

MILK AND HONEY

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The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

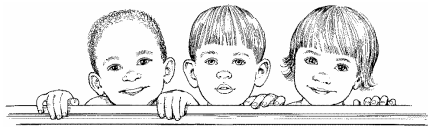
January, 2005

THE CHILDREN OF SEVILLE

Or, to be more specific, the children of the United Methodist Church Sunday School of Seville, Ohio. The card is addressed to the Craddock Center "with love from our kids to yours". A photo of 27 smiling, singing (they are gathered around a piano) faces is attached to the card. Inside are the signatures of the children and their teachers. Folded within the card is a generous check sent with love from the children of the United Methodist Church Sunday School of Seville, Ohio.

I have never been to Seville. My unscientific poll of the folk at Cherry Log yielded no name of anyone who has been to Seville. So how Seville? Last summer at Chautauqua, New York I spoke to an afternoon gathering about the Craddock Center and our work with Headstart/Pre-K children. Someone was there from Seville and the seed fell in good soil. The person from Seville told the children in a Sunday School and the rest, as they say, is history.

Visitors to the office see the photograph prominently displayed and ask, "Who are the children?" I tell them this story. I want them to know, I want you to know, but I especially want the children of Seville to know.



"With love from our kids to you."

ONE DOZEN WHO CARE

Is the name of a small but influential group of community-minded women in Andrews, NC, led by Ann Miller-Woodford, a member of the Board of the Craddock Center. This group has won awards and grants for community programs, work with youth, and workshops for women. They are offering a Multi-Cultural Women's Development Conference April 8-9 at Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, NC. This conference offers an opportunity to join a diverse group of women for discussion and dialogue on major issues facing women. Nationally known women from different fields will lead the conference.

Two days, one night's lodging, four meals, great scenery, and lots of fun for only \$85.00. For more information, check out www.odwc.org.

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH



And a free continental breakfast as well. A generous sponsor who loves the church, honors the ministry, and who prays daily for a slight improvement in preaching, picks up the tab for the semi-annual Preaching Workshops at Cherry Log. The place is Cherry Log Christian Church, the day is Monday, March 7, and the time is 9:00-12:30. The limit is 90 and registration is by phone (706-632-1772) or e-mail (craddockcenter@tds.net) or by mail (P.O. Box 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522). Anyone who preaches, whether just beginning or a veteran of many years, is welcome, regardless of denomination.

Anyone whose work is repetitive, such as preaching every week, needs to do two things: back off and look carefully at one's work, and meet regularly with others who do the same. Hence, the workshop. Dr. Craddock's theme for the day is "From Start to Finish", from preparation to delivery.

WE LOVE YOU, AND ALL THAT

But we can't save you a seat for the "Songs and Stories" program at Brasstown Valley Resort if you have not made a reservation. Awake, thou who sleepest, the day is at hand. The folk who come regularly from Washington, D.C., New York, and Ohio are tired and in no mind to give up their seats.

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. 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.

Dr. Steve Darsey sings the songs, Dr. Fred Craddock tells the stories, and we all have a great time.



THE CRADDOCK CENTER
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Tammy T. Blair, Office Manager

NOW MEET HELEN LEWIS

You met Loyal Jones last month. Loyal is a delightful package of humor, stories, history, information, and common sense, all of which he will bring to his presentation honoring Helen Lewis.

Helen Lewis now lives in Morganton in North Georgia. Helen is a native of Georgia, educated at Georgia State College for Women (BA), Duke University, University of Virginia (MA), and University of Kentucky (PhD). As a sociologist, anthropologist, and educator, Helen has lived, taught, and worked in Central Appalachian coalfields from 1955 to 1990. From university classrooms to small town community organizations, Helen has helped people help themselves. She has written many articles and a number of books, the latest of which is Mountain Sisters (Univ. of KY Press, 2003). She continues to teach and consult in semi-retirement. She is currently directing the oral history project for the Byron Herbert Reece Society and is co-teaching with Bettie Sellers a course at Young Harris College, "Remembering Byron Herbert Reece".

Helen Lewis is a great asset to our area and the Craddock Center is pleased to honor her with this annual lectureship.

So, here's the program: In the courtroom of the old Fannin County courthouse in Blue Ridge, GA, at 7:00 p.m. Sonny Houston and the Blue Velvet Band will perform Appalachian Mountain music. At 7:30, Loyal Jones will speak on "Living and Working Within Appalachian Culture."

This program is not only open to the public but all who are in Southern Appalachia, native or new, are encouraged to come. Teachers and ministers and social workers will find this a helpful as well as an entertaining

CRUISING

That's what the Story Express is doing now, making preliminary runs around the area. Enjoy the sight of this delightful vehicle, especially since its mission is to bring stories and song and art to children, and most especially since your gifts made it possible.

Sit by the window and watch it go by. However, if you live in Idaho or Rhode Island, it may be a while. Go ahead and eat your breakfast.



AND TWO VIOLINS



Perhaps you, as I am, are commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark

Expedition to the great Northwest part of this country. On flatboats, in canoes, and on foot 32 men spent three painful years traversing inhospitable terrain, often among suspicious if not hostile natives, keeping journals and marking trails. Inclement weather, disease, hunger, feet torn by thorns, and boats dashed on rocks slowed but did not stop them. They had to anticipate needs, pack accordingly, and leave behind what was not essential.

In the baggage of what was essential for the journey were two violins. Strange? Not at all. Music is as necessary for human life as are dry socks and coffee beans. At least that is what we believe here at the Center. And so we sing and tell stories and enjoy awakening the human spirit in small children.

Come visit and see for yourself.



BRUSH UP ON YOUR CHEROKEE

No, we're not going to visit the Reservation at Cherokee, NC. Even if we were, we would not need to know the language of the Cherokee Nation. We are staying here in Gilmer County, GA, ancestral home of so many Cherokees, but it seems right and respectful to know more about these native Americans, their religion, family and community life, and the departure of so many of them on the Trail of Tears.

So, the focus of Appalachian Weekend next Sept. 24-25 will be the Cherokee. Singers, artists, and storytellers from among them will come and share their history, their music, their stories. We will not tell it; we will listen to them tell it.

Since our mission is to enrich life, who better to sponsor such a program? Since so many Cherokee lived in and were driven from Gilmer County, what better place for such a program? And since Sharon Meek, one of our board members is our resource guide to Cherokee life and history, what better time to understand this important chapter of our own history? Through the Milk and Honey Sharon will point us to some good reading and watching.

It would be clever at this point to sign off in a few Cherokee words, but I do not know a single one. Do you?

We have work to do before September.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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P.O. Box 69
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