

Coop's Scoops # 82 I think, but maybe it's 72....will check soon, July 14, 2020

Joanne Cunnington told me that I skipped the 70's. If that's true, it's not the first time. I spent most of the "70's" having children and learning how to be a wife and mother, and most of the cultural things in that decade weren't even noticed. Skipped over. Except of course for the Beatles, and ABBA, and the Mamas and the Papas. Joanne also responded to my request for any milestone pictures to be sent to me....

Here she is at her confirmation in 19

Many of you will remember the White dresses and the veils; the Very proper suits for the boys..

A trip down memory lane for sure.

More milestone pictures are most welcome.



News from the Province:

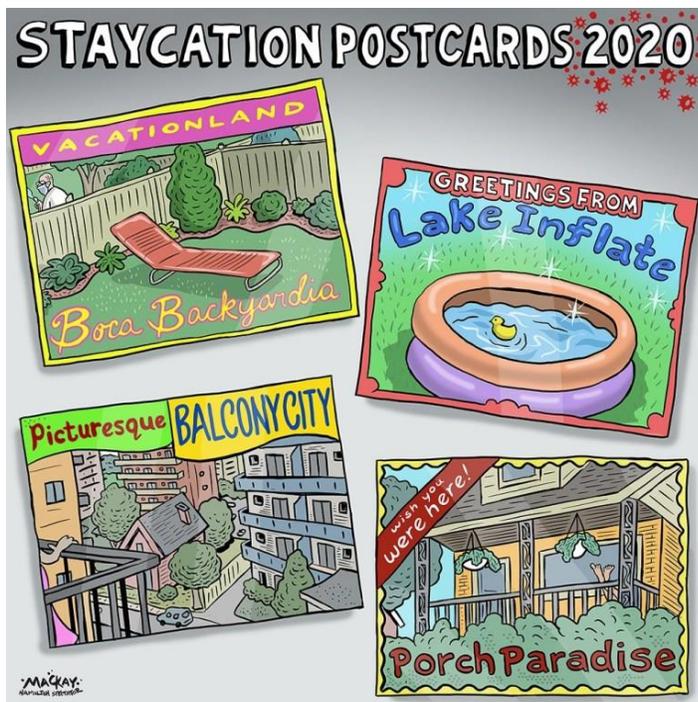
Most of the Province was enabled by Premier Ford yesterday to move to what is called Stage Three of the pandemic response. Simcoe-Muskoka is included in the move although many counties and cities in Southern, Southwestern and Eastern Ontario are not. There will be some dancing in the streets...but hey keep the distancing! Restaurants will be able to have inside dining, offices and businesses will have less restrictions, outdoor weddings CAN be up to 100 people and funeral homes have higher numbers possible as well. In Simcoe Muskoka, the Bereavement Association has regulated that all attendees and staff at funerals indoors and outdoors **MUST** be masked and social distancing supervised.

In our own communities of Bracebridge, Baysville, Dorset, Port Cunnington, Fox Point we must remember that masks are still to be worn in all indoor settings except our own homes or with our "bubble" people. Masks are also highly recommended in all larger outdoor settings as well. Social distancing, hand hygiene and remain in place and are vital to the health of our communities at this time.

Please remember that the Provincial rules 'permit' these new activities, but do not "force" them on any business or individual. The Diocese of Algoma continues to have buildings closed; a maximum of five people allowed to do live-stream worship, no outdoor public worship services to be done. Attendance maximums for outdoor weddings is raised to 100, but the presiding Priest may specify the number of attendees they are willing to have present at weddings, and if necessary, refer a couple to another priest should they have a personal safety concerns. No one is asked or expected to do anything which they believe compromises their safety. Guests at outdoor weddings should be masked for the ceremony. New protocols for the Algoma Diocese's reopening plans are in the works, and will be published as soon as they are available.

Please note: everything I've just said could be changed....maybe by supertime...the guidelines can change very quickly and differ depending on geographical location.

After all that, a laugh is essential!



Cartoon by Gordon McKay, Hamilton Spectator

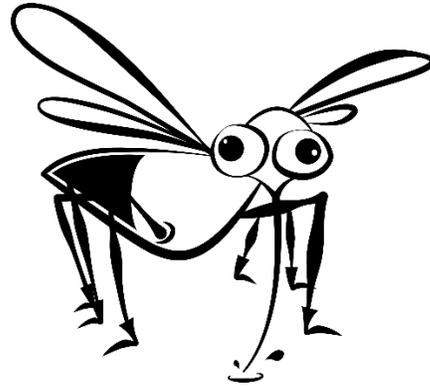
HOLY HUMOR

During these serious and troubled times, people of all faiths should remember these four great religious truths:

1. Muslims do not recognize Jews as God's Chosen People.
2. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
3. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian world.
4. Baptists do not recognize each other at the liquor store.

