

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

September 2014

Living the Lessons

So often we spend time learning life's lessons. We read about them, learn by observation, and listen to great thinkers who expound upon them. We live our lives aware of the teaching, but oblivious to the reality. Then one day, the earth is shaken beneath us. We find ourselves in difficult times, fearful of tomorrow, and blind to any solution. It is in these times we find ourselves having to live the lessons, and the living is not easy. These are the times that test our faith. It is when we must practice what we preach.

Penny and I are living the lessons. Things have been difficult. We have been seeking direction, answers, and assurance. Although we would like a direct answer to wash over us like a flood, I know that this is not how God does things. He is the still small voice. Great floods are composed of countless drops of water. God speaks one drop at a time. A flood destroys the ground it covers. Gentle rain does not, but instead nourishes the earth. So it is with our souls. When you are in the midst of the trials, don't expect a flood-but instead, look for the drops.

God works through His people. Words of encouragement, acts of kindness, underserved forgiveness; these are all small drops of His love. You'll never know how profound a word or small act of kindness can be to the one receiving it. A single word can be a miracle. It can be a long awaited answer to prayer, a shower of blessings.

We don't know what our future holds, but I do know that in these times, God is using you in a great way-even if you don't know it. "Mercy drops around us are falling, but for the showers we plead."

October Classes

Learn to Knit (Tuesdays, Sept 30 - Oct 21 7PM-9PM) - This class is all about the basics. You'll learn how to cast on, knit, purl, yarn-over, knit 2 together, and bind off. As you begin your project, we'll cover counting rows, stitches, and reading basic patterns. Knitting is easy, it's all in how you hold the sticks. The class fee is \$80 and does not include your tools and materials. Class is limited to 3 students. If you've always wanted to knit, here's your chance.

Spinning 101 (Wednesdays, Oct 1 - Oct 22 7PM-9PM) - If you've never spun wool and don't own a wheel, here's your class. We'll start with controlling the direction of the wheel and go forward from there. In fact, you'll finish your first skein on the first night (Class 2 gets harder). Spinning is easy, fun, and a skill you can learn. The class fee is \$125 and includes use of a wheel, all your fiber, instruction, and practice time in the studio. The class is limited to 4 students.

Toothbrush Rugs (Thursdays, Oct 2 - Oct 23 7PM-9PM) - This simple craft done with a tool that looks like a toothbrush handle. It is simple-no sewing, no needles. We'll use quilting fabric strips to craft a true heirloom. You can even use old fabric or recycled clothing! The class fee is \$80, and does not include tools or materials. The class is limited to 3 students.

Please Note:

We will be closed August 29-September 8 for Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. For complete information go to:
www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com

Tickets for the Final Wool Warp and Wheel Winter Retreat are still available.

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. **Only 8 spaces remain.** Contact Penny at the shop for details and reservations.