

CHRISTMAS PASTRY

by Liz Meeker

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:9)

When I was a child, one thing that we looked forward to the most, was my Grandmother’s Christmas gift of her Danish Pastry. She had gotten the recipe from my Aunt Mary. Let me tell you, it was tough to make. My Grandmother held a special place in my heart and so did Aunt Mary. Bena (as we called my grandmother) made between 15 and 20 of these pastries every year and every year, the “Danish” was the start of our Christmas. Every Christmas morning, we started breakfast with the Danish, orange juice and coffee (when we were older,) and stockings. My grandmother never grumbled or complained, which is why I chose this bible verse.

Now, about 25 years ago, Bena came to our house at my invitation to show me how to make the Danish. I now wear the Danish Crown; however, I only make two of them. I have only been able to make them the way Bena did ONCE! Yep, once! And believe you me, there was a lot of grumbling. My kids and husband, even the dog, would all hide.

Over the years, I still can’t do them like my grandmother, but I don’t grumble any more. I have discovered the peace that Bena had in using her gifts to make something for others. And it made our Christmas like nothing else. I am not as skilled as Bena and must do it in my own way; but the love of presenting that special gift is a joy, not a heartache. I have also discovered singing while baking, helps! May the joy of Christmas bring you peace, laughter, joy and love!

GRACIOUS GOD, GRANT THAT WE MAY SEE OUR SKILLS AS GIFTS TO USE TO BE WELCOMING AND HOSPITABLE TO OTHERS. OUR GIFTS HAVE COME FROM YOU AND SHOULD BE RECEIVED WITH JOY AND NOT DISDAIN. IN SUCH A MANNER AS THIS, WE ARE BOTH BLESSED AND A BLESSING. AMEN!