

My Green Lake Story: Jane Smith

I was first a guest in 1960 when I attended the Senior High Frontier Camp. Later Christian Ed, ABW, Family Camp, and then served as a volunteer 2015-2016.

Such a wide range of conference experiences. The first camp as a youth led us to walk literally from one end of the grounds to the other. We were in the tepee area and also had a camp in the old Lawson nursery near the front entrance.

From the very beginning I knew this was a special place and felt God's presence. The Closer walk with God has brought us back many times. Our son served

on staff in 1996 as the coordinator of Young Adult staff. We chose to spend a week with our entire family at the White House in



2014 to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Our grandchildren loved it and the oldest has now spent two summers serving on the Quest staff.

We have made wonderful friends at Green Lake and those friendships have been enriched by the spiritual experiences. Walking down to the Lone Tree Point is always special. Hopevale reminds us of the sacrifice made by some of our missionaries. There are so many special places to share the experience.

I heard about Green Lake for years before that first trip in 1960. I will never forget the thrill of that first glimpse of Rodger Williams Inn as we drove through the forest and then first sighted it across the water.

Nor will I forget a moonlight sail with some other youth leaders when my husband was in seminary. Suddenly a storm came up very quickly and we struggled to get back to the cove. Many scriptures came to mind as we felt the contrast of the rough waters and the peaceful calm of the sheltered cove.

The beauty which never changes, the stability and endurance of what the Lawsons built so long ago



and the ever changing beauty of the improvements that expanding what was here in 1943 when Northern Baptist acquired the property. Truly God's hand was in that 1943 purchase and is in the development taking place today.

I have continued in my Christian walk and served in local American Baptist Churches for the last 59 years. I pray I can continue to do so and perhaps come back again as a volunteer.

