



MEDIA ADVISORY

For: Wednesday, October 28, 2009

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WHAT: South Georgia Medical Center announces the reopening and blessing of the All-Faiths Chapel. The ceremony will include a recognition of donors, prayers, and a responsive reading.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 10:15 a.m.

WHERE: South Georgia Medical Center's All-Faiths Chapel

BACKGROUND: From its inception in 1958, the SGMC Chaplains' Association has recognized the need for quiet space where hospital staff, patients and families could seek spiritual comfort. Over the years, they worked with the hospital to achieve this end. More recently, the chapel became used less frequently because its design didn't meet ADA requirements for wheelchairs and walkers, thus limiting its use.

In 2008, The SGMC Volunteer Auxiliary accepted the challenge to give funds for the renovation of the All-Faiths Chapel. They successfully donated over \$60,000 for the project. Local businesses, including Cauthan Construction, CMA Architectural Services and Modern Design Concepts contributed in-kind services to complete the renovations below budget.

The newly renovated space is open and accessible for all types of patients including wheelchair and walker patients. Instead of fixed pews, comfortable chairs can be moved or rearranged as needed to accommodate the audience. A new sound system provides the option of listening to spiritual music. A raised altar and kneeling benches are also incorporated into the design. The chapel is open to serve patients, visitors and staff 24-hours a day, seven days a week.