

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



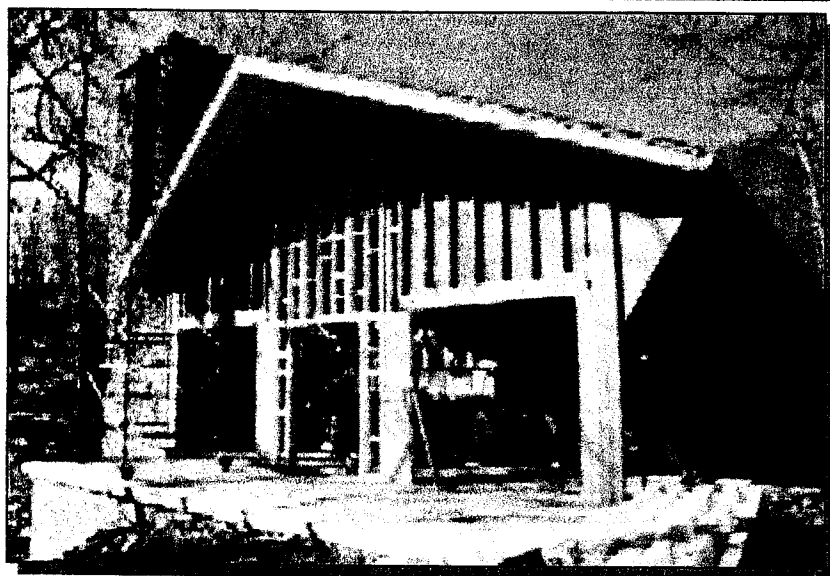
P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038
 calumnae@bellsouth.net ♦ www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae



IMPORTANT!!!!!!!

Our e-mail address has changed: Calumnae@bellsouth.net

Our apologies to those who sent e-mails during the last quarter of 2004. Our Juno account was deleted and many e-mails were lost. Please e-mail us again at our new address!!



Left: The old porch platform has been extended, lengthening the chapel to accommodate more pews. (Photos: Robin Thompson Parish)

Below: Bet you haven't seen the entire stained-glass window for awhile. The new risers are ready to be installed.



Chapel Expansion

Thanks to generous donations from alumnae and friends, the chapel renovations should be completed by April or May, *in time for the campers to arrive!* The concrete slab has been poured on the front extension and the wall extensions are in place as well. The front of the chapel is almost back in place, but the roof overhang hasn't been completed yet. The main level of the stage is built and pine flooring has been delivered to complete the new stage. A retaining wall, being installed because of water issues, will be completed after the chapel renovation. The winter months hinder the workers' progress, but when spring gets here, the work will be finished quickly. Please pray for the remainder of this project and specifically that there will not be any slowdowns that hinder the completion of this project before the girls arrive this summer.

Alumnae Board

Karen Stitt Aiken
 Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*
 Paulette May Basham
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 Ruth Burkett
 Susan Cheatham

Anja Aloia Cleveland, president
 Katie Waggener Dicks
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 Susan Bridger Waggener, treasurer, *ex officio*

Camp Crestridge 50th Summer Reunion

By Susan Cheatham

Reunion: anew after separation; a social gathering; to unite again; to join after separation.

What a thrill it was to *reflect* over 50 years concerning the history and life of Crestridge. It was a great time of *renewing* old friendships and *recapturing* the days of youth. No one could *repress* the sweet spirit of the mountains and the Crestridge enthusiasm. It is still very much alive and flourishing.

Campers and staffers alike *rehashed* stories and shared fond memories of their time in the mountains. I guess we all *returned* to try and *reclaim* just a bit of what camp was like when we

were there in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s.

We *recognize* that some things have changed over the years, but a real Crestridge girl is always the same. Drinking in the festivities of the day, I could not help but think how great heaven will be to have all Crestridgers in the same place at the same time.

