

Bonnie: A 40 year-old single woman diagnosed with recurrent esophageal cancer

Having just received this diagnosis without a clear plan of care moving forward yet, Bonnie expresses overwhelming feelings of shock, disappointment and fear. Bonnie describes the emotional devastation she has experienced in learning of the recurrence after believing she had put it all behind her and "moved on" to rebuild her life.

Although Bonnie has a partner, she shares concerns about his ability to help care for her should chemotherapy be needed. Bonnie states that she is "afraid he might not be there" for her and that she doesn't want to "be a burden" to him, as this will be the second time she will have to undergo some type of treatment.

Bonnie explains that since her move to Savannah from Omaha, she has built a new support system of friends locally; however, with her parents not living nearby, she expresses concerns about sharing the news with her mother.

Bonnie shares about her vocation as a Physical Therapist working in a hospital and how much she loves her patients. Bonnie realizes that her medical knowledge and familiarity with the environment has been helpful in understanding and coping with this illness.

In thinking about what will be important for her healing, Bonnie describes the immeasurable comfort her animals provide and the important role music plays in her everyday life. Bonnie describes her spiritual journey as "an adventure". As she has recently converted to Judaism, she shares hopes that her mind and spirit will continue to be uplifted through her ongoing learning.