

"Be strong and  
courageous. Do not be  
afraid... for the Lord  
your God goes with  
you: he will never leave  
you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

**As we journey through this life we have times of deep pondering and great inspiration as we read or study God's Word. Sometimes our pondering and inspiration may also come from the sounds of nature, or the beauty of God's handiwork around us. Ever so rare is the observation of a single person who inspires and motivates us beyond explanation.**

**This entire book is a tribute to the life of Alice Pollert. In the first section, Alice offers inspirations from earlier in her life while her cousin, Linda Mautz, assisted Alice with the illustrations of the materials. In the second section are treasured memories of Alice's early childhood. In the third section, are the heartfelt email messages Alice shared with her prayer warriors. The final section is a reflection of how the life of Alice Pollert impacted another's life through observation of Alice, day by day, week by week, month by month and year by year.**

**May God's favor be upon the eyes and hearts of those who behold these thoughts of our dear Christian sister to the glory of God.**

September 2016

Dear Family and Friends,

I hope you will enjoy the attached little stories I wrote several years ago.

Many thanks to my wonderful cousin, Linda Mautz, for helping me with not only finding some illustrations for some of these, but also for the countless ways she has helped and encouraged me during the journey of the past several months. I mentioned apricot pits might be worth trying - some appeared in the mail! I mentioned that I read where bovine trachea cartilage might be beneficial - she delivered them frozen to my doorstep! Never did she ever let on that any of my wild ideas were really weird - she only encouraged and supported! And I ate unusual things - ha. My feet have been cushioned in beautiful slippers she made, my aching back soothed with the rice bag she made, my tummy happy with the food she's brought, and my heart warmed with all her love. Thank you Linda! And thank you Kathy, my unbelievably helpful sister who has given up so much of her time to help me with doctor appointments, cleaning, cooking and best of all, beach therapy trips!! And to my wonderful pastor, Jeff Alexander, my Mt. Olive church family and host of friends & family who have been faithful prayer warriors & sources of encouragement and support, I thank you from the bottom of my heart!! And I love you each dearly.

And thanks be to God for never leaving or forsaking us, for always giving us the strength, peace, and all we need to live for and serve Him.

May God richly bless you always.

Much love,

Alice

Have you ever seen a big clump of dirty snow that has melted a little and refrozen? It looks just like a strong, solid rock. But if you set something valuable on it hoping it would support it, you would be disappointed when the weather warmed up and the snow disappeared. It may have looked like a rock but the truth is, it was not a rock. It was dirty snow. God gives us the truth in His Word, the Bible. He wants us to know what is right and what is wrong so we can build our lives on solid foundations (on rocks, not dirty snow).



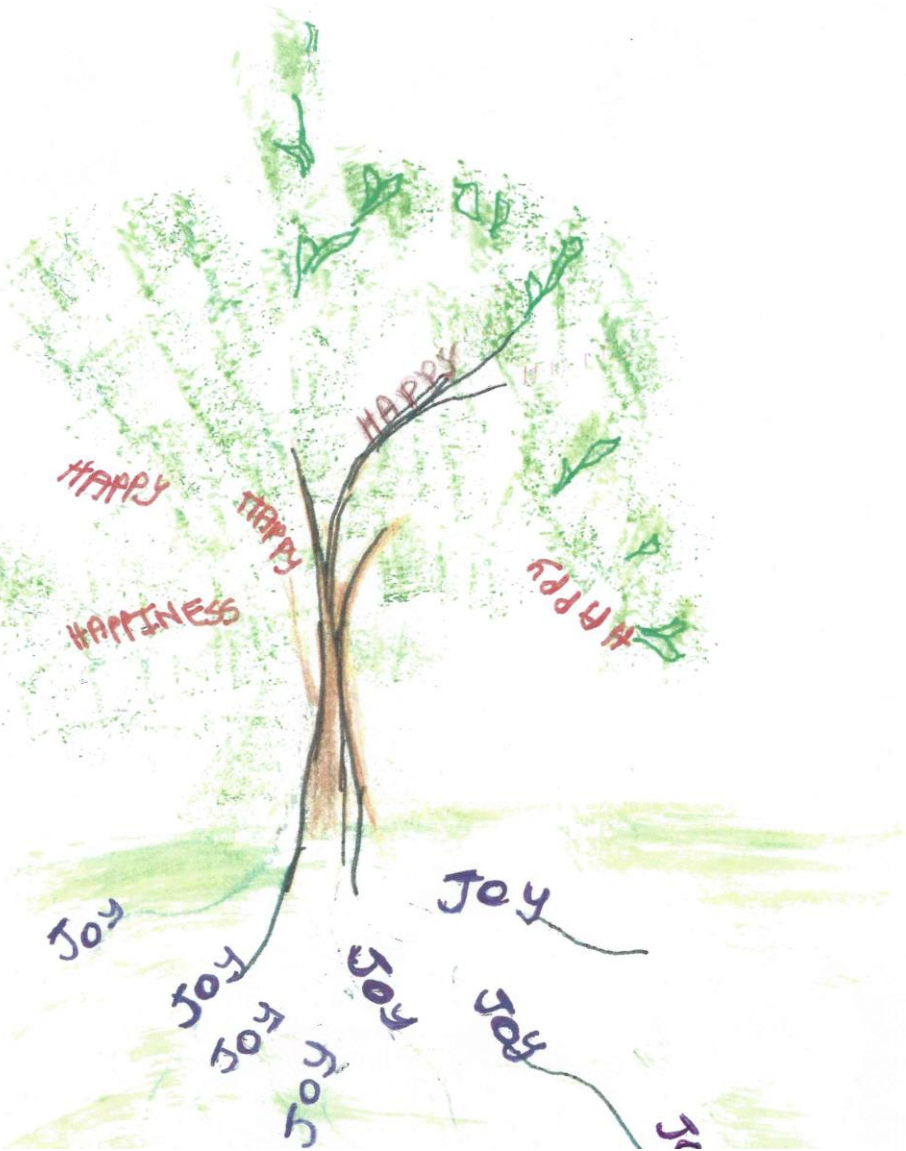
## Have You Ever

Have you ever thought of how joy and happy are the same and how they are different? They are alike in that they are both good feelings. They are different in that while a happy feeling can change easily and quickly, joy is more secure and unchanging.

We feel happy when someone tells us we are pretty, or smart, or loved. But if they tell us they don't like us or the clothes we have on, we no longer feel happy.

However, joy comes from God's unchanging character. Joy is secure and stable, anchored in God's love. A tree is made up of leaves, branches and roots. We can think of happy feelings as the leaves; they are easily moved with the wind and change color and size with the seasons. We can think of joyful feelings as the roots, secure in the earth, growing deeper and more stable with time just as joy grows deeper as we grow in our relationship with God. Joy doesn't leave us when we feel sad, just as the roots of a tree don't go away when the leaves fall off.

# Joy and Happiness





## LIGHT

Have you ever looked out the window early in the morning as it was just beginning to get light outside? With the lights off in your room, it looks light outside, but if you turn on the light in your room, it looks dark outside. Our hearts are like that. If the light of Jesus is on in our heart, the outside world looks dark, but if Jesus is not in our heart, the outside world can look light and draw us to it. Jesus is our light and the light of the world.

## PEACE

Have you ever been walking with an adult you trusted and felt afraid? When the grown up picked you up and held you close, and you rested your head on the grownup's shoulder and you knew everything was OK, that was peace. God wants us to have His peace and He will always be close by for us to let us know everything is OK. We can trust Him.







## SECURITY

Have you ever been walking in the dark with a grown up and felt afraid? When that grown up lifted you up and you put your head on their shoulder and felt their strong arms around you, you knew everything was OK. That is security.

God gives us His security - He keeps us safe forever.

## LIFE AND DEATH

It may look like life ends at death but God has promised that we live on forever in heaven with Him when we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. When our bodies die, we are given a new and different one for our life in heaven, just like a seed dies and changes into a new form when it grows. We may not want to lose our bean seed that we plant in the garden, but we must if we want to have beans to eat. We plant one seed and have many, many beans that grow on the plant that sprouts. We may not want to lose our earthly body either, but God's plan for our heavenly body is even better than we can imagine - better even than the miracle we see when a seed gives up its form to become a plant that produces much more. I think heaven will bring us great surprises and joy, even more wonderful than watching our seed sprout.



## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF ALICE

If we are honest, as we look back upon our childhood, we can grasp moments or repetitive activities that affect who and what we become. A few of these special times were shared by Alice.

Alice remembers spending the night with her grandparents. There she observed her grandparents kneeling together beside their bed...praying for their grandchildren. Although Alice prays in various positions as an adult, she finds she prays kneeling when she prays earnestly.

The influence of parents is great. Alice's mother was a good Christian woman, Baptist by choice. Alice's father encouraged their mother to take Alice and her younger sister, Kathy, to church. At age 8, Alice accepted Jesus as her Savior while attending a Nazarene Sunday School class. Alice recalls her Sunday School teacher guiding her to kneel beside a white Sunday School chair, accepting Jesus as her Savior. Alice recalls feeling clean and pure when she accepted Jesus.

Shortly after accepting Jesus as her Savior, Alice's family visited friends who had a chicken coop. Alice and Kathy joined their two childhood friends and went to the family's chicken coop. After a while, the children wanted to leave the chicken coop, but they were not able to unlatch the door. Alice was the oldest. She looked for another escape route. After praying at the door of the locked chicken coop, Alice experienced a light and felt God's Spirit say, "the window". She then climbed out the window and ran to the house to get her mother. Her mother came and safely got the other 3 children out through the window.

The love of her mother, father and Sunday School teacher led Alice toward her Christian faith at an early age.

Alice stated, "My mother told me to "Be Strong" as her mother was battling cancer. Below are some verses Alice found that encourage us to "Be Strong". May they be encouraging to you.

Be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Ephesians 6:10

Be alert. Be firm in the Christian faith. Be courageous and strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:1

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:6 - 8

Be strong and courageous...and I myself will be with you. Deuteronomy 31:23

You must be strong and brave about obeying the commands my servant Moses gave you. If you follow his teachings exactly, you will be successful in everything you do. Joshua 1:7

Remember, I commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. Joshua 10:25

Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. Joshua 23:6

March on, my soul; be strong! Judges 5:21

Don't be afraid. Haven't I given you this order? Be strong and brave. 2 Samuel 13:28b

**Additional verses encouraging us to be strong.....**

**Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the people of Judah have anointed me king over them. 2 Samuel 2:7**

**Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The Lord will do what is good in his sight. 2 Samuel 10:12**

**Be strong, act like a man and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go. 1 Kings 2:2-3**

**Let's be brave and strong while we fight for our people and for the cities of our God! May the Lord do what He thinks is right. 1 Chronicles 19:13**

**Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. 1 Chronicles 22:13**

**Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work. 1 Chronicles 28:10**

**Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. 1 Chronicles 28:20**

**Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded. 2 Chronicles 15:7**

**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. 2 Chronicles 32:7**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation -- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life -- of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1**

## Additional verses encouraging us to be strong...

Wait for the Lord: be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalms 31:24

The Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, says, "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength." Isaiah 30:15

People are afraid and confused. Say to them, "Be strong! Don't be afraid!" Look, your God will come and punish your enemies. He will come and give you your reward. He will save you. Isaiah 35:4

Help each other. Encourage each other to be strong. Isaiah 41:8

Don't worry -- I am with you. Don't be afraid -- I am your God. I will make you strong and help you. I will support you with my right hand that brings victory. Isaiah 41:10

I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand. And I tell you, "Don't be afraid! I will help you." Isaiah 41:13

"Don't be afraid. God loves you very much."... Peace be with you. Be strong now, be strong."... "Speak my lord, since you have given me strength." Daniel 10:19

Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord, and work. For I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:4

I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong. Zechariah 8:13

The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the Lord Almighty is their God. Zechariah 12:5

## LETTERS RECEIVED BY ALICE FROM LINDA

4/6/2013

### The Cross in Our Bodies

This is a pretty neat story and an interesting thing that few of us know. It's brief, so please read.  
(FROM A DOCTOR)

A couple of days ago I was running (I use that term very loosely) on my treadmill, watching a DVD sermon by Louie Giglio...And I was BLOWN AWAY! I want to share what I learned...

He (Louie) was talking about how inconceivably BIG our God is...How He spoke the universe into being.. How He breathes stars out of His mouth that are huge raging balls of fire...etc. etc. Then He went on to speak of how this star-breathing universe creating God ALSO knitted our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. At this point I am LOVING it (fascinating from a medical standpoint, you know.)...And I was remembering how I was constantly amazed during medical school as I learned more and more about God's handiwork. I remember so many times thinking...How can ANYONE deny that a Creator did all of this??? Louie went on to talk about how we can trust that God who created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart...how our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

And then I lost my breath. And it wasn't because I was running on my treadmill, either!!

It was because he started talking about Laminin. Here is how Wikipedia describes them: "Laminins are a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue. You see, Laminins are what hold us together...LITERALLY. They are cell adhesion molecules. They are what holds one cell of our bodies to the next cell. Without them, we would literally fall apart. And I knew all this already. But what I didn't know is what they LOOKED LIKE.

But now I do. And I have thought about it a thousand times since (already)..Here is what the structure of Laminin looks like. . AND THIS IS NOT a 'Christian portrayal' of it ... If you look up Laminin in any scientific/medical piece of literature, this is what you will see...

Now tell me that our God is not the coolest!!! Amazing. The glue that holds us together...ALL of us...is in the shape of the cross. Immediately Colossians 1:15-17 comes to mind. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. All things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him ALL things HOLD TOGETHER.

(Letter from 4/6/2013 continued)

Call me crazy. I just think that is very, very, very cool. Thousands of years before the world knew anything about Laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very LITERAL standpoint, we are held together ... One cell to another...BY the cross. You would never in a quadrillion years convince me that is anything other than the mark of a Creator who knew EXACTLY what Laminin 'glue' would look like long before Adam breathed his first breath!!

What I found when I googled Laminin!!! - A cross swinging. This is cool - had to pass it on. I think we could all use a miracle. I know I certainly can.

