

MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 1, No. 1

The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

February 2004

??MILK AND HONEY??



OK, so *Milk and Honey* is a bit unusual as the title for the newsletter of the Craddock Center.

It's not that I have anything against titles such as *Herald*, *Messenger*, *FYI*, *Courier*, or *Report*. Those are quite acceptable: clear, straight forward, free of puzzlement. However, this monthly piece will be more than a report or journal. Rather, every issue will attempt to remind the reader who we are, what we are attempting, and the vision before us. In ways direct and indirect, we will always center on our purpose as stated on the logo: "Enriching Lives through Service." Our aim is to lift lives above barely getting by; to add some joy, relief and pleasure; to enlarge sympathy, understanding, and aspiration.

And so, *Milk and Honey*. The image is biblical. To a people in slavery, God promised "a land flowing with milk and honey." To a people wandering in a desert, the promise was of "a land flowing with milk and honey." To a people exiled, marginalized, and without place or power, the promise was "a land flowing with milk and honey."

I love the image; I believe the promise. I hope you do.



MY VISION

My vision for the Craddock Center is clear and firm: that we keep our pledge, in some way, every day, to enrich lives through service.



This means that all who work in and through the Center, paid and volunteer, infuse every act and word with the grace of God. This is achieved not by an abundance of religious talk but by being gracious as God is. To be gracious is to welcome all without distinction. Some have and some do not; we make no distinction. Some give and some receive; we make no distinction. Some have been here for generations and some arrived yesterday; we make no distinction. Some are young and some are old; we make no distinction. And every one of us has been, is, or will be a minority person, so who would presume to make distinctions?

To build such a community is difficult but not impossible. It takes time and effort to build trust so that those who have known only isolation or rejection will accept hospitality. Some are so needy that they have not realized what or how much they have to give to others. A few come running but many must be sought, and none are to be forgotten.

The program of the Center is determined by need. In some cases it may begin with food, clothing, or housing but that is only the beginning. There is no commandment, "Thou shall barely get by." Every life needs enrichment and that means classes in health care, job training, family economics, child-rearing. It means music and art and storytelling. It means getting together to listen to each other's stories and to enjoy one another. It means to include the confined by visits, cards, calls, and gifts. It is to say, "This is a good place to live, to raise a family, to build friendships, to grow old, and to die."

This is my vision and to it I give my life.

Fred Craddock, Director

IN AND OUT OF STORAGE

The storage facility rented by the Center in order to receive furniture and household goods to be distributed to those in need of them continues to be active.

If you wish to give or to receive, call the Center.

PREACHING WORKSHOP

The annual spring interdenominational Preaching Workshop sponsored by the Craddock Center will be held at Cherry Log Christian Church on Monday, March 1, 2004. All ministers are invited.



Following a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m., Dr. Craddock will lead a workshop on "The Preacher as Listener." Dr. Craddock will preach and then the participants will respond to use of text, theme, arrangement of materials, appropriateness, and alternative approaches.

Poor Dr. Craddock!

A lunch will follow the workshop. There is no cost involved for the workshop or the lunch but participants are asked to let the Center know by February 25 if they will be attending. 706/632-1772 (phone); 706/632-1774



WHO IS DON WEST?

I'm not going to answer that question until after March 2nd when the Center Board will decide whether or not to make this Appalachian poet and reformer born at Burnt Mountain, Georgia, the centerpiece of Appalachian Weekend next September 25-26. Even as we speak, board members are reading a brief biography of him and some of his poetry in order to make an informed decision. You will be the first to know.

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BRASSTOWN OFFERING FIVE MILES LONG, DO DAH!

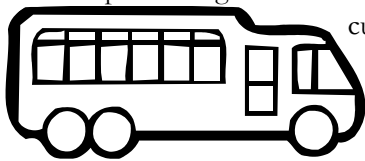
This year the evening of stories and songs by Dr. Steven Darsey and Dr. Fred Craddock at Brasstown Resort was jointly sponsored by Meridian Herald and the Craddock Center. The offering after expenses, was to be shared between the two. As of today, the final report had not been received, but the large crowd and the good spirit persuade me that our cup runneth over.

And by the way, quite a few attending pre-ordered CDs of the program of Songs and Stories. The cost is \$15.00 CDs of the programs of 2002 and 2003 are also available. They make great gifts. Send your name, address, and check to the Craddock Center, P.O. box 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522.

WHAT PROBABLY WILL HAPPEN

What will probably happen at the Center Board Meeting on March 2 is this: the Board will enthusiastically embrace the idea of purchasing a van or bus to be

books and customized for storytelling and songs, to be painted children's colors and designs, to have a special horn or bell, to be driven to schools, parks, trailer parks, country roads, anywhere, everywhere taking stories, books, and songs to children, and people who read this will want to help pay for the vehicle and buy books, and volunteer to help decorate it and drive it, and Miss Betsy and Miss Pam will want to have a contest among the 800 three and four year olds we serve to choose a name for the vehicle, andwhat else?



That's probably what will happen.

A TISKET, A TASKET.....

Have you lost a basket? The Center has accumulated quite a collection of baskets which may have been left here following Appalachian Weekend. If you think one (some?) of these might be yours, you can stop by and pick them up between 9:00 – 1:00 Monday-Friday at the Center.



WHAT IS THE RELATION OF THE CRADDOCK CENTER TO CHERRY LOG CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

A good question; remind me to address it every now and then as more and more people become interested in the Center.

In June of 2001, the official Board of Cherry Log Christian Church created the Center to serve the needs of the people of Southern Appalachia and named it in honor of Nettie and Fred Craddock. The Center is presently housed in a renovated dwelling on property owned by the church at 947 Cherry Log Street, Cherry Log, Georgia. As a safeguard against the Center ever drifting away from its Christian moorings, 50% of the Center Board are members of Cherry Log Christian Church. The other 50% are from the communities served by the Center. The Center is incorporated, has its own tax-exempt status, generates its own funds, and determines its own programs. Grants and gifts fund the programs of music and storytelling in six counties of North Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina (800 Head Start and Pre-K children), preaching workshops throughout Southern Appalachia (eight planned for 2004), Appalachian Weekend, Songs and Stories at Brasstown, volunteer readers to pre-schoolers, a storage facility for receiving and giving furniture and sickroom equipment, as well as supporting programs by social agencies in the area. Our motto "Enriching Lives through Service" will spawn more programs as we have funds and personnel.



Thank you for asking; I hope this helps.

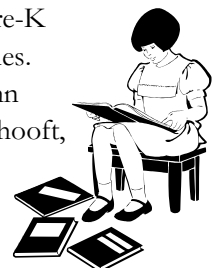
MAYBE YOU ALREADY KNEW

But let me remind you that the Craddock Center has volunteers who read to Head Start/Pre-K children in Fannin and Gilmer Counties. Reading each week at Fannin are: John Garceau, Nancy Midkiff, Kay Vanderhoof, Ron and Kay Zimbrick.

Reading at Gilmer are: Floyd Hale, Wilma Fordham and Bill Harrison.

We could use a few more readers in both counties. If you are interested, call or e-mail Betsy Doty at 706/698-3528; betsydoty@ellijay.com.

The children thank you and so do we.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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