

Building Blocks for Teaching Church School

I hope that many of you who have been unable to attend these workshops last year will be able to attend at least a half day this year. Workshops are being offered in some different areas and are a great way to meet other teachers and get new ideas.

Workshops numbered 1, 2 or 3 are repeats of last year's workshops.

#4 (and 5 and 6 after Christmas) are new workshops.

Morning sessions are from 9:30 - 12:00 (Sign in from 9:00). Afternoon sessions are from 1:00 - 3:00.

Please pre-register for all workshops by calling or e-mailing (details below). We suggest that you bring a box lunch or plan to eat out. Coffee and muffins will be provided.

Newcastle Workshops have been organized by the Archdeaconry of Chatham (Miramichi/Chaleur) and are intended for those in the Bathurst, Campbellton, Miramichi, Richibucto and Doaktown areas. To register, please phone Vicki Richard between 9 and 2 at 622-7614, or e-mail saa@nbnet.nb.ca.

Woodstock Workshops are intended for those in the Edmundston, Perth-Andover, Woodstock, McAdam and Fredericton areas. To register, please call Pat Drummond, 460-8349, or e-mail anged@nbnet.nb.ca

Sept 21 - Newcastle - St Andrew's Church Hall

a.m. Building Blocks 1a Why Teach Church School.
Children's Faith Development.
Video, "Angels in the Making."
Discussion on the above.
Reading the Bible.

p.m. Building Blocks 1b The Hebrew Scriptures (O.T.)
for teachers.

October 5 - Woodstock - St Luke's

a.m. Building Blocks 2a New Testament Overview for
teachers, with video.
Classroom Management
(Discipline)

p.m. Building Blocks 4 Advent and Christmas ideas
(Bring your own ideas to share as well)
Crafts

October 19 - Newcastle - St. Andrew's Church Hall

a.m. Building Blocks 2a New Testament Overview

for teachers, with video
Classroom Management
(Discipline)

p.m. Building Blocks 2b Learning Styles
Prayer for Adults
Praying with Children

In November, there will be a workshop in **Saint John**, and another in **Newcastle**. For details on these, please see your September NB Anglican.

Especially for New Teachers, and Maybe for Those Who Aren't!

Beginnings If you are teaching in a fairly small Sunday School where everyone knows everyone - or at least most of them, visit the homes of the children who will be in your class this year ahead of time to welcome them to your class. If there was a Vacation Bible Club during the summer and some of the participants were not regular Sunday School attendees, contact those who are the right age for your class and invite them to come to the first day of Sunday School. Consider sending a welcoming postcard, or phoning "your" children. Children feel very special if they receive mail or phone calls.

The Space Make the area where you will be teaching look inviting before you start. Put up some colourful balloons. Make a classroom banner or bulletin board with all the children's names on it. Put up some of the posters which may have come with your curriculum. Decorate the door with something bold and bright. Make sure all supplies are present and ready to use. (It's very disconcerting to find ten brand new pencils in your room of the first day and have no means of sharpening them!)

The Curriculum Familiarise yourself with the teaching manual before classes begin. There is much useful information, usually at the beginning. The regular lesson format is usually explained, and often there is a helpful age level characteristics guide. Get to know the overall theme of the unit, if this is how your curriculum is set up. It helps you to see the forest for the trees once you get into the rush of term time.

Prayer Pray each week for each child by name and for their families. Pray also for your rector and superintendent, and for yourself in your teaching role.

"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, lie showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants." Dt 32:2