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## Little Creek Newsletter May 1992

Little Creek Academy

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May 5, 1992

Dear Creekers,

East Tennessee has just displayed its springtime glory. As R. W. Emerson tells us: "Beauty is God's handwriting--a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing."

Thank-you for your kind words about the Creeker. This one is written to thank you and also to share our recent concern about Rogene. About April 1, on Sabbath, she began to complain of severe pain so that she limped a bit. Poor sciatica was suspected falsely. This discomfort increased until medical counsel revealed the truth that cancer was the villain. On May 1 the doctor gave the devastating news that this was a fast growing, metastasized, inoperable malignancy and gave us no hope for her recovery.

This was unbelievable to all of us. We had scheduled her request for anointing for that day at noon. The family gathered together for a beautiful service. Even though the tears flowed there was consolation and hope in the air.

That afternoon we left for high above Gatlinburg where Doris Brown had provided a beautiful spot to spend Sabbath. Rogene wanted so much to go so we took her in a reclining car seat with good soft padding and placed her where she could see the mountains.

What a beautiful vespers we had as Chaplain Keplinger led in a discussion of "Ye are the salt of the earth." Matt 5:13. This made us realize our potential as Christians. Just like salt we, through Christ, can have the powers of healing, purifying, adding joy and all good things to others (as salt to food), cleansing, life giving (as in the blood). It inspired us to continue this life's journey with a new sense of our purpose as Christians.

On Sabbath all our family from near and far came at various times. Rogene insisted we all have a good time although she sometimes seemed to doze off from her pain medication. As soon as we quieted down she would open her eyes and say "What's going on?" There were several tears shed in various corners!

The Dr. says there's no doubt that the extreme stress she has been under lately was part of the problem. We all knew she was not well, but thought it was the stress. Now we wish we had made her go to the doctor sooner. In going through the mail and things on her desk I found this: "When the devil tempts you to look to the past, remind him of his future." So we are trying to forgive ourselves.

On Sunday morning Leland and I went for a walk by ourselves. That morning the weather had brought a 6:00 a.m. thundershower--then the mountains completely hidden in clouds. A breakfast picture of the clouds lifting, a worship picture of the mist rising and then the walk in the brilliant sunshine. We heard the oven bird, saw a pileated woodpecker, listened to the garrulous vireo and I said to Leland, "We've been to Fall Creek Falls, haven't we?" He agreed--as it looked so much like it.

Rogene and all the family want to thank you for the many phone calls, flowers, fruit, cards and most of all your loving concern and prayers. We do not know the future, but I have not given up hope, and we are doing everything possible for her.

Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,  
Through showers the sunbeams fall:  
For God, who loveth all His works,  
Has left His hope for all.

--John G. Whittier

Perhaps you have heard I had a health problem, so will give you a brief explanation. About Christmas time I seemed to need some medical attention. Most of it turned out OK, but the mammogram showed a spot of some kind. The biopsy of the "spot" revealed it was malignant--something I never expected--to say the least. After a lymph-node check and partial mastectomy on March 3, the pathology report gave me a clear bill of sale. Great is the rejoicing! (Leland and I were both in the same hospital room on March 3). He had a second cataract removed and now has 20/20 vision. More rejoicing! Sharon and the rest of the family had plenty to do looking after both of us. We used the time well, listening to the tapes on the book of Romans that Laury Weitzel brought us.

This letter is being kept short on purpose. We are including a few graduations and weddings, but will have to include the full list in a subsequent letter.

NAME	COLLEGE	DATE	DEGREE
Bill Cote	S.W.C.	5/3	
Pamela Draper	S.C.	5/3	
Kim Goodge	S.C.	5/3	
Jimmy France	S.C.	5/3	A.S. in Architectur
Kim Stairs	S.C.	5/3	
Brenda Goodchild	Nazareth Coll	4/25	

Burton and Carol Goodge stopped by to tell us how proud they were of LCA at the honors chapel at Southern College last week. They tried to remember everyone but may have missed someone.

Kim Goodge and Pamela Draper in Who's Who in American Colleges

April Pillsbury - Cash award in Education

Paul Elrich - award in Maintenance & Industry

Brent Goodge - Award in Biology & General Chemistry

Phillip Mitchell - Southern Scholar

Kim Goodge - Award for Outstanding Senior nurse.

#### Past & Future Weddings:

Joahna Evans to David Graham, May 23, Doe River Gorge, TN

Steven Connor to Candy Woods, May 3, Beech Island, SC

Kathy Sparks to Eddie Hernandez, June 10, Eatonville, WA

*As you can see we greatly missed Rogene while doing this letter - I'm sure the Lord knows we can't get along without her. Keep praying for us all.*

*Much love,*

*Alcie and Leland Straw*  
*She loves her phone calls!*