

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038
50th Summer Reunion Issue



"It was pure joy and fun to be in Camp again. I don't know why I have waited so long to go back. ... It was so good to know that the same spirit of love still prevails at camp that was there 50 years ago. God has his hand on Camp Crestridge."

-- Mary Gellerstedt, who spoke in chapel the first summer



Left: It wouldn't be a reunion without Johnnie leading a campfire service in her old blue shirt!

To read the text of Johnnie's campfire message, go to the alumnae Web site:

www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae

and click on Reunion, then on Saturday afternoon/evening, and at the bottom of the page is a link to Johnnie's notes.



Left: Choctaw Village Directors from 80-90s era: Susan Cheatham, Celia Brown Layman, Anja Aloia Cleveland, Kara Belcher Cooley, Robin Thompson Parish, Nancy Brown



Right: We were pleased to have many attending who have had a hand in the history of Crestridge, including former camps director Rick Johnson.



During the chapel service, eight charter staffers were recognized. They are, from left, Mary Beth Sullivan Taylor, Mary Gellerstedt, Johnnie Armstrong, Ruth Ann Thomas Wade Hill, Marillyn Shiver Nations, Jean Emrich Landrum, Birdie Bell, and Donna Sullivan Stark.

Alumnae Board

Karen Stitt Aiken
Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*
Paulette May Basham
Toni Duke Branyon
Ruth Burkett
Susan Cheatham
Anja Aloia Cleveland, *president*

Katie Waggener Dicks
Ellen Parker Gaffney
Lisa Harris Joyner
Susan McFerrin Nielson, *president elect*
Linda Hamil Orwig

Robin Thompson Parish, *secretary*
Marva Rawlings, *ex officio*
Jean Jones Richards
Debbie Lackey Skaggs
Cindy Tillis
Susan Bridger Waggener,
treasurer, ex officio

We did it!

God has once again shown His greatness!! Our "Reach for the Stars" Campaign for chapel renovation funds was short and very sweet!! We officially began our quest for \$50,000 for the 50th Summer with our February newsletter. In July, as many of us met at camp for the 50th Summer Reunion, we were only \$20,000 short of our goal by the final night. God laid it upon the heart of a dear Crestridge alumna and her husband to present a challenge to all Crestridge alumnae and friends: They would match all gifts up to \$10,000 that were donated by August 31. You answered that challenge by the *first week* in August. *God is faithful!!!*

Chapel renovations will begin this month and should be done before winter arrives in North Carolina. These renovations include expanding the Chapel to add more seating, electrical work, additional lighting, and a new stage floor. You will see updates on our Web site as the progress continues.

Again, we thank each and every one of you for your faithfulness in keeping Crestridge alive and growing each summer. This is not the end of our fundraising. If you missed the opportunity to donate to the Chapel renovations, don't feel left out. We have many projects on our "to-do" list as well as our annual scholarship program that require donations from you. So, please pray and ask God to lead you in giving back to Crestridge. We keep a "special projects fund" open at all times and seek God's guidance in how best to utilize the funds. (And remember, all donations are tax deductible.) We will keep you updated on future projects. If you have a suggestion for a camp improvement, please let us know.

Many people helped us reach this goal. Alums, current staffers and parents of campers and staffers responded in force. Some, whose names may not be listed below, donated lovely, one-of-a-kind items for our auction at the reunion. Many others give generously to the scholarship fund. Some chapel fund donations were cash gifts; for those, we do not have the donors' names. Our sincere thanks go to all who contributed in any way. As promised on our first postcard, here is a list of our known Reach for the Stars donors at press time:

Reach for the Stars Society (\$5,000 +)

Pat Patterson Ligon
Holly Reid
Trudy Cathy White

Honor Band Society (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Johnnie Armstrong
Susan McFerrin Nielsen
Paulette May Basham
Ruth and Norvel Lee Burkett
Leslie O'Neal
Elizabeth Hege Schamber
Ron Springs
Karen Rozier Verlander
Ben and Beth Bridger Watson

Ki Yi Society (\$500 - \$999)

Karen Stitt Aiken
Anja Aloia Cleveland
Kate Waggener Dicks
Larry and Sally Driggers
Sherry Knight Hodge
Reidi C. Lott
Jim and Peggy Morgan
Robin Nesmith Murray
Robin Thompson Parish
Ellen Mann Saunders
Hazel Teal

Pavilion Club (\$250 - \$499)

Tom and Diana Ashman
Carla S. Cade
Katherine Gilreath Counce
Nan Lewis Coxe
Linda LePage Green
Liefje Sanders Marshall
Carole Pearson
Cara Pollard
Theresa Ann Schaefer Rayman
Mary Sue Rix
Rachel Bergin Smith
Rene Hardy Stoll

Waterfront Club (\$100 - \$299)

Dale and Wanda Adkins
Chris and Nancy Aloia
Janie Belue
Pat Grogan Borders
Jean C. Bost-Moore
Judy Williams Bowen-Holman
Manley F. Brown
Lynn Greenleaf Brown
Ashli Burkhart
Lucy C. Butler
Lucy S. Carpenter
Kara Belcher Cooley
Shelley Darrow
Susan Mayo Dawsey
Delancy Franklin
Betsy Horton Fuzy
Ellen Parker Gaffney
Toni Gariano

Donna S. Garner
Mary Gellerstedt
Mary Gooch
Ruth E. Harris
Jessica Holley
Liska M. Hooker
Julie Davis Hopkins
Frank Johnson
Sharron Pou Leggett
Sandy Brown Lovette
Rose Marr
Garrian McGhee
SuEllen Mooney
Marillyn Shiver Nations
Susan Smith Prevatt
Tamla S. Pridgen
Donna Rabadan
Gary A. Rigby
Susan W. Sanders
Robert Strickland
Marguerite Baumeister Teska
Jennifer Warren

