

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Callings & Divine Appointments

July 14, 2008

THE CALLED
God does not call the equipped, but rather equips the called. This is an old and often heard quote. Over and over again, in both the Old and New Testament, we are given examples of God calling unequipped individuals into service.

God's calling is not limited to the pulpit. I firmly believe every good work is from God.

"What so ever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."
Colossians 3:23

Just as there is no doubt that Steel Magnolias is God's work, established on the "The Prayer of Jabez," I Chronicles 4:10, there is no doubt that God has continued to bless and enlarge our territory.

Climb For The Cause, A Breast Cancer Story
On August 14, 2008, in the beautiful, McClellan Medical Park Meeting Center, Steel Magnolias will experience the conclusion of a journey that started July 9, 2002: "Dear Marilyn, My Sun-

day school teacher told me about your diagnosis of breast cancer. I want to tell you that I am so very sorry that this terrible disease has come into your body."

I well remember the evening in Suite 901 of Professional Plaza, when Marilyn told Steel Magnolias about an invitation she had received from a group who were planning a trip to climb Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro. I am sure we all gasp at the same time. Marilyn had three young children, a husband and a job at the Anniston Family Fitness Center. Besides that, she was wearing turbans to cover her head.

Those of us who went by Anniston Family Fitness, were amazed at the work Marilyn put into preparing for this climb. She walked uphill on the treadmill, a heavy back pack strapped to her, and she did so day after day for several months.

The Visionary
Madeline Harris, who recently retired from Kirklin Clinic's Breast

Care Center, has been, for most of her professional career, working to improve services and improve the lives of Alabama women. I knew her first as a voice on the telephone, and was surprised to find so much passion in such a petite woman.

Climb For The Cause, is now **For The Cause, Inc.**, a 501 c 3 non profit organization. They continue to offer breast cancer survivors opportunities to travel and share adventures with other breast cancer survivors.

Thursday, August 14, 7:00 p.m., climbers, Marilyn McCormick, Penny Wright, who is also the current President of the Board of For the Cause, Inc., and Madeline Harris, the past president of the board, currently serving on the Advisory Board of For the Cause, Inc., and the driving force behind Climb For The Cause, will be joining Steel Magnolias at the McClellan Medical Park (the old PX building) for the Calhoun County premiere of "Climb For The



Sharing love through support

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Cause, A Breast Cancer Story." Michele Foreman did a remarkable job of editing this wonderful film that was a 2007 selection of the Alabama Film Festival.

This film has been a long time coming and is the results of years of dedication and hard work. We are very grateful to have been a part of this journey, the fund raising, following the climbers progress on the world wide web, attending the welcome home parties, being a recipient of a "Climb For The

Cause,” grant, awarded at the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and now, the August 14 celebration of life!

For Steel Magnolias, this will be the exciting conclusion to a rewarding journey, however, For The Cause, Inc., is beginning a gratifying new chapter, as they, throughout this country, make this uplifting and triumphant film available, not to be shown for profit, but as another support option. To inquire about reserving this film for an event: call Penny at For The Cause, Inc. (205) 876-4571.

We can seat 250 people for dinner theatre and reception, catered by Classic Catering. Because of the help of contributors, we are offering free tickets to this celebration of life. Because of limited seating, a ticket is required and the stub will be needed to have a chance to win one of many great door prizes. Call the Steel Magnolias’ office, (256) 231-8827 and leave your name and telephone number, email <lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org> or call Marti (256) 239-0855 .

Marilyn, and the other “Women of Kilimanjaro,” Jane Webb, Penny Wright, Stacey Gordon and Valerie Richardson are as diverse as they can possibly be. All but one carry the scars, from their personal battles, in their bodies. Because of a daughter lost to breast cancer, Jane Webb carries scars in her heart . Their common denominator is breast cancer. This is not so unusual. In preparing for this letter, I thought about how our care package ministry started.

