



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

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When the Dust Settles...

Elaine Duncanson

That virus thing can leave now. We have had enough of it. No need to come back. Later, when things return to normal, we have been promised a "new normal". We can only speculate what that will look like.

Maria keeps telling me the numbers of new cases, deaths, and recoveries around the world. Brazil is very hard hit. The hospitals are full, they are running out of equipment, and PPE is scarce. So far most of her friends are well but one has reported that a family member has died. She has described a cemetery for the poor people. A crew will go in and dig, with plain shovels, a series of holes in a long line. Not much space is left between them. As needed, the holes are filled, with a homemade coffin if possible, or the deceased is just wrapped in cloth. A simple wooden marker identifies the person.

That could be someone's parent, grandparent, spouse, or child. That is a valued human being who was part of a family. We have our own sad cases even here in this region. The toll in many nursing homes is horrifying and the stories some family members are telling are beyond distressing. There will surely be a thorough investigation and clear steps taken to make sure the frail elderly are fed regularly, kept clean, and given a drink when they want one.

If that were not enough, the news is full of stories of civil unrest. Kitchener had a quiet protest march but other cities have not been so fortunate. The destruction of buildings, businesses, careers, will take years to repair and rebuild. Police brutality is a frightening thing but each officer is also a human being and part of a family. The chant is "Black Lives Matter" which is very true. To respond with 'all lives matter' is also true but misses the point. People with dark skin have not been fairly treated for decades.

There is legislation in many places to protect their rights but it is the attitude of the people they meet every day that forms their experience. The whispers and stares can not be regulated. Not being invited to a party is not an offence. Not making the team or being accepted to a school or hired for the job can be appealed. But that is time consuming and often expensive. After a while it is easier to accept being refused than to keep on fighting.

When I was at the language school in Trois Pistoles, a student argued fervently that the Quebecois had all the legislation needed to protect their rights so they did not need to make such a fuss. The prof was a very patient man and answered all the student's statements with facts we had heard several times in the course. Still he was not convinced. Finally the prof said that perhaps women could explain it since there was legislation guaranteeing equality for women but few felt that they were treated equally all the time. How true!

Legislation is simply a collection of words written down and agreed to by some important people. The attitudes of the rest of the people put some of the idea into practice. Often they have an excuse for not complying completely or just try to ignore the whole thing. They are comfortable so why rock the boat? The crowds are now saying it is time to change some attitudes. It would be wise to take action now. These people are our neighbours.

We need to think about many things as we start to get back to activities. Church will be different, going to a restaurant will be different, our shopping habits may change too. What we really must examine is the way we look at and think about the people around us. Each one is a valued member of a family and a community. Some of them require help to get by and some of them have faced severe difficulties. They may be angry or sick or defeated. All of us have faced troubles of some sort in life and we got through it with the support of an

