

# Through the Shop Window

...the "little shop around the corner" on Mill Street



"From the unique to the antique!"

**5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063**

December 2014

## *Were You Born in a Barn?*

*I can't remember how many times I've heard that question. Growing up, I seemed to hear it every time I entered the house. (Translated it means, "Go back and close the door, you're letting the \_\_\_\_ in/or out!") Having not grown up on a farm, I assumed that barns did not have doors that closed, but instead were wide open. They were not places of confinement, but rather an open shelter, where those seeking refuge from the weather could freely enter and be safe.*

*Well, I was not born in a barn, but I know the One who was. And, like a child, He leaves the door wide open. That is one of the many things for which I am grateful. Throughout my life I have often sought refuge with Him. Whenever in need, I have found the door open.*

*The scripture records that He was laid in a manger. A manger is not a cute little crib of wood, but is in fact a cattle feeder, usually along the barn wall. It is not clean or comfortable. It is made of rough unpainted wood, and has more than enough splinters to go around. It is not fashionable, but rustic. Yet, it was there that He was placed to sleep.*

*And so on the first Christmas, there was no big dinner, no china dishes or crystal glasses. Instead, the animals gave up the use of their table so the He could sleep. There was no dancing or carolers, just angels singing. The only gift given was the One in the manger.*

*I find it remarkable that we have turned something so simple into something so complicated. We have filled the season with clutter, and created elaborate religions that are supposed to guide us- to what?*

*This year, know that what your heart seeks is the One who was born in a barn and who slept in the manger. He is the first Christmas gift; the One that the prophets foretold, angels praised, and wise men sought.*

*Know this- the doors to the barn are still open, and there refuge can be found. Seek him, and He will find you. Enter freely, and you will find His rest and peace.*

## **January Classes**

**Advanced Spinning** Tuesdays January 6-27 7PM-9PM So, you know the basics of spinning, what now? Answer: learn the techniques that will allow you to make all different kinds of yarn out of a variety of fibers. This class will teach you different methods of spinning long, short, and hard to hold on to fibers. Spinners will learn how to use the different whorls on the wheel, how to use hand cards to hold slippery fibers, and drafting techniques to deal with both long and short fibers. Students must have their own wheels. The class fee is \$125, and includes the fiber you'll need for class. The class is limited to 4 students.

**The Art of Felting** Wednesdays January 7-28 7PM-9PM If you have dabbled with felting and want to know more, here you go! There is more than one way to felt wool. This class will cover a different technique each week, from basic needle felting to "art felt" and "3D" wet felted flowers. If you don't like to read patterns, count stitches, knit or crochet, you can still make beautiful usable items with wool. The class fee is \$80 plus materials and tools. The class is limited to 4 students.

**Knitters Workshop** Thursdays January 8, 15, and 29 7PM-9PM Here is a three week class that will make you a better knitter. We will cover different cast-on and bind-off techniques, reading you knitting, and fixing mistakes without ripping out your work. Invest your time in this class and you'll save hours of re-knitting and tons of frustration. Simple tricks like weaving in ends as you knit, tips to perfectly align button and button holes, and how to get perfect edges that make picking up stitches and assembling garments super simple. We'll also cover the "how to and why should I" block my hand made garments. And, all you'll need for the class is some yarn and some knitting needles. The class fee is \$60, and class is limited to 4 students.

***Please note that the shop will be closed December 24-26 for the Christmas Holiday  
December 31-January 1 for the New Year's Holiday  
and  
January 23-25 for the Winter Retreat***

## **Last Call the Final Wool Warp and Wheel Winter Retreat**

Our 2015 retreat will be at the Willowood Inn in Baraboo Wisconsin.

The dates are January 23-25. The prices are as follows:

\$125/person double occupancy

\$175/person single occupancy

We must pay for the Inn in advance, so all reservations are NOT refundable. Please make your payment by cash or check. Contact Penny at the shop for complete details and to check availability.