1/17/2014

What was the first liquid and food consumed on the moon? I presume that most of us were unaware of this story. I didn't know this, but it's awesome! 43 years ago--guess what happened? Many have not heard of this before...Communion on the Moon: July 20, 1969 (This is an excerpt from the article by Eric Metaxas.) Forty-three years ago- two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. "I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine. And a few years ago I had the privilege of meeting him myself. I asked him about it in my book, EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD (BUT WAS AFRAID TO ASK).

The background of the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life, and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow, and he asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. And Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth's orbit and on to the surface of the moon.

He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public statement: "This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." Then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John, and he took communion. Here is his own account of what happened.

"In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the scripture, 'I am



the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing."

"I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute (they) had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly.

"I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon - and Who, in the immortal works of Dante, is Himself the "Love that moves the sun and other stars."

How many of you knew this? Too bad this type news doesn't travel as fast as the bad does...share it if you've felt God's love.

3/26/15

Dear Family and Friends,

Please excuse the mass email, but wanted to update you and thank you so much for your prayers, love, cards and thoughts. I have never felt so supported and loved. There is no way to let you know how much that means to me!!

God has been so good in this turn of events in my life. I have felt His peace and love and have seen His caring demonstrated through each of you, again thank you from the bottom of my heart.

What began as a trip to the doctor February 18, for a nagging backache and abdominal pains (no big deal, though maybe some diverticulitis, appendicitis at worst) turned out to be a 10 cm mass that originated from the muscle of the uterus and has visited some of its neighboring organs. A hysterectomy was scheduled for March 12, but the pre-op chest x-ray showed that there are numerous nodules in my lungs so it was determined that the mass is malignant with metastasis to the lungs. Therefore surgery was cancelled, a biopsy done last Thurs to get the exact cell type of sarcoma and I saw the oncologist today. He gave us LOTS of info to digest and we'll go back next Thurs to get more info and make a decision as to

treatment. The options are to do nothing, let the disease take its natural course or begin chemo with a clinical trial may be an option.

Please pray I will make the right decision and that God will continue to work out His plan for my life. I want to honor, praise and glorify Him with my whole being. My sister came up from GA when she heard the news and has been a tremendous help as has Jill and her family, and Les. Jill, Kathy and I made a quick trip to Destin, FL after the biopsy last Thurs, returning late last evening, to make the most of this time while I'm feeling decent. And what a wonderful gift from God was that time!! SO much quality time with Jill. I am truly blessed.

Please continue to pray, a miraculous healing would be marvelous!!

Again, thank you so very much.  
With much love and gratefulness,  
Alice

#### ALICE'S INITIAL REACTION TO CANCER

Soon after Alice's cancer diagnosis, Jill suggested Alice rub 5 drops of Young Living Frankincense essential oil blended with 1 teaspoon of olive oil on her back and on the front of her chest. Additionally, Alice inhaled Frankincense during the day. Alice was diagnosed with cancer and began a daily regimen of Frankincense essential oil and she continued to pray for a miraculous healing.

Mid-March, 2015, Alice, her only child, Jill, and her only sibling, Kathy, took a trip to Destin, Florida. The trio stayed at the Hampton Inn and ate at nice restaurants. Alice remembers sidewalk cafes along Rosemary Beach. The last day of their trip, Jill and Alice went to the Ocean Club for a special mother-daughter dinner. Another time, while on the beach, Jill and Alice looked at the sky admiring God's handiwork. Jill told Alice how much she loved her. Alice also told Jill how much she loved her. They hugged each other while Jill prayed that her mother would feel loved as she traveled through this cancer path.

#### MISDIAGNOSIS AND REACTION

Alice was misdiagnosed initially, so two weeks were wasted and her oncologist was then on vacation for additional weeks.

As a young girl, Jill Pollert would play with Alida McKay. The two girls shared many years in childcare together. Now at a time of need, Alida's husband, Patrick Zweidler McKay, a pediatric oncologist in Houston, Texas, reached out to his colleagues. So, rather than waste

precious time, Alice and Kathy travelled to Houston to meet with oncologists. Alice returned to Indianapolis with a treatment plan.

4/4/15

Dear Friends and Family,

A little update. It seems things are hardly ever clear cut and simple. The pathology report from the biopsy came back with a cell type NOT what the doctor thought it was going to be! It is an adenocarcinoma rather than a leiomyosarcoma.

Adenocarcinoma tumors do not respond to the healing process after surgery by growing as do the leiomyosarcomas, so perhaps I could have had the surgery after all, or at least started chemo 3 weeks ago. The oncologist I saw on March 26 & April 2 only treats sarcomas and of course the one I need to see now doesn't have an opening until April 16th! I feel like I've lost valuable time in fighting this disease. I know God is in control and there is some reason this happened. Rather than having 2 weeks of no progress, I've made an appointment at MD Anderson in Houston for a 2nd opinion. My sister will fly down with me on Wednesday, April 8 for the appointment on the 9th & we plan to return to Indy on the 14th.

I so much appreciate (& feel) your love, support and prayers!! Please pray for wisdom in making the right decisions, safety in traveling (planes on time on Wed. so keeping the appointment will not be a problem), for God to be glorified throughout it all and for a miracle healing if that is His will.

Easter blessings to each of you.

He is risen, He is risen indeed! He is our hope, our joy, our Savior, our everything.

Much love,  
Alice

4/6/15  
From Kathy (Alice's sister)

QUIET TIME

There is nothing better than older people praying for you. We're not getting older, just getting closer to home! The instructions are to pick four people you want God to bless. I

pick you. Please pass this to at least four people you want to pray for and a copy back to me. This prayer is powerful, and prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but lots of rewards. Let's always pray for one another.

**The Prayer:**

Father, Thank You for each and every day. You have blessed us here on earth. Thank You for Your tender mercies. Thank You for giving us friends and family to share joys and sorrows with. I ask You to bless my friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ and those I care deeply for, who are reading this right now. Where there is joy give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence. Where there is need, fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, their goings and their comings. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you choose to send this to more than four people, you are truly blessed to have such friends.

In God We Trust

4/10/15

Hello Cherished Family and Friends,

Kathy & I arrived safely in Houston Wednesday and saw the gynecologist / oncologist yesterday & had another biopsy of the mass & blood work done. I still need to get a lung biopsy done. Please pray that can be done Monday so we can keep our flight home Tuesday.

It seems from the pathology report from IU isn't conclusive. I have strange tumors of unknown origin at this point, with lung nodules growing more rapidly than the abdominal one (ones).

Please pray for wisdom for the doctors and others making decisions on diagnosis and treatment; strength and wisdom for me in decisions to be made; and for a miracle cure if that be God's plan. He is good and to be praised for Who He is - creator, sustainer, protector, provider, healer & Lord & Savior.

Thank you so much for your love, support and prayers. Resting in His loving care and sending you love and blessings.

Alice

*Please feel free to share this with anyone I've forgotten. I don't have a good set-up for sending updates except for the parish nurse list.*

4/13/15

From Kathy

Hi Everyone,

This morning there will be a lung biopsy at 10:30. Nothing to eat or drink so I am doing the same. They are having difficulty defining the source of this malignancy and this may help. Also since the lungs are more critical than the abdominal mass, it may help define what chemo and/or radiation to use.

I believe if all goes well, we will still fly back to Indy tomorrow as she has a Thursday appointment with an oncologist at the IU Med Center on Thursday. We would like to have some pathology results to take back with us and that is still unknown at this time.

It is wonderful that we have Patrick and Alida Zweidler-McKay to be with. Patrick is a pediatric oncologist at MD Anderson so he has good insight as to what is going on.

Thank you one and all for your prayers and love.

Kathy Z

4/13/15

Dear Friends and Family,

My plan was to have the lung biopsy today, fly home tomorrow and confer with the MD Anderson doctor by phone when all the tests were back and she had a treatment plan. Seems that was not God's plan & His plan is always the best. We were told that the risk of pneumothorax (lung collapsing) was 50% going into the procedure, but that 75% of those resolved with the 4 hour period of time you were in the recovery room. The other one in 8 hours would need a chest tube put in and no travel until the chest tube is out. You can guess which group I'm in - yes, my lung rebelled, collapsed, needed a chest tube before I even got my body off the CT scan table!! I obviously won't be flying home tomorrow. Good news is I will meet with the MD Anderson doctor here on Thursday in person rather than by way of phone after back in IN. I feel better about that. Please pray all the biopsy reports will be back (especially the one from today as that will be a quick turn around) & the doctor will have the right treatment options planned and that they will be able to be carried out in Indy.

Thanks so much to each of you for your love, prayers and support.

Our God is our mighty healer, loving and faithful.

Blessings,

Alice

PS Again feel free to pass this along to others. I'd never leave anyone out on purpose. (Barb Olson & Sharon Keith are passing it along to our Bible study groups)

4/14/15

Great hearing from you Linda. I got the chest tube out today - hurray!!!! That was a royal pain. I've been trying to stay as active as possible, but really haven't been doing as much walking as I'd like. I need to keep as strong as I can. Kathy & I are going to try to leave here Friday, I think. Need to get on the airline site & check it out. I so much appreciate your love, prayers & support.

Lots of love,

Alice

5/9/15

Dear Friends and Family,

First chemo done as of May 1st, next one May 21st. My sister was here with me the 1st week after chemo and was a tremendous help!! All in all, life is good. Today has been an excellent day, appetite back (hurray!) Visits from friends, dinner with daughter and family. I have also started acupuncture, which I'm feeling pretty good about in spite of the fact that before this I thought having needles stuck in you was something to be avoided! I also saw an alternative doctor Wednesday who recommended homemade chicken broth 2 times a day. So I have lined up an organic free range non laying hen who is going to be sacrificed Monday. She would have escaped if she would just lay eggs. I'm grateful she'll be nourishing me and will thank her. Another praise, the pain I was having in my right leg that made it painful to walk is MUCH better - not using the cane now, perhaps a combination of acupuncture, prednisone and God's touch. The doctor had said it was from the tumor pressing on a nerve.

I so very much appreciate all your prayers, support and love. Please continue to pray for minimum side effects and maximum benefits from the treatments and God's healing to

continue. You are an amazingly wonderful group. God is in control, I trust His plan and praise Him for Who His is - always worthy, always loving.

Much love and blessings to each of you.

Alice

6/12/15

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers. Yesterday went very well. My vein was very well behaved and cooperative (& the nurse had good aim and technique!). The deed was done with one poke and lasted the whole 6 hours. Giving the Taxel over 4 hours instead of 3 with additional Cortisone and Benedryl before the chemo started warded off another allergic reaction, so no itching and red palms this time - hurray.

I'll have a CT scan June 30 to see what is happening with the tumors. It would seem they are shrinking as the leg pain (caused the doctor thought by pressure from the tumor) is gone - praise Him (God, not the doctor, ha). I hated using a cane and am so thankful to be able to walk pain free! Also the abdominal and back pain are now minimal, another good sign.

I have had excellent quality of life since chemo began. The new normal is different from the pre-cancer normal, but none the less much appreciated. And B & B (bed and book) time is a good thing. My friend Lynda suggests C & M (couch and movie) time as a good thing too. I might try that out tonight.

All praise, honor, glory and thanks to God for His healing, peace, mercy, wisdom and love. My thanks to each of you for continuing prayers.

Much love and blessings,

Alice

6/29/15

Dear Friends and Family,

This will be an important week with a CT scan tomorrow (6/30/15) 10:00 AM & doctor appointment at 8:15 AM, Thursday, blood work and hopefully chemo (9 AM) Thursday. My prayer requests are:

The CT scan will show tumors that are shrinking, responding to the chemo, or better

yet, GONE!!

Blood work Thursday with counts that will be OK for chemo to happen

Veins that cooperate

No allergic reactions to anything

Wisdom for Dr. Matei to make the right treatment plans for me

Safe traveling for my sister as she will be coming up Wednesday from GA to be with me for a while again.

I'm continuing to feel very blessed to be feeling so well - God is indeed good, merciful, loving to be trusted in everything and our mighty healer. To Him be all praise, honor and glory.

I have had a few "hairy" adventures. I have always wanted hair that would blow in the breeze & never had that as my very curly, wiry & thick hair never moved - not even on the windiest of days. WELL, I now have hair that blows in the breeze (& it does feel pretty good). All 500 of my 4 inch long remaining hairs that are tightly clinging to my mostly bald scalp do indeed blow in the breeze, although they are pretty weird looking - a cross between the Peanuts cartoon character, Pig Pen and Albert Schweitzer - hairs stand straight up with just a little curl! So I now have a wig, which also blows in the breeze, but I can't feel it move & am sometimes surprised when I look in the mirror and realize I have crazy hair after a breezing outing.

Again, I am so blessed to have you as prayer warriors and am so very grateful!!

Many thanks & much love,

Alice

7/2/15

Dear Family and Friends,

Today held both some good news and some bad news (mostly good news). Prayers that were answered as GOOD NEWS included:

Vein cooperated - only one stick for the chemo

No allergic reactions to anything - yea

My sister safely made it up from GA - in spite of very slow traffic in Louisville

Blood counts were all good so chemo was a go

CT SCAN SHOWED TUMORS ARE SHRINKING!!! PRAISE GOD FOR THAT



**WONDERFUL NEWS OF HEALING!!** Dr. Matei was very pleased, the report was better than what she expected. Especially encouraging is the fact that some of the lung tumors were GONE!! And the others have shrunk.

**Bad News:**

The cancer had spread to my bones. This CT scan is the first it's shown up on. I've had fractures in the pelvic area and the fractures were what was causing the pain earlier when walking (that's when I needed a cane) not the tumor pressing on a nerve as they thought. It did feel like walking on a broken bone, and what do you know, that is exactly what it was! Less pain is good. So glad it is healing! And also glad they didn't initially diagnose it as a fracture as Dr. Matei said the treatment would have been bed rest - that would have been REALLY hard to comply with (& very depressing).

**GOOD NEWS:**

The CT scan also showed the fractures are healing. I also started an IV bone building medication today, Zometa.

