

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - JAN. 29, 2012

Reflections

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

'NEVER PUT A PERIOD WHERE GOD HAS PUT A COMMA...'

BY, REV. JEAN WADE - ASSOCIATE CONF. MINISTER

This week I will finish 28 Radiation treatments for cancer. The end of the month will commemorate 11 years since being first diagnosed. Over that time I have had 9 reoccurrences, which makes me practically professional! All things considered, I would rather be professional at most anything else. There are, however, many things that I have learned over the 11 years. Some of those I'd like to share with you.

The big "C" is not a death sentence. Oh, I'm not naïve—it can be. My point is that more often than not it isn't. It's treatable in a lot of cases. Ninety percent of all people will someday have it enter their lives, whether they themselves get it or a relative. Not all cancers or treatments are alike. I don't mind if you share your story with me. It's often helpful to have others who have survived be a part of the same team. Please, though, don't tell me about everyone you know who has a similar cancer and died. I'm hanging in there—don't pull me down. If you have a problem, are sick, feeling sad, or have any number of feelings, share with me. I don't know how many times I have found out that friends or congregation members are dealing with things and they didn't tell me because they thought they shouldn't bother me.

Some have also said, "With what you're dealing with, this seems so unimportant." That's like saying they are unimportant. Not so!! I still care. I still give the same hugs; listen with the same ears; cry with the same tears. Never compare what you are feeling with another person's feelings. Each are where they are, and each are real. I'm still a pastor. I'm still a friend. I'm still a mom. If we don't go through life together, we have let cancer win.

This is not the only thing in my life. Call me. Tell me about shopping for your new car; see if I want to go along. Let's do lunch. If I don't feel well enough, I'll let you know, but it better be a "rain check!" I want to have fun. Show me the pictures of your grand kids, I'll show you mine. Life is worth living—not storing for a better day.

When you think I'm in need of help, offer to be there. Be specific. Don't just say, "Call if you need something." I probably won't. Rather tell me you are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays to drive me to the hospital. "I'm off to the store. Can I pick anything up for you?" "I just made a pot of chicken soup. I thought you might like some. Let me bring it over." "Let's go to a movie." All I am suggesting is that you make a specific offer rather than leave it to me to wonder if you might be available.

Well, I could go on and give many tips on what is helpful for those of us who have a few road bumps in life, but I'm afraid I am too busy out there trying to do God's work and having a good laugh at life. So, my friends, hug each other, say "Thank you, God, for this day!" Make sure to tell everyone you know, "I love you". I will be out there doing the same.

Interested in submitting your own Reflection for the RMCUCC to use? contact us:

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