

Samaritan NEWS

VOLUME 5 • WINTER 2012

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAMARITAN COUNSELING SERVICES OF THE GULF COAST

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women Helping Women Luncheon

April 19, 2012

Sixth Annual Golf Tournament & Church Challenge

October 2012

SAMARITAN STAFF

Rev. Rick Howell, Th.M

Executive Director, Pastoral Counselor
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Margaret Boyd

Director of Development

Diane K. Brantley L.C.S.W.

Staff Counselor
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Pamela Earl

Licensed Intern Mental Health Counselor

Dennise Lawry, Psy.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Melissa C. Miller, L.C.S.W.

Staff Counselor
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Rachel Culp Morse

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Dave Preston, L.C.S.W.

Staff Counselor
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

James Slocum, M.D.

Psychiatric Consultant

Maria Gallo

Administrative Assistant

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Margaret Boyd
June Carol Hines

ADDRESS

3224 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34239
Phone: 941.926.2959
www.samaritangulfcoast.com

From the Desk of Rev. Rick Howell



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love

– *Corinthians 13:13*

In every thank you letter we send expressing our gratitude for the generous support of those who help us accomplish our mission, we share how the donor has participated with us in providing hope and healing. Hope is very important. In fact, Paul in his letter to the Corinthians reminds us that Hope is one of three essential human traits. But as Paul also tells us, because we “currently see through a glass dimly”, Hope can be lost. For many who turn to Samaritan for help, Hope has been consumed by despair. The clouds of life have darkened the sun and the expectation for a brighter tomorrow is slim. This hopelessness can include a sense of God’s remoteness and distance which Martin Marty describes so accurately in his book, *A Cry of Absence: Reflections for the winter of the heart*. Marty seeks to legitimize a wintery spirituality that is characterized by cold, dark, bleak and even Godless periods in one’s life. He seeks to acknowledge that people experiencing such times do not need to endure the added condemnation that comes with blaming themselves for lacking faith or believing that they have caused God to abandon them. Those of us involved with Samaritan recognize that God has called us to journey with folks through these challenging times until the gloom of despair has been lifted and Hope restored. Through our unique emphasis on the integration of faith into the counseling process, we participate in God’s redemptive work. Hope can be reclaimed. At Samaritan we are privileged to walk with our clients as their hope and healing for their future is restored. ▀

Women Helping Women 9th Annual Luncheon and Silent Auction

SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 19, 2012

Plans are underway for our 9th Annual Luncheon and Silent Auction. Table and Corporate Sponsorships are available.

For more information visit the Samaritan website at www.samaritangulfcoast.com or call Margaret Boyd at 941.926.2959 or Cherie Leetzow at 941.377.2757. ▀



2012 Committee – Standing: Cathy Leetzow, Sherry Moore, Myrna Aaron, Eibel Heroux-Giannotti, Rev. Rick Howell, Peggy Wilhelm. Seated: Debbie Howell, Cherie Leetzow, Barbara Collins. Not Pictured: Roberta Benninghoff, Jessica Gonzales, Nicki Hawn, Bonney Miller

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. John Cairns, President
Brian D. Hall, Vice President
Angela Tobaygo, Esq., Secretary
Bob Smith, Treasurer

Melanie Divirgilio
Rev. Bill Hild
Laura Lowe
Gary Moore
Sandra Pepper
David Wachtel
F. Gale Whitson-Schmidt

COUNSELING LOCATIONS

Christ Episcopal Church
4030 Manatee Avenue W.
Bradenton, FL 34205

Church of the Palms
3224 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34239

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
790 Tamiami Trail
Venice, FL 34285

First Baptist Church of Sarasota
1670 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34236

Harvest United Methodist Church
Lakewood Ranch
14305 Covenant Way
Bradenton, FL 34202

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
6101 Cortez Road West
Bradenton, FL 34210

THANK YOU



A special Thank You to all who participated in the 2011 Advent Dinners at Harvest United Methodist Church and St. Armands Key Lutheran Church. We appreciate your festive support!

9th Annual Women Helping Women Luncheon Table Hosts

Myrna Aaron
Roberta and Carl Benninghoff
Lynn Blackledge
(St. Armands Key Lutheran Church)
Sharon Bonnet
Jim Boyd (ValueNet Real Estate Appraisers)
Barbara Collins
Kim Cornetet
Melanie DiVirgilio (B B & T)
Donna Dudash
Jessica Gonzalez
Tonya and Mike Gowan
Harvest UMC Tuesday Live
Susan Hickman
Rev. Bill Hild
(First Baptist Church of Sarasota)

June Carol Hines
Rev. Rick and Debbie Howell
Rev. William and Sibyl Hull
Ken and JoAnn Johns
Don and Dana Lederer
(Johns Eastern Co.)
Cherie Leetzow
Dee McLellan
Kim Merritt (PNC)
Bonney Miller
Sandra Pepper (Northern Trust)
Corinne Smith
David Wachtel and Lynne Truschell
Peggy Wilhelm
Karen Wilson

As of 2-13-12

Friends of the Universe

Dear Friends of the Universe,

I am one soul living in this vast Universe who would like to share with you parts of my life on having Peace of God and His Divine Love. I am truly blessed.

The Lord gave me the gift of painting and teaching drawing to young people. My creations sold to admiring souls. (I always prayed before painting). HE also gave me a beautiful home where I entertained with dinners and teas for friends, neighbors, and astute young artists. I must not forget that my Lord brought "a four footed angel" called Amber, to share my home.

Then I participated at a church as a Lay Reader and a Prayer Person. I taught Beginning Acrylic painting to other Seniors. Then the time came for a big move, to a retirement home, where only a few physical memories could come with me, thankfully all of my Art supplies.

