

### **A 12 Days of Christmas Prayer**

I recently attended a three day workshop on the curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit, which will be replacing the Whole People of God in September 2002. This prayer was written by an Anglican priest, the Rev Cheryl Kristolaitis, for worship in the Christmas season. I have permission from Cheryl and the editor of the curriculum to reproduce it here. I thought it would fit really well if you are doing something on the song, "The 12 Days of Christmas", as I suggested as a possibility in the last newsletter.

Leader: We are called to celebrate the gift of God in Jesus Christ.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the angels we are called to sing our carols with joyous exuberance.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the stars we are called to shine with the brilliance of good news.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the shepherds we are called to eagerly gather around the Christ child.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the donkey we are called to carry those who cannot walk by their strength alone.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the innkeeper we are called to provide for those without shelter in which to rest.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the manger we are called to cradle the precious gifts God gives.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like Joseph we are called to honour the dreams in which God speaks.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like Mary we are called to ponder the wonder of God acting through us.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like Simeon we are called to look for signs of God's salvation in our lives.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like Anna we are called to tell others what we know of the Christ child.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas!**

Leader: Like the baby Jesus we are called to faithfully live God's purpose for our lives.

**All: For 12 days of Christmas! And forever!**

I would probably add "and forever" to every response line if I were doing this.

I have also discovered that here is a book available on the song, **The Real 12 Days of Christmas: the story behind the song**, Zondervan, ISBN 0 310 701 18X. \$22:50. This is available from the Lighthouse in Fredericton, 453-1010.

### **A Storytelling Bible**

At the Cook Conference in Saint John I came across a great new fully illustrated children's Bible. The stories are retold by Bob Hartman, who is very gifted in knowing aspects of story telling which appeal to children. There is lots of opportunity here for children to take part in the stories - in some through acting them out, since they are told in a way which makes visualization of the scene easy, and in others through the use of repetition and rhythm. For example, in the story of "The Two Houses" (Mt 7:24-27 or Lk 6:46-49) the wind "huffed and puffed enough to blow that house down." The **Lion Storyteller Bible**, ISBN 0 7459 2921 4, is available from Anglican House (693-2295) for \$23.99 ( There is also a Lion Christmas Storyteller Book and an Easter one, also retold by Bob Hartman.) Another book by him is **Angels, Angels All Around**, ISBN 0 7459 2623 1, in which the angel appearing in a Bible story becomes a central character. There is some imagination used in the retelling of these stories but they are delightful and I think children would love them.

### **An e-mail site to check out movies, TV and music**

[www.pluggedinmag.com](http://www.pluggedinmag.com) has good reviews of the things our children are exposed to today. I looked at the **Harry Potter** reviews - both books and movie - and found them thorough, thought provoking, and expressing different sides of the debate. Good material for teachers of our older Church School classes. We can't escape the media's influence, so we should know how to use it positively.

### **Christmas Creche**

If you are making a gingerbread Christmas creche as suggested in the November NB Anglican article, you might like to use animal crackers instead of making your own gingerbread animals.

### **For Fun**

How many legs does a reindeer have?

Six. Forelegs at the front and two at the back.