

The Samaritan

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*Our Mission: "We CARE—We are a Christian Community of Acceptance,
Reaching out to others and Engaging members in vital ministry."*

Good Samaritan's 2009 Hearts and Hammers Project Saturday, September 26, 4:00 PM



HEARTS & HAMMERS

Hearts and Hammers recruits organizations to provide funds and volunteers to do minor repairs, painting, and landscaping for the home of an elderly or disabled, low income person. This program helps such homeowners stay in their homes and relieves them of the worry of a home in decline. It also keeps neighborhoods from declining. Since starting in the

Twin Cities in 1997, Hearts and Hammers has improved 202 homes. The weekend of September 26 will add another 24 homes to that total. They are now doing 40 homes a year with the help of 1200 volunteers. There are two program days, one in May and one in September, when nearly all work is done in one day by about 50 people. It is quite a sight to see. One of our congregation members, Mike Hutson, is the director of Hearts and Hammers.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Good Samaritan has improved 5 homes and will work on our 6th home on Saturday, September 26 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or until finished. This year's home is in north Minneapolis and is owned by Tamela, a hotel housekeeping manager. FIFTY workers are needed and no experience is necessary! Afternoon reinforcements are warmly welcomed! Come ready to work and have fun. Our Good Samaritan team will be doing minor repairs, painting, and landscaping. We provide lunch and needed supplies. Donations of food and money are needed to cover lunch and other costs. Tamela has no lawnmower and we have purchased a used one to give to her. Morning childcare is available in the church. Donations may be left in the church office. Contact JoAnn at 952.920.8265 or joannknutson@hotmail.com to help. The rain date is October 3.



Good Samaritan is the only church among the organizations that support Hearts and Hammers. Our efforts are organized by our Church and Society Committee.

A Journey of Faith

DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD
WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO — JOSHUA 1:9

School Days... Dear Old Golden Rule Days

On Tuesday Sept. 8, President Obama delivered a speech to our nation's schoolchildren. While acknowledging the important role of family, community, professional educators and government in creating an effective environment for learning, Obama also called for students to take responsibility for the course of their lives:



Every single one of you has something you're good at. Every single one of you has something to offer. And you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is. That's the opportunity an education can provide... The circumstances of your life—what you look like, where you come from, how much money you have, what you've got going on at home—that's no excuse for neglecting homework or having a bad attitude. That's no excuse for talking back to your teacher, or cutting class, or dropping out of school. That's no excuse for not trying. Where you are right now doesn't have to determine where you'll end up.

Advocating self-determination and the value of education doesn't seem particularly controversial, but some politicians, school administrators, and parents feared that such a platform would be abused

as a means to press a partisan agenda on impressionable young people. In some schools, the speech was banned or recorded for screening or children were removed from classrooms. Such mistrust isn't new, nor is it confined to any one political party. When President George H.W. Bush addressed school children back in 1991, some Democrats said the speech was staged for the president's political benefit and called for a probe of its costs by the General Accounting Office (which found no impropriety).

I have questions about the root issues that prompt us to censor from children the motives and message of even our own president. Should we assume that political leaders with whom we disagree about public policy are similarly opposed to us about the public good? If wise advice is spoken by someone with whom we disagree on other matters, does that make their advice any less valuable? Are our only tools for resolving complex issues fight or flight? What level of respect do we owe our president, regardless of whether we agree or disagree with that leader's position? As people of faith, what strategies for understanding, reconciliation and accountability are we teaching a new generation?

With a vision for opening hearts and minds in a divided world,

Dan Johnson

Joys and Concerns

WINGS OF PRAYER CARRY HIGH AND FAR

We hold in our thoughts and prayers Bob Creglow, Rich Jahnke's mother, Janet Sorvaag, and Katie Stanton.

We remember the family of Sarah and Steve Kumagai following the death of Sarah's mother, Liz Thoreen.

We celebrate the birth of Samuel Guy Wheeler, grandson of Larry and Sandra Wheeler.

We remember men and women serving in the military, especially those in harm's way, those recovering from physical injuries and emotional wounds, and the families and friends of the fallen.



