

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Moments To Remember

August 15, 2011

Time To Speak

A few years ago, not long after Derek Brown had been installed as Vice President of the Noon Rotary Club in Anniston, he asked if I would agree to speak about breast cancer. He went on to say, "Lenora, I want you to relive your diagnosis and make everyone attending this meeting feel what it was like to receive your devastating news."

Little did I know how that journey into buried memories would impact me. I had actively worked, for years, as an advocate through Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. I thought these painful memories were simply powerless, stored events from my past.

However, I learned that when you have an experience that stops you in your tracks and forces you to face your own mortality, powerful emotions remain part of who you are.

When I had completed my speech at the Noon Rotary, I was trembling so hard that it was an ef-

fort to step from the podium. Several people spoke to me following the meeting. I remembered only one and didn't know his name until I attended the funeral of a dear friend. As I entered the funeral home, K.L. Brown said, "I heard you speak." I responded, "When?" Mr. Brown said, "At the Noon Rotary," I remembered his comment, "I wish my sister had known a Steel Magnolia."

We live at a time when society is not comfortable with passionate causes. How sad! Newly diagnosed cancer patients are experiencing the most passionately negative emotions they will ever know, short of the death of a loved one.

An apathetic, sterile response to a patient who is facing an unsure future because of a diagnosis of cancer, is not only inappropriate and unacceptable, it is cruel.

My good friend, Gudrun, has a saying. "The tone makes the music."

A word aptly spoken is

like apples of gold in settings of silver.
Proverbs 25:11

What is Charity?

"It is silence—
when your words
would hurt

It is patience—
when your neighbor
is hurt.

It is deafness—
when a scandal flows

It is thoughtfulness—
—for others' woes

It is promptness—
—when a duty calls

It is courage—
when misfortune
falls."

Seen in a missionary
magazine by Elizabeth
Sherrill, Boston, Mas-
sachusetts..From
Guideposts magazine—
Aug. 2011

Love is patient

Love is kind

Love does not envy

Love does not boast

Love is not proud

Love is not rude

Love isn't self seeking



Sharing love through support

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Love is not easily angered
Love keeps no record of
wrongs

Love rejoices with the truth
Love always protects
Love always trusts

Love always hopes
Love always perseveres
Love never fails
1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

“What is Charity?” on page one, sounds like advice found in David Pollay’s *The Law of the Garbage Truck*, which has now been translated into 10 languages.



Matt & Melinda Blount

Apathy Makes Excuses Love Finds A Way!

Attending the July 26, New Beginnings Banquet was a young man, Matt Blount and his sweet wife, Melinda. In early July, 2010, I asked Matt for permission to publish an entry he had written in his Caring Bridge Journal. At the time, Matt was in Austin, Texas, having stem cells harvested from his own body. In a valiant battle against stage 4 Ewing Sarcoma, stem cell transplant was later administered. In my request, I mentioned that we were making preparations for the 7th annual New Beginnings Banquet. Matt said, “Lenora, use anything from my journal that you think will help cancer patients, just make sure I get an invitation to the 8th annual New Beginnings Banquet. The day after the July 26, 2011, 8th annual New Beginnings Banquet, I received this email:

“Lenora, Thank you for a wonderful evening at the New Beginnings Banquet. Last night, my wife and I truly enjoyed ourselves. Although I am not a breast cancer survivor, I am a cancer survivor. I know what hardships must be endured and what a toll it can take on a person and their family. That’s why it’s great that you have such a wonderful program with the Steel Magnolias. The caliber of people we spoke to and had the pleasure to meet was most enjoyable. It was an evening that did more for us than expected. Melinda thanked me as we were pulling out and leaving. She said that was just what we needed and I agree.

You see, unfortunately earlier that day was spent in Birmingham seeing my Oncologist. I was informed not 6 hours before the banquet that I have Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML-4). I am now a one time cancer survivor, working on being a two time survivor. The thoughts of having to go through the chemotherapy, the sleepless nights of praying, and the toll it takes on everyone involved seemed to break from both my wife and me, if even for a moment.

I hate that cancer has struck my family again, and so soon. This challenge is just another mountain for us to climb and this too shall come to pass.

We loved seeing so many strong and empowered men and women that have struggled and fought against breast cancer and survived. Everyone has a story to tell and I am working on mine.

Thanks again for such a fine evening.”

