

CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE & FRIENDS

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CRESTRIDGE'S 60TH SUMMER HOMECOMING "HONORING THE LEGACY"

A NOTE FROM SUSAN BRIDGER WAGGENER:

After 21 years as treasurer of CCAF, I have decided to "retire." It has been wonderful to participate from the beginning and watch CCAF grow and accomplish all that we have. CCAF has the most loyal and generous members I've ever seen, evidenced by the special projects, work weekends, reunions and fundraising through the years. Being on the board has allowed me to keep in touch with so many of my friends from camp days as well as expand my circle of dear friends to include those I never would have known. It has been my pleasure to serve, and I retire from the post knowing that the board is in good hands and that Susan McFerrin Nielsen is the perfect person to take over as treasurer.

**Please take note of the NEW
CCAF ADDRESS as of
October 1, 2014: PO Box 5462
Bella Vista AR 72714-5462**

This past July 4th weekend Crestridge Alumnae & Friends hosted camp's 60th summer homecoming reunion. We had a wonderful time with approximately 250 attendees from 20 states!



We even had several

charter campers and staffers in attendance who helped celebrate this milestone.

We were lucky to enjoy great weather, food, and activities throughout the weekend. Highlights included a rousing sock war, singspiration led by Debbye Skaggs Newton, an auction that included great vintage camp items, a sunrise hike with Marva Rawlings, and a special campfire talk led by Johnnie Armstrong. During the weekend's chapel service Ms. Debbye was honored for her 30 years of service at Camp Crestridge in numerous roles. She was given a Pandora bracelet as a small token of our appreciation for her servant heart.



Robin Thompson Parish took many wonderful photos during the reunion. You can see them on CCAF's facebook page. Bet you can find someone you know!

It was evident that this event served as a great opportunity to show our appreciation for camp, rekindle friendships, share stories, and feel God's presence within Crestridge's gates. We are lucky to be a part of a place that has been so important to all of us throughout the years.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the camp auction, either as a donor of items or in bidding on items. The auction raised approximately \$13,000 for the Scholarship Endowment Fund.

We are thinking about the next reunion (in 2019) already, so please keep in touch, as we love to hear from you all. Do note that the CCAF mailing address has changed!



Chapman, Janie Belue, and Sarah Harris (CR Summer Administrative Assistant).

In August, several camp alums attended the Steven Curtis Chapman concert at Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Janie Belue contacted him and a few lucky folks got to say hello at the meet-and-greet. During the concert, Steven Curtis Chapman mentioned that his family had spent time in these mountains because his girls attended Crestridge. Lots of camp people responded with cheers! We were dancing in the aisles to *The Great Adventure*, *Live Out Loud*, and many other CC4G favorites! Pictured left to right: Paul Grass (CR alum), Cara Pollard, Steven Curtis



THE GREAT COMMISSION

My name is Liz Mannchen, formerly known as Liz Burkhard. I went to Crestridge between 1998-2001. I am 27 years old, from Orlando, Florida, and I am currently working as a long-term missionary with my husband, Uli, in Germany. For the past seven years we have worked with an international missions organization called Youth With A Mission, or YWAM. Uli and I are leaders of a ministry under YWAM called Pick a Pocket. Pick A Pocket's focus is to embody the Gospel wherever we go, serve people trapped in extreme poverty, create art, raise awareness about ways to transform communities, and forge new connections between the developed and developing world. We are challenging people to pick one person's pocket to fill with basic needs, hope, value and change. To simply Pick a Pocket.



Over the past years, we have served in countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia using our love for Jesus, missions and arts to support projects that help people rise up out of poverty. We have started projects ranging from rescue missions for children who were going to be killed because of tribal beliefs in the Karo tribe of Ethiopia, a cafe that served as a transitional job for

young girls escaping prostitution, and an after-school center for teenage girls who were living and working in the trash dumps.