I believe all this good news is God's healing through the coming together of modern medicine, acupuncture (not so modern medicine), nutritional & supplement changes, and in answer to the POWERFUL, PERSISTENT, PRECIOUS PRAYERS of each of you. Please continue them for a complete remission from cancer and that my life will be used to serve our risen Lord however and wherever He wants to use me.

Gratefully yours with love and blessings,  
Alice

7/20/15

Dear Friends and Family,  
Prayer request for Thursday

1. God's perfect timing for the next chemo infusion. It is scheduled for Thursday but both my red and white counts are low so it may not happen Thursday. God knows the right time & that is when I want it to be. I found out last Thursday (the 16th) my counts were low after calling the contact IU nurse when you have questions (had also talked with her on the 9th). I told her I was now running a fever as well as not enjoying aching bones & body, being very tired and having frequent chills. She said I needed to go to the ER to get my WBC count done. I protested a little, after all this was supposed to be "vacation" at my sister's home in GA. I thought maybe I could convince her I was just dehydrated & a little more fluids and rest would fix what ailed me. But no, she came back with, "You need to go to the ER to see

what your white count is; if it is low, your body cannot fight an infection and you can have organ failure"! WELL, ALRIGHT ALREADY, Kathy and I high tailed it to the ER (glad we did). I was started on an antibiotic and had a number of tests done. Kathy, her family and some friends & I had planned to go to a play in town. We missed that but the ER provided its own drama with an apparent knockdown, drag out fight that landed a casualty in the room next to mine. Officers paraded the hall outside our rooms with handcuffs and stern looks, but Kathy & I behaved, were not cuffed (I had no energy to be rowdy), & left after a reasonable time of 2.5 hours.

2. Wisdom for Dr. Matei in making decisions on timing of chemo and other meds (started a new IV med for bones)

3. That all the tumors will continue shrinking & disappearing until there are none at all anywhere in my body! To God be the glory, praise & honor for His healing. This has been such a summer of grace and I wanted to share some really good books I've read on grace. They are [Unveiling Grace](#) by Lynn Wilder (about a family leaving the Morman church), [A Lineage of Grace](#) by Francine Rivers and [Grace](#) by Max Lucado.

Again, I cannot tell you enough how much your prayers and loving support in so many ways have meant to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!! God bless and keep you each in His strong, loving protective hands.

Much love, thankfulness and blessings,  
Alice

7/23/15

Dear Family and Friends,

My RBC and WBC counts had gone up some from last Thursday's visit to the entertaining ER in Blairsville, GA, but were still not within a normal range. Dr. Matei didn't think I looked as healthy as I had last visit, and we agreed another week of recovering from whatever infection is/was trying to lay me low for the past 3 1/2 weeks might be wise. So chemo #5 is scheduled now for July 31. Again I ask you to pray for:

- Tumors that will shrink and completely disappear (and NEVER return!!!)
- That my body will not have any more allergic reactions to any of the medications
- That the new bone medicine (Zometa) will be effective in strengthening and protecting all my bones with no bad side effects
- That any infection still trying to live in my body will be gone! for good!

Praises:

The aching bones & body, and fever are gone!! Hurray

Again, I praise and thank God for His goodness, mercy and healing and for each of you for your prayers and loving support in so many ways. Life is a gift.

With gratefulness, love and blessings to each of you.

Alice

*This is a PS to the Update*

*I asked Dr. Matei how she thought I was doing & she said better than expected! Yea!!!! I also asked her what the prognosis looks like (not the 1st time I've asked that, but like a kid, I keep hoping if I keep asking I'll get an answer I like better, ha). She said it is an aggressive cancer that is not curable and it will come back. That is the medical assessment. God is more powerful than any disease & can cure uncurable conditions. I pray for that miracle, but more than that I pray I will serve Him however He chooses.*

Again, thank you for your prayers.

In Him,

Alice

7/25/15

Tragic News

Dear Family & Friends,

Many of you already know of the shockingly horrible news we received yesterday of the tragic deaths of our precious daughter Jill and 2 youngest grandsons, Branson (10) and Aidan (8) that happened in a horrible crash on I 65 near Lafayette. Our hearts are broken and lives will never be the same. We know God's love is steadfast, His strength, peace, & comfort will help us, while at the same time our minds and hearts cannot imagine that our precious Jill, Branson and Aidan will no longer fill our lives here on earth with their laughter, energy, hugs and special joys of their presence. We are so thankful that they loved Jesus and are now safely in His presence and care and that we will be reunited with them for all eternity when our work here on earth is done. Please hold us in your prayers that God will give us His wisdom, guidance, protection and peace and lead us in the days and months ahead.

Thank you so much.

In His love,

Alice

## **ALICE'S DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH**

Alice's personal journey with cancer began as a concern about a nagging backache and strange abdominal pains. Alice felt like something was biting her from the inside. On February 18, 2015, Alice had her first doctor appointment. One month after going to the doctor, a CAT scan revealed a 10 cm mass in her pelvis. Later Alice was told she had endometrial adenocarcinoma at stage 4 that had spread to her lungs and bones. With this diagnosis, Alice recalls having a remarkable peace and calm. Her hysterectomy was scheduled two days later. However, Alice's planned hysterectomy was cancelled.

At the time of Alice's diagnosis, Alice was going to the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Paul and Jill, to watch her youngest two grandchildren, Branson and Aidan. The morning Alice told Jill her diagnosis, Jill burst into tears and said, "Mom, I always knew I loved you, I just didn't know how much! I do not want this to happen to you!" Jill tried to go to work that day but she was too upset and returned home. Alice joined Paul and Jill's family, Grace, Olivia, PJ, Branson and Aidan for dinner several times each week.

From the onset of her cancer diagnosis, Alice prayed to make the right decision regarding her treatment so God would work out His plan for her life.

## **WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT GOD'S PLAN**

**PRAYER  
HONOR  
PRAISE  
GLORY  
THANKSGIVING**

In the midst of Alice's chemo treatments, Jill and her youngest two children, Branson and Aidan, tragically lost their lives in a firey car crash when a semi-truck failed to stop in a construction zone. Now, Alice, a woman struggling to battle cancer, endured the death of her only child and youngest two grandchildren.

The memorial service was held at the home church of Jill and Paul. It was a large facility. When the sanctuary was filled, overflow rooms equipped with video monitors were opened so all in attendance could celebrate the lives of Jill, Branson and Aidan. Amazingly, Alice

spoke before this crowd with a peace, a calm and strength that was amazing. Alice did not crumble but became a strong pillar for her personal family and the Christian family at large.

For most of us, a diagnosis of Stage 4 cancer would be crippling. For most of us, the tragic death of our child and grandchildren would be devastating. But the two of these events within months of each other found Alice, a woman of great faith, a serene calmness and a radiant smile.

Alice prayed without ceasing and built a communication talking to her Lord and Savior, daily thanking Him for every day she wakes up and for a good night's sleep and then asking Him for what she should do each day.

Alice's demeanor is observed from a distance, week after week, month after month, year after year. Being drawn to know a woman with such great faith became the privilege of this "compiler".

8/13/15

Dear Family and Friends,

There aren't words to express how grateful we are to each of you for all your strong, loving, prayerful support during this time that still seems unreal at the loss of our precious Jill, Branson and Aidan. Thank you from the bottom of our broken hearts, but also hearts that know Jill, Branson and Aidan are safe with Jesus as we also will be when our earthly journey is finished.

I've wondered what Jill's, Branson's and Aidan's first words were in heaven and I'm thinking Jill's might have been "Ohhhhhh thank you!" Not thank you to have left us, but thank you Jesus that all we believed is true. Heaven is spectacular and the presence of Jesus is glorious! I can hear Aidan exclaiming in his loud, energetic, joyful excitement, "OH WOW!!!" as he ran exploring his new found territory of creative potential. And I'm thinking Branson's first words to Jesus might be the first words he asked most everyone, "Got dogs?" and after a slight pause he would add, "Hate dogs!" At which I think Jesus would lift Branson up into his strong loving arms, hold him close and reassure him he was safe and would love it in heaven.

Cancer seems like a little blip on the radar screen now, but did want to ask for your prayers for the last scheduled chemo, #6, due Aug. 20, 8:45. Will have the blood work, see Dr. Mateo, then if all is good will have the infusion at 9:30.

Please pray again for all to go well with no allergic reactions or problems with veins. And for the tumors to be shrinking, and best of all GONE!

For peace for me as the chemo is finished and I'll be missing the feeling that I'm doing something (a little nervous that it'll be done & will just wait to see what happens)

For trust in God's sovereignty, and total surrender to His will for my life.

And especially for His protection, comfort, strength and wisdom for Paul, Grace, Olivia, PJ, Les and me as we heal.

Thank you so very much.

Love and Blessings,  
Alice

8/22/15

Dear Friends and Family,

If I sounded a bit discouraged yesterday, it was because I was. Today's reading from the devotional [Jesus Calling](#), by Sarah Young was so good & encouraging I wanted to share it with you.

August 22

TRUST ME, and don't be afraid. I want you to view trials as exercises designed to develop your trust-muscles. You live in the midst of fierce spiritual battles, and fear is one of Satan's favorite weapons. When you start to feel afraid, affirm your trust in Me. Speak out loud, if circumstances permit. Resist the devil in My Name, and he will slink away from you. Refresh yourself in My holy Presence. Speak or sing praises to Me, and My Face will shine radiantly upon you.

Remember that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Me. You have been judged NOT GUILTY for all eternity. Trust Me, and don't be afraid; for I am your Strength, Song and Salvation.

This is SO what I needed to hear! And one of the Bible references for today from her reading is Isaiah 12:2. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

And a doctor friend reassures me that my hair growing back can be an OK thing. Thank you Patrick!! My sister was hoping my new hair would turn me into a flaming red head, but it looks to be a frosty white, like I just stuck my head in the freezer and came out covered with frost. ha

Blessings and love to each of you.

In Him Who is our everything.

Alice

And thank you again for your continuing prayers for a miraculous healing and for God's strength, comfort, peace and presence to fill, guide and help in every way, Paul, Grace, Olivia, PJ, Les and me.

9/17/15

Dear Friends and Family,

I believe the news from Dr. Matei today was miracle we've been praying for. She said she believes all except 2 of the previously innumerable lung tumors are GONE!! Praise & thanks be to God! I had picked up a copy of the CT scan report Monday which said the multiple lung tumors were stable with no new ones. I asked her about this and she said she disagrees with the report - sounds great to me!! (I hope she was really looking at my CT scan and not someone else's.) She said my lungs previously looked like a snow storm & now they don't. Yikes! I like snow, but not as a description of my lungs!!

With that great news plus the additional good news and answer to prayers, that my liver is now clear of cancer, the bone fractures are healed, other bone lesions are stable & the abdominal tumor has shrunk some, more surgery (hysterectomy) may be a possibility - hurray!! It will of course depend on what a surgeon thinks about the situation. Dr. Matei will confer with the IU surgeon, next Wednesday & I'll talk with Dr. Moore at St. Francis, October 5.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

Praises & Thanks:

Kathy is safely here, pray for safe travels home tomorrow (Friday)  
Praise and thanks for God's healing touch on my body and great news from Dr. Matei especially about my lungs  
Thanks to each of you and your prayers

Requests:

That surgeons will agree that surgery is recommended and that it can happen soon!  
That God will guide the discussion between Dr. Matei and the IU surgeon next Wednesday.  
That I can be seen by Dr. Moore before October 5 (next Monday, September 21 would be nice - I'm on the cancellation list)  
That God's will be done and He will be served & glorified through this journey  
That the Zometa (bone IV med I got today) will strengthen my bones with no adverse side effects.  
That Paul, Grade, Olivia, PJ, Les and I (& all those missing our precious Jill, Branson and Aidan) will be comforted, guided, strengthen and held close to Jesus' heart as He walks with us one day at a time.

Again I am so grateful to each of you for your faithful prayers, love and support. God bless and keep you always in His tender yet strong and loving care.

Much love,  
Alice

10/12/15

Dear Friends and Family,  
I'm hoping the surgery will happen as scheduled on Wednesday, October 14 at 11 am. However, I'm waiting for a call back from the doctor's office to hear if the latest trick my body is trying will affect the surgery. I've developed a crazy rash. If the surgery is cancelled, I'll let you know, otherwise please pray for the following:

Safe traveling for my sister coming up tomorrow

God's peace and calmness to prevail - at all times

Dr. Moore and the whole surgical team to be in excellent form and remove

ALL the cancer (every last cell!!) from my abdominal area & any other places possible.

That my lungs & bones will continue to heal with all the cancer disappearing.

That the anesthesia and surgery and recuperation will go smoothly with a very speedy recovery, due to God's miraculous presence and power.

And may all praise, honor and glory be given to our mighty healer, Jesus for His goodness, mercy, protection and love for us.

And as Pastor Jeff wrote, "Our lives are in His hands"....what a great place to be. Yours in Christ. Amen and Amen.

Again, I thank you so very much for your prayers and love for me and my family.

Much love and blessings,  
Alice

10/29/15

Dear Family & Friends,

The appointment with the oncologist, Dr. Matei today went very well. We're all sorry to see her move to Northwestern U; it's surely their gain, IU's loss.

A plus of the surgery is that the primary site was identified as uterine, and since this is known I may qualify for clinical trials down the road.



Dr. Moore (surgeon) described the mass as large orange, small grapefruit size. He must have included the entire uterine, ovarian, etc. group in this description of what he removed as Dr. Matei said the cancerous portion was ONE cm nodule!! Praise God, this tumor, when found in February was greater than TEN cm!! That's a phenomenal reduction!

Dr. Moore on October 15 was recommending radiation to the abdomen, Dr. Matei does not recommend that. We'll see what Dr. Moore is thinking when I see him in November and weigh the recommendations, pros and cons. My body got its 4th whack of IV Zometa today. I can feel my bones getting stronger already - ha.

Dr. Matei says I have done extremely well. I told her God is good; she had no comment, but I hope her heart heard that. I also told her she is good too, as she is. I don't think her comment that this kind of cancer comes back and she would be looking at 6 months to a year for that to happen is so good. But that is the medical expectation, not what will happen if God chooses otherwise. Again my desire is to serve and please and be faithful to Him in all circumstances. And wouldn't serving Him whole (minus a few missing parts ha) healthy and miraculously healed be fantastic!

