

September 5, 2016



Dear Friend,

Thanks so much for your concern over my recent “adventure” with cancer. So many of you have inquired how things are going, but I keep putting off the personal update, because, like you, I’m still waiting on some news!

It’s been a long year, but a very good year. I began the whole cancer journey last year at the end of September. If you’ve been reading my updates all along, you already know the nitty-gritty: stage III cancer, surgery, followed by chemo, followed by radiation, followed by chemo. Then, in May of this year, after my last chemo session, a series of imaging tests (CT scan, ultra sound, MRI, PET scan) that revealed something going on with my spleen and in my lymph nodes.

From there, it was a series of biopsies, first in the neck, and then in the pulmonary region. Of course, these things take time - scheduling the procedures and whatnot with the appropriate doctors at the appropriate facilities.

And that brings us up to the second week of August, for the last series of biopsies. The pulmonary oncologist who did the work getting the tissue for the last series of biopsies contacted me the following week with the results from his hospital’s pathology lab. Everything was negative for cancer. Good news, indeed!

All that information was sent back to my own oncologist and her team, and they are still reviewing everything. I expect to hear from them this week with the “final results” in general. I’m guessing from here out, it will be a matter of follow up appointments and vigilance. That’s my hope, anyway!

This summer, I’ve pretty much just plowed on with life, trying to get things up to par again on Needle ‘n Thread and trying to get back in order all around. I figured there’s no good to come from just sitting around, waiting for news and the next appointment - better to keep moving forward!

All in all, I feel great! At first, I was still working off the effects of chemo and radiation, but as the distance increases from those ordeals, I feel better and better. And I’ve been concentrating *very* hard on growing my hair out. I’m still a far cry from shoulder length hair (I have about 1/2” of fuzzy coverage), but you know, during the summer, this hairlessness hasn’t been all that bad! (Well, I can’t vouch for people who have to look at me, but from my perspective, it’s been rather comfortable.)

So, a year down the road, in retrospect, it’s been a good year for me. I’ve experienced the kindness and generosity of so many people. Your support, prayers, and encouragement have been invaluable. I’ve learned how to put things in perspective and to prioritize the things in life that are really important. I’d say the whole year was a grace and a blessing. We shall see what’s to come! I’ll keep you posted!

Love,

Mary