

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



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We are grieving the passing of longtime Crestridge music director Judy MacMillan from ovarian cancer on Tuesday, July 24. So many lives were touched by her talent and ability to nurture and pull amazing levels of performances from her choirs. Her funeral was July 28 in Kennesaw, Ga., and about 35 Crestridgers attended.

It has been suggested that a fund be established through Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends in Judy Mac's memory to provide support for the music program at camp. This will be part of our Special Projects fund and will help ensure that future needs for items such as upgraded sounds equipment can be met. If you would like to honor Judy Mac's life in this fashion or by contributing to the Arvine Bell Scholarship Fund, you may make a donation through the CCAF website (www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae) via PayPal or mail a check to CCAF, at the address above. Of course, all gifts are tax-deductible and receipts will be provided.

Annie Hunt Burriss, who visited Judy Mac in the hospital a day and a half before she died, recounts her visit:

Apparently, I was the last Crest-ridger to visit with Judy, so I'm sharing the message given her on your behalf. Judy was heavily sedated, lying on her side in a small private room, her breathing quite labored and irregular.

One glorious Easter lily had just bloomed in our home garden and its smell – simply divine! One never knows what is absorbed in different states of consciousness, but smell is among our strongest senses and memory holders. So, I took the flower to her, and when I bent over to speak to her, I said, "Judy Mac, here's the sweet smell of Easter morning coming straight from Crestridgers to you." I identified myself and said that I was representing her Crestridge fan club.

I told her the lily represented the sweet scent of songs she shared through the years with Crestridgers and her Easter day coming soon. I said the songs she taught us were what many of us took home from our Crestridge mountaintop experiences, and the songs lifted us during life's valleys and also gave us great means to just be joyful and give release to our creative souls.

I told her that for about three decades, she was in my head just about every morning. Do you remember a 1970s Chapel call-to-worship: "Good Morning, Lord"? I told her I was unbelievably good at belting it out in the shower or in my car, but since she probably didn't need a case of heartburn right then, I would not sing for her. Actually, I said, I was afraid to sing it to her because she was such a perfectionist and I was always kind of scared of her! However, on behalf of the Crest-ridge nation, I told her she needed to know that her pursuit of excellence inspired us all to levels we never knew possible.

I told her she also had abated my fear by being a great prankster. I told her we all loved seeing her breakthrough smile and great laugh. Whenever she gave her approval, we knew that we truly earned it. What a relief! What inspiration to reach for the stars!

I concluded by saying goodbye, with much love from your Crestridge friends. We lift you up in love and prayers. We are eternally grateful for your singspirations, the songs you taught us that come popping into our heads and hearts, and that will continue to for many years to come.

And I asked her to do us a favor, just one last thing: "Your Crestridge fam-

ily is counting on you to belt out a great 'Good morning, Lord' when you meet Christ face-to-face. OK?"

So, I told Judy Mac, go in peace, lifted up by the love and prayers of your Crestridge family.

Judy is buried on a hilltop next to New Salem Baptist Church in Kennesaw. She's in a beautiful place where many fragrant lilies adorned her church service and burial. She's joined her parents whom she loved dearly.

Judy Mac's sounds of music, that great smile and laugh, her intense commitment to excellence, family, friends and faith is a gift that keeps on giving. Can't you hear and see her now? "The mountains rise and lift our hearts to high ideals" Or, better yet: "Good morning, Lord! It's great to see the sun again. Good morning, Lord – I breathe the morning fragrance in! This day's a flower, and while it blooms I'll trust its care to you. That's why we sing, as it begins, Good morning, Lord!"

Crestridge love,
Annie Hunt Burriss (camper: 1962, 63, 64, 66, 69; staff 1971, 72, 73, 74; manure shoveler and laundry folder 2003)

Alumnae Board

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Remembrances of Judy Mac

(Edited for space; full versions are on the CCAF website)

My daughters Lie-fje Sanders Marshall and Meisje Sanders Arcuri have never stopped talking about their experiences at Crestridge and specifically with Judy. I remember some of the closing programs with pride that my children were having such a rewarding experience. Regardless of when you attended camp, it feels that we are all members of a big family that continues to grow from generation to generation. Judy's music touched a lot of girls who will sing with joy for a lifetime.

*Edwina H. Sanders
Crestridge 1957-58*

Even as a child I was not a good singer, yet I loved to sing. I remember at least two summers Judy encouraging me in Choir and one year in Ensemble. She knew that I was having a good time and was with good friends.

Kristi Merrell-Burch

In my mind, I can still see Judy Mac so clearly directing us in her special way. She had a way of holding the highest standards and making us do our very best. I worked for Judy as assistant music director one summer. I learned a lot about hard work, high standards, and time management! My love for directing choirs and singing started at camp and was directly influenced by Judy. Her legacy will always remain in the hearts of those who loved her and learned from her, and also in those lives that we touch as well.