Steel Magnolias was in its infancy when I received a telephone call from Chaplain Wilson. He said, “Lenora, Geri Smith, one of the Tuesday Bear Huggers, was guest speaker for the Pastor’s Luncheon. She asked if I knew someone in Anniston that the Bear Huggers could work with. I told her I thought she could work with Lenora Johnson.”

An appointment was made and the rest is history. The Tuesday Bear Huggers’ package and the Steel Magnolias’ educational and inspirational package provides patients with support; physically, emotionally and educationally.



Like Steel Magnolias, the Tuesday Bear Huggers was started by caring women who either suffered in their own bodies from cancer or suffered with family members who battled cancer.

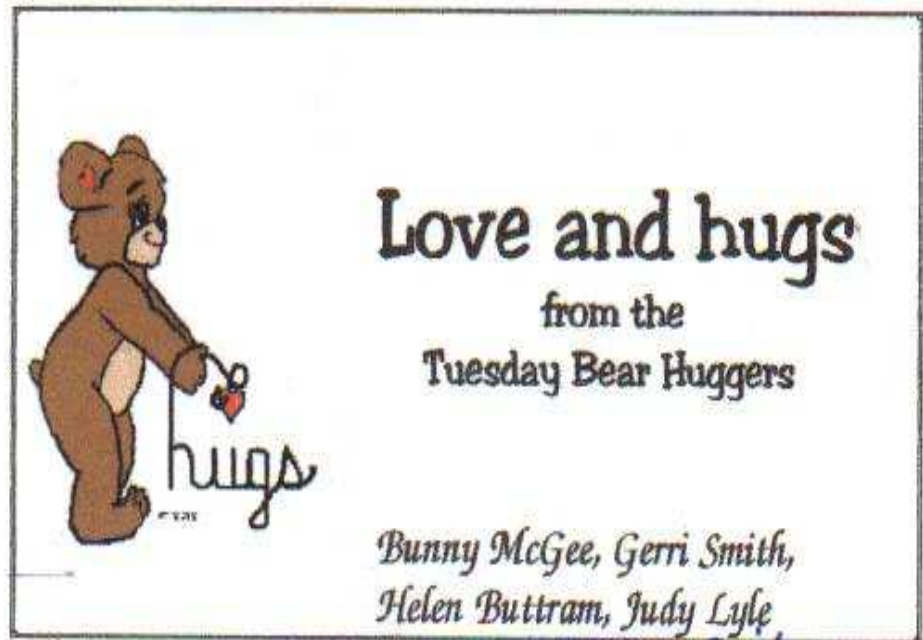
This picture was made on November 20, 2001, at the home of the Tuesday Bear Huggers. Two great friends accompanied me to the Borden Springs Home of the “Hug Attack” warriors, who had at this time been shipping their cancer recovery, comfort packages to several states, including a military base and the Birmingham office of the American Cancer Society.

When Brenda, who lost her battle with breast cancer in May of 2004, my dear friend, Gudrun, who cradled me through the most difficult time of my journey with breast cancer, and I arrived at the Bear Hugger workshop, we found a reception fit for royalty! These big hearted mountain women, God’s minister-

ing angels had prepared a feast for us. The little bears pictured, is a larger version of the bear included in each breast cancer care package. There is no doubt that these women, who have worked now over 10 years, every Tuesday, uninterrupted, sharing “Love Through Sewing,” have been called by God to ease the suffering of any cancer patient who is blessed enough to receive a Tuesday Bear Hugger package. Tuesday Bear Huggers, we Thank YOU!!!!

In 1999, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I didn’t know there was a group called the Tuesday Bear Huggers, but in 2004, after having a PET Scan and a CAT Scan both indicating I might have cancer in lymph nodes in my thoracic area, and I was referred to UAB for a biopsy, Geri Smith, the spokesperson for the group and the person who is responsible for writing Bear Hugger lyrics and doing their art work, wrote a beautiful poem for me. It will always be one of my most treasured gifts.

