

MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 2, No. 12

The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

December, 2005

THE WAY WE SEE IT

If you are experiencing joy and satisfaction in what you are doing, if that joy and satisfaction can be shared, you should do so.

That the Children's Enrichment Program brings to all of us at the Center joy and satisfaction is an experienced fact. Do we share it? Yes. Others join us through their gifts.

Some offer talents, such as Jolin the artist, Judith the musician, the toy makers of Houston, the teddy bear makers of Seville, the whisper phone makers of Huntsville. Other offer money. Some have a lot of money and we welcome their gifts. Never turn your back on a person because he or she is wealthy. They have as much right as anyone to joy and satisfaction. No one should be punished because God gave him or her the burdensome gift of the ability to multiply their resources. Some have enough and to spare, enjoying a cushion against reversal of fortune. They, too, should be offered a share of our joy and satisfaction. Some barely get by, but that doesn't mean they are not to be invited to the table of joy and satisfaction. And some have next to nothing, but their main joy and satisfaction is to empty their pockets for other people's children. "Is there such a thing as half a scholarship for one of the children? I don't have \$140.00," he said. Of course, of course.



The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once observed, "There are two kinds of people: those who are willing but unable and those who are able but unwilling." Sorry, Soren, but there is a third kind: those who are willing but unable, those who are able but unwilling, and then there is You.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE A NEW CALENDAR

And before it gets cluttered with the little stuff, like weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and church suppers, let us fill in the big stuff.

- Jan. 28, 2006:** Songs and Stories at Brasstown Valley Resort with Steve Darsey and Fred Craddock. 8:00 p.m. Seats must be reserved.
- Feb. 19, 2006:** Jeff Biggers will read from his new book, *The United States of Appalachia* and autograph books in an evening program to be held at Cherry Log Christian Church. Many of you will remember Jeff's reading of the poetry of Don West at Appalachian Weekend, 2004. Jeff is a writer, lecturer and reports for Nat'l Public Radio. More details later. No charge, no reservations.
- March 3, 2006:** Second annual Helen Lewis Lecture to be given by Darlene Wilson of Wise, VA. Topic: "Melungeon Women in Appalachia." Music by Laura Boosinger at 7:00 p.m., lecture at 7:30. In old courthouse in Blue Ridge. No charge, no reservations.
- March 6, 2006:** Annual Spring Preaching Workshop led by Fred Craddock. 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Cherry Log Christian Church. Theme: "Preaching the Death of Jesus". No charge, but reservations are necessary.

There is more but this is enough enrichment for now. I would hate for you to "get above your raising".

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING

Why you don't see a big accent on Christmas in our program here, it is not because we are shying away from Christmas, hiding in a generic "Happy Holidays". All who work here are Christians, unashamedly so. And it is not because we do not support those groups who work hardest at Christmas to brighten the lives of persons in need. We do support them, and send to some of them what money we can.

But the fact is, we are a year round program and our friends support us year round. Nothing we do is seasonal and we do not wish to be seen as using this season of unusual generosity to get another dollar from you. I think you are already doing for us what you can. Am I not right?

Merry
Christmas

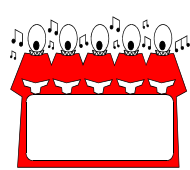
THE CRADDOCK CENTER
947 CHERRY LOG STREET
P.O. BOX 69
CHERRY LOG, GA 30522

706/632-1772
craddockcenter@tds.net
www.craddockcenter.org

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

IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN

Because plans are already in motion: an email to me from Helen Lewis, an email from me to Pat Beaver at Appalachian State in Boone, NC and the agreement that details will be worked out later. But the important matter is already decided: it will happen.



At Appalachian Weekend, the last weekend in September, a Welch Choir of 40 male voices will be here in concert. Yes, you heard me, a men's choir from Wales, continuing the long tradition of singing Welsh miners, will stop here on their tour in this country to sing for us and with us.

You will get details later about time and place but now it is enough to anticipate this extraordinary experience. This event will be a special treat for me since Wales is the ancestral home of the Craddocks.

And how appropriate that they came at a time when we will be celebrating the role of music in Appalachia. It's enough to make you believe in God! More later.

A STAY AT HOME PROF

That's what I am. In a previous issue of Milk and Honey, I embraced a suggestion that I let some ministers come to the Center for conversations about preaching rather than my going to them all the time.

It's working! Since that notice of my availability for such programs, 2 groups have come and 3 more are scheduled for the near future. These groups are smaller, the setting informal, and conversation flows easily. I am learning a lot and teaching a little. As I watch these ministers get in their cars to start the long drive home, I sit here comfortably and try to feel guilty, but never quite do it.



My body says "Thank you".

WE CANNOT HIDE

From the facts.

One out of every six American children—12.9 million—live below the poverty line (\$15,000.00 a year for a family of three).

One-third of these are in families with at least one full time worker.

Of these 3.9 million are Black, 4.1 million are Hispanic, 4.2 million are White.

Most poor children live in rural not urban areas.

Head Start is a federally funded program for poor preschoolers but the funding is so low, only half the eligible children have a place in the program. Vote; speak, give.

THANKS, DEBBIE

The Center received \$136.00 from those who supported Debbie From on the Half Marathon run in Atlanta. Thanks.

Now, the rest of you get off your duff and start running. Don't forget your tin cup — we can use the money.



JUDITH IS COMING, TRA-LA, TRA-LA

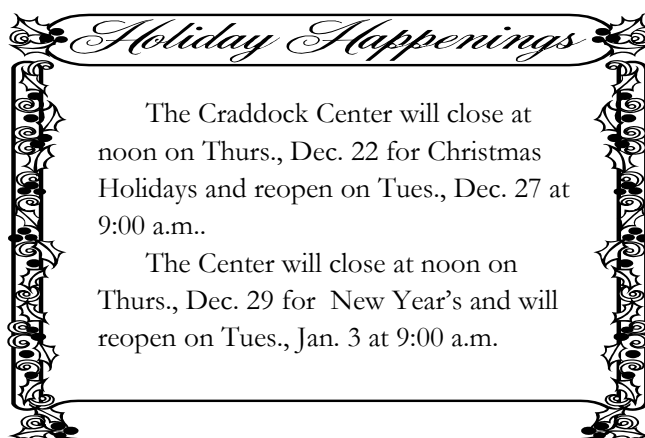
Judith Ritchie is a musician, defined by natural gifts, by education, by performance. She has been a guest artist with symphony orchestras across this country and internationally, performing American music in England and Israeli folk music in Israel. She is founder and director of Bel Canto Studios, a private voice teaching studio which attracts students internationally. She works with music and medicine, teaches music to children with hearing and vocal difficulties, directs the choir at Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas, and travels, offering concerts, retreats, and workshops.

Judith is a specialist in Orff Schulwerk, a way to teach and learn music based on things children love to do: sing, chant rhymes, clap, dance, and keep a beat on anything near at hand. It is in this capacity that Judith will come to the Center the first week of January. She will observe our classes in the Children's Enrichment Program and conduct two workshops for our teachers.

Judith comes offering her knowledge and gifts because she loves to do it and because she believes in what we are doing. She is a delight and we welcome her.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Of Milk and Honey I will try to answer the question a number of you have asked: "Why don't you charge for your events and raise money that way?"



The Craddock Center will close at noon on Thurs., Dec. 22 for Christmas Holidays and reopen on Tues., Dec. 27 at 9:00 a.m..

The Center will close at noon on Thurs., Dec. 29 for New Year's and will reopen on Tues., Jan. 3 at 9:00 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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P.O. Box 69
Cherry Log, Georgia 30522