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"A Note Worthy Suggestion"

"Although I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink; instead I hope to come to you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete"

2 John 1:12

Well wouldn't our joy truly be complete if we could all speak face to face! But as this is not possible just yet, we continue to stay in touch through letters. Not necessarily by pen and ink, but you are either reading this digitally on some kind of screen or on computer paper printed off by a laser or inkjet printer. Kind of loses the romance of a handwritten letter doesn't it?

But I know how much people have been appreciating these daily letters of hope – begun by Kate over two months ago with my thoughts added every Thursday, and now with added voices of others from Huron Shores who are contributing to the weekly collection. I repeatedly hear from people delighted to read these musings, folks who forward them to friends and family beyond our congregation, others who print them off and distribute to those without the technology to receive them otherwise. They are being shared in wonderfully creative ways, and however this letter found its way before your eyes or into your ears, I am so humbled and flattered to be able to connect with you in this way, and hope this letter somehow brightens your day!

A couple of years ago I undertook a Lenten practice of sending a handwritten card to a friend or family member every day during Lent. I started a list of 40 names, collected 40 assorted cards from my stationary drawer and bought 40 stamps, piling all these materials in a basket on my counter. Every morning over a cup of tea, I chose a card and selected a name from my list, then wrote them a letter. At first it was fun – I enjoyed re-connecting with those far away and surprising those nearby with an old-fashioned snail-mail greeting. After a few weeks, it started to become onerous – but Lenten practices are meant as a discipline to challenge us! What I learned from this experience, was that when I wrote to someone, I found myself thinking about them all day – holding them in prayer, wondering what they were doing, anticipating their surprise at receiving the letter. And, the reward came months later when I started receiving cards in return! Who doesn't love getting something in the mail other than bills or junk?

One Care has recently started a campaign to deliver letters of hope and inspiration along with the hot meals on wheels they serve to over 250 isolated seniors in the region each week. Anyone can participate by writing a short uplifting letter that will bring joy to someone's day. It should only include your first name, no return address and preferably, if not handwritten, use Arial font size 14. Email letters to: info@onecaresupport.ca with subject line; 'Letter Campaign.'

These letters (like THESE letters) will help overcome social isolation and hopefully, brighten people's lives. A few kind words, can really make a difference in someone's life! Write on!

Be well, stay well,

Elise

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*"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."*