
WELCOME TO OUR HOPE PROJECT'S

Tuesday Newsletter

We're so glad you're here!

What we are about.....

HOPE

This newsletter aims to bring hope and joy to your daily life by sharing my family's journey through unexpected challenges. We firmly believe that a positive outlook, faith, and the right circle of friends will help you tackle any obstacle with resilience and a smile. In the upcoming editions, we will candidly share our recent experiences dealing with Parkinson's Disease and Esophageal Cancer.



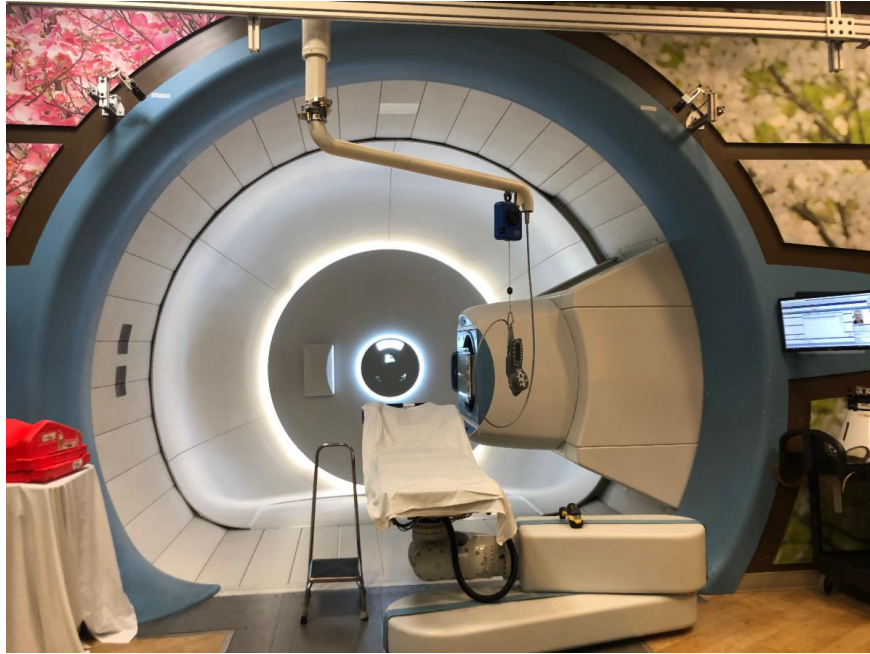
Meet the Parker Family

From left to right- my wife, hero, and best friend, Trina. My oldest daughter, Grace. My youngest daughter, Anna. I (Nick), the content creator, and editor.

Proton Radiation Therapy

I'm going to stay in my lane here and not attempt to explain the difference between Proton and Photon Radiation. We are so fortunate to have Thompson Proton Center facility in Knoxville, TN, as a part of the Covenant Healthcare System. At the time of my diagnosis in January of 2023 there were only thirty-eight Proton Therapy Centers in the U.S. Now there

are forty-four in North America. If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with Cancer, especially Cancer close to vital organs, I would ask that you explore the option of Proton Radiation over Photon Radiation. You may have to do some digging as some Primary Care Providers have little experience with this 40+ year-old technology as a tool against cancer. As success stories, like mine, and statistics continue to show progress, physicians and insurance companies will adjust. [Here](#) are some links that you might like to explore and I'd like to invite you to the Proton Ambassador's Meetings personally. Click [Here](#) for more information on Thompson Proton Center, and the ambassador meetings, or call Thompson Proton Center at 865-290-7835.



The front of the "Proton Machine" at Thompson Proton Center, Knoxville TN



My team of Avengers at Thompson Proton Center



Trina and I at Thompson Proton for a during treatment phase check-up

Remember my earlier statement that these diagnoses didn't catch God by surprise? Here is a good illustration. From 2002-2023 I was an insurance agent, starting in Cookeville, TN and in 2007 accepting a position in Seymour, TN (just outside Knoxville). How neat, I'll get home as my mother and father enter the twilight years and they'll get to enjoy seeing our girls (their granddaughters) more often. Looking back, I realized I saw only a portion of

God's plan, and yes, we have been able to spend more time with my mom and yes, we were able to be there for mom during the passing of my dad in 2022. I now see God was up to something else. Something like moving me closer to specialized care and caregivers like Dr. Chism at Thompson Cancer Survival Center and Dr. Grover at Thompson Proton Center. I only thought I'd be there for Mom. As it turns out Mom, my mother, and father-in-law and a host of others were there for me.

God would also take me to a new level of dependence on Him in ways that I knew only from afar and had given only "lip service" before. In a nutshell, I was learning that "yesterday's faith was insufficient for today and certainly wouldn't cut it for tomorrow." Remember the "Better or Bitter" chart? Here is a level-up on what I call "Faith or Fear"

FAITH	FEAR
Urges us forward	Paralyzes
Rooted in hope	Dwell in worst case scenarios
Encourages others	Panics others
Peace	Hopelessness
Accomplishes	Empties
Takes ground	Retreats

HOPE takes the lid off your life and ushers in FAITH. **FAITH** invokes God and introduces you to the reality, there is no lid!

In tough situations, try to look for bright spots. Even if it's difficult, I believe that with perseverance and a change in perspective, you might be able to find a positive aspect in the circumstances too. Your inspirational response to crisis can have a significant impact on others and could be the light that guides you and others out of the darkness.

Coming Next Week

Esophagectomy & Immunotherapy

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