I asked to see the CT scans of my lungs and God's healing there is so impressive!! Oh my, the first one does look like a snow storm, now so much clearer - SO thankful!!

Another bit of good news today was that the tumor's aggressiveness was downgraded to a 2, had been a 3 on a scale of 1 - 3. I later learned downgrading the aggressiveness of the tumor was not accurate.

I am extremely grateful to each of you for your prayers and love and to God for His mercy and healing and would ask you to pray for:

Wisdom in decision regarding radiation if that becomes a choice

Wisdom in where to continue oncology follow-up, IU or elsewhere

All cancer cells to be gone forever, with God being given the praise, honor, and glory for His miraculous healing and intervention in my life.

For all bone pain to be gone - for good!

For continued healing, strength and comfort for all those missing our precious

Jill, Branson and Aidan.

Again thank you so much for your prayers. They make a difference. I'm convinced I'm where I am (feeling strong and healthy) because of your prayers and loving support.

God bless you and keep you always,

Much love,

Alice

11/10/15

Dear Friends and Family,

Friday, November 6, I saw the genetic doctors at the med center who will study my tumor to see if it has markers for which there might be a "targeted therapy" if needed in the future, although with God's healing, this could be information to file under "interesting, but not needed!" I'll go back November 20 to get the results of the testing.

I saw the surgeon, Dr. Moore yesterday and he again said he was very surprised at what he found during my surgery - a clean abdomen, no cancer in the abdominal cavity!!! Praise God for His answer to our prayers. What a great feeling to have the greatly shrunken tumor and all its close companions (uterus, ovaries, etc.) gone, off to a lab!! Dr. Moore earlier had suggested radiation to the abdomen to blast away any stray cancer cells and to zap the bone lesions too, but yesterday he was less sure that was the way to go, at least for now, but did suggest a consult with a radiologist-oncologist to get their opinion. I'll see them November 19th.

I saw the oncologist Dr. Matei October 29th and she didn't recommend any radiation at this time. Chemo and surgery are finished (& I'm doing very, very well!!) & just to be really sure there wasn't anything else I could do, I emailed Dr. Matei with that question. She emailed back that I was in remission (that's the first she ever mentioned that!! - music to my ears!!) & I should enjoy my time, enjoy the holidays and grow strong.

Thank you each and every one so much for your prayers. I can imagine Jesus saying, "Alice, you, your friends and family have been bombarding the gates of heaven for several months now; I have heard your prayers and have given you health and peace. Share My love with others." And I so much want to serve Him however, He wants to use me. I am grateful & joyful to be feeling so strong and well.

I appreciate your prayers for:

- Continuing & complete freedom from cancer forever
- Wisdom & right recommendation & decisions regarding radiation

And most of all, Praise for:

- God's miraculous healing that has taken place
- God's unfailing mercy and love that sustains, guides, comforts & strengthens us as we continue our earthly journey without Jill, Branson and Aidan here on earth.

God's promises of heaven and that wonderful reunion that waits us with our loved ones and with Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

With much love and blessings,  
Alice.

*I've learned so many things through this journey - a recent one was what happens to your wig when you get caught in the rain - nothing!! It just sat there on my head and behaved.*

11/28/15

Dear Family and Friends,

Remissions are wonderful while they last, unfortunately, mine didn't last very long. I began with suspicious symptoms, mild bone pain, etc.

I have appointments this week with the oncologist Monday at 9:10; Tuesday with the radiologist at 8; and Wednesday with the natural medicine doctor at 3. I'll pool their information, lay it before the Lord and depend upon Him to guide me to the next plan of action (maybe chemo, if there is some available, radiation, or just natural supplements, etc.)

I so appreciate your prayers for:

Wisdom for the doctors in their recommendations

Wisdom for me in taking the next steps

Strength, courage, peace, & rock solid faith and trust in God in the days to come.

A miracle cure

I am so thankful for the past several months of seeing God's love demonstrated in so many ways & in seeing His hand in the timing of many events. We know our future is secure in Him as we make our way to our real home, heaven, but don't enjoy the bumps (huge pot holes, avalanches, lightning bolts, etc.) along the journey - ha.

You have each been the hands and feet of Jesus in my life and for that I am ever so thankful.

I so very much appreciate you.

Take care.

Blessings and love,

Alice

12/5/15

Dear Friends and Family,

I saw the new oncologist Friday for the follow-up from the PET/CT scan done Wednesday and he said it looked better than he thought it might - I THINK that's good news? Ha. He wasn't able to tell quite well enough what my bones were up to though and I'm scheduled for a different kind of bone scan Tuesday, December 8. I may soon be glowing in the dark with all the radiation I've had since March! (A little extra light for the Christmas season.) He wants the radiologist to evaluate where I am and decide if he thinks radiation at this time is the best plan of attack for round 2 of this battle. If only the pelvic bones are involved, this will most likely be the plan. If the cancer is more wide spread, then I'll most likely begin another round of chemo. Although neither sounds as good as remission, I'm grateful there are options for treatment.

I saw my acupuncturist Wednesday who continues to encourage me with the news that my energy is still good. He is an excellent encourager & seeing him somehow is refreshing in spite of the fact that he is sticking me with a gazillion needles (I think it was close to 60 this time!).

Please pray for

Wisdom for doctors in planning next treatment plan

Wisdom for me in decisions that will need to be made

Wisdom as I see a new alternative medicine person

Strength, courage & peace as I deal with round 2 of the battle

A miraculous healing for which we can give God all the glory, honor and praise

Continued healing of our hearts with the loss of Jill, Branson and Aidan to this life,

but grateful thanks to our Lord Jesus for their safe dwelling with Him now and forever

Again, I thank you so very much for your strong, continuing prayers and loving support in so many, many ways. I am forever grateful!

Much love & blessings,

Alice

*A new learning about winter and wig wearing - be careful when you take your coat with a hood on it off, the wig came off too - ha.*

**12/16/15**

**Dear Family and Friends,**

**A plan is in place for round 3 (1st chemo, 2nd surgery) of this battle against cancer. And it will be radiation to begin Monday, December 21 for 10 treatments. The Natural Path I saw Saturday recommended a doctor at Community South who shares her ideas of supporting the body in natural ways to help it heal and ease the side effects of the not so natural treatments (radiation and chemo). Community South also has the latest and best equipment we were told so off we go to begin blasting away those cancer cells!**

**12/19/15**

**Radiation Treatments**

**Here is the revised schedule for radiation treatments I got yesterday**

**Monday, Dec. 21 9:45 - 10 AM**

**Tuesday, Dec. 22 1 - 1:15 PM**

**Wednesday, Dec. 23 11:30 - 11:45 AM**

**Monday thru Thursday 12/28 - 12/31 each at 8:30 AM**

**Monday thru Wednesday 1/4 - 1/6 each at 8:30 AM**

**Thank you so much for praying that the radiation will kill all the cancer cells and spare the healthy cells & that side effects will be minimal. My belly is quite "decorated" now with 5 small scars from laparoscopic pokes and several radiology markings. I'm thinking of designing some "belly art work" for my last treatment - connecting all the dots, dashes, etc. - could be creative - ha.**

**Again, I thank you so much and appreciate your prayers, they do make a difference.**

**Wishing you each a very MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS**

**Yours in Christ,**

**Alice**

*Dear Family and Friends,*

*2015 has been a year unlike any other. March brought the shocking diagnosis of stage 4 cancer (uterine that had spread to bones and lungs). This devastation also led to the highest quality of time possible with Jill as she made time with me a priority. We, along with my sister Kathy, made a short, but wonderful trip to Destin, FL. Jill told me her prayer for me was that I would feel loved and this was answered repeatedly through her loving actions and time with me and through the innumerable acts of love and kindness from my Mt Olive Lutheran Church family and other friends and family members. I have been enveloped with love and blessed beyond anything I could ever have imagined.*

*July 24th was a life shattering and life changing day for our family as our precious Jill and her 2 youngest children (Branson, age 10 and Aidan, age 8) were killed in a traffic accident on I-65 returning home from a trip to Chicago. Our hearts are broken, yet I am so grateful for God's truths and promises of everlasting life with Him and an eternal reunion with loved ones when Jesus is our Lord and Savior - and how we look forward to that time of unending joy and freedom from all ills and earthly problems!*

*The battle with cancer continues. After chemo, surgery and a brief remission, the cancer is growing again. So now begins round 2 of the battle (exact plan is in the makings, not yet sure just what it'll be). But whatever the future holds, of this I am certain - God is good. His love is beyond our understanding and although we don't know what the future holds, we know Who holds the future.*

*I covet your prayers for our family and pray you and yours will be blessed with the peace, joy and love of our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*With much love and blessings,  
Alice*

1/10/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Trust you were each blessed with Christmas joy and peace and have had a good beginning to this new year, 2016. There were a few moments I wasn't sure I'd see another new year (times shortly after getting the grim diagnosis), but God is good and merciful, hears our prayers and loves us so much more than we can ever realize. And He knows the plans for each of our lives, and they are the very best. I trust my life to His plans and know my life is in His hands (as are each of our lives). Knowing this, I ask that you (along with me) boldly bring before Him, prayers for:

Complete healing from cancer, that the radiation (10 treatments that were completed Jan. 6) will effectively kill all lingering cancer

Wisdom for doctors I will see Tuesday at 2 (the Natural Path) and Friday at 9:15 (the oncologist) - that the most effective treatment plans will be made

That I will be able to make a trip to FL with my sister and 2 of her friends (January 29th - February 5th). I LOVE walking on the beach, listening to the waves, feeling the sun and wind on my skin - ahhh, bliss. And surely this would count as therapy!!

God's continuing healing and protection of those missing our precious Jill, Branson & Aidan. I've wondered today as I've enjoyed the beauty of the snow, if Branson & Aidan are also enjoying snow or something similar, in heaven. They loved sledding and playing in the snow! I can just hear Branson saying, "Grandma, come on up, it's great!!"

I also PRAISE Him for the good quality of life He has given me, for my wonderful, supportive and loving Mt. Olive Lutheran Church family and for each of you. Your prayers have meant so much and I believe are key to how well I've done throughout each phase of this journey. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

With much love and gratefulness,

Alice

*Hair update - is now about an inch long, curlier than ever, with guinea pig like swirls - ha. Thank goodness for wigs.*

2/9/16

Dear Family and Friends,

I met with the oncologist yesterday & it was mostly good news - the only not so good news was the fact that the PET/CT scan showed a new growth in the lung, but the good news is that it is small (8mm) and the oncologist feels a targeting therapy, a monoclonal antibody called Avastin will be a good choice of drugs to try. I had the first infusion yesterday and will have 3 more (each 3 weeks apart). A PET scan after the 4 treatments will show if it's working. If it is, hurray, as Avastin has fewer bad side effects than the chemos that kill both good and bad cells. And I'll get to keep my hair! I've braved going without my wig now a few times even though my hair is very short and very curly. It's just long enough & slick enough to cause the wig to wiggle - ha; frequent adjustments are needed! So being almost back to having real attached - to - the - head hair is somewhat freeing.

I also had an infusion of the bone strengthening medication, Zometa yesterday. My memory has been refreshed that this is the drug that caused aching bones. But better aches than breaks!! I can put up with this little bit of discomfort to avoid broken bones.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the Avastin will effectively kill ALL cancer cells with no bad side effects

That I will remain strong & serve our Lord however He wants

That God will keep all who love Jill, Branson and Aidan comforted and strengthened and that He will guide us in all areas of life & that we will follow Him faithfully and be a comfort to others.

#### PRAISES

For a WONDERFUL week in FL with my sister and 2 of her friends from church.

Kathy has been a bulwark of strength and help these past several months!

Beach therapy is amazing. Walking in the sand, listening to the waves, looking at the sky - ahhhhh, so healing and refreshing!

Having 3 desserts one night was also pretty satisfying (I gave myself a break from healthy eating, & we had to clean out the fridge as we were leaving the condo the next day. Isn't it just amazing how we can rationalize things!).

For feeling so strong and healthy.

For each of you and your strong prayer support that has helped me so much. I believe I am doing so well because of God's goodness and healing in response to your prayers.



Thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
With much love and gratefulness,  
Alice

3/6/2016

Dear Family & Friends,

A little update, but first of all, a big thank you for your continuing prayers for me and for my family. We wouldn't be doing as well as we are without your prayers and God's help, strength and healing.

My 2nd infusion of the Avastin (minus the Zometa, bone drug that causes achy bones) went very well - no bad headache and nosebleed like with the 1st infusion! Hurray! Just had to be stuck 4 times as my vessels may be a little more fragile from the chemo. Have had more tiredness, which could just be an effect of the radiation - naps have been more frequent again (& enjoyed).

My sister has arranged for more beach therapy!! We'll have some beach walking, sky watching, wave listening time at Myrtle Beach from March 13 - 18 with travel on the 12th and 19th. Appreciate your prayers for safe travels and restful, refreshing time.

Other PRAYER requests:

That the Avastin will be effective in cutting off the circulation to every cancer cell, killing them dead!!

That the 3rd Avastin infusion March 21st will go smoothly with no bad effects and veins veins that will be cooperative with a skilled nurse doing the poking. One poke instead of 4 would be welcome. And may I be wise in knowing if I need to have a port put in.

That the PET scan I'll have on April 4 will show good things, like the new lung tumor found on the last one will be gone with no more new tumors - ever!! Enough already!

That I'll have God's wisdom and guidance in what alternative treatments to use (or avoid) in addition to traditional treatments

Safety in travels for the Bucks who will be doing a lot of traveling -

Paul to Utah from March 15 - 23

Olivia to AZ from March 22-29

PJ to Ft Myers, FL from March 18-26

PRAISES

That I am doing well, good appetite and energy (except when napping, ha)

That God is good & worthy of all our praise  
That I have your prayerful support and love, for which I am very grateful!

Wishing you each Easter blessings. Our hope and joy are complete in His resurrection. Christ is risen indeed!

