

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Steady In The Boat

September 17, 2012

Steady is a quality we expect of a person who has been given charge concerning our health or the health of someone we love.

Steady is the quality that breast cancer patients have come to expect from Steel Magnolias.

Steady is what has been expected of me personally, since I was a very young child. I never thought much about what was expected of me, the eldest child, with three younger siblings. Many other people can relate to this.

Since May 20, I have found myself feeling very unsteady in my ability to care for myself. Thank God the physical problems that forced me to be sidelined, are almost well. I don't think images and words that come together at a time of fragility are accidental. Anyway, for a week there was a steady parade of things happening that made me think of my childhood. Beginning with Hurricane Isaac blowing through S. W. Florida, making me think of the hurricanes of my childhood. Of how the Washington's of Sunnyland would gather at the strongest house in the swamp to ride-out the storm.

Being simple people who accepted whatever life handed them and then carrying on, my parents, uncles and aunts never felt unsafe. Looking at the picture of Aunt Durell's house, I now wonder why they felt safe, with those big trees hanging over the house!

Then my 12 year old granddaughter, Olivia, shopping in Macy's with her mom and a school friend, said to her friend, "My grandmother could wear that dress. I cried to think my granddaughter sees me, having the youthful spirit needed to wear such a dress. I cried and asked Michelle to JPG the picture so that on my lowest day, I can look at this picture and know how my granddaughter sees me. And my heart became very tender .



The next day I checked messages on Facebook and read a letter written by a woman leaving her mom's home, and her mom following her to the car with a lunch sack, cautioning about being safe and saying, "Call when you get home." The lady said, "At first I was upset and then I thought that one day, I will no doubt do my children the same way. After all, I grew up, but to mom I'm still her little girl."



Sharing love through support

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I then thought of what my eldest son said on a return visit, after he had moved to Birmingham. As he walked into his childhood home, he said, "Mom, when I enter this house, I feel 10 years old again." Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone had a place to visit where



occasionally, they could feel 10 years old again? And then it occurred to me that I'd never felt 10 years old. I grieved the girl I'd never known. I then called a trusted friend and told her about how I was feeling. She said, "Lenora, its good that you are allowing yourself to open those memories and grieve your lost childhood, however, I don't think you could ever have done the work you've done with Steel Magnolias without the experiences of your childhood. I think God was preparing you then for the work you do today." Someone for whom I have great respect once said, "In our childhood, God shapes us into the people we become."

The story you've just read is mine, but buried deep inside the heart of many women, maybe some men, are painful memories that can make us shy away from using God given gifts, that would make our community a better place and give us a sense of accomplishment. Like me, it is possible that the scars you bear have prepared you for service.

I am constantly amazed at the courage and hope of cancer patients! Not all, but many who face impossible odds, fulfill the quote I recently read, "Place your hand on your chest. Feel that? That is purpose!" Reading this quote made me think of the best selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. **"Other people are going to find healing in your wounds. Your greatest life messages and your most effective ministry will come out of your deepest hurts."**
—Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life! What on earth am I here for?*

Steady In The Boat

Each one of us, regardless of the strong, in control face we wear most days, have times when we need to protect ourselves from burn out and must back away from daily pressure. Many of these fragile episodes are brought about at a time of physical suffering. However, it is incumbent upon each of us to once again become steady in the boat. Especially when we have made commitments that hurting people depend on. In the past few years, I've watched as others in Steel Magnolias stepped aside, placing increased responsibility on others in the group. For me, this was the first time since founding Steel Magnolias in August 2001. I am thankful to report that Steel Magnolias remained steady in our commitment to breast cancer patients and the families that love them. It was pure joy to attend the August group meeting! I don't remember there ever being so much laughter at a monthly meeting.



Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting



Pictures from page 2

- 1) Lenora fitting Gloria with her door-prize, a pink, okra-cutting hat.
- 2) Joyce and son, Kenny having great fun.
- 3) Margaret with a basket of Japanese book marks.
- 4) Sherry showing items from her Japanese trip.
- 5) Margaret & Jimmy enjoying the speaker.
- 6) Carol showing off her door prize, a Christmas tree cookie press.
- 7) Elaine showing off bookends she bought at the July Bazaar. Marti looks on.



Pictures to the left, Steel Magnolias enjoying Sherry's talk about hers and Dr. Grinstead's trip to Japan.

Minutes of Meeting

The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. met August 28 at 5:00 p.m. in suite 403 of the RMC Physicians Center. Chaplain Sherry Grinstead asked the blessing for the evening meal. RMC provided Pepperoni Pasta Salad. Steel Magnolias provided other salads, fruit and desserts.

