



The Samaritan Community, rooted in respect, hope and healing, provides assistance to meet the needs of families and individuals who wish to improve their lives.

1407 Bolton Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

410.669.1229

www.samaritancommunity.org

Fall 2010

NEWS

Samaritan Community

What's it all about?

Judith McFadden came to the Samaritan Community Breakfast Club one time to lead a poetry-writing session and found so much friendliness, spirit, and grace that she's come back ever since. She describes what it's all about.

As people arrive, they pitch in to help cook and set the tables or welcome the later arrivals. After everyone sits down, the food is blessed and all are welcomed. The group uses this time to enjoy each other's company as well as a hearty meal. Served family style, the meal includes a variety of dishes for meat-eaters and vegetarians alike. When it's over, everyone pitches in to help clean up. Even though, there may be new faces at the table, most regulars agree that the participation in meal preparation and clean up makes it seem like a family meal with conversation and laughter.

To add even more substance, Sharon plans a topic for discussion after the meal, or a project, or

just opens the floor for people to bring up personal issues. Sometimes, outside guests participate by leading a discussion or by sharing an experience or a story. Activities vary; members have dyed eggs, written a poem, listened to music, or just walked outside to "see" things previously unnoticed. All the activities are designed to increase members' awareness of the world, relationships, struggles and successes. I'm always impressed by the respectful advice that is offered.

The Breakfast Clubbers have overcome or are dealing with all sorts of problems and they realize that the struggle is easier if others understand and can offer support. In this intimate group of friends, trust happens. We can admit to personal challenges, knowing that the people around the table will understand and are not afraid to point out an illogical or self-serving statement. But, there is a lot of laughter and fun. It's clear the members of the group respect and try to support each other. *We are friends.*

Down on the Farm

Saturday, October 2nd was a beautiful autumn day as Samaritan families set off for Waterford farm. There were educational activities such as watching an active bee colony, making scare crows, learning where our food comes from, hand feeding goats and lots more. There were pigs and chickens and rabbits. A highlight of the afternoon was a grand hayride to the pumpkin patch. Joining us was Ms. Dorothy Scott, a Samaritan supporter. Derservedly proud of her full 98 years, she easily climbed up onto the bales of hay. We were all quite impressed.

At the pumpkin patch everyone wandered around searching for just the right pumpkin to take home. Adult conversation turned to cooking pumpkins and seeds and where to get recipes. Children's turned to whose pumpkin was largest. For added fun before leaving, we all lost our way in a corn maze.

The sun shone bright all day and the country air was clean and crisp. We, ourselves, were shining a bit more brightly, refreshed by our experience and grateful that there are still places that make these experiences possible.

— Sharon Krieger



Proceeds benefit the Samaritan Community

\$60 per person

\$70 at the door

RSVP by Sunday, November 14th

410.669.1229

THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY

Tastes of California

Sunday, November 21, 2010 — 6:00 pm

Join us for a gala party of superb food and fine California wines in the grand Bolton Hill home of James Blue and John Rowell, 1710 Park Avenue

The food will include gourmet dishes prepared by the very talented Samaritan Board members

Bon Appetite



THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY

Memorial Episcopal Church
1407 Bolton Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

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Services offered

crisis intervention
and referral,
individual counseling
and therapy,
support groups,
employment
assistance, and
emergency
food pantry

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

If you are interested
in volunteering in the
Samaritan Community

Please contact
Sharon Krieger at
410.669.1229.

Wondering what the Samaritan Community Pantry Needs?

- peanut butter
- toilet paper
- plastic bags with handles
- brown paper bags
- school supplies
- men's trousers

**— Thank you—
Emmanuel Church,
for your long standing
commitment to our mission.**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, in the Mt. Vernon area, has an active, extensive outreach program of its own, but it has always taken an interest in the Samaritan Community. One hundred and fifty years ago, Emmanuel helped found Memorial Episcopal Church, where the Samaritan Community originated and is still located. This longstanding affiliation has meant a commitment to contribute financially every year from a special fund supported by wedding fees and other contributions; the offering at the Christmas Pageant is designated for the Samaritan Community. Food that is brought in by the congregation at Thanksgiving, Christmas and various other times is taken up to the Samaritan office. Emmanuel has also contributed leadership, including Tim Kroh+ and Diane Tomlinson+ as board members and others as volunteers.

— Donald Peek

Reflection

Recently a client, well known to me, arrived noticeably inebriated for his appointment. Homeless for many months, he had happened upon the funeral of an old friend but felt unable to join the service that was just beginning. He was too ashamed of the way he was dressed. Thomas, (I will call him Thomas,) was very saddened by the loss of his childhood friend, hurt that he hadn't known she had died, that there had been no way for others to contact him. He turned away and left without entering the church.

Thomas arrived at my office under the influence of alcohol, trying to escape his pain. We had arranged to meet together so that he could bring a contractor he knew to bid on a welding job. If all had gone as planned Thomas hoped to get a job assisting his friend on the project. It would have been his first chance to earn some money since early February, when he had found work by shoveling snow. When it became evident that his friend was not coming, Thomas was embarrassed, ashamed and his hopes were dashed. He felt he had let me down too. When I asked him why he was obviously drinking he explained what the day's disappointments meant to him.

It was fortuitous that John Willard, a Samaritan volunteer, former building inspector and an Aspirant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church, was there, having agreed to assess the project and the contractor's ability to properly handle it. John joined in the conversation. We all must eventually come to terms with the fact that when we try to bury our pain, we fail to grow. We reduce the possibility to be brave, wise, kind and get beyond the anger, hurt and disappointment. I know this even as I too try to bury the hurtful events of my life. John knows this and he shared his thoughts and experiences with Thomas. We all use pain as an excuse for failure. And it can serve us in one way, but growth and change and reconciliation go by the wayside. Working with clients at the Samaritan Community is as instructive for me, as much of an exercise in learning to be human as it is for the clients I meet with. I was thankful John was there that particular afternoon to remind me of this. When we each are touched, affected, even modified by our own humanness then the healing can begin.

— Susan (Opie) Smeragliuolo LCSW

Donor Profile: Monty Howard

Born in California "about 50 years ago" this son of a US Marine was relocated, while growing up and as an adult, every 2 years for over 38 years. Locations included neighborhoods in Virginia, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Texas and Delaware. He came to Baltimore "to stay" in 1998.



Monty started giving to the Samaritan Community upon his arrival at Memorial Church. "What I love about the Samaritan Community is the direct action effect of following God, through caring for my neighbors." Monty does not consider himself to be a huge donor. But upon reflection, we quickly realized in conversation that, if you counted up all the food pantry contributions, and annual Gala tickets, and pro-bono graphic design projects, and annual directed gifts - he sure ain't no slouch!

"They just make it too easy!" he explains, "Because the Gala is actually a sumptuous supper and a show, and when the food pantry freezer went up, I coincidentally, just happened to be in the perfect position to get a replacement,!" He says "Anyone can be a big donor by simply giving in a consistent fashion, for a long time"! — Gigi Largeé