

# CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038

[www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae/index.php](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae/index.php) ♦ [alumnae@windstream.net](mailto:alumnae@windstream.net)



## *Stepping Stones to a new camp building*

An exciting idea is boosting our savings for the new multipurpose building. Since being introduced at last year's reunion, nearly 50 engraved Stepping Stones have been ordered and many of them installed in front of the chapel. All proceeds from the sale of these stones is designated for the Special Projects Fund, which now contains \$85,000. Stones have been bought in memory of Crestridgers, including Judy MacMillan and Julie Parkerson, and in honor of campers and staffers, some listing their years at camp and achievements, such as obtaining the rank of Belle or being Village Maid or Queen Crest. Some stones represent camp families. They are providing permanent memories of special people and events that beautify the chapel area. An order form for the stones is on the back page of this newsletter. You may also order them on the website ([www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae)) on the "Store" page.



Located on the site of the current camp store, the main floor of the new building will contain the camp store and will include a clothing room, a dressing room, bathroom, and space for drink/snack sales. The second floor will house the CCAF Museum, which is currently located on the top floor of the Lodge, a building that is not weatherproof. Years of Crestridge memories will have a permanent home in this important addition. Since the building will be built into the hill overlooking the green, the basement area will store landsports equipment. The estimated cost for the building is \$120,000-\$130,000.

Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*  
 Paulette May Basham  
 Susan Cheatham  
 Anja Aloia Cleveland  
 Kara Belcher Cooley  
 Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs  
 Whitney Lemarr

## CCAF Board Members

Susan McFerrin Nielsen, *vice president*  
 Melinda Jay Norman  
 Kappi Brown Pierce  
 Cara Pollard, *secretary*  
 Marva Rawlings, *ex officio*

Ramey Driggers Schutz  
 Rhonda Smith  
 Karen Stitt  
 Dara Trotter  
 Lisa Rudolph Turner, *president*  
 Susan Bridger Waggener, *treasurer, ex officio*

# *Many hands make many memories at MTM 2010*

*by Lisa Rudolph Turner*

A record-breaking 125 people came to Maintain the Memories at camp over Memorial Day weekend. You can get a large amount of projects crossed off a "To Do" list when you have that kind of help – and boy, did we!

Families came from near and far to take part in the activities that began on Friday night. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia, Virginia and Kentucky were well represented by those coming to prepare camp for the 2010 summer sessions – and to soak in the mountain air.

Lifeway and the Conference Center sponsored a cookout at camp that was threatened by rain, but did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance; the expanded dining hall was just the place to house a hungry crowd. The CCAF board met Friday night to discuss current projects, scholarships and membership activities. Families not involved in the meeting played some vicious 4-square, enjoyed the view from the porch of the Bear

Trap, or tried to catch something cool in the lake.

After a good night's sleep at the Conference Center, everyone gathered Saturday morning to begin work on projects all around camp. Painting, landscaping, building, weeding, sealing, hauling, spreading, raking, cleaning – you name it, we did it! After a short break for a pizza lunch, the crews were back at it Saturday afternoon. Most of the projects on Johnnie's list were crossed off by late afternoon. Amazing what you can do with 125 people descending on camp in one weekend!

Dinner at the conference center and welcome showers for sweaty workers led to a memorable time around the campfire singing, reminiscing and roasting marshmallows for some yummy s'mores. Many frequent MTM attendees look forward to this part of the weekend most of all. The mountains and Johnnie – does it get any better?

Sunday morning brought some sore muscles and some beau-

tiful sunshine. Everyone gathered in the chapel for a special time of worship. Music, songs, scripture and a short message were enjoyed by all as we worshiped together in a place sacred to all who have had the privilege of coming to Crest-ridge.

Hugs and goodbyes were in order as our time at camp sadly came to an end. Because so many things were accomplished to prepare for camp's opening, the incoming staff could concentrate on preparing their hearts to lead young women to Christ. You may think it sounds like a lot of work, but really it is our way of coming back and "playing camp" for a weekend – giving back to a place that has meant so much to us all.

Come join us in 2011 as we do it all again. If you are quiet long enough, you can hear the screen door slam at the dining hall, hear a voice yell "CAR!" or hear Johnnie lead us all in "The Mountains Rise" one more time.



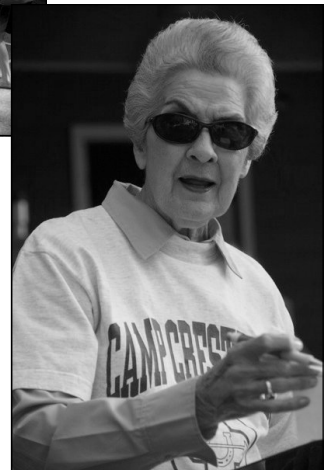
*Much mulch was spread at the campfire area.*



*4-square reigns!*



*A perennial camp favorite: kids playing in the creek!*



*Johnnie kept everyone on task.*

# MEMORY CORNER

by Cara Pollard

The following is an excerpt from Nina T. Pollard's book, *Nothing But a Footprint*:

Late Friday morning, James and I drove the car into the parking lot at Camp Crestridge in North Carolina to pick up an excited 10-year-old, two tons of dirty clothes, a single muddy tennis shoe, miscellaneous addresses accompanied by promises to write, and various articles hitherto unseen by any of us, which mysteriously leaped into suitcases and bags. Cara had spent four weeks at camp, unencumbered by being Andrea's younger sister or anyone else except mischievous, carefree Cara. She had extricated herself from her busy schedule long enough to write one brief note, listing the girls in her cabin (Chippewa 5) and giving the names of her

counselors with appropriate comments.

