

“Whose likeness and inscription is this?”

~Mark 12:16

by Father Todd Cederberg

Dallas Willard wrote that Jesus was the smartest man who ever lived. I am regularly convinced that is true.

The Pharisees and the Herodians approached Jesus with a trap in the form of a question. Should they pay taxes to Caesar? It sounds simple enough on the surface. Of course one should pay one's taxes.

During Jesus' time, however, the Jews were living under Roman captivity. They saw Roman soldiers daily in their streets, and they hated them. To have to pay a tax to support them was like asking them to drink Drano. It is no wonder that it was the cause of frequent violent rebellions.

So if Jesus simply said “Don't pay the tax,” immediately he would have been advocating rebellion against the Romans. The Herodians, who were Roman sympathizers, would have had him arrested on the spot. Yet, if he said “Pay the tax,” the Pharisees would hold him as selling out to the Romans. No win.

It is so like Jesus. He took a current no win situation, turned it inside out, and took his listeners to a world they didn't intend.

In response, Jesus asked someone to bring him a coin. Now even touching a coin with a human image on it would have broken the Mosaic law, and so would have made a Jew unclean. “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They reply, “Caesar's.” Jesus said, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”

Ouch! Jesus takes for granted that the imprint of an image implies ultimate ownership. That's why the coin is offensive; it is made in the image of Caesar. Give it to Caesar. Now the deeper question: What is made in the image of God?

According to the Old Testament, it is them: including the very people who are trying to trap him. Their fight isn't about money. It's about something far deeper. It's about themselves: their hearts and souls. It's harder, infinitely harder, to give ourselves than to give our money. Affirming the truth of our being made in God's image is a far more radical, far more fundamental truth, than whether we should pay taxes or not.

We live in a world that believes that human beings are made in the image of _____? What? You fill in the blank. Our parents? Evolutionary process? Economic pressures? Jesus wants to pull us inside out. We are made in the image of God, with his divine life coursing through our veins. The homeliest and most broken among us shine his glory. The question is, can we live into that family tree? Can we allow his glory to be ours?



Fall Opener

for youth and families
September 13 from 6:30 to 8:30pm

Paintball

for youth and parents
September 26 from 9:30 to 5:30.

Breakaway Middle School Retreat

October 16-18

High School Nightwatch

at the Philadelphia Cathedral
October 23-24

Revolve Tour for Girls

November 5- 6

High School Retreat

December 4-6

Global Christmas Party

December 13

GoodSamYouth Fall 2009 event booklets will be available at the Pancake Breakfast on September 13, and at the Fall Opener that evening.



Mark Your Calendars! The first annual Paoli Blues Fest will be held October 3. With six stages and a community fair, Paoli will be transformed into a day of good music, good food and good fun.

Admission donations will go to REACT, which is a non-profit community food bank. Good Samaritan will serve as the prime parking venue and our hope is to use this opportunity to serve the community while sharing the Good News of the Gospel.

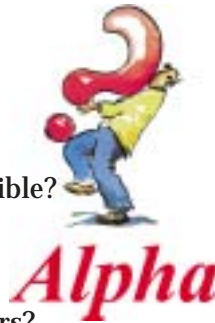
For more information about this event, go to www.paolibluesfest.com.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Jeff Moretzsohn at 610-644-4040 x219, or jeff@good-samaritan.org.

Alpha is Coming!!!

Alpha will be at Good Sam beginning Sunday evening, September 27, and will run through December 6. The course meets weekly with a weekend away from November 6-7. The emphasis is upon exploration of the Christian faith and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment. The course consists of a series of talks addressing key issues related to the Christian faith:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can we have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- How does God guide us?
- How can I resist evil?
- Why and how should we tell others?
- Does God heal today?
- What about the Church?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How can I make the most of the rest of my life?



In addition to inviting others to attend (along with ourselves!), we still need volunteers to help with the program's logistics – especially in the area of hospitality (meal serving, cleanup, etc.). If you have questions about the course or want to know how to be involved, please contact Fr. John Yates, Hartley Connett, Tracy Defina or Betsy Wolford. Let's make this a memorable and life-changing experience for those with questions and doubts about the wonderful faith that we share. Please continue to pray that God leads "the last and the least" to attend so that we may share in the most important journey of their lives.

PLEASE NOTE: The brokerage information for donating stock gifts has changed. Please go to www.good-samaritan.org for the new information or contact Susan Crumpler at 610-644-4040 x217 or susan@good-samaritan.org.

Welcoming Newcomers This Fall

by Tracy Defina

Fall is a great time for new beginnings and fresh starts, which often brings many newcomers to our church. In addition, we are hosting the Alpha Course this fall and look forward to many visitors. Following are opportunities that you can share with newcomers to help get them connected and meet their needs for more information.

