

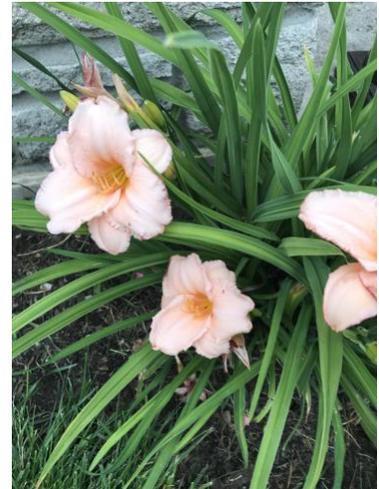
July 27, 2022

God's Garden

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse" Romans 1:20

One of my favourite things to do is to work/sit in my garden contemplating life and often I have noticed how nature reflects the glory and workings of God. Here are a few observations I have made over the years.

After the long cold winter months my perennial lily emerges from the ground with the help of the warmth of the sun and nourishing spring rains and maybe a little fertilizer and again it grows and the buds appear and it blooms in its own time and then after a few days the bloom withers and drops off. It always amazes me how something so beautiful develops from the barren soil. I wait with great anticipation for this and am so happy and grateful to see it every year. I call this my "Hope Lily". God is giving me hope



When deadheading my geraniums, I noticed when I clipped one off there was another stem with a bloom turned downwards right under or close to the one I removed and actually by removing old blooms it gives the plant more energy to produce even more new blooms. God is telling me to not waste energy on some old thoughts: ideas: habits. Make room for new ones!



One day while walking out and about our yard I came across a single exquisite flower growing in a lonely and neglected corner. After some research I discovered it was a columbine and I thought it was the most beautiful flower that I had ever seen! You can use your imagination as to how it got there but I know I did not plant it. God was showing me you can find beauty in the most unexpected places.

Plants come in all different shapes, textures, colours and heights. Some do not even bloom but are in the background making plants in front stand out more. Some act as groundcover to keep weeds at bay and to keep roots of other plants shaded. Plants like tall grasses provide movement. Shown here is the garden in front of the Green Cathedral on Queen St. It is a perfect example of how it takes a lot of different plants to make a beautiful garden. God is telling me that everyone has an important role to play in life to make this world a beautiful place!

Gardens are constantly changing because the amount of sun or shade changes due to various factors ie: trees and shrubs getting bigger and sometimes a plant who once enjoyed time in the sun is now struggling in the shade and is no longer happy or healthy where it is so it gets moved to a

new sunny location where it is happy and healthy again. God is showing me that sometimes our circumstances change and therefore we have to move or change so we can be happy and healthy again.

Lastly, when I water my garden on a sunny day and my back is against the sun, I can put my finger at the end of the hose to make it spray the water and guess what I can see? Yes, a beautiful rainbow! God is showing me that even though sometimes we cannot see the sun, you just might be able to still see a rainbow. The rainbow symbolizes "HOPE".

"And he walks with me and he talks with me and he tells me I am his own....." (From In The Garden by C. Austin Miles)

Lois Gill



*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*