

Coop's Scoops #111: Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Good day, everyone! Like so many other expressions from the previous century, "Good Day" originally meant "God be in your Day!" It was a form of gentle blessing instead of a "salutation". "Goodbye" arose from "God Be With Ye". How about thinking about phrases or sayings about God or Jesus from our time and what they might mean a hundred years from now?

That's a much harder challenge than turning your pictures all upside down, but might appeal to some of you working to challenge your brain power during the pandemic. Here's my wall in the office since last Tuesday - people do blink when they come in!



Now some photo's of a man who's very upright! Not upside down at all. There's that generational phrase thing again. Upright in the last century meant "righteous before God". Back to Phil Gunyon! He crafted a lovely wooden box, stained it, fitted it with a window and lid and hasp and now it is attached to our mail slot in the main door at St. Thomas. Those letters and offerings will now be "caught" and visible so we take them out, and will not be getting kicked about on the floor or causing slip and fall troubles. Thanks Phil!



A big thanks as well to Todd Jones and Rick Lees who have recently cleaned the air vents all through our building to add to our safety during this pandemic.

### **News From the Parishes:**

Lots of good work being completed out at **St. Ambrose** thanks to Shirley Burton and Susan Pond and other really helpful community members. The cemetery will soon have its last little bit of area properly surveyed. The entrance is being enhanced with gravel and crushed quartz so that entering is safer...along with some tree limb removal in order to allow more sunshine to grow lovely grass in a few too shady spots. It really is a beautiful place.

Don't forget to text or call Susan Magee if you are planning to attend the De-Consecration and Thanksgiving Service at **St. John's**, Fox Point this Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm. It is also the Thanksgiving Service for **St. James**, Port Cunnington. Maximum outdoor attendance is 25 persons, so do call lest you be disappointed when you arrive. Phone: 705 571 9595 or [susanmagee@rogers.com](mailto:susanmagee@rogers.com)

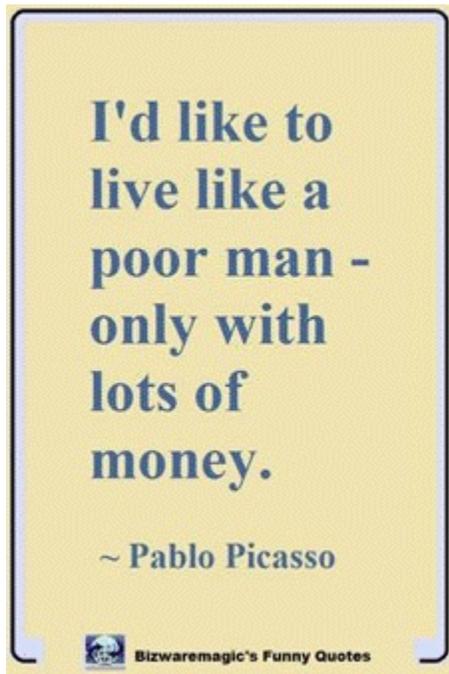
Parishioners of **St. Thomas** will be saddened to hear of the passing of **David Hilson** on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Belleville General Hospital. David and Louise were a strong part of St. Thomas' for quite a few years before moving to Wellington. Louise's address is 25 Conger Drive, Wellington ON, K0K 3L0. I'm sure she would be happy to hear from St. Thomas friends, and I will be sending a note as well. Thanks to Mary Mitchell for bringing this to our attention.

Could someone please write a **Letter to God** this week, so I can post it in "Alva's Corner?" Can be as simple as "Thanks", or as complicated as you want. It's just how you want to thank God in your own words.

I will be out of the Parish from noon Tuesday until Wednesday evening in order to attend the funeral of a long-time friend's mom in Sault Ste. Marie. I will have my cell phone and don't hesitate to call ( except from 11-noon Wednesday) if you have concerns or needs. 705 205 0549.

Watch for the Messy Church video coming soon! Next Scoops won't be until Thursday, so you'll have lots of time to write that Letter to God! Bless you all.

## On the Sunny Side:



I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't get my wife to go swimming! – President Jimmy Carter ( with apologies to all wives everywhere).

