First-time Parents Have A Memorable Delivery
Welcome

Welcome to this issue of Health Connections. As we prepare for what 2017 has in store for Good Samaritan and our patients, I would first like to take this time to share with you some of the accomplishments we have achieved this past year. Our focus on patient safety and patient experience has allowed these areas to improve and continuously be at world class levels. We implemented a new electronic health record called EPIC that has allowed us to have one record per patient between the physician office and hospital.

The Samaritan Center has worked to reorganize their departments, improving patient care in both the inpatient and outpatient setting. Along with the many achievements and certifications in 2016, ranging from the Joint Commission accreditation to Oncology’s Commission on Cancer certification, Good Samaritan was also designated as a Level III Trauma Center, the only verified center in the Wabash Valley.

New spaces within the hospital have been completed through the BEACON Project. We opened a new area for Vincennes Orthopedics inside the Health Pavilion, moved the Rehabilitation Center to a newly remodeled area on Columbian Tower West, and completed work on Columbian Tower East so that different non-clinical departments and LaSalle Behavioral Health could move to their new location.

In this edition you will meet an amazing family who had a memorable experience in the hospital as they welcomed their first child. You will also meet our newest physicians and advanced practice providers joining us in 2016; all of whom we are excited to welcome to our Good Samaritan family and our community.

In 2017 we will continue to strive for the highest possible patient outcome and to enhance the patient experience. We will also work to improve employee and physician engagement. Our 1,900 employees have a purpose to transform lives, communities and care for those in need. We strive to always offer the best health care for you and your family every single day.

Sincerely,

Rob McLin
President & CEO

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Good Samaritan is committed to recruiting the best physicians to provide quality care to the people in our community. In 2016, the following individuals were recruited in several different specialties. Each of the new physicians are featured in this edition of Health Connections so you can “get to know your doctor.”

Elizabeth Ashworth, MD  
Thoracic / Vascular Surgeon  
Medical School: Indiana University School of Medicine  
Master's Degree: Indiana University Medical Center  
Dayson Heart Center 812.885.3243  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Elizabeth Ashworth, MD, decided to become a physician so she could combine her intellectual and technical abilities and care for people on a daily basis. Showing interest in the difficulty and technical expertise of cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgical procedures, she decided to make it her specialty. Dr. Ashworth recently returned to Good Samaritan to practice medicine and is excited to be back. “I am happy that I have returned to Good Samaritan to provide vascular and thoracic surgery,” she said. In between her time at the hospital, Dr. Ashworth enjoys woodworking, home remodeling, sports, classical piano and motorcycles. She has three children; Nathan, John and Kinsey, and resides in Vincennes.

David Miller, DO  
Orthopedic Surgeon  
Medical School: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Residency: McLaren-Macomb Hospital  
Vincennes Orthopedics 812.882.6972  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

David Miller, DO, wanted a profession where he could change the lives of people for the better. “Orthopedic surgery was a very natural fit for me,” said Dr. Miller. “It is a very technical and challenging specialty that can have a dramatic effect on patients’ lives.” He decided to join the team at Good Samaritan because it offered the perfect balance of raising a family in a small community and access to a hospital with great capabilities and modern facilities. Dr. Miller and his wife, Candice, have two daughters, Maya and Lana. In his free time, he enjoys exercising, reading about new technology, spending time with his family and teaching his daughters new things.

Brittany Serratos, MD  
Anesthesiology  
Medical School: University of Texas Medical School  
Residency: Baylor College of Medicine  
Good Samaritan 812.882.5220  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Brittany Serratos, MD, is an Anesthesiologist joining Good Samaritan from Houston, Texas. She received her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School and was a general surgery intern at the University of Texas Health Science Center. She recently completed her residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Serratos was a top student throughout her academic career and has already contributed to 12 publications and presentations with fellow colleagues. Good Samaritan is excited to welcome Dr. Serratos to Vincennes.

Allie Thomas-Fannin, MD  
Psychiatry  
Medical School: University of Louisville School of Medicine  
Residency: Duke University Medical Center  
Riverfront Counseling Centre 812.885.2718  
121 Buntin Street, Suite 1  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Allie Thomas-Fannin, MD has always liked working with people and being a part of a team. Her passion for helping others in need led her to becoming a physician. Dr. Thomas-Fannin’s love of talking with patients and listening to their stories helped her decide her specialty of psychiatry. “I found psychiatry always exciting, different and never dull,” she said. “Every day I go to work confirms that this is exactly what I should be doing.” When she is not busy at work, she enjoys spending time with her daughters and husband. She also likes the outdoors, swimming, reading and playing games at home.
Delivering a Miracle

The birth of a baby is a wonderful, precious moment. New parents dream of what it will be like to see and hold this new person they have created. For Ben and Katie Strode, their wildest imagination could not have prepared them for the birth of their daughter, Stella. It was a night filled with joy, but also worry, and fear.

