When you meet Glenn Dunning you are welcomed by a gentle kindness and easy smile that frames a man who places the needs of others above his own. Glenn survived throat cancer and this is his story.

Glenn Dunning was born and raised in Crescent City, California, and enjoyed a long career with Pacific Power in four different areas. In 1997, Glenn moved to Roseburg and in October of 2009 he was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 74. In Glenn’s case, surgery was not an option as his cancer was located on the back of the tongue.

Glenn told us “My doctor told me that normally 2 years is doing good. I was never worried, not a bit.”

“I started radiation treatment on a Tuesday morning and saw my primary care doctor in the afternoon. They recommended a feeding tube. They installed it on Wednesday and I got out on Thursday morning 2009. I didn’t eat much and used the feeding tube for about four months. My wife would get up with me at six each morning and help me eat every four hours. I was diagnosed in October 2009, and had 35 radiation treatments and 7 or so chemo treatments. In January 2010, they told me the cancer was gone.

Now I go back for follow up visits with Scott Moore and I feel great.”

When asked about his care at the Community Cancer Center, Glenn remarked “It was great. The people there know me and they really care, not just about me, but they treat everybody great here. This is really a nice place with nice people.”

We caught up with Glenn one Wednesday night at the Buckeroo Barn. Square dancing is an activity he has returned to after many years away from it. Glenn said, “I saw the lessons come up this fall, and I figured let’s get back into it, and get me out of the house. There are great people that square dance.”

Besides square dancing, Glenn volunteers at the Community Cancer Center and also at the St. Paul Lutheran Church where he serves on the finance committee and also greets parents and children as they arrive at school.

Glenn will celebrate his fifth year being cancer free this January. Congratulations Glenn and thank you for all you do in our community.