

## Up-coming Workshops

### March 13, 7-9 p.m. Saint John

At Saint Mary and St Bartholomew's, Westmorland Rd. The Old Testament for teachers. An overview will be given and there will be plenty of songs and ideas for teaching. Call Joanne Fitzpatrick, 657-7808, to register or e-mail angels2@nbnet.nb.ca

### April 3, 7-9 p.m. Fredericton

At Christ Church (Parish) Church, at the corner of Charlotte and Westmorland. Learning styles with an opportunity to discover your own learning style, and Storytelling. Call Capt. Bonnie Hunt, 451-0630, or e-mail bhunt@nbnet.nb.ca.

### Other parts of the province

If you live in the northern or eastern parts of the province, I would love to do a workshop for you. Please phone or e-mail me with your request. (See numbers above)

## Year end Award

The Diocesan Christian Education Committee has been working on producing an award for Anglican Sunday School students for the end of the year. We have decided on pewter zipper pulls. They are in the stylised Christian fish shape, and have N.B. Anglican Church School engraved on them on both sides. The fish is 1" long and the attachment another 5/8". They will cost \$2.00 each, which includes tax, plus shipping if you need them to be mailed from Anglican House in Saint John. They will be sent out on a first come, first served basis and, due to a very positive response from many parishes, we have ordered 1000. We expect them to be available by early April.

## Learning Styles

Many teachers have attended recent workshops on Learning Styles. It is helpful to know that different people learn best in different ways. Good teachers, therefore, employ a variety of ways to teach something so that their message may be more effective. In the workshops I identified the following styles of learning: verbal-linguistic, logical mathematical, visual-spatial, body-kinaesthetic, musical-rhythmic, inter-personal and intra-personal. Two more styles have been identified in recent months - naturalistic and existential.

**Naturalistic** - People are very conscious of their surroundings. They love the outdoors and like collecting things and sorting them into categories. They usually love

animals.

Children who have a strong naturalistic learning style might enjoy categorizing stories about Jesus into groups such as teaching times, healing miracles, miracles which show Jesus using God given power, times when Jesus spent time with his Father etc.

They would also enjoy exploring the graveyard of the church to, for example, list common names or plant seeds or bulbs.

**Existential** - These people see the 'big picture.' They are great thinkers and like to discuss religion and questions about life. They need to see the value in what they are learning. Religion is usually important to them.

This type of child will like to be told why a particular lesson is being taught - what the end result might be.

He or she will usually enjoy seeing masterpieces of art which relate to a lesson. Some curricula include these as part of the programme.

Those who are old enough to have some history background will enjoy hearing about the history of the Jews and how it relates to events in the rest of the world at the time.

Such children will enjoy the more philosophical and the 'what if' questions.

## Sin, Confession and Forgiveness

Lent is a time to teach children about these things. This is one way:

Try to find a 'magic slate' in a toy store. This will work best but if you can't find one use a chalkboard or white board which can easily be wiped clean. Also have a large heavy object available, such as a rock.

Have the class take turns drawing something while the others guess what it is, and then erasing it for the next person. Then write on the slate something you have done wrong. E.g. I didn't write a thank you note when I was sent a gift last week. Take hold of the heavy object and tell the children that doing wrong is like having a heavy weight to carry around with us all the time. Every time we sin we add another weight. When we tell God we are sorry, though, he forgives us and it is like putting the rock down and erasing the slate. Read I John 1:9. "If we confess our sins to God . . . he will forgive us our sins and make us clean from all wrongdoing." (TEV)