

January 10, 2006

you told me you wanted to be at home
caring for your husband
and your two little girls

you couldn't see the lump in my throat
or hear my heart
skip a beat or two

I wanted to tell you - I'm one
of those little girls
but it wouldn't have made
any difference.

December 1, 2007

you said something to a member of the staff
about how you wanted me to come see you
when I arrived you wondered how I knew to come
I said “like magic, here I am.”

we laughed about it

I said “well, it wasn’t all magic –
love had something to do with it.”
you thought for a moment then replied,
“all love is magic.”

July 10, 2006

I watched you search for whatever special event

you thought was going on right now --

but those are today's memories

during the church service in the dining room

you knew all the words to "Old Rugged Cross" --

but those are yesterday's memories

long ago sights and sounds you find easily

in the storeroom of your mind

the boxes marked "the early years" got moved

those memories are now in the front of your mind

and today's life is hidden away -- mostly out of your reach

but, I believe, always somewhere in your heart.

June 24, 2009

the lady in the wheelchair

stopped to ask how you were
you were sleeping, so you didn't hear the conversation

"how old is she?" "90."

"has she had a good life?"

I said, "yes, I think so."

I wonder how you would answer that

was your life what you wanted it to be?

only longer

you were widowed 33 years ago

longer than you were married

but some of those years may not count

they were lost to that disease

that has taken you away –

from reality – and from me.