

# A Place Apart

ADVENT 2021

## From the Executive Director

By Kevin Moomaw



Kevin Moomaw

As I look back on the 2021 season at Shrine Mont, I am struck by the loyal patronage of so many guests to Shrine Mont. It was a challenging year, but from the day we opened in April until our last day in November, over 6,000 people came to Shrine Mont. Our guests put up with a few inconveniences, but they enjoyed all we had to offer. Many of those who could not stay at Shrine Mont this year sent a generous donation to support our work. As you consider your end of year giving, I encourage you to remember Shrine Mont and look through this newsletter to see the different ways you can make a gift. *Please remember that Shrine Mont is an independent nonprofit organization and does not receive any subsidies or financial support from the Diocese of Virginia.*

Shrine Mont is now getting ready for our future. We look forward to 2022 and seeing all of you who love to spend time here with parish retreats, family reunions, camps and all the different events. We are also planning to hold a record number of our own weekend retreats and

events and have listed them in this newsletter. I encourage you to plan your visit now and contact our reservations department to book your stay.

I am also very excited to plan for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration in 2025. The Shrine Mont staff and Board of Directors are beginning to map out a series of activities during our 100<sup>th</sup> year. We want everyone to join us in our celebration!

We are also thinking about what Shrine Mont will look like in the next 100 years. Are there new programs, new buildings, new resources that will give Shrine Mont a foundation for sustainability and growth as we move into our second century? I welcome your thoughts about our centennial and how you can help us celebrate this exciting milestone.

I wish you the best this Christmas season and look forward to seeing you on the Mountain in 2022.

Kevin Moomaw  
Executive Director

## Are you thinking about making a gift to Shrine Mont?

Remember that everyone can deduct something from their federal taxes this year.\*

- Up to \$300 (\$600 per couple) even if you don't itemize your deductions on your federal return.
- As much as you want if you do itemize with no ceiling on charitable deductions.
- Shrine Mont qualifies for a charitable distribution from your IRA (IRA Rollover)
- Gifts of appreciated stock can help free you of capital gains taxes.

However, you want to do it, Shrine Mont is glad to work with you. If you have questions, contact Kirk Gibson at (540) 856-2141 or [cgibson@shrinemont.com](mailto:cgibson@shrinemont.com).

*\*Talk to your tax advisor to learn how you would benefit.*

# Shrine Mont Introduces Spring Mountain Lodge

This year Shrine Mont opened a new facility for individuals and small families to enjoy year round. Spring Mountain Lodge has two studio units, and three two-bedroom units. Each unit is air-conditioned and has a full kitchenette with a refrigerator, oven, sink, microwave and coffee pot. There is also a sitting/dining area, private bath and a patio with a spectacular view of Spring Mountain. In the wintertime, Spring Mountain Lodge will have high-speed internet over Wi-Fi.

**Contact Shrine Mont now to rent one of these wonderful accommodations this January.**





# A Place Apart

## Shrine Mont camps off and running in 2022

Despite the many challenges presented in 2021, the Shrine Mont Camps served 400 youth and staff with a wonderfully fulfilling and fun time on the Mountain. Campers and parents raved about their experience and everyone is looking forward to an even better camp season in 2022. Keep an eye out for information about the 2022 camps after the first of the year. Sign up for the latest on the Shrine Mont Camps by going to <https://www.shrinemontcamps.net/learn-more>.



## Summer Day Camp a Huge Success!

By: Boo Elmore, Director

Shrine Mont has always enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the community around it, but this summer they showed their support in a special way.

Children from all over the county were invited to attend a Day Camp at Shrine Mont and what a great experience it was!

Most of our campers had only seen Shrine Mont from the road or heard about Shrine Mont from their parents or older siblings' experiences. So this summer Shrine Mont provided

a week of fun activities such as swimming, crafts, hiking, games and special age appropriate science experiments.

Campers had the opportunity to see what Shrine Mont had to offer each day from "Sleep Over Camps for older children", great lunches in the Dining Room and a visit from the world famous Four Tops. Hikes include scavenger hunts to find three springs, the cross and labyrinth. They experienced a great deal of social interaction, which children have been

missing over the eighteen months.

The group was diverse in many ways reflecting the population of Shenandoah County and it was such a joy to see them make new friends and take care of each other, play together, and develop their own guidelines for the group!

