

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

I Know the Plans I Have For You

January 14, 2008

Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Change is never easy! What an understatement! When we as individuals, are faced with a life threatening diagnosis, or when God begins to close doors in our lives and in the life of our organization so that He can move us into another direction.

As mere finite beings, made of clay by our all powerful and all knowing God, we must accept that only He knows the future. Our role as created beings is to be sensitive and flexible to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Five years ago, my sister Betty, lost a 27 year old son and in 2007, the home in which he grew up. For Christmas, Betty gave me Larry Jones' book, "How to Bend Without Breaking."

The first chapter starts

with the preface: Failure doesn't mean God wasn't there; it means He may have a better purpose for you.

In this book, he teaches, "Lessons from the Trees," to illustrate important principles for dealing with adversity.

Larry Jones, wrote: "As you know, in my hometown of Oklahoma City, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building occurred here in 1995. I will never forget that nightmare day of suffering, nor will I ever forget the lesson God delivered through a simple part of His creation, through a lowly tree. It was just an ordinary American elm tree, about 70 years old, and it stood fifty yards from ground zero. On the day of the explosion, its branches were severely burned and its bark and leaves were completely blown off. For months it appeared the tree would succumb to its wounds. But it clung to life, and with the passage of time, tiny green buds began to grow on the blackened limbs.

Today, this 'survivor tree,' as it has so aptly been named, is an integral part of the OKC National Memorial. People not only gather at the bombing site to ponder all that was lost, they also gather under the elm tree to contemplate all that remains.

How was the tree able to burst forth with life again? One reason, one reason alone. It was and is strengthened from within."

In our August 2007 issue of Steel Magnolias, we wrote about the "Miracle Tree," that lives in my brother's back yard. Now an update:

Just before losing services because of the Dec. 2007, ice storm that crippled much of Oklahoma and surrounding states, my brother, Gerald, emailed pictures of the destruction of trees in his back yard. When he was finally able to clean up, he stacked a row of limbs, for the city clean-up, across his front yard, about 5 feet high. I asked him, "Is the Miracle Tree



Sharing love through support

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.....
still standing?" Gerald responded, "Yes, and it didn't lose a limb."

The Oklahoma, Elm tree and the Oklahoma, Miracle Apple tree are an inspiration to anyone who has been scarred and lost much of what they consider beauty because of cancer, surgery and chemo treatments

In his inspiring book, *How To Bend Without Breaking*, Larry Jones included a poem by Lord Alfred Tennyson.

Live thy life, young and old.
Live yon oak, bright in spring,
Living Gold, summer-rich,
Then; and then, autumn-changed,
Soberer-hued, Gold again.
All his leaves, Fallen at length.
Look, he stands, Trunk and bough,
Naked strength.

Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., started 2007, knowing God was changing the direction of our group. One sure direction was the principle on which we were founded 'The Prayer of Jabez.' Our only prayer to God has been: "God, this is your work, show us where we go from here." We continued to be faithful to serve local women hurt by breast cancer, as well as relatives of local people, regardless of their address.

As we begin the year 2008, we Steel Magnolias are humbled and thankful for the work God is doing through our organization. Our services are: Care Packages to newly diagnosed patients, Steel Magnolias' Chaplain (256) 488-5505, Group Meetings (256) 832-2595 or (256) 447-9822, Dining vouchers, Benevolent Closet and follow-up (256) 435-4060, Monthly Newsletter, Web-site <www.steelmagnoliasinc.org>, RMC West Office (256) 231-8827, Men of Steel (256) 463-7620 and Breast Cancer Awareness Program.

Through the RMC Chaplain's office, we print and mail our monthly newsletters, maintain our RMC West office, and hold our fourth Tuesday meetings at The Tyler Center. We also furnish local patients with wigs, prosthesis and mastectomy bras through our Benevolent Closet, located in the Tyler Center. Steel Magnolias are grateful to RMC and Chaplain Wilson for their partnership in providing better community service to our local patients. The Tuesday Bear Huggers make it possible for us to offer beautiful, recovery, comfort packages and cosmetic bags that are furnished by Quintard Mall Avon Beauty Center.

