

Coop's Scoops # 206 Wednesday, May 26, 2014



If you haven't already met them, let me introduce you to the main characters in our Messy Church puppet plays. On the left is Molly...feisty, smart, and fun...voiced by Alva Woods; in the middle is Scooter...excited, wild and wonderful, voiced by Peter ...and to the right is Professor Nicholas Einstein Chumly 1st....fountain of knowledge and teacher extraordinaire. Along with a few other characters, like Molly's sister, and Barry the Bear, and Lambchops (voiced by Tracy), these

little puppet people have endeared themselves not only to our kids but to every adult who takes the time to know them. Rob Knighton, as himself, plays guitar and teaches super songs in each session as well. Jess Wroe and Barbara Knighton help with video and graphics. I do my usual thing and describe the Bible story in kidspeak.

The Messy Church crew is here today, filming for their next session based on Stories About Jesus: the healing of the paralytic man let down through a roof!

Time was taken to prepare crafts for the children who receive the video (drop off or pick ups) with everything necessary to make the craft shown in this picture.

There is also the character growth chart hanging on the hall door nearest the office where Tracy and Lambchops speak each



session about physical growth and character growth, giving shout outs for good

deeds and kindness etc. All in all, this children's outreach ministry takes lots of work and is done with tons of love.

Messy Church, of course, works best "in person" and we are all waiting with great hopes for re-opening to our regular format, when kids and moms and dads and grannies and gramps come into the church for great activities, themed kids stories and music and worship and an amazing nutritious array of after-school snacks and a full family meal in Browning Hall. The team and I are hoping (!) that our first in person session will be especially wonderful.....involving an outdoor play area, maybe the blow up slides, balloons and ice cream and everything wonderful. Along with advertising throughout the community to make it a big event, welcoming old members and brand new kids as well.

I want to encourage you to go to St. Thomas and Lake of Bays Facebook page, click on videos and watch a few Messy Church sessions....I think you'll fall in love with everything about them! And then, if you are able and interested, a donation to help fund this program would be so very welcome....just mark your cheque or envelope Messy Church and your tax-receipted donation will be well-used in a vital ministry.

Thanks from Molly, Scooter and Professor Nick and all the Messy Church team.

News from the Churches:

* Deanery Council meeting for Wardens and Synod Delegates on June 1st, 7pm, ZOOM.

* Parish Council St. Thomas Saturday May 29, 10am ZOOM

* The Pentecost Sunday on line worship service is still posted on our Facebook page and also Facebook @ muskoka churches.com

* please continue to pray for our facilitator Susan Abell who will soon begin her work amongst us planning for our future.

* please pray this day for the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan ACW and for their vital ministries in our churches and communities.

Some Fun: (sent by Peter May)

- Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan

stuff?' The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out It's probably just your Dad...'

- Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.' The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.' The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'



A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?'

He answered, 'Call for backup.'

Scripture for Today: Luke 5: 17-26

¹⁷ One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.^[a] ¹⁸ Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus;^[b] ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd^[c] in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend,^[d] your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. ²⁶ Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."

Sermon: (Today I'm offering you the "Kidspeak" version. Sometimes adults hear Kidspeak much clearer than properly adult speak anyway.)

Some young men got up one morning and made a great plan. Their friend – let's call him Mike – was very ill. He could not even move his body at all. They had heard that Jesus was in town at Jacob's and that he could heal people by God's power. They decided to take Mike to see Jesus. It wasn't easy. They made a stretcher out of some long sticks and tied some blankets to it and carefully loaded Mike onto it and one guy on each stick they picked him up and started walking to Jacob's house. It was hot and dusty and just like here, black flies were getting stuck all over them! When they got there, so many people were jammed in the doorway that they couldn't get through. They said "Hey, let us in....Mike needs help!" but no one would give up their place to let them in. Some guys would have given up, but not Mike's friends. They were determined!!!! So they climbed up onto the roof and somehow managed to get Mike up there without dropping him, and then they lifted off the "shingles" (made of clay back then) and made a hole big enough to lower Mike down. All the people inside heard all the noise, and felt dirt falling on their heads and Jesus looked up and smiled.

When Mike was on the ground, Jesus said something wonderful. Jesus said "Mike, it's not your fault that you can't move. It's nothing you did. In fact, even if you did some bad things, I forgive you and remember, Mike, it's not your fault". Isn't that a wonderful thing to hear? But some of the really picky religious people said to Jesus "Who are you to say that? Only God can forgive people". That wasn't true, because the Bible tells us that WE ALSO have to forgive people, and WE aren't God, are we? Anyway, Jesus wanted them to learn a really big lesson. So He asked them " So what's harder? Forgiving Mike? Or telling Mike to just get up right now and walk home?" The picky people would know that saying "Get Up" could not be wrong and only someone sent by GOD could ever heal Mike. And then Jesus did just that. He said "Mikel you just get up now, and pick up your bedroll and walk on home with your friends" And Mike did. He was all better and never got paralysed again.

Now I know for sure that I can't do what Jesus did. But I can still help my friends to come to Jesus when they are sick or sad and need Him. Sometimes it's not easy to do that.... It might take a whole lot of talking before they think that Jesus could help them....sometimes they might laugh at me....sometimes other people could say "Don't do that....get out of the way" But if I really really want to help my friend, I will stick to it no matter what. And when my friend and I talk to Jesus in prayer, Jesus WILL HELP. Always. Sometimes He helps by saying, "Hey this isn't your fault..." or "Hey, remember that even if you did do something wrong that hurt you, I forgive you for that" ...or "Hey, there's that doctor in town who really really helps people get better....or "Hey, your Mom knows what to do". I can tell you this, though, absolutely positively for sure forever, no one who goes to Jesus, or is taken to Jesus in prayer, EVER is told to go away. Uh uh! Never. Jesus always helps. Even if we don't get better right away, or even if our sickness isn't healed, Jesus helps our hearts to know we are loved and special, and Jesus helps our thinking become full of hope. I'll bet Mike told a whole lot of people what Jesus did for him, and that Mike would also do anything he could to help others just like his friends helped him. Good things always happen when friends bring friends to Jesus! How can you or I help someone today to come to Jesus for what they need?

Prayer for Today: (for kids of all ages)

Can a little child like me thank the Father fittingly?

Yes, oh yes! Be good and true, patient, kind in all you do!

Love the Lord and do your part; learn to say with all your heart:

Father, we thank thee! Father, we thank thee!

Father in Heaven, we thank thee!

Blessing: May the Holy Spirit of our God equip you with every good thing needful so that you may do the works prepared for you before the foundations of time; to His glory and to the blessing of all, and the peace of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. Amen.

-Judie+