

Messenger

Volume 16
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October



Coming Events

October—Walks
Men's 13-16
Women's 29-23
November
No Gathering
December Gathering
Wightman UMC

Testimony of Mercy and Grace by Carolyn McLean

A little more than ten years ago I learned that I had been infected with the Hepatitis C virus, most likely from a blood transfusion many years ago. It had remained dormant in my body for a long time and then suddenly made itself known during a routine blood test. I learned that my liver had a moderate amount of damage and that I needed treatment. My family, my home church, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Emmaus community walked this journey with me. You know how I began treatment three different times, but each time became too ill to finish. Each time it seemed the treatment was working at first, but then my viral count would rise again and I would be back to where I was before I started.

Before my very first treatment began as I was praying, God spoke to me through scripture. John 11:4 says, "**This sickness will not end in death.** No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." So... I was fortified with God's word and I believed healing was on the way! But it didn't come!! It was like a kick in the stomach and I wondered if I had heard God correctly. After going to MUSC and updating my treatment plan, another round started. I was sure this time God was going to heal me. Well, after twelve more weeks of nausea, body aches, headaches, fever, anemia and severe fatigue, I was sure the meds were working and I was being healed. Then came the dreaded words, "You have to stop treatment. It is not working and you are too ill." Third round, different drug, high hopes, failure.

Through it all, though, this verse of scripture never left my mind and heart. Prayers from Maine to Florida, from Missouri and Oregon and Texas, and from the Bahamas were being lifted for me. I felt God's mercy and grace surrounding me when I could not lift my head from my bed. My family, my church, my Emmaus community were God's hands and feet lifting me up and holding my hand. When I was too weak to pray, or even to hope, you kept hope alive for me.

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And now, in fact just this past month, I received the final results of my fourth treatment. My viral count is undetectable and my liver enzymes are normal. I have been healed!! “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”

My heart is full, I am so blessed, and I praise God for giving me everything I needed to endure the last ten years. Many times I wanted to give up, but I somehow knew that God would never let go of God the glory for helping me to persevere and for the body of Christ who lifted me up, but most of all for God’s continuous grace. Your Christian action in bringing me meals, sending me notes and cards, making me a prayer shawl, and calling to see what I needed filled my heart with thanksgiving. Pain and suffering are a part of life, but it is during these times God teaches us the most. I have learned so many lessons about humility, fear, surrender, and simply letting go and letting God. Thanks be to God!!!!

Carolyn McLean

Foothills Emmaus Walk #3

Table of Mary

Registrar

Past Lay Director, Emmaus of the Midlands Women’s Walk #8

The insert contains the names of the pilgrims and servants for both walks. I’m sorry we were not able to have the newsletter available before the men’s walk took place, however, prayers can be offered for the new pilgrims that attended as well as the servants that gave of their time and effort to make the walk a success.

Please keep the women and their servants in your prayers this week.

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Memorial Service for Mike Morris will be held November 19, 2016, 11:00 am at Lyttleton Street UMC in Camden, SC. Mike's wishes are that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to Lyttleton Street UMC. A special fund will be set up for this.

Mike was well-known in this community having been a part of the start-up of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community. He and his wife Jackie Jennings Morris, mother of Chris Galvin, served on many walks over the years as well as serving on Chrysalis Flights. Mike also served as pastor of several congregations in the area before retiring. Jackie passed away one year ago and now Mike has joined his beloved wife. Prayers are requested for the family.