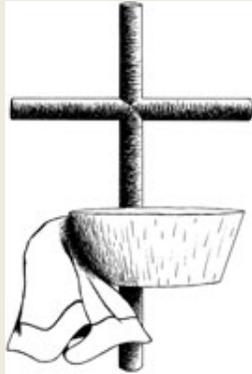


# DEACON UPDATE



**“WE’RE EVERYWHERE”**

October 2012

The long-anticipated family vacation to a New England lake meant spending nearly two days in the car. Barely opening his eyes from a nap, 10-year-old Jake asked his father, “Where are we now?” Before Dad could respond Jake sat up and glanced at the strip malls and fast food restaurants on both sides of the road then glumly answered his own question: “Oh, we’re everywhere,” and promptly went back to sleep.

We often look out of our own car windows, or even through the lovely stained glass windows surrounding our sanctuaries and feel as if we are “everywhere.” Same place, same people, different day. We feel like we have become cast members in the movie *Groundhog Day*.

It’s challenging to keep our ministries vital when everything seems to look the same. Change is often slow in our congregations, like ‘turning the Titanic,’ as some would say. But the reality is that the people are changing all the time. The 5-year-old who climbed into your lap as you read Bible stories in Sunday school is now in college. Her grandmother went out of her way to make you feel welcome when you first joined this faith community; she passed away last year and now her husband is struggling with this new phase of life. The needs of each of these family members, including those in the “sandwich generation” between the college student and the grieving husband, have changed dramatically in the past 15 years. Has your ministry to them kept up with these changes?

What does your “everywhere” look like? Take a moment this week to explore your everywhere and find something new, a different way of seeing the people in your community, something to inspire you to think of your ministry in a new way. The view out of the car window or through the stained glass might be the best part of the trip.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Kline".

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