

I was diagnosed in early March, 2007.

On the phone with my daughter, she suggested I consult a neurologist as she had noticed that I asked the same question several times. Having worked with Alzheimer's patients, she was concerned about me.

The diagnosis was done with a series of tests on a computer by a psychologist. I was then given Aricept.

Later, Nancy was talking Dr. Oliver who thought I was getting worse so he prescribed Namenda. He told Nancy not to give it to me until she was there.

While on a plane from Atlanta returning from California I picked up a discarded Atlanta Constitution in which there was an ad asking for persons diagnosed with Alzheimers to be in a study. The study was by Wythe Pharmaceuticals. During the study, blood tests and MRI'S were administered each time we went which was monthly. Interviews were also conducted on Nancy and myself. The drug was given by injection. Others in the study were given the drug by infusion and it was a different dosage. Obviously the purpose of the study was to arrest the progression of Alzheimer's or hopefully to reverse the process. I was on the study for almost five years but it was stopped three months before it was to end. Both of us thought it had helped but, of course, it could have been a placebo effect.

My life since the diagnosis has been one of losses. I lost my therapy career; I taught at AnMed in the Chaplaincy AND I lost my driver's license. As a result, I lost freedom of movement. I feel that the revoking of the driver license simply because one has Alzheimer's regardless of the level of impairment is horrendous!

Another loss is socialization. I feel isolated whereas before I was a leader in Church and my professional organizations Earlier in my life, I preached, taught and while in Seminary, worked my way through as a recreational therapist at a psychiatric hospital and then worked my way up as Acting Director of Activities.

I drove busloads of children in Louisville and drove a taxi in Louisville. As a young man home from college, I drove a large truck with military fire extinguishers from a suburb of Washington,DC to downtown Baltimore. Now I spend my days going to Respite Care two days and three days a week I have a driver who takes me and my dog on hikes.