

## **Another word from Pastor Bill**

Dear Friends, Barbara Battin and I were classmates in seminary. We hadn't seen each other in 18 years when we were simultaneously called to be co-pastors of St. Luke Presbyterian in Minnetonka in the fall of 1995. Over the three and a half years we served together (until she fell in love and got married and moved to Ohio, where her spouse worked), we developed a deep affection and friendship. Barbara has dealt with breast cancer twice. For the last few years, she has been journeying with ovarian cancer, which has been reasonably regulated until recently. Now it's pretty significantly affecting her life. I share all of this as background for some very profound teaching on prayer, which Barbara included at the end of her latest general update to her friends.

*Bottom line: I asked Dr. Romer if this were the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning or just a bump in the road. His response was that it is more than a bump in the road, but would not go farther than that. My take on this is that we have entered a new phase – whatever we call it.*

*However, life is larger than cancer. Spring is here and the sun is warming. Crocuses are up and soon daffodils and tulips will create a mix of color in our front yard. Oh, and YES it is party time. Jim and I will celebrate 20 years of marriage on April 17th! We are looking forward to celebrating with some friends and family... and that focus is helping us both get through these days.*

*If you are wondering what you can do, please hold us both in prayerful awareness, sending us wisdom and strength mixed with appropriate vulnerability, a willingness to receive and appreciate the gifts of family and friends in our lives.*

*If you are a person who prays in general, please simply surround us with the Light, enfold us in the Great Love.*

*If you are a person who prays in specifics, please focus on the function of my liver, which is very vulnerable at this point, and without its good function, no further chemo is possible.*

*If you pray through visualization, please join me in seeing the chemo going into my body as a rainbow stream of healthy energy that is able to positively affect the eradication of cancer cells. Please join me in sensing the radiation focused on my abdominal tumors as radiant rainbow light that will shrink what is causing the current upset.*

*“Prayer,” as defined by Julian of Norwich, 14th century mystic, is to be “oned” with God, and in the words of Neil Douglas-Klotz, it is to be “in alignment with” God, the Great Mystery. However you “pray” let it be a hope for healing of my body, mind, heart and spirit on this journey. Curing is not a term used with ovarian cancer. That is, absence of disease is not a usual outcome. Healing, however, is always possible.*

*Any time I am “whole” in this process, yes, even the process of dying, when I too am “in alignment” with the Great Love of the Universe, I am “healed,” whether or not the disease remains.*

*Please pray for my healing and for that of Jim as he companions me on this journey.*

*In God's Deep Peace, Barbara*

Friends, I offer this for two reasons: to perhaps expand and deepen our understanding of prayer, and as a request for your prayers for my dear friends Barbara and Jim. Thank you!

Love, Bill