Ellen Brown Blake

Oh, how I can picture Judy leading us all in our praises to the King. I can feel her eyes on me, as I knew I should know the words and be looking right at her, following her very good intentions to lead us in another perfect musical performance. I can hear her angelic voice over us all singing *Climb Every Mountain*. I know she is singing with the saints, dancing at the feet of our Lord

and Savior. Well done, good and oh so very faithful servant. Thank you, Judy Mac – how you have blessed us all.

Jan Langston Ware

When I think of the musicals Judy Mac directed, I look back with total awe. How did she have us singing Broadway-quality musicals in less than four weeks? To sum her up in one word, it would be excellence. Judy Mac was truly a Colossians 3:23 lady. She worked with all her heart at whatever God called her



to do. She poured everything she had into her God-given talents and gifts. It's the little things I'll remember most, like when I sing *Let There Be Praise*, I still pronounce the last word "prez" — the exact sound Judy Mac told us to make so it wouldn't come out sounding twangy. My dusty music trophies remind me of her sacrifices, to get no glory for herself but to invest in the self-esteem of a little girl. My entire camp experience would have been incomplete without the love, humor, creativity, passion and excellence of a special woman.

Julie Davis Hopkins

Through many years of my time at Crestridge, Judy Mac was a significant and meaningful part of that time and my life. Her musical talent was phenomenal. From the first big musical she directed, *Tell It Like It Is*, 'til the time she departed, Crestridge was alive with music. Be-

cause of her dedication to

our God, Crestridge has been able to *Pass It On*, this joy in music that others have picked up and are carrying the "torch" even today. I know our Lord smiled as he welcomed Judy Mac with "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I will miss her.

Johnnie

God, you have blessed us with an angel here on earth in allowing us to know Judy. Thank you for her life led by you – full of light, love and joy. The joy of you, Lord, radiated so beautifully from her, and just being with her was like tasting a little bit of heaven. We're grateful, Jesus, for the glorious impact she made on all of our lives, pointing us closer to our real purpose in life. I can just imagine that she is singing with you now. Amen.

Nan Ellen Nelson

Judy Mac was so kind and gracious, and she expected excellence. She taught us to appreciate talent and, for those of us without talent (like me), she showed us how to enter God's presence with our worship, songs, and praise. She even taught lots of us the Hallelujah Chorus. I have to believe that even in the midst of all the pain and suffering of her final days, she could already hear the music of her Heavenly Father's home. We all know she has been welcomed with open arms by the Savior.

Parish Hardy

Judy was an incandescent presence to me and to Crestridge — shining brightly. My mother's comment after watching the choir's performance of *Love* was, "That girl's face!" She meant, of course, Judy's face — full of light and love and spirit as she led the choir. I will always remember that incandescent face.

Denise Primm

I think of Arvine, Johnnie, Birdie

Bell, and Judy Mac as the cornerstones of Crestridge that led to everything else in those early years. The closing programs that Judy Mac led always brought tears of joy to my eyes. They brought to light for me all the good things that were going on in the lives of the campers and staff each summer. She was a tough taskmaster and gave little quarter to those who were not serious about music, but I know there are a lot of choir directors in the world today who are following in Judy Mac's footsteps. She influenced many generations to come through her service to Crestridge and Reinhardt College. She certainly met her Father in Heaven knowing that she did not live her earthly life in vain, and our Lord's world is a better place everywhere Judy Mac left her footprints. All of us who knew her will miss her greatly, knowing that we were blessed by her influence.

Rick Johnson

*Camp Ridgecrest 1961-73 summer
staff, Director 1974-84*

*Camp Crestridge Administrative
Director 1980-84*

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Like all of us, I was saddened by the death of our beloved Judy Mac. I regret that I never took the time to tell her how much influence the music at camp, under her direction, had on me, a lowly kitchen boy. Washing dishes and pots and pans always seemed to go better with music, and because of the kitchen's proximity to the Chapel, we had a front-row seat to the beautiful sounds coming from the Chapel each day. It was like a daily dose of a "choir of angels" and helped me to perceive God in a whole new way. My time at camp was like "Heaven on earth" but pales in comparison to the Heaven we will all someday experience and that Judy Mac is experiencing now. Thanks for the memories!

*Eddie Cole*

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Judy Mac was one of the first people to give me real responsibility, along with her vote of confidence – a leading part in the closing ceremonies. That was a big deal to me, a 7th grader sent to camp far from home in the 1960s. Judy developed us as

leaders before there were many women in management roles. She was professional, sought and expected excellence, and was a tremendous Christian role model. When I picture her, she's wearing knee socks and shorts, smiling with a wry twist, then laughing loudly (from the bottom of her diaphragm).