Ben and Katie Strode met in St. Louis, Missouri through a mutual friend. It was not quite love at first sight because Katie, who is three years older than Ben, thought he was too immature to date. “After a few weeks of dating I told him how I felt when we first met and we both cracked up laughing,” said Katie with a smile. “Not too long after that conversation, he gave me a card and signed it, ‘The guy you would never date.’”

Almost two years later, the couple decided to get married. They made the move from St. Louis to Olney, Illinois in August of 2014 when Ben was asked to be the preacher at the Christian Church of Olney. “We have always allowed our love for Christ to point us in the right direction,” said Ben. After a few months in their new home, Katie and Ben found out they were pregnant. The soon-to-be new parents were thrilled and a little scared when they learned the news. “We were excited because we had been trying for a few months, but I think we were both a bit shocked that this was now a reality,” recalled Katie.

The couple started seeing a physician in Olney, but felt it was not a good fit for their family. “We kept going to the doctor in Olney for about 18 weeks, but then started to ask my friends if they knew of any other OB physicians,” said Katie. “Many of them mentioned Dr. Shalin Arnett, an OBGYN at Good Samaritan, and said that she was really, really good, but I worried I would have problems switching to a new doctor since I was so far along in my pregnancy.” After the first time speaking with someone at Dr. Arnett’s office; however, Katie and Ben knew that they had finally found someone they could trust. “Once I got off the phone with the receptionist I immediately felt like they truly cared for people and wanted to make the most of the relationships they had with their patients,” stated Katie. “During our first appointment, Dr. Arnett was cordial and warm and was very knowledgeable about everything, like a good doctor should be. I just loved her.” Dr. Arnett enjoyed being Katie’s physician as well and looked forward to caring for her new patients. “They were a great couple to take care of,” she said. “They were so excited to be new parents and it was nice to go along with them through this journey.” As Katie’s due date approached, the discussion was had about what the labor process was going to be like. “I was so nervous and didn’t want to talk to anyone. Ben kept asking me questions about if I was excited and I was like ‘No, shut up. Don’t say anything,’” joked Katie. “I was shaking because I was nervous, but the nurses were so nice and did everything to calm.”

The time to deliver finally arrived and things were progressing normally. After about an hour of pushing, Stella Mae Strode was born on October 29, 2015 at 5:40 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. “I had this little, itty-bitty baby on my chest and Ben and I just looked at each other like, ‘wow, this is real life right now,’” Katie said laughing.

While staring at their new little girl in wonder, Katie was getting light-headed and seemed to be bleeding more than usual. “Everything happened so fast, but I remember Dr. Arnett saying there was a lot of blood.” said Katie. “I didn’t really know what was going on at the time.”

The excessive bleeding turned out to be from a deep vaginal sulcus tear. This rare tear severed some of Katie’s blood vessels, which caused an extreme amount of rapid bleeding. “It got real chaotic real fast,” said Ben. “In situations like that, I tend to get really calm and quiet,” added Katie while looking over at her husband. “Ben was pretty quiet, but I could see the fear in his eyes.”
“Katie’s tear was pretty deep and because of the amount of blood, I was having trouble seeing where it was coming from,” said Dr. Arnett. “For her safety, I made the decision to take her into the operating room suite on the labor unit so we could use better lighting sources and I could make the repair of these areas as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

“It was all very surreal,” said Katie. “I kept thinking, ‘is this really happening right now?’ but then again, I was still losing a lot of blood so I didn’t care what was going on at that point. I was just laying there.”

While Ben and Stella were on one side of the room with OB nurse Ava Allender, Katie was on the other side of the room being treated by Dr. Arnett and the rest of the team. “Ava could tell that I was really struggling. There was not a more bittersweet moment in my life,” said Ben while looking over at Stella and Katie, whose eyes began to fill with tears recalling that moment. “I’m looking at my newborn daughter and at the same time I am looking at my wife.”

