

Coop's Scoops # 212 June 16th, 2021



The peonies are back! The gardens by the main church doors are thriving thanks to the tender care of our volunteer gardeners! The ferns are hung! When we are able to gather again for in-person worship, you will be greeted by the beautiful flowers we have come to love season after season. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they spin not neither do they toil, yet even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like

one of these."

Peonies are NOT lilies, but the same applies. Here are some yellow field lilies from my front "moat" area Lovely indeed. Too bad, Solomon!



Some wandering bird kindly planted an amazing seed in my rock garden area last year sometime. It was never here before, and it is huge and beautiful. An iris of some kind. Does any know the name of this particular flower type? The head of the iris is at least six inches tall and wide, and the petals are velvet curls.

As lovely as all these tended flowers are, the wild ones alongside my hiking route are for me the most beautiful. Especially sunny yellow faced daisies. God alone grows and nurtures these wild and friendly blessings. And God creates and nurtures through His Spirit the wild and friendly faces that we bear to others. No pandemic can change one iota of this!

This first page today seems to be devoted to botany more than usual! I'll bet many of you have been very busy with outdoor or indoor gardens these past sunny days, and hope you enjoy the fruit of your labours just as much as your neighbours will! Send me some pictures and I'll post them!

News from the Churches:

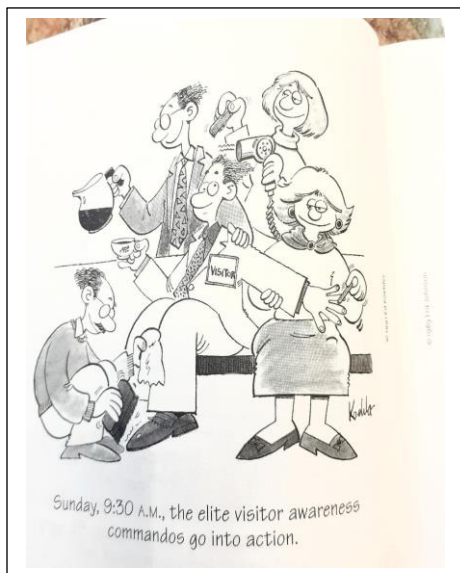
St. Thomas Parish Council met again this past Saturday morning by Zoom. Please pray for our Council members...they are doing double meetings over the summer working on our task to determine whether or not we can sustain 70% of a new full-time Priests salary. Our leader in this planning, Susan Abell, has had contact with our Wardens and those at Lake of Bays, and will be reaching out again this week. We will be looking at what God is calling us to do, How we shall do it, and Where we shall do.....we already know the "why" we shall do it.....for God's glory and the well-being of our neighbours, for the love of Jesus, and so that we can grow in the grace and the knowledge of our God. This will be an exciting adventure!

Good News: The Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund has approved our application for a new video camcorder and will be sending us a cheque in the amount of almost \$700 to cover the cost. The new equipment will support the quality of our Messy Church and on-line worship services, as well as being on hand for Bible studies or special events we may wish to record. (Note: all recording is done in full compliance with privacy and permission issues).

I will be attending (by Zoom) the two day ACC and Lutheran National Worship Conference on July 5th and 6th. Speakers and participants from across Canada will be sharing creative, broad spectrum worship, music, drama and liturgical practices which have they have found to bless and enrich faith and practice.

Regional Dean Heather Manual reports:

Our website, www.muskokachurches.com has been updated with home-grown Morning Prayer videos from Muskoka Lakes (and friends) and Lake of Bays Parishes, the '*Returning Home: A tribute to loved ones lost*' Gospel Jamboree hosted the Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada, and the latest Taize from St. Stephen's parish.



Some Holy (or not so holy) Humour!

As it can be hard to read the print on this pictures, I'll write it here:

Sunday, 11:00 am: The Elite Visitor Awareness commandos go into action!

Manicure, hair style, shoe shine, and coffee....I'd love to visit that church!

A Scottish love story (Sent by a Thunder Bay woman who loves Scoops!)

