

Subject: Who Is My Neighbor?

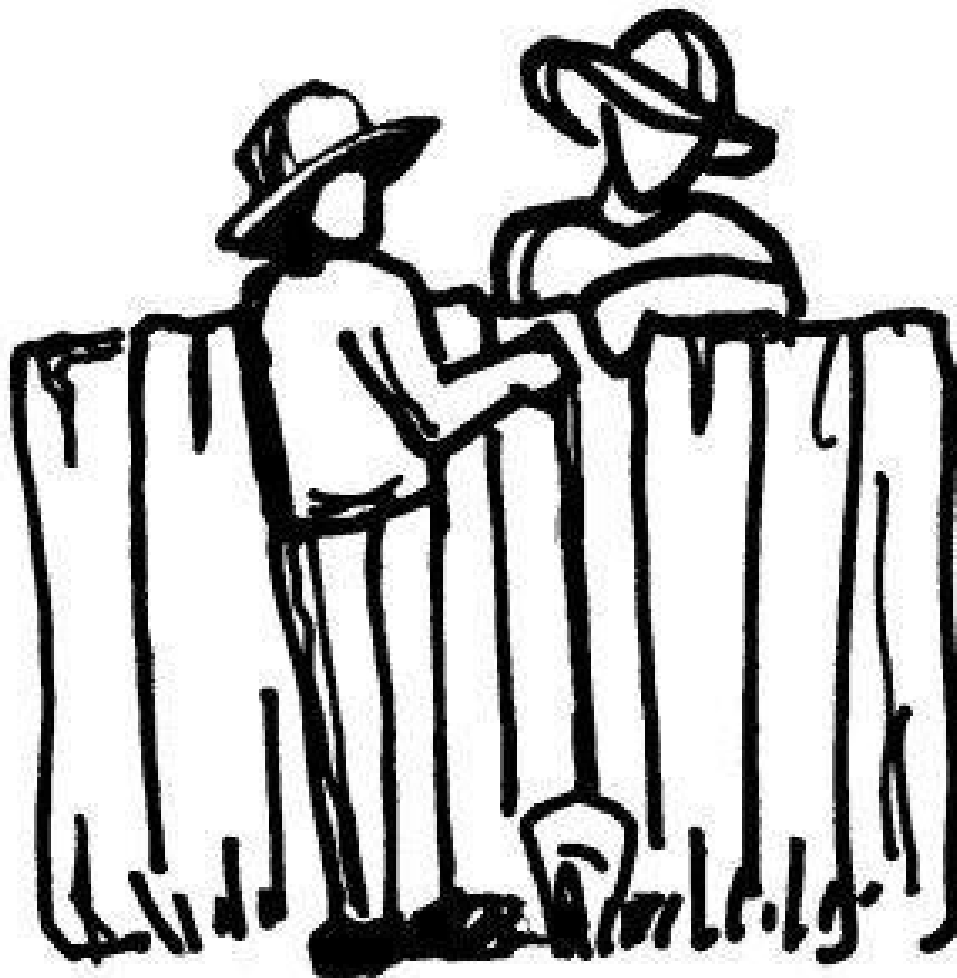
From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

Date: 7/11/2013 1:30 PM

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July 11, 2013

And Who Is My Neighbor?

*Go and do likewise
Luke 10:38*

What if . . . ?

. . . someone asks me a question about my faith and I do not know the answer?
That can be a very uncomfortable situation. It is important, however, to take stock of the situation. When you feel that way who are you concerned about--you or your neighbor? Is being a good neighbor in your mind being the one with

all of the answers (or tools to borrow, or help to offer, etc.)? I find it a great relief to realize that God does not expect me to have all of the right answers. Even though I have two seminary degrees and a number of years of pastoral leadership experience God still does not expect me to have all of the answers. The same is true for you.

What if . . . ?

. . . we leaned on God with all we have to be able to love our neighbors as ourselves? I mean to accept them completely just as they are. That's what it is to love mercy. It is to love to fully accept people just the way they are. That's the way we tend to love ourselves. It takes the power of God to love someone as you love yourself, to accept them just as they are. I cannot do that on my own power. Asking God to help us see people as He sees them opens up a powerful way of fulfilling all God wants to see in our lives.

What about that question?

If someone asks you a question about your faith and you do not know the answer you might try an answer like this: "I don't know, but I'd like to find out." Its more neighborly that way. Often it is better (more Christian?) to be "with" someone than to do something "for" someone. Often that's what it is to love our neighbor as ourselves. I think God actually handles our questions more by being with us than doing something for us.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, July 14, 2013

10:00am worship

Sunday, July 21, 2013

10:00am worship

11:30am Book Study on People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity

4:00pm special gathering



Tuesday, July 23, 2013

5:00pm Caritas at Christ Church, Short Pump

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Print1 Print Shack that this business would be able to serve the needs of

many for advertising and printing throughout the region.

Metro Richmond at Prayer

For the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond especially the

Boards of Supervisors and County Administrators of Charles City, New Kent, Powhatan, Ashland, Petersburg, and Hopewell.

Bright Beginnings

Eligible school children in Goochland's elementary schools are invited to participate by the Goochland YMCA. Each child receives a backpack with grade appropriate supplies and participates in a shopping trip with volunteers who help them select shoes, two outfits, socks, underwear, and a jacket or sweater.

Monetary donations help provide the funds for the shopping trips. A donation of \$150.00 supports the shopping for one child.

This year, the Goochland Y has received 180 applications which will require over 200 shopping volunteers and \$28,000 in financial contributions

There are three ways to contribute to the YMCA's Bright Beginnings program: fill backpacks, contribute money, help with shopping. Further information will be available this Sunday. The backpacks are due back to church on July 28, the

shopping dates are August 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8. We have cards for 16 elementary backpacks, but can acquire more if necessary. Contact MJ Weatherford for more information: [804-221-2138](tel:804-221-2138).

Farewell to Craig and Nancy MacNaughton. As things change for Craig's day job it also means it is time for him to move on from leading the music ministry at St. Francis. God has brought some very significant ministry through Craig's desire to use his gifts as a musician and worship leader and through Nancy's gifts in the music ministry as well as service on the vestry, welcome ministry, and interior design of our building. They have been a wonderful part of the establishment of St. Francis for the past ten years. On July 21st at 4:pm we will have a pot luck gathering at the church to thank them for their work and ask God's blessing on their next steps. You can sign up for the gathering this Sunday or rsvp to info@stfrancisva.org.

There will be a special collection taken on the last three Sundays of July. The loose collection (that which is not part of your pledge or regular offering) will go to Ministry of Hope as the people of that ministry support Atiah and her young son Asif. Atiah's husband was a pastor in Pakistan who was martyred earlier this year. Our offerings will help support her new sewing business. Richard Walker, a member of St. Francis, is the President of the Board of Directors of Ministry of Hope. We are pleased to support him as Ministry of Hope supports Atiah and Asif. If you wish, you may mail in a contribution to St. Francis Episcopal Church, PO Box 303; Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103. Make the check out to "St. Francis Episcopal Church" and write "Ministry of Hope" in the memo. Here is a photo:



More Summer Reading:

[The Path of Celtic Prayer](#) by Calvin Miller

[Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church](#) by Reggie McNeal

[Repenting of Religion: Turning from Judgment to the Love of God](#) by Gregory Boyd

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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