

7-9-17

## What makes your toes tap?

What makes your feet move is the desire to go somewhere.

Once we learn to walk it isn't a conscious thought, but rather a reaction to a thought to move.

Likewise, Toe tapping is not really a planned thing. It is like some sorts of music, or waiting, just gets the toes moving, and before we even realize it, our foot is going up and down.

For me it is anything and everything with any kind of beat.

Toe tapping is an expression of the music. As the music draws me in, my toes just start moving.

Sometimes it leads to hand clapping or finger snapping or dancing (can I say that in church?) Yes, we can!

Can you imagine church 150 years ago, when they may have consciously had to hold their toes still out of reverence for a God who created them to live in joy? Some churches worked hard to take the joy out of worship. Some churches like the Pentecostals and a few radical Methodists, just let it break forth...

Did you know that if you are not a singer, you can still tap your toes. It is becoming a part of the movement through the rhythm.

It can be the drum, when you don't have a drum. Your foot can be an expression for your joy!

Toe tapping can be anticipated. From Friday night to this morning, because of the joy we felt that evening with Fishin' for Dixie, some of us knew that our toes would be tapping this morning again.

Here are the specific toe tapping opportunities you shared with me this last week:

- Chords 1,4 & 5
- Country Music
  
- Singing and dancing with small grandchildren
- Sousa Marches
- The Flag Going by in a parade with music
  
- Songs: When the Saints Go Marching In
- Old Man River
- Lord of the Dance
- Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
  
- Robin and Jan playing music in church
  
- Fishin' For Dixie

In 1976 I was invited to a music show in the upstairs of the Hammond WI town Hall. It was an old building and had an old wood floor.

We sat on wooden folding chairs with about 50 other folks. A large man came out and said we were going to hear a live radio show. His name was Garrison Kiellor and the show was A Prairie Home Companion.

It was a pretty new concept back then, and I wasn't sure what it was going to be. The music began and it was fun and light. The band had several musicians.

This was over 40 years ago, but what I still remember, besides Keillor singing is that there were two others I remember distinctly: a woman in a long unbleached muslin dress playing the fiddle, who couldn't stand still. How could she play so fast and keep moving?

The other was a fairly shaggy looking piano player. He was playing Rag Time music/early Jazz, written by Jelly Roll Morton, and he wasn't tapping his toe, in fact his whole foot was stomping as he played. His foot was expressing his passion for the music.

I listened for years on Saturday nights as that radio show continued on. And envisioned that first night again and if you would listen closely there were often times when you could hear Butch Thompsons foot pounding out the beat.

Pray – Lord, thank you for the automatic reaction of our feet when we hear the beat. Yet even more, for those who work to develop the gifts, to share you joy and music for our delight.

We offer all of this in honor of you.