**Canaan Union Church**

**314 Main Street**

# Canaan, Maine

**April 07-13, 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**

**Spring time has finally arrived. I want to thank everyone who appreciates these bulletins and takes part in contributing to it. We couldn’t continue providing them without the support that we receive. May God richly bless you and your efforts.**

**Today as I was driving home from work, I had the radio station tuned in to a Christian radio broadcast. The preacher was explaining the variety of ways that worship is welcomed by the Lord. I thought back to the times that my Dad encouraged our family to pray for our needs and to praise God for supplying for our family. Prayer was an intricate part of our lives and faith was planted in my heart at a very young age. I believed that God cared about everything that concerned us regardless of how big the problem was or how small it seemed to those around me. I brought my petitions to the Lord and I truly believed that God heard and answered prayers.**

**Many times when my Dad was the pastor of a struggling church, God put it on someone’s heart to donate money just at the time that it was desperately needed. One time we were down financially and didn’t have money to buy groceries. My parents called a family prayer meeting and we went to church believing that God would answer the prayer. When we arrived home, there were boxes of groceries behind the entrance door. God provided and we never knew where the food or money came from.**

**I have learned that you can never give to the cause of Christ without it being returned to you in one way or another.**

**I became sensitive to the urging of the Holy Spirit when I was being called on to meet other people’s needs. One Saturday, the Methodist church was having a yard sale over in Fairfield, Maine and we were asked to come over and take whatever we could use for our ministry to provide for needy families. I walked by a nearly new baby crib several times and I began to think that I really should take that home with me. Now no one that I knew was going to have a baby and Leroy began to question whether or not we really needed to bring that home. I continued to feel like I should take it, so I mentioned it to the lead person who was tending to the yard sale. She said, “Certainly, take it and I have some bedding and crib items that go with it.” We loaded up our van with the items and we took them home. The following Monday when I arrived at work, a co-worker, Lisa Moore, came to my desk and asked me if I knew anyone who had a crib that would be suitable for a new mother who had very little provisions for her new baby. I told her that “yes, I did have a crib and plenty of bedding to go with it and it wouldn’t cost the lady anything.” She and I drove up the driveway the following day, and the grandmother of the baby came out the side door of their house with her arms raised towards heaven worshipping and praising God for providing for their need. She had been in prayer for a bed for the baby for weeks and God had answered just in time.**

**A while ago, I gave a set of the Bible on CD’s to a lady who has a hard time reading the Bible. She listens to the word of God while she works at a local clothing factory. I hadn’t thought much about it because I can read the Bible, but it was just nice to listen to while I drive to and from work in my car. Last week I looked in my mailbox at work and there was a brand new set of the Bible on CD’s in my box with no note or any information on who left them for me. I was thrilled and spoke about it to a coworker today. I shared that I had given mine away and I now have another set. She started laughing and said, “Why, Diana, my husband bought them for me and I already have study Bibles and helps, and your name popped right into my mind so I left them for you.” She and I talked a bit more about the special ways that God works.**

**A few days ago, my nephew’s wife, Esther, called and told me that she had given my name to a minister who provides food, shelter and clothing to homeless people and those who need a helping hand. She told me that he was going to call me and let me know what he needed for his ministry. A day or so went by and sure enough we got a call and he said he needed a couple twin sized mattresses. I haven’t had any donations of beds or bedding to speak of in a long time so Leroy told him that if we did get word where we could get anything to help him, we certainly would be willing to donate to his organization.**

**The next day I went to work and a co-worker told me that she was getting ready to move from her house to an apartment and she wanted to know if I would have any use for two twin sized mattresses. I was quite amazed and told her the story of the minister who had just called and asked us if we could help in this way. Today another lady came by and asked if I could use some blankets and sheets for (you guessed it) twin sized beds.**

**It looks like we had better start making plans to go to Skowhegan sometime real soon to deliver the items for that ministry there.**

**God has used so many people among our readers to provide for the postage, the bulletins, the requests that come in for community projects and we are the vessels that God uses to get things to the final destination. We are grateful that God has entrusted us with the opportunity to serve him by sharing with those who are in need. This is just a few ways in which we have been blessed. The letters that we receive are wonderful and encouraging as people share how that the bulletins and sermons help them understand how to live a Christian life. God takes the little bit that I have offered to Him and He multiplies it and opens up people’s hearts to the truth of his word and soon the seeds that are sown start growing and sooner or later, they bring forth fruit. Look at Luke 8:4-18. If you read this chapter, you will learn that when you share the word of God, it is like planting seeds in the hearts of people. Some will hear and will not respond; some will hear and will welcome the message, but when hard times come, they will cast it aside; then there are some that desire to hold onto what they have heard, but the cares of life overcome them and they fail to follow through. In the book of James, it says that we must be doers of the word and not hearers only. They like to hear the word of God, but they don’t get strong enough to crowd out the worldly desires. Then there are those who hear the word and allow it to get rooted in their lives and the seeds bring forth 30, some 60 and some 100 fold. God’s sheep hear his voice and follow to the end. Praise God!**