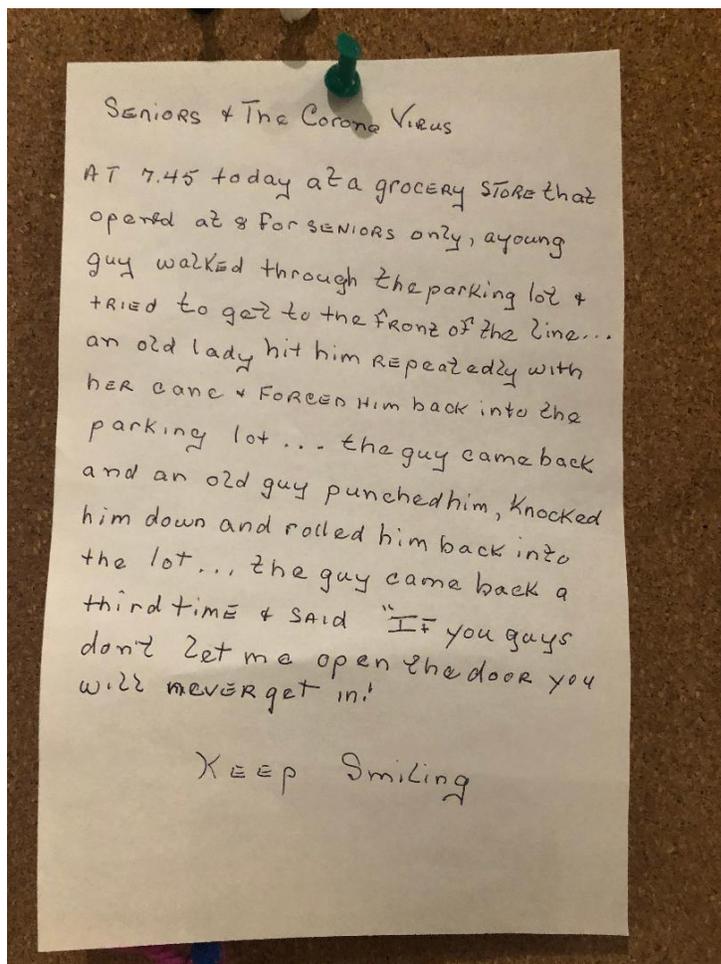


Coop's Scoops #12. April 2nd. 2020

Good Morning everyone! Gorgeous day today! Thank You, God, for sunshine!

I have something for you that will make your day even brighter. It was sent to me by Pam Hough. It is a video of symphony artiste Zubin Mehta's 18month old grandson "conducting" an orchestra while watching his grandpa do the "real" thing. Hope you can open it, and then click for full screen. You'll want to pass it on, I think. Go ahead and peek now, or leave it til the end.

If that child didn't make you smile, maybe this will! Sent to me by Phil Gunyan.



Another bit of good news: Geoff Plummer, our great friend and treasurer at St. Thomas's called me this morning. I was overjoyed to hear his voice. Geoff remains in hospice in North Bay. He cannot praise the care he is receiving enough. He has everything he needs. Excellent medical care, whatever he wants to eat whenever he wants it, and most importantly his son and family living very nearby for lots of visiting and conversation and shared meals. The hospice has excellent covid-19 protocols to keep

everyone safe. That means “no visitors” except immediate family, so we can’t all rush there to see him. But he counts on our prayers, and he, bless him, prays for all of us every day. His “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” from our Lord may not be far off, but when it does come, many many human hearts can shout a loud amen!

Some Thank You’s!

I want to celebrate Cathy Taylor and Tracey May today! Cathy has been coming in (protocols approved) every day, instead of her usual two days, since the beginning of March when Tracy and Peter left for their well-deserved vacation. She gets the mail, looks after donation envelopes, finds things for me a lot, has shown me how to do merged mail outs, checks and returns messages, and keeps all the admin functions moving along. Cathy has been invaluable to me. Tracy, always also worthy of celebration, is just finishing self-isolating after her return from Florida. She is “on tap” for advice and things that can be done at home. Anxious to help in any way she can. To keep to the restricted number of people permitted in the building, Cathy will continue each day, even though Tracey would love to! Both of these women go far beyond any call of duty in serving all of us. And will continue to do so when we’ve passed through this pandemic.

