



Benita Kimbrough
Breast Cancer

I was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer in August of 2006.

I was experiencing pain in my breast and scheduled an appointment with my gynecologist. Based upon my symptoms, she referred me to St. Margaret's Hospital Guild for a mammogram.

After my mammogram, I was told to have a seat while the doctor reads the x-rays; if something was found, she'd be out to talk to me. The x-ray technician came out and told me an ultrasound was needed to confirm the results of the x-ray. The ultrasound confirmed some small cysts in the breast. The ultrasound alone couldn't determine if the findings were actually cysts, so I had a biopsy that day. I consented to the biopsy because, at that point, I was very concerned.

The results of the biopsy confirmed cancer. My oncologist explained everything step by step, what could happen with treatment and what could happen if treatment was declined. I was relieved when I heard the news, but also sad and disappointed. I wondered, 'why me...after all the things I've done for other people in my life?' I thought about all the things I wouldn't be able to do with my grandchildren and how I would break the news to them and my husband, daughter, mother, and siblings. I wasn't as concerned with breaking the hearts of the adults in my life, but the children.

After receiving the news, I said to myself, 'I'm not going to claim this at all. I've beat other things in life thus far. I'll conquer cancer and the good Lord will help me.'

I don't know how I would've survived without my husband and my two beautiful granddaughters. They were with me all the way through, from beginning to end. It's important to have people close to you while you're going through this battle, to keep your mind off treatments, surgery, and radiation.

My experience with cancer has been really great. I had family to support me. I had been there for my mother through her battle with cancer. I saw how strong she was, and she's still here with me at 81-years young. I learned to never give up on your dreams and never take life for granted.