

## Christmas Gifts for your Church School

Anglican House still has some fish zipper pulls available. Many churches used them as end of year gifts for students last June - in fact, 2400 were purchased - but if you did not yet get any, why not give them for Christmas? They are great for the children but also for the teachers. They attach to zippers, backpacks and purses, or, if you string them on a cord, may be worn as a necklace. They are made of pewter with the wording on both sides, The fish is 1" long and the attachment (not shown) is 5/8". They cost \$2.47 each (tax included). Call Gwen or Cathy at 693-2295 to order or e-mail [angbk@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:angbk@nbnet.nb.ca).



## Supplies

If the supplies you ordered for your Church School in September are running out and the budget is low, this idea may help. Write the items you need on sticky notes and put them on a prominent bulletin board. Ask members of the congregation to take a note and donate the item the following week. (Check your curriculum for the next couple of months before you do this to see if you will be needing any unusual items)

## Epiphany Party

Several Church Schools tried this with great success last year. If you would like to do it this year, the information is still available on the Diocesan website. Go to [www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca) and scroll down to the heading Youth. Under that you will find Christian Ed Director. If you click on that you will see past issues of the Newsletter and Bulletin Inserts. The information is in the Newsletter for December, 2002. If don't have access to the internet I will mail it to you.

## Decorating the Church Christmas Tree

These ideas come from Children's Ministry magazine, [www.cnmag.com](http://www.cnmag.com). Purchase some clear glass Christmas ball ornaments. Help children to remove the hanger, and pour in a small quantity of salt, or mustard seeds, or sunflower seeds. Use a small funnel to make this easier and encourage co-operation i.e. one holds the ball and the funnel and another pours. Replace the hanger and attach the appropriate printed verses to each ball: for the salt Mt 5:13, for the mustard seeds Mt 17:20 and for the sunflower seeds Mt 13:37. Another idea is to tie some goldfish crackers in netting using red or green ribbon and attaching Mt 13:47. Describe the ornaments in your parish bulletin. If your curriculum gives you

the time, you could make one of these ornaments on each of the 4 Sundays in Advent and teach a lesson on the parable.

## Striving for Excellence

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." Col 3:23

In volunteering to teach in our Church Schools we take on an awesome responsibility. Often we will be the first person to present the stories of Jesus to a child. We are the ones children think of when they think of 'church' and the Christian faith. Parents are entrusting their children to us for an hour or more a week to give them a good start on their Christian faith journey. (Sometimes we are adding to what the parents themselves have begun, but sometimes, sadly, it is left entirely to us)

Therefore:

- ★ be prepared. Look at your lesson well in advance so you can do the very best job possible with it.
- ★ be creative. Bible stories should never be boring! Teach it as if you too were hearing it for the first time.
- ★ be reliable. You may be 'job sharing' but please make every effort to be there when you are expected to be. Nothing says you don't really care like unreliability.
- ★ be consistent. Treat all the children lovingly yet firmly.
- ★ think Jesus! Imagine that a six, eight or ten year old Jesus is in your class. You would want to give him your absolute best.
- ★ Pray regularly. The best help comes from above.

A Thought: You don't want the doctor who is operating on you to be having an 'off-day.' You would be upset if you thought the lifeguard at the pool where your kids are taking swimming lessons was thinking of other things or improperly prepared for the job. Your job is just as important if not more so.

Having said all that, the heading of this section was "Striving for Excellence." Striving means trying our best. That is all we can do and God certainly knows when we have given our best effort. We may not always get excellence, but we can keep on trying to be better each week.

## Party time!

At the end of a term, nothing beats having a little fun together. Have a Church School teachers' event of some sort, e.g. a get together at someone's home or a bowling and pizza party. Reward yourselves for a job well done!