This sweet card, with a variation of different art work, picturing bears holding a gift of love and hugs is included in every care package or Hug Attack card given to cancer patients. The one name missing from this card Gayle Bishop. My scanner failed to pick up the bottom name. Each one of these dear ladies is a ministering angel, sent to ease pain! The following is the poem, I received from Geri Smith. Thank You, Geri!!! This special gift is truly one of God's Good and Perfect Gifts!



Dear Lenora

I don't know you real well
 But it's easy to see....
 You have been an influence
 On my life and on me.
 I don't know why I came here,
 But it's easy to see....
 God had a purpose for you
 And a purpose for me.
 When our purpose was outlined
 And we could help others
 Through His purpose in mind.
 You've done good works
 And been an anchor for others:
 For Sisters, Friends, Mothers, and Grandmothers.
 Now you need attention
 To continue your goal too.
 To further Steel Magnolias
 In the special things you do.
 May God look over you
 And see you through your plight.
 And put His hand on your shoulder
 As you face another fight....
 May you know you are loved
 By the Tuesday Bear Huggers
 As well as everyone crossing your path
 And by many, many others.

By Geri Smith
 For a Special Friend
 February 26, 2004

Divine Appointments

This month has been one of absolute amazement for Steel Magnolias. As is common for all organizations, as they work to gain the respect and trust of the community and because of the web-site, everyone who logs onto our site, Steel Magnolias has at times felt like a stepchild. In the past month, our secretary, Margaret Taylor has been interviewed by Deputy Editor of Mamm Magazine, Shana Aborn. Ms. Aborn called the Steel Magnolias office and Margaret answered questions concerning the management of side effects from daily maintenance drugs such as Femara and Arimidex.

Because relatives of Claire, a 26 year old newly wed, came into Warren Family Affair and told Marti about Claire's diagnosis of breast cancer, we are communicating with a friend of Claire, Jennifer Galbreath, Program Director for Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama. This foundation has a campaign to get enough people, pre-committed for the "Breast Cancer Research" #86 License Plate. The campaign is short the required applicants. A benefactor has contributed enough money to buy remaining license plates. At our New Beginnings banquet, part of each welcome package will be an application for one of these free tags. Funds raised from this specialty tag will go to fund cancer research in the state of Alabama (BCRFA).

No one is insignificant when God is the architect, whether it be an individual, an organization or a government agency!!!

Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel Meet

The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. and the Men of Steel met on Tuesday, June 24, 5:00 p.m. in the Tyler Center. Marti Warren welcomed our new ladies and Ina Rooks led everyone in prayer for newly diagnosed patients and others that were added to our list. Ina gave thanks for our food. Before going to their meeting area, the Men of Steel joined Steel Magnolias for a time of food and fellowship.

President, Marti Warren, called the meeting to order: Minutes were read by Secretary, Margaret Taylor. They were approved as read. Treasurer, Nancy Burnell, presented the financial report that was approved as presented.

New ladies were asked to share their stories.

Nancy said she was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Because her cancer was caught early and there was no lymph node involvement, she had a lumpectomy. However, because of her type of cancer cell, she requires chemotherapy and radiation.

Anita shared that she had a lumpectomy when first diagnosed with breast cancer, but in the end, she required a double mastectomy followed by TRAM reconstruction. Anita said that she first thought she didn't need any support but as time went on, she realized she did.

Old Business:

The New Beginnings Banquet is July 22, 2008 at Top O The River restaurant in Anniston. Chaplain Wilson's office has contributed \$600 toward food. Door prizes are needed.

Magnolia Honey Jelly gift baskets for active Steel Magnolias who, themselves are hospitalized, or sitting for long hours with a family member, have been delivered.

Lenora asked that we continue to table discussions about new office equipment until after the activities in July and August.

