It is summertime and many people have gardens they tend. Most of the time they have more than they need and they share with others. Gardening is a lot of hard work, but it normally pays off. We all love fresh vegetables. There is nothing like a vine ripen tomato sandwich, fried okra, fresh corn or any of the other vegetables grown in back yard gardens. I am sure not everyone has a garden nor wants one. It brings back childhood memories of sitting around shelling peas, shucking corn and breaking green beans for most of us. A lot about life was learned sitting around doing these chores. We all hated doing it and tried to find ways to get out of it. Looking back it makes me realize how lucky we were. We did know our parents and grandparents because we spent time with them and respected them. They shared their love with us.

Being involved with a group like the Steel Magnolias is a lot like tending a garden. There is always something to do and sometimes it is a lot of hard work. It definitely pays off. We put in a lot of time to raise awareness to breast cancer or cancer in general. We do a lot of fundraising so we can share what we know and meet the needs of others facing cancer. We do get joy out of helping others. We start sharing the love that was shared with us.

No one wanted cancer and all believed it happens to other people, but not them. After you find out that you have cancer it draws you closer to your loved ones. You spend more time together and you begin to value that time. You learn a lot about respect for others because you never know what is going on in their lives. You learn to share the love.
The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group Inc. and the Men of Steel met on May 24th, 2016 in the private dining room of RMC. Pizza was provided by RMC and side dishes were furnished by Steel Magnolia members.

Executive Director Nancy Burnell welcomed two new guests, Bobbie Allaway from WIGS and Breast Cancer survivor Leslie LaPlate and presented them with a small gift from the Steel Magnolias.

Following the meal Joe Weaver, CEO of Jacksonville RMC and COO of Anniston RMC, presented a very informative program concerning the present growth and the projected growth of RMC. He asked if there were those present that remembered RMC when it was Anniston Memorial Hospital and there were several related stories of having given birth to their children during that time. There is quite a comparison in growth to then and now. He reminded us that the ICU was built in 1968 and is in need of a much larger area for ICU patients. The plans include an area for patients and family on the same floor. There are plans to move the Surgical Suite to future expansion area above the Emergency Room parking lot which will provide much needed space. Mr. Weaver showed us renderings of the Multiplex that is in progress in Oxford next to the old Lowes building. It will encompass 24,000 square feet and will provide full imaging service, full service lab, a physician’s clinic and some specialty groups. This Multiplex will also provide after hour service for those that work late. Last and certainly not least was the rendering of the proposed Cancer center that will be located where RMC West now stands. The RMC West building will be torn down to make room for the new complex. Mr. Weaver assured the Steel Magnolias that there will be space for us in the new complex when it is built.

In the absence of Secretary Connie Stephens, Della McNeal read the minutes for the April meeting. Doris McWhorter mad a motion to accept the minutes and Joyce Guldin seconded the motion.

Treasurer Chuck Trull gave the financial report. Nancy Burnell made a motion to accept the financial report and Linda Barton seconded the motion.

Pat Yates brought copies of the Oxford Access magazine with the article o page 44 entitled “Knitting for Survivors”. It is a beautifully written article about the Knitted Knockers and their partnering with the Steel Magnolias. We have been invited by the Knitted Knockers Support Foundation to have steel Magnolias’ name to be added to their web page.

Marti Warren made a motion to accept their invitation and Linda Barton seconded the motion.

Margaret Taylor asked for those interested in volunteering in the office to please let her know. She also asked the group to think about having someone to be our event coordinator.

Old Business:

President Elaine Johns asked the group about visiting NHC place to speak to the residents there and have lunch on July 12th. Several responded that they would help. Elaine also reminded everyone of the Quad City Volunteer Fire Department event on June 11th. Cindy the pink fire truck will be there and the Steel Magnolias will have a table there with our information. This event will be from 10a.m. until 3p.m. There will be BBQ sold there.

Jimmy Taylor reported on the Golf Tournament.

Nancy Burnell reminded everyone of the New Beginnings Banquet on July 26th at Classic on Noble at 6pm. Brenda LaDun will be our guest speaker.

No New Business.
Chaplain Sherry Grinstead presented the prayer list and prayed for those listed.

President Elaine Johns drew for two gift cards. The winners were Jessie Knighton and Nancy Johnston.

Nancy Burnell made a motion to adjourn and Janet Reese seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by:
Margaret Taylor
(In the absence of Secretary Connie Stephens)
Update from Quad City Fire Dept. BBQ

The Steel Magnolias had a day full of fun, plenty to eat and some awesome homemade ice-cream at the Quad City fire department annual BBQ. It was a hot and humid day as we set up our booths getting ready for the day. I recall from the movie the “Field of Dreams; build it and they will come”, well for us that day it was “cook it and they will come”! People started coming from everywhere to get a look at “Cindy” the pink fire truck that travels all over to bring awareness to breast cancer. We had both the Anniston and Oxford fire departments there and Anniston brought the “Children’s Fire Prevention Safety House” with them for demonstrations. The State troopers brought the roll over simulator to show everyone what happens when you don’t wear your seat belt. We had ladies from RMC there passing out information from Dr. Jeff Collins office on self exams in the shower. Cane Creek water rescue was there along with their fire truck. We had an ambulance there to tour.

Air Evac Lifeteam had a booth offering applications for membership to the AirMedCare program. A year membership fee is $65, 3 years is $185, 5 years is $300, 10 years is $575 and a 25 year cost $1125. If you are a member and anyone in your household has to be air lifted, membership ensures the patient will not have any out of pocket expense. Insurance only pays a portion of the bill when you are airlifted and the remaining balance is the patient’s responsibility. It can be as high as $40,000. The AirMedCare network is all over the United States it is not just here in Alabama. Contact information for Tami Meeks is 706-616-1382 or TAMI.MEEKS@AMGH.US.

