









**Resident:** Maxine T. - 93 years old.

What is your life like now as a long-term care resident?

*"Well, I haven't been teaching anything, you know, for awhile now. And it is different from home, well, because I feel like I am on my own."*

What are you looking forward to most in the next year (doing an activity, seeing a loved one, etc.)?

*"I want to teach someone something again."*

What does home mean to you? How do you make where you live feel like home?

*"'Home' means **everything** to me! It's **all** I know! There was 'home' before and after I was married."*

*"I take my memories with me," she said smiling and half giggling. "They are lasting."*

What can we do as a facility staff to help make your residence feel more like home?

*"Well, give me something to do, like teach or take care of something. I always say, 'Put my energy into a bowl of work!' "*

Maxine loves to decorate her walls with pictures and paintings, and in the past, she has talked to me about what she'd like to have on her walls. So, this was a good opportunity, too, to ask 'if we could capture a few things about your life, Mackie, on a sketch or a painting for you and your family to cherish what those would be?' You see the piano keyboard; she taught music and she played music for a Presbyterian church for decades! She misses it. You see the church; she even described it as it came together, "Little, light green church with a steeple and white trim..." She was a schoolteacher for almost half her life, teaching elementary grades but mostly 6th grade she said, and she taught in "one room and other schools." She loved her kids. She loved teaching. Sometimes a child would bring her an apple. She loves Jesus, has for as long as she can remember, and the Cross is still at the Center of her life. That describes her painting, which she helped come up with and paint and I have included some pictures of her painting it as well as the final painting which is hanging across from her now. She shows it to everyone. She is so proud. I can still hear her saying, "Home means EVERYTHING to me! It's all I know!" and I hope this makes her last little while on earth a little more peaceful.