So it's that time again. As you read this, I will be taking my hubby to the airport for his annual trip to our niece's national dance championships in Ocean City, Md.

With a week without my hubby and best friend stretching before me, I ask myself, "What to do, what to do?"

I have plans for Saturday and I'm going to make sure I get a couple meals from the Immaculate Conception Parish Festival on Sunday. Those meals are sooooo good and well worth the price and trip to get them. I'm getting two because I was really upset with myself last year for only getting one. I would have enjoyed having another on Monday or Tuesday. And of course, that would mean no cooking.

And so the rest of the week lays before me.

Little Ringo will fill a lot of time. He will mope around, glancing at the bedroom chair where his master usually sits while watching TV or playing his game on his phone.

Ringo will come up to me and put his little furry head in my lap and give those oh-so-sad puppy dog eyes, imploring me to produce his best friend so they can play. I'll have to make sure I keep him occupied when I'm home. A restless doggie is sometimes an ornery doggie.

My husband and Ringo had a final bonding moment Friday morning at the Delphos-Gillmor Reservoir. They were there before 6 a.m. and watched the sunrise together. That dog can walk his paws off. He loves to walk and sniff and wander and chase a scent.

Now it's just the two of us.

I'll take a picture of our little guy each day and send it to my husband and I'm sure they'll "talk"

each evening when he calls. But we all know it won't be the same.

Jay will reprise his role as "Prop Uncle," making sure everything for Lotus' dance team is ready to go on stage and then haul it out there when the time comes.

He really enjoys interacting with her, his sister and brother-in-law and all the dance company parents.

He has some opportunity for downtime and uses it to eat the most amazing French fries ever (his words) and to walk the boardwalk. He'll picked up a few souvenirs and take in the ambiance of the boardwalk — live music and performers and just a ton of people. He said you have to practically walk sideways to get through the crowd.

His big day will be Friday. That's when all the teams and duos and solos that made it through the week will compete for the top spots. Hopefully, the company sponsoring the championships will have a good stream so I can watch online as well. My heart swells with pride when I see on that stage. To me, she is a winner all the time.

I held her when she was just a baby and talked to her on phone and got pictures of her every few months. She likes to fish and swim and of course, dance. But to her, it's just something she does and does really well. She takes the trophies and fuss in stride the same as she does classes and her grueling schedule.

We now have a collection of her trophies, medals and such. To some it may seem a little strange to walk into a our computer room and see the "Lotus" corner. We're not stalkers, we are just so proud of her.

So now I just have to fill the middle part of my week.

What to do, what to do.