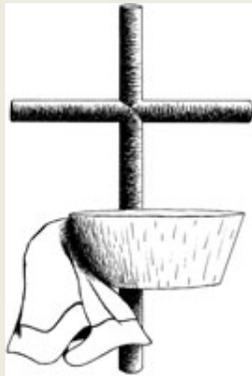


DEACON UPDATE



LET THERE BE MUSIC

January 2013

A few weeks ago there was a memorial service at my church, a celebration of life for a former member who had raised his family in the congregation. He and his wife had long since moved away, as had one of their sons. This particular son attended worship with his mother the morning of the service. I was sitting just a couple of rows behind him, and noticed that he spent most of the time thumbing through the hymnal, stopping now and again, smiling at what I assume was a favorite hymn, one that brought back memories of his youth sitting in that same pew, singing those same hymns. The music of his youth—at least the church music!—came alive again for him that day as he celebrated the life of his father.

The music of Advent and Christmas is an integral part of the celebration of the season, from *Mary's Magnificat* to *Joy to the World*. Now that we're *In the Deep Midwinter*, consider how you might carry forward the gift of music in your ministry. Take a hymnal when you visit someone in the hospital—even if you're not much of a singer, simply sharing or praying the words to a hymn or two can be very meaningful. Take a CD of old hymns (or download them to your iPod!) and play them when you visit in a longterm care community; there are many stories of people who can no longer speak, but who all of a sudden begin singing along when they hear meaningful music from their past. Sing a soothing verse of *Jesus Loves Me* to a child experiencing a stressful situation.

—OVER—

Music helps us share our stories. It holds us together when other things threaten to pull us apart—there is a reason it’s called harmony. Use music as one of the ways we celebrate each of the seasons of our lives. It’s not just for the holidays.

***Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.***

– Psalm 66:1

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Kline". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

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