Alpha – an opportunity to explore the Christian faith: begins Sunday, September 27, 6:00 pm in Ashton Hall.

Connecting Coffee with the Clergy: Life at Good Samaritan: Room 223, 10:30am, Sunday, October 4 & Sunday, October 25.

Fall Welcoming Dinner hosted by Stephen Ministry at the Linden's home: Saturday, October 3, 5:30pm.

For more information contact Tracy Defina, Assistant Director of Parish Growth at 610-644-4040 or newcomers@good-samaritan.org.

Children's Ministries Needs YOU !!

Fall programming starts on September 13 for all of our children. In order to provide the highest quality program, we are in need of a few more helping hands. If you love children, we would love to have you on our team!

We are in need of four more people to assist in our Elementary Sunday School program, which meets during the Discipleship Hour. This is a once every three weeks commitment.

We are also in need of nursery workers to help Ginny Guyer and Lauren Wisely. This commitment is from 8:45am-11:30am. We would ask that you commit to three times a year.

Preschool Sunday School is our area of biggest need. We are blessed with many preschoolers. Currently we have 48 volunteers ready to go, and we need 10-12 more. The commitment is 4-5 times a year, from 8:45am-11:30am.

Please contact Jenn McMahon if you are interested in helping: Jennifer@good-samaritan.org, 610-644-4040 x206

Mac McCausland Elected to Standing Committee



At a special meeting on Friday, August 7, 2009 the Standing Committee of the Diocese elected our own Mr. Norman (Mac) McCausland to fill a vacancy on the Standing Committee. Within the governance of the Diocese, this committee is similar to the Vestry in a local parish, and is the ecclesiastical authority during the absence of a duly elected Diocesan Bishop (as is the case in our diocese).

Mac, as he is known to his friends and family, has been an active member of Good Samaritan since 1994. He has served on the Vestry, the Outreach Committee, is a Eucharistic Minister, and presently serves as the co-chair of the Rector Discernment Committee. At the diocesan level he is also currently serving on the Commission on Ministry.

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It should be noted that Mac's appointment is short term, in that the term that he is filling expires with Diocesan convention this November. There will therefore be an opportunity for him to be elected to fill a regular term at that time. We are both thankful and excited at Mac's appointment and ask that everyone pray that God would protect him, nourish him, and guide him during the time of his service.

August Membership Statistics

Births:

Deanna Judith Nordone to Tony & Michelle Nordone

Baptisms:

Adia GERALYN Comber

Elizabeth Luwynn Comber

Deaths:

Suzanne McClenachan

Relocations:

Mike & Sue Figgins and family to Pittsburgh

Peter & Erin Lima and family to Massachusetts

Chris & Kristin Mumford and family to Michigan

Daughters of the King Installation



Good Samaritan Chapter of Daughters of the King

On July 12, 2009 the Church of the Good Samaritan Chapter installed three new Daughters at the 9:00am service. New Daughters Juliet Cooke, Beth Lytle-Purcell, and Barbara Stephans were honored afterwards with a small reception. All three faithfully completed months of training in preparation for their vows to the order. Welcome new Daughters!

The DOK order is committed to prayer and service. The blue cards located in the church pews are available for people to write their requests. All prayer requests are kept confidential and prayed for numerous times.



*New Members with Pastor Beverly
Juliet Cooke, Pastor Beverly, Beth Lytle-Purcell and Barb Stephans*

GoodSamYouth Summer of Service

by Carol Kuniholm

Good Samaritan youth have been active in service this summer, in ways that have impacted our neighborhood and local community, as well as more distant places.



Marketplace Games Team

During Marketplace, dozens of youth served as tribal leaders, ran marketplace stalls, organized and led games, or aided with individual children. Over a hundred children were impacted, while youth learned new leadership skills and deepened their understanding of sharing their faith in a variety of important ways.

Not many days later, youth began to scatter into three different mission fields. Seven middle school students traveled to Pittsburgh to help rehab a home and yard for an older citizen, while learning about poverty and God's heart for the poor. Ten high school students settled for a week in Kensington, with seven inner city peers, to share Christ's love with children in a neighborhood where the best thing that happens all summer is the Urban Serve team's Superkids program. Several older teens, with recent GoodSamYouth alumni, led a camp for teens on Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota, and served in other ways both before and after the camp.

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30 Hour Famine Car Wash



Urban Serve drama in St. John's courtyard



Beach Day at Sea Isle

Summer of Service continued

Back home again, 22 youth and leaders gathered for the 30 Hour Famine, fasting for 30 hours while raising over \$2,000 for famine relief, both through sponsorships, contributions, and a very busy Saturday morning car wash. As part of the 30 Hour Famine, the teens also rang doorbells in the neighborhood around Good Samaritan, talking about hunger, inviting neighbors to the carwash, and gathering food for Good Samaritan's food pantry.



