled with team chalk talks in Lloyd Hall and later in Chilton Hall. Of course the Shrine Mont meals were the high



point of the day and provided ample sustenance. It is rumored that the Shrine Mont dorms were built in part to accommodate the football camp and players would run from there through the cornfield (where the pool is now located) to practice.

The team stopped coming to Shrine Mont in the early 1990's, but this year the new coach, Norm Sloan, visited Shrine Mont and liked what he saw. The long traditions of football camp fit into his vision of rebuilding the St. Stephens St. Agnes football program. On August 24 the football team returned for 5 days of practice. With all the new rules regarding player safety, things weren't as grueling as the old days, but it was great to have the team back.

## Memories of St. George's Camp

by Cyndy Seibels

St. George's Camp was the vision of the Rev. James P. Lincoln. As Executive Secretary of the Department of Christian Education of the Diocese of Virginia, Mr. Lincoln wanted a place where the children of the Diocese could experience "a church community... in the hopes that a child living in that community twenty-four hours a day would gain a Christian experience in a concentrated form superior to his winter Sunday School." He traveled throughout the Diocese to raise funds for construction, so that each of the eight cabins was built with money donated by a particular parish. Later, he did the same thing again to raise money for a director's cabin, which was completed in 1964.

A camp on a wooded mountainside was a natural outgrowth of Mr. Lincoln's life experience. He had earned his undergraduate degree in forestry from the University of Georgia and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps on the construction of Marcy Dam in the Adirondack Mountains. Jim Lincoln, Jr. reports that the Adirondacks were always dear to his father's heart and their family regularly camped there as he was growing up.

Carolyn Moomaw Chilton and the author were campers in 1964. I fondly remember Jeannie Little, our counselor in cabin 1, reading aloud Anne of Green Gables during our quiet time following lunch. Carolyn helped to design and make a camp flag, which was St.



*The Rev. James P. Lincoln*

George's emblem for many years. She remembers a swim meet with Bear Wallow Camp and camp fires at the fire circle near the clay tennis courts where the labyrinth is now. Mr. Lincoln would scare the daylights out of us with tales of the ghost "Hiram Walker," who stalked the mountains around Orkney Springs.

Alternating girls and boys sessions were held at St. George's through 1964. The following summer, St. George's had only boy campers; girls attended camp at Roslyn in Richmond.

*The author extends her sincerest thanks to James P. Lincoln, II, John and Carolyn Chilton, Paris Ball and Olivia Bland Gentile for their assistance with this article, which is dedicated to the fond memory of the Rev. James P. Lincoln.*

### Save the Date! Gourmet Dinner and Wine Tasting

May 19, 2012

\$85 per person (\$35 tax deductible)

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[www.shrinemont.com/wine](http://www.shrinemont.com/wine)



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## You can make a donation to Shrine Mont directly from your IRA.

Last year President Obama signed a law which includes an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover for 2011. The extension will allow individuals 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charities tax-free. Donors do not receive an income tax charitable deduction. This provision allows donors to transfer (or “rollover”) money from their IRAs directly to charity, without having to recognize the transfer as income. December 31, 2011, is the deadline for gifts allocated to 2011. A gift will qualify when the IRA holder is age 70 ½ or over, the gift is made directly from the IRA to Shrine Mont and comes from a traditional or Roth IRA. Consult your tax advisor for further details.

## The Transfiguration Society

Established in 2005 the Transfiguration Society recognizes those who have included Shrine Mont on their estate plans. We extend our appreciation to those individuals who have notified Shrine Mont of their bequests and planned gifts, which will support our mission for future generations to come and ensure Shrine Mont's ability to serve as a place apart. If you have remembered Shrine Mont in your estate plans or wish to have more information about planned giving opportunities at Shrine Mont please contact Kirk Gibson, Director of Development.

### TRANSFIGURATION SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

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Linda Broadbent  
Mary Jane and John A. Board  
Virginia P. and John W. Dewhirst  
Peggy Dowd  
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Robin C. Gulick  
Mary B. and Joseph S. Kittle  
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# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

continued from page 9

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Mr. & Mrs. Edward T. Pritt

Make your donation to  
Shrine Mont online:  
[www.shrinemont.com/donate](http://www.shrinemont.com/donate)

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Mr. Jeffrey Neuman

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Ms. Laura Cramer



## Camps: Looking Forward

By Paris Ball, Director of Christian Formation and Shrine Mont Camps

About to celebrate its 50th year in operation, the Shrine Mont camps program in the Diocese of Virginia is a tradition of fun and fellowship in the Shenandoah Valley. Our program of nine different camp experiences, that is rooted in the goal to encourage the growth of relationships with self, others and God. Participants in all camps enjoy the beauty of God’s creation at Shrine Mont while playing games, singing songs, exploring the great outdoors and making friendships that last a lifetime.