In the absence of President Marti Warren, Executive Director Lenora Johnson called the meeting to order. Chaplain Sherry Grinstead shared her story of the mission trip she and her husband, Rev. Grinstead made to Japan. She asked us to pray for those on the mission field in Japan and other places. Sherry did show and tell with several items she had brought back from Japan, giving each person a

Japanese book-mark, then offered prayer for those on our prayer list.

Lenora then asked for names of everyone attending the RMC 20th Annual Cancer Survivor Celebration, 6:00 p.m. at the Anniston City Meeting center. Each person was allowed four guests.

A motion was made by Elaine Johns and second made by Carol Barker that anyone wishing to contribute, should bring a toy to the November 27 group meeting. Toys to be donated to Children's Services. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Susan Dupree and second made by Marti Rogers that everyone attending the December 1, Christmas Breakfast at Classic on Noble bring a \$10 gift card from Wal-Mart or their favorite sandwich shop for the gift swap. Gift card should be wrapped or boxed so as not to reveal gift card.

Jimmy Taylor asked those who were interested in being part of the planning committee for the 2013 Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament to meet at Betty's BBQ, September 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Jimmy also informed everyone that Eddie Reese and Chuck Strickland would be filming a documentary about the golf tournament for JSU TV 24.

Elizabeth McCabe informed the group that a company, called Suzanne and Mel, would like to donate two custom made, Alabama and Auburn aprons to be auctioned or raffled with the proceeds going to Steel Magnolias.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted, Margaret Taylor, Secretary.

Financial Report

August		Balance Brought Forward	\$19,877.28
02 (+)	195.70	Bazaar Deposit	20,072.98
02 (-)	100.00	Lenora Johnson, Monthly Expense	19,972.98
03 (-)	54.20	Lenora Johnson, Reimburse (Postmaster for roll of stamps and postage to mail bazaar item to St. Petersburg, FL	19,918.78
07 (-)	332.61	Margaret Taylor, Reimburse (Sam's Club for chemo patient's snacks)	19,586.17
08 (-)	40.00	Kyuka Waters for Anniston Oncology and Outpatient Chemo	19,546.17
18 (-)	21.00	Lenora Johnson, Reimburse (Office Max, Postmaster to mail care pkg.)	19,525.17
20 (+)	275.00	Deposit (Contributions)	19,800.17
21 (-)	11.00	Marti Warren, Reimburse (Beauty Outlet for wig caps for Pinks Boutique)	19,789.17
23 (-)	564.29	Lowes- 15 C.F. refrigerator & 4 yr. extended warranty, for office	19,224.88

Correspondence

To all the ladies of Steel Magnolias and the Men of Steel, I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers that I received while hospitalized. To know that you are remembered and prayed for makes the days easier to face and the future a road worth traveling. From my heart, I say thank you to one and all of you.

Thank you, Pokey.....Anniston, AL

RMC's 20th Annual Cancer Survivor's Celebration

Journey of Hope

Don't Stop Believing

Anniston City Meeting, the evening of Thursday, September 13, 2012, was packed with cancer survivors and people who love them. By the time Prentiss and I made our way to tables reserved for Steel Magnolias, many people were already enjoying a wonderful meal of chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls and cupcakes.



We ate

**We ap-
plauded
karaoke**

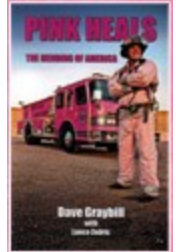
**We sang
Blossoms of
Hope**

**We Played
Bingo**



Guardians of the Ribbon

Pink Heals: The Mending of America is the incredible story of Dave Graybill, a former pro athlete, retired firefighter, philanthropist, and founder of the international Pink Heals movement. Learn more and place order for *Pink Hearts* and other gifts at www.pinkfiretrucks.org



Cindy, named in memory of the wife of the Orange Beach Fire chief. “Cindy” and other pink fire trucks, based at Orange Beach, travel the state of Alabama sponsoring fundraisers at local fire depts. for local organizations that provide services to cancer patients in their local communities.



Mission Statement:

We drive pink fire trucks and pink police cars across America bringing the “Cares Enough to Wear Pink” and Pink Heals Movement to a city near you! We simply provide a program for your community leaders to adopt, helping them fund raise for people rather than causes. We focus our labor of love on the women of this country and wage war on anything that may harm her starting with cancer! Our organization started in 2007 to help people battling cancer with a focus on women and what they mean to us in our daily lives!

We have taken the theme of the Public Safety with pink fire trucks and pink police cars to serve our community by putting people first instead of causes. We believe that money raised in our communities, counties and states should remain there, giving us the option to either put it towards research or deliver one hundred percent of the money generated by fundraisers to the people that need it most! We believe that too many large corporate charities use a labor of love to raise money to sustain their own organization with little left to actually go to the people that are battling this horrible disease.

