

REMEMBER THIS?



Does this look familiar? Did it come in the mail a few weeks ago? But where is it now? Hiding in a stack of mail? Serving as a bookmark in the book you are reading?

Just a friendly reminder that there are hundreds of children just like this little girl who are counting on The Craddock Center to “deliver happy and hope” through the Annual Fund Campaign, “Giving to Enrich”. — TLS

GIVING TO ENRICH

THE CRADDOCK CENTER

Name: _____

Address: _____

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List the name(s) of anyone you would like to honor with your donation: _____

Please send additional information about: \$10 - \$99 \$100 - \$499 \$500 - \$999

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Please make checks payable to The Craddock Center. Gifts to The Craddock Center are tax deductible. Visit www.craddockcenter.org to donate online.

Your Gift Is Greatly Appreciated!

BABY STEPS, MUSIC AND STORIES = CONFIDENCE



By the time you receive this newsletter all the schools will be out for the summer. The Children’s Enrichment Program staff will gather to celebrate a job well done and share stories like this one:

"Thank you for helping my children so much!", a mother said as she tearfully hugged me after the end of year program. Her eldest son was in our program six years ago and has ADHD. Three years ago her youngest son entered our program and he was struggling in many areas. He looked forward to music, but was fine to observe from a distance. When given the opportunity to use the microphone, he made a few sounds and was very proud of himself. The next year, he bonded with the Appalachia song *Groundhog*. He loved using the groundhog puppet and would make him pop out of a hole and make cute animal sounds. At last year's end of year program, he and his mother helped sing *Five Little Fish*, then he took the microphone and said, "Thank you much". I was blown away with the progress this child made this year. At our last class, he came up to me and wanted to sing *Bingo*. He took the microphone and sang all the words as clearly as he could very dramatically. He even learned how to spell B-I-N-G-O. I have enjoyed seeing him blossom with confidence and joy. His mother shared that he is being tested for autism and still has struggles ahead, but she will always cherish the impact The Craddock Center programs have had on her children. I will never forget the impact he has had on me and the joy and hope that music brings to all children.

I am always amazed how The Craddock Center programs help build confidence and self esteem in all children. The quiet, shy children have obstacles with socialization and separation. The progress these children make may seem like baby steps, but for them it is a mile marker. One child this year stands out to me. She had a difficult time looking at me and wouldn't leave her teacher's side. By the end of the year, she is not only looking at me, but smiling, and making small hand gestures with the music. Wow! Way to go. Baby steps, music, and stories all help build a child's confidence. — Kim Cheves, CEP Coordinator

WHAT A DIFFERENCE

A mission trip can make! For the third year the Elementary Family Mission Group from First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta spent Memorial Day Weekend in the Cherry Log area. Children from 5 to 11 with their parents and one grandparent came bearing gifts of books, clothing, furniture, toys and much energy to serve. They cleared the remnants of the many recent storms at The Craddock Center; they gave away books from the Story Express while others processed books to go on the book mobile; and they helped with landscaping at the Kids Kottage Visitation Center in Ellijay. This Visitation Center will provide a safe place for supervised family visits of children who are in Foster Care. Thank you Elementary Family Mission Group.

The beautiful flowers they planted at The Craddock Center now welcome all who come to visit. We'd love to have you stop by if you are in this neck of the woods this summer. — TLS



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. Trisha L. Senterfitt, Executive Director
Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Director Emeritus
Tammy T. Blair, Office Manager

NOTHING IS SO COMPLICATING

Especially to a child, as finding one's self in possession of something not one's own. I do not have in mind those sibling disputes over a toy or the last bisquit or the last cookie. Those small dramas play themselves out rather quickly under the wise and caring eyes of our first referees, our parents. But set the complication in a larger arena and the matter, though in itself a trifle light as air, may go unresolved or resolved without satisfaction.



My earliest recollection of such a complication involved a baseball. I was nine or ten. Like many small towns, my hometown had a baseball team, and a good one, too. Semi-professional. Admission was ten cents, far beyond my budget. But the voice on the loudspeaker said to the boys outside the gate that anyone who wished to recover foul balls could present a

ball to the gatekeeper and be admitted free. Chasing foul balls was a heated contest and not without scuffles. Finally, I retrieved one. When I presented the ball to the gatekeeper, he said the game was almost over. Why not hold onto it, and when the team returns in two weeks, bring the ball and you can see a whole game free. Nice man; I happily went home with the ball.

My happiness was short lived. From family and friends came questions: Where did you get the ball? Why didn't you return it? It's not really your ball, is it? What are you going to do with it for two weeks? Can we play with it until you return it? What if you lose it? What if it get damaged while you have it? If you don't show up with it, will the gatekeeper or even a policeman come to your house to get it? What's the good of having the ball if we can't play with it? I remind you this was a real baseball used by real ball players and nothing at all like the rags and string ball Mama had made for us. We guessed its value at a hundred dollars, or maybe five hundred.

The pleasure of holding the ball and letting my brothers and friends hold the ball soon wore off. Having the baseball gave me unwanted responsibility. And decisions; I had to make decisions. The next two weeks dragged on, with me fearful that something could go wrong; I could miss my rendezvous with the gatekeeper, and rumors about the ball could ruin my life.

Like I said, being entrusted with something not your own is a real complication. Especially for adults. — FBC

STORY EXPRESS HEADING FOR FEEDING SITES

Can you imagine how scary it would be to come to the end of the school year and not know where your next meal will come from? This is a reality for more than 60% of the students served by The Craddock Center.

Thankfully, while school is out this summer the children of Gilmer County will once again be fed by volunteers with Seamless Summer. This federal program is offered through the nutrition department of schools who have over 50% of their students receiving free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Gilmer County, where The Craddock is located, fed hundreds of children breakfast and lunch each day last summer.

The Craddock Center will participate again by getting volunteers to go with the Story Express several days each week to the various feeding sites to offer books for summer reading. These volunteers will feed the children, tell them stories and give them a book while encouraging them to read books every day at home.

We are so grateful to all of you who have donated the books that will be given to children over the summer. Next to food, books are the most important gift we can provide these precious children! — TLS

PREACHING JESUS



Is the topic for the Fall Preaching Workshop October 3, 2011 with Dr. Willimon presenting.

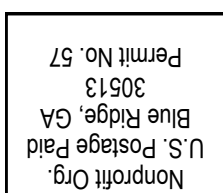
Dr. Willimon writes "Preaching's most active proponent and its biggest challenge is Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus is an auditory, acoustical affair—faith in Jesus Christ comes through preaching. And yet, God in

Jesus Christ is a challenge to bring to speech. Jesus is controversial, conflicted, and out of synch with most of our expectations for who God is supposed to be and how God is supposed to act. Jesus Christ is the point of Christian preaching and that living presence that effects faithful preaching in any age."

This workshop will explore the challenge of bringing faith in Jesus Christ to speech. It will build upon Bishop Willimon's widely acclaimed recent book, *Why Jesus?* (Abingdon) and its relevance for the vocation of Christian preaching. The workshop is designed for preachers and for those who listen to sermons.

It may seem a long way off, but we all know how things pick up after Labor Day. Many seats have already been spoken for. So I would encourage you to email Tammy at craddockcenter@tds.net or call 706-632-1772. — TLS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



P.O. Box 69
Cherry Log, Georgia 30522