Good Samaritan UMC receives the New Millennium Award from Church World Service on September 13, 2009.

The next deadline for *Samaritan* articles is noon on Monday, September 21. That issue will be mailed on September 28.

Happenings

GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG US AT GOOD SAMARITAN

Church History Memory Books to Be on Display, Beginning September 27

Our five church history memory books will be on display during upcoming Heritage Sundays. The first opportunity to see these books will be on Sunday, September 27.



Look for the table in the narthex and History Committee chairs Cyndee Olauson and Carol Retherford.

These books are a result of a 5-year project of the History Committee to capture the rich traditions and celebrations of Good Samaritan. The majority of the book compilations were prepared by History Committee chairs Cyndee Olauson and Carol Retherford. Other committee members over this 5-year period include Maxine Allen, Danette Scorza, and Rae Ann Vandeputte. Prior to the formation of this committee, Teta Cleaveland served as church historian.

Thank you to all congregation members who helped to provide the archival information for these memory books that document the history of Good Samaritan United Methodist Church.

The memory book materials were funded by the Good Samaritan Foundation (formerly known as the Living Trust Fund). This Foundation serves an important role in helping fund special projects such as these books. Contributions to the Foundation are always welcome, whether designated to the General Foundation (for one-time special projects), the Evergreen Foundation (for ongoing operation of the church), or the Cornerstone Foundation (for periodic maintenance and building improvements).

While the memory books have been “completed,” the History Committee does have a storage bin for additional articles and photos (please identify people, event, and date) if anyone wants to continue to contribute such items for future documentation of church history.

Get *the Samaritan* via email and save the church postage and printing costs.
See photos in **COLOR!**
Contact the church office for more info.

Hymn Festival featuring Organist Mark Sedio

*Organist/Choirmaster, Central Lutheran Church
September 27, 4 PM*

In celebration of our 10th year with our Möller organ and marking the beginning of our 50th year as a congregation.

Mark Sedio will be assisted by Merilee Klemp on oboe and GSUMC's Chancel Choir at this interactive concert experience. A free-will offering will be received, and following the program, there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Theatre à la Mode

Sunday, October 18 Performance

Ticket Deadline: Oct. 4

RUINED won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2009. It's the story of Mama Nadi, an unlikely heroine, shrewd



businesswoman, and apolitical opportunist in an African land torn apart by civil war. She runs a makeshift oasis in the Ituri rain forest serving miners, government-backed militia, and their opposing rebel forces, while simultaneously saving, protecting, and exploiting the women under her watchful eye. We'll go see the show at Mixed Blood Theatre on Sunday, October 18. The show begins at 2:00, so we can plan to have lunch together after church and then go on to the show. For those interested in talking about the show afterwards, we can decide on a nearby coffee house. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors and students. Please sign up on the Adult Council table in Fellowship Hall or let Becky know **by Oct. 4.**



Wednesday Night Meals

Serving from 5:15–6:30 PM
Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.50

Sept. 23 Taco bar, corn chips, rice, and watermelon.

Sept. 30 Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, and chocolate chip cookies.

Children's Corner

Coats and Shoes Mission Project

Going through your closets? Kids outgrown their outerwear? Throughout September, our Sunday School children will explore the story of Joseph and his colorful coat. Bringing together this story with the Edina Day of Service on October 24, the children are sponsoring a coat and shoe drive.

Help make a difference in our community and bring warmth and comfort to children in need by donating new or gently used coats and shoes. In conjunction with the Edina Day of Service, we will be accepting donations in the lower lobby throughout September and October.

W.I.L.D. 1s

All 5th–6th graders are invited to join our newly formed fellowship group of W.I.L.D. 1s—Willing, Involved & Loving Disciples—which meets three Wednesday evenings per month from 6:50–7:50 PM. The beautifully remodeled Community Room is our new home where we'll have fun together, eat yummy snacks, make wonderful new friends, learn about our own personal discipleship, and participate in mission and service projects within our community and world. Our W.I.L.D. adult leadership team has creatively designed and mapped out what is sure to lead to an exciting year together. A full listing of our W.I.L.D. 1s evening gatherings through December may be found on the church website (www.good.org). Here are the dates we'll meet in September and October:



September 16, 23, and 30

October 7, 21, 28

We hope to see all 45 of our 5th–6th graders on Wednesday evenings—we'll have a WILD time!