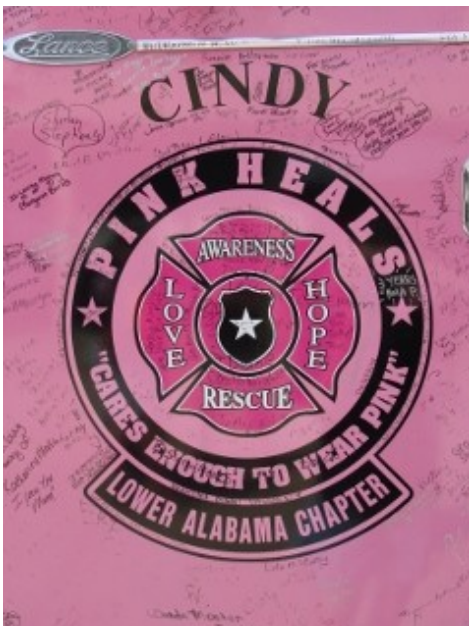
BLACK-OUT CANCER

Saturday, September 15, a number of Steel Magnolias and other cancer patients and their families gathered at the Anniston Fire Department, awaiting the arrival of the first pink fire truck in Anniston/Calhoun County. At 9:30 a.m. the truck was accompanied by other civic organizations in a motorcade that left McClellan, down Hwy 21 to the Fire Station, arriving at about 10:00 a.m. When the pink fire truck, whistle blaring turned onto 17th Street, we were very excited. It was a joy to add our names to the numerous names of survivors from other Alabama cities.

Assistant Chief, Jeff Brooks told me that when they retire the next truck, they plan to have it painted pink. He said every person who works out of the Anniston Fire Station has been touched by cancer in some way, either a friend or loved one. He said they have a servants heart.

I was contacted a few weeks ago about the Pink Truck event, and have been curious how Assistant Chief Brooks learned about me and Steel Magnolias. Not long after arriving at the Anniston Fire Station, a fireman, Sgt. Keith Bryant said to me, “When I learned about the pink truck and what was planned for today, I told Assistant Chief Brooks “You need to call Lenora Johnson, because I was in Gladeview Baptist Church when she asked for prayer and I was there when Lenora started Steel Magnolias.” What an amazing experience! Our organization is founded on the Prayer of Jabez. Sgt. Keith Bryant connecting the dots from my diagnosis to the founding of Steel Magnolias to eleven years later is a clear picture of “Lord, enlarge our territory!” And God continues to validate that our work is just and that we are staying true to the Prayer of Jabez, 1st Chronicles 4:30

I personally thank Sgt. Keith Bryant for suggesting to Fire chief Tony Taylor and Assistant Fire chief Jeff Brooks that I be contacted about Steel Magnolias. Steel Magnolias is thankful that we were part of this historic event! We are very thankful that the founder of Pink Heals, Dave Graybill’s dream is that money raised, in Black Out Breast Cancer events be spent in each host city, funding local organizations that provide services to people who need it most!



Rosa Reed / Bubbles the Clown
For party call 256-454-6997



Pictures made at Black Out Cancer event.
Anniston Fire Department / with participation of other city and county fire stations.



Patient in treatment with supporting family

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 25: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting, 5:00 p.m., RMC Physicians Center, Suite 403—RMC will provide Potato Bar with condiments. Steel Magnolias bring salad, fruit or light dessert.

Friday & Saturday, September 28 & 29: Kick off of Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at Brighton Collectibles, at the Summit. Margaret Taylor will be in the store on Friday and Elizabeth McCabe will represent Steel Magnolias on Saturday. Kick off will last through Sunday, September 30. If you will be in the Birmingham area on the last weekend of September, stop by Brighton Collectibles and say hello. Please check out information at the bottom of page 7.

Monday, October 15: Newsletter Mailing Day, 12:30 p.m., suite 406 of Physicians Center.

Saturday, October 20: Ranburne Walk for Breast Cancer, Sign up starting at 8:00 a.m. See Registration and Contribution sheet on page 8. Steel Magnolias hopes to see many members and supporters at the Ranburne Walk! More information call—(770) 710-6908

Tuesday, October 23: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meeting. More Details later.

Marti Warren has asked that everyone please pray for Pokey and her family. That God will provide healing for Pokey, wisdom for Pokey's doctors and peace and courage for Marti and the Warren family.

