

Mercy Ministry News

Grace Mills River | June 2021

Our Journey Of Hope— A Grace Mills River Ministry

members or distant relatives who have been impacted by cancer. Some may wonder if they are more prone to cancer because of poor eating or inadequate exercise. But when the test results come in, many are simply not prepared for the battle ahead.

Cancer care ministry is a **hope** ministry. While it involves prayer, counsel, visits and assistance, it is centered on bringing God's hope to patients and their caregivers, family and friends.

This requires an understanding of the impact of cancer, how people react to it and how God has called His people to respond. Above all, it requires us to have within ourselves an unfeigned hope that we can take to those in need.

Imagine you are feeling afraid, rejected, alone, powerless and hopeless. Envision, then, if someone comes to you and says words that no one else has said, does things that no one else has done and leaves you with courage, strength, dignity and hope for the future - and God's plan.

How would that affect you? What if it changed one day? What about 10 days? 100 days? What if it helped you through to see another whole season of life with hope?

If you are in need and would like to have a cancer care minister contact you; or if you would like to become a cancer care minister, please feel free to contact Kathie Sorenson at skathie22@gmail.com, or call 651-428-7053.

Sunday Morning Prayer Gatherings In The Prayer Room

and we are now able to join again to pray in person. The Prayer Room - Room 130 is located on the Children's hallway, across from the nursery and is open on Sundays from 9:00 am through the end of the 11:00 am service. Everyone is invited to join with the prayer team between services on Sundays, 10:15-10:45am. You may come to be prayed for or to pray with others. Our prayer team gathers each week and welcomes more people to join them in praying for the needs of those among us.

The Sunday prayer gathering is an open forum where you can pray along with others interceding in prayer for Grace Mills River Church, our leaders, and ministries as well as the requests submitted by our church family to prayforthisGMR@gmail.com. There are several resources available to you in the Prayer Room including, a "Prayer Wall," where you can write prayer requests or follow-ups,

Few of us are ready for a cancer diagnosis. We may have thought about it from time to time, or even worried about it. Some of us may have been concerned because we have close family



David Parker

Our family moved from Jacksonville, Florida to Weaverville in 1989 with our three children, Jessica, Lindsey and Tyler. There, we welcomed our fourth child, Ginger. We started attending Grace a couple of years later. Over the years we have enjoyed and been blessed to serve as greeters, offering counters, helping with special events, and short term mission trips (most recently to Honduras).

I retired 4 years ago as a pharmaceutical representative for 31 years and now work part time at the Hospice Home Store in Hendersonville. I have been blessed to be a part of this church where I have learned more and more each day my need for Christ and His love and provision for me. My prayer each day is that He would be my treasure above all things and that through Him I would love and serve others well.

**The Sunday
Prayer Room
gatherings
have resumed,**

prayer request cards, follow-up note cards to send to those for whom you are praying, books on prayer, and a comfortable quiet room to sit and pray, read, or meditate on Scripture.

We encourage you to submit prayer requests by email to prayforthisGMR@gmail.com. This is a secure, confidential email account monitored 24/7, 365 by the Prayer Team. All prayer requests submitted to this email account are reviewed for sensitivity and confidentiality. Prayer requests specifically requesting confidentiality are directed to the Pastors, Elders or Staff respectively and are not included in the weekly public Prayer Request Summary. All prayer requests submitted receive a confirmation email to assure you that we received your request and are praying for you.



Julie Ledford

My husband Jerry and I met as music majors at Mars Hill College. We've been married 43 years and have three adult children (Scott, Wesley and Megan) and three grandchildren (Shannon, Clark and Scarlett). We've lived in these beautiful mountains of western NC all our lives.

I'm a retired elementary music teacher, and play French horn in the Brevard and Hendersonville symphonies. My hobbies include reading, cooking, hiking, and (preCoVid) traveling.

We are blessed to be part of the Grace Community of faith, and are members of an awesome care group. We are grateful for the many opportunities to serve the body. Areas of service near and dear to my heart are the Prayer Team, Children's ministries and Knickers for New Life.



Matt Ballance

I am 37 years old, and live in Hendersonville with my wife Jessica and our 2 boys, Fletcher (6) and Levi (2). I have worked for over 13 years for Asheville Fire Department, where I am an Engineer on Ladder 1 in downtown.

We have been attending Grace since 2017, and have been blessed to make this our church home! I have been involved over the last 2 years as a Flock Advocate, and I have also been involved with Grace Missional Communities, Men's Ministry, and have helped out at times in Children's Ministry as well. I am excited and humbled to be on the Diaconate, and I look forward to being able to aid the body of Grace Mills River however the Lord allows me!



Sheryl Mathis

My husband Ed and I are natives of Western North Carolina and have lived in Arden for most of our married life. We have been members of Grace Mills River for about 10 years. We have 3 grown children-Samuel 29, Rachel 24, and Miriam 21, and a 3-year-old grandson. Ed has owned and operated Mathis Electronics for 30 years. He retired several years ago. For about 10 years in the 1980s and 90s we served with Mission to The World in Zaire, Africa and in Europe. Now, in our 'retirement' we stay busy running three vacation rentals in the area.

While at Grace I have been involved with Ladies' Bible Study, serving in the café, greeting, and working in the children's ministry. A highlight for us is being involved in a small group. I'm excited about this new chapter of my life at GMR. I love Eph 2:10 which says, "we are created in Christ Jesus for good works" and I look forward to working with the Diaconate as they serve the Church-locally and globally.

Our deacons have had several needs for meal preparation for our church families during times of illness, surgery, etc. If you would like to help with occasional meal preparation, please contact Sheryl Mathis: edsheryl@juno.com or 828-243-5749 OR Julie Ledford: jlledford57@yahoo.com or 828-891-5332