

# GRACE CHURCH NEWS



Grace Geared to the Times!

Vol 18 July 21st, 2020

Contributors: \_\_\_\_\_

- Isn't life sweet?
- Pastor Don
- Eduardo Pulin
- Brian Thordarson

Contact Us: \_\_\_\_\_

Church office: 343-4263

Pastor Martin: 629-2171

Check out our website [gracechurchthunderbay.com](http://gracechurchthunderbay.com) to keep informed or to view our sermons for Grace and Dorion Churches.

email address:

[gefco@tbaytel.net](mailto:gefco@tbaytel.net)

Offerings and tithes can be given to the church via e-transfer to [GraceEFC@tbaytel.net](mailto:GraceEFC@tbaytel.net) or by dropping them off at the office or sending them by mail.



## Isn't Life Sweet

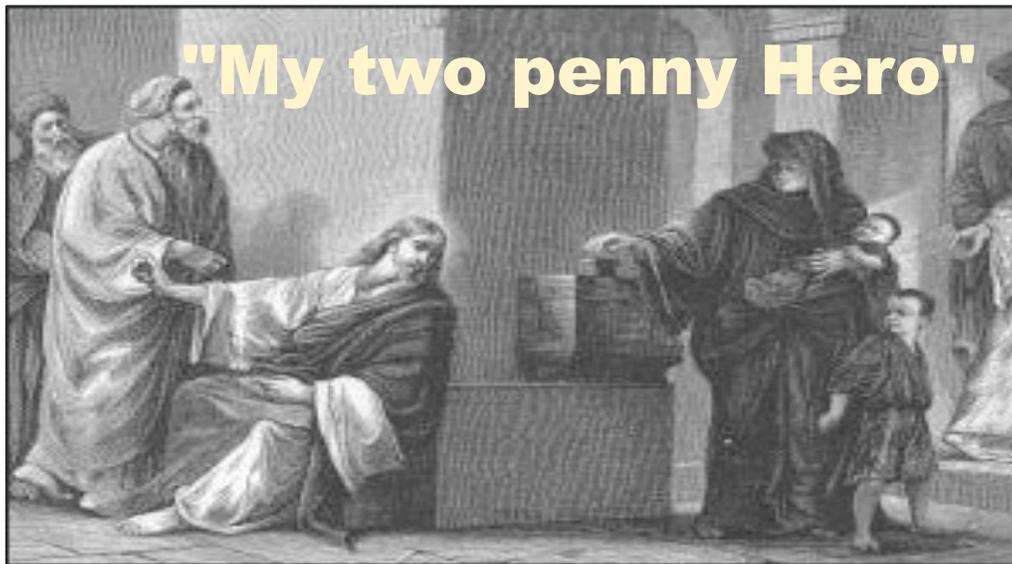
This last weekend we celebrated the wedding of Matt & Hannah Ainsworth here at the church. No reception unfortunately, but Hannah presented all those in attendance with a beautifully decorated cupcake. I have it on good authority (Dennis and Brian) that they were delicious. *Taste and see God is good.* On Sunday we were once again able to gather together, worship and share God's word. *Were you able to taste it?* Today as we sit and take stock of what is happening all around us, can you taste God's goodness.

David on the run from Saul was very scared that he would be recognized and so he pretended to be crazy before Abimelech. Afterwards David wrote the well known Psalm 34, "My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

Shannan and I during our wedding ceremony, stopped to dip apple in honey to celebrate God's goodness. This is the traditional Jewish method of tasting and celebrating God's goodness during Rosh Hashanah and that our hope for the new year and always is to have sweetness in our lives. Have you be blessed with a good and sweet year so far?

Honey is made by bees and apples grow on trees with no assistance from us at all. God provides sweetness for us all the time. Just like David found out time and time again.

Love & Hugs from Your Grace Church Family!!!!



**Pastor Don**  
John 3:16-18

**We have many heroes in our lives:** super heroes, regular heroes.

**We grade them on our own scale:** physical strength, looks, talents, wealth, power, personality...or by what they have accomplished.

**Sometimes we adopt heroes because of what others think of them. That's what I want to be like. I want to adopt Jesus' heroes. Why? He was a pretty good judge of character. The bombastic Pharisees and their kind were not his cup of tea.**

**Jesus pointed out a poor widow at the temple, at the offering box. She was putting her two cents in - actually two half cents. She was not exactly a platinum donor. No plaques on the wall in her honour. She simply gave whatever she had. (Mark 12:42 - 43)**

**Why? That question is not addressed. Was she giving up? Why bother to try to live in a cold, cruel world? If so, she could have tossed her two coins anywhere.**

**But she offered everything to God in the only way she knew how. She trusted God with everything she had, with everything she was, quietly. Little did she know that Jesus was watching and used her as an example to his disciples of what a person of faith and character looks like.**

**The result? She walked away and discovered a million denarius winning ticket in her purse? Maybe - we don't know. But we do know this: Jesus noticed her. She was the antithesis of the pompous rich guys. Jesus knew her heart, her motivation, and her character; her desire to trust God with everything she had.**

**How I want to be a humble hero like her - trusting God with all He has entrusted to me.**

**That's my two cents worth for today.**

# Mattapan congregational Church

(Part 2 ... Update)



**Eduardo Pulin**

The virus is taking over the whole nation. The virus, and its strains are not going to leave the nation because the assembly approves the president for another 15 days of full quarantine. The virus, if it ever goes away, will be when its creator sends it away.

