

“Nagging
Saved
My
Life”







AMY WRIGHT

She 'encouraged'
me to have a
colonoscopy.
Repeatedly.





I Prayed.







AMY WRIGHT

Amy doesn't like
for me to talk
about her, but
some things just
can't be helped.





'Nagging' saved my life

Good morning, Mr. Wright," Dr. Menhas said. "I don't know what motivated you to have a colonoscopy, but you have colon cancer."

That was at 8:15 a.m. on Jan. 11, three days after the first colonoscopy of my life. Just weeks ago.

At that moment, my life changed. How would I tell my wife? How would I break the news to my four children? My parents? My brothers and sisters? What was I to do next?

The doctor began to speak, but quite honestly, all I heard for the next few minutes was, "Blah, blah, blah." When the doctor left the room for a minute to try to call my personal physician, I gathered myself and tried to focus on what I needed to do.

First, I prayed. I prayed that God would show me his purpose in my situation and that I might be a true witness for him. I asked God for his mercy and grace, that I might be made well. I asked him for peace and comfort for my family, because in many ways, this was going to shake their world more than mine. Then, I turned my situation over to God and prayed that, no matter where he led me in this journey, I would give him the glory and do as he led.

The doctor who broke the news to me could not have been more compassionate. He told me that I had four polyps spread throughout my colon. Three were benign. One was definitely cancer. He told me that I needed to have part of my colon removed where the cancer was located.

He said I would have to have a CT scan done of my abdomen and that I had to meet with a surgeon soon. When I asked what he meant by "soon," he replied in terms of days — not weeks or months. The urgency of the situation began to press on my heart.



David Wright

Guest Columnist

Fortunately, I had not eaten breakfast that morning, or I believe it would have not stayed down. The good news, if you want to call it that, was that, because I had not eaten, I could have the CT scan done that day. And I did.

I was told to prepare for a three- to five-day hospital stay and another two weeks at home after that. It would take six weeks or so to return to a "somewhat normal" daily routine.

Amy and I were told that the surgery I needed was a laposcopic sigmoid colon resection, or something like that. That meant that, through four separate holes in my belly, doctors would remove more than a foot of my colon where the cancer was located, along with twelve lymph nodes connected to the area. Then they would put my colon back together.

My colon surgery was performed Jan. 23 at Lexington Medical Center. The next day, when I was instructed, I got up and walked on my own — tubes and all. Two days later the nurses disconnected me from everything, and I began doing laps around the hospital wing. The third day I was released, and I went home.

Now, it hasn't all been perfect, but I have done remarkably well for a 52-year-old guy. I actually went back to work at the Public Service Commission for hearings last week — less than two weeks after surgery.

During the last several weeks, I have learned a great deal about myself — and others. I have heard from many people who have gone through much worse than me. Some people I know, but there are

many I have never even met. Either way, everyone has encouraged me and is supportive of me telling my story.

Prayer has been huge! I was prayed for throughout this city and around this state. I know of prayers for me in Virginia, Florida, California, and even on a mission trip in Colombia, South America.

That is powerful medicine! And I will freely admit that I felt them.

I have been asked what led me to have the colonoscopy in the first place. Well, my wife, Amy, first "discouraged" me to have it done. Quite honestly, the colonoscopy was supposed to be one step of an overall plan for me to have a complete physical. I wanted to wait until spring to start. Amy "encouraged" me to have it done sooner.

The bottom line — nagging saved my life! (I mean that in a very loving way, too!)

If I had waited any longer, well, I hate to even think of what would have happened to me and my family. The good news is that I listened and had it done.

Do yourself a favor. If you are 40 to 50, schedule and have a colonoscopy performed. (Ladies, you can have a mammogram done, too.)

The life you save may well be your own.

Mr. Wright is a member of the S.C. Public Service Commission.

"I guess, in my own little way, I wanted to let others know that colon cancer could happen to anyone at anytime."





KIMBERLY WRIGHT



Cecil Proposed... and it was “Yes”.

July 4th Weekend 2009



Kimberly Under Her Cancer Quilt During Treatment



Kimberly Is A Fighter!



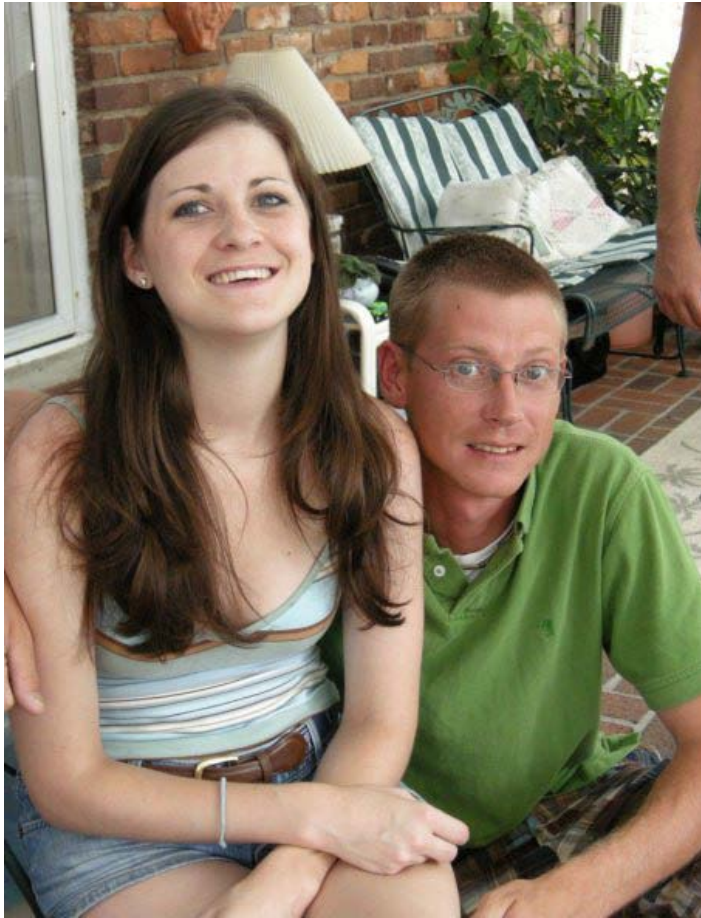


**Kimberly was
taken to the
emergency room
just 12 hours
after this photo
was taken with a
103.5 degree
fever - Swine Flu.**

Meet My Grandsons, Addison and Ty!



COURTNEY WRIGHT



Courtney & Bucky



Addison & Ty

25 years old - "A Beautiful Colon!"



AUSTIN
WRIGHT

21 years old.

*... And a very
healthy colon!*

ANDREW WRIGHT



**11 Years Old ... and
Hard To Keep Up With!**



**Kimberly
& Cecil are
being
blessed
along this
journey,
too!**

What a Great Surprise!



“Bottoms-Up Brunch” &



Blue Star Celebration



Have you had a
colonoscopy?





Research & Scientist



ALL-STARS!

Be an ALL-STAR



Doctor!

Be An ALL-STAR



Caregiver!

Be An ALL-STAR



Advocate!

Survivor & Patient



ALL-STARS!

STAR



POWER!

Cancer Fighting



ALL-STAR Team!