

May Contemplations

I was interviewed recently about the work I do with WNC. It was an excruciating experience, I hate to talk about myself, and I really don't want to be in the spotlight. But it was also a very good experience. It's good to step back once in a while and consider why we do what we do. It was also interesting to think about where I've been and how far I've come.

I recently joined Facebook, on my first day I reconnected with my best friend in high school, and two of my roommates' freshman year of college. It's an odd thing. I was a very different person back then. I wasn't a very nice person; I was arrogant, selfish and totally motivated by pleasure and self interest. I was completely anti-religious and not terribly close to my family. My focus was on what others had done to me and what I needed from them.

Since then, my life has changed in huge ways. In 1994, just after meeting my beloved, my parents and grandparents died one at a time during a 4 month space of time. It was a time of intense grief and regret. But it brought my sisters and me much closer. When we moved to Wisconsin and lived in Madison, I was pretty isolated after the birth of my children. I was sad and lonely and still self focused. When we moved to Waunakee, I joined a church, I joined the MOPS group and I made some really wonderful friends. Then I had an entire year of health issues. I had two surgeries, and was on strong antibiotics for 13 months. I was completely dependent on others. And others came through. My bible study and MOPS group brought meals for my family. My mother's sister actually came and stayed for almost a month. My friend Cindy sat and paired endless socks for my family, and prayed constantly. It was incredibly humbling. I hated accepting help from these people. But it was an important lesson for me.

So here I am, and I'm sure according to the interview I'll seem like quite the Pollyanna. But I realized, that all those things needed to happen to me to bring my heart to the place it is now. Right now, I appreciate all the blessings in my life. I love God and my family and my friends, and I really love Waunakee. And I really love being able to work at WNC. I have such a heart for the struggles people are going through. I know how hard it is to accept help, and I know how important it is to just be there. As for my facebook friends, it's weird to think how much I've changed, but it's also exciting to think that maybe these people are changed too. Maybe we won't be the friends we were, but that's ok, I think the friendship I can offer now is truer and much more interesting.

Colleen Woerner- WNC Store manager