GOD DID NOT CREATE **ANYTHING** WITHOUT A PURPOSE!

THE MOSQUITO CAME CLOSE THOUGH!



Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff- they comfort me.

Homily: Today I want to focus on just this one verse of probably the best known, best loved, and most repeated psalm in the Bible. It is so pertinent to the times we live in as individuals, with individual experiences and fears and shadows. Let's take it phrase by phrase.....

Even though... this phrase does not mean "if I" or "when I" it means that we all will walk through darkness. Probably have already. Many times. Certainly will again. The sons of daughters of God are not exempt from the dark places. But doesn't God direct our paths? Yes, certainly, and doesn't send us into the dark valley's alone...He directs us through them.

I walk means exactly that. It's me. All of me. All of who I am. All of who I love. David wrote it for himself....in his darkest place....and God's Spirit moved the hearts of men to include it in the Holy Scriptures for every single individual to know it as personally as did David.

Through the valley.... You've all heard that we do go "through" it, and we expect that through means we must come "out" the other end. Not all valleys end that

way. Grief and mourning can not be sentimentalized by mere words of heavenly hopes. Some folks die in the valley... some people they love die in the valley as well. We do not know the end when we make the beginning.

Of the shadow of death.. I recall driving on an expressway in Toronto one time when suddenly my whole vehicle was overshadowed by darkness. It terrified me for the whole 30 seconds it took the big huge semi in the lane beside me to get ahead of me. The shadow was so dark and so fast that I didn't even see the vehicle. Sun going down makes long long shadows. Anyway- David likely meant the shadow of death to mean the darkness in his soul that led him to hide in dark caves for fear of being killed by those who were pursuing him. A pandemic is so dark for some, that hiding becomes a place of safety but the fear is still present in **the shadow.**

I shall fear no evil... What a wonderful thing for David to write, even as he trembled in the shadows. It is a choice, but it is not a random choice, it is a choice based on the evidence of the character of God as David had experienced Him previously in life. It is the choice that "believes" that "nothing can separate us from the love of God....nothing....whatsoever....in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38-39)

You are with me... everything changes when we know we are not alone. The "YOU" in this case, is God Almighty...the Shepherd God... It can also be "you – my spouse" you- my friend, you- my child, you- my doctor " What a weight is lifted when we realize we do not carry it alone.

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me: I misunderstood those words for so very long. I'd always been taught that the rod was for punishment and the staff was something to do with learning.. I did not find that comforting. Then again, I'm not David. David KNEW intimately what SHEPHERD's rods and staffs were for...he had used them himself when he was a shepherd. The rod is a long heavy stick or piece of metal that had one use only for a shepherd. At night, when the sheep were being bedded down, and he himself would sleep, every shepherd took his rod and plunged it into every hole in the field; holes in which snakes might dwell, killing the snakes to ensure the safety of each sheep. The staff was an instrument of rescue. When that one little sheep ran over the cliff and was hanging helplessly, the shepherd would use his crook, his staff, to encircle the body and lift the sheep to safety. Or used to haul one out of a ditch, or catch one that was running away in an unsafe direction. Even used to grab the neck of a prowling wolf in some cases.

The rod and staff were not about discipline or learning....they were about protection and rescue. They are now as well.

So rejoice in this verse, and go on and read the whole psalm. There are verses in Proverbs about rods being used for discipline of children...but that is not what David had in mind at all when he wrote the Good Shepherd psalm. Hope that is encouraging at all times!
Judie+

Almighty God,

You are the strength of my life;

You are my rock, my fortress and my protector; therefore, of whom shall I be afraid?

You are my shield, my strong-tower and my stronghold.

You are my Shepherd, my keeper and my rescuer

You are always with me

So I will fear no evil

I will call to You

You are worthy to be praised.

I will follow You for ever and ever. Amen.

(this prayer uses promises from both Psalm 27 and Psalm 23)

God's blessing be upon you now within the field you occupy and when you are led to new pastures, take heart, be strong and be not afraid!
-Judie+