

Lessons From a Family with MS

It wasn't the trips to the hospital or the cries of pain that made me finally realize my life was going to be different. It was the field days at Joyner Elementary School when I saw all the mothers participating in the fun activities planned for the day. The relays with wet sponges, running from end to end trying to be the fastest to fill up the buckets with mothers running along side their children cheering their team on. And the parachute in which we would shake as fast as we could, then throw it up and hide under it until the parents came and got us out so we could do it all over again. But my mother wasn't one of those parents running, cheering me on or chasing me out from under the parachute. She was the one sitting in the shade serving ice cream to all the kids that were too tired to play anymore. She would always give her camera to my best friend's mother, Jennie Pekarne, to take all the pictures of me playing the games because she could not be there with me.

This is when I realized I was given a different family from the rest of my friends. I did not know what it meant to have a mother with Multiple Sclerosis as I was two when she was diagnosed. But I found out on the playground in second grade at Joyner that it meant a lot more challenges would face me than my peers at school.

So, how did MS affect my family? Well, my dad became majorly overworked, not by choice, but to pick up the income that was lost when MS came to my family. He showed us the importance of hard work in school and in life because he didn't want us to have to work as hard as he does, not by complaining about how much he has to work, but by his actions.

Like in the morning while I am getting ready for school and he is already going off to work, he says, "What are you going to do today?" I respond, "Be smart." Then we give each other a high five. This happens every morning just so that he can ensure in my mind that school is important and I need to take it serious everyday.

After MS came to my family, he had to start working everyday including some weekends. He leaves early in the morning before I go to school and comes home just before dinner. This makes it hard on my family because he is never at home to get the "honey-do" list done. As he cleans and perfects all the homes of his customers, ours becomes in need of care! This is where my sister and I would have to come in.

Even as young children, we had to limit our after school activities with friends to make sure we are home to help our mother with whatever she had gotten herself into that day. Sometimes we would come home to her sitting on the back porch. We go outside thinking she is enjoying the day but really she had tried to plant flowers earlier in the day and couldn't make it back inside. Of course this frustrates us because we have two able bodies to do the planting but she just can't wait for us to get home so, we yell at her telling her to stop overworking herself but she just never listened.

And the next day we might come home to her trunk popped full of groceries because she did her big weekly trip to the grocery store and got worn out by the time she got home. We grab some bags and walk inside the house to her catching her breathe with her feet propped up on the coffee table trying to get her strength back. We ask her which pill she needs now to help the process go quicker and we get all the groceries inside for her. We go to the kitchen and pick up one thing at a time asking where they all go. You can see the frustration in her eyes, knowing that she has to depend on us for this when she wants so badly to be able to do it herself. This is when we give her a break from the "talk." Which always turns out to be my sister and I yelling and telling her not to do this to herself. We know the limits of MS are very hard for her to accept.

However, through all the pain she has to endure, she has never let depression control her life. My mom taught me through this that joy is a choice and she chose to be happy with her life?

I just did a research paper for my English class on MS and I was shocked to see depression as one of the major symptoms because my family has always made the best out of our situation. The disease has brought us together and made us closer because we all have to work together to get stuff done. Like just a simple task of doing the laundry. My mother sits by the laundry basket and separates the clothing into the right loads they have to be washed in. Then I take the basket into the laundry room and start the load. When it is done I take it into the living room where she sits and folds the clothes. We all work together to get things done while my father is working so hard to make a living for my family. He never complains about having to work all the time. He just makes sure we know that we don't want to have to work that much, and making good grades in school is the way to keep from having to work that hard.

Through high school I have seen a lot of perceptions on life that aren't concentrating on the future and only on the "now." My family has taught me not to get caught up in the present and always think of what is best for my future life but you never know what might happen to you. Some people think that fitting in with a certain crowd at school is the most important thing in life. They lose themselves and their identity and will stop studying in order to go out on week nights to please other people. They stop caring about their grades or their family life; they only care about themselves and improving their own status at school.

Others at Page think they need to be in the right gang in order to get somewhere in life. Therefore skipping classes to break into cars and sometimes even steal them is the most important thing in life. If they do come to class, they start fights or do graffiti of their gang's names and symbols on the walls of the school buildings.

