

Coop's Scoops #53, June 11, 2020

Wow! What a storm we had last night. Crashing thunder, lightening bolts, trees making rushing train noises! And, for me at least, power out for the



last 15 hours and no sign of being restored today, although, as always, I live in hope. It struck me that the limitations of my Covid life suddenly paled in significance when compared with having no power, no coffee, no hot food, no running water for the needed ablutions and then tripping over my coffee table in the dark. On the other hand, it was fun standing on my sheltered screened porch with the rain swirling all around me, and taking a trip back to my childhood when I made a blanket tent with a flashlight so I could read. At prayer time, I included some people having surgery today, and a family in great distress, and all of you...and then was moved to pray for the birds and the animals caught in the fury of it all, yet with created instincts to somehow stay safe. Nature has a way of reminding us that we are not always in control, and that is an awesome lesson leading us to worship the ONE who is. Paul Ecclestone and I have been swapping sayings like “FROG: fully rely on God; PUSH: Pray until something happens; JAR: Jesus always redeems... Send in some others that you may know, so we can expand our coded conversations!

Here's another entry in our **“what are you making creatively during COVID?”** invitation to respond. Phil Gunyon created something beautiful for Eva's birthday. Great craftsmanship and great gift.



It's a wooden peanut butter and jam/jelly spoon!

Come on, send in more, folks! Looking for some sewing, or knitting, or baking, or dancing or drawing, or making cool tin men like Peter did. Anything.....Thanks!

On to some jokes and stories!

First, from Jacquie

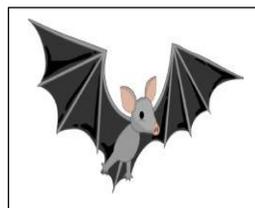
If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 6 feet and is entirely open at the top, the buzzard in spite of its ability to fly will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always

Begins flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, it will not even attempt to fly, but remain inside a jail with an open top.



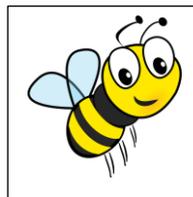
The ordinary bat that flies around at night, cannot take off from a level place.

If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is hop and shuffle around helplessly and painfully until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air.



Then, at once, it takes off like a flash!

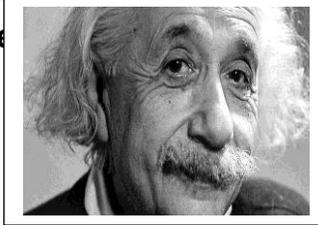
A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler will stay there forever unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom.



In many ways, we people are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. Sometimes, we struggle alone with all our problems and frustrations never realizing that help is available if we just “Look up!” When our “outlooks” are disturbing, we can try the “uplook!”

**Psalm 121: 1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.**

Second, from Caroline:



- One day, Einstein had to speak at an important science conference. Now Einstein's driver Tom looked remarkably like him, a fact of which Einstein was well aware. In the car on the way to the conference Einstein said, *"You know Tom, I'm sick of speaking at conferences. I just say the same things over and over!"* Tom smiled and said, *"You're right. I've attended all of them with you and even though I'm not a scientist, I'm sure I could give the conference in your place."* *"Now that's a great idea Tom!"* said Einstein. *"Let's switch places."* So they immediately switch clothes, Einstein hands Tom his notes and when they arrive at the conference, Tom goes on stage and he starts giving the speech. Meanwhile dressed in the driver's uniform, Einstein sits at the side of the stage. Unfortunately lurking in the audience is one scientist who is determined to impress everyone by asking a difficult question he hopes Einstein will not be able to answer. When he gets his chance, this guy seizes the moment and interrupts the conference with his very difficult question. It's a real curve ball and the audience knows it. The whole room is silent, holding their breath, waiting for Einstein's response. You could hear a pin drop. However Tom has been around the block a few times and he wasn't easily fazed. He looked the guy dead in the eye, smiled at him and said, *"Sir, to demonstrate how easy it is to answer your question, I will let my driver reply to it for me."*
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

News from the Diocese, Our Archbishop +Anne, and the Anglican Church of Canada:

(this information is available on the Diocesan website or email, one document is summarized by myself (so please read the full documents on the web to ensure that I have got things correct, as is of course my intention). I couldn't get the full summer plans letter to copy from Adobe (??) but the letter on racism was able to

be reproduced in full. Any copy which is in brackets is my own words applying the Archbishop's+ instructions to our own parishes.)

