

Remembrances shared during Dad's funeral service
September 27, 2004

MARCY

In reflecting upon my Dad's life, what stands out for me was his sense of joyful integrity. He truly lived his beliefs! He epitomized for me the compassionate liberal; uninfluenced by popular opinion, yet tolerant of other viewpoints.

(T)his legacy live on in us, his numerous progeny.

JAMIE

When I was a kid and a bunch of us kids would sometimes be hanging around the kitchen interacting, Dad would walk in and stop and quietly observe the sibling interaction . As we became aware of his presence , we would quiet down and direct our attention towards him. This would catch him a bit off guard, but not willing to waste a teachable moment, he would pause , stalling, waiting for the inspiration for that teachable moment. And if that inspiration did not come, he would look around the room and say, "I suppose you 're all wondering why I called this meeting."

The reading today was from John 14. I wasn 't aware it was going to be, but I looked that up this morning and this is Jesus talking to his followers before he left for heaven, and he says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled ; trust in God, trust also in me ..." which, by the way, is a lot easier when you have an earthly father you can trust. Jesus continues, "**In** my house there are many places." This is also true

when you grow up with twelve people in your house. "If it were not true, I would have told you." And Jesus, who is incapable of lying, punctuates his credibility here: "If it were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, and I will come back to take you to be with me, so that you can be there, where I am. You know the way to the place I am going." I am ju st so grateful for having an earthly father who is also worth following.

CHRISTOPHER

When I think of my experience in this life with my father, one word comes to mind: camaraderie.

But before presenting that, I wanted to look up the word to see if it really conveyed what I wanted to say.

From both of my parents I've learned that what you meet along the way is often

more interesting than the goal. And in my search for a dictionary in my father's den, I came upon a yellow sheet of paper loosely tucked into the bookshelf at eye level above the dictionary. I was led to open it and in my father's handwriting was the following list:

Holy
Best I know
Faithful
Loving
Open to new life
Beautiful
Fun
Compassionate
Caring
Very engaging with people
Thoughtful of others
Touches in often
Loves out of doors
Nurturer

Though it describes him to a tee, I'm not sure if he was describing himself or someone else, but they say that you can only see in others those traits that you carry yourself – that we are all reflections of each other.

After being sidetracked by my father's list, I returned to the dictionary and learned that camaraderie involves light hearted rapport, another word that I needed to research. Rapport is defined as a relationship of mutual trust or emotional affinity. That pretty well describes the gift and psychic space that I felt my father holding for me and others continually.

KATY

Hi. I'm going to use the word 'is', present tense in my remembrance versus was as I see Dad as very present and continuing to move forward in life, presently.

I think everyone has a spiritual God given gift and to me, Dad's gift is that of a Teacher. He loves to read and write and reflect and knowledge is important to him, having a certain awareness of the world around him. In books and creative ideas he found growth, renewal and joy and something beyond that- he found new ways to teach others and help broaden their lives.

A friend of mine once asked Dad why he encouraged his children to do liberal arts in college. He answered- for them to be curious about the world and question things; to be more knowledgeable about the world and what's around them, to be able to think about what 's going on and not take it for granted.

To be a good teacher, one must be patient and Dad is very patient. Imagine 5 young children all asking questions like why does that bug have a light in it? If we didn't get it the first time he would patiently explain again.

Perhaps the most valuable things I am learning from Dad are kindness, compassion, & tolerance, openness to others different than myself and the joy of giving from who you are.

Even in the last days of his death process he continued to teach us and stretch us in learning.

I believe Dad is still here with us and so we will continue to be taught, those who wish to be taught, only now he has a greater awareness of God's library, unlimited, more expansive. It's going to be fun. Thank you Dad. Thank you God.

KEVIN

My remembrance goes back to when I was seventeen years old or so. Out of the blue, my best friend told me, "Your dad is the only businessman I know who is truly honest." That startled me at the time, and coming from another seventeen year-old, it was obviously a perspective limited by my friend 's relatively brief experience of life, but it resonated in me because I realized the effect Dad had on people whose lives were touched by his example. It was an example of integrity, of genuine kindness, and love. That 's my Dad.

JEFF

From the time I could pick up a tool, I have fond memories of working with Dad. Whether it was building a shed, or just raking leaves, Dad not only instilled a work ethic but he taught us that work is enjoyable.

But perhaps even more important than working, Dad taught us how to relax, whether it was sitting in front of an open fire, reading a book or taking a walk in the woods, Dad showed us the importance of slowing down, because it is in the quiet moments that we strengthen our relationship with God.

MOLLY

As a mom of young ones, my life is sort of in snippets right now, so I have a little list of words, and I made it in the grocery store, waiting for my daughter to wake up yesterday. Some of these sum him up, and they've been mentioned before:

Pops

Love

Playful

Wise

Full

Exuding

Thought-provoking

Emotional

Secure

Gentle

Firm

Faithful

Cheerful expedience

Forward-thinking

A Planter, and

A Teacher.

CLAYTON

There are so many things you could say about Dad, but the one thing that stands out again and again was what an incredible teacher he was, and all the ways he passed on what he knew, whether it was identifying tree types on a hike (he took any opportunity), sharing techniques on the tennis court ("keep your knees bent"), or explaining the patterns of haiku poetry. And he had a passion and a gift for passing on so many things because he took an interest in so many things. And especially what I learned from him, I think, is that he took an interest in whoever it was that presented themselves to him, and I think that was his greatest lesson.