**2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women**

**Rhoda Frasier**

**August 4, 2018 Morning Plenary**

# The Good Samaritan, A Paraphrase of Luke 10:25–37

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” she asked, “what must I do to have eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “Have you read what the Bible says?” to which she answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

“But, Jesus, who is my neighbor?” the lawyer asked. Jesus responded with this story.

There once was a woman who loved to wear blue hats, even though it was not the fashion. She seemed to always be different from her neighbors. One day she was out weeding her petunias. She loved working in her yard, as it brought her brief peace from the discord around her. But this day, she fell and couldn’t get up.

The neighbor on the left saw her lying there, but walked on by, saying she would love to help, but she was on her way to a potluck and couldn’t let her casserole to get cold. Besides, she didn’t really like her neighbor’s petunias. So she didn’t stop to help.

The neighbor on the right also saw her lying there, but walked on by, saying she was late for services and she didn’t really like people who wore blue hats.

The neighbor across the street also saw her on the ground and went to help. This neighbor called 911 and stayed with her until the ambulance arrived. She made sure her copay was covered and visited her in the hospital. After she was home she brought her meals and did her laundry.

Jesus then asked the young lawyer, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the woman?”

The lawyer responded, “The one who had showed love and cared for her.”

Jesus tells us all, “Go. Be a loving neighbor to all.”

Note: This script can be enacted with four individuals pantomiming the actions. Consider dressing all actors in black and adding a few props—gardening tools, a blue hat, a bowl or casserole and a large Bible. Actors stand facing away from audience until they are mentioned in the reading. Each of the two neighbors walks past the blue hat lady and off stage. The Good Samaritan from across the street assists the blue hat lady up and helps her off the stage as the reading ends.