

# A PLACE APART

News about Shrine Mont Epiphany 2010

AN EPISCOPAL RETREAT CENTER OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

## Greetings from Shrine Mont

By Kevin Moomaw, Director

Dear Shrine Mont Friends,

It is hard to believe I have just completed my third season as Director of Shrine Mont. I have had many surreal moments throughout the last three years: from watching Margaret, my older daughter wait tables with her friends in the Tucker and Hotel Dining Rooms, to driving through Orkney and seeing Elizabeth (my younger daughter) with her "gang" coming from the candy store with overflowing bags, to removing Sylvester the cat from the altar during Sunday services at the Shrine just to name a few. Wow! It is these kind of memories that make Shrine Mont such a special place for me, and I can't help but think how many other memories like this happen at Shrine Mont every day for each of you.

It was a very busy and exciting season at Shrine Mont. Some of the highlights of the year included:

- We took Shrine Mont "on the road" with two gatherings in Charlottesville and Orange. Kirk Gibson and I met with over 50 friends of Shrine Mont and shared Shrine Mont's vision as well as some Pecan Pie.
- Dr. Woodward's (founder of Shrine Mont) great-granddaughter was married in the Shrine in October.
- We celebrated Bishop and Mrs. Lee's twenty five years as President of Shrine Mont with a celebration dinner hosted by the Shrine Mont Board of Directors.
- We welcomed Bishop and Mrs. Johnston to Shrine Mont. Bishop Shannon started as the President of Shrine Mont on October 1.
- Nearly 700 youth campers came to Shrine Mont during our summer season.
- We hosted the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival, including Travis Tritt in our outdoor pavilion.
- And we welcomed more than ninety Diocesan parishes to Shrine Mont for retreats as well as over 100 other conferences and retreats; and many family reunions, guests and vacationers.



photo: Paul Harris

Kevin Moomaw

## What Motivated Me to be in the Transfiguration Society?

By Joseph S. Kittle

Mary and I along with our two boys Adam and Andrew lived in Alexandria in the 70's, and by the time our boys were about 9 and 6 we wondered if the Diocese of Virginia had a camp and conference center. I had gone to the Peterkin Conference Center in West Virginia as a child, and Mary's family from South Carolina was familiar with Kanuga in North Carolina. We had been active members of our Northern Virginia church for several years, but had never heard or seen any information on the subject. So, Mary called the Diocese and asked the question.

She was told that there was a place called Shrine Mont and that there was something called the Family Conference which took place in July every year. Our family signed up to attend. When we showed up at the circle of houses after driving up the 1978 version of Rt 263 we looked at each other and said, "This can't be it."

Well, it was "it" – the perfect place for a family vacation and a tremendous spiritual trip for all of us.

It was a good thing that I brought my guitar for on day two I played in the Family Conference Band and have done the music for Family Conference every year since.



Joseph Kittle

We discovered that we have made lifelong friendships with the Shrine Mont Family and know the people with whom we spend a week every year much better than our next door neighbors who we see almost every day.

In July 1999 on the way home we observed a little white house next to the lower tennis courts for sale. By this time we had moved to Texas, but I thought, "Why not buy it so we can come to Orkney Springs more often." With great difficulty of all sorts, we bought the house and closed the deal in December of that year. Even better, we gave the house to Shrine Mont as a life estate which entitles us to stay there as long as we live.

I was overwhelmed with the spirit of giving by being in a position to give back to the place that had meant

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Tee with the Bishop Golf Tournament Winners



**Lowest Gross Score** (from left to right): Tim Obitz, Tee Jones, Bishop Jones, Kirk Gibson.



**Lowest Net Score:** St. John's, Warsaw members (from left to right) Dan Wilson, Dr. Woody Tanner, Major John Martin, Larry Thorn.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Tee with the Bishop Golf Classic will be held September 12 and 13, 2010.**

*Greetings* continued from page 1

This past season we saw fewer guests than in years past, but those who were here said they needed a place like Shrine Mont more than ever and I am pleased that Shrine Mont can be a place of peace during these difficult times. As we enter 2010 I hope you will come to Shrine Mont and experience that peace for a weekend retreat, one of our conferences or on a family vacation.

Last year we hired Kirk Gibson to start a formal fundraising program for Shrine Mont and despite these challenging times many people have been very generous in giving to Shrine Mont. I appreciate your continued support and I am pleased to tell you that because of a generous bequest and a leadership gift from a friend of Shrine Mont we have over \$100,000 toward the \$350,000 we will need to renovate St. Andrew's Cottage. Once completed St. Andrew's will provide quality lodging and include handicapped access near the Tucker Dining Hall.

I hope you have a happy new year and look forward to seeing you in 2010.

*Motivation* continued from page 1

so much to me and my family. As it turned out my cash outlay amounted to over 20% of my retirement program and at that time the stock market was in a downslide. This kind of a deal is not such a good tax write-off either. One must make actuarial computations of life expectancy and factor them into the deduction equation for IRS purposes. So, why should I feel good about endangering my future welfare without much of an immediate payback?

