

## Reflections from the LAAMB

Last Friday I could hardly sleep. I was so excited. On Saturday morning I got up, did all my normal routines but my mind was thinking about seeing some of our parishioners at Lois Tamborine's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday drive by. When Lore got up on Saturday morning she could see my enthusiasm. I told her, "this is the first time in nine weeks that we actually (HEAVY ON THE ACTUALLY!!!!) get to be with some of our parishioners! "Although I had things to do that Saturday morning, my mind was on that gathering to be! Then Lore kept me busy by using all my excitement, *or should I say all my hot air*, in blowing up balloons. Her comment, with a wily smile "didn't take you long to blow up all those balloons-how many sermons did you do? Ha! " I laughed with her!!! Lore found some colourful red strong ribbon to tie the balloons to the car so that they would not blow away in the wind. These are the words that Lore and I created for Lois which was printed on a big yellow Bristol board that proclaimed,

"NAUGHTY NINETY  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
LOIS!!!"

Well, finally it came time to go to the birthday party. I was eager to get going. "I said to Lore, "Are you ready to go?". She said, "We still have another fifteen minutes till we need to head out, Perry!" "I know" I responded, "I just don't want to be late" Lore smiled because she knew I was excited! When we arrived, there were four cars on the side of Berford Lake Road, where we had decided to meet. We parked, got out of our car and immediately went to greet a few people who were beside their cars standing around talking ...physical distancing!!!! Ha! I yelled out, "SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!!!!", as I came close to them. Then, I stopped myself six feet away holding back from hugging them but giving them a big air hug. I remember saying, "I can't believe we are here." It was so surreal!! Then more cars pulled up.

Lore and I visited all of the cars individually so we could have some time to talk to each person. It was so heavenly to see people's faces! It wasn't long before we all headed out as a convoy. It reminded me of a church procession down the aisle!! Ha! When we turned on to Lois' road (Hansen) near a bend, we began honking our horns. I never thought the blend of honking horns could sound so joyful! When we approached Lois's home there she was, standing in front of her hedges, with this huge smile on her face and her eyes as big as saucers!!! When she saw our yellow sign, I saw her eyes get even bigger! Then she laughed. The convoy travelled down the road then turned around to come back with horns a blazing!!!. When we got out of our cars we made sure to physical distance. Someone started us off with the, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU and everyone chimed in. It was another precious moment. Lore and I spoke to LOIS, (and she was almost speechless) but when she did say something, it was all about being so thankful and appreciative for everyone being there. Even at a distance, we could enjoy our merrymaking. It was a liberating time!

When I visited someone in their car, her comment was, "we should do this every week rotating people's places because we know everyone will have a birthday sometime this year!" I laughed and said, "I love the idea!!" Watch out for a horn honking jovial convoy of cars in your neighbourhood! Ha! NOT!

As I looked around at everyone, I took in the happy faces, the smiles, the laughter and the joy that was present among us all. What a precious moment in time!

I want to thank our organizers, planners, those who arranged the cakes, those who served us and everyone who came out to be together again! You gave us joy and hope in so many ways!!! What a special afternoon!!!! For those of you, who unfortunately, for whatever reason, couldn't

be with us, I hope you get some of the joy that we experienced imaging this event in your mind. On the ride home, Lore and I were higher than kites feeling how blessed we are to be a part of this community of special people.

As I reflected on this event, I thought, we all need celebration times in our lives, especially now. I hope you are finding new and different ways to celebrate even if it is only in a small way. I remember reading a book where one chapter was entitled, 'The churches' Gift of Celebration'. The author spoke about our human need to celebrate the small things in life because they help us see the beauty of it all-God. Take time to celebrate, even if it is a small merriment, like listening to a song bird, viewing a beautiful sunset or looking back at pictures of loved ones. We look forward to the day we can celebrate, re-gather ourselves together. It can't come fast enough for us!!!!!! Lore and I miss being with you!

Perry