Last week when I was sitting in my Anatomy class doing a study packet, we heard screaming in the hallways. My teacher runs out of the room, while a student has to call over the intercom for the police officer. I looked around the room and everyone in class just kept on working. It didn't seem to affect any of us anymore. It is like a daily routine now. My freshmen year I would have been so scared and would want to go home. I hated being in a place with so much fighting, I didn't feel safe.

About ten minutes later my teacher came back into the room and said it was a boy and a girl fighting. The girl's boyfriend was in a different gang from the other boy, so she decided to take a slab of wood and hit him with it. As my math teacher would say, the hallways are the land of the "no-minds." Now she will be suspended for at least a week right before exams missing all the review sessions. But those thoughts didn't go through her mind, she was so caught up in the moment of fighting a boy for what seems to me to be such a stupid reason. She doesn't realize the important things in life.

Life doesn't owe you anything; you have to work hard to get what you want out of life. You have to make the most of the opportunities offered to you. My mother has always shown me this because her abilities are very limited but yet she can get everything she wants accomplished. My family is built of quiet over achievers. We like to make the most of what we have and take advantage of every opportunity even with the obstacle of MS in our way.

My sister and I have always been able to participate in two or more sports, clubs at school, stay on the AB honor roll, and still have time to help out around the house. We have taken advantage of our free education while we can in order to get into the colleges we want to go to. While also keeping our family close knowing we can always rely on them. These are the important things in life, education and family, so take the opportunities while you can and live your life to the fullest.

Having MS in my family has affected my faith in so many ways. I know God works

his magic on my family to help us through the hard times of the disease. My faith has become much richer because I have to depend on it to get me through these hard situations. When I see my family struggling, I just talk to God and know that he will help me and my family get through it. He always comes through for us.

When summer comes around, I know we all have to be there for my mother, because the heat is our enemy. This is so hard for me because I know she would give anything to be normal again at these times, to be out in the sun, tanning by the pool. This is when I talk to God for help and he always helps us get through the heat of the summer or any other obstacle MS throws at my family.

The disease brings us together as a family and with God. Your body and mind won't be in perfect shape forever, so take advantage of what you have, while you have it, because you never know when it can get taken away.

This leads me to my destination for next year. In school, my strength has always been math, so I am taking advantage of my skill and going into the Engineering school at NC State. This is one of the top rated engineering programs in the United States and I can not wait to put my mind to the test and see if I can become an engineer. I know I will need my faith in order to survive next year and I know I can always call home and get reminded of just how good I have it. I know school will be challenging but I can get through it, knowing all the things my father has taught me about hard work and my mother has taught me about living your life to the fullest.

So, my MS family has taught me that complaining doesn't help, joy is a choice, hard work pays off, life doesn't owe you anything, and God helps in hard times. That life changing day at Joyner showed me the better things in life. Even with obstacles in our way, we can get through everything and live life to the fullest.

Whether my mom is sitting in the shade serving ice cream or sitting under an umbrella spraying herself with water and holding ice packs on her head at city meet watching me swim, she will always be there for me. She finds a way, and with a positive attitude, you can accomplish anything.

Just remember life doesn't owe you anything, it is just what you make of it and God will be with you through the adventure of it all.

Sarah Ferris

Youth Yard Sale!

Clean out your closets, basements, homes, cupboards, etc.!

The youth are having a yard sale on

June 16 from 7 AM—12 Noon

to offset the cost of Montreat Worship Conference.

Items can be placed
in the fellowship hall in the designated marked areas

Please note this year **we will accept** all clothing items:
clothing for babies and small children,
clothing for older children,
youth and adults.

Business Meeting Proposal

Calling Cindy Dillon as Minister for Small Groups

Q: Why is College Park considering this?

A: We have many small groups in our church—study groups, work groups, prayer groups, and mission groups, just to name a few.

Q: Will this be a paid position?

A: No, Cindy will be bi-vocational; there will be no salary from us. However, she will have an office, reimbursement for mileage, and some conference and literature money.

Q: What is the primary purpose of this position?

A: The overall purpose is to nurture, create, and sustain the various small groups in the congregation. A secondary goal is to support the educational aspect of CP, as well as the associate minister and the pastor in this aspect.

Q: When would she start?

A: August 1, 2007, for a 2 year call.

Q: Who will she work with?

A: Cindy would work with the rest of the staff, particularly Michael and Rachel. Her evaluations will be done by the pastor, along with weekly 1 hour mentor meetings.

Q: How many hours might she work?

A: 10-12 hours weekly including Sundays and Wed. nights.