Judy DeRango Wicks

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Judy Mac "owned" the chapel, she "commanded" the stage. She was all about God's business and she wanted you to be just as serious about singing praises to God when you walked into the Chapel. Those who were part of her Staff Ensemble knew she expected your rendition of *Good Night* to be just as perfect the seventh time you sang it on Cherokee Hill as it was when you started the night out on Chippewa Hill. Judy instilled excellence in each of us and will forever remain in my heart.

*Anja Aloia Cleveland*

## **Maintain the Memories 2007**

*by Lisa Rudolph Turner*

Listen – it's the sound of the creek running through camp ... of children laughing ... of the screen door slamming at the dining hall. Any of these bring back memories of Crestridge to you? All of these sounds, along with the buzz of chainsaws, the scrape of rakes, the swoosh of paintbrushes and the thump of mulch hitting the ground were heard by volunteers who gathered at camp May 18-20 for a weekend of work, fellowship and a chance to share camp memories, new and old. About 55 people from as far away as Oregon showed up throughout the weekend to work.

Saturday began with a full breakfast at the Conference Center dining room. Then it was up to camp to begin work. There were the usual jobs of clearing out the stream, raking leaves, spreading mulch and picking up debris left from winter storms. We admired new projects including a path cut from near the campfire area to the zip slide and a tower for the Blob. (The Blob and part of the platform were paid for by your CCAF donations.) New, updated lights were installed in the chapel to show off the gorgeous refinished pews (also paid for by CCAF donations). New lighting and fans were put into the infirmary. The new windows in the kitchen were painted, along with bathrooms in the infirmary, the Bear Trap, parts of the camp store and much more.

Saturday evening around the campfire, we roasted marshmallows, sang camp songs and shared what Camp Crestridge means to everyone present. Alumnae and friends also got a chance to shop in the camp store as well as purchase CCAF merchandise.

Sunday morning breakfast was followed by the CCAF Board's semi-annual meeting and finishing up jobs around camp. The Board returned Maintain the Memories back to Memorial Day weekend in 2008, making the dates May 23-25. This will allow more travel time and will not interfere with as many school closings or graduations. Mark your calendar now for an unforgettable time of fun, fellowship, hard work, a rekindling of old friendships and making a few new ones. You can even get a 2008 MTM T-shirt to help you maintain your memories of the experience throughout the year. See you next May!

## A word from our president

The mountains were alive for another summer of Camp Crestridge. It is so thrilling to still be a part of Camp Crestridge for Girls as a staffer for two weeks.

As the incoming Alumnae and Friends president, I am very excited about the growth of camp, the involvement of alumnae and friends and possibilities that are before us!

Crestridge was full for another summer! Once again, young ladies learned, grew, laughed and experienced a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. I am proud to be serving such an awesome group of people and an incredible place like Camp Crestridge for Girls.

*~Susan Cheatham*

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## Rick Johnson retires from Winshape

Rick Johnson, former Ridgecrest Summer Camps Director, retired from his position as WinShape Camps Director this summer. WinShape Camps gave him a grand "sendoff" including timeless stories about Rick from over the years. Many Ridgecresters/Crestridgers were at his farewell party and took part in his last official "Bo Bo" chant. Rick will volunteer this fall to teach character education in a private Christian school in Rome and will serve on FCA boards for local schools. He will also be doing speaking engagements at YMCAs and similar organizations about raising your Christian athlete child. But above all else, Rick will engage in more "family time" with his children and grandchildren, who are now all living back in the good ol' southeast.

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## New merchandise is on the website

We have several new items in our online store. Check the website under "Merchandise" and place your order for upcoming birthdays and Christmas – or for yourself, simply because it bears the name Crestridge and you want to be reminded of camp each day.

We have new **String-A-Ling Backpacks** at an incredible price of only \$7 each. We have also added **refrigerator frame magnets** and a **Chapel Stained Glass Window Cross Stitch Pattern**. In addition, new moms, order your child a **Future Crestridger** or **Future Ridgecrester T-shirt**. We also have a new, incredible photo we've titled "**High Ideals**" that will take your heart right into the Crestridge Chapel for a Thursday night Council of Progress.

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## 2007 scholarship goal reached

Each year, a total of about \$60,000 in scholarships is awarded to campers between Camp Crestridge and Camp Ridgecrest. For the summer of 2007, 41 girls received full or partial scholarships. Two weeks at camp now costs about \$1,200. CCAF raised and gave \$12,000 to the scholarship effort, which is the same goal we met for the summer of 2006. CCAF tries to give special attention to campers (boys or girls) with a connection to a Crestridge alumna. The scholarship recipients appreciate the opportunity to grow in Christ at Crestridge. CCAF does all it can to make sure that we give the opportunity to many who could not otherwise afford to come to camp.

