

# The Plain and Practical

Year Five, Issue 48, December 2012

“Live simply, that others might simply live.” Elizabeth Seaton

## Sharing your REAL Gifts

I had a Christmas-themed story already typed in here, and yesterday my friend Pat said something that just bubbled within me, made me laugh out loud, and it so perfectly demonstrated the point of my original story, that I deleted the old one and am starting over. The first story was about how people from all over the country are helping out in New York after the hurricane, and how badly soup kitchens and food banks need your help this holiday, all kinds of opportunities to demonstrate in action, what Christians ought to be doing. And I realized when Pat was telling me her story, that this was all connected and she had just given me the seed to how all that charity, all that Christian Action, all that Loving Your Neighbor—how it really begins.

We are all given Gifts (John 4:10; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 7:7) and sometimes a late bloomer doesn't find out what their gift is until late in life, but everyone has something of value to share that is a part of themselves. One woman is good with tiny babies and they thrive under her prayer and care; another can straighten out a house in a week, leaving it clean, organized, and well stocked for its inhabitants. One person in twenty walking by will help the elder who has dropped their bag and spilled its contents. I think one reason we fly from one task to another as children, is that we are “trying on things” and seeking to find what our gifts are—animal care? Teaching? Baking? Mending broken things? Calming others? Gardening? Climbing trees?

So my friend Pat was telling her landlord about how for years she would save the endless linings and seams and pockets of all those wool clothes she thrifted and cut up and made beautiful rugs from, all the pieces too small for the necessary strips, the slippery linings and zippers and padding and so on. “Then, my friend Valerie taught me how to stuff pillows for the vet from those, so they didn't go to waste,” she told him, and noticed he kind of glazed over a bit. He turned the conversation back around, and remarked that he had helped clean out his elderly mother's house when she had passed, and down in the basement was a shoebox, old and dusty, with a label that said “Strings too short to be used.”

When Pat said this, I just started laughing. I could be that old gal. If I keeled over tomorrow, Pat and my Good Husband have instructions that Pat is to go through and “get rid” of all this stash of mine, spinning wheels and looms and treadle will be sold to offset my burial, fabrics to any of a half-dozen community locations who will use it for charity and the entertainment of the bored. And I thought of the odd boxes she will find in my stash (she may not think them odd at all). There's a tin of shoelaces, and a gallon zip lock bag of watch bands. An old tinkertoy tube on the mantle in the sewing room is full of bells, and there are about 500 various thank you notes and cards in a box that says “button card supplies” with thread and a sturdy needle. In front of my computer, my arms resting on them to type this, is a small hill of short basket snips and pieces, from oak veneer, that I plan to use making firestarters next week.

I sent a box of vintage things to a widow on the east coast last week, and a box of supplies to a friend out west, and another box of fabric sits here for donating to the local woman who sews tiny white dresses for the stillborns at the hospital. One wool blanket was way too nice to chop up for pincushions, it's headed to a friend in a log cabin in New York, he heats with wood and lives on a mountain, he needs it. Another friend was handed two wool blankets when we visited Michigan lately, he is living in a part of a warehouse he partitioned off, to save money on living expenses. I have a gift for finding useful things in thrift stores, and almost anything I see, I can list for you all kinds of ways it can be used. A tank top can be a tote bag or separate dozens of project parts from others in a larger drawer. A printed cotton skirt can become aprons or placemats or pieces in a quilt, or cut into strips and be crocheted into mats and rugs. A wool coat can be washed and then cut into penny rug pieces or pincushions or organizers or purses. I often find yarn, basket splint, buttons and beads in the craft section while thrifting, for pennies on the dollar of purchasing them in a “real” store. Friends tell me what they are hunting for, and a price, and eventually I find it.

What is your gift? What defines you, what do you reach inside yourself (pg.2)

## Quick Recycled, Homemade gifts:

Firestarters, from cardboard egg cartons, with melted leftover candle stubs, tiny bits of straw or grass, torn paper, and dryer lint

Leg warmers, made from the sleeves of an older used sweater, and Mittens, made from the fronts and backs

Take last years' holiday cards, and cut out the fronts, attach to folded cardstock paper—you can buy a box of envelopes and plan them to fit Old, spotty ornaments can be painted and then gold or silver sponged on top of them

Scraps of fabric can be made into little sacks, and have a homemade potpourri put inside—pine cones and barley heads and bark and willow twigs can be shredded, and pennyroyal or lavender oil added.