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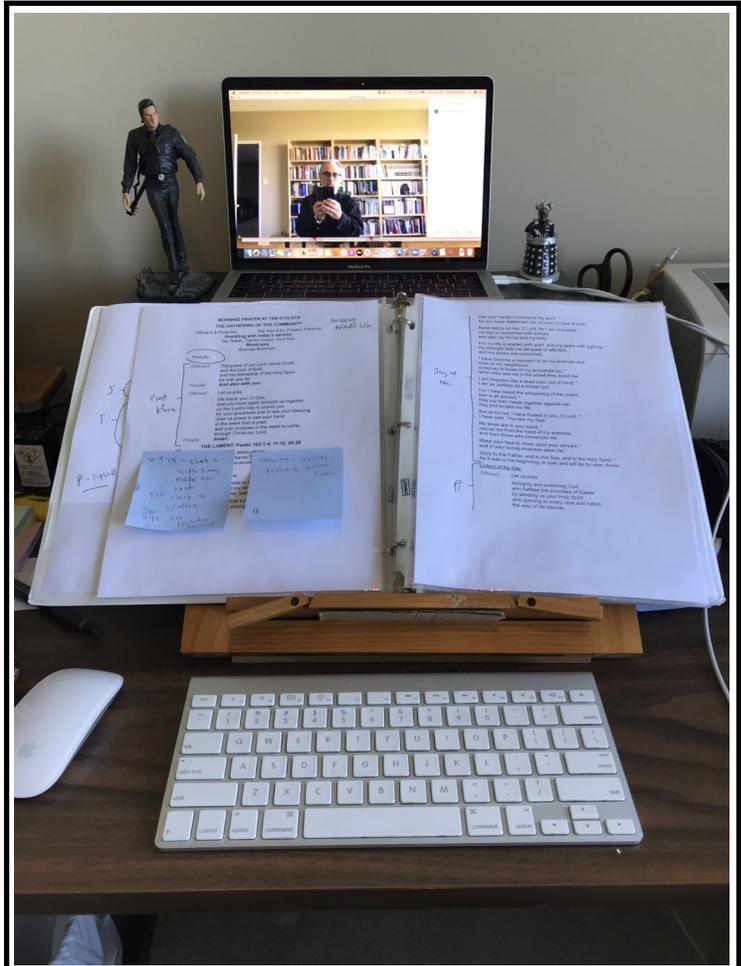
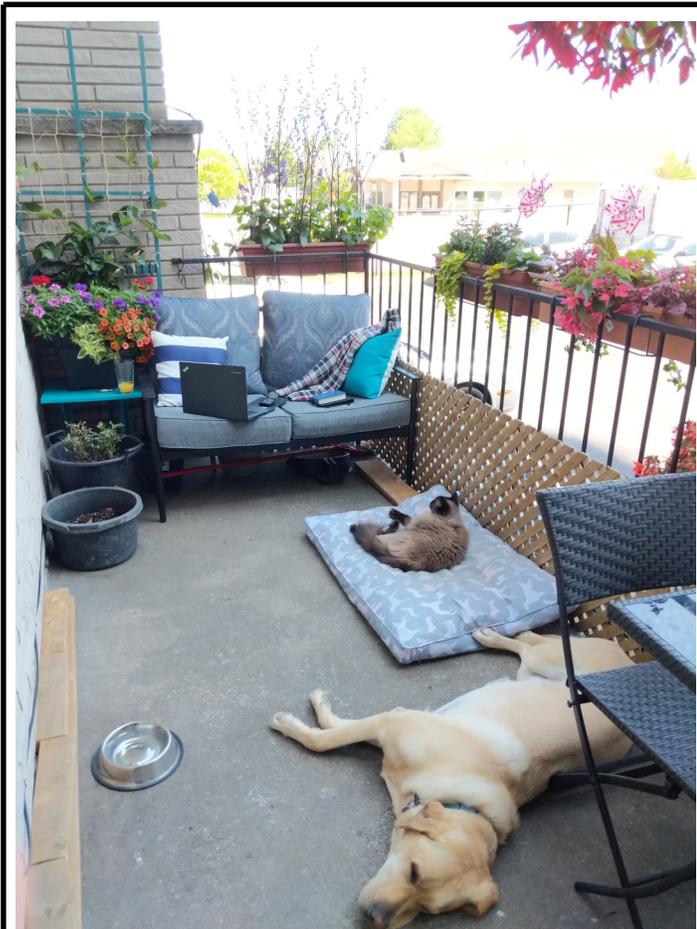
The next issue of On Eagle's
Wings will be available on
September 27th.

understanding person.

When the dust settles, it could be an almost new world and a better world with more patience and understanding for those who have not been fairly treated. We will have to live more carefully to protect the health of the group. We should be more aware of the significance of our words and habits. Some old dogs may find it difficult to learn new tricks but many of us are flexible enough to accept the challenge and see what we can do.

Postcards to St John's

Please consider sharing a "Postcard" with your church family during our time apart. We hope to make this a recurring section.



The Rector's view on Sunday mornings!

This is the new office for the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Open 9am-noon, Monday to Friday.

Every morning, Denver, Memoosh, and I will go out and have our morning tea and english muffin. Denver will drool. Memoosh will attempt to eat a begonia or two. Memoosh will steal Denver's bed. Denver will guard us from squirrels. Eventually, we all settle and bask in the glorious sunlight and beautiful balcony garden.

The planters were all put together by Todd (excluding one from the Foodland in Elmira). I take zero credit. In fact, I killed off 4 impatiens.

So if you call me and hear the wind rustling through the phone, you will know I am "in the office".