At the beginning of 2007, our website was in its infancy, now we are on Google's first page. We are starting an awareness program for 7th-12th grade girls, we have started "Men of Steel," we have launched a campaign to close the unfair and inequitable loophole in Medicaid, and we are making quarterly contributions to Anniston Oncology for transportation of stranded patients.

We cannot give enough thanks to our faithful contributors for making this ministry possible. The Swinging Stars Square Dance Club, every October, sponsors the Steel Magnolias' Benefit. Throughout the year other businesses and individuals are faithful to contribute to help local cancer patients. There surely will be many crowns in Glory for these caring individuals, clubs, and businesses.

Can You Help My Niece?

The day before Thanksgiving, I received an Email, from a young woman, that drove home the gravity of the disastrous results of the loophole in Alabama's 2001 Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act. She wrote, "I am a 28 year old mother of two, and was just diagnosed with stage III Breast Cancer. My uncle lives in Anniston and has given this link to you ladies. I live 30 miles north of Birmingham and all my treatments are at Brookwood Medical Center. Can you still help me?" Thank you.....Empire

After several exchanges of email, I learned that this patient didn't have health insurance. At this point I told her about the loophole in Medicaid. Her reply really says it all: "What a terrible loophole! How many people are going to the Health Department to get diagnosed for breast cancer? Most women are going to their OBGYN. How is that helping anyone? I would love to have the letter you mentioned to submit to governor and reps."

Thanks to Rhonda Allen's sister, Hinton Mitchell, of Marshal County, has received many Legal Loophole letters.

He, we trust is looking into this injustice.

Steel Magnolias encourages everyone to make their voices heard. By working together, this cruel policy can be changed to cover all financially qualifying patients, regardless of where they are diagnosed.

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision, the people perish

James 2:14-17

What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith and has not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you says unto them, depart in peace, be warmed and filled; notwithstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit?

As expensive as medical care is today, no one can offer to pay the cost of treating cancer. I believe, however, that James, in the above passage, intends that the church be ready to step up to the plate and do whatever possible to see that the least among us have their needs met. It is unethical to be willing to establish a program to pay for treating breast and cervical cancer for uninsured women, who meet financial guidelines, keep it hidden, and establish a loop-hole that anyone, regardless of their poverty, who doesn't go to a certain clinic for screening will be ineligible for coverage under that plan. That is exactly what the Alabama legislature did in 2001. If Lena lived in a state, either to the east, Georgia, or to the west, Mississippi, she would qualify for help under the 2001 Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Act.

CLOSE THE GAP

Anyone with a computer and internet service, can read on the Susan G. Komen For the Cure website, on the Komen Policy page, how outraged the Komen Foundation is. "One more is too many-Close The Gap! It is unethical to screen a woman for breast cancer and then provide her no viable options for treatments. Across this country, in 21 states, women are being denied life-saving breast cancer treatments based solely on where they were diagnosed. Because of these gaps in our health care system, this diagnosis could be much deadlier for the poor and those with little or no insurance. It's a national shame."

Gone But Not Forgotten

In the same week, two families, with connections to Steel Magnolias, each lost an incredible woman. Each of these women, because of their diagnosis of breast cancer, sought to ease the suffering of others. Following their journey with breast cancer, they each lived many years and were revered by their family and friends.

Mrs. Martha Hooton Barker 10-6-1915 —11-26-2007

Mrs. Barker, who was a breast cancer survivor since 1966, had an incredible spirit! Thomas Barker, whom she called, "The Hero of My Years," passed away on June 29, 2004. She was a poet and continued to write beautiful verse, even into her nineties. As a fundraiser for Steel Magnolias, she compiled a paper back collection of her poems, "Times of the Heart." In 2005, Mrs. Barker was our special guest at the Pink Ribbon Ball. Dr. James Daniel and Lenora Johnson presented her with an honorary, membership in Steel Magnolias. Mrs. Barker, who lived in Chattanooga, said that was one of her most treasured moments. Upon her passing, Mrs. Barker's family requested that memorial gifts be given to Steel Magnolias.

