



**Celebrating that Christ is all and in all by seeking, inviting, belonging,
serving and reverencing God's creation**



The Magic Lake

If you travel west from the headwaters of Oconaluftee River, deep in the Great Smoky mountains, there is an enchanted lake. The Cherokee people know that it is there although no one has ever seen it, for the way is so difficult that only the animals know how to reach it.

In the old days all creatures could talk to each other and to humans. Then the number of humans became too great and there was a falling out between them. Because of this the enchanted lake has always been invisible to humans.

Some people think the lake dried up long ago, but this is not true. To one who has kept watch, prayed, and fasted through the night it would appear at daybreak as a wide expansive shallow sheet of purple water, fed by springs spouting from the high mountains.

If you should come near the place you would know of it by the whirring sound of thousands of wild birds and ducks flying about the lake. In the water are all kinds of fish and reptiles. While all about the shores are bear and deer tracks crossing in every direction. It is the medicine lake of the birds and animals. If an animal is wounded, he makes his way through the woods to this enchanted lake and plunges into the water. When he comes out upon the other side his wounds are healed.

The Cherokee people still look for the magic lake. We know the lake is still there. We can see the morning mist rise from the magic lake when we stand on the mountain tops.

"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." *Job 12:7-1*

Submitted by Jody Lipscomb, FUMC Creation Care

