

This page was originally intended to be included in the Newsletter sent out last week. We apologized to The St. Martha's Guild and to Carol Hopkins for this exclusion!

Fall Camp at Shrine Mont: October 26-29, 2015

Do you need a true "mountain-top" experience? Sponsored by the Tri-Diocesan Council on Aging, Fall Camp is an opportunity to spend time in the mountains of Virginia with other seniors (but there is no age limit) from across the Commonwealth and from other states. The Camp is an attempt to take seriously the spiritual needs and journeys of primarily retired people. Participants are challenged through keynote speakers, workshops, worship, and interaction with one another.



We worship together in daily sessions, explore various issues, and participate in up to three workshop sessions (each session is an hour and a half) on a variety of topics. A social "half hour" is held before dinner with appetizers provided by a different diocese each evening. In addition to the scheduled activities, there is plenty of time to sit on the porches, visit with friends, relax, enjoy the amazing scenery, and explore the surrounding area.

This year's Keynoters are Ed & Kathleen Kilbourne. Chaplain is Sister Madeline Mary of the Community of St. Mary in Sewanee, Tennessee. Tom Davidson & Missy Stratton Morgan are the Guest Musicians. Workshop and registration information is available in the narthex.

Report from Fall Camp 2014 at Shrine Mont

Fall Camp 2014 at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, Virginia, provided a wonderful retreat for three members of St. John's, Hopewell. Barbara Bean, Mary Ann Leftwich, and Carol Hopkins spent four days in the mountains of Shenandoah during the last week of October. Between them, they enjoyed workshops on calligraphy, Native American crafts, making a church coloring book, and creating (or finding) "sanctuary" spaces. (These were just a few of many options for workshops.) The keynote speaker, Terry Hershey, led us to think about ways to slow down, to be present in each moment, and to find the sacred in every day. Even with almost 200 "campers" attending from all over Virginia and beyond, there was such a warm, loving spirit present in the group that the experience was very personal and quite profound. Humor was abundant and spontaneous. "I have never laughed so hard in my life," was overheard several times.

St. Martha's Guild Report

We have had a busy and active year so far!

January and February: We cleaned and took inventory in the Ribble Hall Kitchen. Cleaned Eppes Hall, giving the ladies bathroom a good scrub down and ready for a makeover!!!

March: We weeded, planted shrubs and flowers and mulched around the Eppes Hall Building.

April: We held the Agape meal with 46 attending!

May: We held our annual yard sale and raised over \$1,050.00!

Ribble Hall: We spent over \$300.00 on items for the kitchen and clear containers for storing everything. A microwave and electric kettle was donated. New curtains were made for the bathrooms.

Eppes Hall: We spent over \$2700.00 plus donations to replace the ladies bathroom sink and faucets as well as add a vanity and decorations. We had a donation of shrubs and flowers that we installed and finished having the last of the old window A/C units and plywood removed and replaced with glass. We also replaced the old folding tables with new light weight ones and carpeted the Sunday School Chapel!

Donations to Charities: totaled \$500.00 that benefited ERD, James House and Hopewell & Prince George Food Pantries. We sold 72 - 175th Commemorative plates and donated the \$400.00 profit to the Commemorative Committee.

We are blessed to have some wonderful St. John's members who give of their time, talents, money and donations to help us with our many projects and charity donations. Thanks to all of you.

If you are not a member of St. Martha's and would like to be, we would love to have you join us. We meet the second Thursday of the month in Eppes at 7PM, September through May. Hope to see you on September 10th at our 1st meeting in the Fall! We will be planning our next big fund raiser, the Fall Bazaar that will be held on November 21st!