The answer is that you always get back more than you give. Shrine Mont means so much to me and Mary, and my boys have carried with them spiritual and Christian principles learned at Shrine Mont that have made them better persons for life. We have been repaid with interest and feel proud and honored that we were able to make this large gift to Shrine Mont and God's Country.

### SHRINE MONT VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> –  
Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Come for ALL or Part of this Extended Work Weekend!

For more information: [www.shrinemont.com](http://www.shrinemont.com)

### Are you interested in coming to Shrine Mont for a weekend retreat or just a family getaway?

The following weekends are still available.

May 7-9	June 18-20	September 17-19
May 14-16	July 3-5	October 15-17
June 11-13	August 27-29	October 29-31
June 16-18	September 10-12	

Call Shrine Mont for reservations (540) 856-2141 or email [shrine@shentel.net](mailto:shrine@shentel.net).



## News from the Development Director

By Kirk Gibson

A little over sixteen months ago I began my new position at Shrine Mont with the goal of starting a fundraising program that would help perpetuate Shrine Mont as a vital part of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Virginia and the local community in the Shenandoah Valley. During my first year, I have met thousands of people at Shrine Mont and throughout the Diocese. The enthusiasm for Shrine Mont is amazingly strong with great support for our efforts to raise funds. To date some of our accomplishments include:

- A commitment of gifts totaling over \$100,000 to rebuild St. Andrew's cottage. Dr. Woodward built St. Andrew's seventy years ago and it needs to be completely rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$350,000. These initial leadership gifts have enabled Shrine Mont to move forward on this exciting project, but there is much more to be done.
- An increase in giving to Shrine Mont in 2009. Despite the economy, Shrine Mont anticipates annual giving to be up by almost 12% over 2008. In addition Shrine Mont received bequests of over \$78,000. We are deeply appreciative of the ongoing support from donors throughout the Diocese and across the country.
- The Transfiguration Society saw the addition of three new members. This distinguished group of people made

Shrine Mont a part of their estate plans and we are deeply appreciative of their commitment.

- Shrine Mont held the Eleventh Tee with the Bishop Golf Tournament and the first Gourmet Dinner and Wine Tasting in partnership with The Woodstock Café. These events raised over \$15,000 for Shrine Mont and introduced a number of new friends to our facility.
- Shrine Mont held receptions in the homes of David and Betsy Poist in Charlottesville and Hunter and Elizabeth Rawlings in Orange. These receptions introduced a taste of Shrine Mont into the local communities and gave Shrine Mont the chance to discuss fundraising opportunities with others. We thank the Poist's and the Rawling's for their hospitality.

As we enter 2010 I look forward to working with Kevin, Bishop Shannon, the Shrine Mont Board and you to continue to raise the funds and help Shrine Mont fulfill Dr. Woodward's vision as "A Place Apart." The opportunities are plentiful and the need is great. If you want to contact me and discuss ways to give to Shrine Mont please call me at 540-856-2141 or email me at cgibson@shentel.net.

I hope you have a great new year and are able to spend a part of it with us!

## 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 to the right 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 Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Use the enclosed envelope to mail this form.



# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

## Cathedral Society

(gifts over \$5,001)

Mr. Brian Bonnet & Ms. Sonia Castro-Bonnet

## Shrine Society

(gifts between \$2,501 and \$5,000)

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The Overton and Katherine Dennis Fund

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(gifts between \$1,001 and \$2,500)

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(gifts between \$501 and \$750)

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(gifts between \$251 and \$500)

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### THE BAPTISM OF MILES LEE

Mr. & Mrs. John Dewhirst

### THE RT. REV. PETER JAMES LEE

Mr. & Mrs. Henry R. Burt  
Mr. & Mrs. John Dewhirst

## The Transfiguration Society

Established in 2005 the Transfiguration Society recognizes those who have included Shrine Mont in 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.

### BEQUESTS

Barbara and Frank Levy  
Fred Moring  
Jean F. Wine

### TRANSFIGURATION SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

Linda Broadbent  
Nancy Kuhn  
Fred Mills

### IN THE TRANSFIGURATION SOCIETY

Catherine D. and Thomas M. Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Barfoot  
Mary Jane and John A. Board  
Virginia P. and John W. Dewhirst  
Robin C. Gulick  
Mary B. and Joseph S. Kittle  
Paige Lauster  
The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Peter James Lee  
Lyde Longaker  
Margaret Moring  
Patricia Pace  
Annette W. and Joseph S. Paxton

## Fund Created for Gibson Cottage

Last year Shrine Mont received a large number of gifts in memory of the Rev. Churchill J. Gibson Jr. Churchill and his family have a long legacy at Shrine Mont going back to its founding and the dedication of the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration to Churchill's grandfather the Rt. Rev. Robert Atkinson Gibson, the sixth Bishop of Virginia.

