

Little Things 12-1-17

I was getting a little worried about my lack of a theme for Christmas this year. I have chosen a theme for many years now and maybe that is not for everyone, but I find it helpful. It guides me. It initiates some creative ideas. It prevents me from wandering around overwhelmed with the task of the just right gift for everyone. Of course, I want the recipients to like the gift. I just need some assistance with ideas and the theme provides that.

Feeling a little worried is not going to help with stress though. Since I was running out of time, I even considered my options for last resort ideas. I have never given gift cards. Was this going to be the year? I considered *Let's Go Shopping* and we would go out and have fun choosing together. I considered *Let's Get Together* and throughout the year, I would have both group gatherings and one-on-one special times. Each time, I could say Merry Christmas! And that would be fun and funny!

Then, the unexpected happened. Someone was giving away scraps from a building project and offered them to me as kindling. I saw these little scraps of nice wood as too good to burn. They were smooth and solid. Some were about 1 inch by 9 inches and a quarter of an inch thick. Other pieces were about 7 by 8 inches, and three fourths of an inch thick. I gave a few a light sanding and a coating of gesso and put them aside. I wasn't sure what would come of it, as I have not engaged in any art work for a very long time.

While looking at some of the many beautiful pictures my son has taken where he lives in Alaska, I decided to try my hand at painting a miniature of my future daughter-in-law's favorite mountain, Sleeping Lady. Would this panoramic view fit on a 1 by 9-inch space? It did, and I liked it. The *Little Things* theme was born!

While I am having fun with small paintings, I may not be able to finish one for everyone on my list, as it turns out that little paintings sometimes still take a long time to complete. I can still find other ways to use this theme. If I resort to the gift card or shopping or getting together ideas, I can make a special card for those people, as the little thing, with the message that they are special to me and that little things mean a lot. Getting together later will keep the gift giving going well beyond Christmas and maybe all year.

So far, the first little painting has grown to six. Lots more to accomplish but this theme is giving me the gift of fun and relaxation and discovery. That is a big deal for me, as I really needed it!

Sometimes, it only takes a little to give a lot.

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