**Canaan Union Church**

**314 Main Street**

# Canaan, Maine

**May 18-24, 2014**

**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**

**I remember when the Tyson stuffed animals called “Beanie Babies” hit the market. I worked at the CareerCenter in Waterville, Maine, located in a small shopping mall. As soon as a new toy was advertised in a flyer as being available on a certain day, we all had to fight the crowd to get into our office. We were inconveniently located next door to a novelty shop that carried the little critters. I had no personal interest in them and I didn’t believe that these toys were going to be a collector’s item worth many times over their purchase price in a few years’ time. I began to hear stories of people arriving at the stores hours before opening time to be sure to get the latest stuffed animal that carried a tag with a cute name and said “Hi, my name is \_\_\_”. Now a decade later, I have had beanie baby explosions come my way for people donate bins of the plush toys since they lost hope that these items are valuable. People have gotten tired of having bins of these little characters stored in closets, garages, attics and even under the beds. One holiday season, a team of co-workers helped me tie candy bags around their little necks and we donated them to several nursing homes so elderly people could enjoy them. Even though I have donated hundreds of them to worthy causes, I still have plenty more to pass on. There is no interest to buy them and there are no lines at the marketplaces these days for customers looking for the toys. The wealth went to the producers, the advertisers and the stores that promoted these items which lured people into believing that they were getting something that was “limited edition”, “one of a kind”, a must have item that would be in the store shelf only available to the first 50 customers of the day or some such thing. This week I read a headline listed under top stocks that reads, “Singapore braces for ‘Hello Kitty’ riot at McDonald’s.” Do people ever learn the concept behind marketing? The article said that when a similar marketing tool was used 14 years ago, children skipped school, and parents neglected to go to work so they could get in line to buy the toy. Tens of thousands of people swarmed restaurants outlets to purchase the mouth less mascot kitten. Violence broke out among customers and managers were threatened when the shelves were bare. Security officers had to be put into places to keep people from hurting each other and damaging property. In Parliament, a lawmaker asked to have a law put into place to forbid McDonald’s from making the stuffed toy available to customers. However, that will not happen for it affects the bottom line. The question was “Can the country handle another promotion?”**

 **The things that we use our time, talent and money for they will determine our eternal destiny and our duty to God to make our time on earth count as profitable or a waste on judgment day.**

**In God’s eyes, people are the most important creatures on earth for we are made in the image of God. We are placed here to fear God and to keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man. God will bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.**

**See Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.**

**I recently read a book about the band that had been hired to play on the “Titanic” on its maiden voyage. All eight of the men had been brought up by Christian parents and had attended church all through their young years. A young man named Walter Hartley was the bandmaster and when the alarm rang out that people must abandon the ship and get into lifeboats, he gathered the group together on the deck and they played music until the ship went down. For some of the band members, it was their first time at sea; some came for a one time adventure hoping to make enough money to launch them financially when they were married shortly after their return. All of them were young men and only one of them was married. Some of the wealthiest and most influential people in the world were onboard that ship and nothing had been spared to make the ship luxurious and appealing to the upper crust of society. The moral character of the people showed through when the alarm rang out that the ship was in distress and lives were in danger. The first to be placed in lifeboats were women and children and there were men who dressed as women to be sure to get a place on a lifeboat. One of the crewmen tried to steal a person’s lifejacket and a fight broke out. He was either killed or knocked unconscious. Money couldn’t save them; their position in society didn’t guarantee them safety from the elements; the “unsinkable ship” wasn’t secure enough to protect them from the iceberg that sliced into the side of the ship. Man’s inventions failed and their faith in their earthly resources crumbled.**

**Wallace Hartley commanded the band to play and led the group to play music that calmed fears among the people. Though he left no written confessions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, his actions spoke volumes. His calm demeanor and the way he handled the crisis indicated that he had a solid foundation in the midst of the storm. His moral character and his personal assurance that this life is only a dressing room for the glory that is beyond this world, remained strong to the end. Wallace had a love for hymns and a special fondness for the song “Nearer My God to Thee.” Because of his strength of character and the respect that the band had in his leadership, they played the melodies until the ship went under. The last song that was played was “Nearer My God to Thee.” The amazing part of the story is that all of them transcended their personal limitations and only God knows how many people were saved from sure death because of the bravery of eight men who displayed courage and bravery when everything was lost including their lives; God was there.**

**The Bible says that “the name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth in and are saved.” Proverbs 18:10.**

**We must be careful what we allow ourselves to be drawn to. God tells us not trust in riches for those who do will fall, but the righteous shall flourish like a branch.**

**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:28, 30.**

**The Bible promises that those who seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness will have all these things added unto them. The riches in glory far outweigh anything that this world has to offer. Moses, the Old Testament prophet, chose to suffer with the children of Israel in order to gain eternal benefits. Would you?**

**Pastor Diana Page 3**