Christian Education and Bible Presentation is this coming Sunday, September 27. During both the 9:00 and 10:30 AM worship services, Sunday School teachers will be recognized and all 3rd graders will be presented with a New Revised Standard Version Bible.

Children's Ministries: Deb Johnson
952.929.0049 ext.226 or deb@good.org

Sunday School Fall Offering is supporting the Church World Service blanket ministry. We'll "blanket the world with love" as



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

our offerings will be used to help purchase blankets that will provide warmth and protection to those who have experienced natural disaster, poverty, or homelessness all over the world, including the United States. Children's offering envelopes for the fall quarter may be found in the individual Sunday School classrooms or on the Children's Ministry display table in Fellowship Hall.

Parent Link is a monthly newsletter sent via email to the families of Good Samaritan

theParentLink

UMC. It is also found on our church website (www.good.org) under the children's button on the tool bar. A few hard copies may be found on the Children's Ministry table in Fellowship Hall as well for our visiting guests. Included in the September issue are some wonderful articles related to children and building personal self esteem, interesting information regarding recent releases of music, games, and movies kids might be familiar with, as well as articles and a monthly calendar highlighting specific activities and programs children and families may choose to participate in during September. Take a look at the calendar to see how your family can get involved and stay connected with your church family at Good Sam.

The children's Milestone Ministries

program is already underway for the 2009–10 program year. Two milestones have already been celebrated in September: the infants/toddlers and their parents were welcomed into the nursery on Sept. 13th and the 3rd graders along with their parents learned about the Bible and how to use it in daily living on Sept. 20th in preparation for Bible presentation on Sun., Sept. 27. Milestone events planned in October include:

3 year olds:

"Welcome to Sunday School" on Sunday, Oct. 4

5 year olds/Kindergarten:

"Touch and See My Church" on Sunday, Oct. 11

Youth Info

BUZZ: GRADES 7 & 8
SYF: GRADES 9–12

**Youth Ministry Volunteers:
Safe Sanctuaries Training**
Sunday, Sept. 27
Noon-1:00 PM in the Fireside Room



This Safe Sanctuaries training seminar is for all our adults who volunteer in Good Samaritan UMC youth programs. Training includes guidelines, policies, and procedures to create and maintain our church as a safe place for all youth and adult volunteers. These volunteers include Sunday School teachers, Confirmation small group leaders and individual mentors, ASP mission trip adults, BUZZ and SYF youth group adults, and other volunteers who interact with our youth.

*Volunteers who have attended this training during the past two years do not need to re-take this workshop. Safe Sanctuaries training is good for 4 years.

Please contact Jean Elliott at jean@good.org to register. A lunch will be provided during this Noon-hour training... so please RSVP.

JUMYS 2009
Nov. 6–8, Holiday Inn, St. Cloud
(Grades 7th & 8th)

JUMYS is a weekend retreat for Jr. High United Methodist youth filled with singing, games, praising God, numerous workshops to choose from, speakers, Wacky Olympics, dance party, scavenger hunt, and other ways of having fun! Cost is \$130 (scholarships available). Registration deadline is Sunday, Sept. 27. Registration forms are available on the Youth Ministry table in Fellowship Hall.

JUMYS

Youth & Young Adults: Jean Elliott
952.929.0049 ext.229 or jean@good.org



BUZZ Youth Group (7th & 8th)
Sunday evenings, 6–8 PM, Room 200
Sept. 27: "From Oil & Water to PB & Jelly"
Oct. 4: Bonfire Night

SYF Youth Group (9th–12th)
Wednesday evenings, 7–9 PM, Room 201
Sept. 23: "Great Expectations"
Sept. 30: Nooma video "Sunday"
Oct. 7: Bonfire Night



Summer Service Project: Sandwiches for Homeless

Samaritan Scrapbook



Welcome Sunday Party



More Happenings: OCTOBER 4 EVENTS

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?” FORUM SERIES

“FORUM”

Sunday, October 4, 10:30 AM

Our October forum in our “Who’s My Neighbor?” series will be about Islam and many of the different ways we may see it practiced here in Minnesota. Our movie at noon will be *Malcolm X*, the 1992 Spike Lee movie starring Denzel Washington.

