



## Writing Sample - Dana Kester-McCabe

# Ending Up In A Place Called Gratitude

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About this time last year, I had just committed myself to starting an online publication called the Delmarva Almanac. One of its missions was to celebrate the beautiful landscape of the Eastern Shore: north from Wilmington, west to the Chesapeake, east to the Atlantic, and south to Cape Charles.

At the time, the current financial crisis was just beginning. We were in the midst of a difficult though ultimately historic national election. And, I had just become aware that one more person I cared about, among several, was facing a serious illness. I was beginning to question whether it was a good time to begin a new business venture.

None the less I found myself headed west one day, to get pictures of Fall on the Chesapeake. I drove around to a number of spots until I ended up in a tiny little place I had never heard of before. The sign said it was called Gratitude. I only took a couple of decent pictures there because I was a little overwhelmed by the realization that I had found myself - completely unintentionally - in such a poetic and strangely coincidental place to be. God was reminding me to be grateful for the beautiful world I live in and any time I had with people I love.

I also took it to be a sign not be afraid to risk sailing the uncharted waters of a new endeavor. Indeed the last year has been a struggle personally and professionally. But there have been successes, and I have been lucky enough to experience many beautiful moments along the way.

I keep learning that the journey in itself is a blessing. So, I will keep going back to that place called Gratitude - no matter where I am.