**Canaan Union Church**

**314 Main Street**

# Canaan, Maine

**February 24-March 02, 2013**

**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**

**Thank you for all the wonderful notes, letters and prayers that are offered up for this ministry. Our prayers are with you also.**

**A few weeks ago, Leroy and I received an invitation to tour the new homeless shelter that had just recently been built. People who had made contributions to the shelter were invited to come in for a tour and refreshments just prior to their opening day. Leroy and I have a heart for the needy and have contributed to the shelter many times so we made plans to attend. It was interesting to hear the staff speak about the goals for the shelter and the many plans that are still in the works for future accommodations for those who are the most deserving in our society. Though the place was immaculate and the rooms had a “homey” décor, my heart wondered why so many people in our society need the accommodation of a homeless shelter.**

**One thing that stood out to me as I walked through the halls and looked in the rooms, were the beautiful quilts that covered the beds. The gorgeous colors and various shapes blended together and made the rooms warm and inviting. When I asked about them, I was told that a ladies’ club had taken on the project of making quilts for all the beds at the homeless shelter, but hadn’t finished all of them at the time of the open house. I was so touched by their generosity and thoughtfulness that I went home and filled some bags with cotton fabric and dropped them off to replenish the resources for the ladies who gave so generously of their time and talent to those who are destitute.**

**What is it about quilts that make them so welcome and valuable? It is like they have a character all of their own. I remember the Christmas that my dad received a homemade quilt from his mother as a gift when I was just a little girl. It was a crazy quilt and very colorful. I still remember what it looked like and remember how excited he was to receive such a gift from his mother. The quilt covered my parents’ bed for many years. It was a symbol of being considered special by the woman who had given him birth that gave it so much meaning for him. He was one of 17 children, so to get a thoughtful gift that took so much time and effort meant a lot to him.**

**My Aunt Mable made two quilts for me and I know that she made many more that were given to members of her family. We consider them priceless for her love and skill were sewn into each square. I have a wonderful quilt rack that I bought at the Prison Store in Thomaston that holds my treasures and when my grandson, Caleb, spent the night last weekend, I covered him with one of her quilts for it is the best that I have and the most cherished blanket I own. I never pick it up but I think of Aunt Mable and her unconditional love for me.**

**A co-worker, Sandy Jones, brought in a picture of a beautiful quilt that she made for her son. She has saved pieces of materials since the 1980’s for this quilt and had finally put the finishing touches on it this past Christmas. She picked up materials that represented special memories for her son over the years and sewed them over time. The pieces represent places that they have travelled, events that were meaningful in their lives, and different life’s events that her son would cherish and now the quilt is finished and her son is so thrilled to have the masterpiece. She said he has asked about it over the years and wondered if it would ever get finished, so he was very surprised when he opened his box and there was his mother’s handiwork. How special it must be for him to look at the colors and squares and remember the events they represent. His life is pictured on a covering for his bed.**

**The Bible is a book that I never get tired of reading or hearing preached on radio or in a church service. I have read it from cover to cover many times, but I never feel like that there is nothing more to learn from its pages. Each book has similarities as well as distinct differences, but all of them blend together to make a complete picture of the beginning to the end of God’s plan for mankind. Each book describes the characteristics of God and presents colorful images of the coming of the Messiah as God taking on human flesh and dwelling among his people.**

**The prophets, as it were, gathered pieces of information and pieced them together as a seamstress sews the fabric to make a pattern and as it is sewn together, a beautiful picture emerges and an understanding of the author shines through.**

**The Old Testament pictures Jesus Christ as a suffering servant and a man of sorrows. Other places show him to be a reigning king and a high priest. He is called the Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords, and Almighty God. As each revelation was recorded and studied, the beauty of redemption shone through and the people were able to get a clear picture of God’s plan for the universe and for his own redeemed Sons and Daughters.**

**The book of Revelation reveals the final destruction of Satan and his followers. God will one day triumph over Satan and destroy him, his angels and all who followed after him. They will be thrown into a lake of fire forever separating them from all goodness. The last pieces of the quilt of the history of mankind will be put into place and the secrets of all the ages will be revealed. Those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will forever reign with him in his kingdom. Those who have rejected the atonement made for sins by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ will be forever separated from Him in eternity. Quilts are used as comforters and coverings. Love covers a multitude of sin. 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12.**

**Look at Psalms 91:4. It says, “He shall cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you shall trust; his truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid for the terror by night, or for the destruction that wasted at noonday. Those who make the Lord their habitation will be safe in his refuge. There shall no evil befall you neither shall any plague come near your dwelling for He will give his angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways.”**

**That sounds like a special quilt handmade by God himself that He has prepared to wrap around his beloved! Do you have your faith grounded in the Word of God? I hope that you will accept him as your Savior today and come under his cover to be protected from the storms of life. He loves you more than you can even imagine.**

**Pastor Diana**