Take an older pair of flannel pajama pants and sew them into a pair of denim pants for a warm extra layer of insulation.

Make a simple comforter from 2 sheets and an old blanket, tie it with cheery ties.



## Ah, The Holidays!

Dec. 1st, Christian Advent begins  
 December 6th, Feast of St. Nicholas Day (Netherlands and Europe)  
 In December of 1531, the Virgin of Guadalupe appears to Juan Diego  
 December, 1503, Nostradamus born  
 December 21st, ancient Mayan Indians honored the Sun God  
 Winter Solstice (Norse Yule), Dec. 22  
 Hanukkah Begins: Dec. 22  
 First Day of Winter: Dec. 22  
 Quecia Indians in Peru celebrate the Sun God at Solstice, Dec. 22  
 Christmas Day: Dec. 25th  
 Kwanzaa Begins: Dec. 26th  
 Boxing Day: Dec. 26th  
 Childermas (Holy Innocents Day), December 28th  
 Hogmanay: Dec. 31st  
 New Year's Eve: Dec.31st

Did you know? Traditional Christmas Puddings were made with 13 ingredients, to represent Jesus and His Disciples, and each member of the family took turns to stir the pudding with a wooden spoon from East to West, in honor of the Wise Men.

## December, 2012

## Twelfth Month

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts”**

**St. Matthew 3: 11**

### How to Push Your Christianity On Others

When you have been reading about the Hurricane Sandy news, you can sit down to dry socks and shoes and a hot cup of tea, and realize you have more creature comforts than many folks. While folks struggle to find gasoline and water supplies and batteries, lock themselves into houses and apartments in complete darkness while hearing gunshots outside, the rest of us went on with our normal lives just a hundred miles away.

Yet there are signs of those tenacious events that keep us, as a human race, going forward. Charities stepped up to the plate to bring tents, water, medical care, and meals. Neighbors and businesses who still had power, offered to let others charge electronic gear and call friends and families with their updates. Utility trucks in convoys, sometimes miles long containing dozens and dozens of vehicles, were seen on highways in Tennessee, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and here in Ohio, headed East, laden with everyday heroes with the skills and equipment needed to fix broken poles, snapped electrical lines, replace transformers, clean out flooded stations. An Etsy seller put out a call for help, she was stranded in Philadelphia at the airport, had no money, knew no one, and within minutes arrangements had been made to transport her to a safe apartment, she received money in her account to help her, and others assisted her in revising her travel arrangements so she could get home to Alaska a couple days later. Foresters from Idaho, loggers from northern Michigan, nurses from Texas, they came, and they served.

I saw a picture of a nurse carrying a tiny ICU infant down flights of hospital steps in her arms to a waiting ambulance, standing in water, and she got in too—somebody somewhere, that's your child that a stranger played angel to, stepped up and did what was the most decent, most kind, most loving option. Those utility workers will sleep on truck seats or church benches and wear out their own shoes and gloves and be wet and cold on behalf of strangers. One of my friends has a sister-in-law who has more or less moved into the group home she supervises so that her charges won't be left without care. Churches are organizing here to travel to that area to help pick up trash, clean flooded basements, whatever is needed for a stranger.

And that, in my humble opinion, is how you demonstrate Christ has made a difference in your life. Don't get on the radio and television and brag about how you haven't missed a Sunday service in 20 years, how many degrees your minister has, how many thousands attend your church. You don't stand in the Christian bookstore and yell at the top of your lungs that you "Have Jee-sus in my loins! I'm on fire, in my loins, for Jeeeee-sus!" and scare the other customers (that was last week, over in Plain City). Making a homeless man listen to an hour of "church" so they can "earn" a meal from you, somehow cheapens the gift, the sacrifice made long ago. Just live right and demonstrate it with your daily walk. Answer questions if asked. Respect others and their beliefs. But most of all, live outwardly as you believe inwardly, and others will see that this way of living, walking in prayer and bending your thoughts to others, is something to be admired and emulated.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." St John 1:14

"Jesus answered, and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." St. John 3: 3

(Valuable Things, cont'd)

to pull out and share with others? If you are a good cook, there are lots of opportunities to make a meal or a treat and take it to someone else. A friend in a forum said her mother, ill and in chemo treatments one year, did not give out the platters of homemade cookies she usually did. An older gentleman at the church asked "when the cookies were coming in" and was told the discouraging news. Later, when the woman was improving in health, he left \$200 for her at the church, anonymously, "For supplies for cookies." To have someone demonstrate that her little "gift" had made such a difference to his holidays, really meant a lot to her, and now she is back in cookie production again, grateful to know she is appreciated. The gift she shared, was important.

