

## Coop's Scoops # 215 Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Two days ago, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, I officially became what I remember thinking when I turned 21 would make me “ancient”. The big 75! Funny now, it doesn't seem ancient at all.....just an opportunity to gear up for another jog around the sun! We do that every year, every one of us. When I woke up on my birthday morning and opened my eyes, God's Spirit, I believe, sent this me this thought “Judie, when your eyes were first opened on the day you were born the first thing you saw was the face of your mother!” How blessed I was! My Mom was Verna Ward, and she looked upon me with love and kindness every single day of her life, even when I was bratty or bad, the look in her eyes never changed. Within hours, I also glimpsed the fuzzy blurry face of my Dad, Earl. Now he loved me, but his eyes sometimes flashed with other things when I heartily deserved it! The constancy of my mother's eyes are the closest I can come to how I believe Jesus will look at me ( and you) when we come at last into His Kingdom. I pray deeply that my children will one day remember that the first thing they ever saw, and the most continuous thing, was the love in my eyes as I looked at them. Well, that was rather sentimental, wasn't it? As author, I get creative license to blather about myself sometimes.

### IMPORTANT NEWS RE ST THOMAS:



Get out your tambourines and horns and clangers and bells! Re-opening CAN happen on JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>. **Now, I'm crossing my fingers and my toes, because if things change again, I'll grow my nose.** Just like Pinnochio! The official word from Archdeacon Kelly is that we can reopen for public worship when the Province initiates Step Two. They may move that up a bit, but for St. Thomas I have made the decision that I alone am required to make, and we will begin on July 11<sup>th</sup> even if the Province does initiate Step Two earlier. At that time I will have immunity from my second dose geared up, as will I hope most of you, and I will be comfortable that I am very little risk to 60 people during one day.

We will have the **BCP service at 9am** in the Sanctuary and the **BAS service will be at 11am**, leaving more than one full hour between groups of people. Both

services will be Holy Eucharist, with reception of Bread alone. We will be together again! Woooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Yet we will not be not together in quite the same way. There is a maximum of 30 people so you will have to phone the office to “register” - not everyone will be able to come every Sunday - but Tracy and Cathy will manage things very well. Some of you may not yet feel confident to be with 30 people indoors, so I will also offer a weekday Eucharist in Browning Hall, with good ventilation, for ten people on Thursday mornings, 10am. Again you will have to advise the office regarding “space” for you to come. The procedures we will follow include a greeting desk check in, with Covid screening, social distancing in pews with only family members able to sit together, and masks must be worn. There will NOT be coffee hour, and folks will have to leave the building directly after the service following the directions of our “ushers”. During the service, there will not be congregational singing, and communion will be offered at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the Altar. All of those directions will be made clear each Sunday. What there WILL be is the presence of Jesus where up to 30 are gathered together in His name, and readings, and preaching and prayers and the reception of the Body of Christ, along with hopefully some special music by well-distanced soloists. It will be wonderful. It will get even more wonderful when restrictions are able to be loosened.

If you are one of our Lectors or Lay Readers I will get a date and readings out for you as soon as possible... one person will be required to do all the readings and the Prayers of the People at each service... I would appreciate it if our current lectors would call the office to confirm that they are also willing to do ( or not to do yet) the Prayers of the People so that we know our full complement of volunteers for this important ministry.

We will also be in touch with those who had offered to do Greeting and Screening, Seating and Monitoring, and cleaning between services. Thank you for being a parish where there will be no lack of help whatsoever! So grateful!

**Women In the Park ( Men can come too) Group:**

Want some social time with friends from church? Come to Memorial Park Wednesdays anytime between 11 OR 11:30, bring a chair and a bag lunch, and we

will sit properly distanced and chat and share a meal together. It really is fun. We will make our own outdoor "patio"!

### **Some Holy-ish Humour !**

Jane Lever sent in a piece about travelling during our lifetimes.....it fit so well with my big birthday, I just have to share it with you!

**I didn't get old on purpose, it just happened. If you're lucky, it could happen to you!**

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often these days .

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.

. My job is done! Life is too short for negative drama and petty things. So laugh insanely, love truly and forgive quickly!

**Scripture for Today: Various verses included in the Homily Text**

There is no time in your life, no age whatsoever, where God does not call you to love and to service. Let's take some time-travel together.

When we were born, snuggled and cooed as infants, and then became toddlers the Bible says we also were the cause of praise to God. Our existence and our spirit were precious to Him and of use in His Kingdom even then. **Psalm 8:2** tells us that God's glory is praised not only by creation but from the mouths of babes and infants... And the spirits of those little ones moved God to create a bulwark of strength to protect His people. Jesus refers back to that Psalm when He asks the Pharisees why they are persecuting Him for healing people, and for causing little ones in the Temple to cry out "hosanna"... Matthew 21:16 - Jesus said to them "Yes, have you never read 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for Yourself'. The 'hoorays' of wee ones echo through the Kingdom!



Later in life, as youth and young adults, God continues to bless and honour those who turn their minds and their lives to Him. Timothy, while most probably only 15 was told "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman needing not to be ashamed". Timothy had been teased for being too young to speak with authority about Jesus and Paul, his mentor, was saying just keep on doing what you're doing, study and never apologize for what the Spirit puts into your heart and your mind. Jeremiah tried to "wiggle out" of his calling due to his youth, again likely only 13-15 years of age, but God would not have any of it. Jeremiah 1: 4-9 "Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you,

you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD”.

Moving right along after study and witness comes as many years as we have for service and loving others. Mom opportunity to be an example of examples of God’s mercy and love their own weakness and failures their own flesh, or others.



firm influence and e to their children...also erable and humble regarding and teach children, whether or



We age a bit more and become grannies and gramps, elders in the congregations, passers-on of wisdom, bearers of the truth of experience in faith and in practice. Hear what the word of God says about that period of life: “The righteous flourish like a palm tree....in old age they still product good fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing the the Lord is good” ( Psalm 92: 12-15). Or this: Job 12:12-13 **Is not wisdom found among the aged?** Does not long life bring understanding? “To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.



And perhaps we may find ourselves the ones needing care, perhaps even unable to speak or to do any tasks at all .....even then there is a promise from

God: Isaiah 46:4-5 **Even when you're old, I'll take care of you. Even when your hair turns gray, I'll support you. I made you and will continue to care for you.**

And when we cannot "do" for ourselves and others must "do" for us, even then we are allowing another person to serve us with no possibility of our "paying them back" and that kind of service pleases God and causes joy in the Kingdom.

There is no time limit, no gender restrictions, no taboos which preclude anyone from praising God. In Joel 2: 28 we read: "Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." We are part of the "afterward" .....after captivity, after rebuilding, after Jesus came, after Pentecost..... and every day of our lives is an opportunity to bless God, love others in the name of Jesus, and be Kingdom builders in our time.

Live the age you are to the glory of God!

Amen!

Prayer:

O Lord our God you are our strength when we are weak, our help when we need comfort, our powerful Redeemer when we fall into sin, our companion in our journey, our joy in sadness, and our hope in grief.....at all times you provide your love and unfailing kindness and mercy. Thank you for being the ONE who will never leave or forsake us. We offer you praise at all our times, and trust in Your provision for all the stages of our lives. In Christ's dear name, we pray. Amen,

Blessing!

May the God of peace which passes all our understanding keep your minds fixed on the love of God of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you ALWAYS! - Judie+