We spent the noon hour and early afternoon eating lunch in the dining hall while listening to the "Chip-Chick" Choir, admiring and collecting arts and crafts, greeting a parade of newfound friends and parents, proudly accepting compliments from directors, counselors, and campers about our younger daughter, and attending the closing ceremonies and presentation. We made our final drive through camp with Cara's head thrust above the sun roof, responding to the cries of "Bye, Cara. See you next summer. Be sure to write."

Miles of mountain highway rolled away to the accompaniment of camp songs, cheers, memory verses, recounting of pranks and adventures. It was Cara's hour!

*What my mother failed to include in her book was an event that I will never forget. I had been singing and talking for a long time, pausing only to breathe. All of a sudden, I heard my own voice coming from the front seat of the car! My wise mother had hidden a tape recorder on the floorboard and had been recording my every word since we drove out of Crestridge. My excitement and love for Crestridge had been documented fully. Little did we know then that I would spend 16 summers at camp and move to Asheville after college to begin my teaching career. Camp has shaped who I am and my life choices. I only wish I knew where that tape ended up.*

## *Want to go green?*

Please let us know at [calumnae@windstream.net](mailto:calumnae@windstream.net) if you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, which would save paper and printing/postage expense. We're happy to continue snail-mailing it, but want to give you the option. Also, please let us know if you want to be removed from our mailing list.



## *New merchandise – Order online today!!!*

There are only two places to get your Crestridge merchandise: at camp at the end of each session, or ordered from the alumnae website! We still have our new and fantabulous **“Best Summers” T-shirt**. You will want one of these before stock is gone.

### **Two new items were added this summer:**

5” diameter Crestridge Emblem Car Magnet at \$5 each

Rain/Wind Slicker Jacket (dark green with “Camp Crestridge” embroidered on left chest) at \$29 each. These items sold extremely well at camp’s closing ceremonies. Get your order in today!!

**Coming Soon:** Do you have a Tervis Tumbler in your kitchen cabinet – you know, the insulated drinkware that’s guaranteed for life? Would you like to have one with the Camp Crestridge emblem? Keep watching the website for them to be available in the fall/winter. (Design will be an embroidered Crestridge emblem embedded between the layers, not the one you see in the website photo.)

**Pre-order your “Exit 66” T-shirt today.** This item arose from a camper’s plaintive remark, “Oh, Mama, I need Exit 66” — the Ridgecrest exit off I-40! Price is \$15 each. Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL (On the website illustration, stars showing camp location will be moved to correct side of state and the “Oh Mama, I need” wording on front left chest will be clearer.)

Go to [www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae) and click on “Store” to order a variety of items. Great for Christmas gifts!

## *Scholarship Endowment Fund is making a difference*

*by Susan Nielsen*

In our fall 2009 newsletter, we announced an offer from Larry and Sallie Driggers to match donations to the endowment fund to honor the memory of camper Maggie Lee Henson with a named scholarship. Alumnae and friends responded by donating the \$4,750 to complete the \$10,000 needed. A lasting memorial has now been created for Maggie Lee, who tragically died as a result of injuries in a bus crash last summer. She was the daughter of former Ridgecrest John Henson and attended session 1A in 2009.

This brings our total to three named scholarships. The first was given by Abbott and Eddie Lou Garvin in honor of their daughter, Sallie Driggers, and her camp friend Willa Stevenson McGimsey. The second is in memory of Judye MacMillan, longtime staffer and music director. A fourth has been started in honor of Ramey Driggers Schutz and Kara Belcher Cooley and a fifth in memory of longtime waterfront director Julie Parkerson.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in

2007 to fund camper scholarships with interest earned through the fund. Each year, income from the fund is added to donations received during the year for annual scholarships. Cumulative donations totaling \$10,000 will enable a scholarship to be named for one or two individuals. If you would like to start a named scholarship or donate to an existing one, just earmark your donation to the Endowment Fund with the individual’s name. We will keep the membership updated with those names.

# THE GRAPEVINE

by Anja Aloia Cleveland

## **Kathi Merrell Longoria**

was a camper with her sister, **Kristi**. She says that when she sees a name in our Grapevine that she recognizes, it warms her heart and mind with feelings of fun summers at CC. Kathi is married and lives in Ocean City, Md. with her two boys, Major (7) and Merrell (2). She is a graduate of Meredith College and runs a retail business while her husband specializes in miniature golf courses. In her own words: "Many of our friends don't understand why I want to send my 7-year-old away to CR for 2 weeks. The only answer I have is: I may not remember specifics, but I remember how I felt about going to camp. I could live on those feelings the whole school year knowing I would get to return and see my camp friends. My son, Major, is excited and we are so blessed to know he will have an awesome time because we know he will be in the Lord's hands."

