

Shawano County's 313th Barn Quilt Now on Display

Shawano County's 313th barn quilt is now on display at N9095 Trout Lane, Birnamwood. The quilt was sponsored by Chris Stuffle. Chris has been interested in quilting from an early age, making her first patchwork doll quilt at the age of five.

Chris' mother learned to make pieced quilts in the early 1980s and Chris quickly developed a love and appreciation for all quilts. Her favorite quilts are from the turn of the century and the 1930s and her favorite quilt block is called King Solomon's Puzzle or Drunkard's Path. The pattern for her quilt is somewhat of a combination of the two patterns. "Each of the boys had a different idea of what the perfect pattern would be," Chris said, "but ultimately we settled on this one because it represents our family's faith in God."

Set on point, the quilt block features three interlocking chains which form a cross. Chris wanted the cross to stand out in a pale yellow color to represent how the love of Jesus can shine through all of us. The chains symbolize how God's grace and mercy is deeply intertwined in our lives and the star formed in the middle reminds us of how God saved us by sending the world a Redeemer at Christmas.

Chris and her three boys, Jack-15, Luke-12 and Sam-10, moved from Clintonville to Birnamwood during the summer of 2012. She purchased the 80-acre property from Bruce Weber and Lyn Morien. The Webers built a log home on the property in 1995, but originally the land was owned by the family of Douglas Anderson, whose aunt farmed it before selling off some of the land over the past 30 years. Anderson owns 80 acres next to the Stuffles' land.

Since there are no longer any barns or farm buildings on the land, the quilt is mounted on a pole barn on the property. The quilt is easily seen as you drive down Trout Lane. The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.