

‘The angel’ comes to reverend’s aid

By John Zucal Managing Editor, Orange Transcript 7/9/09

Cancer. It is a hard word for anyone to accept when they are told they have it.

The Rev. Grace Jones of the Revival Outreach Ministry knew that feeling — despair, fear — in 2007 when she learned she had cancer. She was told it was Stage 4 in one breast, her lungs and lymph nodes, and inoperable.

Then she found a doctor who believed he could solve her dilemma: “ I have found a way to cure you.”

Today, Jones says she has a bright outlook on life as the tumors continue to shrink as treatments continue. She said she wanted to thank the doctor for his work, and did in June when she recognized Dr. I. Robert Grossman, an oncologist from St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, with a luncheon inside the Seventh- Day Adventist Church.

It was a well- attended event, as municipal personnel from Orange, where Jones is a chaplain for the police department, and Maplewood, where she presented activities for police officers, were there to offer their support and appreciation. In both municipalities, Jones has presented officers with diversity training and seminars concerning human trafficking. She also serves with the Essex County Superior Court as an advocate on behalf of children. “ I didn’t believe it,” said Jones about her diagnosis, “ but because of my faith in God, I believed some way, somehow, someone was going to help me through this.” That someone was Grossman, whom she met July 22, 2007.

Jones said the manner in which Grossman treated her had a positive effect as the tumors began to shrink: “ I believed he was the angel who was sent to me.”

Jones also began to mentally turn around as the diagnoses improved.

“ The other doctors wanted to send me to hospice, but I said, ‘ No, that’s where you wait for death,’” said Jones. “ You have to fight. I never gave up, I will never lose, I’m going to hold on to life.” Jones said she had a message for others who have been diagnosed with cancer: “ Don’t give up; don’t accept it. Get a second opinion, a third opinion. Keep your faith and hope.”