

**Please 'Get Me!'** by Rev. Thomas Murphy

The water slide at Camp Henry was fairly basic; five sheets of clear plastic, over lapping down a hill. Paired together with a hose, some soap, and 95 eager campers it was perhaps the cheapest and most fun afternoon activity at camp. And our director, the now Reverend Dave McNair, was always right in the thick of it. And predictably, he would gather the counselors together before hand and say in the way that only Dave could say, "Now, y'all, you're not going to 'get me' this time. Promise me, you won't get me." And the way he laughed, and the way we nodded meant that yes, indeed, we were going to play the same trick.

"Here I go," Dave would announce to the campers, who would cheer him on. We would all watch him take a long running start and hurl himself down the slide with the grace of a dancing Baptist, smiling broadly. The counselors, who minutes before, promised 'not to do it again,' would then run and take their positions. Dave's smile would fade. He would begin screaming, "You promised! You promised, Murphy!" He would then watch helplessly as the counselors would lift up one of the plastic sheets. The result was everything that had been sliding on top was diverted beneath, the water, the soap, the Dave. All entered into a sub-slide environment of mud, and grass, and muck; all to the delight of everyone but the director.

This is a small story about what makes Camp Henry, Camp Henry. It is indicative of a culture where everyone had a part to play in making camp, camp. Dave knew he had to let the staff, 'get him.' The staff knew they had to let the campers 'get them,' whether with a surprise water balloon raid or a fierce game of 'Capture the Flag.' Camp Henry's spirit lives in this balance, providing everyone with a role and a place to belong.

So, yes Director Ian, yes staff, yes campers we're going to 'get you' this time. It is part of a story of belonging to a place where you belong, exactly as who you are, in the role you were meant to play, in a place that 'gets you' every time.