



BASIS is a support ministry for bereaved parents, children and their families.

Spring 2017

Renew

"...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength." Isaiah 40:31

Shelly's Cancer Journey- **FINAL** Almost

by Dave and Carolyn Wells

On August 17, 1969, only 10 minutes after mama arrived at the hospital, our third child (first daughter) Michelle (Shelley) joined us. From that moment our lives were impacted by the "spice" God brought into our world.

Daddy was a pastor and Mama a teacher, so our children grew up in a busy home. We relied on the Lord for our well-being and were keenly aware of *Proverbs 22:6*, "**Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.**" This prompted us to use scripture in training our children.

Shelley matured, graduated from college, and worked at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. At age 31 she married Stephen Patch. They had 2 boys and a girl. After being a homemaker for about 8 years, Shell again worked for D.F.C.I., in N.H.

In the spring of 2013 Shelley was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at age 43.

That diagnosis changed our lives. Working at D.F.C.I. gave her a clear perspective of the situation, greater than even we, her family, could grasp. It also provided the opportunity to receive the finest care and treatment available.

Even though her situation was terminal, she committed to fulfill God's plan for her to the end. Shelley's target was clear! Her life verse, Jeremiah 29:11, prominently hung in her office for years. It was embroidered on her lunch bag and engraved on selected jewelry. She did all she could to convince those she loved that God had plans for them also. Knowing time was short freed her to use every opportunity to be a catalyst for Christ to all around her.

Shell and Stephen faced the looming reality by addressing short and long-term necessities. Shelley sought to address the future challenges of working full-time, managing a household, school and homework, after school childcare, etc. to prepare Stephen and the children for her absence.

She celebrated holidays, birthdays and seasonal delights fully, creating wonderful memories for each child. Multitasking was Shelley's life-style. She knew there wasn't enough time left to affect the lives she loved to the extent needed, so she focused on each one as opportunities arose.

In July 2014 Shell and Stephen hosted a "Celebration of Life" for family and close friends at the Cape Cod home of friends, with fun activities, a renewal of marriage vows (children as attendants), dinner, dancing, ending with an evening swim and fireworks. All were designed to assure her children of the love and bond within our family.

"When we struggle with the loss, we climb step by step until we regain perspective."

Mama accompanied Shelley on multiple trips into Boston for various medical procedures and admissions into the hospital. Friends, family, college mates, custodians, kitchen help, etc. visited Shell.

As parents, we were overwhelmed with sadness at Shelley's diagnosis, but faith in God dictates our

philosophy of life. This determined how we handled the entire situation. We prayed for healing but were reminded of *Psalm 136:16* "**All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be;**" and Job 14:5. We still prayed, but for God's will.

We experienced the prayer support, encouragement, and accountability provided by the body of Christ as we dealt with the realization that we were losing our daughter, and the eventual loss. Our heartbreak peaked on March 18, 2015, when she went to be with the Lord.

The difficult thing about the aching void, beyond our grief as parents, was the impact of her death upon her

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husband, children, and siblings. Our main stability was the assurance that as bad as we felt losing our precious daughter, she was with God and we would see her again.

Hurry has no blessing at times like this. Moment by moment God works in and for us. It is this understanding and God's comfort that stabilizes us and brings joy out of it all. Daily we had to think of the truths left to us by Christ. It's what we call "balcony time"—it can be a great comfort to see things from a higher perspective. God is in charge and we wanted His help, encouragement and healing.

When we struggle with the loss, we climb step by step until we regain perspective. We leave the situation in His hands and instability diminishes. God filters feelings of loss and fills us with the pride of a remarkable daughter. As we envision the meeting with Shelley our spirits soar beyond the hurt and loss.

We're doing better each day!

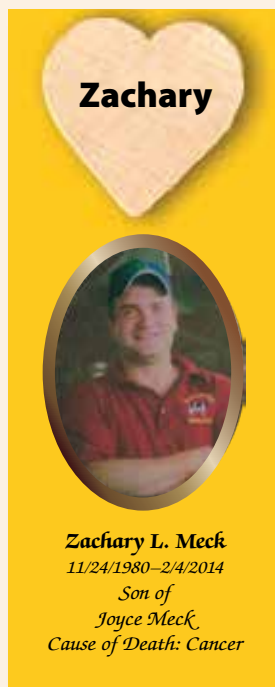
Wall of Remembrance

If you would like to include your child in our Wall of Remembrance, please fill out the enclosed slip and mail, with a picture, if you have a picture. For children who are stillborn or miscarried, we are using a butterfly symbol.

You can also email pictures and information. If you want the picture returned, please note that on the form.

We ask that you consider sending a donation to BASIS. Those who send a donation with their "Wall" request will receive a duplicate of what is placed on the wall, such as shown to the right.

