

The Wrong Violin

Niccolo Paganini (1782-1840), one of the greatest violinists of all time, was about to perform before a sold-out opera house. He walked out on stage to a huge ovation and felt that something was terribly wrong.

Suddenly he realized that he had someone else's violin in his hands. Horrified, but knowing that he had no other choice, he began.

That day, he gave the performance of his life.

After the concert, Paganini reflected to a fellow musician, "Today, I learned the most important lesson of my career. Before today, I thought the music was in the violin. Today I learned that the music is in me."

While we may not all be musicians, and certainly of the caliber of Paganini, the lesson he learned is instructive for us as well. As we work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, the care is not in our buildings, as beautiful and functional as they are; it is not in our systems and protocols, as necessary as they must be.

The care is not even in the equipment and the resources that make our jobs easier and more effective. The care is within each of us.

Nothing else matters if we are not driven by the love that our mission – and, more importantly, our God – requires.

--Beecher Hunter