Bear Trap Club (\$50 - \$99)

Teresa Boogades Bittle
Anne Troutman Brown
Betsy Buchanan
Susan Cheatham
Katie Sudduth Clark
Eddie Cole
Shirley Davis
Janina Garner

Bonnie G. Henry
Kaye Merrell
Kappi Brown Pierce
Bonnie Barwick Sloan
Maureen Szymanski
Amy Waggener
Susan Bridger Waggener
Susan Morgan Washinsky
Susan Stitt Yenney

Crestridge Cutie Pie Club (up to \$49)

Karen Anderson
Ellen Brown Blake
Toni Duke Branyon
Rebecca Day
Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs
Rebecca Johnson
Laura Steven Meyers
Andrea Nickell
Lorry Farr Noli
Jan Langston Ware
Jeannie Lloyd Williams
Jo Yvars

(Any errors in this list are inadvertent. Please report any corrections or additions to Susan Waggener at swaggener@insightbb.com.)



Is there any sound as sweet as Crestridgers singing? A singspiration and a chapel service gave us a chance to make a joyful noise to the Lord.



Mmmm. Just seeing former cook Alma Ryan, top right, brings back memories of all her good food! That's Mary Gellerstedt next to Alma and Carole Pearson next to Mary. Rebekah Mains Deaton is in front.

"I loved every minute I was at camp this past weekend -- so many old Christian friends -- I was truly blessed by being in that Christian atmosphere once again!" -- May Campbell, who returned to camp for the first time since 1974

"I truly enjoyed the reunion. What a blessing! I look forward to the day when Maggie and Lillie are old enough to attend Crest-ridge." -- Kara Belcher Cooley



Charter campers Sandy Brown Lovette, left, Patsy Patterson Ligon, second from right, and Mary Patton Sarros, right, were introduced by Johnnie on the green.



Ruth and Norvel Lee Burkett were honored as we dedicated the pavilion fireplace and chimney. The Burketts gave the money for this wonderful addition to the pavilion.



Rolyn Quattlebaum Rollins, Anja Aloia Cleveland, Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs

Calling all recent and current Crestridgers:

Sandy Brown Lovette, a charter Crestridger, mother of 3 Crestridgers and one Ridgecrester, and grandmother of a Crestridger, has recently moved to North Carolina from Alabama. She has always had a love for Crestridge and now is close enough to visit camp regularly. Sandy has been maintaining our Museum at camp since its inception. Unfortunately, after the loss of our dear Julie Parkerson in March 1997, the annual summer photo scrapbooks stopped. Sandy wants to bring these scrapbooks back to life. To do so, she needs photos from past summers at camp. If you have photos from 1997 to the present, please pull them out and write the year, session, names, etc. on the back and send them to Sandy so she can assemble scrapbooks for each of us to reminisce over in the years to come.

Sandy's address is: 45 Town and Country Dr. Waynesville, NC 28786

Scholarship Update

I feel like I am one of the luckiest people in world because I have opportunity to see the joy and happiness on the faces of the girls that CCAF helps bring to Crestridge each summer. This summer, with a donation of \$10,000, we were able to help 15 young ladies attend Crestridge.

Being there and being a part of their camp experience made me even more aware of the role we can play in giving these girls the opportunity to experience Christ at Crestridge ... and speaking of experiencing Christ at Crestridge, we had 111 girls accept Christ as their personal Savior this summer while at camp. Our staff this summer was so focused on teaching about the love of God that I am sure more decisions were made when the girls left camp. Many seeds were planted at Crestridge this summer.

Selah's song *You Raise Me Up* became a favorite this summer. The last verse says, "There is no life – no life without its hunger – each restless heart beats so imperfectly – but when you come and I am filled with wonder, sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity." I truly believe that each of the girls we helped this summer got a glimpse of eternity. I ask you to continue helping make a difference in the life of girls who can't afford to come to camp.

-- Debbye Lackey Skaggs

"How awesome it was to bask in the warmth and love of the Crestridge spirit during the 50th reunion weekend! ... The most important aspect of the weekend for me was to see all of you 'charter staffers' who had such an impact on my Christian life."

-- Patsy Patterson Ligon (charter camper, first Queen Crester)



Johnnie honored the extended Driggers family (Larry holding granddaughter Willa Jane and Sallie with microphone) for their behind-the-scenes contributions over the years. When they see something that needs doing around camp, they do it or arrange to have it done.



L-R: Jeanene Boucher, Sharon Pou Leggett and Trudy Cathy White reacted to auctioneer Susan Cheatham's antics in the pavilion.



Old camp buddies Kim Davis, left, and Amy Waggener reunited as a duet for the chapel program.

Shannon Smith, Nan Ellen Nelson and Julie Davis Hopkins got into the music at Friday night's Singpiration.



Holly Lovette Swinsick brought daughters (and third-generation Crestridges) Catie, left, and Maddie.



Ellen Brown Blake lifted her beautiful voice in song.



Sisters Theresa Ann Schaefer Rayman, left, and Ina Kay Schaefer Davis found out about CCAF just in time to make it to the reunion.

For more pictures of the reunion, check out our Web site at www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae.



Mark your calendar!

Plan now for

Maintain the Memories 2005
Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22

(NOTE: This year MTM is not on Memorial Day weekend because the camp calendar has been shifted and staff will be arriving then. We need to have the camp ready to welcome them, so it's a bit earlier.)



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