A young Scottish lad and lass were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, gazing out over the loch. For several minutes they sat silently Then finally the girl looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin... perhaps it's about time for a wee kiss."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek.

Then he blushed. The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch. Minutes passed and the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus?"

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's noo about time for a wee cuddle." The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds. Then he blushed.

Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch before the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

The young man glanced down with a furled brow. "Well, noo," he said, 'my thoughts are a wee bit more serious this time.' "Really?" said the lass in a whisper, filled with anticipation. "Aye," said the lad, nodding.

The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush, and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request.

Then he said, "Dae ye nae think it's about time ye paid me the first three pennies?"

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY: Colossians 3: 15

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in^[b] him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

Homily: The Scripture teaches us plainly that everything we need to know about God we see in Jesus. God is invisible, transcendent, and beyond our human capacity to fully comprehend, but JESUS came to us, visible and present and wise and thoroughly good. He is God made visible to our very eyes and ears and mind. Elsewhere in Scripture we read that our thoughts are not God's thoughts, our ways are not His ways....His thoughts and His ways are HIGHER than ours (Isaiah 55: 8,9).

How then are we confident in discerning the will of God? Through Jesus. Indwelt with the Holy Spirit and having the Words of our Lord to teach us, we are in a much better position than was the Prophet Isaiah who listened to the occasional voice of the Lord telling him what was needful to know and to do. We can re-read, we can pray for inner guidance, we can consult with others who also know Jesus and His Words and thus come close, very close, to the heart and mind of God. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13: 12 "Now we see as through a glass darkly, but then we shall see Him face to face....we shall know Him as fully as He knows us". Hallelujah! That will be glory for sure.

And until then, my dear ones, we are the only Christ that many people ever see; we are the visible image of the One who used to walk among us and who was Himself the visible image of God. What a calling we have! Unlike Jesus, we will not be His image perfectly.....not in this lifetime....but we will provide glimpses that can be of enormous importance.

Glimpses like me watching my Priest fall to His knees to pray with me as a young mom. Glimpses like me seeing my senior ACW lady bringing in one of our St. Luke's corner prostitutes in Thunder Bay into church, and holding her hand to come to the Altar. Glimpses like me seeing you...each of you...with faces transformed as you receive the Bread and the Wine. Glimpses like watching folks who don't agree absolutely love and respect one another. It's a wonderful calling. And, with God's help....with His power working in us...it is a DO-ABLE calling.

I opened Scoop's today talking about lilies of the field and little daisies who, without human care, grow and bloom and bring beauty to all who have eyes to see. All God's work. But our noticing.

We are transformed more and more into Jesus' image by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. We present ourselves to God, our bodies and our spirits, and He gets to work making us all that we can be. Our part is to listen, to study, to pray, to discern, and then to act, to love, to bless in His name. When we fall short,

when we sin deliberately with little awareness, we draw upon His unquenchable mercy and begin anew. Little by little, inch by inch, row by row we grow into vessels of His image and His glory. Who we are and what we do and how we do it really matters! YOU matter.

Let's always be aware of helping each other to bear the image of Christ! (You do it to me, all the time!) And as always, if you need help doing this or in any other matter, just holler.

- Judie+

Prayers for the Day:

For our Parish: from the Prayer Book of St. Augustine

Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayers and grant to this parish all things necessary for our spiritual well-being; enlighten and guide our leaders, our clergy, wardens, and vestry; strengthen and increase the faithful, visit and relieve the sick, turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless, bring again those who have wandered; remove from us anything that resists your grace or hinders your purposes; make all of us one united voice to sing your praise and to give witness to your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

O Lord, my God, form me more fully into your likeness. Use the interactions and circumstances of this day to form your will in me. From the frustrations of this day, form peace. From the joys of this day form strength. From the struggles of this day form courage. From the beauties of this day form love. Grant that I may come to become more and more like the image of Jesus Christ who is all peace, and all strength, and all courage, and all love. (from **Prayers from the Heart**, Richard Foster, used with permission)

Blessing:

May the God of mercy transform you by His grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always!

- Judie+



Sometimes we're flowers

Sometimes we're buds!