



Located high in the Blue Ridge of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers is a place to expand your horizons—explore new ideas, meet new people and re-connect with yourself, community and the natural world.

Surrounded by the Nantahala National Forest, our home is Little Scaly Mountain—four miles southwest of Highlands, North Carolina. At 4200' elevation, perched atop striking granite cliffs and nestled in an ancient dwarf white oak wind forest, our site is spectacular.

Open year-round, The Mountain offers excellent programming for all ages. Inspiration mixes with renewal as you challenge yourself to grow and learn.



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**August 2 - 6, 2005**  
**Highlands, NC**

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# Interfaith VISIONS for Peace



*energizing people for generations to come*

*We are called into community . . .*

- to affirm the gift of individual diversity so that it might radiate
- to embrace divergent religious perspectives
- build together a peaceful path towards social change.



*We are called into community . . .*

so that our light may shine into the souls of our children and invigorate a sense of purpose, worth, and peace.

*All are welcome:*

- We who are seeking the questions and we who are seeking answers
- We who are troubled by increasing violence
- We who deeply wish to live our values and take time to reflect about what that requires of them
- We who wish to understand why religion, peace, justice and pluralism are inextricably intertwined
- We who hesitate to step out of our “comfort zone” around religious pluralism and cultural diversity

**Interfaith Visions for Peace** will be an interactive experience in which all of us – faculty and participants – are both learners and teachers. Our purpose is to create a space in which people from diverse religious traditions can engage in honest conversation and learning together. Through dialogue, the arts, worship, and reflection, we'll gain understanding about others with whom we might not normally be in community. It is our goal that this experience will allow each of us to incorporate peacemaking into our daily lives, inspiring us to act upon the understanding that peacemaking belongs at the very heart of spirituality. Participants will help create the program as it unfolds, opening our ears, eyes, mouths, hearts and minds, becoming an interfaith community envisioning – and creating – peace.

Plan to participate in this unique and inspiring symposium. We'll explore the climate of religious pluralism in the world today, and how diversity can strengthen non-violent social action as we work to achieve peace and positive community building throughout the world.

This will be a collaborative, “organic” experience that we will create together. Please bring something that represents the theme or what it means to you; you will take this back home with you. Bring something to share – it can be a stone, a vial of water, etc. . . . this will go home with another participant. And bring along whatever tools you need to support you in your process: journals, books that you treasure, music, instruments, etc.

# Beginning the dialogue . . .

*perspectives from our distinguished faculty*

## Faculty

*If there is light in the soul,  
there will be beauty in the person.  
If there is beauty in the person,  
there will be harmony in the house.  
If there is harmony in the house,  
there will be order in the nation.  
And if there is order in the nation,  
there will be peace in the world.*

*Chinese Proverb*

“Peace has to involve the personal without getting so small it doesn’t touch the international, and involve the international without getting so big it doesn’t touch the personal. As leaders of this program, we need to talk about our own perspectives and personal struggles with the process of creating peace – we need to risk the same vulnerability that we’re asking our participant community to risk.”

*The Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy*



**The Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy**, author of over 20 books, including *Faith and Politics*, leads the national non-partisan grassroots and educational organizations, The Interfaith Alliance and The Interfaith Alliance Foundation and serves as the Pastor for Preaching and Worship at Northminster (Baptist) Church in Monroe, Louisiana. In addition to being a prolific writer, Dr. Gaddy provides regular commentary to the national media on issues relating to religion and politics.

“We must acknowledge the significant interpersonal risk of creating a diverse community. We’ll make mistakes, we may say things we didn’t even know we felt. We will encourage each other to approach the work in honesty and amnesty, giving ourselves permission to struggle, be unenlightened. We need to make space where what each of us needs will be able to emerge throughout our time together.”

*The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt*



**The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt** is minister of The Fourth Universalist Society in New York City. She graduated from Yale University and Drew Theological Seminary. The Rev. McNatt is a former editor at the *New York Times Book Review*. In addition, her work has appeared in *Essence*, *Glamour*, *Ms*, *Redbook*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Village Voice* and other publications. She is author of three books, including her memoir, *Unafraid of the Dark*.

“As individuals, we may not be at peace with the way things are, and so we need to consider a peace position as a process rather than a ‘place.’ The arts allow us to engage in this process, moving beyond thought and into the heart and spirit.”

*Dr. Kenneth Nafziger*



**Dr. Kenneth Nafziger** brings people of any musical skill and faith tradition to new levels of spirituality through community singing. His D.M.A. is from the University of Oregon. At Eastern Mennonite University he teaches the EMU Chamber Singers, courses in conducting, music history, interdisciplinary humanities, and music and worship at the seminary. Ken has worked with and conducted performances of many of Cuba’s leading choirs and orchestras. Co-author of *Singing: A Mennonite Voice*, Ken served as clinician at the UU Musician’s Network Conferences at The Mountain in 1994 and 2001.

### YOUR INVESTMENT:

**\$548 (by July 3) – \$657 (after July 3)**  
**(includes lodging, meals & program)**

Space is limited. Please register soon on the enclosed form. Or call **828-526-5838, x0**. If you’re planning to fly into the Atlanta Airport, please call The Mountain before making airline reservations so that we can recommend arrival and departure times.

### DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

**Rabbi Joshua Lesser** — Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta, GA

**Alta Schwarz** — American Friends Service Committee, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

**Voices representing Muslim, Jewish, and other faith traditions will be an integral part of this community conversation.**