What a great gift Shrine Mont is not only to these few but also to everyone who visits. This summer our day camp will be held July 18-22, 2022.



## The Transfiguration Society

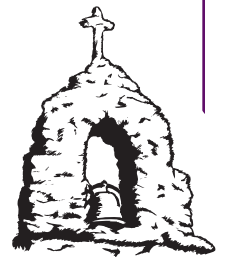
Established in 2005 the Transfiguration Society recognizes those who have included Shrine Mont in their estate plans. We extend our appreciation to those individuals who have notified Shrine Mont of their bequests and planned gifts, which will support our mission for future generations to come and ensure 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.

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\*Founding members

+ Deceased



## Nellie's Family Replenishes Nellie's Garden

On May 5, 1986 Nellie's Garden at Shrine Mont was dedicated in honor of Nellie Mae Stickley Moomaw. The Garden, in the center of the Maryland House, featured some of her favorite plants including Lilies of the Valley, a Dogwood Tree, and a Rhododendron bush. Many people were involved in the first effort to establish the Garden, particularly St. Andrew's Guild at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Mt. Jackson, and many friends of Shrine Mont. Many more have been involved over the first 34 years of the life of the Garden.

Nellie was married to Wilmer E. Moomaw who served as Administrator and Director of Shrine Mont from 1948 until 1988. Throughout Wilmer's tenure, Nellie was at his side helping to manage all aspects of Shrine Mont with a gracious spirit of joy and hospitality.

This past year, Shrine Mont and the Moomaw family took up the task of renovating and landscaping Nellie's Garden. Shrine Mont rebuilt and painted the interior walls and removed two dividing walls. Thanks to the generosity of many, the Moomaw family replaced many of the plantings and put new trellises in the garden. This summer the newly revitalized garden welcomed a new generation of guests and enthusiasts.





# 2021 Honor Roll of Donors

Draft as of September 30, 2021\*

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Mid- Atlantic Focusers Gathering  
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*continued on page 6*

\* Is your name missing? It's not too late to make a gift and get your name on the list! [www.shrinemont.com/donate](http://www.shrinemont.com/donate)

# 2021 Honor Roll of Donors

continued from page 5

Draft as of September 30, 2021\*

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# 2021 Honor Roll of Donors

continued from page 6

Draft as of September 30, 2021\*

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Coming this spring...

## Trout Fishing Fundamentals

**Day 1:** Meet and greet the guides, discuss fundamentals of fly-fishing and gear, practice casting

**Day 2:** Fly fishing demo and casting practice on the water

**Day 3:** Half day on the stream with a guide

- Lodging, food, and refreshment included
- Date and price TBD
- If interested, contact Mary Moomaw  
([mmoomaw@shrinemont.com](mailto:mmoomaw@shrinemont.com))



## The 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 Prayer Books and 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.

### THE GIFT OF PRAYER OR SONG

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

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

Enclosed in a check (payable to Shrine Mont) for  
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# To the Glory of God

## In Memory of

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### Marjory Blood

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Ms. Susan L. Board  
Mr. and Ms. Ed and Fontaine Williamson

### Harry Burt

Mrs. Eleanor Burt

### Dart M. Cox

Edwin Fowlkes and family

### Dart M. Cox and John Thomas

Edwin Fowlkes

### Erin Stemler Drew

Dr. Brett Hofmann and Dr. Katherine Layton

### Dibbie Green

Ms. Jennifer D Burns  
Ms. Jane Edwards

### The Rev. Churchill J. Gibson Jr.

Ms. Rosalinda Aguirre  
Ms. Dorothy B Gibson  
Kirk and Linda Gibson  
Ms. Deborah Yee

### Richard Hobson

The Rev. and Mrs. Peter Ackerman  
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Mr. Marc Vice  
Ms. Susan Wilson  
Mr. Warren E Zirkle

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Mr. and Mrs. Jay Legere

### Ned Moomaw

Amy and William Goodnight

### Nellie Moomaw

Rodney and Patricia Layton, Jr.  
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### Stanley Moorehead

