

February 24, 2016

Dear Friend,

It's been a long time since I've written a personal update for Needle 'n Thread, but I've had lots of inquiries lately, so if you're keen to know what's up with me on the personal front, here it goes!

Last autumn, I let you in on my New Adventure - entering the foray against cancer. The last update I gave you was at Christmas, which was ages ago. I guess time really *does* fly when you're having this much fun!

My adventure started with surgery in mid-November, followed by a regime of chemotherapy. I finished the first three rounds of chemo at the end of January. Sure, there were side effects that weren't too pleasant. Yes, I'm pretty much bald. (Hey, there are advantages to the hair loss! You dark haired ladies out there will certainly understand - no waxing, no plucking, no shaving... it takes me a whole three minutes to shower, and I don't have style my hair. It's convenient, to say the least. A little chilly now and then, but convenient!) It's all just a matter of getting through it!

With the first three rounds of chemo out of the way, I'm undergoing radiation now. Again, there are some side effects, but so far, not nearly as bad as those of chemotherapy. The biggest hurdle for me is the 100-mile drive each way, every day, five days a week, for five and a half weeks, for that ten minute zap of radiation. If the drive becomes too much, though, I have family and friends who can help me out. But for now, I'm doing ok driving myself. I have one word: *audiobooks*. I get in a *lot* of "reading" this way!

But it's also a great time to get in some thinking, too. My mind churns out all kinds of ideas for Needle 'n Thread, future plans for projects, and for the business in general (it's my livelihood, after all, so it's always on my mind). Admittedly, I find myself a bit frustrated now and then, because I can't really bring any of those plans to fruition very quickly right now. I can't keep up with things in quite the same way I used to. But it's just a matter of patience and time.

Once the radiation regime is over, it's back to chemo. And then - we shall see!

We're on the brink of Spring here in Kansas. It's my favorite time of year. Hope is evident everywhere! So I'm in good spirits! I have an incredibly supportive family and all of you out there pulling for me. What more could I want? I'm ever-so-grateful for your kindness, generosity, thoughts and prayers!

I'll keep you posted when I hit any new milestones along the journey. In the meantime, wherever you are in your Life's Adventure, I hope things are going well for you!

Love,

Mary