This *reunion reminded* me of the many *rewards* that I have *received* from being involved with Camp Crestridge for Girls. *Real* friends, learning more about God in fresh and exciting

ways, and traditions, old and new. It *reminded* me that it is a place for *rebirth, revitalization, restoration*, and it is a *REFUGE* from our present world.

Let's remember daily the people and things we hold dear to us! Especially be thankful that 50 years ago, God impressed on various people the need for a girls' camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, and it has changed the lives of you and me, **eternally!!**

CCAF merchandise – a new beginning

Thank you for your support of CCAF by ordering merchandise online or through the mail. We would like to sincerely apologize for recent orders that were not mailed in a timely manner, so that several of you called or e-mailed to inquire about your orders.

We have made some changes in our delivery system and would like to announce our pledge that from now on, we will mail your order within three weeks of receipt of payment. All profit made on merchandise sales benefits camp, including supplies for Maintain the Memories work weekend, scholarships, the newsletter and special projects.

Remember, these items make great birthday and Mother's Day gifts. As we add new merchandise, you can view new items online (www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae/shop.html) – or in person at camp's closing programs during the summer.

Craft Corner

Do you have Crestridge memorabilia boxed up for safe-keeping, or are you crafty and have found ways to use your memorabilia? We know you can make photo scrapbooks, but what are some other ideas? Let's see if we can make this new column a success with your ideas. Simply e-mail them to calumnae@bellsouth.net and we will publish them in future newsletters or maybe on our Web site, if we receive enough ideas.

Here are two ideas to get you started:

- Frame your honor bands and hang them on a wall.
- If you can quilt or know someone who can, take old camp T-shirts and other clothing items and make a quilt. Make small ones for your future Crestridger to take to camp for her bed and/or Campfire nights. Make larger ones for displaying in the home.

Help Change a Life

Changing lives! That is really the focus of Camp Crestridge. It is the friends, activities and the songs around the campfire that make camp so memorable. Most important, it is the relationship that young girls can build with Jesus Christ. For some girls, Crestridge is their first encounter with Jesus. For others, it is a process of growing and learning about the one who has really changed her life.

We once again have stepped out on faith

to assist girls in attending camp that otherwise wouldn't be able to come. Last year we gave \$10,000.00 in scholarships, and this year we have selected 19 girls for full or partial scholarships, at a cost of \$12,000.00.

Will you be a part of making a difference in a young girl's life? Your donation can help a camper find herself in Christ this summer at camp. Be sure to mark your donation "scholarship fund."

NEW PLAYGROUND CAMPAIGN

For Chip/Chick Hill

Yes, we have started another campaign, as God was so faithful on the Chapel Renovation Campaign. A longstanding need for a playground area for the Chippewas and Chickasaws was brought to the board. Currently on Chip/Chick Hill, there is a small platform. But we are looking to add a full playground area for the girls. This will be intertwined with the landscaping that is already there and the play set itself will be natural colors and wood.

This new playground will allow the younger girls to interact with one another during their free time prior to meals, etc. The lines to play 4-square and 2-square are always long, so this will be an alternative activity for them.

We have received a sizable donation from a Crestridge/Ridgecrest family "in honor of Johnnie Arm-

strong, whose life has touched generations of Crestridgers." This donation will jump-start our campaign.

A local company that specializes in playgrounds suitable for camps – and that has completed projects for Lifeway/Ridgecrest Conference Center and Montreat – is working on a customized playground for us. The total amount needed to complete this project is \$30,000.

The timing of the project all depends on your donations. The sooner we get the funding, the sooner the girls can enjoy their new addition. A lofty but attainable goal is to have the donations by the end of camp 2005 so construction can be completed by fall and the structure allowed to "settle" through the winter and be ready for use in the summer of 2006. An even loftier goal is to com-

plete fund-raising by April 1, and the playground could be ready by the opening of camp this year. It all depends on you, our faithful alumnae members.


