

# From the Pastor

November 14, 2017

One of the best known stories in the bible is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. It is a parable Jesus told in response to a teacher of the law who asked him, "Who is my neighbor?" Interestingly, Jesus doesn't answer the question directly and doesn't define who a neighbor is. What he does do is tell a story that illustrates how to be a neighbor. Being a neighbor involves caring for and having mercy on others (Luke 10:37).



Rick Rusaw and Brian Mavis have written a book called "The Neighboring Church" which sets out to answer the question asked of Jesus from the Parable of the Good Samaritan. It was written to help us get better at what Jesus said matters the most---Loving God and loving our neighbor. (Matthew 22:37-39)

Rusaw and Mavis identify three questions in their book that can help us reach out to our neighbors with the love of God:

*How many names do you know?*

*Do you know something about each of them?*

*Can you tell some hurt or hope that they have?*

I recently talked to a member of St. Mark's who said her family posted names of their closest neighbors on the inside of a cabinet door in their kitchen with birthdays and other information listed. I am so grateful to be part of a congregation interested in being good neighbors. Let's continue to find ways to let people know we care about them and God loves them!

Blessings,

Craig