

## Thoughts and Smiles – Aug. 23, 2021

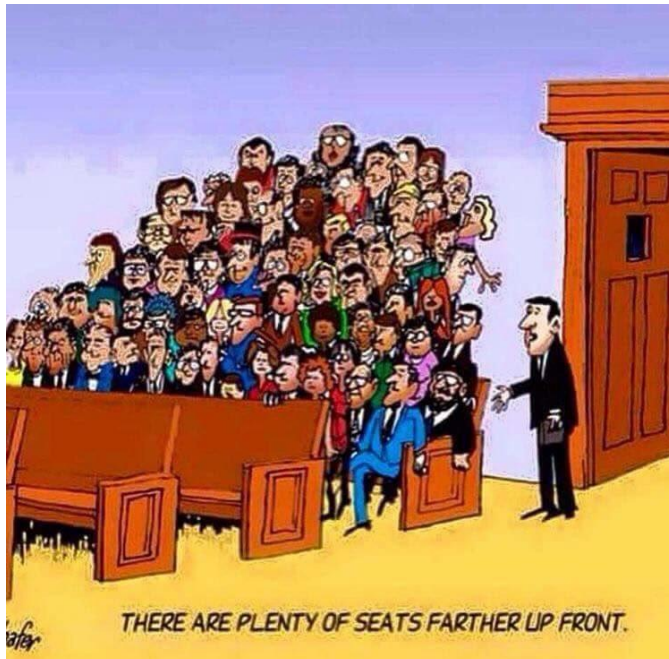
“What do you think of God,” the teacher asked. After a pause, the young pupil replied, “He’s not a think, he’s a feel.” - Paul Frost

On a lazy Sunday afternoon I was musing over the quote above and trying to put together a post entitled: *Why Go Back to Church?*

The Spirit did the rest.

So, why go back to church?

1. I miss the people I’ve known for a long, long time. *(Or, in my case, getting to meet my new church family face to face.)*
2. I want the opportunity to welcome new people to the church and its potential for meaningful friendship.  
It’s lonely, otherwise, and our spiritual and mental health suffers.
3. My family always included church life as I was growing up. It was important to them, and I was often “dragged along.” In my younger years, I admit that I would rebel and play hooky as a matter of asserting my know-it-all independence, yet, there is still something that tugs at me to connect with my upbringing. It was part of how I was raised and who, deep down, I still am.
4. It was to a church that my parents brought me to be baptized, where I nervously awaited backstage *(cramped with the rest of the cast of players in a musty choir room)* for my grand entrance as a lowly shepherd in the Nativity Play, and where I took my turn to stumble over my assigned scripture reading when I could barely see over the podium,



where I uttered wedding vows, attended the funerals for family members and friends, and lit tapers with my children on Christmas Eve while singing the familiar carols together. These happened in different buildings over the years, but all are the church.

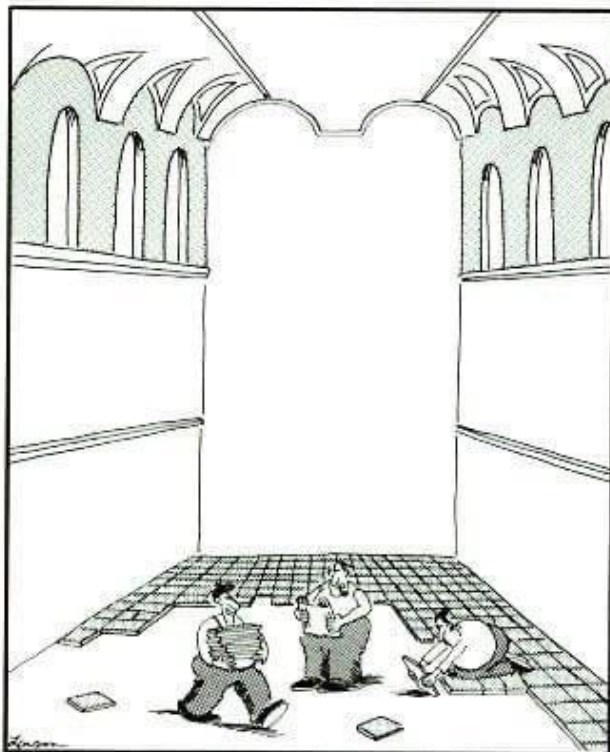
5. And speaking of buildings – you know how there is nothing that compares to a new car smell? Well, churches have a peculiar smell, have you noticed. Maybe it’s from the polish used on hundreds of square feet of wooden pews. Unlike the new car smell that’s great while it lasts, it does eventual dissipate – but not the aura of the church – for it can smell the same

today as when I was a kid. It's a mystery to me but one I relish intensely.