Matt and Melinda Blount....Jacksonville, AL

My Story

“I am not entirely certain where to start on my story, but here goes.....I found out in Nov. of 2009 that I had stage IV Ewing Sarcoma. I have been through chemo and stem cell transplant and surgery. I am currently in full remission.....I am now fighting Acute Myelogenous Leukemia or AML. I am a one time cancer survivor, working on being a two time survivor.”

Matt is one of our heroes! He served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. He is a very loving husband and father. I implore every praying person to remember Matt in your prayers....And not only Matt but, Melinda and his entire family! Barry’s youngest son will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.. **We must pray for our brave soldiers!**



Matt taking first treatment at UAB, for Leukemia. Dad, Barry and wife, Melinda, provide support and companionship.

Correspondence

Steel Magnolias,

Please accept this donation in honor of our daughter, Claire as we celebrate her being a 4 year cancer survivor. She is doing FANTASTIC and continues to make us so very proud of her on a daily basis. We appreciate all you did for her; the love, support and continued prayers.

Always, Jeanne, Bobby and Robert.....Anniston, AL

Lenora,

I just wanted to say thank you again for giving me the great honor of being the keynote speaker. That will definitely go down as one of the great honors of my life. I enjoyed sharing wonderful memories of Mrs. Rudolph too.

Love, Derek Brown.....Jacksonville, AL

Hey Lenora,

I just want to sincerely THANK YOU for everything you have done for me. Steel Magnolias made me a survivor. Each and everyone in the group are so special in her own unique way. I am so grateful to have met you. You are an inspiration! God bless you!!!!

Sincerely, Rhonda.....Oxford, AL

Financial Report

July		Balance Brought Forward	\$7,656.63
01 (-)	100.00	Lenora Johnson, Monthly expense	7,556.63
07 (-)	70.00	Postmaster: 12 month, Jacksonville P.O. Box Rent	7,486.63
12 (-)	40.00	Kyuka Waters: Anniston Oncology & Outpatient Chemo	7,446.63
14 (-)	90.00	Pokey Warren: 15000 mailing labels	7,356.63
15 (-)	200.00	Anniston Oncology: Transportation fund	7,156.63
15 (-)	216.07	Margaret Taylor: Reimburse Sam's Club for Chemo Patient's snacks	6,940.56
18 (+)	1,508.66	Deposit: Chaplain's Services 600 (Banquet), Anniston Oncology 500 (Banquet), Main Lobby Dining Voucher Bazaar 408.66	8,449.22
20 (-)	153.95	Lenora Johnson: Reimburse Office Max for Ink Cartridges, Black & Color for office 101.98, Case paper 41.99, Rubber bands 2.19, File Tabs 7.99	8,295.27
20 (-)	1,500.00	RMC Memorial Foundation, Steel Magnolias Dining Voucher Account	6,795.27
22 (+)	1,031.00	Deposit: RAJ- Dining Voucher Bazaar 905, Private Contribution 50, Bazaar Auction 76.50	7,826.77
26 (-)	1,929.30	Classic on Noble: New Beginnings Banquet, 100 dinners plus gratuity and tax	5,896.47
27 (-)	77.90	Downey's General Store: 30 yd. bolt of fabric for care pkg. bags, 4 spools thread	5,819.57
30 (-)	40.00	Jeff Owens & Associates: Alabama Sales Tax research	5,779.57

GOOD NEWS

Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. is featured in the next issue of Healthy Horizons magazine, and in the August, Calhoun Living Magazine. Both magazines are free or can be read online.

Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament

Why?

In 2002, Lea Fite was first elected to represent district 40 in the Alabama House of Representatives. In 2008, Rep. Lea Fite, a democrat, whose wife is a breast cancer survivor, pre-filed HB147, a bill to close a loophole in the Alabama Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program. The current policy denied treatment based on where a woman was first screened. The bill never came up for a vote.

In 2009, Steel Magnolias launched a campaign, believing that if our senators and representatives understood why we needed a policy change, HB147 would pass. Representative Fite kept Steel Magnolias informed as to the status of the bill and on April 29, 2009, called with the exciting news that HB147 had passed by unanimous vote through both the house and the senate. Act #2008-320, is the law that insures uninsured Alabama breast and cervical cancer patients, who qualify financially, regardless of who diagnoses them, enrollment in the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program. Representative Lea Fite will always be remembered as a champion for uninsured Alabama women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer.



