

Simplicity Can Be That Simple

Jeanne Lee

As a 10 year old, I knew what the word “simple” meant. However, when I was signed up for my first sewing lesson, I was introduced to Simplicity patterns. Seeing all those pieces and pages of instructions seemed anything but simple to me! That sleeveless full-skirt dress looked simple enough...didn't it?

A bright white fabric with little black polka dots looked great on the fabric bolt; however, when pressing it, dizzy spells were not that simple to ignore as the dots danced over the fabric. And then there was all those gathering stitches and what seemed like yards of fabric to get it fit around the top of the dress.

In order to learn to sew a straight line, the instructor told us to remove the thread from our sewing machines, select the smallest stitch and sew around the pattern pieces to perforate the excess paper from our desired pieces. So far, almost good as I veered off the printed line more than a few times. To this day, I find myself veering off the desired line when piecing my quilts, which does not bode well for a flat and even seam. Maybe there is a need to practice perforating again and embracing simplicity.

During this time as I think about the world in which I now live, I realize that even though there are complex issues and decision to make, life has become somewhat simple again. I simply do not have all the activities from which to flit or alarms to set because not only am I retired, I have no place I need to be going.

The grocery stores and restaurants have made it simple to order online and pick up curbside or have goods delivered. I simply have to be aware that all that I want may not be available or be happy that I have been upgraded to a more expensive brand as a substitution for my original product or not get it this time at all.

For the most part during my day, I can just simply do what I want to do when I want to do it – or not do it. Does that mean that I simply crawl into a hole and hibernate? No, I miss the things, people and places that I no longer have available to do in person. Technology allows me to communicate and learn. But I must remember that I simply must thank God each day for all that I do have and never take any of the simple things for granted.