New Business

Lenora reported on preparations for the August 14, Calhoun County Premiere of "Climb For The Cause, A Breast Cancer Story." The evening will start at 7:00 p.m. with about a 10 minute tour of the McClellan Medical Park Mall. Our food will be provided by Classic Catering and we will be able to seat up to 250 people for dinner theatre. In the lobby we will have a small bazaar, a garden shop and welcome and information table. Gladys Denizard has arranged for our dinner to be accompanied by music from the JSU Jazz Band. After we eat, Margaret Taylor will sing, after which Marilyn McCormick will speak for about 15 minutes, setting the stage for the 45 min. movie. We will then see this outstanding film before the door prize drawing.

Margaret Taylor gave a report on the October 4, Swinging Stars Benefit for Steel Magnolias. She handed out fliers.

Pam Bussey provided applications for the October 11, Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure. It is hoped that Steel Magnolias will once again carry a team to Birmingham. Pam Bussey volunteered to head the team and said applications could be given to her or registration could be made on line.

It was announced that Dr. Ashley Stewart will be guest speaker at our August meeting. Dr. Stewart is specializing in breast cancer surgery. She is the wife of plastic surgeon, Dr. Mel Stewart.

There being no other business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Margaret Taylor, Secretary

Financial Report

June	Balance Brought Forward	\$6,235.14
01-100.00	Lenora Johnson—Monthly Expenses	6,135.14
02-434.00	Magnolia Honey Jelly—Hospital Gift Packs	5,701.14
09- 75.00	Jeff Owens & Associates-2007 Tax Preparation	5,626.14
23-126.63	Advanced Printing-Note Pads	5,499.51

Road Block Sponsored By Honda

We have Rhonda Allen to thank for Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., roadblock, sponsored by the Lincoln, Honda Plant. Rhonda saw a sign on the Honda campus concerning fundraising for nonprofit organizations. She contacted the appropriate person, faxed the application to me at the Steel Magnolias' office, contacted Jimmy and Margaret Taylor about orange safety vests and the choice of roadblock locations. The rest is the report that follows:

Saturday, July 12, 2008

When Prentiss and I got to the intersection of Lenlock Lane and Weaver Road, Rhonda and ten other employees of Honda, had been there already for an hour and a half. Rhonda insisted that I didn't have to be there but I insisted that if these good hearted people were going to use their Saturday, fundraising for Steel Magnolias, I was going to provide sandwiches and help however I could. When we first got to the Lenlock shopping center, about \$200 had been collected.

The plan was to work the site until 1:00 p.m., however, at 12:30, wicked clouds began to roll overhead, and we quickly secured everything before the wind blew it away. I had been counting the folding money and knew the Honda crew was having a very profitable fundraiser for Steel Magnolias. Rhonda called late Saturday afternoon and reported that over \$1000 had been raised.

We can never be thankful enough for the generosity of the eleven Honda volunteers or to Honda for their contribution to Steel Magnolias.

While we were at the roadblock, a dear woman sought me out, on behalf of her sister who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. As Margaret Taylor said it best, "I never thought I would ever be able to say this, but my journey with breast cancer has given me a mission and I feel a real calling for my life." The relief we see in not only the patient's face, but in the faces of family members, is validation that we are doing God's work. We can only say, God, thank you."

.....Marti is Moving.....

Warren Family Affair, starting August 1, 2008, will be in Nancy Burnell's new store, "Cotton Antiques & Collectables." Nancy inherited this building from her father, Rev. Oscar Cotton. Anyone who has lived in or around Oxford for any length of time remembers Cotton Furniture. Nancy said that she is so very grateful to see her family name back on the front of her daddy's store.

Besides great ideas for gifts, including Warren family creations, Nancy plans to have an area where people can relax, have a cup of coffee and visit.

Thank You! Thank You!! Thank You!!!

