***Keeping Hospitality Simple***

*\*Bread and Wine by Shauna Niequist. This is a beautifully written book about connecting with people around the table.*

***Helpful decorating websites****:*

Stonegableblog.com

Randigarrettdesign.com

Magnolia.com

***Tips for cleaning****:*

1. *Make your bed everyday.*
2. *End your day with a clean and empty sink.*
3. *Put things away immediately – don’t let it accumulate.*
4. *Take trash out as needed.*
5. *Keep up with your laundry.*
6. *Clean your kitchen as you cook – load the dishwasher, put pans on to soak.*
7. *Teach your kids how to help.*

***Tips for overnight guests****:*

1. *Wash the sheets – add your favorite fabric softener. I love to use Dreft.*
2. *Have new guest towels and washcloths for guests only. Keep them set aside for just that purpose.*
3. *Have a guest tray or basket. Include travel size soap, shampoo, toothpaste, an extra toothbrush, candy, bottled water, a small bottle of pain reliever, a spare phone charger, and your wi-fi password. In the bathroom, include extra toilet paper and a plunger.*

***Tips for dinner guests:***

1. *Clean and clear clutter. Make space in the entry closet for their coats.*
2. *Set the table ahead of time.*
3. *Fresh flowers are a bonus! I like Trader Joe’s and Costco for fresh flowers.*
4. *Have a music playlist ready – choose things to listen to that make you happy as you are preparing for guests - music playing in the background can help your guest feel more relaxed.*
5. *Make sure the bathroom your guests will be using has a* clean *hand towel, soap, and extra toilet paper. Clean the sink and toilet. Light a candle in the bathroom.*
6. *If you are pressed for time, use shortcuts. You can buy a small cake at the grocery store and add fresh flowers on top – little touches show that you care.*
7. *Use cloth napkins. This is not a necessity, of course, but it adds a little something extra for your guest.*
8. *Don’t be an exhausted hostess. I’ve done that before. Pace yourself. Clean a couple of days in advance.*
9. *Let your kids see you being happy to welcome guests into your home. Make it an exciting time for them as well so that when they hear the word “guests” they will feel happiness.*
10. *If you can include a little something that you know they would enjoy, then try and incorporate that – maybe their favorite coffee creamer, for example.*

***THE HEART OF HOSPITALITY SAYS, “YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. YOU MATTER TO ME.”***

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me.”…The King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” Matthew 25:35-41*