



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

Name: Ellen Baker (At Hanover I was Ellen Hannah)

Class Year: 1974

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Faculty/staff

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

I live in Los Angeles, California, with my husband and our 15-year-old granddaughter. We are all healthy and active. On Friday, May 15, it was a beautiful, clear day with a high of 79.

Before Covid-19, my usual weekday morning would have started at 4:30 with devotions and prayer, breakfast, preparing for work, and out the door at 6. Now that I am working from home, I sleep later and linger with reading in bed, a lazy breakfast with tea, a little housework, a walk, and then I settle in at the computer about 9:30. My husband is also working from home, and our granddaughter is completing her sophomore year of high school via zoom calls and google docs. We have an Apple PC and three laptops, and some days it takes some coordinating for each of us to get online as needed.

On May 15, I worked online until noon, took a little over an hour for lunch, and worked again until about 4:00. I feel fortunate that I still have my job in church administration (I do HR, membership, and work with the church board and keep the records). We have weekly zoom staff meetings and optional daily coffee breaks to stay in touch, and our Sunday worship service is broadcast on TV, and repeated through our website. It is good to "see" each other, but I look forward to returning to work and to worship on campus. No date has been set yet.

When I am not working at the computer for my job, I have tried to use the time productively by cleaning out cupboards, reviewing our wills and documents, scrapbooking, and staying in touch with family and friends. I'm also conscious of how quickly time is passing with our granddaughter, and we've spent time together cooking, cleaning, sewing masks, and teaching her to drive in empty parking lots. We have been taking lots of pictures that represent this season of staying at home.

On the down side, we have had four trips cancel out, and I am concerned about my mother, who is in a nursing home in Florida. She is 101, and travel restrictions from both the state of Florida and the home where she lives are preventing my visiting her. But she is strong and well-cared for, and we are able to FaceTime.

Our family tries to all have dinner together. I have enjoyed doing more cooking, now that we have so much more time. On May 15, we made zoodles (zucchini noodles) and homemade spaghetti sauce. We watched the evening news at 6:30, as usual, and took another quick walk around the block. I balanced the checkbook and paid bills, then took a shower and got in bed early to read. We planned to be out of the house by 7 in the morning for a hike.

What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

We were the "tornado year" so there were still signs of destruction, but the campus crew had done a great job of cleaning up the debris from the month before. We had been sent home for two weeks, following the April 3 tornado, and when we returned, we were not able to live in the Phi Mu house

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because the roof had been torn off. We spent that last month in what was then the girls' gym. They set up rows of bunk beds for us in a room off the main gym floor. I remember there were several of us getting married right after graduation, so there were some fun bridal showers, but it was also bittersweet, as we prepared to say goodbye. I remember the campus was still beautiful with flowers, and we had our graduation on the point on May 25.

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