



Cancer and the Church

Karen Tripp MS LMFT

President Cancer Companions

Is it safe to say that cancer appears on the prayer list in every church?

Common pastoral care issues? Manpower, Skills, and Need.

CANCER TRENDS:

- Improved survival rates
- Increased treatment options
- More effective cancer screening
- Shorter hospital stays
- Patients working more during treatment

RESULT? Expectation for cancer to not be a “Big Deal”

So, do you call your church if you are diagnosed with cancer?

How is cancer different than other pastoral care issues?

- “I don’t feel sick.”
- Wait and See
- Feeling sick to get better
- Post Treatment blue

What are common church solutions?

- Pastor/church staff visitations
- Small groups
- Care Teams/Christ Care/ Stephen Ministers
- Cancer ministry

Key Components of Cancer Companions

1. Scripture Filled Materials
2. Effective Teambuilding
3. Intentional Training
4. Community Outreach