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Hogg and Toni C. Hogg

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## In Honor of

### Roger Bowen

Mr. Michael Nunnally

### Eleanor Rose Burk

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### Katie Clarke

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Ms. Dorothy B. Gibson

### Ed and Ellen Hardy

Mr. John Kolp and Ms. Cynthia Seibels

### Rod and Pat Layton

Dr. Brett Hofmann and Dr. Katherine Layton

### Donald E. Lundquist on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Lundquist

### Tom and Jan Meredith

Many friends at St. George's

### Pat Panilaitis

Dr. Frederick Rahal

### Marnie and Jack Sarver

Mr. John Kolp and Ms. Cynthia Seibels

### Shrine Mont staff

Mrs. Eleanor Burt



## MOST MEMORABLE SHRINE MONT EXPERIENCE

by Tom Baker

I attended my first Shrine Mont Family Conference when I was in diapers, but I came of age when Wilmer Moomaw hired me to be a dishwasher/waiter in the summer of 1973.

For the next three summers my Hut compadres and I washed dishes, mopped floors, waited on guests/campers, picked potatoes, mowed lawns, shucked corn, and other "duties as assigned". The staff camaraderie was amazing. Wilmer, Nellie, Dick, and Thelma Moomaw, the cooks, maintenance staff and hostesses all worked incredibly hard every day to make sure Shrine Mont was A Place Apart for every person who came to the Mountain from June to August.

I loved the tasks and the people beyond measure, and I literally learned to whistle while I worked. It was a joyous time. The joy carries over to this day.



## Tribute to Nancy Van Scoyoc

Nancy J. Van Scoyoc was not just a lover of nature and outdoor activity. She was a fierce defender of wildlife, wild places, and most important to her, access to the joys of those natural treasures for all people, especially children. She believed that experiences in the natural world were most instructive and allowed her children great latitude to wander and wonder in the wilds of surrounding woodlands.

After many years of camping with her husband Gardner and their children, she continued her passion on the Camps and Conferences Committee in the Diocese of Virginia. Nancy was one of the founders of Wilderness Odyssey, based out of Shrine Mont that led youth and adults trips in ropes courses, wilderness camping, rock climbing and white water canoeing.

She worked for many more years in outdoor experiential education, which she applied to organizational development and transformation with a professional business, Growing Edge. This then ultimately lead her to her great legacy of work, service, and love: the development of the Outdoor Education Center at For Love of Children (FLOC) FLOC. It was the perfect convergence of Nancy's values: education, the outdoors, and justice in opportunities for underserved children in the Washington DC area.

Nancy is survived by her loving husband Gardner and their sons Peter, Kirk, and David, and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by son Charles (Chuck).

Nancy J. Van Scoyoc died on July 22, 2021. She was 87.



*Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.*

*John Muir*

## Our Family Odyssey at Shrine Mont

By John Dewhirst

The Dewhirst Family has experienced Shrine Mont over a span of more than 50 years. Our introduction to the Mountain began when our oldest child, Kathy (Kathy Dewhirst Wincheski) first attended St. George's Camp in 1970. I believe that we had taken advantage of a small scholarship through our home parish (Good Shepherd, Burke) to help with the tuition. Through subsequent years, Kathy also enjoyed several sessions of Choir Camp and she and her siblings, Skip and Jeff, became campers and then counselors, additionally experiencing adventures with the Wilderness Odyssey program. Suzy and Matt also enjoyed several sessions as campers. Kathy later became involved with St. Andrew's Camp, eventually serving as Director of St. Andrew's for nearly 20 years.

Throughout all that time, Ginger and I became more involved, attending many camp closing worship services at the Shrine and meeting many fellow camper parents and other folks with whom we became close friends. I had the pleasure of serving for several years on what was known as the Camps and Conferences Committee of the Diocese, and still later the Shrine Mont Development Committee. We have

also had countless wonderful times attending the Bishop's Blue Grass Festivals and other Fourth of July family events as well as other gatherings such as the Gourmet Dinner and Wine Tastings held at the Virginia House and more recently at RHouse in Basye. We thoroughly enjoyed the Oktoberfest

*Our love for Shrine Mont has been enhanced by seeing our Grandchildren grow and experience the magic of this "Place Apart"*



Dinner this past September – the folks at RHouse, in collaboration with Mary and Kevin, did a great job!

