


### My adopted mother

Each spring and fall Mennonite Women USA invites gifts given in honor or in memory of a significant woman in your life. As I read the names of women honored and remembered, I wonder about the stories behind these gifts. You are welcome to send us these stories.

In 2010, my gift for MW USA is given in honor of Cecelia Metzler, my adopted mother, and now 94 years old, living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I share this with her blessing.

I first met Cecelia at my wedding. She traveled to Goshen on a chartered bus bringing Bob's Pennsylvania relatives and friends. In the 38 years since that day, I don't recall many bus loads traveling 600 miles to a wedding. I've often thought that so many people came because of Bob's loss two years and three months earlier. He was engaged to Eunice Metzler, who unexpectedly died during a planned open heart surgery. I remember feeling shy as I met Eunice's parents, Clyde and Cecelia, at the reception.

Years passed; Clyde also died, and Bob and I regularly stopped to see Cecelia. Twelve years after the wedding, Cecelia and I went out for an afternoon tea, the first time we visited without Bob. That day we became friends in a new way, and it was soon after when we adopted each other. I don't know who voiced it first, but Bob and I began sending Cecelia Mother's Day cards, and at Christmas we received cards signed, "Love, Mom Metzler."

In this issue of *timbrel* honoring mothers, I share this story of a very special woman who has welcomed me into her life. Her love models courage in adversity and has opened new doors of possibility in my life, helping our family become more whole. 



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*Rhoda Keener, Cecelia Metzler, and Bob Keener*

*Courtesy Photo*