

July 1, 2016



Dear Friend,

Well, it's been a while since I've written a personal update to let you know how my Cancer Adventure is going. Thanks to all who have asked, who have written encouraging notes, sent cards, kept me in your thoughts and prayers - your support has been invaluable!

I've been waiting to write because, after my last chemo treatment at the end of May, I had to go through a few more tests before I could tell you anything definite. Once that last chemo treatment was over, I had a terrific feeling of euphoria! After all, I was finished! And I could move on with renewed vim and vigor! I expected to be back to my old me within about three months. They were Great Expectations!

A CT-scan followed the last treatment. Ever expectant of good news, I was thrown for a bit of a loop when it revealed further areas of concern. This led to an ultra sound and an MRI, both of which were inconclusive, and so followed a PET scan this past Thursday. The PET scan revealed cancer on my spleen and in a lymph node, requiring a biopsy which will happen next Tuesday. Once the biopsy comes back from pathology, the oncological team and I will determine a course of treatment.

And so, I wait - which is always the hardest part. But I'm taking a different approach to waiting. When I was going through chemo and radiation, I felt pretty rotten all the time. So waiting was a non-productive occupation. I got in my fair share of naps, it's true! And I learned that The Nap can be more productive than I ever gave it credit for! I have a whole new outlook on The Nap. I've learned that Naps are our Friends.

Now, though, I'm out of Nap Mode for the time being. I'm not waiting in a state of semi-lethargic limbo. Overall, I feel ok, so I'm focusing on Needle 'n Thread wholeheartedly. In the interest of maintaining the website (and my living), I'm putting together two e-books at the moment. One is a project book and the other is a design-related book in answer to many requests. I'm working ahead on the blog as much as I possibly can, too, in preparation. I'm trying to look at the medical intrusions simply as inconveniences that break up the work day.

I still don't have any hair, incidentally. Since it's been floating around (and over) 100 degrees in Kansas for the past six weeks or so, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. My friends and family are used to the Bald Me, and admittedly, it is a *much* cooler existence. I wear a good sun-proof straw hat when I'm out, but otherwise, I go "au naturel" (but only in the head department, I promise!).

I've also become very familiar with the two-hour drive to Kansas City. I know every single bump in the road, and I wave at my "construction buddies" every time I pass them. I'm getting to know them quite well!

Really, this is just part of life. I've said it before - there is no person on this earth who does not have difficulties to face, and I still contend that, in the scheme of things, mine aren't so bad. I have a tremendous support system, and I have great faith that there is a reason for everything. I hope to be able to pass over this additional little Bump in the Road of Life with a good attitude and a positive outlook, arriving ultimately at a better understanding of what we are here for. So it's a longer adventure than I initially thought it would be, but that's ok!

In the meantime, I can't thank YOU enough for your support and encouragement, your prayers, thoughts, and kindnesses. Thanks for sticking around on Needle 'n Thread, too! When I took that plunge several years ago and gave up my career to work the site full time, I had no idea what the future held. Would I have done it, had I known? I don't know. But I'll tell you this much - I'm glad I did! I wouldn't have met *you* if I hadn't, because Needle 'n Thread wouldn't be here.

So that's where we are. I'll keep you updated when I know more and when a plan is in place. Thanks again for everything over the last nine months! Your support has cheered me and carried me though!

Love,

Mary