Steel Magnolias mailed letters to 19 of Calhoun county and Cleburne County's most respected businesses. With the generous response of some of them, and the unexpected generosity of Honda, we are going to be able to, on Thursday, August 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., provide an evening to remember for cancer patients, survivors, their families and concerned people of our area. We are very grateful to the McClellan Medical Park family for the opportunity to show this historic and uplifting documentary in such a beautiful facility and for the opportunity to offer our guests wonderful food from Classic Catering.

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, July 22, 2008: New Beginnings Banquet, 6:00 p.m.,
Top O The River
By Invitation

Thursday, August 14, 2008: Steel Magnolias' Presents....
Climb For The Cause, A Breast Cancer Story
7:00 p.m. McClellan Medical Park Meeting Center
Dinner Theatre, Seating for 250
Tickets free...Required for seating and drawing for door prizes.
Call: (256) 239-0855 and see Marti or
Call Lenora at the office (256) 231-8827 and leave a message

Tuesday, August 26, 2008: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meet.
Special Guest: Dr. Ashley Stewart

Here Goes

Painting A Porch

Wanting to earn some money, Cletus decided to hire himself out as a handyman-type and started canvassing a wealthy neighborhood. He went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs. "Well, you can paint MY PORCH. How much do you charge?" Cletus said, "How about \$50?" The man agreed and told him that the paint and ladders that he might need were in the garage. The man's wife, inside the house, heard the conversation and said to the husband, "Does he realize that the porch goes all the way around the house?" The man replied, "He should. He was standing on the porch." A short time later, Cletus came to the door to collect his money. "You're finished already?" the man asked. "Yes," Cletus answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats." Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50. "and by the way," Cletus added, "That's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari." Courtesy of....Gudrun King

Little Johnny (Empathy)

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, "Everybody who thinks they're stupid, stand up!" After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Little Johnny?" "No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

Little Johnny (Beauty)

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cream on her face. "Why do you do that, Mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Giving up?"

Little Johnny (In Math Class)

The math teacher saw that Little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class, She called on him and said, "Johnny! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?" Little Johnny quickly replied, "NBC, Fox, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!"

Little Johnny (Buying A Horse)

Little Johnny attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump and chest. After a few minutes, Johnny asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?" His father replied, "Because when I am buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy. Johnny, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom."

All Little Johnny Jokes: Courtesy of....Pokey Warren

Duck Hunting

Chester and Earl are going hunting. Chester says to Earl, "I'll send my dog to see if there are any ducks out in the pond. If there aren't any ducks out there, I'm not going hunting." So he sends the dog out to the pond. The dog comes back and barks twice. Chester says, "Well, I'm not going to go out. He only saw two ducks out there. Earl says, "You're going to take the dog's barks for the truth?" Earl doesn't believe it, so he goes to look for himself. When he gets back he says, "I don't believe it, where did you get that dog?" There really are only two out there. Chester says, "Well, I got him from the breeder up the road. If you want, you can get one from him, too" So Earl goes to the breeder and says he wants a dog like the one his friend Chester has. The breeder obliges and Earl brings the dog home, tells it to go out and look for ducks. Minutes later the dog returns with a stick in its mouth and starts bumping Earl's leg. Outraged, Earl takes the dog back to the breeder and says, "This dog is a fraud, I want my money back!" The breeder asks Earl what the dog did. So Earl tells him that when he sent the dog out to look for ducks, it came back with a stick in its mouth and started bumping his leg. The breeder says, "Earl, all he was trying to tell you was that there are more ducks out there than you can shake a stick at!"