1/ Summer Plans for Algoma and Moosonee Dioceses:

- Despite the approval of Premier Doug Ford that churches can reopen at 30% capacity on June 12th, the Diocese will continue with the Summer Sabbath program, wherein we “take a break”, using the time to plan for the reopening of our churches the first Sunday in September.
- There will be **NO CORPORATE WORSHIP OR MEETINGS** in our buildings over the summer months. **The only activities allowed within the buildings are live-stream worship (5 people max) or outreach (eg our monthly Messy Church video), food bank volunteers with safety protocols, and essential outreach programs.** (Bible Study groups, Parish Councils, other Committees, etc. are not permitted to meet in our buildings. Such studies or meetings should be offered on a platform such as Zoom, or outside, following all current safety restrictions. At **St. Thomas**, individuals allowed in the building are the Rector, the People's Warden who conducts required daily building inspections to fulfill our insurance obligations, the caretaker, the Envelope Secretary to pick up and make deposits of offerings, and one Admin staff to work one morning per week. At **St Ambrose**, Susan Pond, Margaret+ Morrison, and Paul Ecclestone conduct insurance building checks. At our **summer points**, Wardens are doing insurance building checks.)
- The possibility of outdoor gatherings with ten people or less is under consideration, if a group wishing to do so has a well thought out plan in consultation with the Deanery Officials (the consent of the Incumbent must also be in place). However no such gatherings can occur until the Diocese has provided guidelines for such assemblies. The goal is to be able to provide them by the end of June.
- When we do reopen it will be in a three stage process, currently being worked on by the Executive Officers of our dioceses in consultation with epidemiologists. That process is currently being crafted. A small working group has been formed in Algoma to begin working on the details of a process document.

- Our Archbishop +Anne will be conducting Zoom meetings regionally in late June to inform us of the progress being made and to answer whatever questions may arise about the specifics of reopenings.

All of this hard work is to “seek the common good in our cautious and careful reopening of our facilities”.

The Anglican Church of Canada Episcopal Statement June 8, 2020

The Anglican Church of Canada has committed itself to confronting racism in its own life and to acknowledging the place of racism and colonialism in our own nation.

That commitment needs to be renewed daily. We have been horrified by the public murder of George Floyd. We are deeply distressed and profoundly disturbed by the images, rhetoric, violence, division, and chaos that has followed. We offer our prayerful support and solidarity with our sister church, the Episcopal Church, as it prays and guides its people while it simultaneously repents of, and protests the sin of racism. Our own house is not in order.

Systemic racism exists in every part of Canada. The words of the Anglican Church of Canada’s 2004 Charter for Justice remind us: ***“The assumption of racial difference and inequality was the basis of much of Canada’s social legislation. For example, as a result of the Indian Act, First Nations people were confined to their reserves and their lands, and made susceptible to exploitation and take over. Immigration policies restricted Black, Asian and Jewish immigrants. Canadians of Japanese and Ukrainian descent were rounded up and interned during World War Two. Labour legislation dictated who could and couldn’t work for whom, and who could do what kind of work.”***¹

We repent of our complicity in the continuing structures of racism and oppression in our church and in our culture, for racism is not of Christ. It is sin. Every human being reflects the dignity of the very image of God. At baptism we commit to “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being”. It is the centre of the ministry and message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Marks of Mission, to which we are committed as a Communion, remind us that we are called to “seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation”.

The Anglican Church of Canada has been wrestling with racism and our complicity in systems of injustice for decades. It is a matter of public record that The Anglican Church of Canada has been committed to and learning about a new path to reconciliation with Indigenous Anglicans. We recommit ourselves today to that path. The legacy of racism, colonialism, and the residential schools they spawned as well as the open wound of the plight of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls continues to call out for healing. This season in particular is the anniversary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015) and the Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) (2019).