While all nine camps have similar theological goals, each offers a unique and different experience and focus. Our Music and Drama Camp (known to many as MAD Camp) took their biblical musical on the road in the surrounding area and performed for churches and community centers across the Valley. Explorers’ Camp made several excursions in the surrounding wilderness areas and covered well over 60 miles of back country trails during the Explorers’ The Great session for high-school students. Participants in the Senior High Youth Conference (SHYC) worked on a volunteer farm to help provide fresh produce for the less fortunate in the area.

One of our oldest camp traditions isn’t just for youth. Family Camp is a time where entire families — big or small, couples or singles and of all ages —can come together at Shrine Mont. All are welcome to join in this week of fun, community and faith development that includes group activities and separate programming for different age groups. This is a wonderful chance for parents with young children to experience the “camp” atmosphere and introduce their children to Shrine Mont before they are old enough to go to the other camp offerings.

Our campers range from age 8 to 18 (and beyond!) and come from all over the Diocese of Virginia and in some instances well past our diocesan borders.

Camp sessions last anywhere from four to 14 days – so there really is a camp experience for everyone. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we also look forward to equipping our camps for the future. The 2011 camp season saw a five percent growth in attendance from 2010, a true testament to both the quality of the camp experience and to the commitment and hard work of our staff and counselors. Even as many families face tough economic times in today’s climate, we’re proud to see Shrine Mont camps’ attendance increase across the board.

Registrations for the 2012 camp season will be available on January 4. Please check out the camps web site ([www.camps.thediocese.net](http://www.camps.thediocese.net)) for more information, dates for all the camps and downloadable registration forms/ documents and online registration. Contact Paris Ball ([pball@thediocese.net](mailto:pball@thediocese.net) or 800.DIOCESE x1042) if you have any questions. We’ll see you at camp this summer!

## Honor Someone with a gift of Prayer or Song

Would you like to honor someone with a gift to Shrine Mont while helping Shrine Mont meet a need? How about purchasing a Prayer Book or Hymnal and dedicating it? Shrine Mont needs to purchase a hundred Prayer Books and a hundred Hymnals for the coming season.

Just fill in the form below and send it to Shrine Mont in the attached envelope along with a check for \$40 or a credit card number and Shrine Mont will purchase your choice of a Prayer Book or Hymnal and place a book plate to memorialize your designee.

I would like to purchase a  Prayer Book/  Hymnal  
in  honor/  memory of:

(Please print \_\_\_\_\_)

Enclosed in a check (payable to Shrine Mont) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my credit card:

Visa/MasterCard/Discover # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### Please Print your

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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



Use the enclosed envelope to mail this form.

Check out the 2012 camp dates at  
[www.shrinemont.com/camps/](http://www.shrinemont.com/camps/)



# A PLACE APART

News about Shrine Mont Advent 2011

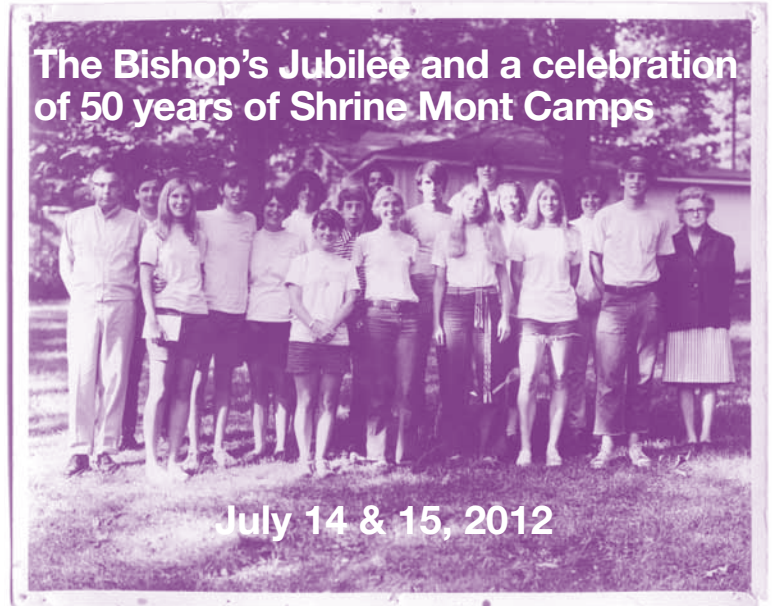
## Save the Date in 2012!

- April 27 – 29** Spring Digital Photography
- May 19** Gourmet Dinner & Wine Tasting
- June 1 – 3** Women's Retreat
- July 15 – 20** Painting Workshop
- September 9 – 10** Tee with the Bishop Golf Tournament
- September 21 – 23** Arranging for the Joy of It
- September 28 – 30** Fall Digital Photography

### Watch for additional details

[www.shrinemont.com](http://www.shrinemont.com)

[www.facebook.com/shrinemont](http://www.facebook.com/shrinemont)



Camp counselors in 1971.

Contact Shrine Mont for more information on calendar events 540.856.2141 • [shrine@shentel.net](mailto:shrine@shentel.net) • [www.shrinemont.com](http://www.shrinemont.com)

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