Gayle related a story to accompany her painting. After Gayle’s sister died from cancer of the spine (her sister had also lived with bipolar disorder for many years), her niece wrote to Gayle. Her niece said she had asked her mother to ask Jesus to send her a sign of a red cardinal because she had never seen anyone who had suffered as much as her mother had and she wanted to know for sure that her mother was with Jesus when she died. At Gayle’s sister’s death, her niece looked out her window and saw three red cardinals. Her niece said she was so full of joy that she danced through the house. When Gayle read her niece’s note about this wonderful, inspiring event, she had to draw the cardinal. Gayle calls it her bird of hope.