

# MILK & HONEY



**Fred Brenning Craddock, 1928-2015**

**T**here was standing room only as family and friends said goodbye to Center founder and beacon, Fred Brenning Craddock. Laura and John shared memories of Dr. Craddock, the father. And while both were apologetic for not being the speaker their father was, each evoked a range of emotions, making us laugh and cry. Said John, “Sometimes we’d go places and they’d look at me and look at my dad and say, ‘Boy, your son sure is big.’ And he’d say, ‘Yeah, he’s just a block off the ol’ chip.’”

The choir, lead by Richard Lumpkin, sang with abandon selections that included “Danny Boy” and “Shall We Gather at the River”; there was a moving acoustic rendition of “I Wonder As I Wander” by Steve Darsey and Richard.

Dr. Tom Long comforted with scripture, reminding us through Isaiah 25:9 of the promise of salvation. There was to be no sermon, no eulogy, according Dr. Craddock’s wishes: “At first, I will admit, it was quite a surprise to me to discover that Fred Craddock, who was the preeminent preacher of our time...that Fred Craddock who modeled to a whole generation of us qualities that were marks of excellence in sermons, it was surprise for me to learn that Fred Craddock, preacher par excellence, expressed his desire that there be no sermon in this memorial service,” said Long. It could be attributable, Long

pondered, to the calculation of the likely greater than 40,000 sermons he’d heard as a preacher and a teacher of preachers. As for a eulogy, he wanted no praise for himself, but for God. Congregational singing, apparently, was on order; and the choir, along with visiting friends, accommodated with vigor.

Tiptoeing around the borders of eulogy, Long did speak words of gratitude for Dr. Craddock’s extraordinary gifts, citing the seminal *As One Without Authority* as shifting the tectonic plates of homiletics and quoting John Blake, CNN journalist: “Preachers studied classic Craddock sermons...much like aspiring jazz musicians listen to John Coltrane and amateur boxers study tapes of Sugar Ray Robinson for clues to greatness and inspiration.” Long searched for sources of inspiration for this greatness that included Dr. Craddock’s family and his deep familiarity with and love of scripture, a world that exists within the Bible which he “inhabited” with imagination and enchantment.

Here at the Center, we will miss his near weekly visits that included a cup of coffee flavored with a single hazelnut creamer, a dose of banter and teasing, and stories and history of people like you, who make this work possible. We are grateful for what he’s left us with: steadfast understanding of the work before us and the responsibility and gift of service. As we move on this week, literally and figuratively, to new possibilities that come with the permanence of 186 Fred Craddock Drive, we will continue walking in his footsteps in southern Appalachia, washing the feet of the poor and laughing and playing with children. —*JJJ*

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**This April 30th, we will celebrate our permanent home at 186 Fred Craddock Drive and honor the memory of the man who created the vision of the Center, enriching lives through service. More details to follow. *Please join us!***

**Thing 1 and Thing 2 visited many locations early this month to celebrate reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday! *Cat in the Hat* made sitting impossible for this little reader...**



**BY the numbers**  
∞ influence of FBC



# Did you know

...our campers will be making beautiful marbled paper with *food coloring* and *shaving cream* as a Camp Craddock arts and crafts project this summer?



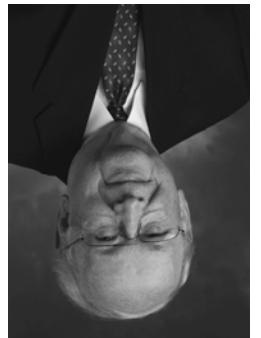
The 2015 Camp Craddock curriculum is taking shape! Each day’s activities will center around a carefully selected read aloud story with related songs, art and crafts, and physical movement activities. Certain days, campers will experiment with “building” snacks to introduce new and healthy foods. Visit us on Pinterest to check out all of the exciting summer enrichment you make possible for children in low income neighborhoods:

**[pinterest.com/craddockcenter](https://www.pinterest.com/craddockcenter)**

***There are many ways to be involved!*** The Story Express will once again morph into a lending library and share different books with children each week across the eight weeks of summer. Volunteers needed! Seamless Summer meals will be served at each camp site. Drivers and helpers pick up coolers from a local school, serve the meals, and return the coolers for the next day. Too far to be on site but still want to be a part? Help us put together supplies!

Visit our *Camp Craddock Wish List* on amazon.com: **[tinyurl.com/campcraddockwishes](http://tinyurl.com/campcraddockwishes)** —ALC

Dr. Fred B. Craddock  
1928-2015



The Craddock Center  
Happy & Hope. We Deliver.

P.O. Box 69  
Cherry Log, Georgia 30522

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