With much love and thanks,  
Alice

3/22/16

Dear Friends and Family,  
Thank you for your prayers for safety and a refreshing time at Myrtle Beach. The "beach therapy" was wonderful! The beach walks, listening to the waves, great food and good time with my sister and friends were all very healing and revitalizing.

And thank you for your prayers for the appointment yesterday for the 3rd Avastin infusion. It went well (only 2 sticks instead of 4). I'll have a CT/PET scan in 2 weeks (April 4) to see if it's working, see the doctor April 6 & come up with a plan for the future.

I now actually have a reason to have a comb in my purse, my hair is long enough to need it! Unlike packing a shower cap when I had no hair last summer when I was at my sister's in GA (but had forgotten my toothbrush & I had teeth - ha). Chemo is definitely not so good on the brain.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the Avastin will shut off the circulation to ALL the cancer cells (but not good cells) & with minimal (or no) adverse effects  
CT/PET April 4 will go smoothly and show cancer GONE  
Wisdom for doctor in plans for future treatment  
That I will be strong and healthy & serve God however and wherever He wants  
Safety for Olivia in AZ (visiting friend & college) & travels; for PJ in FL; & Paul in UT; and Grace here at home

#### PRAISES

For health to enjoy the blessings of life  
That our God is a God of love, grace, mercy, forgiveness and resurrection power  
That He is unchanging & will always be with us  
For each of you as you journey with me and pray for me and my family

I read this on an OMS Newsletter from a missionary and wanted to share with you as it means a lot to me. Michelle Taylor writes, "There is no circumstance, no trouble, no testing, that can ever touch me until first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with great purpose." May I (& each of us) be faithful to fulfilling His purpose for us.

Wishing you each wonderful Easter Blessings and enjoyment of the beautiful signs of spring popping up everywhere.

Much love,  
Alice

4/6/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Last week was eventful with severe abdominal pain beginning Tuesday evening. I called the oncologist's office Wednesday AM and they suggested I go to the ER to get a CT scan to see what was happening, especially since the chemo I'm on (Avastin) can cause bowel perforations. The CT scan looked OK they said, maybe some diverticulitis - sounded good to me; I left with prescriptions for an antibiotic and pain med - began the antibiotic Thursday AM after getting the OK from the oncologist's office that would be a good thing. The pain and fever continued but grew progressively less until yesterday at which time I was totally fever free - yea! and pain almost gone too.

I had a PET/CT scan Monday and saw the oncologist today. As usual a mix of good and not so good news, but all manageable for the time being. Good and bad, the pain was probably from a small perforation from diverticulitis or very likely the Avastin, so no more Avastin. Good news is, small perforation is healing well. The Avastin wasn't doing what we had hoped for, which is the bad news part of the report. The new lung nodule that was teeny, 8 mm in January, was 7 mm last Wednesday on that CT scan in the Emergency Department and 1 cm Monday on the most recent CT scan. It's growing rapidly. The Monday report also mentioned multiple nodules in the lungs. The good news is that the scan reported the bones are stable, lesions that are there were unchanged, although I've been having more hip pain.

So the plan is to do no treatment for 3 weeks to give my colon a chance to rest and heal completely, although I will do another round of Zometa this Friday to encourage my bones to be strong, and see the doctor May 2, to most likely begin another type of chemo.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

For God's healing touch to take away all cancer from my body and for all praise, honor and glory be given to Him

For the Women's Retreat of Mt. Olive Lutheran to be refreshing and restoring for all and filled with His peace, joy and love and that my words on Saturday am will encourage and help others (Friday 4/22/16 - 4/24/16)

Wisdom for Dr. Method in treatment plan for future

For continued healing, protection and guidance for all who love & miss like crazy Jill, Branson and Aidan

#### PRAISES

Our God is mighty, all knowing, all loving and filled with compassion. He'll always be with us!

For the excellent techs who almost painlessly found good veins Monday & today and scans that went smoothly

For each of you for your prayers and loving support. Thank you very much!!

God bless you.

With much love,

Alice

4/22/16

Dear Friends and Family,

Seems when one thing calms down another flares up. Great news from the surgeon's nurse practitioner - the radiation took care of the tumors it was aimed at! Hurray. So Les and I celebrated with lunch at the Spaghetti Factory and a walk around the Capitol Building (it really is a beautiful building). But somehow I missed a half step and fell down twisting my right foot and catching myself with my left knee and both wrists. Great news, nothing broke (foot sore and a little swollen) and can you believe it, my hip feels better than it has in a long time!!!! I do believe God has a sense of humor. Maybe the fall rearranged things a bit. Whatever, I'm certainly happy the hip not only didn't break, but is improved. Maybe the Zometa (bone building med) is really working too. And my body is also enjoying the break it's had from any chemo regime as the colon heals (do believe it's completely healed now as pain is gone).

So I had a port put in yesterday. Several people have recommended it highly as a way to directly access veins for blood draws, medications, labs, etc. - one stick does it all with no poking around.

I appreciate your PRAYERS for:

The port to be a good thing, work well with no infections or problems  
Wisdom in planning for the next treatment options - will see the oncologist  
May 2  
Safety in travels for all at retreat this weekend and for it to be filled with  
God's Holy Spirit and His work done and words spoken  
Safety in travel to FL April 25 - May 1 with Les. He was thinking he needed  
some beach therapy too and I'm up for more beach therapy time

PRAISE

For Who He is - Magnificent Creator, Sustainer, Savior, Comforter - our All in All  
For visit from my sister, always a boost to my spirits and pray for her safe travels too

Again, thank you for your prayers and love,

With much love,  
Alice

5/4/16

Dear Family & Friends,

I saw the oncologist Monday and today I was scheduled to begin a different chemo since tumors in my lungs seemed to be growing from the PET/CT scan report of April 4th. However, I am feeling SO good & asked if we could hold off on beginning chemo (guaranteed to make you feel not so good!) until after the next CT scan June 20. So that is the plan. My body has really enjoyed the break from all treatment after the bowel perforation March 30 (that was certainly NOT pleasant!). I'm wondering if the fever of 101.6 from the perforation didn't somehow help decrease the cancer activity? Maybe the antibiotics helped too? God does work in mysterious ways. And I have enjoyed feeling well & the short "beach therapy" trip to Pensacola.

Even having the port put in April 21 went well and made the blood work Monday a breeze. My pastor asked me if I had named the port - hadn't really thought about that but decided Portabella might be good since it looks like a mushroom and joined me during mushroom hunting season!

An added bonus of not starting chemo today was I was able to see my dentist due to a cancellation. He is such an encourager and strong Christian & I always feel better after a visit to his office (especially if he gives me a good report!). Thank you Randy Wells!

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

For God's comforting presence and strength this Mother's Day as Jill, Branson and Aidan will be especially missed.

For my feeling well to continue with every cancer cell disappearing, never to return!

Safety for Olivia & friends and all attending proms - safe and happy times

My Zometa infusion (for bones) May 18 to go well. Portobello will get used again!

#### PRAISES

For feeling so well!! God is so good!

For all your prayers and loving support that encourage and help me more than you will ever know.

God bless you all and keep you safely in the palm of His hand, covered with the umbrella of His protection & filled with His love, peace and joy.

With much love and gratefulness,

Alice

6/2/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Today would be Branson's 11th birthday. He LOVED parties & I bet he's having the best one ever today, celebrating with Jesus.

My body has made a shift to about that of what it was when I was 11! I've gained hair, lost weight (hair doesn't weigh much!) and kept the softness of the new hair so I'm now at about the height (since losing a few inches over the past few years) & weight & hair texture of when I was 11! Branson and I are celebrating 11 together.

I think I've actually gained a few pounds back (hurray!! - hard to believe I'm happy to be gaining weight, usually the opposite is true). And a good part of this might be due to the flaxseed oil, cottage cheese addition to my already unusual diet (ha). Never the less, I'm extremely grateful to be feeling well!!!! And I attribute this to God's great mercy, healing,

powerful presence and all encompassing love in response to your faithful and continuing prayers. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

#### PRAISES

For feeling well and being able to savor each day with the joys and wonders God gives.  
For each of you who hold me up before our Lord and Savior faithfully in prayer.

Gratefully yours in Christ Who holds us in the palm of His hand and with much love,  
Alice

6/21/16

Dear Friends & Family,

The CT scan yesterday went smoothly, although they don't use ports at the Methodist South Plaza so Portabella was disappointed (as was I as I had the area all numbed up & still had to be poked the old way - but it was a pretty skilled and painless tech so it was OK).

I picked up a copy of the report this morning on the way to the wellness doctor's visit and was surprised to read the uterus and adnexa (appendages of the uterus) were noted by the radiologist. Hmm, that's not the miracle we were praying for. The uterus was removed and should still be gone!! I don't want it back! I went back to the CT center and asked about this and they are going to have the radiologist reread the scan and write an addendum. I'm really hoping it isn't a tumor he was seeing. I'd rather have a uterus than a tumor. The scan shows the lung tumors are growing so chemo will certainly be discussed next Wednesday when I see the oncologist.

The visit with the wellness doctor went well and he approves of all the usual and unusual "extras" I'm trying that can't hurt and hopefully will help. One of the newer things I'm trying is infra-red heat (heat lamp) since cancer cells supposedly don't like heat. While "frying" my back (bare from the waist up) with the heat lamp, the phone rang & there on my phone was the face of my good friend, Phyllis, from church! I'd never done "face time" before but figured that must be what this was so hurriedly tried to get my shirt back on. Interestingly, she was on her I-pad & had never done face time either and didn't really know she had called me. These high tech tools in the hands of senior citizens can be interesting!! I asked her at church if when she saw me on the phone if I had clothes on - ha. She's too kind to tell me if I didn't!

I see the radiologist Tuesday as a follow-up from radiation treatment last January and the oncologist Wednesday to plan the next plan of attack on these rascally cancer cells. My sister may come up to go with me.

#### PRAISES

I'm still walking every day (almost) and feeling well (Daily naps are helpful) with a good quality of life

I've been abundantly blessed with the love and support of so many. You have been the hands and feet of Jesus with helping with yard work, cards, notes, visits, hugs and prayers

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

God's miraculous healing from cancer, to be used for His praise and glory

Wisdom to plan the next treatment - right chemo

Safe traveling for Grace, Lane & their friends to UT and back & for my sister

A good report from the radiologist

6/30/16

Dear Family and Friends,

The mystery of the visualized uterus in the CT scan has been cleared up in the best possible way. The addendum to the CT report reads that there was a transmission error and the report should have read, "The uterus and adnexus were NOT visualized", I'm SO relieved it was a clerical error and not tumor (or a miraculously reappearing uterus! ha).

The radiologist's report was also excellent - the 2 tumors he zapped are gone with no evidence of cancer & if they reappear, he'll zap them again!

The appointment with the oncologist yesterday also went well. The plan is to begin a chemo, Doxil, July 8, to hit the multiple, growing, bilateral lung tumors. I was concerned since a possible side effect of this drug is heart damage, but he was reassuring when he said he's only had one patient in his 10 years of oncology who has had problems. Let's pray I'm not his 2nd and that he's had lots of patients! I will have a stress ECHO tomorrow at 1:30 to be sure my heart is happy and healthy and to have as a baseline for future tests.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the ECHO tomorrow will clear my heart for chemo

That my body will tolerate the chemo with few, or better yet, no adverse effects, especially NO heart damage

That the cancer cells will be KILLED by the chemo, never to return!!



Safe traveling for all the Bucks traveling (& at home) & safety and protection for all those we love

#### PRAISES

For positive news from both the radiologist and oncologist

That we serve a good and awesome God Who is worthy of our love & trust

That I continue to be able to be active with a good quality of life. I am SO grateful!!

Thank you again for your prayers. May God be glorified, praised and honored for who He is - magnificent, holy, omnipotent healer.

Much love,

Alice

7/12/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you for your prayers for the first infusion of Doxil last Friday. All went very well!! Portabella let the tech have blood for the pre-infusion check (all was A-OK) & accepted the chemo without a hitch. It's red and the nurse called it Hawaiian punch. It did carry a punch. Now let the cancer cells DIE!!! The oncologist said I wouldn't lose my hair but the info I was given says I will. Maybe I'll lose half my hair. If it falls out on one side of my head I'll have a new mod look! Maybe my dose is low enough that hair loss won't happen. I'm feeling well today (Saturday night and Sunday till afternoon were not fun, but I'm more than willing to tolerate that for more days of feeling well and enjoying life and serving our Lord however He wants to use me).

#### PRAISES

That all went smoothly Friday

For safe traveling so far for family and friends

For health that is allowing a good quality of life

For the joys of time with family and friends

For the ever present comfort, peace and calm of our Lord and Savior, Jesus

& His assurance that we are never alone, He'll never leave us

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the Doxil will kill the cancer cells & spare the good cells - & be effective for a long time & with minimal adverse effects

That God will protect from evil and evil people all those we love & especially vulnerable children everywhere

For safe traveling for all, with restful, refreshing times to recharge our bodies, minds and spirits

I may be with my sister in Georgia next week. Pray I'll stay healthy and not repeat a trip to the ER like last year! Come on immune system, fight off those germs - go, fight, win!

Blessings to each of you and thanks from the bottom of my heart for your love, support and prayers.

Much love and wishes for happy summer times.

Alice

8/15/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Just a little update to once again thank each of you for your continuing prayers and to let you know what's happening.

I received the 2nd infusion of the chemo, Doxil, August 3rd & all went well. The 3rd one is scheduled for August 31 with a CT scan to happen 3 weeks after that to see if the Doxil is doing what we are hoping and praying that it is doing - killing cancer cells!!! (and not messing with my brain too much - ha). I feel a little foggy at times, maybe just me & my age & not chemo?

I am very grateful that this chemo is definitely easier on the body than the 1st chemo cocktail of last year. It lets your hair stay in (I like that!) & your body have more energy with fewer aches and pains - all good.

It's hard to believe it's the middle of August, schools have started and summer activities are finishing up.