"Strings too short to use," well, Pat and I chatted along about all the things they might be good for, and whether they were cotton ties from butchershop parcels, or ends from cross-stitch or needlepoint projects. If that gal had been a weaver, we actually have a word for such strings, called Thrums, and weavers are forever devising new ways to use them. My grandfather saved every sisal twine from every bale of hay, and occasionally one was taken off the series of nails where they gathered dust, and used to tie shut a bag of corncobs or bundle of evergreens. They were still hanging on the barn wall when the farm was sold, for the next Old Dude to come along, as practical as the sidewalk outside, or the weathervane on the roof.

I once bought a ratty old wool blanket at a garage sale for \$2, and as the price was exchanged, the seller said, "That'll be real good for a dog blanket or a car tarp this winter," and I responded, "Well, I'm going to soak and wash it first and see what I get" and we exchanged understanding glances. Real recyclers see that wadded up garment next to the road in the snow and salt and mud and we eyeball it as we zoom by at sixty miles an hour, thinking, "What is that? Should I stop and pick it up?"

I am a throwback to those ancient peoples who walked the continents, scavenging meals and furs and sharp flint, warming themselves with fallen wood fires, spinning raw fleece, cooking fish pulled up in a rough basket of twigs and sinew. I go into thrift stores and put into my cart a ruined afghan to turn into pincushions; over there's a pair of skates for a friend, over here are sheets that can become rugs. I talk to other people about what is in our carts, draw a pattern for slippers on the back of a checkbook, write down supplier names and addresses for someone who can't find candle wax or wainscoting or stove black or creosote or something else.

There isn't any gift that God would give you that you can't put prayer and effort into developing into a Service to Him. As I tape up this box of calicos for a woman who is laid off and wants to make Christmas gifts for her kids, it's a win-win for everyone involved. The store gets donations, puts people to work and trains them, I enjoy myself immensely with the thrill of the chase. Friends and charities receive items they need, washed and ready to use. Others might be good at bookkeeping or repairing machines, child care or emergency rescue. Me, I'm just filling up a box with craft materials for tomorrow's volunteer duty at the senior living complex, feeling God's presence, a song on my lips. It's my Faith In Action!

### Save Money

This is the year to learn to do a few more of these items—what don't you make for yourself and your family, yet? Wintertime is a good time for study and planning your home to be a healthier, more comfortable, more self-sufficient place to be:

Make your own buttermilk

Make your own eggnog

Make your own fake coffee with Barley

Make your own vinegar

Make your own salve

Make your own cough medicine

Make your own floor cleaner

Install a woodstove/build a woodshed

Have some chickens and/or rabbits

Grow some broomcorn for your own brooms

Make your own soap

Sew some of your own clothing

Learn to knit hats, socks, and mittens

Build one piece of furniture and stain it with homemade black walnut oil

Make your own yogurt

Do your own starter and make sourdough bread each week

Learn to use a lucet and make cords

Make a basket or tote

Lay a stone patio or path in your garden

Make a support for an arbor for roses or grapevines

### Ways to Recycle a Button

How many white shirt buttons could you save in a jar? Many of us have cotton shirts, or a husband with cotton shirts, and those 12 or more white buttons can accumulate quickly when you are recycling the shirts. Did you know they are easily dyed? I use the vinegar-acid dyes that are the same as for wool, and amazingly enough, those buttons don't all dye exactly the same—blue, for example, gives you light blue, green-blue, and other shades, all in one dye batch.

And flat buttons, and a tube of E-6000 glue, can become dandy magnets for file cabinets and refrigerator doors. A button glued to a magnet will stick onto an older style sewing machine or treadle machine head, and make a place to put a spare needle so it's right there when you need it.

Two buttons can be sewn onto the top of a loose sock, and a small stretchy hair band over them to keep that older sock from falling down. A large button on the shoulder of your winter coat, will keep your purse strap from falling off your shoulder. Buttons can be glued onto an older wood box that has a damaged surface; sew one onto a fitted sheet so you'll know which way to rotate it to even out the wear.

