

Healing Prayer Ministry

A big part of Jesus' ministry was healing. Jesus healed others, and taught his disciples to heal also, and made it clear to his close followers that he expected them to heal others as part of their ongoing ministry.

Healing ministry connects us to one another and encourages the path to wholeness. "Healing" is not the same as "curing." Healing is about wholeness, feeling connected within our own body, mind, heart and soul, and connected to God.

When we speak of healing, we do not necessarily mean the restoration of perfect health, but moving toward God's perfect will for us at each stage of our lives. Spiritual healing takes many forms. Often it is simply a matter of being able to give up our anxiety or worry to trust that God is at work. We may be given grace to love and forgive someone whom we see as unloveable. Praying for healing renews and deepens our relationship with God.

We can count on this: that whenever we open ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit, some kind of healing takes place.

The Healing Prayer Ministry of BUMC offers many opportunities to pray with you, whether it be in church services, your home, the hospital; we offer our presence to let you know God is with you. If you feel called to be part of this ministry, we need you!

This Team began after several people participated in Quest Groups on the subjects of prayer and healing prayer specifically. After a period of discernment and meeting together monthly, the group (which continues to add members) saw a ministry taking shape.

A healing prayer station will be offered on the first Sunday of every month. Other activities being considered include a regular worship service dedicated solely to healing prayer, an ongoing, visual witness to prayer for those suffering from chronic medical conditions, and offering healing prayer visits to those who request them. The Healing Prayer Ministry Team will continue to meet regularly for prayer and support of each other and to continue the process of discernment as we seek to be channels of God's grace.

For more information about the Healing Prayer Ministry Team, please contact:

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We offer the following stories to give you a sense of the healing that has taken place in the lives of some of our members.

*I have seen God working in my life since I took *Disciple I & II*. I know God has worked*

in my life before, but I can see it clearly now. I never thought that I could lead a small group, but God has been with me [and] we could feel God's presence... My prayers are very simple, but I know that God listens... - *Tina*

In 1996 I was having pelvic pain and distention. At times, the pain was worsened by walking. Sitting in healing prayer meditation, I was guided to allow healing energy to flow through my hands into my pelvis. After some time, as I was doing this with my eyes closed, I saw a stream of black energy wafting away from my body as my pelvis filled up with rosy gold light.

Shortly afterwards, I was diagnosed with an ovarian tumor. After receiving the call, I cried deeply painfully remembering my mother's battle with ovarian cancer and the anguish she suffered. I was crying for her not myself. It took me back to those memories of her pain and suffering, caring for her, our last months together, becoming closer than we had ever been, and the prayer I prayed.

It was September 15, 1981. I left my mother's hospital room to walk the few blocks to their apartment. I did this every evening to meet my dad for dinner. Then we both would return to the hospital. This night as I walked by the church I was raised in, tears streaming down my face, my heart cried out to God. "God, if there is **anything** else I can do to help her, please let me know and I will do it. Anything! I don't care what it is. I will do it. If not, please take her out of her suffering and misery. I don't want to lose her. We have gotten so close; and I don't want her to go. But, if there isn't anything else that can be done to help her get well, please take her God and end her suffering."

Memories and emotions flooded me as I spoke with the nurse about my test results and cried uncontrollably.

The next afternoon I was sitting in my living room with a bag of frozen peas on my knee, crutches next to me, having just had my knee aspirated. I was feeling overwhelmed to say the least. I began praying and crying. Talking with God about how I was feeling. I was scared. I was deeply concerned about my dog, Josh. Who would take care of him? I came to the core of my feelings and said: "God, if it's thy will for me to die from this as my mother did, I accept this in accordance with thy will."

It was at this point God said to me: "You are healed. Don't worry. Everything is going to be okay." A peace filled me and surrounded me like none I had ever felt before. From that moment on all worry and concern left me. I wasn't afraid.

It was a rapidly growing tumor. Within the few weeks from diagnosis to surgery, my pelvis had grown significantly. All I could fit into was an oversized jumper I usually cinched in with a belt. By then my belly filled out the jumper. I looked very pregnant, much to my brother's surprise who had seen me only five days earlier.

I was told it would take three to four days to get the lab results back after the tumor was removed. It took 12 days. The hospital sent it to three different labs to confirm their findings because it had all the markings of a malignancy yet was benign. The final consensus was: "Benign with unknown malignant potential." - *Kathleen*

In my brokenness, Healing Prayer came and embraced my spirit. I had just experienced 7 months of emotional, spiritual and physical turmoil. My husband had been diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer, underwent spinal surgery, a 3 month hospitalization, 4 weeks in Rehab and 3 months of physical therapy. During this time, I was his advocate,

nurse, support system, caretaker and cheerleader. At the time I needed it most, my spiritual life fell out from under me. I was not angry with God; but try as I did, I just couldn't feel God's presence in my heart. I continued to pray, but it was without emotion or feeling. I questioned why I felt so distant from God. During my husband's remission, Denise Ritch offered a Quest Group on Healing Prayer. I had only been attended BUMS a short time, and didn't know anyone. I was apprehensive about attending, but truly felt drawn to this group. Looking back now, I honestly think it was the Lord's hand reaching out to me, bringing me back to God's heart.

Through prayer, discernment, visualization and conversation, the Healing Prayer group brought me to a stronger more emotional relationship with the Lord. My prayers became deeper and more visual. God was revealed to me many times, walking alongside Dick and me through this journey of his illness. I could actually FEEL God's hand in mine. Dick's cancer metastasized and he was eventually put in Hospice care at home. The Healing Prayer Team came on two occasions to pray. Their prayers and presence brought incredible peace... - *Judy*

It was a rainy day in 1990. I was at Washington Park with my puppy Josh, during a break in the rain, at the usual 5 p.m. gathering time. There was only one other puppy and his owner there. We were laughing, enjoying watching them have so much fun together.

After playing for sometime, Josh fell down and let out a piercing puppy yelp when he got up. He lay back down again. I ran over to him, squatting next to him to see if I could see what was wrong. He got up and tried to move several times. Each time he let out another painful yelp and slumped back down again. There wasn't anything visibly wrong. However, I noticed it was his back left leg he wasn't able to put pressure on. I had been talking to him comforting him and soothing him. Asking him what's wrong? Are you hurt? It was as if he was showing me.

I began feeling his leg and he yelped again. Each time he yelped I felt his pain and it wrenched at my heart.

I was trying to answer the other dog owner's questions and stay focused on Josh and talk to God at the same time. Josh tried to get up one more time and fell back down crying out in pain.

I quickly went into a meditative prayer trance, held my hands over his leg, acknowledged it was God not I that was doing the healing, and affirmed Christ force healing energy was connected into my hands and flowing into Josh's leg.

What seemed like a few minutes later Josh got up and began running around playing with the other puppy again like nothing had happened... - *Kathleen*