All this time God was moulding me into someone new. Through physical illness and anger at the process of slow healing, I prayed, "Lord surely there must be something I can do to help others by using the gifts you have given me."

In HIS own gentle way HE brought a lovely lady into my life with whom I can work.

So many opportunities are opening up. The committee that I am a part of – well to me they are all like "gifts from heaven". I have to pinch myself mentally to believe HE would have sent a younger and wise soul into my life so that I could express myself in a different way.

For me, all past experiences and adventures have brought me to serving Our Lord and knowing HIS LOVE so that I may work for HIM in a peaceful way.

I wish each of you HIS PEACE and HIS LOVE and no matter what you may be facing in your separate lives, JUST remember GOD loves each of you and HIS LOVE will encompass you in your moment of truth and despair wherever you are in this vast Universe. Just ask HIM and HIS PEACE and LOVE will come in HIS TIME. ▀

June Carol Hines, Volunteer

Does the Good Samaritan Need a Donor Advised Fund?

Scott G. Pinkerton, CIMA®, CFP®, Managing Director – Investment Advisor
Pinkerton Wealth Management Group Of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

He goes to the innkeeper and gives him his credit card. He says, “Here is my credit card. Get the man whatever care he needs and I’ll be back in a month to pick him up.” A month later the “Samaritan” returns and finds out that the innkeeper didn’t keep proper receipts. It seems that the innkeeper mixed purchases for the inn and for the ailing man! This of course would not be acceptable recordkeeping for him, the innkeeper or for the IRS.

Luckily, our local community foundations give us some tools that can make our charitable giving a little easier and potentially more profitable. One such tool is a “Donor Advised Fund” (DAF). DAFs allow an individual or family to make an irrevocable contribution of cash, appreciated securities or, in limited cases, real estate and certain restricted stock, to a charitable account administered by a public charity. The charity pools the contributions, and according to the donors’ recommendations, invests them and makes grants to charitable organizations. You can recommend the grants be made to any of over 800,000 qualified charities and nonprofit organizations recognized by the IRS as eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. Many established religious organizations and educational institutions are eligible to receive grants as well. Contact your local community foundation to see if they are set up as a DAF. Samaritan is an established organization eligible to receive your DAF. A DAF offers contributors a number of advantages:

- **Avoid Capital Gains:** Allows contributor deductions without having to pay capital gains on contributed stock.
- **Simplicity and Ease:** Bear in mind, it requires some coordination to give appreciated stock to a charity. I remember years ago trying to give small amounts of such stock to multiple charities. It was more trouble than trying to coordinate the innkeeper’s receipts. Now, my family and I do one major gift annually for tax purposes and then can disburse to any charity of our choice over time. When the IRS requests my receipts, I only have to keep track of one.
- **Tax Planning:** Investors who don’t have enough deductions to itemize should talk with their tax advisor about “bunching” deductions. This strategy entail, in part, focusing your real estate taxes, medical deductions and charitable giving in one year. A DAF is helpful in that you can get the deduction in one year and then parse out the distributions to charities over time.
- **Record Keeping:** With a DAF, you have an easy to use electronic record of your contributions.

We are thankful that we have community foundations that offer Donor Advised Funds so that we don’t have to trust our recordkeeping to a “sloppy innkeeper”. ▸

Volunteering. Is it for You?

Do you want to do something meaningful? Are you feeling that you still have special talents to give to the community? Have you prayed that surely there must be somewhere or someone who you could help, without it becoming a burden? Would you like to be with various ages who are joyful and creative? DON’T FEEL ALONE! As a VOLUNTEER at Samaritan’s Counseling Services there are various opportunities to be of service.

Opportunities include fundraising committee; Women Helping Women committee; Golf Tournament committee; newsletter committee; receptionists and office work. Please call Rick at 926-2959 or e-mail him at rick@samaritangulfcoast.com. ▸

SAMARITAN COUNSELING SERVICES OF THE GULF COAST WELCOMES

PAMELA EARL

Licensed Intern Mental Health Counselor



Pam received her Master’s Degree in Professional Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA in 2011 and her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. She enjoys working with individuals of all ages and helping them deal with a variety of issues including: depression, anxiety, grief, self-esteem, abuse, trauma, relationship and family problems, divorce, and life stage changes. Pam is strong in her faith and her desire for all to be able to live the quality of life intended for them. ▸

Rachel Culp Morse

Licensed Mental Health Counselor



Originally from Orlando, Florida, Rachel graduated from Florida State University with a BA in Humanities and received her Masters of Science in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and has completed trainings as a Parent Educator and as an adoption competency certified trainer for the State of Florida.

She enjoys working with children, adolescents, adults, groups and families on a variety of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD/trauma as well as parenting issues, attachment, behavioral issues, relational issues, adoption issues, and grief and loss. She says she is “excited to work with Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast to integrate faith into the counseling process and to facilitate insight and healing so that individuals and families can live to their fullest potential.” ▸



Samaritan
Gulf Coast

3224 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34239

Phone: 941.926.2959

www.samaritangulfcoast.com

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT NO. 1081

*Shining the Healing
Light of God's Love
Into Our Community*

RSVP by March 30, 2012

Thursday
April 19, 2012

*\$100
per person*

Samaritan Counseling Services
of the Gulf Coast

Women Helping Women

9th Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction

Arrival and Silent Auction 11:00 am - 11:30 am

Program 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Michael's On East • 1212 East Ave. • Sarasota, FL 34239

Benefitting
Samaritan Counseling Services
of the Gulf Coast
in their ministry to
Women and
Children in Need