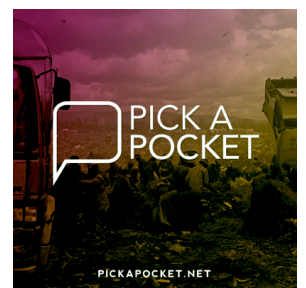
We believe that God wants to use the arts as a direct amplifier to the world. Artists have an ability to see and create beauty out of nothing and show that beauty to the rest of the world. In the same way, we want to use our art to show value, beauty and God's heart for the poor to the rest of the world and disciple a generation into taking action and responding to Jesus' call for "The Great Commission."



Part of my journey started at Crestridge, which had a huge influence on my walk with the Lord. During my Belle challenge, I heard the Lord speaking to me. I remember that I was incredibly tired and did not think I could continue. My fire was just about to burn out and I realized I was going to lose the whole challenge.

Belle was very important for me. It was the first time in my life I really wanted to fight for something I believed in and prove to myself that I was capable of doing something that would challenge me not only physically, but mentally and spiritually.

At that moment, for the first time ever, I heard a small voice rise up in me that said, "Blow on the fire three more times. I will keep your light burning." I didn't know what I had just heard, but I tried it. I lay on the ground, so exhausted, and I blew on the fire with all the breath I had. The first breath, nothing changed. The second, a small flicker ignited on the wood, and by the third breath, a huge flame rose up. It was the most beautiful fire I had ever seen. It lasted until the remainder of the challenge and completely inspired me to keep going until the end, when I was able to finish strong and become a Belle!



It was a really wonderful time in my life and it showed me that God was not only with me, but that He would always give me the strength I needed to move forward in any challenge. In challenging times, I think back to that moment and remember those sweet words: "I will keep your light burning." Thank you, Crestridge, for facilitating such an incredible experience for me and other girls. I hope for many young girls to experience the Lord through the platform you guys are giving them, and that more fires are ignited in their lives along the way! If you'd like to know more about our work, you can check us out at www.themannchens.com.

HMM ... I WANT TO LINGER ... A LITTLE LONGER

A TALE OF TWO CAMPERS - SALLIE DRIGGERS AND WILLA MCGIMSEY

From Larry Driggers:

In the 1940s and '50s Abbott and Eddie Lou Garvin went to Ridgecrest Conference Center for various church workshops. When they learned that Ridgecrest had started a girls' camp, they decided that Sallie should go.



Money was tight, and it took a couple of years to save enough for that first five-week session. Finally in 1963, not knowing anyone at Crestridge and by herself on the train, Sallie was off to camp. As she went, her mother prayed that God would keep her safe and have Christian leaders and help her make Christian friends. Well, God

answered those prayers. Two of the leaders were Assistant Director Johnnie Armstrong and Judy MacMillan, Sallie's counselor.

The first camper Sallie met was Willa Stevenson from Seneca, S.C. It was also Willa's first time at camp. Money was also tight for her parents, but Willa had a loving aunt who paid for Willa to go to Crestridge. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

God had a plan. God's plan was that two families would make sacrifices to send two young girls to camp. Even though Sallie and Willa did not know each other before, God's plan was for them to become best friends and to love and care for them during every stage of life. That included high school, college, married life, raising children and grandchildren, and being there through good as well as hard family times.

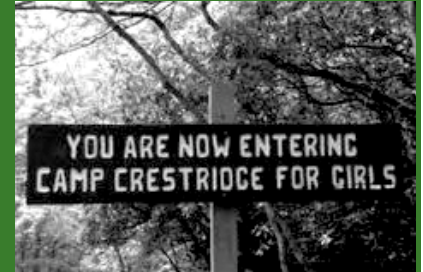
God's plan was that for over 45 years, two young girls would become sisters in Christ and would love, support, and pray for each other, and be there for each other no matter what was happening. Sallie's granddaughter, Willa Schutz, is named after "Aunt" Willa. Willa's first time at Crestridge as a camper was in 2007.



Editor's note: As they gave an endowed scholarship in Sallie and Willa's names, Abbott and Eddie Lou Garvin pray that they may be a part in God's plan for other young girls to attend Crestridge, to accept Him as Lord and Savior, and to find a "Best Friend" at camp.

