

“Some Good Advice”
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By Marianne Brock

I recently went on vacation.

While on vacation, I spent a lot of time watching and listening to all the people around me. I realized that most people could use some good advice, and I just happen to *HAVE* a lot of good advice. I’ve had a lot of experiences and I have a lot to offer. I decided that I should write a book and put in it all of the very good advice I have for everyone. I called my book Marianne’s Book of Good Advice or Things You Just Might Not Learn On Your Own.

Number 1: If you can manage it, be born into a good family. You can see from this photo where I get my sense of style... A good family is something to treasure. They start you off well and continue to love and support you throughout your life.



Number 2: When having your picture taken, always remember to wear pants. This may seem like a no-brainer, but there I am in the Badlands of South Dakota, completely unaware that my knickers are showing. I wouldn’t want anyone else to make that mistake.



Number 3: If you ever decide to run away from home, don't make a big announcement or anything because they'll just take a picture and tease you about it for years to come.

Again, this may be an isolated incident, and as a rule I don't think children should run away from home... but be careful... parents often think our righteous indignation is soooo adorable. Believe me... you don't want to go through life with pictures like this showing up every time your family gets together for dinner and a slide show.



Number 4: ALWAYS double-check the sign on the door of a public restroom. I think we all know how uncomfortable a mistake in this department can be. Not that I speak from personal experience or anything...



Number 5: NOBODY wants to hear your cell phone conversations.

5a. Especially in public restrooms.

5b. Why would you take your phone into the restroom anyway? That's just asking for trouble.

Number 6: Floss.

Number 7: Buy Girl Scout Cookies.

Number 8: Laughing always makes you feel good. Sometimes crying makes you feel even better.

You know, this advice book that I've written has a lot of good stuff in it. Like I said, I've had a lot of experiences and I think I have a lot to offer. I mean, from now on you'll always remember to wear pants when you have your picture taken because I have learned from my mistake and I've shared that wisdom with you.

Now I realize that mine isn't the only advice book you can read. In fact, it *might* not even be the best one. I think the best advice book is the Bible. The Bible is full of stories of people who were trying to live the way God wanted them to. Some of them tried very hard, and some didn't try very hard at all. Many of them made mistakes. Many of them learned lessons. Some of them even got it right.

And all of those stories have been written down for us... so that we don't have to make the same mistakes that they did.

We also are surrounded by hundreds of people -- right here in this building this morning -- who are trying to live the way God wants us to live. At Trinity Lutheran Church, we are a good family and we love and support one another. When one member of our family is sick or frightened or confused, or joyful or very, very sad, there are others here who have felt the same way. We can give good advice to one another. We can laugh and cry together. We can help each other live the way God wants us to live. We will all make mistakes, we will all learn, and hopefully, we will all get it right sometimes.

Now, I have two final pieces of good advice for you.

Number 9: If you're having trouble, talk to God about it and find someone from your Trinity family to talk to God with you.

And Number 10: If Mrs. Enney ever asks you to do the Children's Story, make sure that you read the lessons before you say you'll do it. Today was a toughie!