

May 8, 2022

For 15 years Carol Miller has been finding inspiration in watching caterpillars metamorphosize into butterflies. The caterpillars begin life as tiny blue-green eggs (about the size of a period) that female butterflies place on plants. After a couple days they emerge as hungry caterpillars (about the size of eyelashes). They then begin a series of shedding their skins and emerging with new outer layers. After doing this about 5 times, they climb to the top of their containers and hang in the shape of a J while they form their chrysalis. After a couple weeks, they emerge from their chrysalis and slowly unfold their wings to prepare to fly. As Carol watches these processes unfold, she reflects on nurturing, letting go, patience, letting go again, going within, emerging, the circle of life, and the many ways we can be awed by the power and beauty of what God has created.

This year, Carol is sharing her inspirations with BUCC in the form of her "conversations" with a caterpillar named Katzfly. This is in conjunction with the Stewardship caterpillars-to-butterflies project that will be occurring at BUCC between May 8 and June 5.

*Katzfly: I am very grateful to you for adopting me and giving me my private little cup with all the food I will need as I work my way toward becoming a chrysalis. As you know, I arrived last week from South Carolina after a dark and bumpy ride on FedEx airplanes and trucks. There were over 100 of us little caterpillars crowded into two cups, and I was filled with gratitude when I found out about the good home I arrived at.*

*Carol: I am grateful for you and all your caterpillar friends because you probably have no idea how you can be a source of inspiration. You see, I view spirituality as any experience that makes me feel more connected to God. I am inspired not only by humans who are kind and loving, but also by things in nature - like sunsets and sunrises - and even the trees, flowers, waters, and all creatures big and small.*

*Katzfly: Wow, I never thought of myself as inspirational, but I'd like to hear more about what you will be doing with me and all my friends.*

*Carol: Your friends will be adopted by people at BUCC who will care for them just as I am caring for you. We have a Stewardship ministry who thinks that watching caterpillars become butterflies will be inspirational to help them connect with God. We plan to send you out to God's earth on Pentecost so you can pollinate flowers and keep this wonderful world healthy. We will be talking more about this in the next weeks, but for today, let's focus on simply being grateful for the opportunities and the connections we are making together.*

