

MILK AND HONEY

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The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

February, 2006

THE ARITHMETIC OF FAITH

Tammy tells me that we have, of this date, received 228 scholarships (a scholarship, you recall, is \$140.00, the cost of providing a HeadStart child our Children’s Enrichment Program). The number she gives me is a fact, a flat out actual total, double checked, triple tallied, scout’s honor, hand on the Bible, just ask the auditor, no ifs, ands, or buts, take it to the bank, true sum. That is her job: good, bad, or indifferent, give me the truth. She is not paid to ease the pain or subdue a doxology; I can handle the truth. I need no hymns softly sung, no explanations about the economy, no speculations about errors in the post office, no covering for those who always mean well.

So I give her the level gaze and ask without emotion: Is this the true total? Without a flinch, she answers: Yes. At that moment, spontaneously and simultaneously, we burst into song. The doxology is the only proper response. You have remembered the children and given generously. Given our rather small mailing list, the percentage of responses is extraordinary. The children thank you and we thank you.

Then I take Tammy’s report, go into my office and close the door. You see, in her office, all the machines calculate and report only the facts. She has no machine that registers hope, or perhaps, or maybe. But I do. So I sit down and do the arithmetic of faith:



<u>228</u>	Scholarships received. Thank you.
<u>11</u>	Scholarships on the kitchen table, as yet unmailed.
<u>9</u>	Scholarships to be sent once I locate that pledge card. “Can I send a check without the card?” Of course.
<u>8</u>	Scholarships to be sent once we return from vacation.
<u>9</u>	Scholarships, “I told you I will and I will.”
<u>10</u>	Scholarships, “I sent one but my wife says we should send two.” (Your wife is a saint.)
<u>7</u>	Scholarships, “Here’s the money for half; maybe someone else can afford only half.”
<u>282</u>	Total



This is absolutely amazing! I almost said unbelievable, but that would not be true: it is Believable.

BRASSTOWN REPORT CARD

Attendance	A+ (about 420)
Offering	A+ (\$3,350.00)
General spirit of the group—A+ (upbeat and full of good cheer)	
Weather	A+ (I told you)
Songs and Stories—Oh, well, what can I say?	

99 Minus 9 = 90

Ninety is the limit on registrations for the Spring Preaching Workshop on Monday, March 6. However, because some who register to come have funerals or pastoral emergencies and call to release their registrations, we actually accept 99. We have learned that a registration of 99 usually brings 90 to the event. Of course, it is possible that no one cancels. Then what? No problem; we start a second layer.

Number registered as of this date—89.

March 6, 9:00—1:00. Continental breakfast and deli lunch free. Subject for the sessions: “Preaching the Death of Jesus”.

CD’s AVAILABLE



The programs of Songs and Stories at Brasstown Valley by Steve Darsey and Fred Craddock are recorded and, as we have been financially able, made into CD’s. CD’s of the programs of 2001, 2002, 2003,

and 2004 are now available (there was no program in 2005). The 2006 program will be available later. The prices are \$10.00 each for 2001-2003 and \$20.00 for 2004 (2 CD’s, a longer program). They may be ordered from Meridian Herald (WingedfortheHeart@meridianherald.org, 404-525-4722) or the Craddock Center (craddockcenter@tds.net, 706-632-1772).

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HELEN LEWIS LECTURE

On Friday, March 3 the Craddock Center will present the second annual Helen Lewis Lecture. Named in honor of anthropologist Helen Lewis, the annual lecture focuses on a specific area of Appalachian life and culture.



The event will be held at the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association (old Fannin County courthouse) in Blue Ridge, Georgia. The lecture, preceded by 30 minutes of genuine Appalachian music, will be presented at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free and no reservations are necessary. For more information, please call the Craddock Center at 706-632-1772.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE STEP UP PROGRAM?

We wait but not patiently. Until Homeland Security in general and its sub department FEMA in particular declares a surplus of mobile housing units, we cannot receive any. They are busy on the Gulf Coast, we understand that. We also understand that the Federal Government ordered more units than will be used there. When a surplus is declared, we resume our efforts.

I am convinced we have made the right moves. In the past, we talked to good people in offices full of sympathy but without power. Now we are in a strong position — to wait.

I will keep you posted.

A VERY GOOD QUESTION

“Are there background checks on the musicians, dancers, and storytellers who go to the children in HeadStart schools?”

I had never been asked before, and I must admit, I was momentarily shocked by it. Not that it was not an appropriate question; it was and is. Newspapers and TV remind us daily of the horrible social disease of child molestation. And in so many cases, the molester is a person in a position of trust.



Yes, everyone who works with the Center’s program for children has a background check through law enforcement offices. We do so, not out of suspicion, but for the sake of the children, our program, and the HeadStart schools.

Thanks for asking.

FYI

Appalachian Weekend will be Sept. 29-30 this year. Note the change: Friday night and Saturday rather than Saturday only, as in the past. Because we will have so many musical performance groups, including the 40-voice male chorus from Wales as well as many from our area, Saturday alone will not contain the music. The hills will be alive with the sound of music.

The place? The Performing Arts Center in Blue Ridge, GA.

The schedule? We will let you know. But let me say this: some of you will need to get a motel room or cabin for Friday night. Otherwise you will be in the painful position of choosing between the Friday and Saturday programs. Who needs that stress?

MEET DARLENE WILSON



This year the Craddock Center is honored to welcome historian and teacher Darlene Wilson who will speak about Melungeon women in Appalachia at the Helen Lewis Lecture.

Ms. Wilson is a nationally recognized historian of Appalachia, race and women. She is the founder of APPALNET, a listserv for the Appalachian studies community. She has also served as Director of Institutional Advancement and Effectiveness, as well as having been a faculty member for Southeast Community College in Cumberland, KY. A respected author, Wilson’s writing has appeared in numerous books and journals including the Journal of Appalachian Studies. We are thrilled to welcome her.

MEET LAURA BOOSINGER

Joining Wilson for the Helen Lewis Lecture will be musician Laura Boosinger. Focusing on the traditional music from the Southern Appalachian region, Boosinger has appeared at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival as well as the Tennessee Homecoming at the Museum of Appalachia. Ms. Boosinger was named “*Most Outstanding Performer*” at Asheville’s “Mountain Dance and Folk Festival” - the oldest continuing traditional music festival in the country. From old time banjo to finger autoharp, Boosinger’s music welcomes listeners to the great musical heritage of Southern Appalachia. Welcome, Laura!



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