



***The VINE:***  
***Senior News and***  
***Notes***

*by 'Ande' Reiter*

(A poem of reflection for those of us who have "length of days", as the Bible refers to old age)

**Keep Forgetting Things**

By Elise Maclay

**I keep forgetting things. (which letters I've answered;  
whether I turned the stove off.)  
But, I keep remembering things, too.  
(Faces, places, sights, scents, sounds.)**

**It's annoying not to know where I left my glasses.  
But it's lovely to have always  
Right behind my eyes,  
A picture of my daughter at three...  
Hair glinting in the sun,  
Looking up at me  
Asking: "Do butterflies have puppies,  
Or is it the other way around?"**

**I can recall perfectly the sound of a fog horn  
Off the coast of Maine.  
(Though, as the family will tell you,  
I sometimes don't hear the phone.)**

**I remember graduations and weddings and picnics and  
parades,  
The way a fresh-cut lawn smells,  
The taste of apricot jam.**

**Help me to be happy about what I remember,  
Instead of fretting about what I forget.  
I'd rather re-live love than find my glasses.  
(But of course, Lord, I wouldn't mind if you wanted to give me  
a hint.)**