To The Love of My Life

(Thomas L. Barker 1934)

The thought of you, my love, and all you mean to me
Is like a song in my heart, a sweet symphony,
That never ceases playing, but fills my life
With throbbing melody, erasing care and strife.
Music of infinite beauty, now soft and low, then higher,
Growing wild and free, aflame with passion and desire.
Martha Hooton Barker

Remembrance

The things you loved I have not laid away
To mildew in the darkness year by year.
The songs you sang, the books you read each day
Are all about me, intimate and dear.
I do not keep your chair a thing apart,
Lonely and empty, desolate to view,
For if one comes aweary, sick at heart,
I seat him there and comfort him, for you.
Martha Hooton Barker

Heaven Bound

Ol' time you're a robber
Who ransacks my years
And flees with my childhood and
Leaves me with fears
That the future you hold brings too many tears.
But I'm reminded, this fact can't be rescinded,
Though you carry my days on your wings as you flee,
The Lord holds my life in eternity.
Martha Hooton Barker

Mrs. Martha Hooton Barker was an inspiration to everyone who was blessed enough to meet her.

Mrs. Hazel Burke 3-4-32—12-3-2007

Mrs. Burke, a breast cancer survivor since 1977, was diagnosed by Dr. James West. In a testimony at our November 2006, meeting, Hazel told our group that Dr. West advised her to get busy helping other women with breast cancer. For several years Mrs. Burke, as a representative of Reach To Recovery, visited breast cancer patients hospitalized in Anniston. The day of the funeral, Mr. Burke told Marti Warren that Hazel loved being a Steel Magnolia. We loved Hazel and are grateful for her contributions to the support of local breast cancer patients.

Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., made contributions to Komen Alabama in memory of Mrs. Hazel Burke and Mrs. Martha Hooton Barker. They will be missed!

It would be wonderful if every cancer patient could expect to live and have the opportunity to bless others with many years of service. However, we know that not all cancer patients, whether it be breast, colon, lung, or any other cancer, experiences this outcome. Research is improving the odds, every few months, some new finding makes headlines.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Recently, from Susan G. Komen For The Cure, I received an Email about Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Since my diagnosis in September of 1999, I've read with great interest, every article about new tests to find cancer and every new treatment. Every article about treating breast cancer, has been about hormone receptor positive tumors.

Recent studies have shed more light on hormone receptor negative tumors. There are many questions yet to be answered but the Nurses Health Study and the Women's Health Initiative provided data that at least suggests that risk factors might be different for the different subtypes of breast cancer. Several years ago, Dr. Fussell told us, that breast cancer is the most complicated of women's common diseases. That seems to be an understatement!

What every study I've read suggest: Estrogen Receptor Negative-Poorly Differentiated tumors are more likely to be linked to BRCA 1 gene mutation and, if not diagnosed early, have a lower survivability.

At the time of my diagnosis of estrogen receptor negative-poorly differentiated breast cancer, I was of the belief that

I was the first in my family to be diagnosed. I later learned that two of Dad's sisters had breast cancer. I learned this year that I am one of three, paternal first cousins to be diagnosed with breast cancer. While I have not yet had any genetic testing, five close relatives are very suspicious.

The important thing to know, and to know absolutely, is that with early detection, you have a 100% better odds of being declared cancer free. Even though I was diagnosed with a most serious cancer cell, because of early detection, surgery on October 6, 1999, by Dr. Wesley Smith and follow-up with chemotherapy, by Dr. Ellen Spremulli, I celebrated, on Oct. 6, 2007, my 8th birthday of being cancer free. I thank God for the advances in treating cancer. It is a gift, but we have to make appointments and get tested regularly for any new technology to make a difference in our lives.

Because I believe knowledge is power and we can fight harder against a known enemy, I will continue to write periodic updates on this subject. Also, I will encourage Keither, our program director, to schedule a future meeting with Dr. Fussell.