Mental Illness in Our Families

Sunday, October 4, 3:00 PM

Mental illness occurs in a variety of families in a variety of forms. Everyone is invited to hear Catherine Plantenberg speak on the subject, whether or not you know someone with a mental illness. Catherine Plantenberg speaks from experience. She has spent years living a life of optimism in the face of limitations. Her presentation will take us on an enriching journey, from her sisters’ decline into schizophrenia to overcoming the fear and stigma of mental illness for herself. It is a story rich in forgiveness. Her program inspires, uplifts, and empowers individuals to pull potential from pain. Catherine is an award winning speaker, earning “Best Speaker” and “Rookie of the Year” her first year in Toast Masters. Additionally, as a professional vocalist, flutest, and composer, she brings music to her program as she weaves music with her words.

Catherine will be speaking at Good Samaritan on Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 PM.

Did you Know?

According to a report by UNICEF released this month, infant mortality, while still high, is falling around the world, especially in places where children are given insecticide-treated nets to sleep under to prevent malaria. Last fall our congregation, including our youth and children, supported Nothing But Nets, an organization that provides treated mosquito nets to families in Africa.

To learn more, go to:

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_51087.html

Animal Blessing *Sunday, October 4, 2:00 PM*

St. Francis of Assisi lived in Italy in the 12th century. He founded an order of monks, but he was also renowned for his care and compassion for animals. There are many stories of the ways in which he connected with God’s creation, including how he preached to a flock of birds, admired the flowers, and how he and his fellow monks left where they were living so that a donkey could have shelter. He was made a saint in 1228 and his feast day was set for October 4.



Around the turn of the last century, congregations began observing rituals that recognized the value of the animals in their midst. It made sense to locate these rituals near St. Francis’ feast day, and the popularity of the blessing services has increased greatly in the last few years. Although congregations hold animal blessing services at all times of the year, they are very common the first weekend in October. Whereas in the 1930s you might have seen people bringing their cows, horses, sheep, and donkeys for a blessing, the line-up today tends to be more along the cat, dog, ferret, hamster categories.

We’ll be joining the fray again this year with our own animal blessing service on Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 PM. We’ll gather outside in the amphitheater (gym if it rains) for a brief service and an opportunity for each pet to be blessed. Whether you have a horse or a hamster, you are welcome to bring your pet. Just make sure it’s in a crate or on a leash. If you don’t have a pet, but wish you did, come anyway, and bring a stuffed animal if you’d like. If your pet doesn’t like crowds, other animals, or can’t really get out, bring a picture and we’ll bless that. You may also wish to recognize the death of a pet in this way.

We’ll have treats for pets and treats for kids, and we invite you to invite an animal-loving friend or neighbor for this fun worship service.



The Samaritan

Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
5730 Grove Street
Edina, Minnesota 55436

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Return Service Requested

Our Vision:
**Opening Hearts and Minds
in a Divided World**
on the Web at www.good.org

Time Dated Material

Worship Schedule

Services at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Fellowship, coffee & lemonade after each service.
Nursery for infant–age two offered during both services.
Sunday School for age 3–grade 6 at 9:00 and 10:30 AM
Sunday School for Youth (grades 7–12) at 10:30 AM

FOUR-DIMENSIONAL FAITH: DEVOTION

Sunday, September 27

Sermon by Dan Johnson
"One Size Doesn't Fit All"

James 5:13–18

*Music by the Chancel Choir
Christian Education Sunday
Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles*

FOUR-DIMENSIONAL FAITH: WORSHIP

Sunday, October 4

Sermon by Dan Johnson
"Seasons of Worship"

Job 1:1; 2:1–10

*Music by the Chancel Choir,
Choristers Choir (9:00 AM) and Youth Choir (10:30 AM)
World Communion Sunday*

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

*Forgiveness
does not
change the past,
but it does
enlarge the future.*

PAUL BOESE

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Building Hours:

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday–Friday

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