Teams from Alabama and West Georgia Tee off.



Men came from Oklahoma and Texas to be part of the Alexandria Class of '65 four man scramble



Scores were counted

Prize money was

Awarded.....

Door prizes were given

Lunch was served.....



We worked hard!

We laughed!

We served!

We enjoyed friends

We enjoyed family

We deposited

\$6,100.00



A grandson came to play!

The Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday July 23, 2011

Pine Hill Country Club

Sponsored by Mike Sanders

Hosted by Men of Steel



8th Annual New Beginnings Banquet

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

The 8th annual New Beginnings Banquet was the last of three major events, scheduled back to back! Some shook their heads at the thought of pulling off three major events in one month and scoffed at the idea of doing any one of them well.

The July 26, 2011, New beginnings Banquet has been called by some, "The best ever!" First, it is hard to beat Classic on Noble as a venue! The food was delicious, the staff is always professional, in a most beautifully decorated space. President Marti Warren welcomed everyone and introduced Chaplain Jim Wilson who gave thanks for our food and asked special prayer for Matt Blount.

Following dinner, Lenora Johnson and Marti Warren started the program. Lenora, first asked Men of Steel to stand and be recognized for their invaluable service to Steel Magnolias. Lenora and Marti, with the help of breast cancer survivors, performed, "I'm A Steel Magnolia." Lenora then gave a short bio of Dr. Dave Roberts, Dixie Reynolds and Derek Brown, outstanding associates with Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. These three special and talented people presented an uninterrupted and inspirational program.

Songs performed by Dr Dave Roberts were: *The Anchor Holds*, *Priceless Gift to Me*, written by Faye Roberts and *I Hope You Dance*. Dixie Reynolds sang her triumphant version of *I'm Gonna Take That Mountain*. Derek Brown delivered a wonderful speech, entitled, "What A New Beginning Means To Me." Derek talked about family members who battled cancer and his grandmothers who lost their battles. He also told about his Grandfather Brown, a surviving spouse who, because of inspirational stories and the joke page, continues to enjoy Steel Magnolias Newsletters. Everyone enjoyed his memories of Steel Magnolias' jester, Hazel Johnson Rudolph, especially Thursday nights at her home. Hazel traded cooking lessons for instruction in how to send and receive email.

Following door prizes and the awarding of a thank you gift from Margaret Taylor to Cindy Justice, RN, for her help with the Anniston High School, "Power of Pink," and recognizing Linda Barton as "Steel Magnolias' Volunteer of the Year," Dr. Dave Roberts said good night by singing Steel Magnolias' theme song, "I Hope You Dance."



Angie hosts
Registration
Table.....

Chaplain Jim
gave
thanks...

Marti &
Lenora led
Magnolias



Dr. Dave Roberts



Dixie Reynolds



Derek Conrad Brown



Noble Salad
Asian Chicken
Basmati Fruit Rice
Roasted Vegetables
Cheesecake



Margaret Taylor thanks Cindy Justice, RN for Anniston High School's "Power of Pink."



Lenora Johnson names Linda Barton Steel Magnolias 2011 Volunteer of the year.

An Old Age Recipe

Old Age is a Time You Can't Ignore

Hazel Johnson Rudolph—Age 95

**Like I've said before, Old Age is a time you can't ignore,
It will catch you early, or it will catch you late....
But it will catch you...That's as sure as Fate.**

**Some people grow old by 44, others look old at 50 or more.
But the best thing to do, when it happens to you,
Just keep thinking young, and that will carry you through.**

Don't mope over the years that have come and past...

**No one promised you youth forever would last,
Just think of the days that lie ahead, and don't waste time thinking
While lying in bed. Get up and be doing something well,
If it's only a short ways, walk a spell. Look at the sunset,
Feel the breeze, and marvel at the beauty of the birds in the trees.**

**Spend some time reading a joke....Laughter never killed any old goat.
It's good medicine for the mind and the soul,
Really, it will keep you from growing old.
Make young friends....That's easy to do,
And their youth will inspire and revitalize you.**

**Do something to help some other along...In the joy of service, you'll never go wrong.
I know your knees will hurt and creak, and some days you can't stand on your feet.
Your eyes will grow dimmer, Your ears will get bad.
But you'll miss a lot of National News that is terrible and sad!**

**Invite some friends to have a good time.
Don't mind your dirty house, you should see mine
I've kept it clean all these years, but now I can't risk falling off ladders and chairs.**

Make a pot of coffee....That will do....They really don't need to eat much, a cookie or two....
Have some fun...Don't mention your pain...Talk about the weather, "We sure need rain."

