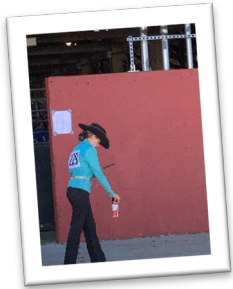




More Than A Slogan
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I enjoy peeking into other lives. Saturday found me at the fairgrounds doing just that. Groups of people, with different interests, were tucked into spaces set aside especially for them. Hockey players skated at the Pettit ice rink; riders and trainers prepared in the stables for the horse show, some stalls festooned with ribbons

blowing in the breeze. I could hear contented neighing until I got close to the racetrack. Stock cars, Formula 1 cars, and prestige cars filled the sound with roaring engines and tires squealing around tight turns. A Lamborghini, Audi, and Ferrari posed side-by-side for pictures.



Different groups, different passions. No group paid attention to the other, except during the search for a parking spot.



It got me to thinking about whether our churches are similarly isolated spaces for people with unique interests -- places that people with a shared passion go on the weekend, but no one else notices ... unless we're competing for the same parking spaces.

The slogan on the side of one of the car carriers held my attention: "Where adrenaline goes on the weekend." The speed, flash, and roar of the cars certainly increased my adrenaline, and I never got behind the wheel.

I'm not sure, however, that it would translate as well to our worship services. I love you all, but Presbyterians are not usually known for raising adrenaline on Sunday mornings. Truth be told, we're reluctant to even raise our hands in worship. So if it's not adrenaline, what word would you substitute for your congregation's worship? "Where *family* goes on the weekend..." or maybe "Where *sacred music* goes on the weekend..."?

I'm not suggesting we develop a catchy slogan as a marketing tool to lure people in, but it might help us think about what keeps us coming back each weekend. What is *it*? If we get to the point that we can name it for ourselves, then, yes, maybe we can name it for others in a way that is even more captivating and sustaining than the activities at the fairgrounds.

Where *love* goes on the weekend?

It will likely be different for each of us. You'll need to figure it out for yourselves, but compare notes with those around you, too. We might discover a compelling vision that calls us to live more fully into God's mission and intentions for the Church.