

## *In times of Distress*

As a Deacon I have presided over many funeral services over the years. It's never easy to console a person who lost loved one. I have heard a time or two when someone trying to console a person by saying that some people stay away because they are afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing and making the family more miserable.

In times of distress, however, people rarely remember what we say. What they most remember is that we were there. Familiar faces offer strength beyond description; they provide comfort for the deep feelings of loneliness setting in from the loss. This gift of presence is one we're all capable of offering, even if we're tongue tied or uncomfortable.

Mary and Martha were surrounded by friends and mourners who comforted them when their brother Lazarus died. Jesus also came and wept with them. The people said, "see how He loved him."

In any type of loss, often the best comfort is just being there. May we never fail to see, the comfort other people need from you and me!!

*Together through prayer and service,*

*Deacon Mike*