Noticing that Ben was getting very emotional and worried, Ava asked him to help her with Stella in the nursery. Ava spent over an hour with Ben in the nursery teaching him how to bathe and care for Stella. “With our family so far away in St. Louis, we decided that we just wanted it to be us at the hospital that day, so it was rough to do all of this by ourselves,” said Ben. “That’s why I mention Ava to everyone because she was that person that kept us glued together. It was something I will never forget.”

Ben was extremely relieved to learn that Dr. Arnett successfully stopped the bleeding and that his wife was going to be OK. Although Katie’s situation was rare, Dr. Arnett and the entire team at Good Samaritan have experience with emergency situations. “We have a really good delivery team in place,” said Dr. Arnett. We are prepared for the unexpected and offer regional emergency care right here in Vincennes.

The new parents may have had a rough start to parenthood, but commend everyone at Good Samaritan for making their experience in the hospital a positive one. “You’re living at the hospital for three days and I know it’s a short amount of time but you feel like everyone is family,” said Ben. “Having a child is something you remember for the rest of your life and it’s awesome that everyone who works at Good Samaritan understands that and tries to make your experience a positive one.”

Before her delivery, Katie did not think she would want to stay in the hospital for long; however, when it came time to leave, the couple joke about how she did not want to leave. “The combination of postpartum hormones and the worry of being able to take care of a baby on our own was scary. But everyone was great at putting me at ease when I was in so much pain,” said Katie emotionally. “They just really care for everybody.”

Even after leaving the hospital the couple felt the constant support from everyone at Good Samaritan. Katie was having a few complications breastfeeding Stella, and decided she needed some help. Abbie Davidson, RN, nurse and lactation consultant at Dr. Arnett’s office, consoled Katie and helped her feel better about the situation. “Here I am having a breakdown in the office, crying my eyes out and Abbie was so patient and understanding. I could definitely feel that she really cared about me,” said Katie with tears in her eyes. Katie also saw hospital nurse and lactation consultant, Deb Telligan, RN, when the couple visited the hospital. “We ran into Deb and she just welcomed us and made time to answer my questions about breastfeeding and even gave us her personal cell phone number. That night when we got home, Deb was texting me and asking how everything was going. She is amazing and very invested in her patients.”

Katie and Ben could talk for hours about the care they received at Good Samaritan. From receiving a card in the mail that said everyone on the OB floor was thinking of them, to a Facebook message from Ava checking in on the family, to a nurse who had to leave on vacation before the delivery calling the next day to see how Katie and Ben were doing, the constant interaction between the staff and their patients meant so much to the Strode family.

“I think the intentionality of all the staff is a huge characteristic of the nurses at Good Samaritan. Not only in the hospital, but anywhere, you can tell the difference between people who clock-in and clock-out and those who have a true calling for their profession. Everyone went above and beyond for us,” said Ben. “I felt so comfortable with them and I kept telling Ben, ‘I just feel like they are all my best friends,’” added Katie while laughing.

Katie and Ben feel very blessed for the way everything turned out and know how different their story could have been. As little Stella plays around her home with her toys, she has no idea what her parents’ first time having a child was like. The independent, blue-eyed little girl may one day hear about the experience her mom and dad had, but for now is content on learning to walk and being adventurous. She definitely has her parents wrapped around her tiny fingers, and Katie and Ben wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I just feel like they are all my best friends.”
- Katie Strode said about Dr. Arnett and the Good Samaritan Birthing Center staff.
Introducing Our Newest Providers

Trista Armes, FNP-C  
*Medical Oncology and Palliative Care*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** University of Indianapolis  
**Master’s Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University  

Good Samaritan  
812.886.6565  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Wanting to provide access to care to more patients, Trista Armes decided to become a nurse practitioner. With six years of experience in oncology as a nurse at IU Health and Good Samaritan, she is excited to specialize in an area that she loves. Trista enjoys working at Good Samaritan because “it feels like a family.” She is passionate about caring for her patients, especially controlling their symptoms and providing education. Trista and her husband, Craig, reside in Washington, Indiana with their dog, Maggie and their cat, Ava. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and gardening in her free time.

Jennifer Becher, NP-C  
*Family Practice*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  
**Master’s Degree:** Ball State University  

Primary Care Clinic  
812.885.3703  
429 S. Sixth Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Jennifer Becher, was inspired to pursue a career in health care by her mother, who was also a nurse. She decided to become a nurse practitioner and practice medicine at her local hospital. “Good Samaritan is a leader in health care in this area and I want to serve those in my own community,” stated Jennifer. Born and raised in Vincennes, Jennifer is married and has two sons. When she is not caring for her patients, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her 5-year-old granddaughter.