Now let’s talk FOOD. We had a tent set up outside that sold any kind of peanuts you wanted from Cajun or plain boiled to Cajun or plain roasted. You go inside where it was nice and cool and get a cup of homemade ice cream. I bet there were 10 different flavors, but you only got to pick from what was out at that time. Everyone stayed in the ice cream line just to try the different flavors. I don’t know who did the cooking, but that was some of the best BBQ I have had in a while. You definitely got your moneys worth!

I want to thank B.R. Wilson for the invitation and he wants us to come back next year. Thanks to all the Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel that came out and helped. Thanks to all that put in the hard work to make it a fun day at Quad City Fire Department!

Submitted by: Elaine Johns
"Cindy" is a rolling memorial to honor those who have fought the battle against cancer and have won or were taken because of it. We encourage each of you to view this memorial and read the names listed upon it. We respectfully ask that you only sign this memorial as a survivor, in support of someone currently fighting the fight of their life or in memory of someone who has fought the battle and lost.

We also ask that you take the time to help those that you know who are fighting the fight by doing an act of kindness, however small, that will make their life easier during their time of struggles.
Upcoming Events

June 28th is our next meeting in the private dining room at RMC at 5 pm. We will have Irish and sweet potatoes, Steel magnolias please bring side dishes and deserts. The speaker will be Cindy Justice, a RN in RMC’s Oncology Services Office. She'll be speaking on recent developments in cancer treatment at RMC & UAB.

July 12th the Steel Magnolias will be at NHC place at 12:30, lunch will be provided. Tim Shultz is our contact person and would like for us to share with the residents our roll in the community and what the Steel Magnolias are all about. We will talk about it at our meeting.

July 18th is the next mailing day for the newsletter.

July 26th is the New Beginnings Banquet at Classic on Noble at 6pm. Dave Roberts will be our MC again this year and Brenda Ladun will be the guest speaker. Our musical entertainment will be Kristian Crowe Whittington. Invitations will be will be mailed, members and one guest will be free. Additional guest will be $30 each. Please RSVP by July 19th.

Survivor Story

In 2002 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I had two kinds of cancer in one breast. At this time my husband was very sick with heart failure and diabetes. He had lost his left leg due to complications from his diabetes and heart surgery. I had already lost my Mother and my only sister to breast cancer. I was very upset so I prayed and asked God to let me live to take care of my husband. I was sitting at my kitchen table and I heard God tell me that everything will be ok and all the fear left me.
I went through the surgery, lost my breast and went through 8 months of Chemo, but I never lost my faith in God. We didn’t have children and I had already lost my parents and siblings, but I had a precious sister-in-law that was my angel. In 2003 I lost my husband due to complications from diabetes and heart disease.
Fourteen years later I am cancer free. I wake up every morning thanking my God for another day. I try to be a witness to other cancer patients.
I am 74 years old, I work every day and live by myself. God is Good!

My Story
Aunt Joyce

President’s Corner

I hope everyone is ready for some good food and great entertainment at the New Beginnings banquet. If you have never heard Brenda Ladun speak then you are in for a treat. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

If you think you could fill in at the office occasionally please contact Margaret. We need help in the office to make sure we have someone there to answer the phone and assist clients in the Pinks Boutique.
I want to thank Aunt Joyce for her inspiring story that life goes on and we can all survive this. If you would like to share your story just mail it in to Steel Magnolias PO Box 2208 Anniston, Al 36202 Attn: Elaine. We would love to have it for the newsletter.

Come join us on the 4th Tuesday of every month at RMC in the private dining room. If you are not sure where it’s at call the office after 11am for directions. 256-231-8827. We meet every month except July, November and December.

Submitted by: Elaine
A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"
The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad"

One Easter Sunday morning as the pastor was preaching a children's sermon, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?"
"I know, I know!" a little boy exclaimed, "pantyhose!"

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake.
"I'm sorry," I told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at First Baptist Church."

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10.' Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 reads, 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.'

Big Ed seemed to always fall asleep during the Sunday sermon. His wife was fed up and decided to deal with the embarrassing situation. The next Sunday when he fell asleep, she quietly removed some pungent Limburger cheese from a zip lock bag in her purse and passed it under his nose. Groggily startled, Big Ed blurted out, "No, Helen, no—don't kiss me now."

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!" The congregation nodded their approval. With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river, too!" The people clapped and were saying "Amen." And then finally, he concluded, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!"

As he sat down, the song leader then stood up quite cautiously and announced, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365: "Shall We Gather at the River."

Submitted by Elaine
Bad or Evil
By Donna Houston

A H S A A B D A E A B Y S S
S D H A K E P L M U Z H E A
C A N K E R W O R M G T G C
T G O R B O N M A W A A A R
I O G T S U C O L H N I L A
P N I S C G B L H T N L P P
N R O H T O V E I K C O M H
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D S A E P O H H A L I L E D
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Y D L S I R O O A G E E E U U
Z A O S K A N C D R V Z B B
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ABALMON ABYSS AHIR ABHAB AMON ANTICHRIST
APOLLYON BAAASHA BEELZEBUB CAIN CANKERWORM
COVET DAGAN DELILAH DOUBT DROSS ELAH GOLIATH
GOMORRAH GREED HADES HARLOT HATE HERODS
IDOL LAZY LOCUST MOCK MOLECH ORGY PEKAH PIT
PLAGUE REBEL REHOBOAM SCORPION SIN SODOM
THORN WRATH ZUR