

11-15-17 Wrong way, Jim

Back in the 1960s, one of the best defensive linemen of the NFL was Jim Marshall of the Minnesota Vikings. One game, Marshall scooped up a fumble and dashed 60 yards toward the end zone.

He heard the crowd roaring. He saw his teammates waving their arms on the sideline. And when he scored he celebrated by tossing the football into the stands. Then a player from the opposing team gave him a big hug.

Marshall had just run the wrong way, scoring a safety for the other team. If you watch the replay, now on YouTube, you hear the announcer yelling over and over, "He's running the wrong way! He is running the wrong way!" The only person in the stadium who didn't realize that Jim Marshall was running the wrong way was ...Jim Marshall.

Well, one of the reasons I like sports is that it serves as a metaphor for the spiritual life. So we, too, get disoriented and head off toward the wrong end zone. And our tunnel vision often will not let us see our teammates who are waving their arms frantically on the sideline.

Just a thought. I'm Sid Batts from First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greensboro, overlooking Fisher Park.