

Pie-making with Lucy

I've always wanted a rocking chair in my kitchen, but never had the right space. Perhaps I picture a wise woman friend talking with me as I cook, helping me understand the twists and turns of my life. Perhaps it is my version of kitchen table theology or a type of friendship mentoring.

When Donna Mast, Leola, Pennsylvania, assumed leadership for Atlantic Coast Conference MW several years ago, her goal was to connect women across the generations. She began by asking her college-age daughter and friends if they desired a mentor. One of the young women said, "I'd love to have a better network of women supporting women...to call out the gifts in each other, even if it means rock-climbing...or an organized walk to raise money for breast cancer...or a mentorship of sorts." She added, "Young women have gifts to offer also, in bringing, perhaps, a broader, more educated sense of today's world."

Although not particularly interested in a formal mentoring program, the young women expressed the desire for friendships and to learn practical home arts skills. Donna knew just the person to begin what she termed "Intergenerational Friendship Mentoring"—Lucy Rudy, age 84, who has baked a pie for husband John each week of their 60 year marriage. (Yes, that is more than 3,000 pies.)

Donna called the event "Pie Making with Lucy." Seated randomly at tables, young, middle-aged, and older women enjoyed an evening of rolling pie crust, pinching edges, and listening to each other's stories. Conversation-starter questions placed on each table invited sharing: Briefly describe your current life situation. Your family? Are you working outside the home? Hobbies? Church activities? What is your greatest joy and challenge in your current stage of life? Who has been a role model or mentor for you?

I'm told conversations flourished as women baked pies with Lucy—telling stories, laughing, and of course, eating pie—practical skills and wisdom intersecting as women explored God's path for them in the everyday. Whether on rocking chairs or around the table, when our hands and hearts are extended in friendship, we provide the space for kitchen table theology and mentoring. 🍷



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Lucy Rudy and Stacia Nolt

Photo by Donna Mast