

## Video Resources

Some new children's videos have been added to our collection in the Resource Centre. We now have 'The StoryKeepers' series of four videos for children aged 6-12, each video containing three Bible stories and also 'Testament - the Bible in animation' - nine 30 min videos for children aged 7-13 on important Old Testament characters and events. Titles are Creation and the Flood, Elijah, Jonah, David and Saul, Daniel, Abraham, Ruth, Moses, and Joseph. Videos may be borrowed for three weeks, or longer by arrangement. Call 693-2295, fax 635-8927 or e-mail [angbk@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:angbk@nbnet.nb.ca) to speak to Gwen or Cathy about your needs, or to ask for a video to be sent or reserved. The Resource Centre will pay the cost of mailing to you, and you are asked to pay the return postage. If you are in Saint John drop in and see the collection or watch a video! You can also go online to check out subjects that interest you. Go to the Diocesan web site, [www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca), scroll down the side bar to Ministry, then click on Resource Centre.

## Workshops

If you would like me to teach a workshop in your parish, please call or e-mail (see top of page) Workshops are free of charge and can be held during the evening, say 7 - 9 p.m., or on a Saturday morning or afternoon or both. All clergy have received a list of possible workshops and a copy is attached to this newsletter.

## September Ice-breakers

1. Help the children in your new class to get to know each other better, and integrate new-comers by playing a version of Bingo. Divide an 8 1/2 X 11 page into 9 equal sections. In each section print one of the following: \_\_\_\_\_ went to VBS, \_\_\_\_\_ visited relatives, \_\_\_\_\_ played soccer, \_\_\_\_\_ went to summer camp, \_\_\_\_\_ saw two movies, \_\_\_\_\_ had a summer birthday, \_\_\_\_\_ read 5 books, \_\_\_\_\_ played baseball, went to a family re-union. (Adapt the categories according to the ages and likely activities of your children) Copy enough pages for each child to have one. Have the children circulate to fill in the blanks with a child's name. Give them 10 minutes, then stop and talk about it.
2. Play pencil sweep relay. Make teams of at least 4. Designate a 'goal' at the other end of the room and give each team a pencil and a broom. Taking turns, each person on the team must sweep the pencil to the goal and back.

## A Year Long Activity

### A Scripture Scroll

Give each child a piece of muslin about 8" X 1 metre. Pink the edges to prevent fraying. At the beginning of each class,

beginning in the second week, put out the scrolls, fabric markers, glue and fabric scraps. Allow ten minutes for each child to put something on their scrolls to remind them of the previous week's lesson. At the end of the year each child will be able to take home a reminder of their year in Sunday School.

## A Discipline Resource

I have come across a book which would be a great addition to a Church School library - 'The Discipline Guide for Children's Ministry,' Group, ISBN 1-55945-686-8. It answers almost every question you might have. The following is a sample page:

### Discipline Do's and Don'ts

Always:

- ✓ reward attempts at positive behaviour
- ✓ remain calm
- ✓ speak in a quiet, controlled voice
- ✓ deal with problem behaviour one-on-one
- ✓ be flexible; go with the flow
- ✓ let child begin again with a clean slate

Never:

- × shame and blame
- × "Blow your stack"
- × get involved in a shouting contest
- × "Chew out a child in front of his/her peers
- × create a confrontation or a standoff
- × hold grudges
- ×

## Your Room

As you walk toward the door of your classroom or Sunday School space, ask yourself if you would be excited about being there if you were a child. Can you tell straight away who meets there? As you enter the room, do you see bright welcoming colours and interesting pictures or activities laid out? Does anything in the room tell you what the subject is this Sunday? Is there anything in the room which is faded, outdated or tatty? Is the furniture the right size? Is there too much of it? Can you arrange it better to give space for active learning e.g. drama?

## For Fun

A school age child was asked, "If you could change just one thing about your mom, what would it be?" He replied, ". I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me."