

Workshops

Fredericton Saturday, February 21 at St John the Evangelist Church Hall, 75, Main St. Coffee @ 9:30 a.m. Workshop from 10 until 11:30. **This workshop is intended for parents/grandparents - How to encourage the Christian Faith at home. If you are close enough to Fredericton, please put it in your bulletins and make your parents aware of it. Mary Robinson would appreciate being given a rough idea how many to expect. Phone: 458-9411**

Saint John Saturday, March 13 at St Mary and St Bartholomew, Westmorland Rd., East Saint John. Coffee @ 9:30, Workshop from 10 - 12 on the Cook Bible in Life curriculum (Episcopal/Anglican edition) - tips on how to teach it. Lunch on your own. Workshop from 1 - 3 p.m. on using puppets and encouraging children to make their own scripts from Bible stories. Both sessions are open to all. Please contact Joanne Fitzpatrick, 657-7808 or e-mail the church office, angels2@nbnet.nb.ca

Vacation Bible School Open Houses

Fredericton - Saturday, February 7, 9-12 @ The Lighthouse Family Resource Centre, 60, Bishop Drive. 453 1010

Saint John - Thursday, February 5, 3-8 p.m. @ The Baptist Book Room, Parkway Mall, 634 8191. 10 minute power point presentations will take place every hour starting at 3:15 p.m., and sales representatives will be present to answer any questions.

It is well worth attending an open house to see a good variety of available programmes and be able to speak to representatives from the companies.

Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14

This may be the perfect occasion to host a neighbourhood children's party in what can be one of the dreariest months of the year. It may also encourage some of your 'regulars' to return to Sunday School after a post Christmas break! Have some activities with a Christian theme and tell the story of St. Valentine during the event, but other games etc. may be chosen from the very wide range of ideas available for this time of year. A great start is given on the www.spiritseasons.com website. Click on the 'Links' tab. Then go to Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Scroll down to Feb 8 and click on 'website links.' Keep clicking on 'website links' until you get to 'Valentine's Day activities.'

On this page you will find many options and be able to find any number of games, activities, recipes etc.

Ideas to get you started:

- ♡ Make decorated place mats for snack time.
- ♡ Make heart shaped cookies or decorate ready made cup-cakes.
- ♡ Make heart mobiles to take home at the end of the party.
- ♡ Make construction paper heart shaped cards. Inside print 'Jesus Lives in My Heart.'
- ♡ Have a contest to guess the number of 'kisses' in a glass jar. The closest person wins a small prize.
- ♡ Play Simon Says, but make it "St Valentine says . . ." instead.
- ♡ Play Valentine Bingo by making up cards with Valentine words such as candy, heart, Cupid, love, arrow, chocolate on them.
- ♡ Play 'Pin the heart on Cupid.' There are many large sized cardboard Cupids available in dollar stores or card shops at this time of year if you find drawing one too intimidating!
- ♡ Play Heart Stomp. This is a version of Musical Chairs, but instead of chairs use cardboard hearts taped to the floor for the children to 'land' on. Play child-suitable love songs such as "Skinnamarink" while playing and remove a heart each time the music stops.
- ♡ For a quiet 'settle down' activity play 'Love Thy Neighbour.' Sit the children in a circle, each child with a piece of paper and a pencil. Everyone prints on their paper three or four **kind** things about the person to their right in the circle. (Think about how that person plays, works, acts or looks for ideas) When time is up, give the paper to the child it concerns to take home.
- ♡ Play a team game - 'Straw and Cup Relay.' Each child has a bendy plastic straw. The first person in the team is given a small paper Valentine cup. He or she 'holds' the cup with the straw by sucking in and passes the cup to the person next in line. The cup is passed down the line from straw to straw. The winning team is the one which gets its cup to the end of the line first.

The story of St Valentine may be found in St. Valentine, ISBN 0-689-82429-7. There is one copy of this book in the All Saints Anglican Learning Centre kit, available to borrow free of charge from the Diocesan Resource Centre in Saint John, 693-2295. To purchase it is \$8.99.