

# MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 2, No. 5

*The Craddock Center*  
(Enriching Lives through Service)

May, 2005

## O, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES

And then I could express the gratitude of 1000 children who say to you, “thank you”. It is important, whether you gave little or much, that you know you have blessed children you probably will never meet. I want you to know that last August most of these children came into Headstart classrooms afraid, silent or crying, hiding behind mother. This month they ran out of those rooms laughing and singing. Thanks to you they have songs to sing all summer, stories to tell all summer, and books to take to their parents with a new request: “Read me a story.”



Not all the beautiful changes in the children are due to our program; of course not. Most, but not all, come from homes which are poor in things but rich in love. The Headstart schools have good teachers who care for the children. But the Headstart programs are strapped for funds and word out of Washington brings the tragic news of further cuts. Budgets are trim with no funds for programs of enrichment — music, art, storytelling, and dance. And so, through the Craddock Center, you come into their classrooms singing, dancing, telling stories. You have enriched their lives, and if the statistics are to be believed, you have improved their chances for success in school and in life.

So, thank you. I hope you will join us in August to begin a new year.

It has been my pleasure to visit some of the schools. To be sure, with some children there is evidence of physical and emotional abuse and it breaks your heart. But the overwhelming experience is one of delight. You look at each face and say, “This is a child of God. I see a striking resemblance.”

## LET US NOW STAND AND SING



The Doxology. I promised you in the April issue of *Milk and Honey* that we would receive \$6,000.00 for children’s books to match the gift of \$6,000.00 from a single donor in March.

Well, I am now announcing to you that we have thus far received \$6,363.00 for the books. I say “thus far” because our supporters know the need for books never ends; we give many, many books to Headstart children, and to other children as well.

To all who gave, thanks. To all who believed we would raise the matching money, thanks. I realize we at the Center sound optimistic all the time, maybe even disgustingly so. But hope is not a posture we assume; hope is not a fundraising strategy. We have no such strategies; personally, I don’t know any. But I do know that our work is unselfish and it is important. Therefore, we trust God will favor it. Thus far, that trust has been rewarded.

I will not print here the words to the Doxology. You have had, I am sure, many other occasions to sing it.

## THANK YOU, EMILY AND AMY

Emily and Amy are the Indigo Girls who, on March 1, gave a Benefit performance for the Craddock Center. The concert was held in Athens, GA and from it we have received a check for \$14,278.92.

Wow! What a generous response! We will be good stewards of the gift.

The concert was great and the response to both the music and the cause it was to benefit was moving and deeply appreciated. It will continue to bear fruit.

Again, our gratitude.

## THE INDIANS ARE COMING

Cherokee, that is. The date is Sat., Sept. 24, the place is the Lions Club facility at the fairgrounds in Ellijay, and the time is 9:00—5:30. Among our guests will be storytellers, weavers, wood carvers, singers, historians, dancers, musicians, and artists. They will bring their arts and crafts for sale. Food will be available all day.



We will provide more details later but mark it now on your calendar. All are invited, and please, bring the children; let them learn while having a good time.

I hope Appalachian Weekend is becoming a tradition. Is this our fifth year?

## FOR SALE OR SHOW

At Appalachian Weekend, we will again have spaces for arts and crafts. The event is to be in the Lions Club facility at the Ellijay fairgrounds. Our Cherokee guests will occupy some of the spaces but others will be available. Items for sale or show must be made by the seller and represent an art or craft traditional in these mountains; for example, quilting, weaving, painting, carving, beadwork. Let us know. There is no charge.

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## MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER, DR. MIRIAM GENTRY



As a physician of internal medicine, Dr. Miriam Gentry has dedicated her life to the well-being of the community. Educated at Duke University and Emory School of Medicine, Dr. Gentry completed her Residency at Stanford University. Her interest in becoming a doctor began when she was a child, and one of her favorite aspects of medicine is the opportunity it provides to interact with people—every encounter is different and interesting.

Dr. Gentry spent the majority of her career at the Emory Clinic in Atlanta, but several years ago she had the urge to be adventurous. In February 2002, she moved to Ellijay where she now has a private practice. This fulfilled her dream of practicing medicine in the mountains of Georgia, and she loves the sense of peace that comes from living in the area.

Dr. Gentry has one daughter and is anxiously awaiting the birth of her first grandchild in July. Greatly impressed and interested in the mission of the Craddock Center, she is pleased to be serving on the Board.

## BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

The ministers who gather for the semi-annual Preaching Workshop on Oct. 3 will consider the question, “By What Authority Do I Preach?” It is important to bring this question to the surface and deal with it before someone stands up in the congregation and challenges the pulpit: “Who or what gives you the authority to speak to us about God’s will?” The person who has no clear answer will probably at some point leave the pulpit.



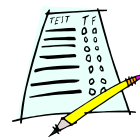
As you probably know, the date is Oct. 3, the place is Cherry Log Christian Church, the time is 9:00—1:00. The continental breakfast at 9:00 and the deli-lunch at 12:00 are free. But because space is limited (90), reservations must be made. You may do so by writing The Craddock Center, P.O. Box 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522, by calling 706-632-1772, or by email to craddockcenter@tds.net.

## THIS WILL BE ON THE TEST!

You would be embarrassed, I would be embarrassed, all of us would be embarrassed, if you flunked Appalachian Weekend. I shudder at the thought of having our guests, the Cherokee Indians, return home saying, “They live on land that was ours, they drove us from our homes to walk the trail of tears, and they do not even know us.”

As a hedge against that grim prospect, Sharon Meek went to Cherokee, NC and at the museum there she purchased some books, a video, and a tape, all of them by Cherokees themselves. We have these at the Craddock Center where you may check them out or you may purchase them on the Internet. Appalachian Weekend is Sept. 24, only four months away.

To help you get started on your homework, I am listing below a few resources available. When you finish these I will give you more. What a compliment to our guests for you to engage them in informed conversation while they are here.



### BOOKS

Living Stories of the Cherokee, Collected and Edited by Barbara R. Duncan, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC 1998.—This book is a collection of Cherokee stories and presents seventy-two traditional and contemporary tales from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina as told by six Cherokee storytellers.

Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokees, Melissa Schwarz, Chelsea House Publishers, Philadelphia, 1987.—The biography of Mankiller who was the first woman to head the Cherokee Nation.

Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook, Barbara R. Duncan and Brett H. Riggs, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2003.—This guidebook offers a unique journey into the homeland of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in the mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

Storm in the Mountains, Vernon H. Crow, Press of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee, NC, 1982.—Thomas’ Legion was one of the most unusual fighting units of the American Civil War. Composed of Cherokee Indians and mountaineers from Southern Appalachia.

Walking on the Wind, Cherokee Teachings for Harmony and Balance, Michael Tlanusta Garrett, Bear & Company, Rochester, VT 2002.

### VIDEO

Cherokee, The Principal People. The history and culture of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. Length 56:46.

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