### Christmas Traditions around the World

It's always interesting to see how the climates and foods in other parts of the world, have influenced holiday traditions. Here's a few:

In Australia, the weather is summer-like during December, so dinner might be a picnic in the woods or on the beach! Homes are decorated with flowers and the Australian Christmas Bush, which flowers that time of year.

In Alaska, boys and girls with lanterns on poles, carry a star, covered with brightly colored paper, from door to door, singing carols and welcomed in for snacks and refreshments.

Polish women traditionally clean their houses from top to bottom in the days before Christmas. Especially in farm communities, crosses made of straw are placed into the four corners of the dining room and barns, and that animals can speak on this day. An extra seat is set at the table.

In Scotland, the bigger celebrations are held on New Year's Day, called Hogmanay. You keep a big fire going on Christmas Eve, to keep the elves from coming down the chimney! Bannock cakes of oatmeal, and bagpipes playing, are two common traditions.

In Guatemala, for nine days before Christmas, processions pass through the streets, with fireworks and carols. There are parties, with tamales and dancing; gifts are not exchanged until New Year's Day. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is followed by a full supper.

In Belgium, there's two traditions, depending on if you speak Waloon or Dutch, but for both, the "Santa" comes twice—first to see if the children are behaving, around the 4th, then later in the month for gifts!

### Here's something interesting

Now, most of us have seen a Gingerbread House. You can even buy a gingerbread house kit at bigger stores, and the basic premise is that you bake four longer trays and two shorter ones, of gingerbread mix, into slabs that become walls and roof for a home, and this is assembled with frosting to become three-dimensional and stand up on yet another slab. Then, the kids get busy decorating the house with every manner of frosting and gumdrop and sprinkles and ribbon-candy landscaping and licorice lace vines and peppermint wafer sidewalks. Then for several days you walk by this concoction and break off a piece and it's a nibble here and nibble there until it's gone.

Well, it seems the new tradition is to skip the cottage-look little square house, and make it a very different kind of home. Folks are opting for a gingerbread structure that may be a mobile home park trailer, or a log cabin, or a fishing shack up on stilts. Sometimes it is complete with a car and pets in the yard, the kids' plastic figures look out from the windows, the roof comes off and there's a gift certificate or engagement ring inside.

My family tradition was for making trays and trays of Mexican Wedding Cakes and Almond Crescents and Double Chocolate Walnut Bars, but to each his own boat in which to float. We also had brandied peaches and fried oysters and smelt and sometimes a crown rib roast from our own cattle, so we certainly experienced the usual excesses of the season, so why not let people with children have their evening of giggles and too-much sugar and decorate their gingerbread house to be whatever kind of house they want to make.

It's always nice to see what other people are up to, at the holidays. Under it all you see the joy of the season, the sharing of love between friends and families, and that's a delight, to be sure.

Whether your house does a tree, or not, or cookies, or not, I think the important thing is that we find our ways of celebrating that are best for us, and hand them down to others. Smiles and warmth and a hug here and there, spreads Peace to all.

### This Month's Crazy Idea

Now is the time to decide for yourself, if this year to come, you should start a journal for yourself. One of the most impressive ones I've ever seen, was a simple affair of home bound paper, in which the same handful of questions was answered in the same order each and every day—temperature, how much rain was in the gauge outside the window (or snow!), frost or not, stage of the moon and if it had a ring for rain coming, and so on. Visitors were noted, and taking-up of hay or bringing-in of the first green beans, how many jars put into the larder, accidents or mishaps, purchase of a wagon, a new roof. At the bottom of each page was some bit of scripture or wise advice from an elder.

There is more to this record, than just the ability to look back and see when you planted the second set of peas last year. This is a chance, each day, to look upon what has happened and measure your self—was adequate time given to worship? Did opportunities to be gracious to someone on your doorstep, was that embraced? Did you count blessings? Were concerns handed up and forward?

And we learn by our mistakes. The "help" to your memory that a journal lends, makes it easier to look back and better plan, so that waste is avoided when possible.



