

MILK & HONEY

BY the numbers



\$222,696 raised so far

88 number of people who have given

21 gifts in the amount of \$93.90

81 days left

Beginnings to Begin Again: *Genesis for a Suffering People*

PREACHING WORKSHOP

Monday, March 2nd | 8:30 a.m.



DR. KATHLEEN M. O'CONNOR will lead this year's Spring Preaching Workshop. During the workshop, Dr. O'Connor will examine the book of Genesis in relation to the community for which it was most likely put into its final form: the people of Judah who survived the destruction of their nation by the Babylonian Empire. As stated by O'Connor, "They and their parents survived violent trauma and disaster. Genesis helps them reflect on their traumatic past, see their barren present, and, in a process of healing, promises a future of abundant overflowing new life."

In addition to an overview of Genesis, workshop participants will be guided to look closely at the flood story (Gen 6-9) and stories about Abraham and his Unholy family (Gen 12-22). The workshop will guide preachers to find material for their ministries, to see connections with the sufferings among their own people, and/or to gain insight and compassion for other suffering peoples.

Kathleen M. O'Connor is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament, Emerita, at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She holds a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She has taught in local churches, community groups, and given courses in Central America, Thailand, Japan, and Ireland. Her publications include *Job* (Liturgical Press, 2013); *Jeremiah: Pain and Promise* (Fortress, 2011); and *Lamentations and the Tears of the World* (Orbis Press, 2002), which received first prize in scripture from the Catholic Press Association, 2003. Currently, Dr. O'Connor is studying themes of new life for a Genesis commentary to be published by Smith & Helwys.

As always, preaching workshops are completely free of charge. Attendees are asked to preregister so that plans can be made for breakfast and lunch.

Registration takes only minutes at craddockcenter.eventbrite.com



2015 Goal:
605 BIG hats!

Current hat count:
61



Thank you, Knitters! You know how much *happy & hope* you delivered with over 2,200 hats distributed to area children last year, including older children thanks to the number of hats on hand. Oh, but to hear their gratitude...

- * Dear Craddock center, I Love the hat I needed that hat. Love Breanna
- * Dear caddock center the hat is red and white thnk you for my hat you are nis a lot Love Natalie
- * Dear Graddock Center thant u for the hat I live thom so muc Love Antonio
- * Dear Craddock Center, I like my hat because it has my ferit color's. I like my hat because The hat is The one That I wanted. I like my hat because it's prite. Love Ariel



SOME STORIES are not worth the telling, but we tell them anyway. Why? I don't know. Maybe the answer is in the telling, in the repetition.

The story-teller himself cannot or will not explain why the story survives among the explanation and arguments of learned discourse. Most likely, the story-teller will respond with silence or, at most, with another story. Whether with silence or with another story, the story-teller will share with you your own sights, sounds, smells, feelings, and places, but with a difference.

In this case, the difference was one of size. Atlanta offered both in size and complexity every medical service available, but I was not critical of the Fannin County Hospital in North Georgia. The differences I anticipated were there, to be sure, but I was comforted by what I saw and heard on my first visit to Fannin. But I was there, not as patient but as clergy, volunteering to be available to anyone seeking clergy care. It was not until my third week of duty when a new-born appeared in a small crib beyond the display window. More than a dozen aunt and uncle and grandparent types pressed faces against the window while new brothers and sisters begged to be hoisted to a better view. Against the opposite wall leaned a young man in apparent disinterest. You the father? Yes. Boy or girl? Girl. Named her yet? Elizabeth. Beautiful name. Elizabeth was restless, feet and legs churned, and obviously screaming. Your first? Yes. Since she was first I explained how these movements were healthy, preparing for the life before her. I know she's not in pain; she's just mad as Hell. Taken aback, I said, why angry? You would be mad, too, if one minute you were in heaven and the next minute you were in Georgia.

I tarried a few minutes wondering what idea of the pre-existence of the soul meant to Christian views of Christ and of the Christian life. Have I missed something along the way? When our son John entered the 3-year-old Sunday School class, the teacher said Welcome, Johnny. He responded clearly, I'm not Johnny; my name is John. I was flying around in the sky when I was Johnny. Then a hunter shot me and I fell to the ground. Then I became John.

Now it is your turn.—FBC



Those lucky enough to attend this year's Songs & Stories were treated to a

standing-room only performance by John McCutcheon. His tales were interwoven with tunes from more than a half dozen instruments, and a good time was had by the jovial audience of more than 300 people. The best news: John has promised to return for a performance once the Center moves back to its new old place at 186 Fred Craddock Drive.

And no small gift was an onstage appearance by event honoree and poet Helen Lewis. Ah...the look on Dr. Craddock's face as she spoke so lovingly of okra.

The audience also sampled our Children's Enrichment Program thanks to Storyteller Tracy Walker, who told *A Dark, Dark Tale*—not accidentally the first story she learned to tell with the Center.

Storytelling is more than a series of words and sentences. It is one of the reasons you come to Songs & Stories; it is Dr. Craddock's gift and essential to his vision for our work with children. If you've wondered lately about its impact on the little ones we serve, read on...

My grandson was too shy to sit on stage with other children but was enthralled by the dark, dark tale from the safety of his mother's lap. Later that evening, he asked to reenact the story and led his mother and me in acting it out. With our help, the words and actions were refined. The next day he asked to tell the story again. He, his six-year-old brother, grandmother, mom, and I acted out the story twice more. His mom asked if he would like to tell the story at his school. (He is in an early learning program which includes some special needs children), and he did. She offered to go with him to tell the story, but he said that he would like to tell the story by himself. Monday, his mom emailed his teacher to let her know. This email came later from the teacher: "I asked him if he had a story that he would like to tell the class...He said yes. He did great! He was a little shy at first but, the kids LOVED it. What a HUGE change in this little boy over the past few weeks. So exciting!" —Gary Tomblin

We hear this anecdotally from teachers on a regular basis. Storytelling and music delivered by our arts specialists not only develop critical pre-literacy skills and oral language (sequencing, visualization, expressiveness, fluency, vocabulary development), but also stimulate creativity and self-esteem. Now, that's some story! —JJJ

[Gary serves on the Center's Board of Directors.]

We love our readers!



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The Craddock Center
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