

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Brian Horner
Song Leader: Brian Horner
Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Kyle Richardson
Serving: Eric Horne
Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Kyle Richardson
Closing Prayer: Brian Horner

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Howell Todd
Preaching: Kyle Richardson
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Devotional: Kyle Richardson
Closing Prayer: Howell Todd

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Howell Todd
Preaching: Brian Horner
Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Building Fund:

Collected: \$6,938

Goal: \$20,000

All money donated will go towards roof repair.

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings after worship see Kyle Richardson.

Visitation/Bible Study - For assignments see Brian Horner.

Member Care - Regarding Member needs contact Kyle Richardson.

Flower Request - Please call Lynda Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks!

To all who helped with our singing night. It was a great success!

Pantry:

Please let Howell know of anyone in our community who needs help!

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back and worship with us soon!

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word

(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus

(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins

(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ

(Rom 10:10)

Be Baptized for forgiveness of sins

(Acts 2:38)

Live Faithfully

(1 Cor. 15:58)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	1 Corinthians 7-9
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Genesis 44-48
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	1 Samuel 6-12
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 33-37
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Job 23-25
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Isaiah 62-66
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Mark 3-5

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

March 31, 2013

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

Lessons From "The QuiltMaker's Gift"

We have in our collection at home a storybook called *The QuiltMaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau and Gail de Marcken. (Orchard Books; New York, NY; © 2000).

The story begins by introducing the QuiltMaker, a mysterious old woman who lives in a cabin in the mountains. She is a quilter of consummate talent and spends all of her days making quilts and then at night she goes down into the villages and gives her quilts to the poor and to the needy. The act of giving brings her much joy.

Another character is introduced after the QuiltMaker – a greedy King. The King was one who was never happy, never smiled and never thought of anyone but himself. He liked nothing better than to receive presents – so he commanded each person in the Kingdom to give him a gift twice a year. In this way, he collected many wonderful and beautiful things – but they never could satisfy him. One day he found out about the QuiltMaker and realized that she had never given him a gift. Therefore, he went to her and demanded she give him a quilt. She refused – saying that she only gave them to those who were in need and that if the King would give away all of the presents he had received, when they were all gone, she would make him a quilt. She told him that every time he would give away a gift that she would add a new piece to his quilt.

After several more attempts to force her to give him a quilt, the King finally relented and promised to give away his many presents. He went home began to give away his many presents. With each gift he gave he began to feel happy – the more he gave, the happier he became. He decided to give away everything that he owned not just to those in his Kingdom but he went into the entire world giving away all his precious gifts. Each time he gave one away a messenger would tell the QuiltMaker and she would add a new piece to his quilt.

After many years of gift giving, the King had become a wondrous and joyful man to be around. He loved nothing more than to give all his precious time and gifts to those in need. And when the time came that he gave away his last present, the QuiltMaker finished his quilt which was a masterpiece – so beautiful that birds would sing when they saw it and butterflies circled around it. When she was finished with the quilt, the QuiltMaker went in search of the King. When she found him, his clothes were torn and soiled and he had given away all that he had. Then because he had made himself poor and now was in

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need – she gave him the quilt that she had made. The King replied that he was not poor, that in fact, he was the richest man he knew because of all the joy he had given and received in the giving away of his gifts.

Several wonderful parallels can be drawn from this delightful tale about the joy of giving:

The QuiltMaker's labor of love reflects the blessings that come from above. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."* (**James 1:17**)

The initial attitude of the King reminds us of the Rich Fool. *"The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' " But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."* (**Luke 12:16-21**)

The King's unhappiness despite his over-abundance of material possessions, reflects the life of King Solomon and his discovery that there is *"no profit under the sun."* (**Ecclesiastes 2:11**). Like the King in "The QuiltMaker's Gift" Solomon had everything he wanted or desired, but in the end he found no happiness in things material. Solomon found happiness in serving God (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**). The QuiltMaker's King found happiness in giving.

Like the Rich Young Ruler of **Matthew 19:16-22**, this ruler was ruled by his possessions. Both asked for something they greatly desired. The Rich Young Ruler asked for eternal life and the QuiltMaker's King asked for a beautiful quilt. Both were told to give away their possessions. The Rich Young Ruler went away sorrowful, but the QuiltMaker's King went away and did as he was told. The Rich Young Ruler's soul remained bound to his possessions and he felt extreme sorrow at the thought of giving away his precious things, but the QuiltMaker's King found true joy and happiness through his giving and in the end he received the treasure he desired most.

In reading the story we see demonstrated once again that materialism cannot satisfy the soul. We see illustrated the Truth that Jesus spoke when He said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (**Acts 20:35**).

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

Jack McNiel
churchofchristarticles.com

Encouragement

The Word of God contains numerous lessons for our lives, if we will only apply them. I recently asked class members to tell me their favorite scriptures. Among those given, **1 John 1:7**; *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin,* and **Joshua 1:9**; *Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.* Both of these scriptures send a message of encouragement and support.

The Lord has given us what we need to deal with both the blessings and trials of life. Satan often targets us when we feel that we are on top of the world and that nothing can go wrong. He also takes aim when we are discouraged and wonder, "What else can go wrong?" Through faith, we can turn our trials over to the Lord. Too often, we discount the power of prayer. Turning our focus to scripture and to prayer, will help us deal with our burdens.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ can be a tremendous resource in times of temptation or trials. Often a kind word of support, eye contact with a nod or an arm around the shoulder can mean more than we can imagine. Paul wrote in **Ephesians 4:32**...*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as Christ also has forgiven you.* We must remember that we are a family, bound together through Christ. We must also be ready to support as a family supports, to forgive as a family forgives and love as a family loves.

Phil Randolph
Highland Heights church of Christ

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington
William Wells

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - surgery recovery
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - Mary L.'s sister
Lila Kirk
Wanda Gates - cancer
Kathy Greer
Jeff Greenblatt - auto accident
Forbes Family
Bryanna Morris

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20