Q: Who has discussed this, and what were their reactions?

A: The diaconate has unanimously supported this, and personnel and finance chairs have discussed and support wholeheartedly as well.

Q: What would Cindy get out of this?

A: Cindy has said that she would welcome this opportunity to explore her own call to ministry.

Q: What do we still need to know?

A: Three things that we still need to know are:

- Exactly what we expect (a realistic job description will follow at about 6 months.
- How we'll reward her;
- Clear boundaries for her between a church member and a staff member.

Q: Who should I talk to if I have other questions?

A: Feel free to talk with Michael (the pastor), Cindy Dillon, Barry Shoemaker (deacon chair), or Mark Fleming (chair of personnel).

Offertory Prayer

Giver of Life,
Some of us here have almost nothing. Some of us have more than we need. All of it is yours. We gladly return to you what is not ours, and we cannot keep anyway.

Matt Cravey

Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving

Gracious Heavenly Father .

Thank you for today. Thank you for this minute. Thank you for the air in our lungs and the blood in our hearts.

Thank you for our families, the ones we were born into and the ones we chose for ourselves. Thank you for the people in front of us, behind us, to our left and to our right. Help us to cherish them like treasure, and forgive them like you forgive us.

Thank you for spring. Thank you for children who remind us that dandelions are pretty yellow flowers, and later on become the one of the coolest toys ever. Thank you for the music of children's laughter.

Thank you for the older, wiser people who are still in our lives. Help us to listen and learn from their experiences.

Thank you for the moments when life is perfect, watching baseball games, falling in love, reading a great book, finding a good parking space, or re-connecting with an old friend.

Especially thank you for being with us when life isn't perfect.

We are here with open hearts Lord to praise you and thank you for your grace. Amen.

Matt Cravey

Paintball!

A group from the church is going to play paintball. The target date is Saturday, June 16 in the afternoon after the youth yard sale. Minimum needed is 10 people, \$20 a person. This event is open to anyone-guys and girls, youth and the "young at heart." Please let Keith Burkhead know by Wednesday, 5/16, if you are interested. We can't wait much longer than that to make the reservation. Keith can be reached at 852-5600 or by email at bheads3@infionline.net.

Spring Classes

Tuesdays, 6—7 PM

The Book of Colossians
Led by Michael Usey

Wednesdays, 6:30—7:30 PM

Yoga with Sheila in the Fellowship Hall

African Drumming in the Sanctuary with Jyohni Burkett

Where's God in the Interruptions?
Led by the Reverend Pam Strader in the Parlor

Baptism Statement

What does baptism mean to me? Baptism to me means thinking of God more and trying out new things. One of the new things I'm doing is helping people a lot more. A person in my class was having trouble with a math problem. I was able to show them how to work the problem out.

Why I decided to get baptized is because I felt like I was ready. Sometimes my teacher tells us to pray before a test so we won't make a bad grade. And I do pray. Sometimes at night before I go to sleep I talk to God. I don't remember my brother getting baptized but I do remember seeing my sister's baptism. I knew I wanted to go through the same thing but wasn't old enough. Finally, I am.

My favorite part of baptism class is leaning about God and eating the do-nuts. I had to interview people about what baptism meant to them. One of the questions from the interview was "What mental picture of God do you have?" My favorite answer was "God was like a loving and caring father."

I remember when Colby couldn't eat anything the day before she was baptized. But she could drink other things like smoothies. I was so glad when I heard because there is a smoothie shop down the road from my house.

I know that deciding to commit my life to God is one of the biggest decisions I will ever make. And being baptized is a big part of that decision.

Laura Kate Ireland

Prayer for the World

Almighty God,

We are here with open hearts and minds. Speak to us clearly. Our lives are complex and the things that weigh heavy on our minds are rarely "right or wrong," "black or white."

Lord we pray with the family of Sergeant Ebe Emolo. Speak to them clearly. Let them find a moment of peace in your voice.

Lord we pray with American troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and across the Middle East. Speak to them clearly. Help them to find courage in your voice.

Lord we pray with young Christians, Jews, and Muslims around the world. Speak to them clearly. Give them the imagination to claim peace, tolerance and forgiveness for their respective faiths.

Lord we pray with the people of Darfur. Speak to them clearly. Help them to know your presence in their dark times.

Lord we pray with our president George Bush. Speak to him clearly. Help him to hear your *_true_* voice over the din of his advisors, campaign contributors, protestors, and those who *_claim_* to speak on your behalf.

