

The meaning of fun in the rhythm of life

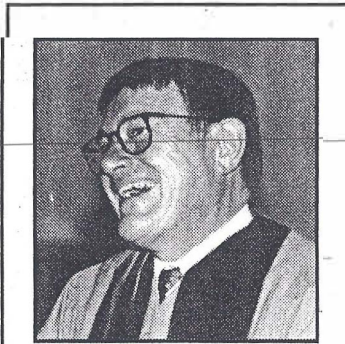
One of the first miracles that Jesus did according to St. John was the incident at Cana in Galilee (John 12). It was a wedding feast and Jesus turned water into wine; there was quite a stir among the guests at that feast as a result of this miracle and John tells us that the disciples saw the glory of Jesus and they believed in Him.

This remarkable incident shows us that Jesus transformed everything He touched. But there is one more thing to notice: Jesus is fun to be around. The disciples saw that too. The Christian journey has the unmistakable mark of joy upon it and one of the results of joy is fun. Fun is what takes place when, added to everything else, we discover that we are enjoying what is happening around and within us.

There are heavy moments in life but the Christian journey is a rhythmic balance of what is rightfully solemn with what is whimsically fun. We need both to happen in our lives to make us whole.

Summer is a good time for fun in your own journey as an individual or as a family. My own experience is that fun happens both when we decide to enjoy the people and places that are especially important to us and therefore we plan for fun to happen, but fun also is the surprise that creeps in on an ordinary day and catches me unaware. Consider each:

We can plan for fun. This is the game that we take the



From Your Pastor
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have an ice cream break.” It is when I suddenly find myself laughing right in the middle of what I’m doing on an ordinary day — “this is fun, I’m really happy right now.”

I think this is what the disciples of Jesus did at Cana and later on the lake of Galilee one night when a storm was mysteriously calmed. It happened after a boy’s lunch was blessed by Jesus and had fed 5,000 so that it dawned on them that Jesus is not only great and the awesome Lord but He is

trouble to arrange, the camping trip, the afternoon at the zoo, the surprise party, the three roses you bought at Safeway for someone you love. All these are planned ahead and carried out in practice and they make the people in your life happy because they are fun. Fun also is the total surprise that sneaks up on you when someone announces “Hey let’s

exciting to be around and fun too.

P.S. I have a modest list for you:

Ten Fun Things to Do (that don’t cost much money)

- One person reads aloud a book from UPC Library and the rest lie on the floor and color in coloring books
- Ride the Washington State ferry to Bremerton as a foot passenger
- Visit the Burke museum and take a walk to the UW fountain and back followed by an ice cream cone at the Creamery on the Ave. (or may be done separately)
- Visit the Woodland Park Zoo with a brown bag lunch
- Bicycle on the trail system throughout Seattle and stop to watch yachts and passengers at the Ballard locks
- Take a hike in the Arboretum and, if you are careful, rent a canoe
- Attend Day Camp at UPC if your age is right
- Volunteer for Day Camp at UPC
- Walk around Greenlake and play with a Frisbee on a safe grassy area
- Read a book by yourself