

Wanted New Members for the Christian Education Committee

If you are passionate about Christian Education and willing and able to attend about three meetings a year, usually from 10 a.m. until just after lunch, you may be just who we are looking for. (Mileage to attend meetings is reimbursed) Please contact me at the above phone number or e-mail address. Two new members are needed.

Getting Attention

This echo song is sung to the tune "Are You Sleeping?" The teacher starts and the children echo.
Pay attention (pay attention)
To God's word (to God's word)
And obey the message (and obey the message)
You have heard (you have heard)

Class Names

In the S.A.L.T. curriculum by Scripture Union, the different age groups are given names. Several of the Sunday Schools using this curriculum are giving classes these names - Sparklers, All Stars, Trailblazers and Lasers. Children enjoy this. You may be using another curriculum, but you might still make up interesting names for each class.

A Very Old Story Aid

Today's children have never seen a felt or flannel board, and they are fascinated by one. You can make one very easily by stretching a large piece of black or very dark felt over a piece of plywood about the size of a piece of bristol board. Fold the edges over to the back and staple it.

For figures and props, cut simple shapes out of more felt (silhouettes will work well and allow for children to use their imaginations) The felt figures will stick to the felt-covered board. If you prefer, you can make figures out of thin card board (you could then glue pictures of the characters from Bible stories onto the card) and stick a small piece of sandpaper to the back. As you tell the story, move the figures on the board to show the action, or allow a child to do this. Children will also enjoy being allowed to retell the story and move the figures themselves.

Passports from Kingston

Children in Kingston have been given Sunday School passports. These are cards with each child's name, picture and some information as to their hobbies, favourite music etc. The cards hang from rows of cup hooks on a large piece of coreboard. On the back of each card are the dates of Sunday School classes, and space to put stickers awarded for knowing the "memory verse." Name tags made using

shipping labels are also hung from each child's hook. The cords are different colours depending on which class a child is in. The children pick up their name tag when they arrive and hang it back again upon leaving. Thanks to Gloria Trivett of Kingston and Cindy Price of the Nerepis and St John for this idea.

An Art Idea

Try crayon resist for something a little different. Begin by completely covering a piece of paper with crayon drawings. This can just be an abstract design, the brighter the better. The crayon must be applied very solidly. Once this is done, you might dust a little baby powder on the drawing to help the paint you are going to put on top to stick better. This is optional. Cover the entire sheet with a coat of black tempera paint. Let it dry. (Using a hair dryer can be a help here!) Then use something like the point of a nail or a scissor blade to scratch a design and let the colour show through. Another suggestion to help the paint stick is to add a drop of dishwashing liquid to it. This could be very effective for a story such as Joseph and the coat of many colours.

Two Service Projects for Advent (begins on Nov 30)

1. Mitten Tree

Make a "tree" by planting a large bare branch with several side branches in a big flower pot. On the Sundays in Advent ask the children to bring in one or more pairs of mittens. As the mittens are donated, hang them from your Mitten Tree to make a bright colourful display. Just after Christmas give the mittens to a local Transition House, or another place where they can be given to children who may not otherwise have any. Make sure the children know that, through their generosity, other children will keep warmer this winter.

2. Christmas Groceries

Ask the children to help you make a list of the ingredients needed for Christmas baking. Many of them may have helped make cookies, squares or Christmas cake. If not perhaps you could provide a recipe or two to help with the list making. Talk about what an expensive time Christmas is and how difficult it can be for families which are less well off to provide all the goodies we so often take for granted. Then ask each child to be responsible for bringing in one of the items on the list. Distribute the gifts to a family known to your rector, or to a local food bank.