

Sister Ellie Wiegand



Sister Eleanor Wiegand and her sister Mary, a Bethany Health Care Center resident.

Sister Ellie Wiegand seems happiest when she is busy. That was evident during her interview for Connecting, when she noted that not only was she being interviewed, but she also had two banana breads and two coffee cakes in the oven. Baking for the sisters and caring for them is definitely an important ministry for her. In fact, her cooking for the Congregation began early, as soon as she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1959.

Sister Ellie used her cooking skills for 13 years, and then realized she wanted to do something different. So she applied to Bethany and became a nurse's aide. While at Bethany Healthcare Center, she studied at both Labouré College and Regis College where she earned degrees in nursing. With a chuckle, Sister Ellie noted that she began at Bethany.

After serving as Director of Nurses for several years, it was time to move on. Sister Ellie went back to cooking, this time at St. Joseph Retreat Center in Cohasset. She expected to be there for one year, but she stayed for four! Sister Ellie said she loved that ministry, where she met so many different people. When she turned 60 in 2000, it was time for another change, and it was back to nursing.

"Sister Ellie enjoys nursing and meeting the needs of the patients. 'It's very rewarding,' she said."

Since 2000, Sister Ellie has been part-time nursing supervisor at Bethany, where she does many different things with and for the residents. For example, she brings the bookmobile around to patients, drives them to appointments, and just generally spends time with them to be connected to them and companion with them.

She enjoys nursing and meeting the needs of the patients. "It's very rewarding," she said, "to help those who are frail, and those who can't drive anymore." And, of course, Sister Ellie continues to bake for the sisters with whom she lives, providing well for their special "likes"! †