



Coop's Scoops

#25 April 23, 2020

Thanks to Annette Procnier
For this great shot of a church
Sign that reminds people that
God is not contained in a closed
church building, but is actually
making house calls!

You are the church,
I am the church,
We are the church together!

Our awesome God always makes house calls! Jesus said "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him....Rev. 3:20. Forgive me, but I can't help my twisted mind sometimes, and these days we'd have to say " First step back six feet and enter when I've got chairs spaced according to social distancing. Sigh. However, it is interesting to consider how it is that we, who are the hands and feet of God in our world, are doing at making house calls!

We're doing pretty well, I think.

- We make house calls literally by telephone (thanks to the calling teams and all who are keeping close and checking on others by voice).

- The Winter Pantry team at St. Ambrose are delivering food to people's front doors, after having ordered, shopped, picked up, sanitized, packed, labelled, and looked after client's special needs. Everyone now, three cheers for Susan Pond, Pat Sims-Eastwood and Linda Lacroix, all the volunteers drivers and others whose names I may not know. Well done, all of you.
- Paul LeMay and Peter May have driven Easter season sermons and greetings to all from St. Thomas who do not have internet.
- My Scoops go into 286 homes for all who live in them.
- Port Cunnington and Dorset brothers and sisters are calling and caring for one another despite not opening until (whenever) summer.
- Two parishioners are busily making face masks for people who do not have them.

The list could go on and on. Many of you are delivering groceries, adding baking, sending cards, zooming, and by far most importantly of all...PRAYING. That's our best way of 'helping' God make house calls right to the hearts of those for whom we pray. If I had a bell, I'd ring it to celebrate all of us, doing all of this. Wait a minute, I do....off to Tracy's desk....got the bell....out the door.....shake shake shake.....hope you enjoyed that as much as I did.

I'm adding some pictures from the Winter Pantry inside St. Ambrose. You may never have had the privilege to see it. It is immaculate, organized, thoughtful, and filled with not only canned and boxed goods, but also three fridges and two freezers for meat, frozen food, eggs and milk and other fresh items. I took out a whole big carton of Girl Guide cookies left here by a to me unknown parishioner of St. Thomas' for the Pantry this morning. Lots of unsung heroes abound!



Scripture For Today: Luke 7: 1-10 NO HOUSE CALL NEEDED!

After Jesus^[a] had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³ When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.” ⁶ And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷ therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” ⁹ When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” ¹⁰ When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health”

This story stands alone and needs very little interpretation. What impresses me is the love that fills it. First we hear about a Roman (gentile) Centurion who had so much love for a slave that he arranged for elders to ask Jesus to help him. And when they came to Jesus, Jesus shows much love by going with them. Before He got to the house, the centurion sent friends to tell Jesus that He didn't need to come all the way. More loving kindness. The Centurion was not being proud, not wanting a nomadic Jewish preacher in his house, rather the Centurion felt unworthy to receive Him at home. Essentially, he says “just speak the word, and my servant will be healed”

And Jesus did speak the word, and the man was made well at that very moment. Jesus loved that Centurion. Imagine, a gentile, someone who worshipped the goddess Diana or Hera or Zeus, showing more faith than Jesus had seen in His very own people.

In this time, when we pray for those who are infected, those who are dying, those who are in desperate health unrelated to Covid...we can be certain that God Himself loves those people. That Jesus loves them. I have been starting my **prayers for the sick for some time with the words: “Lord, the one You love is ill...”** And then proceeding to ask Him what it is that I could do, that anyone could do, to act out the love that Jesus has for them in practical ways. Lord, the one you love, is lonely....Lord, the one you love is hungry.....Lord the one you love is desperate....Lord the one you love is singing! Love never fails. –Judie+

Prayer for today:

I invite you today to pray for our spiritual leaders, especially Archbishop and Metropolitan Anne Germond, Archdeacon Kelly Baetz, all the clergy of our deanery and diocese and all who serve God and each other in their lay baptismal vocations. We all together have important work to do and need the grace of God to sustain us.

- Grant to our Archbishop +Anne, gracious Lord, wisdom and understanding to know your will for the Church, a heart that deeply cares for all people in their parishes and missions, and such clarity of expression, patience in teaching, and courage in leadership that this diocese may stand secure in its faith and constant in its service to the world for the sake of Christ. We give you thanks for her constancy in leadership and in love. Amen.
- Almighty and everlasting God hear our prayers and grant to our parishes all things necessary for their spiritual well-being, enlighten and guide our leaders, our clergy, wardens and vestry; strengthen and increase the faithful, visit and relieve the sick, turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless, bring again those who have wandered; remove from us anything that resists your grace or hinders your purposes; make all of us one united voice to sing your praise and to give witness to your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(both the above prayers are from St. Augustine’s Prayer Book)

Blessing

AS you walk in beautiful sunshine today, or simply see the blue skies and hear the bird-song, may your hearts be uplifted from all the terrors which assail us, all the heartache which wounds us. Remember that the Holy Spirit prays for you when you cannot find the words. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always! Amen.

And finally, your joke:

A Childs Point Of View



he story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story.

Little Bobby was most interested and drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat, behind the wheel was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman.

The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve.

But little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

Stay well, stay safe, stay grounded in our Lord!

Judie+

