



Vernon View

Milestones

Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, God... ~ Psalm 25:6 (MSG)



Our **20th Wedding Anniversary** is this coming year on August 1st! Incidentally, we attended a renewal of vows ceremony of a good friend in November and it was right across the [Watauga River](#) from where Jennifer and I first met 20 years ago to the day! Fast forward 20 years and, "Voila!" the picture to the left tells the story; minus the ropes and harnesses we used to 'rescue' one another off the cliff you see in the background, of how Jennifer and I first met. At the last minute, Art Pearce (former [Doe River Gorge](#) staff member, friend, & our officiating pastor) couldn't attend the **Tennessee Mountain Rescue** training so they sent me in his place. Jennifer's job out of Knoxville sent her. We were both supposed to learn how to tie knots and boy did we! Not sure that's the kind of knot anyone had in mind but God orchestrated it perfectly and we are so grateful! Happy 20th sweetheart! His mercy & love have enabled us to reach this milestone!



Family Happenings



← **50th Wedding Anniversary!** If you don't recognize these two young newlyweds it's for a good reason! This is **Bob & Nancy Vernon** on their wedding day 50 years ago this past February! Congratulations Nana & Papa and thank you for setting such a good example of commitment & love for God, one another, & for your family!



The weekend after our 19th wedding anniversary, we visited [Townsend](#) for a short get-away. It was nostalgic getting to take the boys to a place that both of our families took us as children! To our recollection, it had hardly changed in nearly 30 years! The picture is of **Riley & Reece** braving the rapids at the 'Y' on the **Little Pigeon River**.



→ **Meemaw's 75th Birthday!** Jennifer's mother had a milestone birthday and was plenty surprised and happy to see the boys arrive with a cake they helped make! Over the years, Meemaw has been such a support and strength to our family. She prays for us consistently, which is very much appreciated!



↑ My baby sister got married! We're so blessed to have been a part of [Mr. & Mrs. Joshua McAllister's](#) wedding in June. The boys were ring bearers and oh so cute! The newlyweds are doing great! The picture at the top of this page includes the wedding party which included two of our nieces, **Courtney & Julia Vernon**.

“Through the Mouths of Babes...” ~ *Matt. 21:16a (NASB)*

Service

...work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ~ *Romans 12:11 (NLT)*

● RILEY NEVER FAILS TO BE A LEADER! WHEN HE LINES UP OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL TO BE PICKED UP, IF THE WEATHER IS BAD, HE LEADS ALL HIS CLASSMATES TO GROUP TOGETHER BY YELLING, “GROUP HUG EVERYONE!”

● AT BEDTIME REECE ALWAYS SAYS, “HEY DADDY! LET’S TALK ABOUT OUR DAY! WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART?”

● REECE HAS REALLY BEEN MISSING RILEY, WHO HE CALLS HIS BEST FRIEND, DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. SO, HE TOLD JENNIFER, “MOM, LET ME TEACH YOU HOW TO HAVE FUN! FIRST, WE JUMP ON THE TRAMPOLINE...”

● RIGHT BEFORE CHURCH ON MOTHERS DAY THEY GAVE JENNIFER A TIARA. SHE WAS ABOUT TO REMOVE IT BEFORE WE WENT IN BUT THE BOYS BOTH REMINDED HER, “YOU CAN’T BECAUSE YOU ARE A DAUGHTER OF THE KING!” SHE WORE IT WITH PRIDE THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

● WHEN REECE SAYS RILEY IT SOUNDS LIKE ‘WILEY.’ RILEY KNOWS WHEN REECE HAS ‘HAD ENOUGH’ AND SAYS, “UH-OH, HE’S TALON NOW!” (THAT’S BOTH HIS MIDDLE NAME AND HIS WARRIOR NAME!)

Manes N’ Tails

was one of the new programs implemented this year with glowing reviews!...especially from our nieces, Madison & Savannah, who went on to participate in our very first horseback riding lessons this Fall. They enjoyed continuing the relationships they had built this Summer with **Jenna Hamilton**, Instructor, & their horses, *King David & Jacob!*

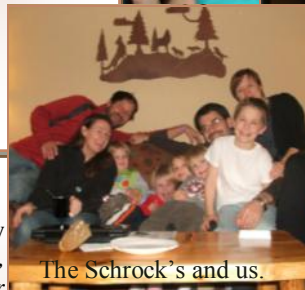


Pictured w/ their Mom, Becky.

Raquel Aguilar, a 2011 Summer Staff & intern from our sister camp in Costa Rica, [Campamento La Cumbre](#), was such a blessing in our life! It was great to hear the vision & passion that God has given her for the camping ministry in her country. Jennifer & our boys really connected w/ her!

The Schrock family (*Heather Feavel, 1997 Summer Staff*)

came to volunteer here for a week of [Summer Camp](#) and were such a blessing to the full-time staff by watching our kids while we got some needed time as a couple on a date! **Tim** helped **Rusty Johnson** build the new [Gazebo](#) down in the meadow by the river.



The Schrock’s and us.



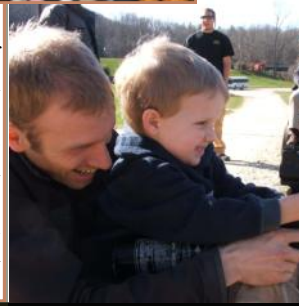
Lyle Wilder, former Volunteer & tremendous friend from [Port Alsworth, Alaska](#),

made a surprise visit on Jennifer’s birthday. We hadn’t had the opportunity to hug his neck in exactly 6 years! On his last surprise visit he left the day before Jennifer went into labor w/ Riley! He helped me and the boys get ready for one of our many [Custom Retreats](#) that we host here from August-May.



Reece, 4

Riley, 6



Praise!

“I will praise thee, Oh Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” ~ *Psalms 139:14 (NIV)*



✂ Thank you Lord for showing us direction and healing last Christmas, as we grieved the loss of our little Regan. Within a weeks time in December, Jennifer was asked to speak at a Women’s Retreat, lead the [Breaking Free Bible Study](#) at [Grace Fellowship](#), and speak at a [Chrysalis Retreat](#). Little did Jennifer know that Regan’s name, which means “Royalty” and her Bible verse [Psalm 139:14](#), would be used during these times in such powerful ways. A theme that God used to heal Jennifer’s heart and a message that was shared through her ministry opportunities this year. This has been such a gift to see something so painful in our family turned into something amazing and beautiful in the Lord!



To contact, encourage, or [support](#):
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We’re so grateful for all of you! Thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and support!



Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!