As teachers of the gospel, we remind the world that Christ himself was crucified in part because of the threat he represented in standing with those who were marginalized. (Luke 6:20-28). We re-commit ourselves and our Dioceses to confront the sin of racism in all its forms and the patterns of silence and self-congratulation, which have silenced the experiences of people of colour, First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of this land.

(Signed by the Primate, The National Indigenous Archbishop, the Metropolitan and the Archbishops/Bishops in the ecclesiastical Archbishop and Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada) Refer to the names on the Diocesan Website posting of this letter).

These two releases are a lot of reading, but I commend them to you fully for your reading and marking and inward digestion!)

Scripture for Today : Isaiah 16: 3,4 ; John 14: 27

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Reflection: In the face of violence, racism and oppression such as we have seen, and heard, and felt so deeply in these recent days, I feel a bit like the prophet who shouted “Peace, Peace” when all the people were experiencing was “Woe

Woe”. Yet Peace is what all people long for, I think, beyond everything else. Where there is injustice, there can be no peace for all. Where there is racism, there is neither peace for the oppressed or for the oppressor. Where there is hatred, there is no room for God at all.

Whenever we pray for peace, we MUST also act to end whatever injustice impinges upon our hearts and minds, we MUST act to not only be non-racist, but to become anti-racist, we MUST act to overcome hatred with love. None of us can do it all, but all of us MUST do something if we are followers of Jesus. As the Anglican Church of Canada said in its Letter on Racism: “Racism is not of Christ. It is sin. Every human being reflects the dignity of the very image of God. At baptism we commit to ‘strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being’. It is the centre of the ministry and message of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is our calling and vocation, and without the peace of God in our hearts, we can never ever achieve it. Our two Scriptures speak to this powerfully today. Jesus’ peace is not transient, buy-able, or self-serving...His peace is not like the world’s...His peace is a gift; a healing balm; a powerful weapon against injustice and gives us the right to “not be afraid” when we obey His commandments. It is God, through the Holy Spirit, who keeps us in perfect peace, when our minds are steadfastly, unshakeably set upon Him. He is the Rock, and He is trustworthy to keep us in His peace. Why? For love. So we can act as makers of His peace for every human being. There are a billion Christians in the world (at least). We can, we should, we must make a difference. That is more than a duty, it is a privilege that we, the children of God, can actively promote the Will of God in our world. God being our helper, it can be so. –Judie+

Prayer:

**Jesus, we meet You in your gospel teachings,
Recognize you in the witness of Your life,
Know You by the interior promptings that lead us to love as You have done.
When we search for our bearings, or lose our way
Or question what is our true direction,
We can look to how You lived your years,
And discern our own path for how to be.**

**Your lessons mark our lifelong journey
With constant signs of steady guidance
Leading always into Peace. Your Peace. For All. Amen.**

**Father, you have given all peoples one common origin.
It is your will that they be gathered together
as one family in yourself.
Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love
and with the desire to ensure justice for all.
By sharing the good things you give us,
may we secure an equality for all
our brothers and sisters throughout the world.
May there be an end to division, strife and war.
May there be a dawning of a truly human society
built on love and peace.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.
Amen. (*Social Justice Resource Centre*)**

Praying always reminds me of being joyful, and I have missed an opportunity to share a very joyful bit of news with you. That covid brain thing, or maybe just old age....? I had received a picture of the most important creative “making” that can happen anytime! The birth of a new baby, grandson for Christine and Rick Lees. Here he is, so newly come he hardly knows he’s here! Thanks be to God! Pray a blessing for this child tonight, dear friends.



James Matthew Richard Lees

New Grandson of Rick and Christine Lees,

Born to their son Adam and his wife Kaity

On Saturday May 9th, 2020

(new cousin for Rick and Christine’s
granddaughter Maizie, age 7 months)

