**Canaan Union Church**

**314 Main Street**

# Canaan, Maine

**February 12-18, 2012**

**Sunday School 9:30 AM**

**Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 AM**

**Pastor: Diana J. Perkins**

**Send your letters to: Canaan Union Church**

**P. O. Box 1642**

**Waterville, Maine 04903-1642**

**We appreciate all those who took the time to respond to our request to help us update our mailing list. Thank you.**

**This week is Valentine’s and I hope that everyone who gets this bulletin will reach out to someone they love and let them know how special they are to them. So many times, we keep out thoughts to ourselves when it would mean so much to another person if they could hear the words, “I love you.”**

**When I was a child, my aunts and uncles stayed at our house from time to time. When Aunt Olivia got a job at the canning factory, she stayed at our house as it was handy to the factory. If they came to Dexter to go to the movies, they stayed at our house rather than making the trip back to Garland. My parents never knew how many would be at our house for breakfast as they were always welcomed into our home. We all grew up together so our family members treated us like their brothers and sisters and we had a wonderful time together. It was exciting to have a houseful of older teenagers and they would entertain us with stories and songs. It was also a great experience to watch them as they began pursuing the love of their lives. I soon dreaded that part of the story because it meant that they wouldn’t be staying at our house any more. They had moved on to make a life for themselves. However, one of my uncles lived at our house for a long time for my mother had always taken care of him as a baby so he fit in with us like an older brother. His name is Herbert. Herbert spent a lot of time talking to me about his plans for the future. He would spend the summer picking beans and at the end of the day would count his money at our kitchen table. He would tell me how much he needed to save for the things that he planned to buy in the future. He saved money by re stitching his old shoes if they got a hole in them and he even let me cut his hair once to save money on a haircut. That only happened once, you see, because he had to wear his cap for a few days until the hair grew back and he could get to a regular barber. He was always frugal and some of his costs savings were quite unique to his personality. Herbert was a special person and we all loved him for he was kind hearted and always looked for the best in people.**

**We had a new family who moved to Dexter from Lincoln and the family started attending our church. They were the Curtis family and they quickly became best friends with our family. Lyman and Verna were good people and they had a large family. Their oldest daughter, Grace, was petite and very pretty. She was around the same age as Herbert and they soon became friends.**

**Grace had a sister, Jacqueline, who was my age and we became best friends and attended the same school. To save on postage, Grace would write love notes to Herbert and send them to school with Jackie. Jackie was told in no uncertain terms that it was a private letter and she was not to open it. Jackie would bring it to school and at recess we would go to our special meeting spot. It was an opening between the chimney and the wall of the school house and it was just wide enough for two children to squeeze in and share secrets. Jackie would let me know that she had a message from Grace to Herbert and we would be excited to find out if they were in love. After we read it, we would seal it up and I would take it home to Herbert. Herbert would then send a letter by me to give to Jackie and the same scenario would take place all over again. We were the first to know that they had plans to get married. We were so excited because I thought that Jackie and I would be related if Herbert and Grace got married. I didn’t quite know how families got related when a marriage took place.**

**Herbert and Grace have been married over fifty years now and what a wonderful couple they have been. They forgave us for snooping and reading their love notes so many years ago. Herbert still is as frugal as ever and the retirement he looked forward to at 18, he finally is enjoying. It has been a blessing to watch love that endures for a lifetime. The youthful days are gone, the golden years have set in, but their love for each other has endured and will be there until death parts them. When I watch their beautiful granddaughter follow Herbert around the front yard, my heart rejoices for God has blessed them and everyone who has ever come in contact with them has good things to say about them for they truly know how to share their lives with their family. Their home overfills with family whenever Herbert decides to have a “party.” You can be sure of the best fudge ever made, salads and desserts for every appetite and hamburgers on the grill. Following that is a sing-a-long with musical instruments and old time hymns. He follows a tradition set by his parents and it is all good!**

**I find it to be interesting that Jesus chose a wedding to perform his first miracle. In John chapter 2, we read that his family and disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana and his mother was there. All of a sudden, there was a stir as the host realized that something was terribly wrong. Someone had miscalculated on how much wine was needed to serve all the guests who would be attending the wedding. Word filtered through the crowd who had gathered to celebrate the special occasion. Mary, Jesus mother, approached him and said, “Son, they have no more wine.” Jesus answered simply, “ What concern is that to you and to me? My time has not come.” Mary turned to the servants and said, “Do whatever he tells you to.” Jesus told the servants to fill the six water jugs with water. After they had filled them to the brim, Jesus told them to take a sample to the chief steward. They took some to the steward who sampled it and then exclaimed to the bridegroom, “Everybody serves the best wine first and serves the lower grade wine last, but you have saved the best for last.” His disciples believed on him as He revealed his glory.**

**As humans we make many mistakes and sometimes we have no answers for the problems that present themselves in our lives.**

**Jesus is the one who can solve the problems of our lives and bring hope and peace to any situation that we encounter. He turned the water into wine, and He is able to keep your marriage and your life on track if you will trust him with it. If you are alone, He can fill the void in your life and give you fulfillment in your time of need. The Scripture says, “My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:18.**

***Pastor Diana***