

# Tickling the Funnybone

Here's a story you golfers might enjoy:

When Dr. Jim Standiford moved to San Diego to become pastor of First United Methodist Church there, he played golf a couple of times with a man named Lawson Cooke.



Some months later, Dr. Standiford's wife said, "Jim, you used to play golf with Lawson Cooke, but you two haven't played together for some time now. Why don't you play golf with Lawson Cooke anymore?"

Dr. Standiford replied: "Well, would you play golf with somebody who kicked his ball out of the rough onto the fairway ... or took a countless number of mulligans ... or hit the wrong ball ... or didn't write down the right score on the scorecard and kept hitting the ball into the lake?"

She said: "No." And Dr. Standiford said: "Well, Lawson Cooke wouldn't either!"

And another anecdote to tickle your funnybone:

A minister put an ad in the local paper for a well-rounded handyman who could fix things around the church and help out with routine chores.

The very next morning after the ad ran, a well-dressed young man came and asked to speak to the minister. The pastor sized up the young man and then asked him a flurry of questions:

- Can you start a fire? "Yes sir!" Can you have breakfast ready by 7 a.m. every morning? "Yes, sir!"
- Can you polish the silver and wash the dishes? "Yes, sir!"
- Can you keep things packed up and neat and the lawn mowed? "Yes, sir!"

And the minister continued: "And, of course, there will be electrical problems and unexpected leaking pipes and restroom overflows and ..."

"Wait a minute!" the young man interrupted. "I came here to make arrangements for my wedding. But if it's going to be like that, I think I'll just forget the whole thing!"

(more)

Both stories are humorous, but what is even better about them – and the common thread running through them – is the fact that we know these stories the only way we could: the people are telling the stories on themselves.

That is a dramatic sign of a healthy person – to have a sense of humor and to be able to laugh at yourself. That's the best humor of all. It diminishes our pride and saves us from taking ourselves too seriously.

Ethel Barrymore – regarded as the first lady of American theater – said: “You grow up when you get your first good laugh at yourself.”

That truth is a good building block for enhancing relationships. Have some fun today – at your own expense!

– Beecher Hunter