The connections and friendships that we have forged at Shrine Mont over the years are among our most meaningful and lasting. We have been pleased to observe a significant number of young alumni from the Shrine Mont Camps go on to become ordained priests. Our love for Shrine Mont has been enhanced by seeing our Grandchildren grow and

experience the magic of this "Place Apart" as well. Two of them were Baptized at the Shrine and three others have been St. George's campers. Our oldest, Clara Wincheski, has also enjoyed working at St. Andrew's camp and also volunteering and then working several seasons at St. Elizabeth's Camp. It has been such a pleasure for us to see so many second and third generations of our family and others on the Mountain.

It would be an understatement to say that Shrine

Mont activities and visits have become a cherished family tradition for all of us. Ginger and I were pleased several years ago to become members of the Transfiguration Society, remembering Shrine Mont in our estate plans. While it is our prayer that we have a good number of future active years at Shrine Mont, we look to the Memorial Garden at the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration as the resting place for our ashes.



## Charitable Gift Annuities

### *Sound Financial Planning and a way to help Shrine Mont*

Tom Baker has literally been coming to Shrine Mont for his whole life. His late father was a co-founder of the Family Conference (now Family Camp). After attending every session as a boy, Tom graduated to Choir Camp and then St. George's. Later he spent summers working on the Shrine Mont staff (1973-75) and as a St. George's Counselor (1977-78).

When he met his future wife Catherine, Tom brought her to the Mountain to be sure she liked it. "I probably fell in love with Shrine Mont faster than I fell for Tom!" she jokes. "It has been an integral part of our lives, and our children's lives as well." The Bakers became founding members of Shrine Mont's Transfiguration Society for planned gifts by including it in their estate plan. But as they began planning for retirement, they wanted to do more.

"I have worked with a number of clients on charitable gift planning over the years, and I have always been a big fan of charitable gift annuities" said Tom. "As a financial services professional, I looked at the yield on some of our bond portfolio and realized that we could get similar income with a gift annuity, receive a nice tax deduction, eliminate interest rate risk, and benefit Shrine Mont all at the same time."

The Bakers consulted with their CPA and investment team, and everyone gave it a thumbs up. They worked through the Episcopal Church Foundation to establish the gift. "It was a pretty seamless process," said Tom. "We were delighted to do it and we would be happy to discuss it with anyone. It's a win-win for everybody, especially in a low interest rate environment." The Bakers will receive



a fixed income of nearly 4% for their lives, and when they pass away 90% of the remaining funds will go directly to Shrine Mont.

"We're very grateful to the Bakers for their continued generosity to Shrine Mont," said Kevin Moomaw. "They have been part of our community for a long time and we hope that they are with us for decades to come. Their willingness to make a substantial, permanent commitment as they planned for retirement is very meaningful."

### *From our Kitchen to Yours*

## Fresh Apple Cake

4 cups apples, peeled and sliced

2 cups sugar

2 cups flour

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp. salt

2 eggs

2 tsp. vanilla

1 cup chopped pecans

Pre-heat oven to 350. In a large bowl, stir together the apples and sugar; stir well for an even consistency. In a separate bowl, beat together eggs, oil and vanilla. Set aside. Add all dry ingredients to the apple and sugar mixture, then stir in the egg mixture. Fold in the pecans. Pour onto greased 13" X 9" pan. Bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes.



# A Place Apart

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**January 7-9:** Woodcutters' Weekend

**February 15-17:** Winter Digital Photography

**April 22-24:** Volunteer Work Weekend

**April 29-May 1:** Spring Yoga Weekend

**June 3-5:**

Women's Retreat

Arranging for the Joy of It

**June 10-12:**

Painting Creation

Men's Retreat -NEW for 2022

**June 17-19:** Wine Weekend Getaway

**June 24-26:** Summer Yoga

**July 1-4:** Independence Day Celebration

**July 9-12:** Summer Camp for Grownups

**July 18-22:** Summer Day Camp for Youth

**July 22-24:** Writing Workshop

**August 12-14:** Pickleball Weekend

**September 9-11:** Arranging for the Joy of It

**September 11-12:** Tee with the Bishop Golf

**September 16-18:** Fall Yoga

**September 23-25**

Mindfulness Meditation

Oktoberfest

**October 14-16:** Yoga Weekend

**October 19-21:** John Philip Newell School of Earth and Soul Year 1

**October 25-27:** John Philip Newell School of Earth and Soul Year 2

**October 28-30:** Fall Digital Photography

**October 24-27:** Fall Camp



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