

MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 1, No. 11

The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

December, 2004

DOES GOOD NEWS STRIKE TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE

The answer is Yes. At the September 7 meeting of the Craddock Center the good news was received that a piece of property had been given to the Center, the property had been sold, and the donors had requested \$20,000.00 go to the Operating Fund and \$75,000.00 into an Endowment Fund to help assure the future of our program. Good News!

At the December 7 Board meeting a letter was read to the Board containing the following paragraph:

“The Board of Directors of the Perkins-Prothro Foundation met recently and unanimously approved the grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 for endowment for the Craddock Center. We would like to pay this grant within the next couple of weeks by transfer stock to the Center. Someone from our office will be contacting you soon to get specific instructions.”


This extraordinary family in Wichita Falls, Texas learned of our work in Southern Appalachia and wanted to help assure its future. Good news!

Will Good News strike a third time, and a fourth, and a fifth, and a . . . ? I have absolutely no doubt because I have been persuaded that God is smiling on our efforts. In this faith there is not an ounce of pride or arrogance of place. There is, however, tons of gratitude and commitment to responsible handling of gifts.

May God bless us, everyone!

I THINK WE HAVE CREATED A SUB CULTURE

With these October and March Preaching Workshops. Can you imagine 90 ministers eating, laughing, talking, exaggerating how well everything is going, and incidentally listening to a presentation on Preaching? It is a genuine day apart and we enjoy each other and the opportunity to reflect on what we do.



The Spring Preaching Workshop will be held on Mon., March 7, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Cherry Log Christian Church. There is no charge for the continental breakfast, nor for the lunch, nor for the workshop.

However, we do ask that you make a reservation. If you learn that you cannot come let us know in time to give your place to another. The limit is 90.

The theme is “From Start to Finish”. Dr. Craddock will walk through his process from preparation to delivery.

As always, the Workshop is open to ministers of all denominations.

SINCE IT IS OUR BUSINESS

To join resources and needs, we try to do just that. But often the availability of resources does not come at the time a need is expressed. A family is burned out and we had an offer of good used furniture last month but not now. It is a problem of timing.

So, as many of you know, the Center rents two storage spaces so we can receive furniture, household supplies, and sick room equipment (walkers, chairs, crutches) when they are offered. Then, when a need is expressed, very likely we can help. We keep an inventory and can respond rather immediately.

To give or to receive, please call the Center.



YOU CAN SEE US BUT

We can't see you on the website. Now is that fair? Come on, we want your name and mailing address. Take a moment and send it to us so we can send you the Milk and Honey.

And you say, “Sure, but you can also send me a request for a donation.”

I didn't fool you, did I? Shucks.

OK, OK, SO WE ARE RUNNING LATE

What are you going to do, shoot me? As I reflect on all the noises I made last Spring and Summer about how we would get the van from the factory in Germany, have it properly decorated on the outside and customized on the inside, dedicated and on the road by the beginning of the school year 2004-05, I am almost embarrassed.

But not quite, you see, the sight of it simply melts the delays away and we all say, “Who cares? Just look at it!” Have you looked at the Story Express on our website (www.craddockcenter.org)? I would tell you to come by the Center and see it, but it is sometimes here, sometimes not. Sometimes Ron Zimbrick and Larry Hansen have to take it on location to do the customizing for sight, sound, recording, computerizing, etc. (I use etc. when I don't know what I am talking about.)

We are ready. Sit by your front window; it will pass your house soon and you don't want to miss it.

THE CRADDOCK CENTER
947 CHERRY LOG STREET

P.O. BOX 69

CHERRY LOG, GA 30522

706/632-1772

craddockcenter@tds.net

www.craddockcenter.org

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Director
Tammy T. Blair, Office Manager

MEET LOYAL JONES

Loyal Jones is a writer and speaker on Appalachian culture from Berea, Kentucky. He formerly directed the Berea College Appalachian Center, where he taught courses and ran workshops in Appalachian studies, started an annual festival of traditional music, and established the Appalachian Sound Archive of music, stories, and interviews. He has published a dozen books and many articles on Appalachian values, religion, humor, and music. Best known are his 1994 book Appalachian Values, with photographer Warren Brunner, and four books with singer-songwriter-playwright Billy Edd Wheeler: Laughter in Appalachia, Curing the Cross-Eyed Mule, Home Town Humor, and More Laughter in Appalachia. His latest book is Faith and Meaning in the Southern Uplands, published in 1999 by the University of Illinois Press. In 2002, the University Press of Kentucky released a new edition of his Minstrel of the Appalachians: The Story of Bascom Lamar Lunsford.

In other words, Loyal Jones is a delightful package of humor, anecdotes, stories, history, information, and common sense. In his easy-to-listen to manner, Loyal will speak to us on "Living and Working Within Appalachian Culture". This is the first annual Helen Lewis Lecture (more on Helen in a subsequent issue).

When? Friday evening March 4, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

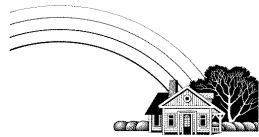
Where? In the courtroom of the old Fannin County Courthouse in Blue Ridge, GA. This wonderful building is now the home of the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Assn.

Price of Admission? Free.

Who should come? Everyone who loves a good story, enjoys learning, and who, whether old timer or new

SOME OF YOU HAVE ASKED

Is the Craddock Center a place or just a mailbox? Yes, it is a place, a house located at 947 Cherry Log Street, Cherry Log, GA 30522. Our offices are here, our Board meets here, we have a reading area, a room for children's books, and a kitchen.



But the Craddock Center is not primarily a place. We are a program for the people of Southern Appalachia and our programs take place in schools, community centers, churches and other hospitable places. We don't think it wise to invest in meeting spaces when many are available at little or no cost.

Thanks for asking.

YES, I SPEAK TO GROUPS, AND FREE

Often, the voice on the line asks hesitatingly, "Do you ever speak to groups or clubs?" Yes, I do, and quite happily. If I am asked to speak about the work of the Craddock Center, there is no fee. Some clubs customarily do not offer an honorarium. I respect that, but what I ask is that if it is within the policy of your group, a gift to the Center be sent. We live totally on the kindness of friends, and strangers.



YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION



To leave your tree up through Saturday, Jan. 29. I know, Advent is fulfilled, the Twelve Days of Christmas have ended, the shepherds have returned to the sheep, and the Magi have come and gone, so why keep the tree up and glistening until Jan. 29?

You can't be serious; that night we gather at Brasstown Valley Resort for a Program of Songs and Stories. Check your calendar; it's on there. Oh, I did see a few calendars in stores that had Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, etc. marked in red but no Brasstown Valley Day. I spoke to the store managers; they were very apologetic and promised to correct the gross oversight. All is forgiven; few of us are perfect and we have to be careful.

The program begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Brasstown Valley Resort between Young Harris and Hiwassee, Ga. If you wish to spend Saturday night at the Resort call 1-800-201-3205 and say you are with Meridian Herald and you will receive a group discount.

The program is free (an offering will be taken), but to maintain some control over attendance, reservations must be made. Last year we lost control and had 425 people in a room seating 400. You may make reservations by phone or e-mail with Meridian Herald (404-525-4722, WingedfortheHeart@meridianherald.org) or the Craddock Center (706-632-1772, craddockcenter@tds.net). All we ask is that you supply names and addresses for those for whom you make reservations. This enlarges our mailing list for announcements of future programs.

When I drive down the highway and see lighted Christmas trees in late January, I will say to myself, "Good; that family is coming to Brasstown!"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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30522
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The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives Through Service)
P.O. Box 69
Cherry Log, Georgia 30522