### Simple Things

**'Tis the simple things that remind us  
How good it is to be  
Filled with the everyday wonderment  
Of what lays left and right of thee.**

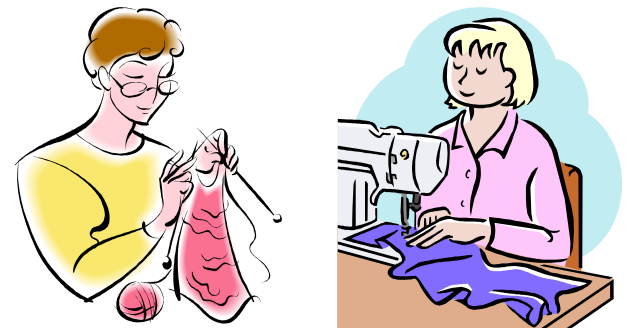
**A few sprigs of mint cleans the palette,  
Makes a hot mug of healthy good tea;  
A pinch of hot peppers on a burger  
Gives a zippy warmth to me.**

**There's soap next to the sinks  
Made from ashes and fat and oil  
There's soothing salve in the cupboard  
And all made from easy toil.**

**The needle plies, the rolling-pin flies  
And the dyebath simmers again  
The porch is swept and lamps are filled  
'Tis the simple life I've retained.**

**Everywhere around us are ingredients  
To make life delicious and warm  
Some I can do in this house in town  
And some I can barter from farms.**

**Simple is also in the time you take  
To be grateful and use all with care  
To not waste even the smallest bit  
And always remember to share.**



### Editor's notes

Owners: Craig and Valerie Hibbard. Expenses covered by Editors. Ads selected by Editors and given freely, and we reserve the right to refuse any ads. Email comments to [valerie@plainandpractical.com](mailto:valerie@plainandpractical.com), or mail to: 216 S. Plum Street, Marysville, OH 43040. We'd like to hear your comments. You may read PNP free on the web at [www.plainandpractical.com](http://www.plainandpractical.com), or order print copies by writing or emailing the editors. Valerie sells her things on Etsy, at [www.apronsrecycled@etsy.com](http://www.apronsrecycled@etsy.com), and has a blog for diary entries, at [www.plainandpractical.typepad.com](http://www.plainandpractical.typepad.com)

### *A Few Plain and Practical Resources for Self-Sufficiency*

#### **Need something for the Home, or Clothing?**

- Lehmans, 877-438-5346, or write for a catalog, 289 N. Kurzen Rd., Dalton, OH 44618.
- Healthy natural soaps and salves, Cindy High, 905 Egeler Lane, Dexter, MI 48130
- Gohn Brothers, Box 1110, Middlebury, Indiana 46540-1110, toll free number 1-800-595-0031. All sewing done by local seamstresses to your measurements, at very reasonable prices for good quality.
- Prayer caps, Plain and Simple Head coverings, Bayley Thompson, P. O. Box 185, Bagdad, KY 40003.
- Aprons, Dresses and Coverings, Mennonite Maidens, <http://www.mennonitemaiden.com>, or orders by phone, 703-622-3018 or 304-492-5590. Wide variety of all offerings, reasonable prices.
- GVS, clothing for the entire family, baby supplies, toys, stationary, sewing supplies—many hard to find items. Highway 5, Versailles, MO 65084.
- Sisterthreads is a group of three Christian women who sew together in the daughter's house amongst her four children, one of which is special-needs. Although they focus on quilts, they also do a variety of purses and organizers for knitting needles, crochet hooks and other sewing items. By mail: Sister Threads, P. O. Box 91, Herrietta, MI, 49638, or telephone, 231-389-0253.

#### **Need something wholesome to read?**

- The Budget, a Mennonite rural newspaper, P. O. Box 249, 134 N. Factory Street, Sugarcreek, OH, 44681. Several editions, so ask for information, 330-852-4634.
- Keepers At Home magazine (Plain homemakers) \$13 year/4 issues. 2673 Township Road 421, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
- Quaker Hill Farm, children's books, P. O. Box 10, Harrisville, MI 48742 (recently featured on Animal Planet!) Quaker Anne has all kinds of good things made from her farm, web site is [www.quakeranne.com](http://www.quakeranne.com)
- An Encouraging Word, P. O. Box 374, Covert, MI, 49043, \$20/year includes yours and one gift subscription.
- Plain Interests newspaper (Plain lifestyle), 420 Weaver Road, Millersburg, PA, 17061. Monthly, \$16 yearly.
- Young Companion, Pathway Publishers, 2580N=250W, LaGrange, IN 46761, scripture-rich moral stories for young people, many are reader-contributed. They also produce Family Life, as well as Blackboard Bulletin, and I recommend all three as suitable literature to leave around where you find yourself spending a few moments in the day, they are uplifting, spiritual, and helpful. \$23 annually for all.
- Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. Quaker literature resource.

