

Coop's Scoops #82 July 31, 2020

It's been another beautiful day, not too hot, not too chill, lots of sunshine and enough cloud to find some shade here and there. One of the greatest forward movements during covid has been to help us be OUTSIDE again. Taking precautions, but OUTSIDE where we can even spy a neighbour or two and say a "Howdy" from two meters away! I just picked up something at Shoppers Drug Mart, wearing my collar, and a man I didn't even know walked six feet close to me, and said "Bless me, Father!" And I did, and it was wonderful, even though I am genetically not programmed to be anyone's father. I gave thanks that even if I managed not another good thing all day, God had given me a moment to bless a neighbour. And that, of course, led my odd little mind straight to Fred Rogers, whom I miss almost as much as I miss Stuart McLean. Here's Fred's song... hope you can find a neighbour somewhere today, in a hallway, on the street, even out a window, and wish them a beautiful day.

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood
A beautiful day for a neighbor
Could you be mine?
Would you be mine?



Stuart McLean

It's a neighborly day in this beauty
wood
A neighborly day for a beauty
Could you be mine?
Would you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you

Let's make the most of this beautiful day
Since we're together, might as well say
Would you be my, could you be my
Won't you be my neighbor?

How's that for a nice little walk down memory lane?



Mr. Rogers

MESSY CHURCH IS AT IT AGAIN.....loving kids In Jesus' name!!!

Our Messy Church team created a new live-stream session being sent out to all the Messy Church kids and families today. You can see it on the Deanery of Muskoka web page and on the St. Thomas web site. Connie, Peter and Alva, I do believe, create and deliver some of the finest low low almost no budget puppet shows you'll ever see ! And today was one of their very best. Catch it if you can, it will make you smile, and you not be able to keep from singing along with Rob. He not only plays and sings great songs, he makes up new verses for them too. Thanks to Jessica for her awesome video skills. Below is our newest (donated) puppet: Professor Nicholas Einstein Chumley, (Pardon the tape holding his head up....Peter had left the building when I took this photo by myself!) Molly (Alva) was also in the play asking many scientific questions....but Molly had to go home with Alva for a new hairstyle. The Theme today: Big and Small God loves us all! Focused with Bible verses about mustard seeds and ship rudders!



Connie reminded Moms and Dads or Grammas and Gramps to share the coming Perseids meteor shower display already begun and going until August 24th but with peak viewing after midnight on July 11, 12th. I'll be laying on my dock, hopefully with a grandchild or two, enjoying the beauty of our universe. Hope you can enjoy it as well.

Lake of Bays Zoom meeting July 30th:

We discussed many of the creative ways the guidelines we've received can help us to open our buildings for worship in the safest possible manners. One of our participants asked "Is there any way to do a sort of straw vote to see if our parishioners think it is the right time to re-open, would prefer to wait until....., or just believe we should not reopen until a safe vaccine is available, and continue with on-line ministries until then. It's important for everyone to realize that we have been given PERMISSION to reopen under various conditions, but we are not REQUIRED to reopen on September 6th. If you have a firm opinion or - if you are waiting to see you things are, how you feel, down the road, - you could share your thoughts to help the Wardens and the Incumbent to make decisions. There will be much more news about this coming soon, after the Zoom meetings for St. Thomas and for the Deanery are added to our collective thoughts. If you wish to "vote" you can text, phone or email Rev. Margaret or myself in LOB and myself for St. Thomas. Blessings on you, wherever you find yourself on this journey of change.

Some fun puns sent in by Joanne Cunnington:

I Have a **Chicken Proof** Garden....it's impeccable!

I'm terrified of elevators so I'm **taking steps** to avoid them...

Well, to be **Frank**, I'd Have to Change my Name.

Cows have hooves because they **lactose**.

"**Irony**: The Opposite of Wrinkly".good ones, Jo thanks!

A Scripture for Today: (from Messy Church presentation)

These verses are interpreted in today's homily as we hope a child could learn from them. Of course they talking about the Kingdom of God and the Taming of the Tongue, but for kids they are about "Big" and "small". Please read them, and the homily that follows trying to receive them as if you were between 4 and 10, and you'll be right in sync with most of our children (some young, some older, and all beloved)

James 3:4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to.

Matthew 13: 31-32:

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Homily: (remember to try to be about 8 in your spirit!)

Big and small God loves them all... Big and small God loves us all! That was great to learn from Professor and Molly, wasn't it? And God has does even more than that. Sometimes God helps small things to grow to grow bigger and bigger, and sometimes God helps great big things to need things that are much, much smaller. Let's see how that can happen...

Scientists like Professor Nick tell us that the tiniest, smallest seed in all the whole world is a mustard seed. When it's planted and taken good care of it grows up into a bush about this high (point to just below hip). But Jesus told everyone that God can take can take faith as small as a mustard seed and make it grow as big as the tallest tree in your neighbourhood. Why? Because sometimes faith trees are needed for people to find a place to rest in the shade and grow strong. That's in the Bible in Matthew 13...Look right here. (show the verse)

And Jesus also talks about big things. Imagine the largest ocean boat you've ever seen....ask Mom or Dad to show you a picture if you haven't seen one. They are HUGE. But you know what keeps them going straight is a much smaller rudder under the water. Rudders look kind of like shark fins only upside down. And it is the small rudder that helps the boat move in the right directions. That is found in James 3: 4, right here. (show the verse)

My son Ryan had tiny little stick arms when he was five years old. And one night he prayed and said “Dear Jesus, please make my arms big muscles. Amen”. Then he went to sleep. And in the morning, he jumped out of bed to see how big his new muscles were. They were still little sticks. So we talked, and I told Him that God needed Ryan to work with Him to get those big muscles. Ryan had that job because he COULD do it. I told my little son that big muscles would come, but he had to cooperate with God by exercising them every day. And he did. And when he was sixteen he had huge arm muscles and used them to win a pole-vaulting competition, pushing himself up and over the high bar. He’s got arm muscles now strong enough to pick up his five sons at once (for a little while!) But you know what, God loved Ryan just the same with stick arms or with big muscles. Big and small, God loves us all. And God helped Ryan to keep on trying until his dream came true.

Just like Professor Nick and Molly taught us: All things big and small.....all people big and small.....the Lord God loves us all! (the End) Well, being eight again was a VERY long trip down memory lane for me! But the messy church video on which this was based, followed by the song Rob sung right after this “God sees the Little Sparrow Fall” touched my very senior heart so much that it actually made me cry. In the midst of some chaos, God sent the very thing I needed to ground myself in Him, and it came in the form of a children’s play, and story and song. What was that Jesus said? Something about “Unless you become as little children.....” Read all about it in Matthew 18: 2-4.

Prayer for Today: A hymn prayer

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
God give us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is our Creator, who has made all things well!
Help us to see each other as You see us Lord. Help us to tend our planet as you tend to our care, Lord. Help us to never overlook the small or overrate the big, but rather see how we all are connected and serve one another in God’s great big Plan of salvation and healing for our tiny world. And help us to rejoice that God raises the very least among us to His purposes, and for His glory. Amen.**

Abundant Blessings from Judie+