

# The Hollymont Spirit

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## A Reason to Celebrate!

by Missy McKibbens Roper

The year 2007 marks an exciting time in Camp Hollymont history. This summer we will celebrate our 25th year of operation and I couldn't be more excited!

My experiences at Hollymont began in 1983 as a camper. It was the inaugural summer and I was elated at the opportunity to go to camp. My older brother, Kib, was attending Hollymont's brother camp, Rockmont, at the time and he loved it. I knew I would be in for the summer of my life and as far as I'm concerned I could not have been more accurate in that perception. Little did I know Hollymont would eventually become a daily part of my life and I would spend the next 25 summers there. I moved through the ranks from camper, CIT, counselor, head counselor and director and I can even remember being elected chief of my tribe and receiving a hall award. Those memorable experiences and everyone involved are indelibly imprinted in my mind.

As we recall the many years Hollymont has been in existence, there are several reasons to celebrate our 25th summer. We can REJOICE in the fact that God has allowed Hollymont to continue on with the Christian foundation it was built upon and that He has blessed us

in immeasurable ways. Hollymont is still going strong and we are proud of the traditions it carries through the multigenerational community (daughters, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers).

We can REMEMBER all the lifelong friendships and memorable experiences we have been able to build

because of Hollymont. In its 25 years,

we have had girls represent nearly every state and over 20 countries.

Because of our vast backgrounds and differences, we have been able to learn so much from each other – and we have grown spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Again, we want to REJOICE and give thanks to God for the experiences we have had through Camp Hollymont. Each new

camper/staff joins us to make a

beautiful part of the history of this camp.

Memories are so varied, numerous, and meaningful. One memory that I will always recall is the sound of sweet voices singing in the chapel on a Sunday morning. They will never fade away. As we plan for the next 25 years, our hope is that those in our past will come our way again and introduce us to new friends to share experiences that we recall so well.



Happy 25th Camp Hollymont – We Love You!

# Hollymont's 25th Year!

# The Times They're a-Changin'



As we celebrate Hollymont's 25th summer, it's fun and uplifting to relive the friendships and experiences of camp days gone by. It is truly fascinating to see the numerous positive and exciting changes that have occurred.

Let's step back in time... 1983 marked the first Camp Hollymont summer. During three sessions, Hollymont hosted approximately 168 campers and 20 staff. Founder George Pickering was at the helm providing a sister camp to the well known Camp Rockmont for Boys. The goal was to "claim the promises of Jesus Christ and seek to uplift His name in honor and glory... to instill Christian example into every activity by providing a loving, caring atmosphere for each girl."

In 1992, Camp Hollymont was purchased by the McKibbens family and Missy McKibbens Roper became the director. Her goal for Hollymont was "to provide a fun, loving Christian camping experience for the campers and staff."

During the 2007 summer Hollymont will have four main sessions with a variety of options within the . We expect to host over 570 campers and 90 staff. Our facilities have changed throughout the years as the Asheville School has invested over 20 million dollars in building additions and renovations.

Times have changed since our first summer. Here are a few fun facts that you may not have known...

## 1983 - 2007



**THEN:** Campers were separated by halls and known as Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors.

**NOW:** Campers are known as Hummingbirds, Cardinals, Blue Jays, and Eagles.

**THEN:** Kehaya did not exist.

**NOW:** Program staff ladies and camp nurses live in "cluster 55" of the three story Kehaya Lodge. Blue Jay campers and staff live there too. (The infirmary is in Pine Lodge.)

**THEN:** Hollymont did not have counselors-in-training, assistant counselors, or program staff.

**NOW:** We have all three. (We expect to welcome nearly 40 CITs and 20 program staff ladies during the 2007 summer.)

**THEN:** We used to eat

in Oak Hall. Campers and staff would stand in a buffet line with trays to get their food. Later on, CITs served the food at the tables. (Director, Missy McKibbens Roper was Hollymont's first CIT!)

**NOW:** Oak Hall is Asheville School's library. They demolished the old gym/classroom area where we held tribal meetings and built big, beautiful, air-conditioned Sharpe Dining Hall adjacent to the Walker Arts Theatre. We eat great food in comfort and it's a wonderful facility for our cooking and sewing skills, hall parties and an occasional night activity (think Masquerade)!

