

## WHAT SHOULD SUNDAY LOOK LIKE?

From an idea based on the article by Rev. William C. Graham, "Sabbath Posture," in the current issue of *Ministry & Liturgy* (vol. XXXV, no. 7, Sept. 2008)...

What should our Sundays look like and feel like? The article cited above suggests that Sunday's intention of glorifying God is not necessarily fulfilled by shopping at K Mart for last-minute Blue-Light Special bargains. If not, how should we spend our Sundays?

The mention of the invocation prayer of Confirmation offers a striking suggestion: we confirmed receive the Spirit of "wonder and awe" in God's presence. Could Sunday somehow be filled with a spirit of wonder and awe?

In other words, our leisure time (together, as a family) might be repaid by things like time at the beach, or (for those who prefer to be more land-locked) a visit to Bellingrath Gardens; we might enjoy some time at the Mobile Museum of Fine Arts or Exploreum, especially if an intriguing special exhibit is there. In these cases and in many others, we could spend time truly standing in "wonder and awe" at the magnificence both of God's creation and humanity's sharing/participating in it.

Last January I visited a family I have known for some years. They live in California, and one of the days we visited Muir Forest with its ancient redwood trees. They staggered my imagination, but then so did small flowers, fungi (aka, mushrooms) and lichen, along with creeks, muddy paths, and great vistas. No, this wasn't a Sunday, but why wait only once a week to celebrate the majesty of creation and the Creator "in wonder and awe"?

No matter what the productivity-oriented and consumer-oriented society we live in says, we are not (nor are we intended to be) "ceaselessly toiling beasts of burden," but people who have "intrinsic value rather than merely utilitarian worth."

While our group is in Italy I hope to engage the folks in the joy and the mystery of "wonder and awe," which should be easy enough in that tremendous land. But we have equal opportunities (though different) to do the same in America, in Alabama, if we will choose to do so. It will be very counter-cultural, but then, Christianity is fundamentally counter-cultural.

Are you ready and willing to spend a Sunday "in wonder and awe"?