



Semper Fidelis

In May of 2018, I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). I selected VCU Hospital in Richmond for my treatment. I was admitted to the cancer ward at VCU in June, 2018 to start a vigorous chemotherapy treatment. On the day I left for VCU, the United Methodist Men (UMM) at Fredericksburg UMC gave me a prayer shawl. The night before I was to start chemo, I was very nervous and had a panic attack. I was cold, shaking and terrified. I remembered the prayer shawl, took it and put it around my body. A sense of peace came over me, I stopped shaking and felt the love and prayers from my family, friends and my church surround me. I felt the Holy Spirit take hold of me and knew that all would be well. I put my life and my spirit in God's hands that night, "Thy Will Be Done". Although the chemo was strong and could cause serious side effects, I received several rounds of chemo over the next five weeks with no adverse reaction. After my release from the hospital, I went to the outpatient clinic for more chemo and testing. My UMM brothers drove me to VCU almost daily. I cannot tell you how blessed I feel.

I needed a bone marrow transplant; my family was tested but not a match. I was again blessed when a match was found and I received the transplant in January 2019. The follow up to the transplant was exhausting. I remained in the hospital for five weeks after the transplant and had to stay close to the hospital for six months. During this whole time, I received cards, phone calls and visits from my church family. The church provided me with a laptop so I could Facetime church services on Sundays. I am truly blessed; I know that my life was saved by God's grace through the hands of the doctors and nurses. My spiritual and mental wellbeing was saved by the love and prayers of my church family. I am now in full remission with no sign of cancer in my body. I have 100% donor cells and no ill effects from the transplant. I have adopted the motto from the Marine Corps as my personal motto, *Semper Fidelis*, (Always Faithful). I swear to be faithful to my God, my Family, my Country and my Church.

*Semper Fidelis,
Bob LaChance*

Scripture:

Matthew 6: 10

Psalms 23: 4

Romans 8: 9 – 11

Romans 15: 13

1 Corinthians 3:16

1 Corinthians 12: 7 – 11

John 4: 13 - 16