

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I rejoice with you this Sunday as you celebrate the Big 5-0! I will always be grateful for the five years I spent in ministry with you. You brought me through commissioning and ordination and helped me become a pastor. Thank you for being wonderful and compassionate teachers!

More than that, I am thankful for your ongoing ministry. Your active witness in the community continues to draw persons--young and old--to faith in Christ. Your work in ministries of mercy and justice are an inspiration--a testimony to what is possible when disciples commit to making life better for others in Jesus' name.

I continue to follow the work that is going on among you by keeping in touch with your gifted ministry team and by doing a little internet eavesdropping!

Praise God that you have come this far by faith. My love and prayers are with you as you begin the next fifty years of ministry. Have courage and stay true to God's call upon you!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Martha