Summer Bible Study in the Gallagher's pool

Hunger was also a topic for the students who went gleaned a week later at Pete's Produce in Westtown. While the youth learned how to pick ripe tomatoes, corn, and peppers, they also stepped more deeply into the biblical command to care for the poor and provide for the hungry.

One other opportunity for service was the Fine Arts Camp, with teens helping to lead drama groups and art classes, and shepherding groups of children from place to place.

In all of this, there was also much fun: a Beach Day at Sea Isle City, an Urban Serve stop at Chuck E. Cheese on Roosevelt Blvd., a picnic and soak in Ridley Creek by the gleaned group, pool parties, water days, and a final bonfire and night games at the Barnes' farm.

Spiritual formation was part of all of these activities, along with evening Bible studies on 2 Timothy. Through games, service, study, and worship, youth were challenged to live out Paul's instructions to his young friend Timothy: What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (2 Timothy 1:13-14)

Scouting News

by John Eppinger, Jr

Boy Scout Troop 106 has had two Life Scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout in the past two months. They are Zach Rankin and Josh Taylor. Zach graduated this year from Great Valley High School and Josh completed his Junior year at the same school. Zach passed his Eagle Board of Review in June and Josh passed his Eagle Board of Review in July after summer camp. Both were chaired by Diamond Rock District's Advancement Chairman, Al Plambeck.

New Eagle Scout, Josh Taylor started his trans-continental flight for Bremen, Germany on Tuesday, July 28 for an 11-month odyssey as a Rotary International Student Ambassador. Josh had to schedule his Eagle Board of Review quickly after summer camp in order to get his application for Eagle Scout approved before he travelled across the pond to Germany since he would turn 18 before he got back to the States. Josh will be doing his Senior year at Great Valley High School when he returns.

For 7 days and nights, 26 Scouts and their adult leaders camped out at Camp Horseshoe on the Horseshoe Scout Reservation in Rising Sun, Maryland. During the week of July 12 to July 19 they participated in merit badge classes and in the inter-troop events and campwide events. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday the troop placed well in the evening campwide events and on Tuesday night the team of Robert Dietrich, Owen Taylor and Scout leader John Eppinger, Jr. took first place in the inter-troop archery shoot. The week culminated on Saturday with the Water Carnival, the Order of the Arrow tap out ceremony during the evening retreat, and the awards campfire that night. Individual accomplishments include the Silver Buckle Award which went to Josh Taylor and the election of Alex Morin and Robert Dowd III to the Order of the Arrow which is the National Brotherhood of Scout Honor Campers.

Discernment Committee Update

The time for completion of the parish survey has passed. We had 261 responses, which represents 42% of our average Sunday attendance. The norm in these surveys is about 25%. We are very pleased with the response.

To date we have had close to 200 people participate in a Discernment Gathering. These small group meetings are continuing through September. If you have not attended one, please sign up Sundays after worship, or e-mail us at goodsamdcinfo@gmail.com. Your input is very important to this process.

We will be creating a parish profile from the data we have collected. Once our profile is complete, which we hope will be mid-fall, we will begin advertising, recruiting and receiving names for our new Rector. We will continue to keep you updated on the process.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we move through this process of bringing to us the person God has called to be our Rector.

The New Life Thrift Shop

The shop reopens September 1. Donations of household items and Fall and Winter clothing are welcomed. Donations are tax deductible and can be dropped off in the Thrift Shop vestibule. Proceeds from sales benefit Good Samaritan's Missions Ministries.

Volunteers are **urgently** needed for the following days and time slots: Monday mornings for sorting and pricing, 1st Saturday of the month from 10:00am-1:00pm and 1:00-4:00pm, 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00am-1:00pm, Friday mornings from 10:00am-1:00pm and every other Friday afternoon from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Contact Rose Smith (realtorrose@verizon.net) if you can help.

Good Sam Dance Classes Begin

The Fall term of The Good Samaritan Dance Academy will begin Monday, September 14. Classes are being offered for ages 3 1/2 through adults. We offer solid dance training in an environment that fosters prayer, praise and worship of our Savior. Call 610-644-4040 x773, or check online at www.good-samaritan.org.

New Women's Bible Study: The Book of Jonah

by Karen Adams

Jonah and the big fish. Who doesn't remember enjoying this Bible story as a child in Sunday school? But when was the last time you studied it as an adult? What does this book reveal about God? And what, if anything, does it reveal about Jesus? This fall will provide an opportunity for the women of Good Samaritan to explore these questions in a weekly Bible study that will meet on Fridays from noon to 1:15pm beginning September 18 through December 4 in Room 264 (no class October 2 or November 27). Pastor Beverly, Terri Connelly, and Karen Adams will lead the study using the guide *Salvation Through Judgment and Mercy* from *The Gospel According to the Old Testament* series.