I don't think God is pleased if we continue to take the risk to go to work to sustain our life in the flesh, and at the same time, we don't run the same risk for the sustenance of his Spirit who is HOLY. I do not think we should continue asking God for guarantees of safety and health to be able to trust Him and practice the Faith that we claim to have. I don't think we should continue saying to God: "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? John 6:30. Because if we keep asking him for guarantees, he will tell us: This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he has sent. John 6:29. Brothers, if at this point we do not believe him when he said: For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:35. If at this point we do not believe his words, then God has not done any work in us.

Therefore, starting two weeks ago, the brothers who have the same conviction of the truth and need for communion. We do not need to debate the subject, with more argument than the word of God. "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you (our arguments) rather than to God, you must judge; Acts 4:19. We are gathered to have communion with those who came voluntarily, with those who want to "remain firm in the faith" (Acts 14:22) with the purpose of reaching "the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God" (Ephesians 4:13); with whom we can 'learn, and be exhorted" (1 Corinthians 14:31); and we can be mutually comforted by the faith that is common to us "(Romans 1:11, 12) With this type of brothers we can feel as the psalm says: "Look how good and how delicious it is to inhabit the brothers together in harmony!" (Psalm 133: 1)

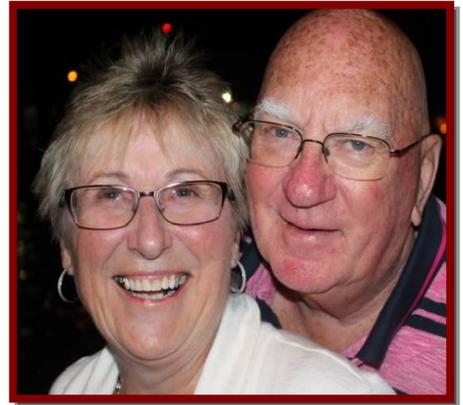
We do not want to be reckless, and we are not going to use our chapel because it does not have enough ventilation and depend on the air conditioning, and the flow of the fans, which makes us breathe the same air for more than an hour. By divine providence, the owner of the oars restaurant offers us his conference room which, with all the large windows and doors when open, resemble a terrace, with sufficient natural ventilation and clean air from the lake. In addition this room has three times the space of our premises to distance ourselves to taste. The only condition is to let the owner to have communion with us. (Praise God)

"and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24, 25). So that when the day comes finds us living His will, in the midst of His trials.

Eduardo (Mattapan congregational Church acting pastor).



WHO IS IN *CONTROL*



**Brian Thordarson**

### **“God Is in control!”**

**This statement usually refers to someone else and not me...**

**In 1990 we moved from Ear Falls to Marathon. I was hired as the Recreation Coordinator and I took on a Department with a large staff and several venues. I thought I was set for many years. Everything was just as we had hoped it would be. Ina had a good job in the Medical Clinic and we bought a house. We were very comfortable. We had many new friends and close to our sons in Manitouwadge and Thunder Bay. Mom was settling in at the seniors residence and was active in the many events.**

**We had not been attending any Church for the first year as the ones we had tried just did not meet our needs. There were two Salvation Army workers who were encouraging us to attend their services which we finally did and enjoyed the fellowship.**

**In October of 1992 I was handed a letter from the CEO stating my services were no longer needed due to financial strains several department heads were be eliminated so pack up your office and turn in your keys. What a blow. What next ?**

**We had to sell our house and move out, so we bought an answering system and a yard sign to advertise our house. On a Sunday morning as we were preparing to go to church the door bell rang and there stood our good friends stating that they had just came from Mass and would like breakfast. We, of course, invited them in.**

**During breakfast the door bell rang again and a gentleman asked if he could see our house. He liked what he saw and by 4 o'clock he signed the bill of sale.**

**Our friends said that it was Divine intervention that we stayed home from Church and because we were home we sold our house.**

**Mom was able to transfer from the seniors home in Marathon to the new Jasper Place and was happy there for several years.**

**We moved to Thunder Bay and soon became active at Grace.**

**Looking back all I can say is, “Thank you Lord for being in control”.**