

Paige Lindley

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Church

This is Paige Lindley from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, for Voices.

Growing up, my mom told stories about Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where she lived as a child. One of six kids, she walked to school in the snow, wore wool skirts with freshly-ironed white blouses, and learned to cook in her mother's small kitchen.

The details often centered around her mother. Grandma Dorothy canned fresh tomatoes to pour over noodles; that was called spaghetti, back then. She made sugar and butter sandwiches for lunch sometimes, because it was the depression, and they were poor. But Grandma also made more complicated things that could only be replicated by being present when she cooked them.

In later years, I learned to make "Grandma's Potato Salad" and "Old-Time Fudge", and her gravy and stuffing for the turkey, (minus the raisins.) My mom entered another world when she prepared those things in the kitchen with me; it was as if she was back in the kitchen with her own mom, slicing boiled eggs into tiny squares in the palm of her hand, with a butter knife, or cooking fragrant fudge to the soft-ball stage by dropping a teaspoon full of the hot liquid into a cup of cold water, to test it.

I didn't write anything down until later, after I'd gotten married, and wanted to recreate recipes for my own family. Luckily, my mom was available to call, to fill in the blanks. I laughed when I realized one of the recipes is in my Better Homes cookbook; it's called "Old Time Fudge."

Like the recipes passed down, by Grandma, she also shared her faith, by taking her children to church, reading devotional books and the Bible, and praying with them.

My hope is that whether my daughters, now adults, need a recipe, or guidance in their walk of faith, they will call me to fill in the blanks. And when I'm not available, they'll know where to look.