Joggin' Inside **Resurrection**

Last night on a plane back home from Dallas to Tyler, I was sitting with a friend I've known for many years, talking about church and a whole lot of political things. Being a US Congressman, Louie visits a lot of different churches in the area throughout the year and he told me of what happened in a local church on this past Easter that made me roll with laughter, to the point of tears. The pastor of this Baptist church had called all of the little children to the front of the church, dressed in their cute Easter outfits and had them sit around him. He said, "Today is Easter and you all look so handsome and beautiful. Today we're going to talk about the resurrection. Does anyone know what the resurrection is?" One little boy raised his hand, and the pastor said, "Please tell us what the resurrection is." The boy, proud that he knew the answer, said in a clear loud voice, "When you get one lasting more than four hours, you gotta call a doctor!"
Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Some Men AreAnd Finally Get Acknowledged!

A man told his buddy, "Christmas is on Friday this year." the man replied, "Let's hope it's not the 13th."

Two men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station. One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?" The other says, "We'll lie and say we only found two."

A woman phoned a man, her neighbor and said, "Close your curtains the next time you & your wife are having sex. The whole street was watching and laughing at you yesterday." To which the neighbor man replied, "Well the joke's on you because I wasn't even home yesterday."

A man goes to the vet with his goldfish. "I think it's got epilepsy," he said. The vet takes a look and says, "It seems calm enough to me." The man says, "Wait, I haven't taken it out of the bowl yet."

Courtesy of Faye.....Alexandria, AL

Getting Too Old To Shop

Had a little problem at the grocery store. Apparently when the cashier said, "Strip down," facing me, she was talking about my debit card. Elaine.....Oxford, AL

No Parent Left Behind....Notes To Teachers

My son is under a Doctor's Care and should not take PE today. Please excuse him.....**Please excuse Lisa** for being absent, she was sick and I had her shot.....**Please excuse Jennifer** for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

Courtesy of Pokey....Anniston, AL

Brighton At The Summit **Breast Cancer Awareness Celebration**

The Brighton Collectible Store at The Summit will be selling Power of Pink bracelets in order to raise money for Steel Magnolias and The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama. \$10 from each \$50 bracelet will go to support both of the foundations. This will be the 10th year Brighton has sold these limited edition bracelets and to date have raised over 8 million dollars in retail stores alone to fight breast cancer. The 2012 limited edition bracelet is a classic design resembling one of the bracelets in the Brighton line that women have loved collecting. Like two bracelets in one, it can be worn with pink-accented links or reversed to wear as an all-silver bracelet. It's dangling heart charm and pink ribbon with touches of light rose Swarovski crystals show support for everyone who has been touched by breast cancer. We are currently pre-selling the bracelets. We typically sell out of the bracelets, so we urge you if are interested in helping to support such a great cause, please give us a call at 205-972-4662 and we will put you on the list. A picture of the bracelet should be available on September 22nd and we would be happy to email it to you! Just give us a call.

Thank you in advance!

Brighton Collectibles
#143 The Summit
Dee White, Store Managing Partner
Tiffany Connolly, Assist. Managing Partner
Ali Corley, Key Partner

Ladies from Steel Magnolias will be at The Brighton Store at the Summit during their kick off weekend.

Friday, Sept. 28—Margaret Taylor
Saturday, Sept. 29—Elizabeth McCabe.



"STEPS TO HELP" BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK REGISTRATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (ALL) _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE CHECK:

ENCLOSED IS MY \$10 REGISTRATION FEE _____

ENCLOSED IS MY \$100 DONATION _____

MY TSHIRT SIZE IS _____

(This is only for those giving \$100 donations)

I CANNOT WALK, BUT ENCLOSED IS A DONATION OF _____

I plan to do the 3 mile _____ I plan to do the 1 mile _____

I am a SURVIVOR! _____ I am in the fight, but I will be there!! _____

For more info: 770-710-6908 or stepstohelpwalk@gmail.com
or website: www.stepstohelpwalk.wix.com/breastcancerawareness

You may mail your registration and donations to:

Steps To Help c/o Runa Kimbrell

2124 Frank Ledbetter Memorial Drive, Ranburne AL 36273

Please do not send cash in the mail, make your \$10 registration fee payable to: STEPS TO HELP. If you are sending your \$100 donation, make payable either to Steel Magnolias or Tanner Breast Health Center. You may also give \$50 to each organization if you would like to split your donation. Mail all checks to the above address. We want to give them all the money at one time.

In case of inclement weather or unforeseen reasons that the walk could not be held, there will be no refunds. All donations will still be given to the designated organizations. If donations are not received in time, shirts will be delivered to you or shipped to you after the walk. Get your money in early so we will have time to get your shirt made for the walk!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!
Runa Kimbrell & Leah Kilgore Walk Organizers

