

Coop's Scoops # 204 Tuesday, May 18, 2021



As you know by now, I love to spend time walking many kilometers along Fraserburg Rd. This morning, while driving in to work, I saw to my delight that a whole huge forest plot had filled itself with Trilliums that bloomed overnight. Must have been all the warm sun from Sunday and Monday got them started, but they were not even visible to me yesterday and glorious in majesty today. No, I didn't forget my glasses the first time...they just all seemed to bloom 'together'. There were whites and pinks and deep violets and a few soft yellow ones.....hundreds of trilliums just

erupting and spreading beauty BOOM. And what does this have to do with anything? Well, I hope it may be an image we can keep in our heads as we begin the work of planning and discernment which will be facilitated by Susan Abell regarding the future of St. Thomas. The seeds have already been planted....lots of preparatory work being done by Parish Council and other individuals tasked with specific things.... We will be watering and weeding very soon and it will be hard work. Because of our love for our Lord, we the parish however will provide the sunshine for the fruit of our labours to grow. Every time we consider an opinion different from our own; or smile when things seem to be "O so familiar", laugh at one another's stories and smile at shared hopes and dreams, when we refrain from anger and speak big words softly....all of those times add light and warmth to the work of committees and groups and Zooms. We are the Sunshine that will bring growth.

Come October, I'm hoping that Susan's recommendations, and the implementation of our new plans, the finding of our new Priest, the ways in which we have come to love and trust each other more and more through working together will seem to BE LIKE THE TRILLIUMS. May see our community taking notice and saying "Wow would you look at that! That Church sure is brighter, and bolder and nicer and shinier and ...and....and....then it looked just yesterday!" There's news on the block! The Church has left the building, and the colours are bright and lovely.

Lucky everyone, that's your sermon for today. Here's a great Scripture to pray on
..... **Colossians 3: 12-17 nrsv**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^[b] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ^[c] dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.^[d] ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

If all of us, dressed like that, hit the streets dressed like that come October, we would indeed be NOTICED like the Trilliums that weren't there yesterday. There is nothing that attracts others more than authentic compassion, love, and caring deeds.....speaking the Gospel wearing rags of complaint, anger, gossip, self-pity and self-interest about all doesn't attract anything but contempt. Let's "dress up" and get on with it!

