Faith

Ministering to cancer victims and their families

Group focuses on spiritual wellness for cancer patients

By Kelsey Garman

Each year about 1.3 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer. That number is expected to double by 2050.

Since cancer impacts every aspect of a victim’s life, Our Journey of Hope, the spiritual outreach program of Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA), is sponsoring a free one-day seminar called “Building an Effective Cancer Ministry,” on April 24, at the hospital’s Tulsa facility.

Seminar participants will include Denny and Alaine Stevens, pastors of Springfield’s Living Hope Fellowship, and founders of Living Hope Foundation, a ministry to cancer victims and their families.

Alaine was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003 and was treated at CTCA.

“I believe in divine healing and I asked God to heal me, but I felt He was going to heal me through traditional medicine,” she said. “We liked CTCA’s philosophy of treating the whole person as well as the person’s family.”

In 2006, Living Hope Fellowship hosted a CTCA seminar to teach pastors and church leaders how to minister to people with cancer. In response to the seminar the Stevens began Living Hope Foundation and started monthly support meetings for cancer victims and their caregivers.

“We invite speakers in to talk about cancer treatment including the nutritional, psychological and spiritual aspects of it, as well as offering support to care givers,” Denny said. “Our response to the comfort God has given us is to give comfort to others.”

—Denny Stevens, pastor of Living Hope Fellowship

To help with the comfort and healing of cancer patients and their families, the hospital’s pastoral care department offers spiritual support through worship services, prayer, counseling, and educational classes to patients and their families.

“When a person receives a cancer diagnosis, it affects every area of their being – physical, emotional, mental and spiritual,” said Steve Mackin, Tulsa CTCA president and CEO.

“Spiritual care should be constant and, therefore, extended beyond our hospital doors,” said Lynn Thompson, spiritual outreach coordinator at the Tulsa facility. “We hope this seminar will empower and equip people nationwide to support cancer patients and their families in their own communities.”

The seminar will feature nationally known speakers, including Dave Dravecky, former all-star pitcher with the San Francisco Giants and the San Diego Padres. After breaking his left arm while delivering a pitch in a game in 1989, Dravecky’s arm was

Photo courtesy of Denny and Alaine Stevens

Denny and Alaine Stevens, pastors of Springfield’s Living Hope Fellowship, and founders of Living Hope Foundation, a ministry to cancer victims and their families.

Building an effective cancer ministry

■ What is it? A spiritual outreach program sponsored by CTCA’s Journey of Hope

Where: Tulsa, Okla.

When: April 24

For more information: Contact Lynn Thompson at 918-256-5235

For more information, call 417-831-2631.

Strong man Matt Dopson to appear at Baptist Temple

Strong Man Matt Dopson, a member of the Power Team, will be the guest evangelist at Baptist Temple, 2655 N. Grant, on April 23. Dopson, who is 6’3”, weighs 305 pounds, has 34” legs and leg presses over 2,000 pounds, will dramatize spiritual truth through feats of strength.

He will appear at both the 10:30 a.m. and the 6 p.m. services. For more information, call 417-831-2631.

Broadway Baptist revival set for April 25-28

The Broadway Baptist Church, 2537 N. Broadway, will conduct revival services April 25-28. The evangelist will be Dr. Tom Elliff, founder of Living in the Word Publications, writing and speaking ministry calling for spiritual awakening.

Elliff is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Services will be at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. For more information, call 417-865-7311.

Trevor Thomas at Baptist Temple

Trevor Thomas, a Christian dramatist, will be at Baptist Temple, 2655 N. Grant, on Sunday, April 11, at 6 p.m. Thomas uses the dramatic arts of monologue, music, poetry, dramatic sketches, humor and mime to communicate the truths of Scripture to his audiences.

Known as “Mr. Drama,” Thomas makes about 180 appearances each year in churches across America. For more information, call 417-831-2631.
Roller Derby: Player says roller derby is a sport and not a spectacle

Roller Derby, from 14

"When I started doing this, I had no idea how much my life this was going to take up," Dunn said. She said her main reason for getting involved was the love of the sport. She said she hopes she is laying the foundation of a game that future generations can play. "It would be great to one day have my daughter play roller derby," Dunn said.

The Roller Girls play all of their home games at Skateport, 3820 S. Glenstone Ave. To see a schedule of upcoming games, visit www.springfieldrollergirls.com.

Seminar: Cancer survivors to speak

Seminar, from 13

amputated due to cancer. He is now a Christian motivational speaker. He and his wife, Jan, are the founders of Outreach of Hope Ministries.

Other presenters will include Dr. Harold Koenig, co-director of the Duke University Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health; Dr. John Thomas, professor in the Center for Counseling and Family Services at Liberty University; and Dr. Ken Curtis, a cancer victim and founder and president of Gateway Films and Vision Video.

Denny and Alaine Stevens will participate in a panel discussion about the different aspects of a cancer ministry.

For more information about the Living Hope cancer support group in Springfield, call Denny or Alaine Stevens at 417-880-4673.

Markets: Area produce hits the street

FARMERS’ MARKETS, from 12

corner of the parking lot at the corner of Glenstone Avenue and Battlefield Street

For more information, visit www.springfieldfarmersmarket.com.

Friday Night Farmers’ Market

Last year a new farmers’ market was added to the area. The Friday Night Farmers’ Market was located in the middle of Park Central Square but its location has moved this year.

Rusty Worley, director of the Urban Districts Alliance, said the market was being moved to Park Central East. He said the street was going to be blocked off and lined with vendors to give the night more of a festival feel. To add to the attraction, live music is planned for each market.

Customers will have a new way to pay this year. Worley said people will be able to pay with debit and EBT cards.

The farmers’ market will open May 7. After that the market is open every Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. It will run through Oct. 1. Everything from fruits and vegetables to flowers will be available.

For more information, visit www.itsalldowntown.com or call 417-831-6200.

Farmers’ Markets

C-Street Market

The farmers’ market is located at the parking lot adjacent to the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. It will open May 7 with the ECOmmunity Festival. After that it is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

New to this year the market will accept debit and EBT cards.

The season ends at the end of October.

Friday Night Farmers’ Market

In its second year the market is moving off of Park Central Square to Park Central East. The street will be blocked off and lined with vendors and live music. The market will open May 7. Following that it will be open every Friday from 4 to 8 p.m.

The farmers’ market will now accept debit and EBT cards.

The market’s last day is Oct. 1.

Greater Springfield Farmers’ Market

The farmers’ market will open for its 32nd season on April 10. It will be open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Battlefield Mall parking lot.

Those familiar with the market won’t find it in the same spot as last year. It has moved to the area of the parking lot adjacent to the corner of Glenstone Avenue and Battlefield Street.

The market will be open until Oct. 30.