

## Service Learning at the C of I

Guided by our founding president, Rev. Dr. William Judson Boone, the C of I is a college that supports and challenges students to grow intellectually, civically, and spiritually. We value an education for our heads, our hands, and our hearts. We believe in the integration of ideas and action.

Rev. Boone was inspired by the example of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, such as can be found in the Gospel of Luke:

*Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?" He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?" He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."*

*Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"*

*Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.*

*"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'*

*"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?" "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.*

*Jesus said, "Go and do the same."*

Service-learning is one way we can live into these great ideals of Rev. Boone and of Jesus himself. We hope this week is another challenging and supportive opportunity to assist you to in your life-journey of:

- finding purpose
- learning to grow through the challenges of life
- making a difference in our world

Service learning includes a number of steps:

- 1) **Preparation:** We will read, think, talk and learn about the place and people that we will visit, attempting to arrive with an attitude of openness, caring and humility.
- 2) **Exploration:** We will learn through discovery, exposure, adventure, and service.
- 3) **Reflection:** Often, an experience like this can lead us to change how we live our lives. Some changes will be small "seeds", which take time to grow. Others might be large dramatic turns towards a new way of life. Either way, it's up to you. During the trip there will be several times of personal and group reflection. This is where we take time and space to think about and reflect upon all of our experiences. Some reflections may lead to new commitments or new understandings, while some reflections may simply lead to a deeper "connection" to this experience.