I've been blessed with a summer of wonderful times with family and friends - a week with my sister in GA, get togethers with cousins in Ft. Wayne, visiting with many fantastic school nurse friends in Indy at the National School Nurse conference and many other visits with friends plus a great bonus of feeling pretty well - I am grateful!

PRAISES & THANKS

For a good quality of life and the gift of each new day - to praise and serve our Lord

For your prayers for me and my family

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the Doxil will effectively kill the cancer cells & God will miraculously bring healing for His glory, praise and honor

That PJ who is playing football will be safe & uninjured (as will all the players)

That I will be faithful & fearless in serving our Lord however and wherever He wants.

Again, thank you. I'm very grateful for each of you!

With much love,

Alice

9/2/16

Dear Family and Friends,

The word that comes to mind today is "relentless"! The #\*\*^#@\* cancer has made an unwelcome return in its relentless fashion & will require 10 more radiation treatments (beginning Sept 6) to knock it down again. I just got back from "target practice" where the radiology techs drew the markings and did the "dry run" in preparation for the real thing next Tuesday. Please pray for accuracy in the delivery of the radiation & that it will kill the cancer and spare the normal cells & that I will faithfully and fearlessly live each day to God's glory, honor and praise. For He is MORE relentless in His mercy, love & power than any cancer or any other temporary setback this life can bring.

Let us praise Him together for Who He is - omnipotent, omnipresent provider of every good and perfect gift, especially that of eternal life with Him.

I praise Him too for the beauty of this day and the fact that I could walk over a mile in His beautiful sunshine enjoying the cool breeze, blue sky and feel His peace and presence. He is indeed good.

I treasure each of you and thank you so very much for your continuing prayers for me and my family.

God bless you richly and keep you in His tender care.

Much love,

Alice

9/23/16

Dear Family & Friends,

It's been an eventful week. I got to ring the celebratory bell at the cancer radiation center Monday celebrating completing 10 rounds of radiation, then Monday afternoon had an MRI of the brain to see if the cause of headaches and visual disturbances could be determined. Unfortunately, the cause was found and is cancer that has spread to my brain. So now the radiation oncologist will be ringing my bell! ha - for 10 treatments of radiation to the brain beginning next Tuesday. He was optimistic that these would help relieve symptoms and be helpful for 4 - 6 months.

Please pray for peace, good results, a machine that will be operating correctly (it's been on the blink off and on this week) & God's perfect will to be done & for safe traveling for Kathy as she will be coming Monday and staying with me for several days. Pray for safe travels for other family members too who will also be on the road (& in the air a lot in the near future). Pray I will be faithful, courageous & helpful to others.

Praise Him for Who He is - ever present, Holy, all powerful, healer & comforter.  
With much love and gratefulness,  
Alice

10/31/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Seems like I'm stomping out fires with radiation zaps to various places where the cancer wants to pop up! Now we'll target the lungs that have misbehaving tumors with a different chemo beginning soon. I wanted MD Anderson's opinion before beginning although they will most likely agree with IU's plan. But why not see what they think too.

I so appreciate each of you, your faithful prayers and walk with me along this path these past several months.

You may recall my grandson Branson's often first introduction to someone would be, "Got dogs? Hate dogs!!" I'm now thinking he's saying in heaven, "Love dogs now". And I can envision a gentle, loving chocolate lab as his buddy! I can hear him adding his little "Umm hum", after the "love dogs". And Aidan who loved all animals continues to love life and adventure in heaven while Jill, the most amazing person and mother I've ever known (yes, I

know, I'm her totally biased mother) is enjoying a relationship with her children, Sophie, Branson and Aidan filled with joy, untouched by any sorrow.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

For good health to be able to enjoy Olivia's performance in her high school play, Guys and Dolls, November 18, 19 & 20 and her Nutcracker performances in December and time with all the family then

Good health to be able to enjoy a friend's offer of time at her Naples, FL home in in December until January 8

That I will be faithful and fearless in serving Jesus however He chooses to use me

#### PRAISES

We serve an unchanging Lord who is ever faithful and always with us. His promises can be trusted to be fulfilled - heaven will be worth all we are going through now

I want to wish all my school nurse friends a great conference coming up soon. I so admire you, your work to make life better for our students, staff and families and have so very much enjoyed our working together over the last many years. What a wonderful calling to be a school nurse! Keep up all the good work - know you will - you smart, creative group of nurses!!

Again, thank you for your journeying with me and for continuing to keep me and my family in your prayers.

With much love and blessings to you.

In him, Jesus, our Lord and Savior

Alice

12/5/16

Dear Family & Friends,

I don't remember the last time I sent an update - it doesn't help having a brain that let cancer set up shop in it! ha. Hopefully the radiation has zapped that. I still don't trust my depth perception & am not driving. I'm very fortunate that my car accident was just a little fender bender and not anything that caused injury to anyone.

I began a different chemo November 22 & will have a few more rounds of it before doing a CT scan to see its effects - hopefully it's killing the cancer cells while sparing healthy ones.

I ran across a few verses I wrote with my first going bald experiences & thought I'd share them with you.

Hair, hair - who gives a care  
Is what I used to think.  
And then when mine began to leave,  
It really did begin to stink!  
It bothered me more than I thought it would to see the thin little hairs standing up on my bald little head  
Hanging on for all they could, not such good poetry - ha  
*My hair is back to the Albert Einstein-Pig Pen style - about 500 wild hairs*  
*Needless to say, I'm grateful for my wig!*

#### PRAISES

God is faithful and will provide all we need  
I was able to go to all 3 of Olivia's performances of Guys and Dolls - wonderful time!  
Also able to attend PJ's sports award program & some of his games  
Have had quality time with family and friends

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That this chemo will restore good quality of life as it kills the cancer & that my body can tolerate it with few side effects  
When my time here on Earth is finished, that God will quickly and painlessly (I don't like pain - ha!) bring me to heaven  
That I will be faithful and fearless on this journey  
Thank you so much for your prayers for me and my family  
May you each be blessed with God's loving presence, peace & joy as we celebrate the amazing birth of our Savior, Jesus

MERRY CHRISTMAS & many blessings to each of you!

12/23/16

Dear Family and Friends,

Please accept this as my Christmas card to you as this is the first Christmas ever I've done NO baking, no shopping and got only a couple of cards in the mail. Low energy level really has affected what has & hasn't gotten done. But I'm so thankful for the energy to enjoy time with family, friends and the grandchildren's programs!! And so very grateful to have our Savior's birth to celebrate.

The reading from [Jesus Calling](#) for today seems worth sharing. It reads in part, "I am King of Kings and Lord of lords, dwelling in dazzlingly bright Light! I am also your Shepherd, Companion, and Friend - the One Who never lets go of your hand...Only My Incarnation on that first, long ago Christmas could fulfill your neediness. Since I went to such extreme measures to save you from your sins, you can be assured that I will graciously give you all you need."

How thankful I am for His promises and Presence.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the CT scan Dec 30 will show the cancer is being killed with this chemo  
For good quality of life  
To be faithful to God always & free from all fear  
Safe traveling for all

#### PRAISES

That I was able to have quality time with friends and family & enjoy the programs of grandchildren  
That the last chemo was easier than the first  
That we have a Loving, merciful God Who will always be with us - forever!!

Again, thank you for your prayers and may God richly bless you with His love, joy, peace and presence this Christmas, and always.

Much love,  
Alice

1/5/17 (from Christine Amidon)

Hi All, Alice asked me to forward this update to you.

Dear Family and Friends,

I was due for chemo Tuesday but my red blood cells went on vacation and were too low for me to have it. And since my sister has a time share with a friend for Jan 7 - 14 in Panama Beach, FL, it seems a healthy thing to get some beach therapy - God's timing perhaps to give my body a little break. Sunshine, waves and sand & hopefully a little warmth sound mighty good. And maybe I'll have a few days of not worrying if my wig is coming off with my coat

hood - ha. The accommodations we make. I had an injection yesterday that hopefully will boost my red count without bad side effects.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

For my body to respond to all it's experienced as God wants it to  
Safe traveling & a restful, refreshing time in FL

#### PRAISES

The CT scan of December 30 looked OK, no new areas of cancer  
I woke up on the 30th with a fever of 101.3 & was able to see the doctor following the CT scan & he diagnosed it is a pneumonia - so happy to hear that & not more cancer!  
Isn't it interesting what can sound like good news – pneumonia- yes!! With antibiotics, the fever was gone already Saturday!  
Paul and the grandchildren and friends had a safe & good trip to Utah  
God is faithful, in control and the ultimate healer who never leaves us no matter what.

Wishing you each a blessed, healthy, and joy filled 2017 and thanking you again for your prayerful support and love.

With much love and gratefulness.  
Alice

1/30/17

Dear Family and Friends,

The CT scan of December 30 was essentially good with no new cancer - praise Him! And isn't His timing amazing. I was due for the 2 types of chemo on January 3 but was not able to have the treatment due to a low red blood cell count. This gave me the following week off and was exactly the week I could join my sister and 2 friends at a time share in Panama City Beach. Kathy had told me about the time share several months ago but knowing how things would be that far ahead of time, I had no idea if I would be able to go. But God knew & gave me the chemo free time for "beach therapy". It was so wonderful - waves, beach, sky, good company (as well as some mighty fine seafood) were all so good - restful, refreshing and healing. God is so good!

I developed some headaches above, behind & around my left eye around January 18 that were troubling as to what that might mean as well as painful. The doctor recommended Decadron to reduce brain swelling from the radiation in case that was the cause. A positive of the



steroid is an increase in energy (I was cleaning the bathroom at 1 am!) & an increased appetite which I need. So it was a good thing but didn't help the headaches a lot. Next was to treat it as a sinus infection which seems to be doing the trick.

I did have an MRI of the brain on Jan. 23, which was good - brain lesions have shrunk by 50%! Again, thank you Lord.

An interesting thing about wigs. You can't wear them in a MRI machine! We thought I was metal free before going into the MRI but the tech pretty quickly brought me out of the machine when it let her know something wasn't right. The wig has metal clips in it!! Who would have thought? She said she didn't know it was a wig which made me feel good.

I wasn't feeling good about my wig this morning - couldn't find the darn thing. Spent way too much time looking for it & found it under the bed when cleaning for dust bunnies. They're about the same color, dust bunnies and my wig - ha.

I have an appointment at 2 tomorrow for labs and chemo if labs are OK. Hopefully the medications they've given me to boost my counts are working. I'm feeling like they are as I've had more energy and am eating well.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

For appointments tomorrow to go well with chemo being able to be given if that is what is best, Cancer to be killed, good cells to rally!!

To always be faithful to our Lord & fearless in serving Him

To have a good quality of life & help others

Granddaughter, Grace will be leaving tomorrow to study in Spain for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

Pray for her safety and that it will be a positive experience in every way.

Protection for all the family with lots of traveling & other activities

#### PRAISES

That we have a Lord Who is trustworthy and never changes

That we have a Savior Who loves us always & is the ultimate Healer

For good quality of life with wonderful family and friends who have been invaluable in my journey of the past several months with prayers, help in many ways in showering me with love and caring. I appreciate you all so very much!!

May 2017 be a blessed, healthy and joy filled year for each of you.

Much love,

Alice

1/31/17

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for your prayers for today. My blood counts were high enough that I was able to do the chemo treatment & it went well!! I'll be turbo charged for another day with the extra Decadron - will make the most of it!! ha

Commented [JS1]:

Commented [JS2R1]:

A little PS to yesterday's update. The CT scan of December 30 didn't show any new tumors but the ones in my lungs were growing, hence the chemo I'm doing now. So please continue to pray that while the lung cancer cells are being killed, no new bad guys will be trying to gain a foothold somewhere else in my body, Thanks

Please pray for Grace's safety and welfare too. She is scheduled to be on her way to Spain as I write.

Thanks so much!

Prayers are powerful sources of strength, help and encouragement - and so very much appreciated!!

Much love,  
Alice

2/15/17

Dear Family and Friends,

Chemo yesterday went well & I'm still feeling well today from the pre-treatment drugs you get before the infusion. Next treatment will be next Tuesday with just one of the chemo drugs (the milder one), then a week off. I think a CT scan will be next on the agenda to see if the chemo is working. That isn't scheduled yet.

I'm very grateful that I've felt especially well for a few weeks now - good appetite, no nausea, good energy (powered with naps - a good thing).

My port (Portabella) has performed so well, I'm wondering if my wig would behave better if she had a name too, so how about Wiggeletta. Latest adventure with her left her with a totally frizzed front. A cardinal rule of wig wearing is DO NOT EXPOSE TO HEAT! Be careful even opening the oven door or dishwasher door while it is hot. Somehow I totally forgot

about that as I was steaming my aching sinuses over a pot of boiling water! You guess it, the front of the wig turned to frizz. Aghhh, I couldn't believe it. How could I have forgotten that heat rule? I thought I had permanently killed Wiggeletta, called the kind lady at the wig shop who told me to bring her in. Fortunately she worked some magic on it and it's OK - Wheew.

Commented [JS3]:

#### PRAISES

For each new day to enjoy life and serve our Lord however He chooses to use me  
For feeling well  
For the quality of time I've had with family and friends.  
That God is love, the Healer & in control

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the chemo will kill all the cancer cells and the good cells will be strong  
Safety, positive experience for Grace in Spain  
Safety for all the family and friends traveling  
That I will be faithful, fearless and strong in Him always

Again, I thank each of you for your prayers, encouragement and loving support over the past several months.

God bless each of you,  
With much love,  
Alice  
3/21/17

Dear Family & Friends,

The past few weeks have been eventful with the most unexpected loss of losing vision in my left eye very quickly from February 21 to Thursday February 23. It seems the cancer spread to the optic nerve. I had the 1st radiation treatment to the area last Wednesday and will have 4 more treatments, one for the next 4 Wednesday's to this area. The set up for the treatment looks strange with your head locked into place in a mask that is pretty scary looking - not for the faint of heart ha!

I'll also have chemo (the milder of the drugs, Gemzar) for 3 weeks on, one week off, as long as my body says, "OK, counts are good." Good news is the lung tumors are shrinking! Thank you Lord! Now brain, please get the message to get rid of the cancer there too!!! (Although this chemo doesn't cross the blood brain barrier, God can cross ALL barriers!).

