

Coop's Scoops # 106: Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Sometimes new things ARE better than old things, but look as if they've been around forever. Such is the case with the "new" door into the **St. Thomas** office. We'd been searching for a way to make the work environment safer for our admin staff, Tracy and Cathy. Their office space does not readily permit six foot spacing between them and others entering the office, yet people need to drop off, pick up, and discuss things with them regularly. The lightbulb went on in someone's head, and we decided a dutch door would do the trick. "Carpentry. New door. **George Moroz.**" Yup, the plan fitted together like "bread, peanut butter and jam."

So we called George. No need to buy a new door. He would make the old door into a Dutch door. It was a big job....those door slabs are HEAVY...but down it came and out it went to his place where it was cut in about half ,



fitted with a handcrafted inside and outside ledge, attached with new hinges and a locking gizmo. Sanded. Stained. Sanded again. Waxed and greased in the right places. Put back in place and VOILA! Tracy and George show it off. It looks like it has always been there! A perfect marriage between the old and the new.... Old in its strong foundation; new in its added functionality. Many thanks to George for his volunteer labour.

Paul Ecclestone reported on recent work done at **St. Ambrose Church**. Knowles Plumbing provided a deep discount on a grab bar needed for the washroom and another part needed for building inspection. The parish greatly appreciated their generosity. Paul volunteered his labour as well! Volunteers are the heart-beat of all the congregations of Lake of Bays and St. Thomas churches.

Just to let you know..... we took down our well-intentioned sign at St. Thomas after receiving concerns about it being offensive from three people, one of whom informed me that the “No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service” words were both historically racist as well as discriminatory to people with medical issues which prevent the wearing of shoes contrary to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act and/or Human Rights Code. I had no idea. Neither apparently did many other people, as we had lots of “like” hits on the Deanery Website (it has also been taken off the Website now) and parish emails. Ignorance is never an excuse for offending people or being racist or discriminatory, and I regret the part I played in that.



Paul LeMay came in immediately and changed the sign to **“Cast your anxiety on the Lord , for He cares for you”**. So I did that...casted my cares.....and felt better immediately too. Much better sign indeed. One other point bears repeating from earlier communications. People who cannot wear masks must not be excluded from public gatherings including worship. They are welcome. Risks can be modified by planned seating arrangements and compliance with other Covid regulations. Capacity limits are applicable to all people, wearing masks or not able to wear masks.

REGARDING THE RE-OPENING!

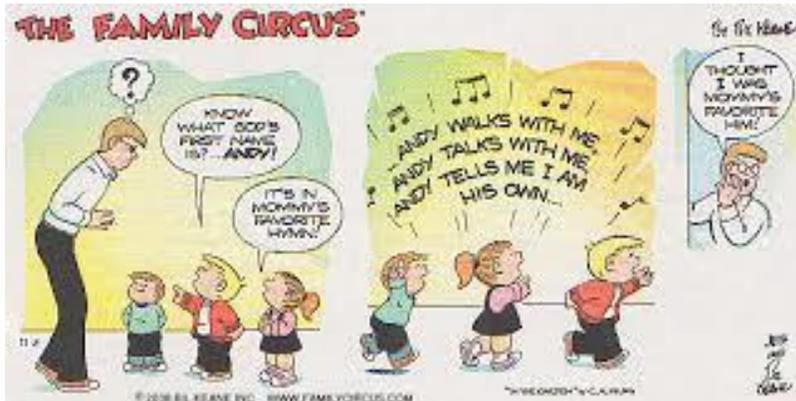
I’ve heard that some people believe that it has been decided NOT to re-open the Church at Thanksgiving. That is NOT true! Please disregard whatever you may have heard. I believe the misinformation may have begun when, on two occasions, I have said that opening on Thanksgiving does **DEPEND** upon the then current status of community infection rates. If the Province or the Diocese prohibit Church gatherings in the coming weeks, then we will have to abide by that prohibition. Otherwise, my heart is set on re-opening at St. Thomas on Thanksgiving Sunday and at St. Ambrose as well, should the Wardens confirm that they want that to happen. **We are gung-ho to go**. Annette, our re-opening coordinator has volunteers coming in to complete cleaning this week, planned

opening rehearsals so the work team knows exactly what, where, and when to do their various tasks.