#### **Want to stop and get bulk food on your next trip?**

- Clintonville Community Market, 200 Crestview Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202, 614-261-3663
- Yutzy's Bulk Foods, 614-873-3815, 6010 Converse Huff Road, Plain City, Ohio 43064
- Countryside Bulk Foods, 4230 West Pike, Zanesville, OH 43701, telephone 740-450-1595
- Bulk Food Depot, 5457 Radford Road, Athens, OH 45701, 740-594-5053.
- Apple Hill Ltd., 8690 Vermilion Road, Amherst, OH 44001-9475. Telephone 440-965-7077
- Coon's Candies, 16451 County Highway 113, Harpster, OH 43323, telephone 740-496-4141
- American Harvest 51323 County Road 16, Coshocton, OH 43812, 740-622-2855
- Swiss Village 309 S. Broadway St., Sugarcreek, OH 44681, telephone 330-852-2896

#### **Need supplies for Making it yourself?**

- handspun yarns for knitting, soy candles, black walnuts for dyeing: Beverly Thorne, 1941 S. Camp Ten Road, Elmira, MI 49730.
- Leather: Scrap Leather, lacing, and hides, all American leather, Real Leather People, P. O. Box 251, Sonora, KY 42776 or 270-369-8880 or [sales@realleatherpeople.com](mailto:sales@realleatherpeople.com)
- Make your own brooms—Broomcorn and supplies at R.E. Caddy, Box 14634, Greensboro, N.C. 27415, 336-273-3609.
- Sewing Supplies, Home-Sew Inc., P. O. Box 4099, Bethlehem, PA. 18018-0099, 1-800-344-4739, [homesew.com](http://homesew.com).
- Linen and wool fabrics, 1-888-546-3654, [FabricsStore.Com](http://FabricsStore.Com), 6325 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite #102, Hollywood CA 90038
- Countryroad Fabrics and Gifts, 2195 N 700W Shipshewana, Indiana, 46565, good resource for fabrics, snaps, prayer caps, and more.
- Knit Picks, P. O. Box 870760, Vancouver, WA 98687, 1-800-574-1323. Fine quality wool and wool blend yarns—their natural color, dye your own selections are especially well priced. Many sock yarns, patterns, and superior quality needles. Online also.
- Raw Wool for Spinning at \$2-4 pound, also well priced natural roving, and shepherd's supplies, Mid-States Wool Growers Co-op, 9449 Basil Western Road, Canal Winchester, OH, 43110-9278, 614-837-9665, call for hours and directions.
- Wm. Booth, Draper. 18th century reenactment supplies, I get my linen thread, horn thimbles, and other well-made, old fashioned items from this resource, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI. 53406, or, <http://wmboothdraper.com>, or 815-648-9048.
- Discount fabric, Guhl's, 710 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio, cash only, closed Sundays.

#### **Self-Sufficiency and Preparation Supplies**

- Bathtub liner for 100 gal. water storage—Water Bob, from Way Safe Florida, Inc, 14175 Icot Blvd, Suite 100, Clearwater, FL 33760 1-800-966-8044, approximately \$25. Available on Ebay as well.
- Seeds to store, \$55 for small garden, non-hybrid—Baker Creek Seeds, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704.
- Archery supplies—Obsession Archery, 8289 Burden Rd. Machesney Park, IL 61115, 815-877-1212
- First aid supplies—a number of professional-level kits from \$71 to \$415, First Aid Supplies Online, 1-800-874-8767

**Honey and Honey Products:** Honeyrun Farm, 9642 Randle Road, Williamsport, Ohio. 43164, 740-225-2462. Candles of the rolled beeswax as well as poured, beeswax in all amounts for sewing and crafting, honey straws, honey and combs. On Etsy, Honeyrunfarm.

#### **Let me tell you—**

One of my holiday traditions, is to spend at least a few minutes under the stars on Christmas Eve, thinking over these passages, casting my mind back to my childhood with my Grandfather and his teachings and ways, gratefully remembering all my blessings as best I am able. May one of these scriptures be good enough to carry in your mind or pocket and comfort thee. Remember, we are small, but not insignificant; we are loved from Above.

“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” Job 38:7

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained” Psalms 8:3

“The moon and stars to rule by night: for His mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 136: 9

“He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.” Psalm 147: 4-5

“Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is His name” Amos 5: 8

