



Shrine Mont Annual Report – October 20, 2025

Shrine Mont is a conference and retreat center serving the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. At our heart is the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, the cathedral of the diocese with public services held at 11:00 on Sundays in the spring, summer and fall. During the course of our season, we welcome parish retreats, family reunions, a vast array of conferences and meetings, and the diocesan summer camp program.

Shrine Mont is located on 1,200 acres of forest in the historic resort town of Orkney Springs, VA fifteen miles west of I81 between Winchester and Harrisonburg. Part of our facility is a renovated nineteenth century resort that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Accommodations vary from hotel-style rooms to cottages for families or small groups. Recreation activities include swimming, tennis, hiking, sports activities, volleyball, shuffleboard, tennis, pickleball, bocce and campfires. Golf and other recreation activities are available at nearby Bryce Resort.

In a typical year, Shrine Mont will host over 15,000 guests and between 500 and 700 campers and staff during our season, which starts at the end of April and ends in early November.

This year, 2025, is Shrine Mont's centennial year. It has been a year of celebration for all who have visited and across the Diocese of Virginia. During the Independence Day weekend Shrine Mont welcomed hundreds for a homecoming weekend filled with activities including a renewal of the Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue parade and carnival and bluegrass music. Shrine Mont has received recognition from state and community leaders for our 100 years of service in the Shenandoah Valley.

On August 6, Bishop Michael Curry joined six other bishops and over 450 people in the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the consecration of our diocesan cathedral. Before the service, Shrine Mont fed over 400 people our famous fried chicken dinner.

Shrine Mont also published two commemorative books to celebrate our centennial. The Shrine Mont staff updated the famous Shrine Mont Cookbook with new and improved as well as our tried-and-true recipes to share with our guests. Even the Stones will Shout, written by John and Carolyn Chilton is a new history of Shrine Mont and our first 100 years. We are deeply appreciative of the hard work in producing these two wonderful books.

Gwen Bragg of Alexandria generously contributed a watercolor painting of the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration for a limited run of 100 numbered and signed prints sold in Shrine Mont's bookstore

As part of the centennial celebration Shrine Mont has launched a major capital campaign to lay the foundation for the future. The Living Stones Campaign will raise between \$12 million and \$15 million for major capital improvements and to increase the endowment to over \$10 million.

On October 19 Bishop Stevenson joined the Shrine Mont Board of Directors and Shrine Mont friends to break ground on the restoration of Art Hall and Brown Hall as part of the centennial celebration. There is more information about the celebration and the campaign at www.shrinemont.com/100.

Shrine Mont is deeply appreciative of Roger Bowen, Ron Carey and Diane Miller for their service on our Board of Directors these past six years. Their leadership and commitment have been an amazing help, especially in the preparation for our centennial celebration.



Shrine Mont lost one of our heroes with the death of Thelma Moomaw on October 5. Thelma served Shrine Mont her whole life and we join the Moomaw family in celebrating her life as we grieve her loss.

The 2025 season is going extremely well with a good mix of returning parishes and other groups combined with a number of new conferences and retreats and the centennial celebrations

Shrine Mont continues its partnership with the Virginia Association of Teachers of English to hold our third reading camp for 26 rising third through sixth grade students from Page, Rockingham and Shenandoah counties and the city of Harrisonburg who struggle with reading and writing. These students were referred to camp by their reading specialists at school. Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, camp was no charge for the families.

Other highlights of 2025 include:

- 82 diocesan parish retreats
- 4 diocesan conferences and events
- 19 non-diocesan parish retreats
- 14 non-diocesan conferences and meetings
- Over 500 diocesan campers and staff
- 18 Shrine Mont sponsored programs serving 485 people
- Over 555 nights booked for Shenandoah Valley Music Festival packages
- 11 high school groups including 2 church schools of the diocese
- 18 arts groups
- 6 weddings
- 4 funerals
- 3 baptisms
- 423 donors have contributed \$443,677 to the annual fund as of September 30, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Moomaw, Executive Director