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A place of honor for Reeves

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Kimberlee Johnson Dodson, a daughter, Emilee Jane, August 25, Brevard, N.C. Marcus is chaplain for Transylvania Community Hospital and pastor of Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church. ■ **Brian** and Susan **Hendricks**, a daughter, Kayli Lauren, May 31, Martinez, Ga. ■ **Mark** and Randee **Lindahl**, a son, Andrew Ralston, May 12, Lakeville, Minn.

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Next reunion in 2004

Kim Bohuny works with the National Basketball Association as the point-person for all matters relating to USA Basketball, including the Olympics and other international events. She is the NBA liaison to FIBA, the international basketball federation, and assists over 40

international NBA players with business and personal transactions. ■ **Hugh Floyd** has finished his doctoral work at the University of Michigan and is working as director of choral activities at the Oberlin (Ohio) College Conservatory of Music. He also directs high school choirs and the Interlochen Center for the Arts. ■ **Charles Hunter** of Marietta, Ga., has been named

assistant special agent in charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division's field office for Georgia and Alabama. ■ **Betsy Dunham Lamontagne** is a senior software engineer with United HealthCare in Greenville. ■ **Scott Lenning**, an employee of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and director of the Billy Graham Crusade in Jacksonville, Fla.,

A place of honor for Reeves

The brilliant sun glancing off the water, the golden foliage stirring in the light breeze, and the warm temperatures created an idyllic setting October 15 when a crowd of 50, most of them alumnae from the early sixties, came together beside the Furman lake to honor one of their own.

They gathered to pay tribute to Linda Reeves '63, celebrating her passion for Furman and recognizing her inspiring character and personal strength.

"Reeves has always been a loyal friend and supporter, one who is happy for the success of others. She is not one to call attention to herself. This was an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for her," says Barbara Stone Block '63. "Everyone was eager to be a part of this event, with some making a great effort to be present. The day was an outpouring of love, pleasure and excitement."

People came from as far away as Maine and Virginia, and the group included husbands, children and grandchildren of Reeves' college friends, demonstrating what Alice Wheby Day '64 calls "immense continued care and support for one another, sustaining in times of need as well as times of joy."

To honor Reeves, the group dedicated a bench in her name. Located along the lake drive near the Bell Tower, the bench has been the site of many picnics for Reeves and her friends over the years. "Because we were the pioneers who made the transition from the old to the new campus, the Bell Tower has always had special significance for us," Day says. "It is appropriate that this bench is near the tower."

The dedicatory plaque reads, "This bench honors Mary Lucinda 'Linda' Reeves '63, enthusiastic Paladin and devoted Furman alumna. Given with love by her many friends."

But just who is Linda Reeves? First, it's important to note that everybody calls her Reeves; seldom is she Linda. And, as Judy Herring Timmons '63 recalls, "She seemed to be best friends with so many people."

During her Furman days, Reeves was a familiar sight on campus, delivering sandwiches from Vince Perone's in the evenings and *The Greenville News* each morning. Sandy Gordon Gay '63 says, "Three of us roamed the dorm as The Queenston Trio. At Christmas we added carols to our performances. Reeves accompanied us on the bongo drums. Of course, we probably had more fun performing than others did listening to us!"

Linda Owens Russ '63 offers additional insight: "She may have presented a gruff persona to some, but that was to cover up her marshmallow inside. She told us jokes, made us laugh and played the ukulele for a diversion from studying. She was also our coach for the BAD (Bust Area Development) Club."

In addition, Reeves made certain her friends' classroom talents were recognized. For those who knew they would never see membership in Hand and Torch, the academic honorary society, she initiated them into Foot and Candle.

In short, she has always "been there" for others. Julia Meeks Glenn '63 describes her as "dependable and stalwart," and Mary Curlee Musick '63 adds, "She has made her home our home and has been the catalyst who has held us together all these years."

For the last several years, Reeves, a longtime teacher and coach at Greenville's Christ Church Episcopal School, has battled cancer. Despite the toll the disease has taken, she has handled each day with courage, says Jan Jolly McAlhany '63. "I have never heard her complain. She became even more of a



Linda Reeves (third from left on second row) with much of the crowd that returned to Furman to celebrate their friendship.

role model for her students because she continued to teach and coach when most of us would not have made the effort."

This quiet courage is part of the legend of Linda Reeves. She continues to devote herself to students, friends and family, and her renowned sense of humor remains intact.

She and her friends look forward to more picnics at "Reeves' Bench" and hope that many others will enjoy special times there as well. The site now features a weeping cherry tree, selected by Reeves to add further beauty and welcome summer shade.

The next time you're on campus, stop by the Bell Tower to visit Reeves' Bench. And don't be surprised if you find her there. No doubt she'll invite you to join her with a hearty "Don't you just love this place! Isn't it beautiful!"

It is a place — the bench, as well as the campus — to celebrate the Furman spirit that is personified in Linda Reeves.

Tish Pearman Anderson '63 compiled this article with the help of Linda Reeves' many friends.