

## Moncton Workshop

This is an exciting one day event for adults and children on Saturday, October 23 at Moncton Wesleyan Church, with an optional "Praise Party" the evening before. Each church may send up to 6 children with an adult mentor who will attend their workshops with them. Adults interested in Christian Education may attend simultaneous adult workshops. Workshops for children are: two involving singing, storytelling, juggling and puppetry, one on equipping children to evangelize, one on prayer and a time of worship. Adult workshops are: understanding your culture, teaching with all your heart (adapting curriculum to suit **your** children), experience the lesson (with the emphasis on experience) and sharing the gospel.

Workshop leaders are Doug Horley from England (composer of 'We want to see Jesus lifted high'), Jeff Harmon and Kevin Matthews.

Costs: Adult attending adult workshops, \$49, adult mentor attending children's workshops, \$29 and children form Grade 4 - 8, \$29.

Friday evening Praise Party, \$5.

The brochure may be seen at [www.cook.ca/faithkidz.pdf](http://www.cook.ca/faithkidz.pdf)

The music and ideas in these workshops will be decidedly upbeat, wacky and not very Anglican!

Sometimes, though, it helps to see something new and different, and we can take from it what will work in our own situation.

## For Rotation Sunday Schools or those wanting something different for Advent

Go to the Rotation web site, [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org). Scroll down until, on the right hand side, you see the heading, The Writing Team. Keep going down to the sub-heading, Other Free Writing Team Sets, and click on "Jesus' Birth Through the Eyes of Isaiah." You will see a number of ideas, including art, storytelling and games. Several Advent lessons could be planned which will fit with the readings in church this year.

## Tips on Changing Activities

Moving from one activity in a class to another is often a time when it is difficult to maintain discipline. Some children hate to leave what they are doing and go to something else, whereas others are quickly bored and cause problems if the class is not kept fast paced.

If you have a CD player it helps to tell the children you will put on a song while they finish their drawing, work, or whatever, and when the song ends it will be time to change to something else. Another idea that works is to

say, "We'll have one more round of our game before we do something else," or "Finish with the crayon/ marker you're using and be ready to start something new." In both cases you have given a warning that the present activity is about to end. Some children like to have an egg timer or similar, so they can see how much time they have left.

## A Special Event to Help Parents Who Come to Church With Children

There is concern that children are spending too little time in church these days, and as a result are completely unfamiliar with the pattern of worship when they are expected to start attending after confirmation. The freedom and activity of Sunday School is suddenly missing and the music is not at all like the songs sung in Sunday School. If you decide that Sunday School should be at a different time from the regular worship service, or you want the children to stay in the services longer, it is necessary to educate both parents and children.

A Saturday afternoon hour and a half followed by a simple supper or shared meal can make all the difference. First show the attendees the church. Let children ring the bell if you have one. Show them the sound system, the organ, the choir seats, the memorial book, and explain the stained glass windows. Let them see the view from the pulpit. Show them the font and let someone pour water into it. Allow someone to light the candles with help, and explain which gets lit first. Learn the names for things. Show them stoles and church hangings in seasonal colours. Explain how communion is administered and show the vessels used.

Then have people on hand who will take the children to another area to play games, sing, have a story or do a craft (maybe making a paper church with doors that open and themselves inside). Some books which your church might purchase to use with children are: A Walk Through Our Church, ISBN 0-8091-6648-8, A Children's Guide To Worship, ISBN 0-6640-50015-3, or Come Worship With Me: A Journey Through the Church Year, ISBN 0-664-50045-5

Use this time to talk to the parents on their own. Explain the importance of learning to worship and how they can help their children by showing them the correct page and helping them to follow along, pointing out changes in colours, and whispering what is going on at the altar. Ask your priest to also talk to the congregation about the importance of welcoming children, and encouraging their presence and participation in the services.