

## **The Start to our Neighborhood Awareness – gathering data**

Review your community's website

- ✓ What do they highlight?
- ✓ Contact names and numbers: City Administrator, Police Chief, School Superintendent, other groups such as ministerial contact information, business association, others
- ✓ Do you have schools in your neighborhood? Who are the principals and their contact information? Do they have afternoon programs? Have they had to eliminate classes or teachers? Check out their webpage and see what is happening – what are they highlighting?
- ✓ Where is the volunteer base? Can you find anything even on volunteers and where they are already helping?

What Businesses have closed? What has opened up? How is your community known?

Check with a realtor. What is selling? Who is leaving the neighborhood and who is moving in?

How do the neighborhoods look, are they kept up or not?

Crime statistics

School ratings –

Taxes – services

Where are the other churches? What do they do for the community? Is your church in relationship with them? Have you been?

What are the services that you know of?

Other things you wonder and would like to know?

What are we missing?

What else did you discover?

## **Now what about our congregations, do we know what our gifts and skills are?**

Have you done a spiritual gifts inventory? Some congregations will do an inventory so people can see what their gifts are. Also an inventory of skills is often on file.

We rarely do much with this information or look at it as a composite. What do our gifts and skills say about us as a community? If we were to take the top two spiritual gifts of everyone in the congregations what would be the congregation's giftedness? What areas would it be skilled in?

There are congregations living into healing ministry because that is where the gifts and skills are. Same could be said about music, teaching, serving etc. This gets at the question Sally raised regarding hospitality – if that is our gift how does God want us to use it?