

121 W. Vernon Avenue
Wake Forest, N.C. 27587
Christmas, 2022

Dear family and friends,

As I get older, I become more and more aware that the years I've lived are much longer than the years I still have ahead of me. That stark reality helps me focus on the here and now and not so much on the past or what might be in the future. How I use/spend my time also seems more important, especially since I consider myself to be in excellent health for someone now 77 years old. Each day I try to find and see JOY, to be GRATEFUL for all I have, sharing what I have with others, and though the media tries to tell me otherwise, to have HOPE for a better tomorrow knowing part of that is up to me.

I am still very involved with my church (vestry, vocal and bell choir, Sunday School, Ministry Match) and community (Crop walk, Habitat, Meals on Wheels,community gardens, feeding program). I belong to the local Wildlife Federation which means I am often working in some of the local parks and taking hikes. I try to keep my mind active with two book clubs and two card groups. I still love baking bread and giving it away. I substitute at our church preschool every few weeks and am now tutoring once a week in a local elementary school trying to catch kids up that lost so much during COVID.

I am fortunate that Branson and (some) of his family live so near by. Branson is still busy tutoring and working in a sign shop which among other things wraps cars and other bigger objects; Norma is tutoring and completing her doctorate in nursing practice; middle grandson Julian is completing his masters in public administration like his grandfather and will do his spring internship with the town of Wake Forest; and youngest grandson Dylan is attending our local community college. Elizabeth is still working with the Department of Labor in DC but presently is with the embassy in the Dominican Republic.

I took two major trips this year both in the fall. My sister and I took a large yacht trip to Tahiti for a week, and Ken and I returned to Israel. In the spring Ken and I took the train to Florida to visit Vivian, my sister, and her family and the Kennedy Space Center followed by a visit to Taneytown, Maryland to spend a wonderful weekend with Baumgardner and Clingan relatives. Ken and I also got to the beach to see friends in South Carolina and Clingan cousins in North Carolina. The Prossers invited me up to DC with them to visit Elizabeth for the 4th of July firework show.

I am grateful for all my blessings because I know I am entitled to none of these. These blessings are all divine gifts.

Sent with love,