Just close your eyes: Feel the mountain air blow through your hair and listen to the night sounds as you gently swing back and forth and take in the final sounds of the night — even screen doors slamming and squeaky shower knobs being turned on and off — before you are called to the cabin for devotions and lights out.

Now, send us your donation marked "Playground" and let's see how "lofty" we really can be. God has proven in the past how great He is and that He supplies all of our needs, so let's take that path again this year. Keep checking our Web site for updates on our progress with this campaign.

A thank you from May Campbell

Many of you know that May lost her house and practically all of her belongings to a fire in the fall. The CCAF board learned of this just before our meeting in October. We posted this information on our Web site and many of you responded with cards, letters and gifts. We also mailed May a care package full of CCAF merchandise to replace what she had lost. May writes: Thank you so much for the loving care package filled with Crestridge camp items! I cried as I opened each gift ... what a blessing of love from Christian friends!!! Love, May

May's address is: PO Box 1234, Denham Springs, LA 70727-1234



THE GRAPEVINE

Many of these updates are slightly old as we did not print a Grapevine in the last newsletter due to the focus on our wonderful 50th Summer Reunion. Also, many e-mails were lost in the transition to our new address – calumnae@bellsouth.net. Please re-e-mail any updates for the next newsletter.

Top of the list is the birth of many future campers. **Kristin Harrison Melton** had her first child, Harrison Thomas, May 6, 2003, and just welcomed *three* daughters on December 29th, 2004. That's right — triplets! She says Lee Wellington, Fraser Page, and Bayley Channing are a miracle and have "completely blessed" them. Kristin's cousin, **Laura Steven Meyers**, had her second child, Rachel Elizabeth, in December. **Susan Bridger Waggener** is a first-time grandmother to Brooke Elise, daughter of Brad and **Erin Waggener Hobbs**, born Jan. 12. Susan will be blessed again in May, as David and **Katie Waggener Dicks** are expecting a girl ... third generation Crestridge Cutie Pies. The Langston sisters also enjoyed being pregnant at the same time. **Laura Langston Daniel** gave birth to her first child, Evelyn Jane, on December 8 and **Jan Langston Ware** gave birth to her third child, Anne Adams, on Dec. 3. **Amy Guffey Clay** gave birth to her daughter, Tyler Grace, on Oct. 17. **Rebekah Mains Deaton** welcomed her second daughter, Gabrielle Jane, on Feb. 6, 2003. **Ashley Heller-Shore Jones** had her first child, a son, in

June.

How about this for an exciting encounter: Last April, **Megan Righter Brown** and her husband Matt (a Ridgecrest) were taking a leisurely stroll across the Cooper River Bridge in Charleston, S.C. with another 30,000 or so people. They were at the top of the first bridge and looked over to see **Nancy Brown** walking right next to them. The two were campers together. She stated that "playing 5-minute catch-up was great, but what was even better was running into someone from years ago in some off-the-wall place and walking away with a smile and a happy feeling because of the memories it triggered. Hats off to God for creating Ridgecrest Summer Camps."

In Dec. 2003, **Jennifer Morgan** graduated from Clemson University and on Nov. 27, 2004 she married her longtime boyfriend, Adam Burgess. She was blessed to have three of her Crestridge friends as bridesmaids: **Robyn Parker, Anna Morgan, and Lauren Morgan**. I adored her comment when speaking of her fondness for camp – "where else can you learn about God *and* test your aim with flour-filled socks!!" **Mai Nguyen** is happily engaged and has owns Cool Beans Coffeehouse in New Orleans, so visit her if you are in town, and reminisce over a cup of coffee. **Keri Spivey Church** lives in Chapel Hill, N.C. with her husband. Her niece is a current camper who reminds her of great times at camp as she sends

her letters and care packages.

