

Coop's Scoops # 102 Tuesday, September 15th, 2020

Today is the birthday of my son Ryan. Forty-nine years ago at this time of day, my husband and I were cradling our newborn son while a photographer took our picture (not the one shown) at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burlington. Why? Because my husband Dale was the first ever father in a delivery room in Ontario.



After the birth of our daughter Sandy in 1970, we were part of a working group promoting such an unheard of thing, and just the lucky folks first in line when the Ministry of Health approved that opportunity for dads. Nowadays of course, almost anyone can be there...even the family dog in some places. But on September 15th 1971, at 2pm in the afternoon it was a very big deal for us. Do any of you have "big deal" unexpected changes that impacted your lives in a good way? Want to share? Send it in! And all of us can look to a future in which there will be those kinds of changes again. Covid doesn't stop everything good. There is so much to be thankful for right now. I don't have to list them. You will know what's been good for you. Certainly we must take care, follow the protocols and love our neighbours...and we can also laugh, and cook, and paint, and fix the car, build something, hit the phone instead of the email.....all manner of good things happen, like little baby boys being born. I am thankful for my son...always. And for the five grandsons that he gave to me to be thankful for as well. And a daughter-in-law....well, two so far! And just so you know, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the first baby born with a dad in the delivery room in Quebec. My son and Justin have corresponded about that!

TA DA ST THOMAS OUTDOOR SIGN IS CHANGED AGAIN!

Oh my, Tracy and I just couldn't help ourselves when we had a brainstorm about



this, and Peter and Paul agreed to go for it, and Michelle made the wink and now folks are smiling on the sidewalks. Hope you are too! Now let's talk about the "When we open" part. There have been calls about whether or not Thanksgiving is an absolute "set" date. It is not. It is our goal. The building is almost completely prepared. Annette is working on training teams to receive and guide people. All systems are up and running. PPE and cleaning products are soon coming for St. Ambrose and St. James as well, which will



produce a flourish of activity for folks there. However, should the covid numbers go up much more, and if public health advises anew that congregating indoors is best avoided, I may decide to have us (all of us, both St. T and **Lake of Bays**) wait a little longer. That will be fine with some of you, be really sad for some others, maybe even create some anger or hurt....but that is the reality. It is my legal decision to make so pray that God will grant me wisdom. And meanwhile, I'm excited! I'm hoping! Have my fingers and my toes crossed. (I can actually do that....it's a genetic thing with Ward (my maiden name) family toes). Gosh there's an idea for a future picture! Look what the gardening group has done...beautiful Black Eyed Susans.

Had a great Wardens/Treasurer meeting out at St. Ambrose for Lake of Bays on Sunday. So great to hear real voices and be within the iconic six feet distance of each other. Good work done! Decisions made! Thanks to everyone able to participate. Please continue to keep Rev. Margaret and her family in your prayers. David's full obituary is posted on the Diocesan Web Site. It is quite wonderful, and I believe all would be blessed by reading it.

Some humour, please! (Child once asked me if hules meant anything!)

If I was Snow White, you'd never be able to kill me with an apple. You'd have to put poison in an éclair or a brownie! (sent by Tracy)

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked ,
"Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?"
I mentally polished my halo, while I asked,
"No, how are we alike?"
"You're both old," he replied. (sent by Jacquie)

Scripture for the Day: Psalm 2: 1-6a and James 1: 5

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding. If you indeed cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures— then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God, for the Lord gives wisdom.

James 1: 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Homily: I have had many calls in recent weeks from people asking serious questions. They are seeking wisdom about the ways of God and the lives of people and how to grow in understanding. These are the verses I often share with them, along with a few words about what I have gleaned from “seeking wisdom” over the years. What I’ve gleaned most is HUMILITY. There will always be things I do not understand because they are beyond my capacity; even my capacity enlarged by the Holy Spirit. I have learned, as I’m sure have you, that my ways are not God’s ways and my thoughts are not God’s thoughts.... By seeking wisdom, applying Scripture, opening and offering our minds to God we will come closer, but we’ll never understand it all in this world.

Paul tells us much the same thing. “Now I behold things as in a mirror darkly, but then, I shall know as I have been known.” What a promise. Imagine knowing the mind and heart of God in the same way the He knows yours.

How, then, do we live in the meantime. With doubts, and confusion, and drawing “iffy” conclusions that may not be correct sometimes. I have learned that It’s not so important to know what I don’t know, but to do what I do know. Someone once said “I’m not so much troubled by what I don’t know in the Bible, I’m troubled about what I do know, and don’t yet do”.

There are lots of study guides and classes in theology “out there”. Ways to help us be wiser in the things of God. Take advantage of what calls out to you and is based on Scripture.

NEW STUDY OFFERED

On Tuesday, Sept 29th, I’ll be offering two 45 minute sessions on N.T. Wright’s Book : God in the Pandemic. One will begin at 10am the next at 11am. They will be limited to 12 people each, so please call the office to book a slot if you want to come. Masks will need to be worn without exception. Contact tracing will be

done. If you have a medical condition which precludes mask wearing, I will find a way to offer a separate class for you. I hope to continue these offerings for six weeks, and coming for one session would not be terribly helpful for you. Give it some prayer, and let me know if you plan to come. These sessions are open to both St.Thomas and Lake of Bays parishioners. The office number is 705 645 3486, T-F, 9am – 1pm. I won't have all the answers, but together we will have more wisdom than apart. Amen.

Having said all that, remember changes in the covid situation can always mean cancellations of plans. Thanks!

Prayer for Today:

Once more the daylight shines abroad,
O brethren let us praise the Lord
Whose grace and mercy thus have kept
The nightly watch while we have slept.

We offer up ourselves to thee,
That our heart, word and deeds may be
In all things guided by Thy mind,
And in Thy eyes acceptance find.

- Dietrich Bonhoefer (Life Together...Bohemian Brethren)

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds fixed upon the love of god and of His Son, Jesus Christ. And may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always!

-Judie+