



From the Director's Desk



*Dr. Paul Melrose
Executive Director*

Hello to all. It is good to be in touch. This letter presents some highlights of our last year here. Much has happened at Samaritan Counseling since you last heard from us. I want to urge you after reading the newsletter to visit our new and improved website at

www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com to see more of how we look on the web and learn more about what we are doing.

We have increased our office staff. We have added a webmaster and a newsletter editor. We have hired one of our former interns from the Michigan School of Professional psychology; we have added two more to join the one continuing with us. Other staff joined us last year; many have increased their counseling hours; we now have more appointment times available for clients. In addition to our main office in Farmington Hills and satellites in Northville and Birmingham we have added a second office location in Farmington Hills and opened a new office in Allen Park .

The number of people who support our programs and ministry is increasing. I am personally grateful and overwhelmed at the partnerships which we continue to have and new relationships which we are forming. There is a wider community who believe in what we do and tell others about us, look for us and

contribute in some way. Please be sure to tell others you know about what is happening here at SCC.

This newsletter is the first one also to be available electronically. I would invite you to consider receiving our newsletter that way. If you would please send your email to our web master, Mark Phelps, at mphelps@samaritancounselingmichigan.com. We will be creating a distribution list with no visible addresses to be used only by us here to keep you up to date on happenings, programs and other information we think you might be interested in.

“Much has happened at Samaritan Counseling since you last heard from us.”

Finally, as always, please keep in touch. Call with any ideas, suggestions, comments and questions. This is an important time in the lives of all of us here in Southeastern Michigan. It is my prayer that Samaritan can continue to offer hope and comfort to our friends and neighbors.

Grace and peace,

(The Rev.) Paul Melrose, D.Min, LMFT, Executive Director

Inside This Issue

- SCC Benefit Concert and Dessert
- Jean McAllister Award
- Fore! Golf Outing a Success
- Samaritan Counseling Center Training Programs
- Upcoming SCC Events
- Lay Caregivers Program

Upcoming SCC Events

November 22, 2008 Benefit Concert

A special evening of dessert and music featuring musicians and songwriters Scott Wilkinson, Michael King and the Motor City Horns.

January 18, 2009

Lay Caregivers

Understanding the Challenges of Chronic Pain

Katherine Gothard, Psy.S.,
TLLP

February 15, 2009

Lay Caregivers

TBD

March 15, 2009

Lay Caregivers

The Central Task of Mourning
Sharon Hagen, M.A., LPC

April 19, 2009

Lay Caregivers

Dealing with the Challenges of Aging and Dementia and the Effects on the Family

Judi Thurswell, Psy.S., LLPC

Jean McAllister Award Recipient

June 20, 2008

An astonished SCC Administrative Manager, Sally Kirsten, accepted the Jean McAllister Award at our annual Golf Outing. Created by former SCC Director and founder Wesley L. Brun, D. Min. LPC, the Jean McAllister Award honors staff members who exhibit distinctive skill, knowledge, helpfulness and excellence in their calling.



Sally Kirsten accepts the Jean McAllister Award at the Samaritan Counseling Center's annual Golf Outing.

Executive Director Rev. Paul Melrose D.Min, LPC, LMFT said, "We have benefited from the many hospitality and organizational skills which (Sally) brings to her work." He added, "The Jean McAllister Prize is awarded occasionally to a staff person who not only gives more than he/she should to his/her work, but provides loyalty, dedication, devotion and skill to people in need of care." Sally says she was astonished when Dr. Melrose, Dr. Brun and SCC Board President Larry Gage began the presentation. She relates, "I was very surprised and honored to receive this award."

Lay Caregivers Program

The Samaritan Counseling Center's Lay Caregivers Program is a workshop series intended to provide continuing education for those involved in caregiving. These workshops are designed for people in a caregiving position within a church body. They will benefit Stephen Ministers, deacons, and family and volunteer caregivers.