It isn't really the "ups" and "downs" that make life difficult; it's the "jerks"! - Charlie Chaplin

I was born with nothing, and I still have most of it!

No one is fat....some people are just easier to see!  
(adapted from anonymous source)

(Thanks to Peter for sending in)

## Scripture for the Day: Ecclesiastes 3:11

**He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**

**Homily:** This verse is from the well-known verses "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven..... a Time to....a Time to...a Time to..." and so on. It would be good to read the whole chapter, but this gem of a verse speaks deeply to me, because a theologian by the name of Frederick Buechner once wrote about it in a small devotional called " Listening to Your Life".

This is what he said:

" I pick the children up at the bottom of the mountain where the orange bus lets them off in the wind They run for the car like leaves blowing. Not for keeps, to be sure, but at least for the time being, the world has given them back again, and whatever the world chooses to do later on, it can never so much as lay a hand on the "having-beeness" of this time. The past is inviolate. We are none of us safe, but everything that has happened is safe. In all the vast and empty reaches of the

universe it can never be otherwise than that when the orange bus stopped with its red lights blinking, these two children were on it. Their noses were running. One of them dropped a sweater. I drove them home.”

It's me talking now...don't be blaming Buechner for what I'm about to say! Buechner saw that things that have been will always be. God Himself sees that way. Let's now look at our verse both beginning and end.

**God has made everything beautiful in His time.** ( That is His work. Although we cannot see the end of it, He can....and it is done. And it is beautiful. No matter what ugliness transpires in our time, nothing can take away what He has accomplished in His time. It's kind of like this. Imagine time as a yardstick laying on flat table. We are like little special unique awesome specks on that yardstick. We will occupy time on it for maybe 70 or more years, and we will only be able to see the yardstick from the day we were born to the day we die. We live in time. God however is not bound by time. He sees the whole yardstick ( which never really ends) all the time.... He sees before we were born and when we were born and right now what we are doing and what we will do tomorrow and the until our life is finished all in one glance....He knows our beginning and our end. He knows what I will do next year, not because He causes me to do it, but because in His time, it's already been done. Confused? Just let it percolate for awhile.

Although we do not see “outside” of time, God **has planted eternity in our hearts**....we know it is real...we long to know more about it...on a starry night it fills our souls with awe and wonder and song...and so we do see “in part” the end of the beginning. We see that all time is consumed in God's presence. That we are part of the timelessness that stretches forever. And yet, and yet....nothing can change the fact that I sat here today writing these words, that you one day stood with someone you loved and made vows, that grandson Billy ate his first pumpkin muffin at your house, that , as Beuchner says “nothing can change the fact that those two children did get off the bus and ran for the car with runny noses, and dropped a sweater which was picked up and dad drove them home”.

From beginning to end, no one can fathom what God has done, but the moments, the days, the events...we can see God in those, and they can never be changed.

For some reason, that is important to me. I need to know that. If you are like me, in that regard, I do believe it will bear some fruit. At any rate, it's been done. By a woman named Judie occupying the yardstick since 1946, wearing glasses today and a purple sweater, with cold fingers operating a laptop, and thinking "Finish It Now. Enough Already " but also with a heart saying "It is never enough when it comes to love". Phew....good luck with this! - Judie+

**Prayer:**

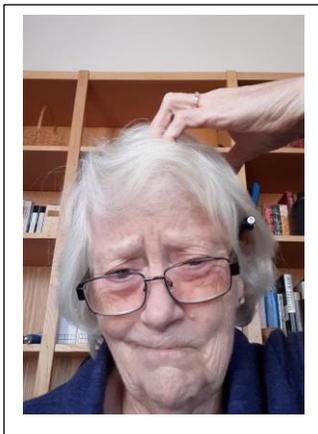
Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where shall be no darkness or dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music, no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion world without end. ( John Donne, 1572-1631). If you thought my homily was challenging, try to get your soul in this saint's prayer!

**Or second prayer:**

It all belongs to You, Lord, and I am ever thankful! Amen.

**Blessing:**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and grant you peace. Amen.



What a terrible picture of my scratching my head over that Homily! And here's the thing.... Nothing can "undo" it.

Oh my.

Oh dear.

Oh well!

Blessings, Judie+