

**THERE ARE MANY HAPPY BIRDS**

In Murphy, North Carolina after the Pre-K students made gourd birdhouses. This project was made possible through the generosity of Mary Cinnamon, one of The Craddock Center’s volunteers who is a gifted artist. Mary and her husband, Greg, have recently moved to Cherry Log, where they are enjoying active retirement. One day, while exploring this spectacular mountain area, they came upon a roadside stand selling gourds. Mary’s creative mind started dancing with images of birdhouses, Santas, cat and mouse, and owls all painted on these grimy gourds. What a lucky find it was for all the folks who have enjoyed the fruits of the Cinnamon’s labors.

Mary’s painted gourds were on display at the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association’s Holiday Show and Sale. These fine works of art were quickly snapped up by happy patrons.

Then Mary began preparing the gourds for Pre-K students in Murphy. Sixty excited children were given clean gourds with the holes already drilled for the birdhouses. You can see from the pictures how much happiness was brought to these children and the birds who found a home through the Cinnamon’s generous project. — TLS



**SISTERS AND COUSINS**



Came to Ellijay last week to bring books and to feed hungry children at the Community Food Pantry. For several summers The Craddock Center’s Story Express has gone to

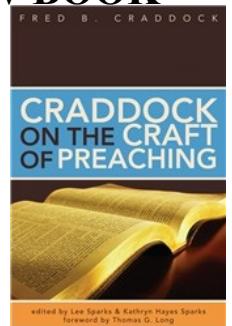
the food pantry to read stories to them while their parents shop for food.

Pam Blass and Karen Byrne, sisters who are members of Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta saw a teachable moment for their children when they heard about the Seamless Summer program which provides breakfast and lunch for children during the summer break. After gathering as many boxes of new books to restock the Story Express as could fit in the car with their four children, they headed north to Ellijay. Julia, William, Elizabeth and Jack spent the morning helping children pick out books and feeding them. And when there was a lull, the boys enjoyed scaling a dirt bank beside the Story Express.

I know the local children enjoyed being served by kids for a change. And I’ll bet the Atlanta kids went to bed that night with the memory of “I was hungry and you gave me food and also books!” Many thanks Shallowford friends. — TLS

**NEWSFLASH: A NEW BOOK**

By Dr. Craddock is now available for \$22 at The Craddock Center. *Craddock On The Craft of Preaching* is a collection of lectures and workshops given by Dr. Craddock since his retirement from his distinguished teaching career. — TLS



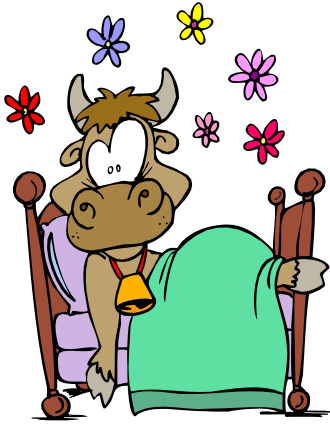
**2011-12 CEP STATISTICS**



# of students	1350
# of counties served	9
# of classes	68
# of Arts Specialists	6
\$ needed	\$50,000

**THE CRADDOCK CENTER**  
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## HOW WAS I TO KNOW



That when the cows are lying down, the fish won't bite? This bit of information is vital, especially to an 8-year old, the perfect age for fishing. I could not believe this knowledge was intentionally withheld from me, although I know for a fact that adults withhold information from children. How do I know? Walk into a room of adults talking and suddenly every voice is hushed. Why? You know. Or

when a child lies ill in bed with a fever of 120° and an adult says, "Now run along outside and play", you know secrets are being kept. Now that I think about it, most of the important knowledge I possess was gained by watching and overhearing. Nobody told me that if a snapping turtle bites you, it will not turn you loose until it thunders. Nobody told me that a dead snake hanged on a fence will continue to wiggle its tail until sundown. Nobody told me that you can tell if a watermelon is ripe by placing a broomstraw on the melon. If the straw turns a complete revolution, the melon is ripe. I picked up this information, nobody gave it to me. But it sure helps now and then when someone cares enough to just plain flat out tell you the truth.

So why didn't someone tell me that when the cows are lying down, the fish don't bite? We had a cow, for goodness sake! All those mornings I walked down to the farm pond with pole and worms, no one ever said, "Look at the cow on your way; if it is lying down, don't waste your time." Would that information have cost them anything? No. Would it have helped me? Yes, immensely.

It's not as if I was asking for an interpretation: did the fish get the cow to agree or was the whole thing the cow's idea? I don't care who started it or what the motive was. All I know is, the basic information would have spared me many a disappointing day, the victim of a dark conspiracy.

Years later, my mother and I were driving out to the old farm where I was born. We passed a field in which were several cows, all lying down. "Not a good day to fish," she said. "You knew and didn't tell me!" My own mother; I couldn't believe it. She felt my pain. "You were just 8 years old and you loved to fish. I didn't think catching fish was all that important. Besides, I did what I could." "And what was that?" "You remember Belle, our cow? Well, Belle promised me she would never lie down while you were fishing, and she didn't. I trusted her."

And so did I, and I trusted my mother, too. Trusting is very important, especially now, with all these conspiracies going around. Why, I heard the other day that cats can read your mind. — FBC

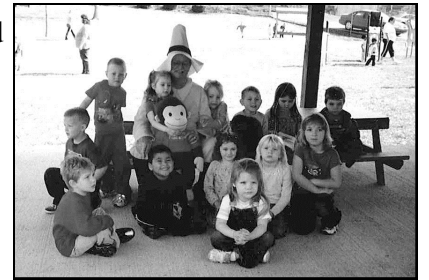
## JOE WELLS RETIRES



After ten years of service at The Craddock Center. He has literally been the backbone of the Living Room furniture outreach program for people who need furniture due to unexpected circumstances. Joe would drive to pick up from the homes

of the donors and either deliver the furniture where it was needed or put it in the storage facility until a need arose. He has also faithfully kept an inventory of the donated items in the off-site storage facility. Joe, who has a quick sense of humor, would call the pick up service "Two Men and A Truck". I think the largest donation a couple of years ago Joe called "Seven Men and Five Trucks". He enjoyed being helpful and loved everyone he met.

Joe not only assisted with the Living Room, he also enjoyed donning his yellow suit and hat to go read Curious George stories to the Head Start and Pre-K students in Fannin County. You know the man in the yellow hat is Curious George's best friend. Joe Wells has brought joy to hundreds of children and hope and relief to even more families who had no bed or sofa. Joe's stories in the yellow hat, and faithful service in the red truck have been an enormous gift to this community. We are most grateful for all your years of service, Joe — well done! — TLS



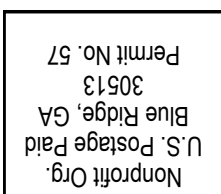
## NEED REVISITED



I think I have mentioned before that we need an industrial-size copy machine at The Craddock Center. We do all the copying and printing on two home-size machines, which doesn't seem to agree with them. Let me be quick to say how grateful we are for these two machines. However,

they don't appreciate how much they are called upon to produce each day. Just the other day when Tammy pressed the print button, after about ten copies, the machine said, "I can only print the top two-thirds of the page. You are asking too much of me. I can do no more." After a good night's rest, the machine began chugging away and spitting out copies again. I'm happy to say it gave us the full page again for a few hours. Do you know of a good copier? If so, please consider coming to our rescue. — TLS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



P.O. Box 69  
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