Partying With The Boys

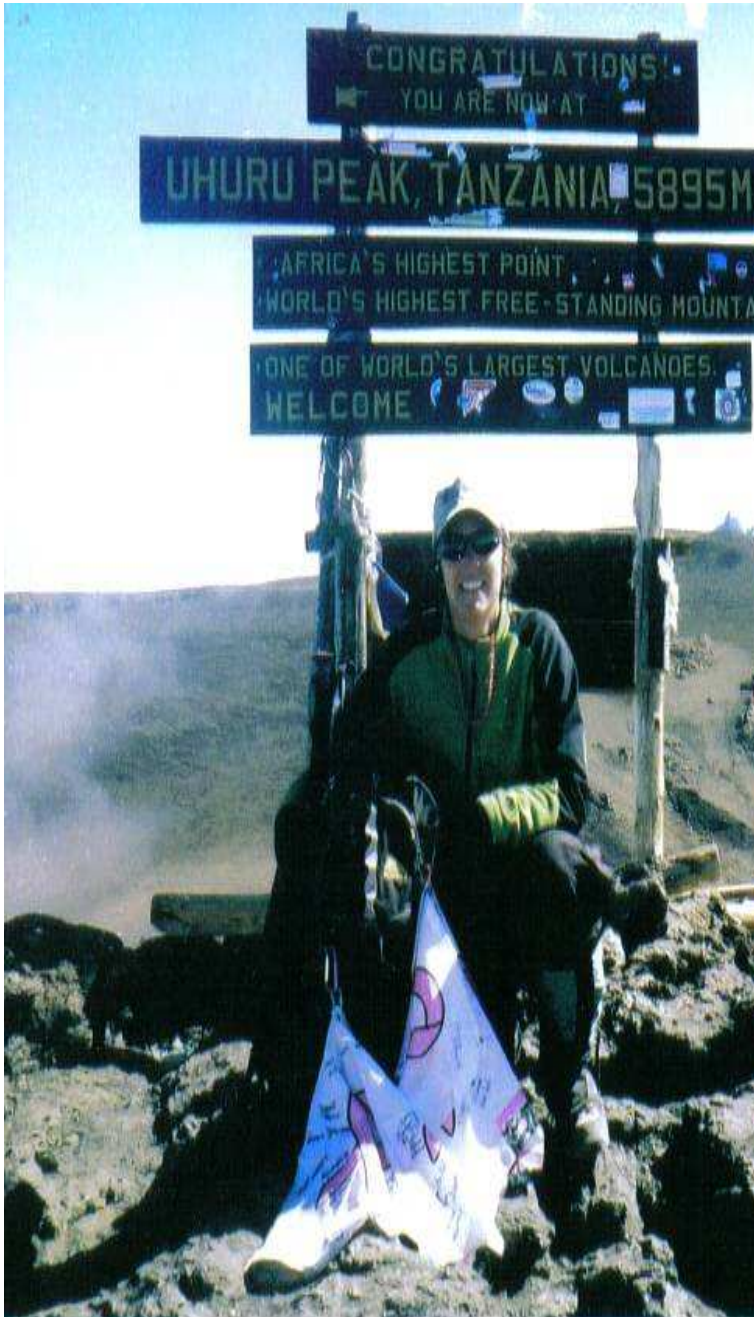
A man left from work one Friday afternoon. But, being payday, instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend partying with the boys and spending his entire paycheck. When he finally appeared home, Sunday night, he was confronted by a very angry wife who barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade befitting his actions. Finally his wife stopped the nagging and simply said to him, "How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?" To which he replied, "That would be fine with me." Monday went by and he didn't see his wife, Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results. Come Thursday, the swelling went down just enough to see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

Sponsored by Steel Magnolias
Climb For The Cause, A Breast Cancer Story

Dinner Theatre
Classic Catering
Door Prizes

Thursday, August 14, 2008

5 Alabama women traveled to Africa and climbed Mount. Kilimanjaro to prove: If a woman can survive breast cancer she can do anything!



Steel Magnolia, Marilyn McCormick, pictured, with flags, bearing the names of her Steel Magnolias sisters and other supporters, reached summit the day her little girl turned 3.

Free Tickets are going fast
Don't miss the premiere of
"Climb For The Cause,
A Breast Cancer Story"

Thursday, August 14, 2008

McClellan Medical Park

7:00 p.m.

Call: (256) 239-0855