

The Silver Lining

By Kathy Leftwich



his month marks a momentous time in my life, one I had never really contemplated until it came closer. On Sept. 14, I will have been married to the same man for 25 years.

My first reaction is that it seems like such an “old” thing –remembering my own parents’ 25th and not knowing anyone else celebrating the same landmark both make me feel as if this is not something that happens to people my age. But that’s all part of the denial of aging, I suppose. You never quite feel as old as you are.

The deeper emotion, though, is one of wonder. Outside of family, only two people have been a part of my life longer than my husband, and we rarely communicate, haven’t seen each other in at least five years. How is it that people remain close over the many hills and valleys of life?



As some old song says, “It must be love.” But what is that anyway?

This reminds of an answer I once gave to a Sunday school kid’s question of “what is God?” I replied, “God is love.” Not so much an ephemeral man in the sky, but the feeling one has of being taken care of and taking care of another.

Of course, I came to this realization in my UCC church, thinking that **we**, the congregation, were the embodiment of God. Working

together to support a person in crisis, to keep the grounds clean or to provide holiday dinners for the less privileged, we were love.

Now the people of my home congregation (and most other UCCers I’ve met) are a disparate group for the most part. There are lawyers and doctors and teachers and clerks spanning the ages from newborn to nearly 90 in all types of relationships. We have one thing in common: wanting to live our lives as Jesus would have, or at least our best understanding of that. We generally care for others and our planet. And that’s what keeps us together, showing up most Sundays at 10.

The same, I’ve come to realize, is true of my husband and I. We are not the same people we were 25 years ago. The starry-eyed, heart-fluttering flush of new love rarely lasts, being replaced by the monotony “what should we have for dinner tonight” or “whose turn is it to get up with the baby.”

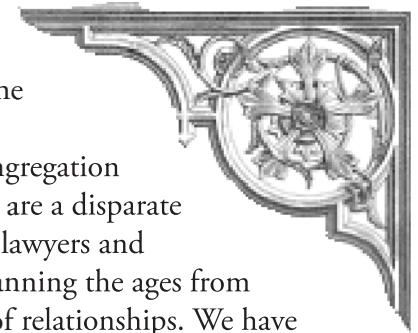


God may have created the world in six days, but its evolution to a finely functioning society has taken thousands of years. The world of relationships, similarly, never stops changing.

Though none of us would wish for a return to the Garden of Eden (or the primordial soup), we should try to remember what got us in this mess to start with: Love, the sense of caring for and being cared for.

Whether it’s a partner or the rest of society, our love should grow and change to fit the situation. To quote another old song, “getting better all the time.”

Kathy Leftwich is communications director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Made Possible by your OCWM support.
RMC Reflections is a ministry of:

Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, 1140 W. 5th Avenue, Denver, CO 80204

kathy@rmucc.org Phone: 303-984-9118 Fax: 303-980-6695