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Success with the radiation, accuracy with it, and restoration of vision to left eye  
Preservation of sight in right eye  
The chemo will continue to work at killing ALL cancer cells  
My body can stay strong with good blood counts & energy  
That I will serve and honor our Lord in all I do, to point others to Jesus, Lord and Healer  
of all  
Safety & protection for all traveling

#### PRAISES

That the chemo is working  
For health that I still have & all the loving, prayerful support of family & friends  
That we have a God whose promises we can trust!!  
For the joys of life - spring treats of colorful flowers, songs of birds, sunshine,  
inspiring worship services, the Lenten season, Jesus as our Lord and Savior

Blessings to each of you this Easter and again my deepest thanks for your ongoing support,  
love and prayers for me and my family.

Much love in Him,  
Alice

5/11/17

Dear Family and Friends,

There's been no change in the vision in my left eye - yet- God can still restore that if it is His  
will! If not, I'm grateful for a right eye that is carrying the load of seeing for me.

I'm finally off the Decadron (steroid drug) which is helping some of the puffiness go away so  
I'm looking a little less like Humpty Dumpty (puffy face, belly, feet & ankles & skinny and weak  
arms and legs & a little more human). Although there are some changes, such as my hair is  
growing back but with a new twist - in a male pattern baldness fashion (no hair in the middle,  
but hair on the sides - just call me Al! (The Albert Einstein, Pig Pen look was a little better.)  
If my blood counts are OK, I'll have chemo on May 16th & May 23rd. I had 2 units of blood  
May 3 as I was pretty anemic. I was expecting a real surge of energy which didn't quite  
happen, but better than I would have without the extra boost.

I'm doing some PT to help regain strength, but maybe just being off the Decadron will be enough to let my muscles know regaining strength is a good thing & needs to happen soon.

Sometime during the 1st week of May I woke up with a sore, nasty looking wound on my left upper arm that I thought was a burn from sleeping with the electric blanket on. But my sister is wondering if it is a spider bite? I'll send a picture of it to anyone who wants to cast a vote on what it is - ha.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the vision in my right eye will remain good  
That the cancer in my body will be killed and the healthy cells be strong  
Safety for all traveling - Grace will be coming home from Spain May 24  
That when it's time to go to heaven, God will take me with peace & joy - no fear or  
wavering in faith - and this for all of us  
For right treatment & healing for sore on left upper arm

#### PRAISES

God is Who He is - always present, always loving, almighty healer  
For safety in travels and experiences for Grace & those visiting her  
For the beautiful spring - fine weather, gorgeous trees and flowers  
For wonderful friends who have covered me with love, good food & lawn mowing – you're  
the best!!

Spring blessings to each of you and many thanks for your continuing love and prayers for me  
and my family.

Much love in our Lord and Savior, Jesus  
Alice

6/6/17

Dear Family and Friends,

This has been a really busy 2 days with a MRI of my brain, CT scans of the chest, abdomen and  
pelvis yesterday and with seeing the radiologist oncologist and oncologist today to go over the  
results of the tests. Results were mostly good with the only problem found being 2 new  
tumors in the brain. The radiologist is a very upbeat, encouraging person who helped me feel  
a little better as we talked. He says the new tumors are small (4 mm & 5 mm in size) and we'll  
try a different chemo beginning Monday. It will be Monday - Friday for 3 weeks. I'll have  
another brain MRI in 2 months to see what's happening.

The tumors are in the occipital area (base of the head) that houses visual and balance functions which explains my periods of clumsiness and visual changes. So far I have vision in my right eye, blurry at times but I'm grateful for all the vision I have! I'm still adjusting to no vision in the left eye. It really is frightening to know how quickly our lives can change, but then again, reassuring to know that no matter what, we are safe holding Jesus's hand and trusting that His plan is being worked out as He is in control!!

#### PRAISES

There is a chemo that crosses the blood brain barrier that I will begin Monday  
God granted my desire to attend many events of the grandchildren & enjoy time with them  
God has given me wonderful times with family and friends  
Safe travels for family and friends

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the 2 new brain tumors will respond to the new chemo and BE GONE!!  
And that there will be NO MORE new tumors - ANYWHERE!!  
That I will be faithful to our Lord always

Again I thank you for your prayers.  
With much love and gratefulness,  
Alice

8/2/17

Dear Family and Friends,  
The trip to the oncology center today brought mixed news. The good news is that the MRI from yesterday showed some of the brain tumors were shrinking; the bad news is some were growing and there are new ones. I was very sad.

The plan is to increase the dose of the current chemo (the dose that had been lowered because it was wiping out my red and white cells) for 2 more cycles (a cycle consists of 5 straight days of chemo followed by 2 weeks off) then do another MRI to see what's happening.

On a positive note, wrinkles are back. Who would have thought wrinkles would be welcome, but when your face is all puffy like a basketball (the wrinkles disappear! ha) it's a treat to see wrinkles rather than puffiness! Also with the steroid being out of my system, I've regained much of the strength that I'd lost through the long term steroid treatment.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

That the next MRI will show tumors shrinking with none growing and no new ones!  
That I can tolerate the higher dose of chemo with no bad effects (counts will stay normal,

or normal enough to do chemo)

That I can walk calmly, fearlessly and joyfully through the days to come knowing God will never leave me and will provide all the strength, direction, hope and love I need for this earthly life that will lead to a disease free, perfect home in heaven reunited with loved ones and Jesus! Hallelujah, what could be better than that (but I still feel some anxiety about the news of today). Pray my faith and God's presence will take the anxiety and sadness away.

Safe traveling for all

Computers are shutting down, must close. I may have a few minutes more at the library computer.

#### PRAISES

God is good & we especially know that when tested and know He is there  
For all the love, caring & support of family, friends and Mt Olive Lutheran Church  
For quality time I've had with many friends and family members  
For the wonderful promises of God that are strengthening.

Again, thank you for your prayers,  
Blessings and love, Alice  
1/8/18

Dear Family & Friends,

A quick update, I was scheduled for another cycle of chemo this week, but it was cancelled even though my blood counts were OK. That indicates that something is not OK with either the brain MRI or CT scan of lungs, abdomen & pelvis. Please pray - I so much would like to be well and cancer free, but even more than that, to glorify God.

I will see the doctor tomorrow to get the word of what's going on & what's next. My vision has become quite blurry.

Thank you all for your prayers. Love to all,  
Alice

1/9/18

Dear Family & Friends,

I never thought the outcome would be what it was today. Praise God, Praise God, Praise God and thank you SO much for your prayers!

It seems cancelling the chemo yesterday was a mistake (not good). I only talked yesterday with the nurse who talked with the nurse practitioner, who talked with the doctor covering for my out of town doctor. The covering doctor is the one who cancelled the order. My doctor was not happy about it when he came in today & neither was I. I will still have 4 treatments this week but it would be 5 (none given on Sat. or Sun.) I must trust this too is God's plan & maybe my body just needed another day to chill out (pun intended!) ha.

In any case today's treatment went smoothly and I can continue with this drug at least for another cycle for which I'm grateful.

I still don't know why my vision has taken some strange turns for weird distortions and blurriness, but God does & can heal that too.

#### PRAISES

- The present chemo can be continued at least for a while
- The brain MRI was stable except for 2 tumors that grew slightly
- The CT's of the chest, abdomen & pelvis were stable - no new tumors

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

- That the brain tumors will be gone with no new ones coming
- That all tumors will be gone
- That Paul, Grace, Olivia & PJ (as well as others on the trip) will have safe travels to Haiti and back Jan 12 - 15
- Safety in travels for all

Again I thank you so much for your caring, support and prayers

God bless you all this New Year with good health, strength, and the wonderful presence of Jesus Who loves us more than we'll ever know.

Much love,  
Alice

2/27/18

Dear Family & Friends,  
Some things have changed, some things have not since last writing. My vision does seem a little less sharp & I'll see an eye doctor who specializes in cancer of the eye on March 23.



Another change has been some GI changes from radiation damage (bleeding & narrowing of the colon). Good thing is these are all manageable if they remain stable and don't worsen. Please pray for that.

I will have a brain MRI next Monday (March 5) & see the doctors on Tuesday (March 6). I am gratefully feeling overall pretty well and able to do all I need to do.

#### PRAISES

Feeling basically well, content and at peace

Enjoying quality time with family & friends

Knowing we have a Savior Who will never leave us & knows our every need & concern

#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

That God will preserve (& even improve) the vision in my right eye

That God will maintain (or improve) my GI system (no more narrowings in any part of the GI system) or bleeding any where

For safety and protection over spring breaks (many traveling) and at all times

For a deeper understanding of the sacrifice Christ has made for us, His love

For us & for us, a deeper love for Him

That I will be fearless in facing the future knowing He has me (& all of His children) in the palm of His hand & in His heart

That I will serve Him faithfully, wherever and however He wants

May this Lenten season be especially precious to you and may you be blessed with His Presence, Peace, Calmness, Joy and Love.

Again, I thank you for your prayers, encouragement, friendship and love.

In Christ our resurrected Lord, with much love and thankfulness,  
Alice

4/7/18

Dear Family & Friends,

It's been an eventful month of new learning & adventures & I'm here to say thank you Lord for all your blessings and thanks to each of you for your prayers!

On March 2. I lost a lot of blood (GI origin), my hemoglobin dropped (to 4.5 (should be 11-14). I was hospitalized Mon & Tues of March 5 & 6 to get 3 units of blood so I could once again stand on my feet without feeling faint! Source of the bleeding wasn't identified, but it was identified that I have a very narrow stricture in the sigmoid colon (1 1/8 to 1/4 diameter & about an inch longer). The doctor was saying no raw fruits or vegetables - WHAT (! I love raw fruits & veggies, so I've had a few & just chew them to pretty much liquid & spit out what doesn't cooperate (I'm not too pleasant to eat with - ha.) I'm so glad no one said I can't have ice cream!!

At this point my medical oncologist referred me to Hospice - WHAT - it was just a little (or lot) of blood! At least I have all the info now - hope to not need it for a long time.

I wrote a letter to my medical oncologist & radiation oncologist stating my concerns about stopping treatment & beginning hospice, especially since I'm feeling pretty well (naps, the prayers & love of family & friends are so important) as is God's watchful care, presence & love for us. So I had 4 weeks off chemo (instead of 2) & just finished another cycle of Topotecan.

My medical oncologist then referred me to IU for a few 2nd opinions with a GI oncologist, ophthalmology oncologist & a neuro oncologist.

The consultations at IU suggested the gamma knife (a type of radiation) may be helpful in treating 3 tumors in the brain. Community said they could do the same treatment but with a little different machine (SRS - all Greek to me). I then had to decide - IU or Community. The Physician Assistant at Community convinced me they would be best as they had already done the MRI, CT set up and made the horrible mouth guard & face mask for treatment, Tuesday April 10th at noon. They will treat 2 tumors on Tuesday and a 3rd one on Friday.

#### PRAISES

Our God is an awesome God who sustains us always  
I'm feeling well and grateful for each day & for waking up still with right eye vision  
For God's amazing love -way beyond our understanding!!

#### REQUESTS

\*That the SRS radiation treatments of Tuesday & Friday will be accurate, efficient & successful in killing the cancer with no or minimal side effects  
No more bleeding & that the colon stricture will not get any smaller & only get bigger (that will be a God miracle as I've been told it can get smaller but not larger)  
That my vision will continue to improve. Good vision will NEVER be taken for granted!

Again I thank you & may our Lord fill us with His Spirit, peace, joy & love

Grateful and thankful!!

Love,  
Alice

4/11/18

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you so very much for your prayers for the SRS radiation to 2 of the brain tumors yesterday and please continue them for the one tumor to be treated tomorrow at 12:30. (Appointment is now Thursday instead of Friday). The mouthpiece and face mask of yesterday were much more comfortable than the one I had for the optic nerve radiation last year!! I'm feeling well today, looking forward to being outside more & digging in my raised beds, talking to little plants, enjoying the beauty of God's creation (birds, flowers, sunshine, trees - ahh He is so good to us!!)

PRAISES

- For life itself that God has given us
- For all His promises, love and the resurrection of Jesus
- For all the support and love of family and friends

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For continued healing, especially of brain and vision, but also of whole body!
- For good health, protection, comfort, peace & joy for each of us
- That we will each be used to serve, glorify, honor & love Him

Again, I thank each of you for your prayers and encouragement.

With much love,  
Alice

5/9/18

Dear Friends and Family,

First chemo down as of May 1st, next one May 21st. My sister was here with me the 1st week after chemo and was a tremendous help!! All in all, life is good. Today has been an excellent day, appetite back (hurray!), visits from friends, dinner with family. I have also started acupuncture, which I'm feeling pretty good about in spite of the fact that before this I thought

having needles stuck in you was something to be avoided! I also saw an alternative doctor Wednesday who recommended homemade chicken broth 2x a day. So I have lined up an organic free range non laying hen who is going to be sacrificed Monday. She would have escaped if she would just lay eggs. I'm grateful she'll be nourishing me and will thank her.

Another praise, the pain I was having in my right leg that made it painful to walk is MUCH better- not using the cane now, perhaps a combination of acupuncture, prednisone and God's touch. The doctor had said it was from the tumor pressing on a nerve.

I am so very much appreciate all your prayers, support and love. Please continue to pray for minimum side effects and maximum benefits from the treatments and God's healing to continue. You are an amazingly wonderful group. God is in control, I trust His plan and praise Him for Who His is - always worthy, always loving.

Much love and blessings to each of you.  
Alice

5/30/18  
Dear Friends and Family,

Les & I visited Aidan's school today to see the 3 pictures of him and the bench they have dedicated to his memory - a wonderful tribute to our wonderful grandson. And we got to meet his 2nd grade teacher who is very kind and gracious - We miss him, Branson & Jill tremendously, but are grateful for their lives, all the joy they brought and for the reunion in heaven with them awaiting us. And we're so grateful for all of God's promises and His never ending love & presence.

