



Graphic from Edwards' Book, *You Are Here for a Reason*.

Mae Edwards Speaks at Woodcrest

February 18, 2025

Sherry Williams

Author Mae Edwards describes herself as an “encourager.” She came to Woodcrest on February 18, 2025, to share stories about the experiences that motivated her to become a writer and to illuminate the many paths to developing writing skills.

Mae’s presentation, *The Words Within*, was the latest event in AIL’s Community Enrichment at Woodcrest series. Mae discovered her love of writing after many years of serving in youth ministry. She authored a recurring column—*Heart to Heart*—for five years in New Hampshire’s *Parable* magazine. Most recently, she has written a series entitled *Little Stories—Big Heart*. The first book in the series, *You Are Here for a Reason*, invites the reader to be encouraged and find hope in the darkest of times.

Mae asked attendees at the Woodcrest event to consider what kind of writers they wanted to be and what they wanted to write about. Through stories of her own writing journey, she talked about sources of “personal truth” that can inform writing – “I have been in that place, I have compassion for you.” She suggested thought and writing exercises to help beginners discover what drives their interest in writing. To encourage attendees to try the exercises, she handed out small journals to take home.

Many ideas or experiences can drive a desire to write, but a fear of writing often stymies that desire. Mae advised, “Don’t let fear stop you!” She offered many practical ways to ease into writing skills, including journaling or writing reviews or columns, thank you or lunchbox notes, bumper stickers, mission statements, or short stories. Several attendees shared their writing journeys, and the warm conversations continued after Mae concluded her presentation.

Have an idea for a future Woodcrest talk or other AIL program? [Use this form](#) to let us know!