

Greetings WHLC friends,

It is with gratitude that I remember my time spent among you. After leaving WHLC, I spent much time with my mother, who lived with us during her last years. Having her in our home was a great gift. She brought joy and grace to us and memories for my family to cherish. In the fall of 2009 I was called to Deerfield Retirement Center and offered the position of Spiritual Director for the center. I lead several support groups and give individual counseling to residents. I've come to love these people and feel incredibly blessed by this opportunity to continue in my ministry.

In 2015, my husband Pat was diagnosed with Parkinson disease. This has altered our plans for retirement, but we continue to enjoy each day we are given. We now have 7 granddaughters and one grandson. If you remember, Pat and I have 5 sons, so our granddaughters are a special delight to us and our grandson is spoiled beyond reason. They are each a special blessing in our life and we take full advantage of our time spent with them. We are in the midst of our yearly "cousin camp" right now, 10 days for all the cousins to come together and spend time with grandma and grandpa. It takes us a month to recuperate, but it's well worth it!

Pat and I still live on our acreage near Van Meter. We are quite involved in our community church and have enjoyed many trips with friends over the last years. However we are more and more content to stay in and simply enjoy family time together.

I look forward to reconnecting with many of you at the luncheon on August 11<sup>th</sup>. My time spent with all of you was a joy and a privilege, and I have wonderful memories of so many of you. Congratulations on 75 years of doing God's work!

Blessings,  
Mary Ferring