Jill (Frisz) Cucinella, FNP-C  
*Family Practice*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** Indiana State University  
**Doctorate Degree:** Valparaiso University  

MCV  
812.885.6950  
406 N. 1st Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Jill Cucinella has always had a passion for helping others. She decided to become a nurse practitioner so she could provide high-quality care to patients and their families, while improving the overall health within the community. After completing her clinicals at Good Samaritan during school, Jill knew she wanted to come back to Vincennes to start her career. “I had a great experience as a student and wanted to continue at Good Samaritan and stay in the community,” said Jill. In her free time, she enjoys reading, running and spending time with her husband.

Cindy Douthitt, FNP-C  
*Family Practice*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  
**Master’s Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  

Primary Care Clinic  
812.885.3703  
429 S. Sixth Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Cindy Douthitt has always loved nursing and wanted to take the next step in her career by becoming a nurse practitioner. When it came time to decide her specialty, she knew exactly what she wanted. “The best part of nursing is interacting with the entire family and all of the dynamics that go along with that,” said Cindy. She decided to practice at Good Samaritan because of her positive experiences with the hospital. “I have always been shown professionalism and kindness with all of my interactions with Good Samaritan,” said Cindy. In her free time, Cindy and her husband, Kurt, of 33 years enjoy spending time with their family and traveling.

Joshua Eagleson, FNP-BC  
*Psychiatry*

**Associate’s Degree:** Wabash Valley College  
**Master’s Degree:** Walden University  

Samaritan Center  
812.886.6800  
515 Bayou Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Joshua Eagleson found his passion for helping those suffering from mental disease while working as a nurse on LaSalle Behavioral Health Unit here at Good Samaritan four years ago. “I enjoy the work environment and my amazing co-workers at Good Samaritan,” said Joshua. “After I graduated, I knew I wanted to continue working here.” A lifelong learner, he hopes to pursue a post-master’s certificate in psychology for a mental health specialization. He loves spending time with his wife of 18 years, Veronica, and his two children, Cara and Eli. In his free time, Joshua pursues fitness and is an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Indianapolis Colts.

Emma Engel, PMHCNS-BC  
*Psychiatry*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** University of Phoenix  
**Master’s Degree:** University of Hawaii  

Samaritan Center  
812.886.6800  
515 Bayou Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Born and raised in Lawrenceville, Illinois, Emma moved away during college, but knew she wanted to return to Vincennes. “My goal was always to return home and work at Good Samaritan,” she said. “It was like coming home because I knew so many people that I used to work with.” Emma started her nursing career at Good Samaritan in critical care, but had a passion for mental health. When she is not seeing patients at the Samaritan Center, she enjoys spending time with her 5-year-old son. She purchased her grandparent’s house and farm in 2000 and now raises chickens and grows organic vegetables that she loves to cook.
Stephanie Fuller, FNP-C
**Family Practice**

**Bachelor's Degree:** Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
**Master's Degree:** Kaplan University  

**Convenient Care Clinic**  
812.885.8941  
1813 Willow Street, Suite 3A  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Stephanie Fuller began her nursing career at Good Samaritan in critical care. She went on to become a nurse practitioner and wanted to specialize in family practice. “I enjoy caring for families and cannot imagine doing anything else,” said Stephanie. She has spent her entire career at Good Samaritan and wanted to continue working at the hospital as a nurse practitioner with her “work family.” Stephanie and her husband, John, have three children and enjoy spending time together, especially when they get to vacation in Florida.

Jennifer Inman, FNP-C
**Family Practice / Orthopedics**

**Bachelor's Degree:** Indiana State University  
**Master's Degree:** Indiana State University  

**Quest Orthopedics**  
812.882.6637  
2121 Willow Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Jennifer Inman decided she wanted to be a nurse practitioner in high school, and never looked back. Jennifer’s sister, Dr. Sarah Jacob, a physician at Good Samaritan, sparked her interest in working in Vincennes. “I am from Sullivan County so I grew up in a rural area,” stated Jennifer. “I enjoy the small town feel of Vincennes, but also appreciate the exceptional reputation of Good Samaritan.” When she is not caring for patients, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her 6-year-old son, family and friends. She also likes to read and be outdoors - fishing, taking walks and camping.