November 2007 Group Meeting

The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., met on November 27th at 5:00 p.m. at the Tyler Center. Chaplain Ina Rooks, gave each one present, a copy of the prayer list and Lenora Johnson gave several members, letters she had written to Steel Magnolias when they were first diagnosed with breast cancer. As these letters were read, they served to remind us of where we were and where we are now on our journey of recovery. They also affirmed once again that the mission of Steel Magnolias is being fulfilled. Ina then read a very moving poem and prayed for those on our list and blessed our food.

The Steel Magnolias and The Men of Steel enjoyed a delicious dinner together.

Business Meeting

President, Marti Warren called the meeting to order. The minutes were read by Margaret Taylor and approved with one correction. Nancy Burnell gave the financial report. The quest club donated \$100. Motion by Gloria Woosley to accept report, seconded by Keither Zeimet. The motion was approved.

Lenora reported that Marie Harbin's condition is serious. Because of her inability to tolerate therapy at Jacksonville Rehabilitation Center, Marie was readmitted to RMC. (Note: Currently, Marie is in Jacksonville Rehab Center)

Correspondence: We received a thank you note from The American Cancer Society for \$100, given in honor of Pam Bussey. (This \$100 was a portion given to Steel Magnolias by The Wound Healing Center in honor of Pam, with the stipulation that a portion go to The American Cancer Society.)

Marti told us about a pamphlet she received from Avon, entitled, "Breast Health Resource Guide." This pamphlet included a list of U.S. Facts as well as a listing of major cancer hospitals throughout the United States.

New Business: None

Old Business: (1) It was announced that there is a Relief Fund set up for Janet Reese, at Region's Bank, for anyone that would like to contribute. This account was established because we felt it would be more helpful than a Shower or Tea. (2) Everyone was reminded about our Dec. 8, 2007 Christmas party, 10:00 a.m. at Oxford Shoney's. Everyone bring a gift suitable for a man or woman in the amount of \$10. (3) Lenora mentioned the tour of representatives from The Susan G. Komen Foundation, coming to Atlanta in June. Perhaps we can arrange to go. (4) We will check with chaplain Wilson concerning the Taxi Program. (5) There was discussion about sending a \$100 quarterly contribution to Dr. Fussell's office for the Angel Transportation Fund. Move to send the donation by Nancy Burnell, seconded by Keither Zeimet. Motion was approved. (6) There was discussion about sending \$200 to the Tuesday Bear Huggers to help with the cost of all the work they do for us. Move to send donation by Lenora Johnson, second by Ina Rooks. Motion approved.

Lenora presented beautiful plaques of recognition to several members.....Several door prizes were given and the meeting was then adjourned. Move to adjourn by Nancy Burnell, seconded by Ina Rooks. Motion approved.

Financial Report

November		Balance Brought forward \$6,653.36
01- 100.00	Lenora Johnson: Monthly expenses	6,553.36
02- 67.37	Reimbursement to Pam Bussey for pizzas at Oct. 23 meeting	6,485.99
05- 68.05	Checks (BB&T) ordered in October...Came out on Nov. statement	6,417.94
09- 116.19	Reimbursement to Lenora Johnson (Supplies from Office Max)	6,301.75
21- 81.00	Nunnally's Framing (7 frames, mats & glass)	6,220.75
27- 100.00	Anniston Oncology (Donation to angel Transportation Fund)	6,120.75
27- 64.00	Reimbursement to Lenora (Bows made by Evans' Florist for Cal. Co. Schools...Breast Cancer Awareness Month	6,056.75
27- 200.00	Tuesday Bear Huggers (To Help with supplies for packages they provide to Steel Magnolias for Care Packages)	5,856.75
27- 7.83	Reimbursement to Gladys Denizard for Stamp, Pad and Ink she purchased from Higginbotham Printing	5,848.92
28+ 1288.03	500-From Silent Auction/Swinging Stars Benefit....500-From RAJ Sales At Silent auction/Swinging Stars Benefit....100-From Oxford Quest Club....100-Donation from Lenora Johnson in honor of Wanda Bright (purchase of 17 jewel finger watch)....50-In honor of Wanda Bright (Halie and Sarah's contribution jar at Unique Boutique)....8-Reimbursement for "Bows" provided to Alexandria HS & Elem.S....8-Same as above for Weaver HS & Elem. S....2.11-Loose Change	7,137.03
December	Balance Brought Forward	7,137.08
01- 100.00	Lenora Johnson-Monthly Expenses	7,037.08
12- 100.00	Marti Warren-Reimbursement for group Christmas present to Monet for Lenora Johnson	6,937.08
13- 100.00	Susan G. Komen Foundation: Memorial for Hazel Burke & Martha Hooton Barker (\$50 each)	
31+ 325.00	300 RAJ from Warren Family Affair.....25 from Ruth C. Hutto in memory of Martha Hooton Barker	6,837.03