FROM WILLA STEVENSON MCGIMSEY:

Mom and Dad drove me to Crestridge that summer morning just three hours from Seneca, S.C. As they drove away, I felt suddenly lost without my brothers and parents nearby. Wandering around camp, I stumbled into the Dining Hall and dragged a chair to the middle of that enormous floor. I sat and waited and watched out the back windows for friends to arrive.



It was 1963. I was 12. The longest I had ever been away from home was a week at church camp; the thought of being away for a month was daunting. Yet, together, my new best friend, Sallie Jane Garvin, whom I had yet to meet, and I were about to embark on our most memorable, fun-filled summer. Shortly after our move into Chickasaw 1, Sallie and I carved our names into the cabin wall. Our lifelong friendship had begun.

To this day I use the copper bookends I made at Crestridge. They have a wooden back with a piece of copper with my initials (WS) raised on the front, and they look good. I won a first place in the crafts fair at the end of the session—an aluminum plate with tool work in the shape of an Asian pagoda. Hopefully, the crafts are equally as long-lasting and usable as our friendship!

In 1990, I returned to Crestridge for two weeks while Myers, our son, attended Camp Ridgecrest. Shoveling out the horse stalls and grooming the horses with Birdie Bell are etched in my memory. Simultaneously, Sallie was at Crestridge working the waterfront while her daughter, Ramey Jane, was a camper. Sallie and I shared a cabin.

My aunt, Frances Stevenson Giles, made my Crestridge experience possible. She had developed enduring friendships with Arvine Bell and Johnnie Armstrong while working summers in the gift shop at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. I had visited her there and enjoyed raspberry sorbet in the Nibble Nook.

Through 50 years, Sallie and I have found ways to connect by phone, car and airplane, in that I flew for Delta. Additionally, we now text and connect on Facebook or by email and routinely visit each other in Charleston or Atlanta. In 2000, Ramey gave birth to Wilhelminia (Willa) Jane, and the Crestridge story continues through the Schutz family.

Editor's note: This past spring, Willa Stevenson McGimsey donated an endowed scholarship in memory of Frances Stevenson Giles, Hariette Myers and William Thomas Stevenson, Jr., who made her Crestridge summer of 1963 possible.



Camp Crestridge Alumni and Friends, Inc.
PO Box 5462
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A special thank you to alumna Lori Angell Langway and L&E Meridian for donating the production, printing, and mailing of this newsletter.

MEET THE KATIES!

KATIE KNOWLES - CRESTRIDGE INTERN, I KATIE GREENWELL, CRESTRIDGE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Hey, I'm Katie! I grew up coming to camp, spending 8 summers here as a camper, and I just completed my third summer on staff. In May I graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. This

past summer I was the Outdoor Adventure Program Director, and I had so much fun leading Cherokees on hikes, going on climbing trips in Big Ivy National Forest, and teaching campers how to build fires, among many other fun things. Camp has always played a pivotal role in my life, and I could not be more grateful for its impact on me. That being said, I am very excited to serve as the intern this year, especially as we undergo so many big and exciting changes.

This summer I got to see a different side of CC4G. I saw the tremendous responsibility and opportunity the staff has to be tools in God's hands to provide excellent experiences and counsel that is rooted and grounded in the heart, mind, and power of the Gospel. It was fun to see campers and staff connect through absolutely ridiculously fun moments as well as through intentional and meaningful conversations. What happens here in those moments can be so much more than passing moments. Our prayer is that they count for eternity.

That being said, I am so pumped to be a part of Crestridge life full-time now!! This is the first time in forever that I haven't wondered what I'd be doing the next year. And when that thought crossed my mind as I was at camp this summer, I looked around at all the campers and couldn't believe I was going to get to watch these girls grow up. I can't think of anything I'd rather do.

There will be a lot of "growing" this year at camp but the facilities are not the only things that will be growing. A major part of my role will be overseeing the growth of the summer staff. We will be doing a lot of recruiting as well as evaluating how we can better equip and better serve our staff so they will in turn be able to better love and serve our campers. Keep us in your prayers with this. Pray that we will be creative in recruiting, dependent on the Lord and discerning in hiring, and skillful in training and supervising. And pray for Him to send us His handpicked staffers!! He has been so faithful and we are confident He will blow us out of the water again!



CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUNNAE & FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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