

Dear Friends,

We sent out the following message via email on October 6. We wanted to bring you up to speed with what has been going on in our life. Russ will be in the hospital for a month receiving chemotherapy with a long journey still to go. You can follow our story on www.caringbridge.org.

“Acute Myeloid Leukemia”

Not words you want to hear from a doctor, so I (Russ) will be checking into [Florida Hospital](#) (Main/South) tomorrow morning to find out more of what it means. I'm sure my first order of business will be a blood draw and then a transfusion followed by lots of medical explanations and questions. You can learn more from the website listed below and then you'll know as much as we do right now.

From Hurricanes to Hospitals

We meant to tell you right after hurricane Irma that our house had only minor damage, but we lost all our shade trees and some of the fence. Flood waters reached halfway up our driveway and then stopped during the middle of the storm (after we rallied a bunch of people to pray.) Then I got out there as the winds subsided and started cutting up trees, hauling debris and helping neighbors and something was just not right.

I felt funny going to the doctor and saying, "I've been working like crazy for the last five days and I'm feeling a little fatigued." Without any blood work to go on, they were adamant that I see a cardiologist, and preferably via an ambulance and the emergency room. I declined and signed a paper saying I was refusing the kind offer, but I did get a blood workup early the next morning

Later that same day, the results of the blood workup got me another invitation to visit an emergency room which I accepted. Since then I've received one unit of blood, have given up almost the same volume for more blood tests and other samples you don't want to know about. A bone marrow biopsy and a ten-day delay waiting for results have brought us to this point.

Pray For:

- Skilled doctors and chemotherapy that works
- An ability to understand our choices and make good decisions on treatment
- Whatever else God puts on your heart as we begin this journey

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/acute-myeloid-leukemia.html>

Thank you for your prayers,

Russ and Jo Anne