Christmas Party

Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group gathered at 10:00 a.m. on December 8, 2007, at Shoney's in Oxford for our annual Christmas party. We had a good group, including some who have been away because of travel and other family issues. We were also delighted to have Sandy and Jimmy Barker share their first Christmas with Steel Magnolias. Of course we were delighted to have our Steel Magnolias Jester, Hazel, who closed our fun party with a great joke. We shared food, fun, gifts and well wishes with each other. It was a great day and I think everyone was happy to have been a part of this celebration. Now, a laugh from our Jester:

My Wife

Three men were talking about how obedient their wives are. The first man said, "My wife does everything I want done: The food I want, when I want it, my bath drawn, house clean and everything where I tell her." The second man said, "You know, the Bible says a woman is supposed to serve her husband and my wife lives only to please me." The third man said, "Why, I had my wife down on her knees this morning." His friends said, "What did she say?" He replied, "You dirty, stinking coward, come out from under that bed!"

Correspondence

Dear Steel Magnolias, Thank you for your support and for the donation in Mother's name. Laura Taylor Panneton... Sylacauga, AL

I received my care package. It is beautiful, appreciated, I'm ecstatic over it. I'm about to step out and go to the drug store for some medicine. Got my port put in yesterday. I'm going to try and make it to the next meeting.

Love Y'all, CynthiaAnniston, AL

I appreciate you ladies helping me. Sometimes I'm not sure of the next step to take and I'm searching for answers where none can be found. I know there's no protocol or rule book to read concerning breast cancer and I feel confused a lot of the time. Especially in my age group, there seems to be little support. I have many women that I go to church with who are breast cancer survivors, but most of them are at least 20 years older than me. I'm sure you can understand my feelings of isolation.

28 year old...Empire, AL

Hi Lenora, Thank you for being so concerned. I live 30 minutes north of Birmingham and all my treatments are at Brookwood Medical Center. Can you still help me?...Empire, AL

(Note) This patient is a 28 year old mother of a 1 year old daughter and a 4 year old son. She has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer and is one of Alabama's precious uninsured patients who slipped through the AL Medicaid loop-hole.)

I have a very dear friend who has been battling breast cancer for a year. She has already had her surgery and is now taking follow up treatment once a week. It has been a terribly rough year for her. Please, please, please help me help her!!

31 year old....Arab, AL

Hello, my friend, contacted you yesterday. I would be happy to get in contact with others my age. I feel so alone. I lost one friend I found that was my age. Thanks,Arab, AL

(Note) I asked several patients who are very young, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, who Emailed us, to provide support via the internet for each other, and our very own Rhonda of Oxford is our daily connection to these beautiful young mothers and wives. Since being placed on Google's first page, our site is a support system.) The following is a response from Rhonda.

Hey there friend of mine, I hope you are doing fine. Thank you for referring the young website patients to me. Just wanted to let you know that we I email each other a couple of times a day. I feel like I help a little. Rhonda,.....Oxford, AL

(Note) Rhonda, who has a God given gift of communication, is new to Steel Magnolias, has just completed chemo and was our most effective agent for the Silent Auction. God bless you, Rhonda! Thanks for having such a caring spirit. I love you, my friend....Lenora)

No problem, I'll send her an Email right now. I am happy to help anyone. If I can help with anyone or anything else, please don't hesitate to ask! Happy New Year....Pelham, AL **(This Email came from a 29 year old, who 1 year earlier, was newly diagnosed and has recently completed her own battle with breast cancer. Her reply to my request is evidence of her appreciation of Steel Magnolias.)**

Steel Magnolias is deeply grateful to survivors who are willing to take on the "Mantle" and reach out to newly diagnosed Breast cancer patients.

