



A lasting memorial has been given to

Good Samaritan Church

in memory of

Wilfred C. Bockelman

November 15, 1920—Napoleon OH

September 2, 2013—Wayzata MN

“The best way to keep a story alive is to pass it on.”

Bill Bockelman—family man, pastor, editor, writer—was a lover and teller of stories. He knew the power of stories and always had plenty of stories to tell. Even more, he loved being with people and sharing in their stories—stories of joy and sorrow, triumph and struggle, courage and frustration. His twinkling eyes and cheerful presence were infectious. Even in his last years of increasing dementia, that smile was nearly always there.

When Bill and Carolyn (Bolick) were married in 1987, they blended not only their families but also their churches. Bill, a lifelong Lutheran and ordained Lutheran pastor, was a member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Carolyn, a lifelong, active Methodist was a member of Good Samaritan. When asked if Carolyn was going to become a Lutheran, he would always say, “I hope not.” They each retained membership in their own congregations but joined the other congregation as an associate member. For many years they faithfully attended both churches on Sunday morning or at least alternated between the two. He once said he thought everybody should belong to two churches—“it’s an enriching experience.”

Bill loved his Good Sam family. He spoke often of the good preaching he heard and called Good Sam’s pastors his “pastors-in-law.” He especially treasured the Tuesday morning Bible class. He loved both teaching and participating in that class—a rich venue of stories and storytelling.