In the early twentieth century Bishop Gibson and his family spent many summers at their family cottage, Tanglewood, in Orkney Springs, VA. It is through these family gatherings that

the Bishop's son-in-law Edmund Woodward discovered Orkney Springs and later built the Cathedral Shrine in Bishop Gibson's honor. Tanglewood, now called Gibson Cottage, is one of the more popular cottages used by Shrine Mont guests.

Shrine Mont in consultation with the Gibson family has put the donations in Churchill's name into a new fund that will be used for the ongoing maintenance of Gibson Cottage. This fund will enable Shrine Mont to take care of the cottage without depending on operating funds.



Gibson Cottage



## Shrine Mont Camps Gearing up for 2010 with Some New Twists

Paris Ball, Acting Program Director of the Diocese of Virginia.

For those who don't know, there are nine wonderful summer camps held at Shrine Mont Conference Center. All of our camps have a slightly different focus, but they are all based around providing campers a safe and fun environment in which to learn about and develop their relationship with God. The lifelong friendships, kooky counselors, pool parties, and campfires are just some of the added bonuses that all the camps share!

The 2009 season of summer camps at Shrine Mont is becoming more and more of a distant memory, and work for the 2010 season is already underway. As returning campers and their families explore the camp dates for next summer, they will see some changes and shifts in schedule. These changes were made after much deliberation and in consultation with the camp directors. It is our collective hope that these changes will allow more young people to be able to experience camp this summer.

First, fourteen and fifteen year old campers will notice that St. George's session IV has been moved to the beginning of the summer. This change is a response from the many parents who have expressed concern that our camp schedule for this age group causes conflicts with sports and band practices, and other "pre-school" activities. It is our hope that by offering session IV earlier in the summer, more campers will be able to join us for this exciting week of camp. These changes were

made after much deliberation and in consultation with the camp directors. It is our collective hope that these changes will allow more young people to be able to experience camp this summer.

Another big change for 2010 is the transformation of Art Camp to a single session, "all ages" camp for kids aged 9-15. We wanted to have a place where siblings could attend camp together, where churches could bring

all of their youth to camp for the same week, and where older campers were given opportunities to act as leaders and mentors to younger campers. This is a new model camp at Shrine Mont, but it has been done successfully in many other dioceses and we feel this will only enhance the camping experience for all. While the camp will be for all ages, the cabins and some activities will

be age-specific. We believe it will allow the campers to create community with children of different ages while still having an experience that is tailored to their own developmental stages.

Registrations for the 2010 camp season are now available. 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 and documents. Contact Paris Ball ([pball@thediocese.net](mailto:pball@thediocese.net) or 800.DIOCESE x27) if you have any questions or concerns. We'll see you at camp this summer!!



*A large group of 2009 campers sing.*



## First Annual Women's Spring Retreat at Shrine Mont

On June 4-6, 2010 Shrine Mont will host a women's retreat: Peacocks, Positive, Passionate, and Proud. The Rev. Dr. Kathleen V. Price will lead an adventure of self exploration offering participants the opportunity to discover the peacock within; learn to be positive about your

gifts and how to be passionate about using them and be proud of what one can do with God's help! Enjoy getting to know one another and be prepared to sit back and enjoy – you don't have to cook, clean, or do the laundry... just rest and relax and let Shrine Mont do the rest!! For more information and a registration form visit [www.shrinemont.com](http://www.shrinemont.com) or email [shrine@shentel.net](mailto:shrine@shentel.net).



# A PLACE APART

News about Shrine Mont Epiphany 2010

## Mark Your 2010 Calendar

**Volunteer Work Weekend:** March 25 – 28, 2010

**PYM Senior High Weekend:** April 9 – 11, 2010

**Clergy Respite:** April 5 – 9, 2010

**Spring Clergy/Spouse Conference:** May 3 – 5, 2010

**Women's Retreat:** June 4 – 6, 2010

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Bishop's Bluegrass Festival:** July 4, 2010

**Family Conference:** July 11 – 18, 2010

**Art & Soul Conference:** July 18 – 23, 2010

**The 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration:** August 6, 2010

**Tee with the Bishop Golf Classic:** September 12 –13, 2010

**PYM 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Weekend:** October 8 – 10 , 2010

**Fall Clergy Conference:** October 11 – 13, 2010

**Fall Camp:** October 25 – 28, 2010

**PYM 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Weekend:** November 12 – 14, 2010

Contact Shrine Mont for more information on calendar events  
540.856.2141 • shrine@shentel.net • www.shrinemont.com

## Lilly Grant Supports Shrine Mont Retreat

The Rev. John Weatherly and St. Mark's Groveton were recently awarded a grant through the Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program. One aspect of the grant included funding scholarships to help families participate in a Shrine Mont retreat. Here is what they wrote:



"Part of the Sabbatical time includes simply getting away and changing environments, so we are providing scholarships for individuals and families of the parish to also go on a retreat to our Diocesan Camp, Shrine Mont. Shrine Mont is one of the supreme Episcopal camps in the United States. We are asking for funds of \$2,000 in total to help provide scholarships, so that while the Rector is on sabbatical, members of St. Mark's can also be on sabbatical."

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