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, January 22: Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel Meetings....5:00 p.m. Tyler Center, Meeting Room Behind Deli...Please Bring Your Favorite Salad...Following Food and fellowship Men of Steel will go to Separate Meeting Area

Monday, February 18: Lenora Johnson and Nancy Burnell will be Guests Speakers at "Women on Mission" Meeting, 5:30 p.m., at Parker Memorial Baptist Church

Tuesday, February 26: Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel Meetings....5:00 p.m. Tyler Center, Meeting Room Behind Deli....Imaging Dept. Director, Nick Kaufman will lead Steel Magnolias in a Tour of the RMC Imaging Dept. Discussion and Snacks Following this Educational Jaunt.

Here Goes! Pokey's Page

Fishing On Sunday

A village pastor, known for his weakness for trout, preached against fishing on Sunday. The next day one of his members presented him with a fine string of fish and said hesitatingly, "I guess I ought to tell you, parson, that those trout were caught on Sunday." The minister hesitated, gazed appreciatively at the speckled trout and then said piously as he reached for his gift, "The fish aren't to blame for that."

Undercover Clergy

A minister, a priest and a rabbi went for a hike one day. It was very hot. They were sweating and exhausted when they came upon a small lake. Since it was fairly secluded, they took off their clothes and jumped in the water. Feeling refreshed, the trio decided to pick a few berries while enjoying their "freedom." As they were crossing an open area, who should come along but a group of ladies from town. Unable to get to their clothes in time, the minister and the priest covered their privates and the rabbi covered his face while they ran for cover. After the ladies had left and the men had their clothes back on, the minister and the priest asked the rabbi why he covered his face rather than his privates. The rabbi replied, "I don't know about you, but in MY congregation, it's my face they would recognize."

Baseball Fans in Heaven

Two buddies, Bob and Earl, were among the biggest baseball fans in America. Their entire adult lives, bob and Earl discussed baseball history in the winter, and they poured over every box score during the season. They went to sixty games a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was baseball in heaven. One summer night, Bob passed away in his sleep after watching the Yankee victory earlier in the evening. He died happy. A few nights later his buddy, earl awoke to the sound of Bob's voice from beyond. "Bob, is that you?" Earl asked. "Of course it's me," Bob replied. "This is unbelievable!" Earl exclaimed. "So tell me, is there baseball in heaven?" "Well I have some good news and some bad news for you. Which do you want to hear first?" "Tell me the good news first." "Well the good news is that yes, there is baseball in heaven, earl." "Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?" "You're pitching tomorrow night."

Adam's Rib

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially interested when they told him eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as if he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Traffic Stop

A Tennessee State Trooper pulled over a pickup on I-65. The trooper asked, "Got an ID?" The driver replied, "Bout Whut?"

Hymns for All Professions

Dentist's Hymn: Crown Him With Many Crowns.....**Weatherman's Hymn:** There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.....**Contractor's Hymn:** The church's One Foundation....**Tailor's Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy....**Golfer's Hymn:** There's a Green Hill Far away.....**Politician's Hymn:** Standing on the Promises....**Optometrist's Hymn:** Open My Eyes That I Might See....**IRS agent's Hymn:** I Surrender All....**Gossip's Hymn:** Pass It On....**Electrician's Hymn:** Send the Light....**Shopper's Hymn:** Sweet By and By....**Realtor's Hymn:** I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop....**Massage Therapist's Hymn:** He Touched Me....**Doctor's Hymn:** The Great Physician....

Show and Tell

A Kindergarten teacher gave her class a "Show and Tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion. The first student got in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is the Crucifix." The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy and I am a Baptist and this is a casserole."

All the jokes in this January letter were sent to me, via Email by Pokey Warren. Thanks Pokey