

Survival and Hope *Life After Cancer*



WRINTHIA KENDRICK, 55
DIAGNOSIS: BREAST CANCER
diagnosed October, 2018

The Basics:

- **RESIDENCE:** Hesperia
- **OCCUPATION:** Former Teacher
- **FAMILY:** Garner Kendrick, husband of five years; three daughters who live out of state
- **HOBBIES:** writing, reading, singing
- **PHILOSOPHY:** I don't know how anyone could get through not just life itself, but certainly when something unexpected happens that nobody throws a party about. It is my faith that has carried me through every single day.

By Alberta Hale Crigler

Wrinthia Kendrick says in November 2016, "life was pretty much a cabaret for me. But it didn't stay that way." She noticed a hardness in her left breast in December. "I had I don't know how many mammograms and ultrasounds, and I was told,

'We don't see anything,' " she said. "There was a nagging in my mind: Something is not right. In March 2018, my breast actually shrunk. I asked them: 'You say it is not cancer; tell my why my boob shrunk.'"



Kendrick changed doctors. She said following another ultrasound, the technician said, "Let me get the doctor." "Never before had the radiologist come in," Kendrick said. "He came in, and said to the ladies who were there, 'OK, everyone give Ms. Kendrick a hug.'"

"He showed me the mammogram from last year. I could see the marked difference from last year to this year.

"He said, 'We think it is cancer, but we want to do a biopsy, and we will go from there.' Kendrick said her primary care physician called and told her they were waiting on a pathology report to confirm cancer.

A week later, when the diagnosis was confirmed, Kendrick said, "I had an idea what it was, but to actually see it on paper kind of took all of the air out of the room for a moment.

Kendrick said initially, she only told her husband and "really no one else until I found out more information. Eventually I told my daughters.

"My family is super small anyway. My parents and only sibling have passed."

"People hear 'cancer,' and the next thought is death. Miraculously, wonderfully

it doesn't happen in a lot of cases because treatments are better now. Just the wealth of knowledge that is available is so much better.

"I got a letter recently indicating I had been approved for a partial mastectomy, and biopsy/removal of lymph nodes.

"When I got the diagnosis – invasive lobular carcinoma – I Googled it.

"The patient is actually an advocate now. He or she is not just a receiver of knowledge. You are working more as a team member than teacher/student or doctor/patient."

Kendrick said decisions still are to be made about her treatment following surgery and whether she will undergo breast reconstruction.

"How can a diagnosis like this not change your life? Kendrick asked. "It absolutely has.

“

How can a diagnosis like this not change your life?"

"Life is just sweeter, and I have an appreciation. I thought I was pretty filled with gratitude before.

"When I turned 52, there was an appreciation, because at that point, I had lived longer than my mom, dad or brother.

"Now even more so, life is sweeter and I have hopes and plans for the future.

"I am going to get back into the classroom. I have so much more to give.

"I have dreams and goals of being published. I have things I want to see and do.

"I want to continue to see my marriage grow and prosper. Maybe I will even get some grandkids at some point."

Still, Kendrick said, she is "mourning the death of my normal. This journey did not just begin in October. I am convinced that everything that happened prior built my faith to where it is, and it has grown exponentially since then."

Kendrick said she went to a support group in November at Victor Valley Hospital.

"I loved it," she said. She planned to return but hasn't had a chance to.

"My intention is to get hooked up because I need it, absolutely," she said.

"At some point I am going to reach back, just like a whole lot of ladies are doing, and I am going to take some lady's hand who has been recently diagnosed, and I am going to walk it through with her.

Facing Cancer:



No one can be prepared for the decisions – and uncertainties – a cancer patient faces following diagnosis.

Wrinthia Kendrick prays she won't need constant care after her Jan. 29 surgery and subsequent treatment.

"I have never seen myself not able to earn a living, make decisions autonomously," she said.

"It is different from life as I have known it as an adult. There have been days I have had battles in my mind and in my heart.

"Only by the grace of God can I take it all in stride. He will not allow anything to touch my life that will not be ultimately for my good and His glory.



The American Cancer Society provides a 24 hour service to answer questions about diagnosis, insurance, local support and resources

www.cancer.org or call 800-227-2345

These stories of survival, hope and prosperity brought to you by:



Apple Valley Golf Course



15200 Rancherias Rd
Apple Valley

(760) 242-3125
www.applevalleygolfclub.com



NOT YOUR PARENTS' COUNTRY CLUB.
Come golf on the best greens in the High Desert