Tell a joke, either one or more....Don't worry too much if you've told them before.
Most everyone's memory is just like mine. Chances are they've forgotten them every time.
Keep in touch with your children, they're growing old too
And they're real bossy...you know that's true. But be patient with them
Whatever you do, for sure as you're living, their time's coming too.

Don't think about Nursing Homes, they'll come soon enough,
Stay busy and forget about that stuff!
But if and when you do have to go, plan ahead and steal the show!
Be the best tenant that you can be and revive that place of NO LIBERTY!
We can be happy whatever our Fate, and count our blessings
Whether early or late, and just be glad that we're alive—
Whether we're 50-60-or 95!

NOTE.....At Ladiga Assisted Living in Jacksonville, Hazel passed from this life at the age of 97.....She loved, she laughed, she lived a life of gratitude & encouragement.



Thank you, Elizabeth for great pictures of:

The Bazaar, The Golf Tournament and the
New Beginnings Banquet!



Paul and Elizabeth McCabe at the 18th annual
RMC Survivor Appreciation Day.

Thanks to Becky for www.steelmagnoliasinc.org
Photo Gallery and Facebook

Click on Facebook.com/Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group—Please click, I Like, maybe leave a message. Many pictures from Steel Magnolias' July events are posted. Thanks, Lenora

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 23: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meeting, 5:00 pm, Cancer Resource Center, RMC Physicians Center, Suite 406. Pizza and ice cream supper. Steel Magnolias bring ice cream or plain cake. Please remember there is Bryers sugar free—1/2 the fat or sherbet.

Monday, September 19: Newsletter mailing day. To stuff envelopes, meet in the Chaplain's office, RMC Physicians Center, suite 103 at 12:30 pm

Nancy Burnell, our sister, Steel Magnolia, recently lost her mom, Henri Lynn Cotton. On July 23rd, Mrs. Cotton changed her residence to Heaven. Please keep Nancy and her very sick husband, Harry, in your prayers. We have other Steel Magnolias who are struggling with health issues, either their own or someone they love. Please remember them in your prayers. Thanks, Lenora

Joggin' Inside Breaking the Circuit

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she ran outside and grabbed a handy plank of wood and smacked him with it, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his pod. Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

One Wish

A man on his Harley was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want." God replied, "Your request is materialistic; think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind." The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "God, I wish that I could understand my woman; I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make my woman truly happy." God replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?" Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

IT WAS SOOOOO HOT!!.....

- All the corn on the stalks started popping and flying through the air. The cows thought it was snowing, and they froze to death.
- The potatoes cook underground and all you have to do to have lunch is to pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper
- Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard boiled eggs.
- The cows are giving evaporated milk.
- The trees are whistling for the dogs
- The birds had to pick up worms with potholders.
- I saw a dog chasing a cat and they were both walking.
- Scientists recently detected beads of sweat on the Statue of Liberty.
- Campbell Soup Company has recently changed directions on its cans to, "Just pour and eat."
- Some dairy farmers are finding that their cows are producing powdered milk.
- I have discovered that asphalt has a liquid state.
- I have learned the hard way....My seat belt buckle could be used as a branding iron.
- The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance. Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Living Will

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug!" So his wife unplugged the TV and threw out all his beer. Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Vaudeville Comedy

- The doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill so the doctor gave him another six months.
- The doctor called Mrs. Cohen, saying, "Your check came back." Ms. Cohen answered, "So did my arthritis."
- A doctor held a stethoscope up to a man's chest. The man asks, "Doc, how do I stand?" The doctor says, "That's what puzzles me."
- A drunk was in front of a judge. The judge says, "You've been brought here for drinking." The drunk says, "Okay, let's get started." Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Baptist Church

In a small conservative town, a new bar/tavern started a building to open up their business. The local Baptist church started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayer. Work progressed, however right up until the week before opening, when a lightening strike hit the bar and it burned to the ground. The church folks were smug in their outlook after that, until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means. The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise in its reply to the court. As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork at the hearing and commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner that believes in the power of prayer and an entire congregation that doesn't." Courtesy of Greg.....Anniston, AL