Topics, dates and presenters are listed in the "Upcoming Events" column on this page. To date the series includes: Understanding the Challenges of Chronic Pain, The Central Task of Mourning, and Dealing with the Challenges of Aging and Dementia and the Effects on the Family.

Churches can purchase a subscription which allows their members to attend the Lay Caregiver Workshops for free. We encourage churches to subscribe by contacting the Center at (248) 474-4701 or visit our web site: www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com.

Samaritan Counseling Center Training Programs

Did you know the Samaritan Counseling Center offers two special training programs available to pastors and lay pastoral caregivers? Did you know the Center is a doctoral internship site for students from the Michigan School of Professional Psychology? Did you know the Center also provides supervision for several local mental health professionals who are interested in integrating the faith resources of their clients into their treatment?

Pastoral Care Specialist Program

The Pastoral Care Specialist Program is a certificate program intended for pastors and lay pastoral caregivers who are responsible to meet the pastoral care needs of congregations. It is designed to strengthen personal identity and spirituality and to enhance the depth and effectiveness of their ministry of pastoral care. This 60 hour training program which meets monthly from September – June also fulfills the requirements for admission to the American Association of Pastoral Counselors as a Pastoral Care Specialist. Once again this year, the program is functioning at two sites: in Farmington Hills and in Holland, MI at Western Theological Seminary. This year we have seven students in the Farmington Hills program and 10 students participating in the Holland program.

Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy

The training program in pastoral counseling and psychotherapy has been an integral part of the Samaritan Center since 1988. It is the only such training program in Michigan that is accredited by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC).

This three-year internship prepares people for the specialized ministry of pastoral counseling/psychotherapy. The core curriculum consists of both graduate-level theoretical study and supervised clinical practice. The elements of training are designed to meet the academic requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Counseling at several seminaries with which the Center is affiliated and the curriculum is structured to enable graduates of these seminaries to meet the requirements for Licensed Professional Counselor in Michigan. There are currently four students in this program.

Psychology Internships and Supervision

For three years, the Center has worked with doctoral interns from the Michigan School of Psychology. Our first intern, Karen Schurgin, graduated in August and is now a full member of our SCC staff. Currently, we have three other interns from MISPP who are participating fully in the life of the Center and our training activities. We also have several local health professionals engaging in supervision with our Center.

SCC Golf Outing

On June 20, 2008, approximately 76 friends of Samaritan Counseling Center joined together for a terrific day of golf, fellowship, friendly rivalry, great food and a plethora of awesome raffle prizes at the Links of Novi.

The winning teams included these SCC friends.

Men's Team

Ed Kamman
Bob Kirsten
Dr. Jeffrey Rimarcik
Milan Straka

Women's Team

Beth Hubrecht
Sally Kirsten
Rachel Lambert
Dr. Pat McCluskey

Beautiful weather and a picturesque golf course set the stage for our afternoon of friendly competition, leading to a savory steak dinner and an evening of awards and first-class raffle prizes.

The staff at Samaritan Counseling Center extends sincere thanks to everyone who supported this event. Their involvement helped to cover our Client Aid Fund which allows people in need of care to find help regardless of income.



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SCC invites you to a ***Benefit Concert***

November 22, 2008 join us for a special evening including dessert and a Benefit Concert for the Samaritan Counseling Center featuring singers, musicians, producers and songwriters Scott Wilkinson, Michael King and the Motor City Horns. The fun begins at 7 p.m. with dessert provided by the Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland Community College. At 8 p.m. settle back and enjoy the show which should “not only entertain but capture the imagination.”

Location: First United Methodist Church
Christian Life Center
1589 West Maple Road
Birmingham, MI

Cost: \$30 per ticket (additional giving levels available)

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2008

Time: 7 p.m. Dessert
8 p.m. Concert



Scott Wilkinson will perform a Benefit Concert for SCC on November 22. Join us for a delightful evening!

For more information please call the Samaritan Counseling Center at (248) 474-4701 or visit our web site at www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com.