

Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015



Dear Friend,

Since I don't normally talk about personal problems on Needle 'n Thread, I'm writing this letter to unfold to you my recent adventures because we are friends, and I want you to know what's going on with me, if you want to know.

Earlier this year, I was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. The surgery I went through last week was intended to solve the problem. It's a standard procedure, and I know some of you have been through it. The surgery involved several "ectomies" to remove all the reproductive organs and some other stuff. It was a full open abdominal surgery, and ended up taking five hours instead of the expected two, as there were a few complications. It wasn't as successful as hoped.

The upshot, after pathology, was that the cancer had spread, and, lo! another cancer was present - ovarian cancer, which is distinct from endometrial cancer. The ovarian cancer had also spread, and in fact, more so than the endometrial.

While the ovarian cancer was a surprise, the endometrial cancer was certainly a blessing. Ovarian cancer is often not detected until it is quite late in the game, because there are usually no symptoms to detect until it is far advanced. The symptoms of the endometrial cancer brought the initial problem to light, only to reveal the more serious problem. So, yes, the endometrial cancer was a real blessing!

The good news is that, while both cancers have spread, they have not spread beyond the hope of correction and a return to a healthy life. To that end, I'll be undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments in the future months.

My intention is to keep going forward as normal on Needle 'n Thread, to the extent that I can, and to take things as they come. I have a terrific support group in my family and in my community here in Kansas, and the cancer clinic is staffed with excellent professionals in whom I have great confidence. So my attitude is quite positive! While I don't know exactly what to expect, I know it probably won't be pleasant. But that's life - everyone suffers in life, and I believe that good can always come out of suffering, somehow. I think it's how we handle it that matters. I certainly don't want to sensationalize or aggrandize my situation. There are many people in the world who have gone through much worse.

This part of my life - this upcoming "adventure" - will not become the focus of my website. Everyone has their own problems to deal with, and I won't burden you with mine. That's just not my way of doing things. If you want updates on my situation, you are most welcome to email me and I'll do my best to answer, when I can.

Please don't be sad for me. I'm in excellent spirits and ever hopeful for the best outcome. I appreciate your prayers, your kind thoughts, and your patience with me (in case I can't deliver up to expectations on Needle 'n Thread!) over the next few months!

With my heart full of gratitude for your friendship, I wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to "seeing you around" on Needle 'n Thread soon!

Mary