



# KIDSTUFF

Anglican Diocese of Montreal—The Committee for Children's Ministry

## Advent 2003

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## PLEASE PASS ME ON:

- Sunday school teachers
- Priest
- Youth workers
- Interested parents

## PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

### First Sunday of Advent

(This week light only the Prophets' Candle)

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you. 1 Peter 1:10-12

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for these men of old, whose writings allow us to better understand Your life and ministry!

### Second Sunday of Advent

(This week light the Bethlehem Candle and the Prophets' Candle)

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, "May the Lord be with you." And they said to him, "May the Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" Ruth 2:4-5

#### Prayer:

Lord God of all time and history, look upon the days of my life and take a hand in shaping them for good, for love, and for service.

### Third Sunday of Advent

(This week light the Shepherds', Bethlehem & Prophets' Candles)

And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8

#### Prayer:

Thank You, God, for Your love for shepherds! Thank You for sending the Good Shepherd to care for me, a straying sheep!

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

(This week light the Angels' Candle and the Prophets', the Bethlehem, and the Shepherds' Candles)

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1:12

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to us in Your Son, so that we might know You and speak of You as a loving God!

## Children's Ministry Workshops

Enclosed with this newsletter you will be receiving 2 copies each of the registration forms for two upcoming workshops. Please feel free to make extra copies and to distribute them widely to Children's Ministry workers and parents in your parish. [Click here to download a copy.](#)

## Children's Advent Calendar

You are also receiving with this issue a single SAMPLE copy of a children's advent calendar available by mail order from Creative Communications. Please do not reproduce your calendar since it is copyright material.

## Jesus' Birthday Party

Many parishes hold pre-Christmas events for children. We would be happy to advertise such activities and we do encourage you to send in these & other calendar dates.

St. Matthew's, Hampstead will be holding its annual Jesus' Birthday Party on December 19 from 4—5 PM. This event is geared for younger children (ages 4-8) accompanied by adults with a time of worship, crafts & refreshments. Please call Valerie Taylor (487-2517) for further details. All are most welcome!



### We're on the Web!

Remember to check out the Kidstuff webpage at:  
[www.montreal.anglican.ca/kidstuff](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/kidstuff)

Our webpage is always up to date and offers a variety of great links for churches, children, parents & all those interested in Children's Ministry.



### KIDSTUFF

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**Editorial Note:** KIDSTUFF is published 3 times a year by the Committee for Children's Ministry, Anglican Diocese of Montreal. Its purpose is to inform and encourage parents and teachers working in children's ministry in this Diocese. KIDSTUFF is sent to all Children's Ministry Representatives in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, and anyone else who requests it. The newsletter is free of charge. The KIDSTUFF newsletter design and layout is produced by Robert Camara and is printed at the Synod Office. It is edited by Valerie Taylor. We encourage you to send submissions of ideas and articles to the above mentioned address

## Beulah Land 2

Have you heard about Beulah Land, our giant felt board, with story teller's binder? Beulah Land has been borrowed by several parishes in different areas of the Diocese. This past summer we purchased Beulah Land 2, more figures & story outlines to add to this resource set (many thanks to Sherry Stephenson who cut out the felt pieces in preparation for assembly).

Please contact your Regional Rep if you would like to reserve this resource for use in your community.

## Regional Representatives

In the last few issues of this newsletter we have continued to mention the ongoing need for replacements for some of our Regional Reps. We are currently seeking Reps for both the South Shore and Eastern Townships Regions. If you are a member of a parish in either of these geographic areas, and would like to know more about this valuable role, please contact Valerie Taylor.

## Newsletter Editor

Do you enjoy reading this newsletter? Do you find its content helpful in your Parish Children's Ministry? We are still searching for a newsletter editor. Perhaps you know of someone in your community who might be able to take on this task? Please contact Robert Camara (our *Interim* Editor) to find out more about the position.

## Christmas Videos



A reminder about the Christmas Videos available in the Regional Libraries:

The Toy That Saved Christmas ...

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever ...

The Christmas Box ...

and many more ...



## Santa Claus Parade



Our 9th Annual Santa Claus Parade Outreach will take place on Saturday, November 15th (10AM–1PM) in the Narthex of Christ Church Cathedral. Any individuals or Church groups who would like to help hand out hot chocolate & our special Gospel packages, please contact Valerie Taylor.

## Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Resources

Don't forget the various Advent, Christmas & Epiphany resource packages available through Kidstuff: The Jesse Tree, Jesus' Birthday Party, Advent & Christmas Drama Scripts, Christmas Liturgical Dance Choreography, The 3 Kings Event, and more.

## Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse

*This past July a group of youth & children's leaders from our Diocese was invited to meet with a similar grouping of leaders from the National Office of the Episcopal Church. Here are some interesting extracts from a recent mailing.*

Resolution B008 (\*Final Version—Concurred)

Topic/Title: Children: Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse

Proposer: The Rt. Rev. Thomas Clark Ely (Vermont)

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recommit itself to the vision of the role of children in the church as articulated in A Children's Charter for the Church as adopted by the 72nd General Convention in 1997. The Charter, among other things, calls the church to:

- \* Receive, nurture and treasure each child as a gift from God;
- \* Love, shelter, protect and defend children within its own community and in the world, especially those who are abused, neglected or in danger; and
- \* Advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children at every level of our religious, civic and political structures; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church acknowledges that the times and circumstances demand that the church articulate a clear and firm commitment to the safety of all, especially children; that we support this commitment with clear and firm policies and procedures for the well being of all; and that we commit this Church to being a place where children and youth are safe, especially from abuse and neglect ...

*The full text of this resolution can be found on-line:  
<http://gc2003.episcopalchurch.org/gc2003/>*

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## Prayers for Opening Christmas Gifts

### Before Gift-Opening

Heavenly Father; Open our eyes, as we open these gifts, to the point of this holy celebration: you Son, come to earth; your Light, pushing back sin's darkness. Then we will appreciate your perfect gift. Open our hearts, as we open these gifts, to one another. Then we will see beyond the presents to the intentions with which they are given. Bind us in your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### After Gift-Opening

Holy Jesus, Light of the World; The gifts are open ... the presents distributed. Anticipation has yielded to realization ... and at last to calm. Make us calm, O Prince of Peace. But not complacent. Light in us, O perfect Light, the fire of your Holy Spirit. Make us anxious to share your Good News and eager to brighten this dark world. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

## God's Best Present

### Look It Up

For this month's devotional, you'll read Luke 1:26—Luke 2:20, using a different passage each week. You can stick with just the suggested passage or build up to reading the entire Christmas story at once.

### Get Ready

Collect a handful of straw from your Thanksgiving decorations, a hay bale or a local animal farm. Dried grass will do in a pinch. Find a nail for each family member. Find one small box for each family member—old ring boxes are about the right size. Place a bit of straw in each box and place a nail on top of the straw. Close the boxes and wrap them with Christmas paper. Keep these out of sight until Week 3. Set aside some extra straw.

### Remember This

*For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord* (Luke 2:11; NASB)

## God's Best Present—Continued

### Talk It Over

#### WEEK 1: Mary's Faith

Let everyone hold a little of the straw. The straw is a reminder that we're on our way to the stable in Bethlehem. Now read this week's passage, Luke 1:26-38. How do you think Mary felt when she was called "favored one"? How did Mary respond to being told she would be the mother of Jesus? Have you ever had to do something that you thought was impossible? End your time together by asking God to help your family trust him, even when something seems impossible.

#### WEEK 2: The Proof

This week, read Luke 1:39-55. Talk about how Mary might have felt when she saw that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant, just like the angel said she would be. Talk about times when you've needed "proof" that God would keep his promises to your family. To end your devotions, read Mary's prayer (verses 46-55) together as your family's prayer of thanks and praise to God.

#### WEEK 3: The Gift

This week, read Luke 2:1-7. Bring out the small wrapped boxes and have each person open his or her box. This is Jesus' gift to each of us. Talk about the straw. Why do you think that God sent us a Savior in the form of a tiny baby who was born in a stable? Now talk about the nail. What does it represent? In what ways is Jesus the best Christmas present ever? End your time by thanking God for the incredible gift of his Son.

#### WEEK 4: The News

This week, read Luke 2:8-20. Place some straw on the table as a reminder of the kind of work the shepherds did. Why is it surprising that they were the first people to hear about Jesus' birth? How do you think the shepherds felt when they heard the angel calling to them? The shepherds told lots of people about what had happened. Do you think people believed them? How do you feel when you tell people about Jesus? End your time by asking God to help you tell other people about Jesus.

### Feedback

Do you need ideas for some new activities? Do you have some suggestions that you would like to make? Do you have any questions about Children's Ministry? Would you like to share some of your stories? We'd like to hear from you! Write to us at: Kidstuff, 1444 Union Avenue, Montreal, QC H3A 2B8, or by e-mail: [ctm@cam.org](mailto:ctm@cam.org)