Women from Good Samaritan, as well as friends and neighbors, are welcome to participate. Please come, even if you are unable to attend regularly. Discussion topics will vary from week to week, so feel free to come to as many as you are able. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Beverly (610-644-4040 x213 or beverly@good-samaritan.org) so she can order the books. Bring your lunch (and a friend!) and enjoy the fellowship of other women as we delve into this wonderful jewel from the Old Testament. You will be blessed by it!



Esperanza Job Openings

Esperanza Health Center, which receives support from Good Samaritan's Outreach Ministry, serves over 6,000 patients in North Philadelphia, providing holistic, bilingual and bicultural health care services. Esperanza's health care providers are all board certified and everyone on the staff speaks both Spanish and English. Esperanza provides affordable, quality health care to persons without insurance, on a sliding scale based on an individual's income.

Positions available: Medical Assistants, Triage Nurse, Adherence Nurse, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, Dentists and Community Programs Coordinator. Please email your resume and cover letter to resumes@esperanzahealth.com or fax to 215-807-8951.

**Women's Fall Opener
"Spiritual Gardening"
Who's Tending Your Garden?
Guest Speaker: Fran Curry
September 19, 2009
1:00pm-4:00pm
Ashton Hall
\$5 per person**

For tickets and details, contact
Ronnie Tousignant: ladybugcar2003@yahoo.com
or Dorothy Jessup: dorothypj@verizon.net



Bridge of Hope Thanks

Can you imagine looking outside at pouring rain knowing that in moments open pickup trucks would arrive to move everything you own to a new apartment? Patti dreaded that moment, then found herself overjoyed to see a closed moving truck appear, driven by one of her new friends from her mentoring team. Her mentoring team had realized how awful moving in the downpour would be and had taken action to make the move as smooth as possible.

The mentors also noticed some very worn pieces that were to be moved to the new home that should be headed for the dump instead. Without fanfare, they pulled into a local store, replaced the items and quietly moved them into the new home. When Patti arrived at the apartment later that day, she arrived to a well set up home. Beds had been put together and made, furniture had been arranged and she had a cozy place to begin again.

"I don't understand why people who didn't know me have done all this for my family, but I'm so glad they did!"

Thanks so much for being a part of restoring hope for single mothers and their children. Restoring hope through healthy, supportive mentoring teams from local congregations gives single mothers the emotional boost they need to achieve their goals.

Notes from the Parish Administrator

As summer comes to a close and vacations wind down, we look back with fond memories of our common life here at Good Samaritan. Fair Days, Marketplace VBS and Fine Arts Camp saw literally thousands of visitors who were invited to be part of our fellowship. As we look forward to the Fall Kick-Off on September 13 there is a sense of anticipation as to who God will raise up and use in new and powerful ways. With the reinstatement of the 11:15 service, adult choir, and children's and youth discipleship all set to ramp up quickly, there is always a place to serve. Alpha, the Spiritual Gifts Class, Dr Chris Hall's Class, Life Groups and the Evangelism Series are all discipleship initiatives that should be both informative and challenging as we continue to *Build up the Body and Move forward in Mission*.

In addition to the good ministry which continues to transform lives, our financial picture continues to remain stable. As the summer draws to a close we are poised to close out the year on plan in relation to our budget. Work has already begun in the planning and preparation of the 2010 budget which we hope to unveil in October. There remains some concern regarding the completion of the Sanctuary Fund and how to deal with the probable shortfall. Preliminary conversations are underway with Wachovia as to various options, but our hope is that we will finish the year strong and all but eliminate the outstanding sanctuary debt.

For those of us who have spent the summer following the machinations of The Episcopal Church and the apparent erosion of the historic tenets of our faith, it is easy to let the uncertainty of the future blind our discernment of the call God has placed on our collective heart at Good Sam. This fall, as we seek to challenge each other to proclaim the Good News of the transformative power of the risen Christ let us not fall victim to the fear of uncertainty. Rather let our testimony ring loud and clear, let our witness be sure and confident, let our joy be complete, in Him

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand...*



The Church of the Good Samaritan

212 West Lancaster Avenue Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

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Fall 2009 Events Calendar

September 7

Labor Day ~ Office Closed

September 10

Episcopal Day School Orientation

September 11-12

Youth Adult Leaders' Retreat

September 13

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday School Registration

Youth Fall Opener

September 18

"Jonah" Women's Bible Study begins

September 19

Women's Fall Opener

September 20

State of the Parish Forum

Valley Forge Men & Boys Choir Evensong

September 22

Women's Book Discussion Group

September 26

Youth Paintball

September 27

Alpha Course begins

September 28

Prayer with the Vestry