In the meantime, Mary Mitchell mentioned she'd heard of a 3W way of keeping safe. **W**ash your hands **W**ear a mask **W**atch your distance. We've probably all watched the W5 show....now we have our own **W3!** So.....keep praying and **keep planning on attending Church on October 11th**. Pass the word! I am struggling still with whether or not I can offer both the 8am BCP and 11am BAS services each Sunday, along with the 9:30 service at St. Ambrose. It puts me with three distinct groups of people over a period of over four hours, and my risk tolerance is not feeling too certain about that. It does exceed Provincial best practice guidelines. I will be checking in with my Heavenly Physician as well as my wonderful earthly one, and will let you know the service times and schedules by October 1st.

Please continue to pray for Rev. Margaret+, and for Catherine Thompson of St. Thomas who will be having her knee replacement surgery on Wednesday this week. Pray all for those amongst us who are shut-inside for the most part, for those who are lonely even when outside- missing friends and family and common routines that brought joy. Pray for those who are facing changes, illness, separation, job loss, income reduction, or long delays for medical examinations, tests, and surgeries. Pray for students and teachers. Pray for all who help! And know I pray for you.

Your daily Smile:



A little boy once asked his Dad – “How were people born?” His Dad, not quite ready to answer such a question, told him: “Adam and Eve were the first to have babies, then their babies grew up and had babies, and so on.” The child, not quite satisfied with the answer, decided to ask his mom the same question. She replied: “We were monkeys and then became who we are now.” The child, quite perplexed, ran back to his Dad and said, “You lied!” His father replies, “No, your mom was telling you about her side of the family.”

And from Peter:



Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

Scripture for the Day: 1 John 3: 1,2 (New Jerusalem Bible)

You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us; by letting us be called God's children –which is what we are! The reason why the world does not acknowledge us is that it did not acknowledge Him. My dear friends, we are already God's children, but what we shall be in the future has not yet been revealed. We are well aware that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He really is.

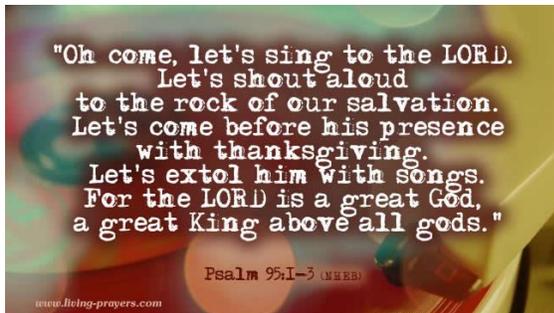
Very Short Homily:

Wow! God lavishes love on us ...we are His children! We are called by His name! We should not be surprised if people think we're a bit off our rockers when we say that, because they thought that about Him too. But we know.....The Holy Spirit whispers call Him “Abba” (Father) into our hearts.

Yet there is even more to come. Something beyond being God's children in the spiritual realm. In the future, when He comes, we shall be like Him....with resurrection bodies...and with those new resurrection eyes, we will see Jesus just as He really is!

Our ultimate destiny is NOT to have our souls reside in Heaven with God forever. That would be most excellent enough. But God has made a better ending. It hasn't been fully revealed yet, but we've been told that our mortal bodies will be raised from death to become immortal bodies...to live and work and yes, rule in some way, in the fullness of the Kingdom of God on earth. And that is enough joy to last me a whole long time! You too. **WOW!**

Prayer for the Day:



Psalm 95:1-3

As prayed the Psalmist, so we pray! We add our praise and our joy to the music of Christians throughout the world! Lord you have lavished your love upon us, and we respond as one: "We love You!" Amen. Now go forth into the world, rejoicing in the Power of the Spirit. Amen.

-Judie+