Having the "Wall of Remembrance" in our office helps us identify and remember the children and to pray for the parents.



From the Director, Don Allison



Another year has come and gone and God has remained faithful once again.

It hardly seems possible but we are planning for our next Annual BASIS Breakfast for bereaved parents. It is May 6 and you can see the information in this newsletter, but I want to urge you to consider attending the Breakfast this year.

Our theme is *"Finding Help When Your Heart Is Broken."*

If you have never been to one of these breakfasts, I encourage you to come and if you have attended, I hope you will come again. These are times of sharing with other bereaved parents in a relaxed setting with people who can identify with your loss. We will have an excellent meal, but more important, we will share fellowship, encouragement, and yes, even some fun and laughter.

Mark your calendar now and register. There is no cost to attend. We will provide opportunity for people to donate to the BASIS ministry.

I look forward to seeing many of you on May 6. I would count it a privilege to meet some of you I have never met, and to renew fellowship with those whom I have met.

H*VMI Calendar of Events 2017

March 17-19.....Handi*Camp Mid-Winter Retreat, Spring City PA

March 31-April 1H*VMI Board of Directors' Meeting, Ephrata PA

April 22.....NJ Banquet Fundraiser, Voorhees NJ

May 6BASIS Breakfast, Aldan PA

May 24Handi*Camp Orientation

May 29Handi*Camp begins

September 19.....Golf Outing Fundraiser, Tanglewood Golf Course, Quarryville PA

October 12.....National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding, Lancaster PA

October 14.....PA Banquet Fundraiser, New Holland PA

Call us at 717.859.4777
for additional information.



BASIS Breakfast 2017

May 6, 2017

10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Aldan Union Church
7 East Providence Road
Aldan, PA 19018

Save the Date!

Finding Help When Your Heart is Broken

"He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

Support • Fellowship • Inspiration • Hope • Laughter • Food • Music

There is no cost to attend. An offering will be received to help keep BASIS operating and growing.

Support Groups *for Bereaved parents*

Join us at one of these locations.

Akron, PA	3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM (September-May)
Aldan, PA	3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM
Lakeland, FL	4th Monday of the month, 2:00 PM
Lavelle, PA	3rd Sunday of the month, 1:00 PM (September-May)
Lebanon, PA	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM (September-May)
Williamstown, NJ	2nd Friday of the month at 7:00 PM (September-May)

Call us at 717.859.4777 for additional information.

Memorial Gifts

September, October and November 2016

BASIS would like to gratefully acknowledge memorial gifts from the following:

Given By	In Memory of	Given By	In Memory of
Doug & Ann Bennett	Patty Bennett	Janet Mifflin	Matthew Joel Mifflin
Matt & Cynthia Brown	Joshua Brown	David & Wanda Nyce	Paula Joy Nyce
Kathy Cupp	Sara Cupp	Renee & Philip Over	All BASIS Children
Dale & Patricia Feckley	Brandon Heck	Gabe Pilotti	Joe Pilotti
Robert & Claudette Garber	Christine Garber	Carl & Linda Skowronek	Michael Skowronek
James & Jerri Golis	Cory Golis	Daryl & Diane Thomas	Dayne J Thomas
Clyde & Melva Herr	Jason Herr	Ken & Alice VanRyn	Randy VanRyn
Robert & Helen Hipple	Jeff Hipple	Ted & Helen Walborn	Kristi Walborn
Charles & Joye Jones	Stephen Jones	Joanna Williams	Jimmie Williams
Earl & Rosene Leinbach	Amber Laine Leinbach	Leroy & Shirley Wolfe	Tim Wolfe
Jean Lenker	Marlin Carl	Sue Yarbrough	Justin Yarbrough
Mike & Dee Lindsey	All BASIS Children	Jean Zakaluk	Mark Zakaluk
Clifford & Kim Meyer	All BASIS Children		



Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

- 1: Mark Zakuluk-birthday
- 2: David Benster, Michelle Huber-died
- 3: Nathaniel Norris-birthday
- 3: Morgan Kelly-died
- 4: Zachary Meck, Ashley Meyers-died
- 5: Christina Gelnett-birthday
- 5: Michael Coldiron-died
- 6: Rose Rogers-birthday
- 7: Michael Smoyer-birthday
- 8: Thomas Leidy-birthday
- 8: Jennifer Melucci-date of birth and death
- 9: Mark Zakuluk-died
- 10: Rocky Saginario-birthday
- 10: Hannah Cohen-died
- 12: Misty Corley-birthday
- 12: Eric Renegar-died
- 13: Deanna Bartron-birthday
- 14: Mary DeMeglio, John Kirkpatrick, Holly Smith-birthday
- 14: Tyler Klingseiser-died
- 16: Maddox Evans, Buddy Hoesch-birthday
- 17: Isabel Rineer-birthday
- 17: Shawn Johnson-died
- 18: Jay Butcher-died
- 19: Isabel Rineer-died
- 20: Jacob Sweigart-died
- 21: Paul Maurer-birthday
- 22: Tyree Long, Abigail Wright-birthday
- 22: Nathan Swymer-died
- 23: Adrienne Squier-birthday
- 23: Frank Halter, Baby Smallwood-died
- 24: Anna Diffenderfer, Patrick Hastings-birthday
- 24: Mary Drosehn, Maddox Evans-died
- 26: Shawn Donley, Abigail Wright-died
- 28: David Weaver-birthday