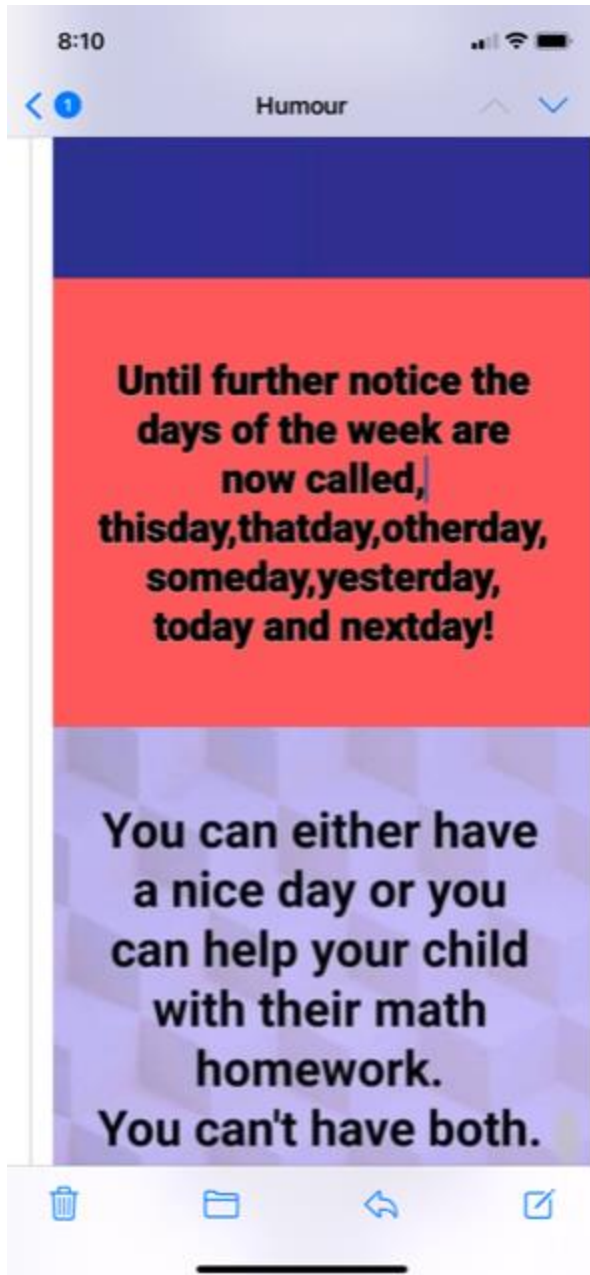
A FEW CHANGES AT ST. THOMAS

We all know how well the "tell-a-friend" line runs through churches and families, so I imagine everyone knows now that I am no longer working full-time. I am licenced now to St. Thomas (only) at 70% salary and hours. Archbishop +Anne has made it very plain to me and to the Wardens that we must together make a plan to ensure that I actually only work 70% of the time so that we get "used" to the notion that our new Priest, may God bless the one He has chosen, will not be expected to be full-time all the time just at St. Thomas. It is difficult for me to limit my hours....it's kind of contrary to my nature, but I am going to make a great effort to be obedient in this. So starting now, I will be working just 3 ½ days a week. (that's 70% of 5 days or 28 hours instead of 40) Now a Priest's work does not come in neat little cubicles and never has a 'starting time' or a 'a quitting

time' when there is pastoral care, crisis or emergency work to be done. It's 24/7 then. But a "normal" work week needs to be set for the health and welfare of both the Priest and the People whose ministries are so vital to the Church having access to ALL the gifts of the Spirit. For now, I will be working in the office, or if possible at home, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with a half day spent Saturday for Zoom meetings, or other pastoral work. Come the return of Public Worship, that half day would be "moved" to encompass Sunday services. I am ALWAYS available if I am urgently needed....period. Do not hesitate to call me anyday of the week if you find yourself in particular crisis. I would ask, though, that emails and texts requiring attention or response normally NOT be sent on my days "off" but rather timed to arrive when I'm "on". That won't always be possible, but when it is, please help me out by trying to do that. Let's see how you and I actually do with that.....not so sure I'll keep up my end, but I'll try!

SCOOPS WILL BE REDUCED TO TWO FROM THREE A WEEK.... Starting May 26th, I will send one on each Wednesday and then the Sunday sermon Scoops will be sent by email or delivered to your porch as usual. There will also occasionally just be short emails on progress with the planning, or what's happening elsewhere in the Deanery. Maybe they'll get a little "better" when I do them a little less frequently. Thank you for all your kind comments about this form of my ministry.... It has been a life-saver for me to have the challenge of getting us "together" in this form.

DON'T FORGET TO WORSHIP ON-LINE WITH US ON PENTECOST. THE LIVE LINK WILL BE SENT OUT LATER THIS WEEK, or you can just visit St. Thomas Facebook page, and then click on videos at the left sign of the screen that comes up, or go to Deanery of Muskoka website or All Saint's. Those who prepared and presented and filmed and edited it all have prayed for your blessing as you hear the songs, pray the prayers, hear the Word, and welcome the coming of the Holy Spirit.



THANKS TO ALVA

NEED MORE STORIES AND JOKES

VIDOS ARE GREAT FOR ME TO WATCH
BUT CAN'T ALWAYS FORWARD
THEM...SEND ANYWAY!

Prayer for Today:

Make me a servant, humble and meek

Lord help me strengthen those who are weak

And may the pray of my heart always be...

Make me a servant, make me Your servant, make me a servant today.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that our unity may one day be restored,

So they'll know we are Christians, by our love, by our love,

So they'll know we are Christians by our love!

Blessing:

May the peace of God that passes all our understanding, keep your hearts and minds fixed on the love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and upon you always!

Judie+