Lord speak to us clearly. Make us receptive as we say the prayer you taught us...

Our Father.

Matt Cravey

Hey! What's for Dinner CPC Wednesday Night Fellowship

May 2, 2007

Cheeseburgers/Veggie burgers
Kids: PBJ
Fries Baked Beans
Cookies

May 9, 2007

Chicken Stir-Fry
Kids: PBJ
Basmati Rice
Banana Pudding

May 16, 2007

Saucy Pork Chops
Kids: PBJ
Red-skinned Mashed Potatoes, Peas
German Chocolate Cake

May 23, 2007

Pasta w/Grilled Chicken & Zucchini
Kids: PBJ
Mixed Green Salad
Banana Cream Pie

May 30, 2007

Savory Cranberry Chicken
Kids: PBJ
Parmesan Tossed Squash
Roasted Red Potatoes
Caramel Pecan Bars

Vegetarian Alert: To the extent possible, all meals will have a vegetarian counterpart or sufficient vegetarian sides to make a perfectly delicious meal.

Kid Alert: In addition to any meal made especially for you, peanut butter & jelly is ALWAYS an option!

Peanut Butter

May Collections = 75 Pounds

Senior Wheels Benefit

Senior Wheels 5th annual fund-raising spaghetti supper will be on Friday, May 11th at Christ United Methodist Church, 410 North Holden Road (next to Sternberger School) from 5:30—7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 6—12. Children 2 and under eat free. Salad, dessert and drinks are included. There will be entertainment and door prizes. **Take-out** orders are available. Proceeds go to support the Senior Wheels Medical Transportation Program for senior adults. If you are unable to attend, please consider purchasing a ticket to give to a friend or as a donation to a worthy cause. Please see Betty Withers for tickets or call her at 292-0075.

Thank You

To College Park:

I just wanted to thank everyone for all of the thoughts, prayers, cards, and words of encouragement during my recent surgery and concerning my upcoming dialysis treatment. It means so much to have such a GREAT church family that is so thoughtful. I am so glad that we found College Park and look forward to getting to know everyone better. I really appreciate all of the support!

Love and prayers,
Kristy Amos

Dear College Park Family,

Thank you so very much for all the cards, kind words, hugs, meals and general support that so many of you have given me over the past month since my mother's death. I have always felt very fortunate that Jeff and I found our way to College Park, and this experience has truly reminded me how blessed we are to be a part of this congregation.

Thank you again for all your love and support.

Blessings to you and yours,
Lynn Sasser

It's Happiness Time Again!

That's right, time to show your support for the **Happiness Retreats**. These one-week camps, held in Asheboro every summer, minister to adults with special education needs and their families. Campers (including some from College Park!) worship God in creative ways, take classes, and learn new ministries for their churches. To support this wonderful Baptist camp program, use the "Special Ministries Happiness Retreats" envelope in the May section of your box of giving envelopes.

Bake Sale

Diana Washburn and family are having a bake sale during the youth yard sale on June 16th to raise funds for a service dog. Dice, a 2 year old pound rescue, is being trained by New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs to help Diana with mobility since she now lives alone. She expects to receive him around her 50th birthday in August. If you can help by baking, that would be wonderful. You can drop off goods at the church on June 15th and place in the kitchen. Any questions? Call Angela Brady-Fleming at 288-0694.

The Rev. C. Aubrey McLellan

The Reverend C. Aubrey McLellan, Colonel, (Chaplain), retired, US Army, 74, of High Point died March 15, 2007, after a long struggle with Lewy body dementia.

Reverend McLellan was born December 22, 1932, in Holmes County, Mississippi, the ninth of ten children born to Ivy M. and Eunice Ellington McLellan. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, James Edward McLellan, of DeLand, Florida, and Marvin M. McLellan, of Lexington, Mississippi; and by five sisters, Annie Laurie McLellan Miller of Lincolnton, North Carolina; Mary Alice McLellan Ryan, Memphis, Tennessee; Rachel McLellan McCarver, Tupelo, Mississippi; Billie Ruth McLellan Holditch, Ripley, Mississippi; and Virginia McLellan Land, Durant, Mississippi.