Beth Spencer Rice, from the '70s, writes that she is an herbalist and her husband a chiropractor, and they are the proud parents of four children. **Kristin Parris Jones** shares that she is a teacher and works with her husband in their church Youth Ministry. Her daughter, a current camper, and husband have recently written a book entitled *Kidz Can Do – What every kid should know about personal safety*. Check out their Web site at www.Kidzcando.com. **Robin Nesmith Murray** lives in Illinois with her two children who currently attend Crestridge and Ridgecrest. **Martha Davis King** is currently a graduate student at UNC Chapel Hill. **Susan Harris**, from the '60s and early '70s, still loves showing horses and owns four of her own.

Emily McCue married Jason Willard in October and they are living in Signal Mountain, Tenn. Sisters **Ashley and Meredith McCue** were bridesmaids, and **Whitney Lemarr** was there. **Amy Guffey** missed the wedding because she was great with child (see the baby paragraph above). Ashley is living in Dallas, and Meredith is a sophomore at the Baylor School in Tennessee and will represent the Baylor community on an outreach program in Australia next year.

Please continue to share your updates with us so we can share them with your Crestridge family.

—Anja Aloia Cleveland



Don't forget to stay in touch with CCAF through our Web site at www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae/. All of our latest news is available there as well as a complete membership list that lets you search for old camp friends. You can even pay your dues and order CCAF merchandise online!

Membership Drive

Our 2005 membership drive has brought in more than 140 responses so far. Your dues and additional contributions cover our operating expenses and support scholarships and special projects. Remember, your donations are 100 percent tax-deductible since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Announcing ... the winner of our "Lost Lyrics" contest: *Norma McDuffie's* entry was randomly drawn from all the correct entries. Norma wins \$25 worth of alumnae merchandise. Congratulations!

Many thanks to all who believe in our mission enough to keep their memberships current! If you haven't sent your \$15 dues in yet, here's another form. You may also use this to donate to the Scholarship and/or Playground fund. Clip it out and mail it today!

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE & FRIENDS, INC.
P.O. BOX 22038, LEXINGTON, KY 40522-2038

____ Enclosed are my **2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES** of **\$15.00**, payable to CC Alumnae & Friends.
 ____ I also enclose additional donations of: \$ ____ for general association support (includes Maintain the Memories);
 \$ ____ for the Arvine Bell Scholarship Fund;
 \$ ____ for the Special Projects Fund (includes Playground).

NAME _____ PHONE _____
First Maiden Last

ADDRESS _____
Street or P.O. Box City State ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

If you are a new member, please indicate below:

Alumna: Which years? Camper _____ JET _____ Staff _____
Friends: (please check) ____ Parent of camper(s) and/or staffer(s) ____ Friend of camp



Maintain the Memories

Saturday-Sunday, May 20-22, 2005

(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 camp ready to welcome them, so it's a week earlier.)

Please bring your family and join us for our annual weekend of work, fellowship, and fun. Lodging and meals (except Friday night) are provided and there is plenty of work for the entire family.

On Friday night, we try to meet on the steps of Pritchell Hall (where you register) at the conference center and go as a group to dinner to "catch up" since the last MTM. For the past two years, we have gone to Fuddruckers in Asheville, a family-friendly place. Watch for future correspondence if you register to attend MTM.

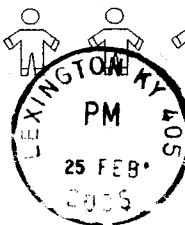
Saturday is our **BIG WORK DAY**. We break for lunch at noon and dinner be-

fore sundown. Then we gather around the campfire to sing, talk, and eat s'mores.

Sunday is another work day for those who are able to stay. Many stay until lunch and then have one final meal before leaving behind old and new friends.

There will even be a special, private dedication at this MTM, so come and be a part of camp history.

Please make your reservations with Karen Stitt Aiken. You may respond via e-mail to karenstittaiken@yahoo.com or drop her a note at 463 Ben Avenue, Lilburn, Ga. 30047.



Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends
P.O. Box 22038
Lexington, KY 40522-2038

Katie Waggener Dicks
469 Marblerock Way
Lexington KY 40503



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