

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMP SPRINGS

The Rev. John H. Parker

Ministry



January-Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer starts in cells living in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus (womb). Years ago, it was one of the most common cancers that resulted in death for women in the United States. With the advent of increased use of PAP tests, cervical cancer deaths dropped dramatically due to much earlier diagnosis.

In 2018, the American Cancer Society estimated 13,240 new cases of invasive cervical cancer and about 4,170 women died from the disease in the U.S.

Women between 35 and 54 years of age are most at risk of developing cervical cancer. Older women are also at risk. It is rare in women younger than 20. The rate of new cases of cervical cancer in women over 65 is almost 20% of all new cases diagnosed. Regarding ethnicity, Hispanic women have the highest rates of cervical cancer, followed by African-American women, Caucasian women, and Asian women.

If detected and diagnosed early (like many cancers), cervical cancer can be effectively treated. It is important to have routine preventive screenings even if no symptoms are present.

Some of the risk factors for cervical cancer are:

- * HPV infection-infection by human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most important risk factor for cervical cancer
- * Smoking
- * Weakened immune system
- *Diet low in fruits and vegetables

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345. For more details about the JHP Cancer Awareness Ministry, contact Brother Leon Turner on (301) 335-0152 or any Ministry member. The Ministry's mission is to educate, enlighten, and promote church and community awareness in cancer detection and prevention. If you would like to join the Cancer Ministry or if you need support in dealing with cancer, please contact Brother Turner or any Ministry member.