Tracy Kerzan, FNP-C
**Pulmonology / Critical Care**

**Bachelor's Degree:** Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis  
**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  

**Good Samaritan**  
812.882.5220  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

After working as a nurse for more than 10 years, Tracy Kerzan decided to become a nurse practitioner so she could be more involved with maintaining her patients’ health. When deciding on where she wanted to practice, Good Samaritan was on the top of the list. “I have always known a friend or family member that has worked for Good Samaritan and I admired the way they depicted the relationship amongst fellow employees in any area of practice and how well the organization valued their employees,” said Tracy. She and her husband, Kraig, have four children; Kash, Sean, and twins Jack and Luke. In between the family’s extracurricular activities, Tracy likes to relax and read a good book.

Lynnette Matteson, FNP-C
**Family Practice**

**Associate's Degree:** Vincennes University  
**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  

**Petersburg Medical Clinic**  
812.354.8426  
611 N. Main Street  
Petersburg, IN 47567

Lynnette Matteson always knew she wanted to be a nurse. “I have spent my entire professional career growing as a nurse,” stated Lynnette. “Becoming a nurse practitioner was a natural progression in my career and I wanted to care for all ages.” Her professional interests include diabetes and wound care. After completing her master’s degree in nursing at the University of Southern Indiana, Lynnette knew right away where she wanted to practice. “Good Samaritan has a great reputation within the community and is continually growing to meet the needs of their patients,” she stated. When she is not caring for patients, Lynnette enjoys gardening, camping, reading, cooking and spending time with her husband, Chris, and their two sons.

James Pfleging, III, PMHNP-BC
**Psychiatry**

**Bachelor's Degree:** Indiana State University  
**Master's Degree:** Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis  

**Samaritan Center**  
812.886.6800  
515 Bayou Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Working as a registered nurse for five years, James Pfleging found the field of psychiatry interesting. “I wanted to be in a field of medicine where I could continue to learn and be of service to others,” said James. He shares the same values as those practiced at Good Samaritan and knew this is where he could help meet the needs of the community. Growing up in Indiana, James is accustomed to the changing weather and enjoys spending his free time outdoors hiking, fishing and landscaping.

Ann (Held) Vash, FNP-C
**Family Practice / Convenient Care Clinic**

**Bachelor's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  
**Doctorate Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  

**Convenient Care Clinic**  
812.885.8941  
1813 Willow Street, Suite A  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Ann (Held) Vash wanted to be a nurse practitioner so she could make a difference in people’s lives. She decided to focus on family practice so she can provide care to all ages. “I enjoy the opportunity to get to know the entire family through my practice,” said Ann. She decided to join Good Samaritan’s growing team because her mother worked for the hospital for more than 20 years and the organization has always been a place that treated Ann and her family well. When she is not taking care of patients at the Convenient Care Clinic, Ann enjoys spending time with her husband, children, step-children and grandson. She also likes to spend time in the yard and relax by doing needle work.
Molly Wasson, FNP-BC  
*Psychiatry*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University  
**Master’s Degree:** Indiana State University

Samaritan Center  
515 Bayou Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591  
812.886.6800

Molly Wasson loved being a registered nurse but wanted to become a nurse practitioner so she could impact the lives of more patients. She enjoys working in the psychiatry field and wants to help patients in need. Molly chose to practice at Good Samaritan because “it has such a good reputation and great plans for the future.” When she is not seeing patients at the Samaritan Center, Molly likes to read, play with her pets and spend time with her husband, Kevin, and their three children.

Erin Wehrheim, PA-C  
*Emergency Services*

**Bachelor’s Degree:** Butler University  
**Master’s Degree:** Butler University

Good Samaritan  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591  
812.882.5220

Erin Wehrheim had an interest in health care at an early age. Erin became interested in emergency medicine while in college. “The ER is fast-paced and brings a new challenge every day,” she said. “I wanted to get into a specialty where I would see a variety of patients and constantly be pushed to continue learning.” Born and raised in Vincennes, Erin always had an interest in coming back home to start her career. After spending some time with ER physicians and staff, she knew that Good Samaritan was the perfect fit for her. Erin resides in Vincennes and is the daughter of Mark and Kelly Wehrheim, who are also employed at Good Samaritan. In her free time, Erin enjoys spending time with her friends and family, reading, exercising and playing golf.