

Fam-Time

2016 FAMILY REUNION MESSAGE

A Message from Teresa

A family that organizes a family reunion together has reached the ultimate bonds of family hood.



Dear Family,

We are truly blessed because we are members of this extraordinary family. Family gatherings are part of our heritage. African families have been meeting and bonding to preserve their history for the next generations. There is an African proverb Marcus Garvey states, ***“A people without knowledge of their past is like a tree without roots.”***

A family reunion is a family coming together to connect and gather together. If you think about it, the happiest moments in our life is with our family.

Planning for this reunion has been an amazing experience.

As we pondered about the venue for this reunion, I shared with the Executive Committee the traditional must-haves that the family seemed to enjoy.

We always had a banquet, we always had an outdoor outing, we always had a worship service, and we always had a fellowship or a "meet and greet" night. We always had a banquet program with a spotlight on family members who shared their success stories.

As I reminisce about ALL of our FAMILY REUNIONS, I would like take this opportunity to reflect on the good times I experienced.

In 1999, we drove the family to the first one with my family. We stayed at my aunt's house (my mother's sister) in Salley, SC on a Thursday night. We didn't get to the hotel until check -in at 3 pm on Friday. We had "Fellowship Night" on Friday night. The family had the "Clubhouse " reserved as a "get together" for those who came from out of town. We enjoyed the game as well as the entertainment from the Cheerleaders.

We ate meatballs and we had a lot of fun. The picnic was on Saturday from 11 am-3pm and the Banquet was that night from 6-8 pm.

In 2008, we arrived early on Thursday. We were on our own. We went on a tour with Cousin Michael Ross, and we enjoyed the sites of the University of South Carolina and the city of Columbia.

Thursday evening was "Fellowship Night" and it was held from 7-11 pm. The banquet was on Friday night. The DJ was very good. The picnic was very cool. We had the picnic on Saturday at the Sesquicentennial Park in Fort Jackson. Fort Jackson was a good place to have a picnic. The church service was on Sunday at Oakey Spring Missionary Baptist Church and it was very good.

Both reunions were from Thursday to Sunday and they were in South Carolina.

We held our last one in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 2014. On Friday evening, we attended a football game at Vance High School where our cousin MarLeila White is the Head Cheer Coach.

We enjoyed the game as well as the entertainment from the cheerleaders. We were greeted by the Chick O' Filet mascot at the ticket gate and the concession stand. We ended the evening by dining at a local restaurant. Saturday afternoon was our free time. I spent time with our cousins and we went family shopping at the outlet. Saturday night was the banquet from 6 pm until 10:00 pm. We spent time celebrating the lives of our elders and the youth.



2016 Family Reunion Executive Committee



Tall Pines Activities

Note: There are more activities found on the Tall Pines website, that will not be available, unless requested in advance due to additional staffing being necessary for safety purposes.

- Nurse's Office
- Assembly Area
- Tennis Courts
- Pool (Outside)
- Pavilions (food)
- Fields A & B (softball,
- Driving Range
- Hockey
- Pedal Karts
- Archery
- Nature
- Basketball
- Miniature Golf
- Field Hockey & Lacrosse
- Soccer & Touch Football
- High Ropes Course
- Boating & Fishing (Kayaking, Canoeing, Foot Pedal Boats)
- Rec Hall
- Gaga Courts
- Playground
- Cooking
- Dining Hall
- Water Slide
- Wall Ball
- Ghost Court

A Message from Teresa Continued

Cousin Raven Able graced the stage with a mime that she choreographed. Her routine ministered to everyone in the room (including the hotel staff) and we're still talking about Raven's amazing performance. I have it on video!

The banquet was great and the DJ was very entertaining. We dined, met cousins for the first time and re-kindled other relationships. It was a fantastic night! We had entertainment which featured our cousins who are singers, musicians, and featured back up ensembles. If Motown Records was there, contracts would have been signed LOL! We were doing our own thing, indeed!

Tall Pines Camp
1349 Ames Road, Williamstown, NJ 08094
www.tallpinespicnicsandretreats.com

For Questions:
GandLCorbitt@gmail.com Or
908-822-7015

Sunday morning, we drove to a Reedy Creek Park and the family participated in a great church service. The service was opened with a prayer by me.

The Praise and Worship Team was led by Reverend Asia D. Ferguson, Polly Brown, Betty Casteal, Jacqueline "Jacque" Ferguson, Yolanda F. Martin and her son Nickholas. The Spoken Word was delivered by Reverend Asia Ferguson.

After the service, we had a great cookout! Extra shout out to Mary Pat White, her husband Marion and Cousin Ken Ferguson. They sure put it down on the grill! ***“Mmm, Mmm, Good”*** is not just a Campbell's Soup slogan. The homemade chili was the best and we could not stop eating Cousin Betty's homemade cakes. We played organized volleyball with our very own referee -Tanisha Corbitt Peay.

You would have thought that we were playing in the Olympics. (Another family fun outing that we are still talking today!)

At this point, my guess is that you are wondering why the family reunion is in the northeast area. Why not?

Well, it was our very last volleyball serve that the "Corbitt Olympic" volleyball teams were called to another team meeting. I heard my name called by Cousin Toya Corbitt Perry as she and her husband Roger informed us that our very own Patriarch of the family, Asenath Elizabeth Corbitt Ferguson, wanted to have another meeting. Uncle Wyman is the Patriarch of the family.

“Earlier, we made a vow that the Northeast family would plan the next one, “ she said.

It was during the second meeting that our Southern Family made it "official" to pass the torch to the remnant of Northern cousins to plan the next reunion.

As the baton was passed, we shift gears, shared a vision and started planning the reunion. This is the area where most of the children of Gus and Lillie Corbitt migrated and settled with their families: New Jersey, Ohio, Philadelphia, and the Washington DC area.

On September 19, 2015, we began to communicate and I formed our conference call connection. We began planning during four weekly family conference calls. As a result, we have the Executive Planning Committee of 2016 Corbitt Family Reunion. We have graced your homes through technology – an e-mailed family newsletter and our family Web page.

As I mentioned earlier, the family tradition was the focus and the platform we used to plan the reunion which is the first ever of this magnitude planned in the northeast area.



2016 Gus & Lillie Corbitt Family Reunion

I would like to leave you with this quote: *"If future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than sorrow, we must also leave them a glimpse of the world as it created, not just as it looked when we got through with it looked when we got through with it."*--Lyndon B. Johnson

Let us commit ourselves to protecting our family legacy for our future and our future generations.

I look forward to seeing you in July.

Thank you,



Teresa Corbett Supplee

Executive Chairperson - 2016 Family Reunion Planning Committee

The Corbitt Family - "A circle of STRENGTH. Founded by FAITH, joined by LOVE, kept by GOD! "

