

# MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 1, No. 10

*The Craddock Center*  
*(Enriching Lives through Service)*

November, 2004

## I CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY NOW

There are, when launching a program of service to others, two critical moments. One, the moment of clarity as to whether or not the program has the favor of God. Some things we do, sincerely and enthusiastically begun, may not pass the test: Is this something I want to do or is this meeting a real human need in others? Is this a program popular at the moment or is it for the long haul? Are recipients of the program our projects or are they treated as children of God, no worse, no better than we are? Does the program just make me feel better or does it enable another to live better? Is there any condescension in this program or is giving and receiving one gracious act? Are we simply duplicating what someone else is already doing?

These and dozens of other questions are asked every day, in the sober effort to discern the smile of God. The answer has come clear: God has smiled with favor on our beginning efforts to enrich lives through service. Your gifts, your notes, your prayers, your encouragement say with one voice: Yes. Offers to come to Cherry Log and help, offers from New York to Texas say Yes. Directors and teachers in HeadStart/PreK say Yes. The children say Yes. The Board says Yes. My own heart says Yes; this is important work, good and right.

The second critical moment is this: Can the continuation of the program be assured beyond the lifetime of its present leadership? That is, is the life of the Center in its own merit or is it the case that without this person or that person, the Center cannot survive? This is a complex question and a toughie.

We have faced this question in a practical way. Are there persons or groups who believe strongly enough in what we are doing to endow the programs for the future?

As you know, one of our programs is offering free of charge workshops on preaching for ministers of small churches in Southern Appalachia. Ten to twelve are held each year. This program is now endowed. A great beginning.

In September, the Center receive the gift of a piece of property with the stipulation that it be sold immediately with \$75,000.00 of the proceeds being put in an Endowment Fund, the remainder to be put in the Operating Fund. The property sold for \$95,000.00 Wow! Here we go!

All you have to do is to indicate with your gift of money or stocks or property that you want to invest in the future of this work and our Investment Committee will take it from there.

Just thinking about it makes me ready for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. I have no doubt — there are so many good and generous people in the world.

## HAVE YOU RESERVED SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 2005?

Then you had better hurry. For the fifth year, Dr. Steve Darsey and Dr. Fred Craddock will present “Winged for the Heart – a Program of Songs and Stories”. 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, but to maintain some control over attendance, reservations must be made. Last year we lost control and had 425 people in a room seating 400. You may make reservations by phone or e-mail with Meridian Herald (404-525-4722, [WingedfortheHeart@meridianherald.org](mailto:WingedfortheHeart@meridianherald.org)) or the Craddock Center (706-632-1772, [craddockcenter@tds.net](mailto: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.

Hurry; it is already late.

Do I have more stories? What a question – Is the Pope Catholic?

## FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Why not a gift of the CD of the 2004 Songs and Stories performed at Brasstown Valley last January?

Actually, there are 2 CD's because the program was longer than usual

because somebody talked too long. The 2 CD's are \$20.00 and a perfect gift for two groups in our society: those who attended and those who did not. Forget about the others.

Steve Darsey left a box of the CD's at the Center in case you wish to have us send them to you. We would be happy to do so.



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**Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Director**  
**Tammy T. Blair, Office Manager**

## IT HURTS, BUT I UNDERSTAND

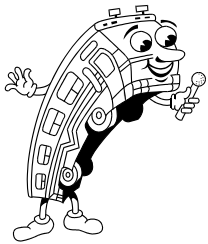
When someone turns down our request for financial support with the response, "We give to the poor but to programs that meet their real needs." Meaning, of course, food and clothing, especially at Christmas.

Blessings on those programs; who could deny food and clothing to a child? The Craddock Center has a small emergency fund and not a week goes by without at least one claim on that purse. But that is not our primary mission. We are about the business of enriching life, of lifting self esteem, of instilling a sense of self worth, of effecting socialization so that each child can play and study and grow as an equal to other children. We do this through songs, art, and stories. Studies show that participating in such programs increases a child's success in school and in life in the community.

The records of some charities indicate that they give to children just as they gave to their parents and to their grandparents. Generation after generation the story continues the same.

Our goal is to break the cycle, to change the story. There are 13 million children living in depressing poverty in this country. But we get up each morning believing our small effort is and will make a difference. And every dollar we receive is an investment in that difference and on behalf of the children, we thank you.

## TAKE A LOOK



As you know, the Story Express is a Dodge Cargo Van (becoming increasingly popular with FedEx, UPS, and other carriers) being decorated and customized for our purposes. While we were deciding on the outside appearance, Ron Zimbrick and Larry Hansen have been at work

on the inside. There will be shelving for books, tapes, and CD's. There will be a mounted camera, a computer, sound amplifiers, a work table, special lighting, etc., all state of the art. The floor will be carpeted and portable steps will facilitate easy entrance and exit. When it is parked and the back doors open, the program begins.

We now are satisfied with the outside appearance of the Story Express. I think you will be pleased. To have a look-see, check our website ([www.craddockcenter.org](http://www.craddockcenter.org)).

Enjoy.

## I NEVER MISS A CHANCE

To tell about my latest surgery. Actually, I do want to explain why I have been almost unavailable since Oct. 19, and I most certainly want to express my gratitude for prayers, cards, flowers, and food. I did not intend to be secretive; it's just that I underestimated my problem. I anticipated simple repair of an incisional hernia — in and out. What, in fact, occurred was repair of one large and three small incisional hernias, scar tissue, and separated abdominal muscles.

I am slowly and painfully recovering. When I am out and about, I'll wear a name tag. You won't know me; I'll be a new man.



## SPRING PREACHING WORKSHOP

Will be held on Mon., March 7, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Cherry Log Christian Church. There is no charge for the continental breakfast, nor for the lunch, nor for the workshop.

However, we do ask that you make a reservation. If you learn that you cannot come let us know in time to give your place to another. There is a waiting list. The limit is 90.

The theme is "From Start to Finish". Dr. Craddock will walk through his process from preparation to delivery.

As always, the Workshop is open to ministers of all denominations.



## CENTER BOARD MEETING

At 7:00 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 7 the Board of the Craddock Center will meet. Among its considerations will be an evaluation of Appalachian Weekend and decisions about its future, fundraising, and the role of the Investment Committee. The December issue of Milk and Honey will report to you Board decisions.

Members of the Board are: Jerry Barrett, Ed Boye, Nettie Craddock, Avary Dimmock, Bob Doty, Bill Harrison, Thomas C. Gilliland, Doug Leman, Sharon Meek, Paige Peugh, Deb Thurman, and Ann Miller Woodford.

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(Enriching Lives Through Service)  
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