



TADA!!!!!!

Many of you know my granddaughter Claire! Here she is in her jazz and ballet costumes for her recent “virtual” dance recital. Now that’s something that makes her old grannie “pause” (how did this happen? She was only 2 yesterday! Oh yeah, all those classes she worked her heart out in, and her mom traipsing all over everywhere to make that happen, and good health, and her passion for athletics and theater, and Um, God equipping her and all her marvellous instructors to get the gift in motion! And that of course, makes me “marvel”. I’ve heard from several folks that they enjoyed doing those two things yesterday, and had some really wonderful experiences. Let’s keep it up!

Now as writer, editor and publisher of Coop’s Scoops I kind of get to show off my grandkids a fair bit. Thanks for not minding, I hope! With consent, and using no last names or locations, I could also put in a picture of your grandkids or kids doing something awesome.

And again **TA DA! DRUM ROLL! BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!**

After much prayer and parish consultation, I have decided that St. Thomas will NOT reopen on September 6th for public worship. The Wardens and I have also decided that community groups will not have access to our facility until a future

date. We will be aiming at Thanksgiving Sunday with a keen eye on what's happening with community transmission and up-to-date advice from the appropriate science/medical resources. We are, however, proceeding now to prepare our building for re-entry for meetings (eg. Parish Council, Concurrence Committee, Cemetery office, etc) which may be held in Browning Hall with at least 48 hours notice of when you need to meet. In addition, two mornings a week I will offer a short service or discussion group in Browning Hall for up to fifteen people. (That number can be reviewed if there is more interest). If needed, I could also offer one evening group. There will be more information on the 'what' and the "how" in coming weeks.

We are using Browning Hall for these gatherings because it is in fact the most conducive to safety (despite the fact that air is re-circulated) because WINDOWS can and will be opened to add fresh air to the mix. PPE has been ordered, and the room will be clean and ready for use, then re-cleaned after use. Masks must be worn, and chairs will be six feet apart. Thanks to over 25 willing volunteers who have signed on to do "tasks", this can be managed very effectively. More about a "team" strategy will follow soon....Wardens and Coordinator Annette and I are meeting this afternoon to firm up my draft of what could work very comfortably for all.

Lake of Bays folk, please let your Wardens or myself or Margaret+ know whether you would also like one weekday "something", (discussion group, meditation, short Bible study, brief Eucharist (Bread alone)whatever) and I will be most happy to provide that as well, once the St. Ambrose meeting room and entryway have been prepared. It may be that people wish to wait until Thanksgiving for any of that as well.

The sanctuary at St. Thomas and at St. Ambrose will not be used until at least Thanksgiving, but will be pre-cleaned of course. Thanks for your patience! Prayer is most needed at all times, and we all count on each other.

Another Ta Da! The monthly Messy Church video "meeting" will be rehearsed tonight and filmed tomorrow. It is a genuine "marvel" how this happens every month. Without our resident children's playwright, Connie...our puppeteers Alva and Peter, our vocalist and musician Rob, our videographer

Jessie, our crafter's this month Tracy and Peter, and my teaching bit, this could not happen and it would be sorely missed by our Messy Church kids. God has enabled us to continue so much ministry even while we not together on Sundays. To Him be the glory!.

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK:

Moms and dads all over our communities are making decisions this week about whether or not their children will be returning to school. Balancing how to provide social development AND academic learning. For those children returning to school, there is much preparation to be done and much preparing kids to safely and consistently follow safety protocols. For those children NOT returning to school, parents are looking for ways to make on-line learning more effective and enjoyable, or trying to find other home-based educational opportunities. Many a bubble is being expanded by a "one friend" contact. PLEASE offer prayers for wisdom, confidence and creativity for all parents of students who are trying to love their children in the best possible way, whatever their actual choice may be.

Pray for students who will have their own hopes, "happies", fears and separation anxieties as they return to school (especially our littlest ones) ... it will be very different from anything they have previously experienced.

Pray also for Teachers, Bus Drivers, educational assistants, office staff, cleaning staff, and all others who will face safety concerns and employment concerns all while keeping the children number one.

And while we're at it, remember those youth and young adults who are off to colleges and universities, which present their own challenges around safety and quality of academic experience on-line. THANKYOU FOR PRAYING.

A smile for your day!



Who could ever look upon a new born babe and not smile? Impossible! This is "Aurora", 12th grandchild of Jane and Jim Lever, born in Whistler BC. I may have shown another picture of her previously....can't remember, imagine that!...but if so, well a picture this is never ever one too many.

The weary Priest, making calls in a new neighbourhood, knocked on another door, fully expecting to have it slammed in his face. Sure enough, the older woman who answered, angrily demanded that he leave once she figured out why he was there and slammed the door.

The door, however, bounced back open, and the woman shouted, "Get your foot out of my door!"

"But ma'am..." he began, when the woman again slammed the door in his face. Once again it bounced back open.

"I said get your foot out of my door!" the woman yelled again. One more time she slammed the door. One more time it bounced open again.

"But ma'am..." the Priest said again, only to be cut off.

"Don't talk back to me!" the woman screamed in a rage. "I want you off my property!" She slammed the door a fourth time, only to see it bounce open a fourth time.

"Ma'am," the Priest yelled as he beat a hasty retreat down the sidewalk, "You'll be able to close your door if you move your cat out of the way!"*

Scripture for Today: 2 Thessalonians 1: 3,4; 16

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and sufferings that you are enduring...Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Those words of Paul written to the church at Thessalonika could easily be exactly the words of Rev. Judie to the churches at Bracebridge and Lake of Bays. They reflect exactly how I feel as your Priest and pastor.

What makes me glad? To see you growing in your faith, to hear your words of concern and compassion for one another, to hear of your deeds of kindness, and to applaud heartily when I perceive your endurance and steadfastness as disciples of Christ and children of the living God. You make me grin ear to ear like a Cheshire cat lots and lots of times! When I hear of your sufferings, it often makes me weep and intercede for you, and then I get to smile (not really grin this time) because I know that

Christ Himself is with you and will comfort you in all things. I do, in fact, boast about my “congregations” to anybody who’ll listen, and even to those who won’t...You are champions in my heart. Sinners, too, just like me....but you know what to do with your sin, and Who to take it to, and have learned to accept forgiveness without fishing in your guilt pool too often.

It is an honour for me to be your Priest and pastor. Stand together always, and love one another more and more, trust in God, and then take in the last verses of our reading.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us, and through grace gave us eternal COMFORT and good HOPE, comfort YOUR hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

That is your blessing for this day. Amen!

Judie+

Prayer for Today:

Almighty and everlasting God, who workest great marvels; Send down upon our bishops, and clergy and all congregations committed to their charge, the healthful spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ. (Book of Common Prayer)

Thanks for my great big family of church people who love me! Thanks for making my heart big enough to love them all back! Thanks a lot, God! (nine year old child at Thanksgiving Day service)

TA DA It’s Over at Last! This Scoops is put to bed!