

MILK AND HONEY

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The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

April, 2005

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION



Or, more correctly, it has been brought to my attention; otherwise, it would not have come to my attention at all. And I speak to you about the matter not as an admission of oversight or attempt to mislead. On the contrary, I declare here and now my innocence and resist every call to repentance. Of course, I am capable of error, and were the occasion ever to arise in which I was at fault, I am confident that rather than resorting to pulverizing logic to defend myself, I would squeeze out a tear capable of washing away the flaw. But is this such an occasion? No siree, Bob. I name no names, but you know these detractors, these who lie in wait, who slither among the jots and tittles, who major in minors, who exaggerate, who proclaim apocalyptic importance in every trifling charge that someone has painted outside the lines.

Now that I have calmed myself, I proceed directly to the charge. To wit: that in the March issue of Milk and Honey I did brazenly request that someone give to the Center \$6000.00 to match the \$6000.00 gift for children's book already offered. Now it is true that the \$6000.00 for books is a matching gift. And it is also true that I took a few sentences to relish the thought that in one gift the match would be made and these hills would resound with joy. As Shakespeare would say, "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished". Forgive me if I tarried too long over that pleasant prospect.

But did I thereby exclude from the book project the participation of those unable to contribute the total sum? By no means! No, a thousand times, no! Have I been so long with you and you do not know me? The very thought is paralyzing; I think I will take to my bed.

I have been comforted by the number of gifts coming in, not only proving that many of you heard me aright, but also confirming the philosophy of the Center: no gift is so small as to be unimportant. The more people who feel ownership in our program, no matter how small their purses, the more we are affirmed in the rightness and importance of what we do.

The mail has just arrived and I am even more comforted. Without doubt, within the month I will be totally comforted. Your generosity will have covered as with a blanket the confusion created, or so it is charged, by misspeaking, the children will have their books, and the hills will be alive with the sound of music.

It will be my good fortune to announce in the May issue of Milk and Honey that the total of your gifts has exceeded the \$6000.00 sought. All doubters are free to stay, but you must stand and join in singing the Doxology.

THANK YOU, MS. DOTY

As an educator, I have noticed a great amount of interest in the students as they participate in storytelling with Ms. Betsy Doty. With Ms. Doty's enthusiastic storytelling skills, the children are enchanted by every word spoken. Ms. Doty uses the kinesthetic approach which reinforces the Head Start "hands on" academic curriculum. Amazingly, both English speaking children and Non-English speaking children follow story movement with accuracy. Observing these Non-English speaking children participating, it is clear that Ms. Doty is making a difference with storytelling in the classroom. Many times after Ms. Doty's storytelling visit, children will repeat phrases of a story or retell the story. When Ms. Doty walks into the room, every child in the room becomes ready for a new adventure. Also, it is important to note that when comparing the use of puppets to actually passing a book around, the book seems to be more interesting to the children. All children took more time observing each page in detail while the puppets were discarded quickly. I have concluded through observation that the books and Ms. Doty's storytelling together form a teaching tool that has greatly enhanced the children's capability toward literacy.



Trina B. Corbin
Gilmer Head Start Teacher

GUESS WHAT, BOYS AND GIRLS

I have just gotten off the phone with Rev. Jolyn Wilks of Charlotte, North Carolina and she wants to come to the Craddock Center Sept. 12-30. To do what? Jolyn is an artist and she wants to come here, go with our musicians and storytellers to the Head Starts we serve, and do portrait sketches of the children. What could be more exciting than going home from Head Start with a mounted and framed portrait of yourself? She is an excellent artist with watercolors and with pencil. Jolyn did my portrait last summer and I look just like Robert Redford. She is really good.



There will be no cost to the Center or to the children. Jolyn has a Lilly Grant to use her art as an extension of her ministry. What better place than Cherry Log? What better subjects than the children?

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WHEN YOU GO TO CHEROKEE

Please don't just cruise the main street, buy a string of beads, have your picture taken beside a native in head-dress, and go on your way saying you have been to Cherokee. Of course, there are appeals to tourists; tourism is a business, a means of livelihood.

But Cherokee, NC is much more. It is the Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. And there are in Cherokee four institutions which have long presented Cherokee culture to those interested in history and authenticity. The oldest is the Cherokee Indian Fair which will in October hold its ninety-third annual event. Second in terms of age is the Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, founded in 1946, a cooperative owned and operated by the Cherokee. It is open year round. In 1948 the Museum of the Cherokee Indian opened, offering many education and outreach programs. Finally, the Cherokee Historical Association operates the Oconoluftee Indian Village. This association has produced the outdoor drama, Unto These Hills, for more than fifty years.

These four institutions will help us bring Cherokee history, culture, spirituality, music, crafts, and stories to our Appalachian Weekend Sept. 24-25. I hope you will come.

THERE ARE PLACES OTHER THAN CHERRY LOG

Where Craddock Center sponsored Preaching Workshops are held. We tend to make so much of the semi-annual workshop held here the first Monday in March and October, about how quickly we reach the limit of 90 reservations, and about how much we enjoy the time together, that little or nothing is said of the Workshops held elsewhere in Southern Appalachia. Just as the church is of central importance in Appalachia, so are these workshops. In some communities, these Preaching Workshops are a first experience for ministers gathering to work together across denominational, racial, and gender lines. That alone, apart from the content of the presentations on preaching, make these events important.

Whenever and wherever a group of ministers want to meet and work on preaching, I am willing to come. There is no charge, but a sandwich at noon would be nice. My schedule for this year includes workshops in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia.



MY FEELINGS WEREN'T HURT



When we received recently a check for \$100.00 to be used to improve the appearance of the entrance to the Craddock Center. In other words, get two shrubs and some flowers. We will do just that, and we are grateful.

In my opinion the check was not a commentary on how drab our entrance is but rather a compliment saying, "For only \$100.00 your place would look nice". Thanks. Or maybe it was a compliment on how attractive our entrance is. After all, a mother does not put a ribbon in her little girl's hair to make her pretty but because she already is. Thanks. Or maybe the check was a compliment to our use of money received. When we receive a gift for our programs it is used 100% for programs. In fact, we are delightfully embarrassed by our low budget maintenance. Toward the children we are generous, toward ourselves we are penny pinchers. So, if the check said, "We know you won't dip into program money to brighten your front door, so here, use this."

I like that. Thanks.

WORTH REPEATING

MISSION STATEMENT

The Craddock Center is a non-profit organization serving the communities of Southern Appalachia. The Center provides a wide variety of programs to meet individuals' needs for physical health, social and cultural enrichment, and the desire for greater educational and growth opportunities. The Center enlists professionals from throughout the country and at the same time attracts talented people from the local community who are eager to share their skills and knowledge.

At the Center we have to read this mission statement often in order to know how to respond to needs presented to us. Sometimes we say Yes; sometimes we say No; sometimes we refer persons to agencies which exist to meet their needs. We have a small emergency fund that enables us to say Yes when the need lies outside our purpose, but in emergencies who can say No?

But no program can meet all needs so each program must identify its mission and try to do it well. Otherwise the enormity of human need can overwhelm and paralyze. At that point a program becomes as a physician entering a room filled with the sick. Immobilized by the thought that to turn toward one is to turn the back on others, the physician stands useless in a pool of pity.

I hope you understand.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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