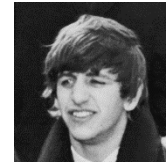


Coop's Scoops #80: July 28, 2020

Today's Scoops is REALLY #80, not the PRETEND #80 I tried to get by you before. Some very good detail people "caught" me, but so far as I know this is the accurate number! It's been fun. 80 is a good number, I think. Ringo Starr just turned 80...impossible and he's still drumming; Alex Trebek turns 80 this year, it was 80 years ago that the very first McDonald's opened in Pasadena, California, CBS demonstrated the first ever colour TV, the unemployment rate was 14.6%, and a regular stamp cost three cents. Now it's only about five months since the first Scoop's was sent out, but if we only knew, we would realize that many more than 80 really, really important things have happened in that time...to our Canada, to our neighbourhoods, to our families and to our friends. Some joyful....new babies, weddings, birthdays, being able to actually hug the folks in our bubbles again....and some tragic....illness, death, anxiety, fear, exhaustion, boredom, and loneliness beyond what we ever imagined. So....80 Scoop's....it's just a little thing. Yet I hope that 80 times you've had a smile or a challenge or felt supported! And I intend to get to 100! God being my helper and the creek don't rise to high!



Big News from the Diocese!

You may have received the AMBER Reopening Protocols on your email, but if not, they are posted on the Diocese of Algoma web site. They show us ALL the things we have to decide and act upon in order to reopen for public worship in September. It's a big list. It's a careful list. It's a supportive and encouraging list. It is an excellent comprehensive piece of work. PLEASE READ THEM. It will take awhile. The Parish leadership of St. Thomas and Lake of Bays will be discussing them in zoom meetings and no doubt multiple times over the coming weeks. I'll be sending out lists seeking helpers as we identify specific tasks. You could start to pray now about how you might be able to help, in ways seemingly big or small but really all equal in importance.

Some of you will be very excited by this news! You can't wait! Others may be cautious about it, wondering if the time is actually right. Others will have decided

“No way!” And yet others, will be in “pending” mode, wanting to make their choice about attending church in the building after a few more weeks of covid observation. We’ll be trying to find ways in which everyone can be supported and everyone can receive God’s Word as we do move into new possibilities.

There will be a limited number of binders prepared for those who do not have internet or access to printers. If you do have those things, maybe you could make an extra copy for a friend who does not. Please call the office if you wish to pick one up as we will have to know when you are coming so we can pop one out the door.

There will be a ZOOM meeting for Lake of Bays leadership re ‘Getting Started’ this Thursday July 30th at 6:30 pm. Margaret Morrison+ is arranging and hosting the site. Zoom on Monday August 3rd at 6:30 pm for St. Thomas leadership, hosted by Phil Gunyon.

There’s Truth in Cartoons.... Some just sweet and some so relative to the times it
Can move mountains.



A little story: A minister dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?" The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi-driver, of Noo Yawk City." Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi-driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven." The taxi-driver goes into Heaven with his robe and staff, and it's the minister's turn. He stands erect and booms out, "I am

Joseph Snow, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years." Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven." "Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi-driver and he gets a silken robe and golden staff. How can this be?" "Up here, we work by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

Scripture for Today! Philippians 2: 1-7

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

This passage seems so very appropriate for the time of preparation we are entering. Things are going to change. Change can be wonderful, but also very uncomfortable. There are now, and there will be always, people within our congregations who see things differently; who want things to be done according to their best understanding, who have different ways of interpreting Scripture, who dream different dreams. They are all sons and daughters of God, all fervent in their faith, and all followers of Jesus. Yet, in the details, they disagree. And there is nothing wrong with that. Unless it breeds contempt, disunity, elitism, exclusion or pig-headed close-minded-ness. Paul, writing to the Ephesians, is encouraging them not to be afraid of those who oppose them, not to quibble about gnats and molehills, but to be of **one mind in the Gospel**. Which means **"The Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord"**. Paul tells them they will all suffer in making that proclamation and that their comfort will be in supporting one another, having each other's backs, and placing the needs and the desires of others before their own. That's a high and holy calling. And it is ours as well.

When we meet to make decisions, to express concerns, to plan actions in the coming weeks, I, like Paul, implore every one of us (myself most of all) to act in humility, counting others as better than yourselves. Let us not look only to our

own interests, likings, hopes, fears....but also look to the interests of others. Paul said his joy would be complete when the Ephesians would act with one mind, in full accord, with the same love for others as they have for Christ. That is what Jesus did. Jesus who was equal to God and could have asserted His Kingly rights in any way at all, chose to disregard His status and chose to become a servant, a baby born in the likeness of humankind. There is no place for “high horse” servants, only humble ones. By definition.

I pray that we too may be of one mind in the Gospel. Able to completely agree that Jesus Christ is Lord. And to offer our minds, our words, our loves, our whole selves to the Holy Spirit that we may become conformed to the mind of Christ. I think, in fact, that we are! My prayer is that we shall remain that way through stormy waters. God be with us all. Judie+

Prayer for the Day: (William Barclay Book of Prayer).

O God, our Father, keep us from spoiling good things,

Make us wise, but save us from being conceited.

Make us clear-sighted, but save us from being unkind.

Make us honest, but save us from tactless or heartless discourtesy.

Make us efficient, but save us from being inhumane and unsympathetic

Make us strong-willed, but save us from being stubborn,

Make us to enjoy life, but save us from making pleasure our only goal

Make us pleasant to all in genuine love, but save us from insincerity.

May the peace of God, which passes all our understanding, keep your hearts and minds filled with the love of God and His Son Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you always! -Judie+