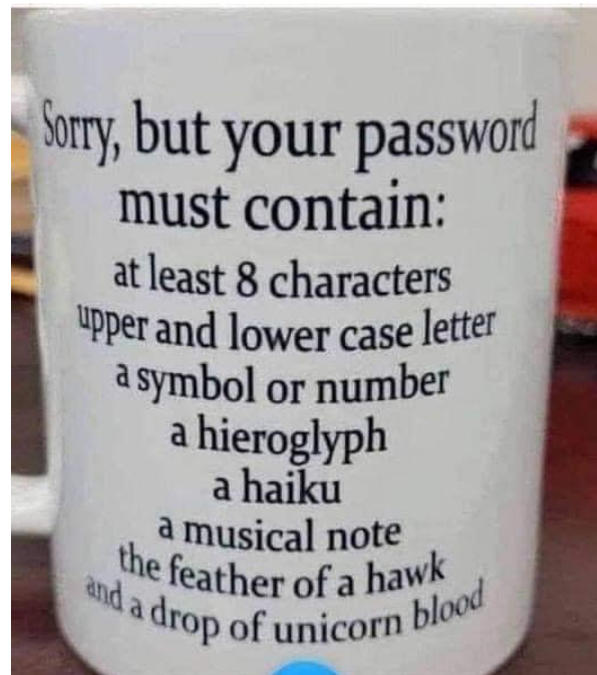
6. I like order in my life in the habit and routine of going to church. There are SO MANY distractions nowadays, but church attendance is where I can be reasonably consistent. It gives me stability and – I suspect – keeps me stable! (*fair enough, some might argue that self-assessment!*)
7. And I always learn a thing or two when I attend. My dad used to say that if he didn't leave the service feeling a little bit guilty, then he hadn't been paying attention! (LOL!) The Sunday Service is a well-structured prayerfully and thoughtfully crafted collaborative presentation, and I delight in what I can glean out of the hour – or should I say, in the moments that I'm not daydreaming, or wondering what's for lunch. And if I'm honest, without the enthusiasm of worship, I would fall into the entropy of a spiritual beanbag.
8. And, mostly, God isn't a think, but a feel.

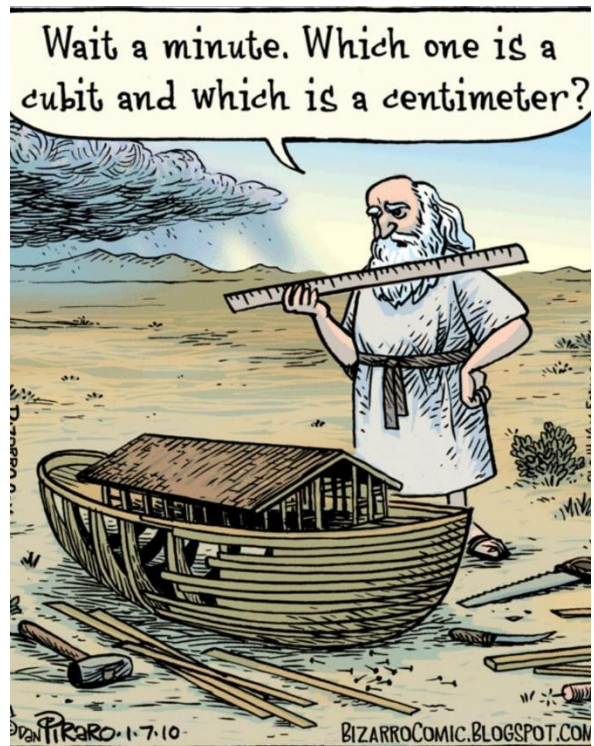


I could go on. I know I've only scratched the surface and may need to do a sequel to this post. But I'd like to hear what you would add to this list. Let me (and us all, for that matter) know what nudges you to put on a winter coat and battle the elements to sit in a church pew on a cold Sunday morning. Yes, for me, it might be a paycheck (just kidding), but what about you? Share, please; we can all be encouraged by the responses. Thanks!!



**Although history has long forgotten them, Lambini & Sons are generally credited with the Sistine Chapel floor.**





Have a terrific week!

Blessings to you all!



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*Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website.* <https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

And if you want the virtual experience of church, just follow the links here below...

[www.saubleunitedchurch.ca](http://www.saubleunitedchurch.ca) and click "Watch"

or

<https://youtu.be/kkACeyBaoCc>