Love in Christ Who is our all in all,  
Alice

5/30/18

**From Aidan's 2nd grade teacher:**

**Good afternoon,**

**Thank you again for coming today! I am sorry it was a little rushed, but I am so glad you got to see everything in person. Aidan was such a special boy. I think about him often and I love that we have a permanent reminder of his kind spirit all around our building. He brought me**

**so much joy that year being his 2nd grade teacher, and now he can encourage all of the students at Center Grove Elementary on a daily basis. You have a very special family.**

**Take care!**

**Jena Kennedy**

June 21, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

I had a PET scan yesterday and my nurse called today with the news that there is a spot on my lumbar spine that will need further investigation. So, I'm scheduled for an MRI Tuesday at 10:00. Please pray this isn't cancer! One lung lesion had also grown (now 2.9 cm)

I'll go for the ECHO (heart test) tomorrow & if all is OK may begin a new (for me) treatment, Herceptin, on Monday the 25th. However, I've been feeling anemic lately with much tiredness (anemia could delay chemo). And I'd love to start the Herceptin as soon as possible.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That the MRI Tues of the lumbar spine will show a benign cause of the problem
- That the ECHO of tomorrow will be normal
- That I can start Herceptin with no complications on Monday the 25th
- Healing for my sister's daughter & her family following the unexpected death of Anne's husband
- Safe traveling for all

PRAISES:

- For all the healing & quality time with family & friends God has given me
- For the joy that is ours through Jesus
- For His love that will never leave us
- For each of you and your continuing love, support and prayers!!

God bless & keep each of you in His perfect peace, now & always,

With much love & appreciation,  
Alice

June 27, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

Just a little catch up on what's happened this week. I was able to begin the monoclonal antibody on Monday for which I am very grateful (& hope it works!!). It is only 1 day every

three weeks. God can make it effective or heal the cancer in other ways if He so chooses (& I hope He will)!

The MRI Tuesday wasn't as kind. Cancer was found in the lower spine & I'll begin 10 radiation treatments beginning tomorrow (Thursday). Sigh, here we go again, but I know God will provide all the strength, courage, peace, & calm needed. And the prayers of all of you are invaluable!

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

That the Monoclonal Antibody will be effective & soon! Ha, I know patience is a virtue - I'm trying!

Continuing comfort & healing for my sister's daughter's family in the death of her daughter's husband

That the radiation will be in exactly the right place without damaging organs in the abdomen or other bad effects anywhere in the body!

**PRAISES:**

For the approval for me to have the Monoclonal Antibody

For quality time with family & friends & for my Mt. Olive Family

For all your love, support, kindnesses and prayers you've given me!!

Much love in Him to each of you. He is our very life and hope! All praise, honor, and thanks to Him, now and forevermore

Alice

July 19, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

Tomorrow will be the end of this cycle of chemo, then 2 weeks off except for a doctor's appointment with the radiologist oncologist to discuss the possibility of doing some targeted radiation to 2 or 3 lung tumors that are growing in, Wonder if explosions ever happen if radiation hits the chemo - ha - that would fix those old cancer cells!! Burn them right up!

The 10 radiation treatments to the spine went well and eliminated the pain in the back and legs the tumor on the spine was causing - so grateful for that!

I'm feeling well. Decadron has boosted my appetite and energy- cleaned house this morning!

I am so grateful for feeling well and being able to enjoy life. God has indeed been merciful. I am also so very thankful for your prayers, love, and many acts of kindness.

**PRAISES:**

For feeling basically well and able to do most everything I need to & want to do (except drive!)

For all the promises, presence, strength, love and help of Jesus and all the prayers and love and help of each of you!

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

For wisdom with Dr. on Tuesday for treating lung tumors

For good response to all treatments (dead cancer cells, healthy normal ones!

Healing for all those in need

Improving vision

Thank you all so very much. God bless you and keep you close.

Gratefully and with much love.

Alice

August 14, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

The last month has had some ups and downs but mostly good things.

The tumor in my right lower lung was given 4 targeted radiation treatments along with a cycle of chemo - all went well & I feel so fortunate to basically feel well (the expected tiredness is treated with naps!) usually at 11 AM. I lie down on the couch to watch the gardening program & am sound asleep by 11:15, missing most of the programs - ha.

The biggest disappointment was learning on August 6 that I have been denied the drug I was really excited about, Herceptin, a drug that would boost immune function but not destroy good cells. I was told that further testing determined that the drug would not work for me. I was very sad!

My sister came from Georgia and spent a week which was great and I've had some wonderful and oh so very strengthening, encouraging and happy visits with friends and family! I am so

very blessed and thank you all so much for your prayers, many ways of caring, and hanging in there with me. I'm scheduled for a brain MRI August 20th. And we'll go from there.

**PRAISES:**

For God's continuous presence, mercy, love and healing

For feeling mostly well,

For the love, prayers & help of Mt Olive Church family, friends and family

**PRAYER REQUESTS;**

For my vision to be stable or better (less blurriness & fewer distortions - one night everything looked like it was covered with pink paisley - very creative (& strange), even my skin looked covered with paisley.

For continued healing with all cancer cells gone!

To serve God however He wants to use me.

For God's protection, direction & help in all areas of all our lives.

To be faithful to Him always

Again, I thank each of you for prayerfully standing with me on this journey.

I so very much appreciate you.

With much love in Jesus our very reason for living.

Alice

August 28, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

A little update from the visit with the oncologist this afternoon. I was concerned after I was denied the drug about which I was so hopeful & then got the call from the doctor's office that I didn't need to come in for labs on Monday of this week as they were stopping all chemo. The only reason I could think was that I had used all the available options & had done all medicine could do for me.

The meeting with the doctor was a little more reassuring. He said some of the brain and lung tumors have been growing, but slowly & he thought it would be worth a try (no guarantees of course) to try a high dose of Methotrexate. I'll have to be hospitalized for 3 days for this. (It sounds like they give you a very high dose and then the antidote immediately afterwards, hoping your kidneys aren't too upset at the assault they received!



I'm thankful and relieved that I can still try another drug, although God's medicine is the very best & I felt His love and healing Sunday as our Sunday School class laid hands & prayed for me.

#### PRAISES

For the joys and blessings of life  
For hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus  
For all of your prayers

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Success with the new chemo & hospital stay  
Comfort, peace, strength, guidance & God's presence for those mourning the loss of loved ones and for all of us.

Again I thank each of you and send you love,  
Alice

*I've had a hard time with the computer at the library tonight - hope it makes sense & is legible.*

November 7, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

The high dose Methotrexate brought some unwanted changes and NO wanted changes. It was ineffective in slowing or halting the growth of the brain tumors, therefore, all chemo was stopped leaving me quite debilitated.

I went to rehab where I regained strength and stamina but not enough that my sister wanted me to try it on my own. I am therefore in another facility longing to go home if that be possible to have some quality of life free from the prison of wheelchairs, restrictions, and rules that keep me from moving freely about. On the other hand, St. Francis Hospice House is lovely.

I covet your prayers for continued regaining of health and strength, contentment, a close awareness of God's love and care. And praise Him for His promises of never leaving us.

Please pray for His purposes to be done in my life and for me to be ever faithful.

I have been blessed in spite of now feeling sad, but He understands.

Quality of time God has given me, wonderful friends who encourage me.

For family who has helped me.

REQUESTS:

Preservation and healing of vision.

Following right regimen for freedom from cancer.

To be ever faithful to Him.

For protection, guidance, and comfort for family and friends.

Thank you so much and God bless you all.

Much Love and Thanks,

Alice

Update November 30, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

What a sudden turn of events life can take. I went into the hospital for high dose chemo and came out totally incapacitated, weakened and unable to take care of myself. It is quite a humbling experience.

I saw my oncologist on November 28th who agreed there is no more treatment available.

My life is in the hands of God's time table. And He has provided a few interesting steps along the way. He knows that the Hospice House is not my favorite place to be and has given me some interesting dreams. Two nights ago I dreamed I was leaping over baby beds. I could even feel my muscles twitching in my arms.

I am continuing to await God's timing with as much patience and trust as possible and long for the day of Heaven and grand reunion.

Once again I thank each of you for your continued support, love, and encouragement. Along this tumultuous four year journey the blessings have been real, God's presence close, and His love never ending.

God Bless You Richly and Always,

Love,

Alice

*Beginning September 25, 2018, Alice Pollert spent a few weeks at Community South Rehabilitation Hospital where she was making improvement in her strength with physical therapy. The next few weeks were spent at Aspen Trace Assisted Living Center. Her final stay was at St. Francis Hospice House. Brief visits home and continued attendance at church brought her much comfort during her life away from home. Alice attended church until the day prior to her passing.*

*Alice was loved, supported and cared for by family and a plethora of friends at each location just as she had been supported throughout her cancer journey. Alice met Jesus in heaven on December 10, 2018.*

## THE PAUL BUCK FAMILY

Top Row: PJ, Jill, Grace      Bottom Row: Olivia, Branson, Paul, Aidan



**ALICE POLLERT**



**Alice working in one of her flowerbeds wearing a favorite sweatshirt reading "F A I T H" with a child in the picture**

*Did you ever wake up with an unusual thought? One morning in October, 2016, I woke up with the thought I was to write a book about Alice. How absurd I thought, I am not an author. As the day wore on, I thought, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained". So, I called Alice and told her I thought I was supposed to write a book about her. She agreed and we set a date and time. I went as prepared as I knew to be. I had a notebook and questions to interview her. After about 2 hours, I thought we had completed my information gathering task. But, as I was about to leave, Alice said, "I have some things that might be helpful with the book." At that she handed me a literal stack with her emails, drawings, everything you find in this book except the back cover and this particular section!*

*Since I was working at the time, this became my evening and week-end project. Not knowing who the e-mails had been directed, I set out to type word for word everything Alice had sent out as e-mails and included the illustrations she provided. Seven months later, we were close to our debut of the compilation. Alice and I reviewed the draft, changes were suggested and some misspellings were corrected. (Hard as I have tried, I know some misspelled words remain. So your forgiveness, is requested.) This is now the fourth draft and surely our merciful Lord will allow it to be the last draft.*

*This compilation began after witnessing the power of faith and a miraculous battle against an initial Stage 4 cancer diagnosis of an acquaintance. As months rolled along, as a cancer diagnosis was compounded by family tragedy, and years were added to the life of a faithful servant, a dear friendship evolved.*

*WHY? WHY was it a mission to share this story of one faithful woman.....perhaps I will never all of the reasons. I do know that my Christian walk was impacted by Alice's example as I have personally watched and observed her over the past few years.*

*Ah, I was familiar with cancer prior to Alice's story. Both of our grandmothers passed due to cancer. Then, our 30 year old brother died with brain tumors, our 80 year old father, after battling for seven years, succumbed to non-Hodgkins lymphoma and our 89 year old mother passed with colon cancer. Their faith In Jesus as their Savior was witnessed by all of those who knew them. Each journey was different but each resulted in a peaceful passing and great witness.*

*Near the end of our father's life, I asked, "Daddy, how do you have such great faith?" It was the only question I remember asking my father and not receiving an answer. So, I continued to wonder, how had each of them passed with such faith and strong Christian witness? Then, I watched Alice and thought perhaps I could find the answer through a journey with her.*

*In my diligent typing I found a pattern of Alice waking each morning with thanks and praise to God for another day to be alive, asking for His will to be done through her and a pattern in her emails. She continued to share the current medical status, then specific prayer requests, then praises to God for what he had done and then thanks to her many prayer warriors. Her perpetual goal was to*

*ensure God receive all praise and glory! Can you imagine my amazement to know that Alice had 80 – 100 people receiving her emails, praying for her and sharing in her life!*

*So, I watched Alice. Her smile and quiet demeanor reflected a peace of living out God's will for her life. She did not only face the gruesome battle of cancer, but faced a horrific tragedy claiming the life of her only child and her youngest two grandchildren! She just kept trusting, accepting God's will, battling through each phase of cancer treatment. Alice walked with God each day, from sun up to sun down, praying and praising Him in the midst of her struggles. SHE DISPLAYED KINDNESS, TRUST AND SHARED HER SWEET SMILE WITH THOSE AROUND HER! She enjoyed her beach therapy treatments and added humor to her emails sent to her family and many friends. This example of faith is not often seen.....in fact it is rare.*

*One of the things that piqued my curiosity was something Jill Buck told Alice to do soon after Alice's initial diagnosis. Jill was an optometrist. Jill told her mother to use Young Living frankincense (specific brand was stated) mixed with olive oil on her back and over her chest to combat the cancer. Amazement....a health care professional was referencing a biblical healing remedy! I was unaware anyone used frankincense today. In fact, I thought frankincense and myrrh were limited to Biblical times. We will never really know if it was Alice's faith alone or if the frankincense made a difference in the length of her time on earth following her diagnosis. But it causes one to wonder if the frankincense with great healing powers extended her life.*

*I have often wondered how I would react if the diagnosis of cancer becomes my personal battle. Although I know I believe in Jesus as my Savior, will I have the peace that passes all understanding and be an example of gratitude, great faith and acceptance of God's timing for my life? In compiling Alice's details it is apparent she spent each day with our Lord actively in her life. She greeted each morning with a praise to God that she had a new day to live on earth. She prayed throughout her days. She remained faithful in reading God's Word. She always had prayer requests but also praised God. She was focused on God and His goodness. She remained a faithful servant, willing to live her life on earth or to go to her heavenly home. In the midst of this she has many family members and friends who encouraged her and prayed for her needs.*

*And so the mystery of God's grace as evidenced in the lives of our grandmothers, brother, father and mother who battled cancer, came full circle in observing Alice. Walking with the Lord, hand in hand, day by day provides the individual the ability to willingly accept God's will for his or her life.*

*On May 23, 2018, the [In Touch Daily Readings for Devoted Living](#) concluded stating, "Knowing and trusting God through His Son, experiencing His presence, and living obediently are the elements needed to develop an unshakeable faith. Jesus Himself said that our work is to believe in Him (John 6:29). With the Holy Spirit's help, each of us can have unwavering faith.*

*Amen, Amen, Alleluia!!*

*Alice's loving friend,  
Brenda Stout*