

**THE FIRST DIOCESAN WIDE CHURCH
SCHOOL WORKSHOP**
Very Advance Notice!

The Christian Education Support Team is working hard on the plans for this workshop to be held on **Saturday, October 2, 2004** at Christ Church (Parish) Church, Fredericton. The Bishop will be speaking to us and after this there will be at least 5 simultaneous workshops to choose from, morning and afternoon. Mary Lee McKenna will be leading music for worship and teaching sessions on music for the Sunday School. The Cathedral Puppeteers will do a show and there will be workshops on starting out with puppets. The Church Army will be helping participants to feel comfortable with running their own VBS and curriculum specialists will be showing and explaining their materials. There will also be a book table and an opportunity to share with other teachers. Registration will be \$5 and will include lunch.

Please put this workshop in your diaries and plan on coming as a group of teachers from your parish. It should be a great day!

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

I hope many of you were able to take in one of these in either Fredericton or Saint John. There will be an article on some of the VBSs available in the March issue of the NB Anglican.

Good Friday Programme

If you are interested in running a two to three hour children's programme to help them to become more familiar with the Christian meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection and the celebration we call Easter, please phone or e-mail me and I will send you the material. (For my e-mail address and phone numbers please see above)

Church School Awards

You may remember the pewter fish zipper pulls that were produced last year and proved to be such a hit with Sunday Schools looking for inexpensive end-of-year children's gifts. Many teachers and leaders also received them and attached

them to purses or briefcases, or wore them round their necks.

This year the zipper pulls are coloured red with gold lettering. The wording has been changed to say Anglican Church of Canada around the edge, with N.B. in the centre as before. They will therefore be suitable for many other groups in the church. Please tell you friends and other church leaders about them! They will be available from Anglican House in Saint John by April for \$2.50, inc. tax. Call 693-2295 or e-mail angbk@nbnet.nb.ca to order.

There are also some of the original pewter ones still available (@ \$2 + tax) if you didn't get them last year or just prefer the look of pewter!

Easter Singing!

Try this with groups of older children - say Grade 4 and up. You will need to practise ahead of time to be ready to do it at Easter. Most children will have been Carol Singing with a group. Tell them that you will be going Easter Singing instead. Practice one or two Easter hymns e.g. Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son; Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen. Ask if anyone can accompany you with an instrument - it will be a much warmer time of year for this! Plan to go to sing on the Saturday evening before Easter if there is no Easter Vigil at your church, or on an evening soon after the holiday. Visit some of the church shut-ins, some of the vestry members or other church leaders, or the local seniors' residence.

Props for Telling a Bible Story

Sometimes you can keep children's interest in a story much better with a few props. Make a coffee can theatre. Cover a large clean metal can with self adhesive plastic covering paper. If you are artistic you could draw the setting for the story on paper, and tape it onto the can instead. Cut out the characters and props for the story you will be telling from old curriculum, or draw and colour them yourself, or use Bible clip art. Glue them onto thin card cut and cut around the shapes. Stick small magnets to the back of them (½ inch magnets are available from Lewiscraft in packages of 10 for \$3.59) Store the characters and props inside the can, and, as you tell the story, remove them and place them on the outside surface. You can also involve the children in telling the story if you pass the characters out to them at the beginning and allow them to place them at the appropriate time. It might be worth making cans for a number of well known Bible stories and making a 'library' of them for teachers to access.

Try this Easter tongue twister

Busy bunnies bring blue baskets.