MARCH

- 1: Daniel Hayes-date of birth and death
- 1: Kathleen Odessa-birthday
- 2: Kyler Owens-date of birth and death
- 2: Bailey O'Neill-birthday
- 3: Bailey O'Neill, David Parrillo-died
- 6: Jonathan Teets-died
- 7: Mark Lueder-birthday
- 7: Scott Hickman-died
- 8: Glenn Auld-died
- 9: Michelle Huber, Stephen Wildasin-birthday
- 10: Haleigh Kappre-birthday
- 10: Patrick Hastings, Colleen Heron, Joe Pilotti-died
- 11: Barbara Peifer, Victoria Peifer-birthday
- 14: Misty Corley, Hershel Scriven-died
- 15: Hershel Scriven-birthday
- 15: Jay Delp, Shawn Walsh-died
- 17: Barbara Lang, Scott Laspina, Collin Peters-birthday
- 18: Joseph Tucker-birthday
- 18: Michelle (Wells) Patch, Joel Shrum, Sara Yorty-died
- 19: Susan Alexander, Tyler Hamvas, Rose Rogers-died
- 20: Doug Palouian-died
- 21: Nathanael Beiler, Haleigh Kappre-died
- 23: Gerard Dooley-died
- 23: Peter Hallinan, Mark Meher-birthday
- 24: Rudy Skirvin-birthday
- 25: Logan McKinney-died
- 26: Kathleen Odessa-died
- 28: Alanna O'Brien-birthday
- 29: Darin Findley, Joel Haines-birthday

NOTE: If you received RENEW and your child's name is not shown in their birth and death month, please notify us immediately so we can make those corrections. Thank you for your understanding.

APRIL

- 1: Robin Hull-birthday
- 3: Nathan Peters-birthday
- 5: Brandon Lock-birthday
- 6: Jason Dempsey-died
- 7: Edith Sullivan, Terri Ann Wilson-birthday
- 7: Scott Laspina, Stephen Jones, Justin Mayer-died
- 8: Scott Bartholomew-birthday
- 8: George Radcliffe-died
- 9: Kevin Barto-birthday
- 9: Ninel Zaharia-died
- 9: Grace Peruski-date of birth and death
- 10: Hannah Cohen-birthday
- 11: Joel Shrum, Marcus Smith-birthday
- 11: Steven Butts-died
- 12: David Benster, Jeffrey Rhinehart-birthday
- 12: Mirela Zaharia-died
- 13: Michael Smoyer-died
- 14: Mark Lefever, Ashley Meyers-birthday
- 15: Peggy Ann Floyd-birthday
- 16: Jonathan Teets-birthday
- 17: Dusty Auld, Peter Toebe-birthday
- 18: Chelsea Denham, Laura Reyburn, Richard Singmaster-died
- 19: Craig Austin, Ashley Sankus-birthday
- 19: Paul Stranix, Brittany Wrigley-died
- 20: Victoria Peifer-died
- 21: Scott McTyier-birthday
- 22: Sam Cook, David Steiner-died
- 25: Stephen Jones, Richard McAfee, Jason Thomas-birthday
- 26: Alexandru-Valentin Zaharia-birthday
- 27: Jessica Baransky, Stacey Gutz-died
- 27: Landon Vels-birthday
- 28: Rachel King-birthday



BASIS Director
Don Allison

BASIS
is a ministry of
compassion to
bereaved
parents and families.

*A ministry
under the leadership of*



**Handi*Vangelism
Ministries International™**

hvmi.org

Renew is
produced quarterly
by BASIS

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**Check out our blog on the
H*VMI website. Go to:
hvmi.org > blogs > grief**



Enhancing Trust

How You Can Support BASIS?

- By your prayers
- By referring other bereaved parents to our ministry
- By participating in BASIS sponsored events as you are able
- By placing your child on the "Wall of Remembrance"
- By using resources provided by BASIS
- By your financial donations

By supporting BASIS you will help others.