



Christian Education Bulletin Insert

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Anglican Communion Sunday, January 16

This is a Sunday appointed to celebrate the Anglican Communion - the family of more than 70 million people in more than 160 countries around the world who have a common church history. People in the Anglican Communion recognise the Archbishop of Canterbury in England as the principal archbishop and spiritual head (although each national church body, or Province, governs itself). The Archbishop of Canterbury calls a conference for every diocesan bishop in the Anglican Communion (more than 800 of them) once every 8 years. It is called the Lambeth Conference. Although the discussions at the Conference cannot dictate what churches should do, they are considered very important guidelines. People in the Anglican Communion, as well as having a common history and recognising the special status of the Archbishop of Canterbury, also have a common faith. This faith is catholic (having an historical and continuous tradition of faith and worship) and apostolic (authority rests with bishops who carry on the role once undertaken by the apostles).

Although the Anglican church began in the western world, many of the people who belong to churches in the Anglican Communion these days live in the third world.

Parents may wish to explain to children at a level they can understand the enormous scale of the worldwide Anglican church to which they belong. Since young children find large numbers difficult to understand, the book, "How Much is a Million," by David Schwartz is a great way to introduce them by relating them to things children experience. In paperback it's about \$10.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 23 - 30

In John 17:20, 21, Jesus prays that all people who believe in him might be one. The Message translation says 'one heart and mind, unified and together.'

The boat with the mast like a cross in the picture is called an ecumenical boat. It represents the Church sailing around the world

to tell all people about Jesus. Younger children might like to make something like this from a margarine tub, with a cross made from popsicle sticks fastened in the boat with plasticine or play-dough. Make little people to sail the boat and to represent many different nations. Sail your boat in a washing-up bowl.

Older children might like to visit a church of another denomination once during this time. Maybe your child has a school friend who attends a different church. Suggest that one week your family might attend his/her church and the next week his/her family attend yours. Talk with your child about the things which are the same and those which are different.

The Conversion of Saint Paul - January 25

Since Saint Paul spent much of his life working for Christian Unity it is appropriate that this day falls in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Book of Acts tells us how Saint Paul persecuted the early church and even assisted when Saint Stephen was killed. He then experienced a very dramatic conversion on the way to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-19) He became convinced that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, that God was calling him to be an apostle and that his special mission was to the Gentiles (non-Jews) We know of Saint Paul's activities through the book of Acts, and we are able to get to know him even better through the many letters he wrote to different Christian communities which are printed in our Bibles. He would write to encourage them and suggest ways in which they might cope with any difficulties they had. Older children might like to write to the vestry of their church before the Annual Meeting takes place. They might tell the vestry members what they especially like about their church and maybe even make some suggestions for a change or two.

For Fun

What is being described in this riddle?

When I am filled, I can point the way.
When I am empty, Nothing moves me.

Answer: A globe.