**THEN:** Campers who took the horseback riding skill had to walk to the stables.

**NOW:** We shuttle campers to and from the stables. We also have a new horse stable and riding ring.

**THEN:** The water in the indoor, Olympic sized swimming pool was really cold.

**NOW:** It's heated.

**THEN:** We had a lake and canoes.

**NOW:** We get to enjoy Rockmont's zip line, blob, gullywasher, canoes, and other fun water activities.

We look forward to the next decades with anticipation, always striving to continue the Hollymont tradition!



Laurel Lodge

# THE LEGACY LIVES ON

## Kelly Belt Jones

As the summer of 1991 approached, Hollymont needed a Hummingbird Head Counselor. Hummingbird Hall consists of campers age 6-10 years housed in clusters with 12-14 staff (counselors, assistant, and CITs). To be successful as Head Counselor, you must be responsible, hardworking, well respected by staff and campers alike, and love children - particularly little girls who forget to brush their teeth, comb their hair, and forget their daily skill schedules. Missy McKibbens (Roper) looked for someone she knew who was a proven leader and able to “get the job done.” Kelly Belt (Jones) was the woman for the job.



*Rainer Jones*



*Blakley Jones*

Belt had just graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in accounting, had served successfully as president of her UA sorority and was well known and loved by many in the UA community. She was known for her leadership skills, her faith, and her fun personality. While Kelly had never been to Hollymont before, she had heard all about it from her cousins (Missy and Merridy) who attended every summer.

Kelly found that the environment at Hollymont creates an instant closeness. Perhaps it's because we live in lodges or because of the sincere spirits of the staff that provide so much room for growth. In the finest of Head Counselor traditions, Kelly worked hard that summer to show her girls just how special they were.

In 2004, Kelly's daughter, Rainer, began attending as a Hummingbird camper. Her sister, Blakley, joined her last summer, and they both look forward to another fun filled summer at Hollymont in 2007.

Having known Hollymont both as a staff member and a parent, Kelly is most impressed with the Hollymont leadership. She says, “Missy provides excellent leadership, and as I grow older and gain more experiences in life, I find that leadership, good or bad, determines the worth of the experience, whether camp, school, work, or anything else.”

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**Kaycee Weeter** has been coming to Hollymont ever since she was 9 years old (1998 session A). Kaycee lives in Maryville, Tennessee and attends Webb School. As a graduating senior, she was required to give a ten minute talk before the student body and Webb faculty. Below are excerpted portions of that speech.

“I don't see Hollymont as just a way to pass the time every summer and something to give me more stories to bring home to my friends. I see Hollymont as a force that has shaped my life to this point. Hollymont is where I learned how to water-ski, cook, do my own laundry, and also where I underwent the life-changing experience of becoming a Christian.

When August rolls around, I'll be packing my things and setting out for the four and a half hour drive to Tuscaloosa. While I'm nervous about the many aspects of college, the one thing that hasn't crossed my mind is the possibility of homesickness. Hollymont has taught me through all my tears that spending time away from home is a true blessing and an incredible opportunity to make new friends when I know no one, and how to emotionally stay tough when I'm faced with hardships. But, most importantly, Hollymont has taught me the value of home. In six months, we'll be heading our separate ways and stepping out of the lifestyles we have become so accustomed to.

When I come home from college, I won't be able to expect any “Welcome Home” signs on my front door or anything too special but I know I will be able to expect two of the best things about home that I've always looked forward to receiving when walking through the door - a big hug from mom and a kiss on the cheek from my dad.”



# Welcome to our newest Hollymont 2013 Camper!



Loren Jane Roper was born to Loren (Missy) McKibbens Roper and John Roper on Saturday January 27, 2007 at 9:02 a.m. She weighed 9 lbs., 15 ounces and was 21" long.

The Hollymont family, especially aunts Jane E. Baynard and Merridy McKibbens Sims, Uncle Terry Sims, and cousins, Chapel Baynard, Steele and Spence Sims, Cory Sherman, and Rainer and Blakley Jones are so excited to welcome this new addition.

John, Missy, and Loren Jane look forward to seeing you all this summer!

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