## **Carol Thompson Brown**

is living in Harrodsburg, Ky. She left private school administration and started a private learning center focusing on intensive cognitive therapy (brain fitness training) working on memory, processing, attention, logic and reasoning, reading, and comprehension.

## **Ruth Harris (1973-1980)**

has spent her time helping start Hispanic Baptist churches. She has been in Virginia and North Carolina and is now in Oklahoma City, where she is helping start Hispanic Baptist house churches and offering training to existing Hispanic Baptist churches statewide. She has had numerous opportunities to pray with Mexican ladies to receive Christ.

## **Shelly Sipes Snead**

and husband P.K. live in Glorieta, New Mexico where he is the business manager at Glorieta Conference Center. They have two sons, 8-year-old Silas (a Ridgecrester) and

Josiah (5). They recently adopted two more children from Rwanda, Samuel (4) and Savanna (3). Shelly stays busy with homeschooling her kids – when they are home!!!

## **Niki Crook Martin**

of Childersburg, Ala., will have a new son, Elijah Rain Martin, by the time you receive this newsletter. He will be named Rain in memory of his older sister who passed away in 1999. Niki and her husband, Roger, continue lead their local Celebrate Recovery Ministry that has grown from 30 to 150 clients in one year. Niki also works with Coosa Valley Resources for Women which is a Christ-centered Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Center.

## **Andrea Hays Perkins**

has a new Ridgecrester who was born this spring and a 6-year-old daughter, Emma. **Amy Waggener Tate** produced one for each camp when she gave birth to twins Julia Ellen and Henry Neal on Aug. 4. Son William will be 2 in November. Amy's sister **Erin Waggener Hobbs** expects her third child, joining daughter Brooke, 5, and son Bridger, 3, as this newsletter goes to press.

## **Jane Hendrix Davis**

of Birmingham, Ala., teaches piano and plays for her church. She has been married for 36 years and has two grown children and two grandchildren. In addition to playing piano, she plays tennis, enjoys gardening, and loves to write (with hopes of being published one day). She has great memories of her camping buddies: **Aggie Gressinger**, **Cynthia Thiebaud**, **Charlotte Robinson**, and **Bebe Neill**. She was so inspired by **Ashley McCue's** Memory Corner in our last newsletter that she shared some of her writing with us. She says: "I was transported back in time to the '60s and to that same flashback of the smell of campfire ... and my

first s'mores and how we dug the pit for the fire and made our own stew with ground beef and corn and it always tasted so good ... and campfire with **Murray (Mary Ann Harrington)** "blowing the trumpet" through her lips and how she mesmerized us at campfire where we sang and sang and tears would stream down without my knowing it ... from the sheer "heart" – attack of hearing our voices echo across the lake and up to God ... taking lifesaving with **Mary Sue Rix**, who was as tough as a drill sergeant, but because of that provided me with the skills to be a life-guard on several occasions ... being tapped out in the middle of the night for Belle, and feeling like Miss Universe because of it. I remember calling my mother to ask if I could stay longer as I had become a child of the mountains and the whole experience was the best thing I had ever done and felt so right in every way ... I often wonder if other camps have this same life-effect on other people, and just have to believe that CC is the ONLY camp which instills such amazing and life-altering moments – I don't want to know if I am wrong."

## **Anja Aloia Cleveland**

had the opportunity to take a girls' beach trip with her very first Crestridge friend, **Julie Williams English**. We were cabin buddies our first summer at camp. She came back the next year, but that was it for her. We remained pen pals for nine years after camp and then became college roomies our senior year at UGA. It's amazing to see the bonds that form after just eight weeks at Crestridge.

You too can share your memories as well as your day-to-day activities. It only takes a moment of your time to send us an e-mail at [calum-nae@windstream.net](mailto:calum-nae@windstream.net).

## Camp Crestridge Stepping Stone Path

*"... and each must make, ere life has flown, a stumbling block or a stepping stone."*

If you would like to order a stepping stone, please fill out the form below and return it with your check to CCAF, PO Box 22038, Lexington KY 40522-2038.

Purchaser's name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check stone size:	_____ Small (8x10")	1 line of text	\$100
	_____ Medium (11-12")	2 lines of text	\$125
	_____ Large (13-14")	3 lines of text	\$150

Text to be inscribed on stone (please PRINT legibly):  
(size of font varies by length of line)

First line: \_\_\_\_\_

Second line: \_\_\_\_\_

Third line: \_\_\_\_\_

Stones may also be ordered online through our website:

[www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae) (click on "Store")



### Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends

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Lexington, KY 40522-2038

Please let us know at [alumnae@windstream.net](mailto:alumnae@windstream.net) if you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Also, please let us know if you want to be removed from our mailing list.



*With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I shall reach for the stars.*