He and his wife of 53 years, Shirley Davis McLellan, had a son, Mark Aubrey McLellan, who died in 1959. McLellan is survived by a brother, Reedy Ellington McLellan, of Durant, Mississippi, and a sister, Betty Jo McLellan Jones, of Dyersburg, Tennessee; and a host of other relatives and friends. He also leaves two daughters, Faith McLellan, of Brooklyn, New York; and Hope McLellan Hundley, of High Point; a son-in-law, Gary Hundley; and one granddaughter, Grace Ann Hundley.

He took the bachelor's degree from Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, and the Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina. He was the pastor of the East Side Baptist Mission, Durant, Mississippi; Corinth Baptist Church, Magee, Mississippi; Thanksgiving Baptist Church, Selma, North Carolina; Shiloh Baptist Church, Shiloh, North Carolina; and College Park Baptist Church, Greensboro. He founded First Fellowship Baptist Church of Wallburg, Baptist Church of Wallburg, North Carolina.

He was active in local and civic affairs, and served as chairman of the Human Relations Commission of Greensboro during the civil unrest that followed the Nazi-Klan shootings of 1979.

Reverend McLellan had a long career in the military, beginning in the US Air Force in 1950. He later entered the US Army and ultimately served as State Chaplain for the North Carolina National Guard. During that assignment, he created Operation Family Shield, a program to support families of active duty soldiers and airmen during the first war in the Persian Gulf. During a tour of active duty as a chaplain at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1979, he attended former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower on her deathbed.

When his daughter Hope was born deaf, he was thrust into the world of deafness. He founded the Guilford County Communications Center for the Deaf and became a passionate defender of the civil rights of deaf people and of their ability to access the basic services that hearing people take for granted. His older daughter occasionally despaired of seeing another newspaper account that read, "McLellan threatened to sue (fill in the blank organization) under the Americans with Disabilities Act. . ."

He was a man of many enthusiasms, from singing to oil painting to ham radio to sailing. He traveled in Hawaii and in Europe, sometimes on active duty and sometimes with his family. He visited his ancestral home in Kirkcudbright, Scotland, and, like St. Paul, he had the privilege of seeing Rome before he died. He made one unforgettable journey to India with his older daughter, where he learned, for the record, the "well-known fact" that there are 72 elephants in Jaipur.

Greensboro New & Record
March 18, 2007

Stewardship Haiku

Called to be like Him
God's giving knows no endings
Plant talents grow life.

Mike Baumann

Blessed with enough
Sharing bounty beyond self
Such is the right way.

Amy Lowrance

Through the eye of the needle,
The fat man won't fit
Thus, my talents I give back.

Kevin Shortt

The mustard seed gift
Grows, endows a needy world
With colossal love.

Lexi Eagles

Grass grows in our yard
Stewardship grows in our hearts
Jointly we serve God.

John Eagles

What we give, returns
The giver is blessed again
Gratitude, both ways.

Juanita Lojko

Build for Habitat!
Build bridges instead of walls
Build yourself for God!

Juanita Lojko

God's gift to me—life
And love, now and forever.
My thank-you—my tithe.

Cindy Dillon

Look within yourself
Open the flood gates of grace
Love can't be contained.
Mike Baumann

The money tree plant
Spreads beauty for years to come
Or dies on the farm.
Patsy Kendall

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Every Member a Minister
Lin Bunce, Interim Associate Minister
Phyllis Calvert, Treasurer
Jeremy Fox, Interim Associate Minister
Rydell Harrison, Minister of Music & Worship
Rachel Luck, Associate Minister Beginning June 15
Georgia Murray, Office & Media Manager
Helen Morehead, Sexton
Barry Shoemaker, Deacon Chair
David Soyars, Organist
Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Missionaries
Michael S. Usey, Pastor

College Park
An American Baptist Church
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Greensboro, NC 27403

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2007 Graduates

High School Graduates

Sarah Ferris is graduating from Paige High School and is planning to attend NC State Engineering School.

Katie Hensley is graduating from Southeast Guilford High School and planning to attend Appalachian State University.

Harrison Parker is graduating from Grimsley High School and planning to attend UNC at Pembroke.

Draegen Scarborough is graduating from Paige High School and planning to attend Appalachian State University.

College Graduates

Audrey Barker graduates from Pfeiffer University with a BS in Psychology.

Colleen Colaner graduates from Wake Forest University with a Masters Degree of Art in Communication Studies.

Seth Colaner graduates from UNCG with a Masters Degree of Music.

Jasmin Musanovic is graduating from UNCG with a BS degree in International Business.