I also want to thank those who have been phoning folks without email this week and helping to make a delivery of Palm Sunday service and sermon this week, and Easter ones next week. Others have been helping people get groceries or with other kind and “allowed” things.

Thanks to Paul LeMay who has been doing the required building checks to keep our insurance intact. Also to Don Evans for making bank deposits.

PLEASE NOTE: We are making sure at **St. Thomas** that only one person is in the building at any time as much as possible. Cathy and I have separate hours except very occasionally. We need to know and log everyone who comes in to provide a “tracking” system should it be required by health officials. **So EVEN IF YOU HAVE A KEY, do not enter the building.** If you need something, leave a message by phone or email and Cathy or I will get it for you and give it to you through the door, if that can be managed safely. Which means it will be sanitized, as will our hands, as should be yours. The people authorized to be in the building at specified hours are myself, Cathy, Paul LeMay, Bob Hyslop and Don Evans once per week. If you have a pressing need to enter you can call me and make your case. But I am a pretty tough guardian! Please follow these instructions, to keep us all safe, and because I really don’t want to spend any time in jail for failing to track things appropriately. Which reminds me to ask you to pray for people who are in jail; both inmates and correctional staff. Health and safety is a much larger risk in those settings.

At **St. Ambrose**, the people authorized to be in the building are Susan Pond, and one other member of the Winter Pantry Team for packing boxes and putting them outside to be deliver to folks in need in Baysville and surrounding area. Paul Ecclestone will also enter the building to do the required checks and log for insurance purposes.

At **St. James**, I will be checking for the name of the person doing the building checks...a good reminder for me today to do that!

And remember, many, many others are serving God from their homes, rather than from our buildings. Out beautiful buildings are not the church. We are. And we are being the living Gospel for others as

Christ gives us strength. Thank you all so very much for following protocols for the health and safety of everyone in our community.

A Guided Reflection for any who want to try it!

Find a comfy chair or cushion and sit quietly.

Read this Scripture: Colossians 3: 12, 14 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Close your eyes, if you focus well that way.

Picture an old wooden trunk up in an attic...maybe an attic in your own home, or the home you lived in as a child.

Imagine rummaging through the trunk and finding a piece of clothing or other object your mother or dad or grandparent may have worn.

Hold it in your hands for a minute, thinking about how it feels, how it looked on your loved one, or how they used it.

Imagine what character trait that object most speaks to you about: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience or love.

Thank God for that memory, that person, that gift ...

Keep going, searching the attic of your mind until you have "something" representing each of those holy characteristics, giving thanks after each one.

Then imagine what you have that you'd like to pack in a trunk for your grandchildren to find some day. What items, tangible things, clothing of yours would remind them of your compassion, kindness, etc.

End with a prayer of thanks for the time you've shared in memory, and offer yourself to God as an agent who will bind things together in unity through love.

Now all that may sound kind of peculiar, but you may be surprised at what you learn. When I did it, I remembered my Mom's favourite apron...complete with unremoveable stains..and as I held it in my hands, I mentally put it around my waist and thought of all the meals she'd cooked with great love, all the dishes she'd washed, all the times she washed it....it brought me home to her kindness and patience providing for five kids, 3 dogs and a hubby. And I also found my Dad's old skates. I could almost smell the leather, the laces were pretty thin from so many uses, and I thought of how dad would put his skates on to play with the whole neighbourhood on the huge back yard rink he'd created layer by layer at our house. Talk about patience, and kindness, and the compassion he showed when he hauled out a big bag of bandages kept in a vest pocket for any boobo on any kid. That's the sort of things that may come to mind for you. And when packing my own trunk, I wanted to tuck in a pastoral stole to let them know I tried to bind things together with love; and my favourite old gray and maroon sweater that I've washed and worn for over 20 years and cuddled every little one in, and a worn old bathing suit ... and so on. If God speaks to you through this type of prayer, I'd love to know.

A Blessing: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The wonderful “conductor” video is attached below.