

THE ART OF LIVING: A MESSAGE FROM CAROL

I was cleaning out some clutter from my home office recently and found a bag of cards my mother had saved and given to me years ago.

One of the cards was a mini booklet of inspirational messages titled *For the Graduate ~ The Art of Living* (Wilfred A. Peterson, 1961), and the date on the back of the card was June 4, 1972.

This was the message.

We are very happy to congratulate you on your great and glorious achievement. How wonderful! In just four short years you have aspired to the goal of a teacher. You're terrific! Carol, may you flourish in your new role as a teacher . . . being the best of whatever you are . . . trusting God will make up the rest.

~ Uncle Megee and Aunty Helen

When I received this card at my college graduation, little did I know that I would have such a long and fulfilling career as a teacher. I am celebrating fifty years of service to the profession in 2022 at age seventy-two. These years have included twenty-one years in the classroom, twenty-one years at the university level, and eight years leading *Mentoring in Action* as its founder. I have flourished in all parts of this glorious career and cherished the experiences it has given me.

This book is a culmination of all of those experiences and the wisdom I have gained from them. As I continue to *pay it forward*, I will do so with hope and optimism that this profession is in good hands with all of you who are reading these words of wisdom.