CCAF is in the early stages of launching an endowment fund for scholarships, which will allow us to provide scholarships on a continuing basis from the interest on invested funds. Gifts to the endowment fund are a permanent investment in young girls' lives. If you'd like to be one of the first donors, please send your donation marked "scholarship endowment" to CCAF, PO Box 22039, Lexington KY 40522-2038.

## *What Crestridge means to me*

Camp is not just a place for fun and laughter to me. It is now a place for growth and finding my strength. Camp has made me more aware about Godly actions and thoughts. I have also learned some of my most valuable lessons at camp.

Some of my best friends are friends I met at camp. I look forward to camp more now that these girls are practically my sisters. My bonds are also stronger with girls who are complete strangers to me. In a world of completely different people, Crestridge brings us together with at least this one thing in common: God.

So, camp is not just playtime and craziness. It is doing all of that and feeling God's love. Camp is my home away from home, and my growing place. Camp is a huge part of who I am and who I want to be!

- Meredith Gaffney, Choctaw 5

## THE GRAPEVINE

by Anja Aloia Cleveland

**Amy Pearson Quinn** graduated from Stetson University in 1991 with a B.A. and from Florida State University with a master's of social work in 1994. She is the owner of a technology consulting company in Jacksonville, Fla., where she places IT professionals and manages grants that connect physicians with patients. They utilize existing technology to video stream real-time data to volunteer physicians in the U.S. and to patients in Third World countries. Amy has been married to her college sweetheart for 16 years and has a 7-year-old daughter, Emma.

**Jody Stickle** lives in Nashville, where she is an adolescent therapist. After getting a taste of backpacking at camp, she has been a hiker ever since.

**Lyndsey Anderson** finished four years in the U.S. Navy, serving most of her time in California working with F/A-18 fighter jets. Now she is back in Orlando, Fla., where she is working and attending massage therapy school. **Kay Kelly Jenkins** is a mom of two: Callie is 11 and

Neil is 9. Kay teaches history and political science at a community college in Mississippi where she also coaches the men's golf team. Her husband is full-time military and has served one term in Iraq.

**Perry Parker Behrens** has been married for a year to Brian in Greenville, S.C. Perry works for Nuvox and keeps busy with home renovations. **Parish Hardy** is living and working in Washington, D.C. She works at the House of Representatives in Special Events.

**Nancy Clare Morgan Barto** lives in Charlotte, N.C. and is a speech writer for Bank of America. She and her husband have two future Crestridgers: Barrie is 5 and Adie is 2. As with many of our children, their favorite lullaby is the *Good Night* song from camp. Her sister, **Anna Morgan Hewitt**, married John in March on the beach in South Carolina. Crestridge friends and relatives **Jennifer Morgan Burgess, Perry Parker Behrens, Tricia Parker Malphrus, Robyn Parker, and Lauren**

**Morgan** made up a star-studded bridal party. Anna is a realtor living in Charlotte, N.C.

**Christy Jennings Mi-queli** married in November and her 5-year-old son, Jordan, walked her down the aisle. She is in Tallahassee, Fla., where she is art director for Ron Sachs Communications.

**Jill Angell Reynolds** has two boys, Carson and Johnathan, and recently adopted a future Crestridger from Seoul, South Korea, named Anna Grace. Her sister, **Lori Angell**, is still living just outside of Washington, D.C., and their mom, **Alice Weatherall Angell**, lives in Greensboro and is enjoying retirement!

**Lori Branning Hacker** moved to New Mexico, where her husband is working on the Navjo Indian reservation. They have three boys: Wesley, 7, Stewart, 5, and Joseph, 3.

**Vanessa Pena Brown** has a new son, Matthan Elijah.

Your name could be in the next newsletter! Simply share your news with us via e-mail: [calumnae@windstream.net](mailto:calumnae@windstream.net).

## SAVE THE DATE ~ 55<sup>th</sup> Summer Reunion

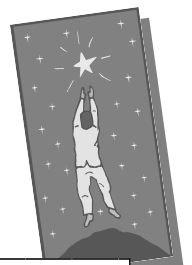
We are closing in on the summer of 2009, Camp Crestridge's 55<sup>th</sup> summer. Our reunion most likely will be the Friday/Saturday closest to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We must wait for camp to set session dates, but you can pencil in the 55<sup>th</sup> Summer Reunion for July 2009! Make plans now to join us for another glorious celebration in the mountains of Crestridge. Our typical schedule runs from Friday evening through Saturday campfire. Those who are "crafty" can begin making items for the auction. We have a great time "dropping our jaws" at the amounts paid for a piece of Crestridge, whether it's something old from camp that someone brought back to auction off or a one-of-a-kind handmade "Crestridge" item. It's a wonderful fund-raiser for a great cause. Anja Cleveland is in charge of collecting auction items; you can mail them to her at any time. Contact her at [calumnae@windstream.com](mailto:calumnae@windstream.com).



**Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends**

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