

# KIDSTUFF

# BISHOP'S LENTEN PROJECT 2005

The Comfy OCOZY fund Bishop's Lenten Project package

Be on the lookout for the (it should arrive at the same

time as this newsletter). We hope that you and your community will embrace this year's project enthusiastically and help us to make it a truly successful undertaking. This new fund will benefit the children in the Montreal Children's Hospital Oncology/Haematology Ward.

# LENTEN WORD SEARCH

Look for these words relating to the season of Lent:

repent

sorrow

Jesus

journey

purple

sacrifice

sin

death

agony

Satan

... try making your own word search!

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Anglican Diocese of Montreal Committee for Children's Ministry

#### LENT/EASTER 2005

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#### PLEASE PASS ME ON:

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

#### CHILDREN AND THE TSUNAMI DISASTER

Dear Parents and children's ministry teachers,

We are so fortunate to live in a place where our homes are warm, where food and medical care are accessible, and where our children are provided with education in a safe and caring environment. We are among the most fortunate people in the world.

The disastrous outcomes of the earthquake and tsunami in eight countries of the South Pacific have impacted all our homes and lives to an extent that no previous disasters have. Some of our children will have been relatively protected from television images. Others will have had access to television footage alongside their parents. Whatever their exposure, you can expect your child to discuss their concerns with you in the coming days. The events will inevitably be a topic in every home from time to time. Parents and children's ministry teachers can listen well to the children and will make every effort to respond with sensitivity to their questions and fears. "Could this happen here in Canada? "What would I do if I was separated from my family?" "Who will look after all the children?" Children need to know that people would be there for them too in unforeseen circumstances.

Following the initial waves and damage and loss, it was a relief to begin to hear stories of survival, of extraordinary generosity and kindness, of courage and resolve to return to life. Children need to know that they too can make a difference. When we do something to help others we do not feel helpless or hopeless. One charity that children can envision is called Sleeping Children Around The World. It uses funds to purchase bed kits for children who are in need. A \$30 donation (Canadian funds) provides a mattress, pillow, sheet, blanket, mosquito net, clothes outfit and other items depending on local needs.

100% of every dollar donated reaches a needy child. The website is

www.scaw.org .

Our children are our hope for strong leadership in Canada and the world in the years to come. Together we will encourage and equip

them. Yours very sincerely,

Susan Winn

#### **Editorial Note:**

KIDSTUFF is published quarterly 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 Reps in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, and anyone else who requests it. The newsletter is free of charge.

KIDSTUFF is printed at the Synod Office. It is edited by Valerie Taylor and Nancy Greene-Grégoire. We encourage you to send submissions of ideas and articles to:

**KIDSTUFF** - The Committee for Children's Ministry

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Eastern Townships and South Shore reps needed! If you are involved with your Sunday school children and want to be part of this team, please let Valerie Taylor know!

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# "Our 6th grade son seems to have no real friendships. Is this normal?"

... First relax. I want to assure you this is a normal situation for a pre-teen or young teen boy. In fact, this phenomenon has become substantially more common over the past decade. So breathe a sigh of relief. Your son isn't "abnormal".

But that doesn't mean his situation is healthy. This trend in the last ten years toward isolation has become one of my greatest new concerns as a youth worker for my students. And here's why. Boys by nature tend to be less expressive than girls (especially at this age). And our culture promotes "the strong, silent type" as a great male archetype.

Add to this cultural notion the fact that today's pre- and young teens have a houseful (or more likely these days, a bedroom-full) of toys intended fro solo use: television, video-game systems, CD players. It's not that these things are all bad. But the fairly normal overuse of them contributes greatly to this "loner: trend.

As a result, boys in particular aren't learning the friendship skills they need to build healthy relationships. I don't think we historically thought children and teenagers needed these skills—after all, friendship just comes naturally for them! But today's 10- to 14-year-old often is so isolated in his daily life that he isn't developing te necessary relationship-building tools.

So what can you do? Here are a few ideas.

# Encourage friendship groups.

Often the safest place for a boy to learn about friendship is in the context of a group, not in a one-on-one friendship. Hopefully, one of the best places he'll find for this is in a healthy active preteen church program. I know many parents who have chosen their church based on this factor alone!

#### Service potential friendships.

When you see any spark of a potential friendship for your son, find ways to subtly encourage it. This doesn't mean talking about his new friend nonstop (that will only lead to retreat for most boys)! Instead, offer to drive your son and his buddy somewhere; suggest fun ideas for excursions such as taking in a basketball game or going to play paintball, or going to a movie, and make them possible. Also make sure your home is a safe place for your son to have someone over—an environment in which he won't be embarrassed or treated like a little kid by you in front of his friends.

#### Encourage your son, but don't nag.

When your son spends time with a friend (or potential friend), say something positive—but keep it short and sweet. Lengthy speeches will feel like pressure or nagging, and will backfire on you.

#### Pray like crazy!

God loves your child even more than you do, and he has wired him—as he has all of us—for community. So take heard and remember that God, who knows our needs and promises to provide for them, will care tenderly for your son.

From the Winter 2004 Christian Parenting Today magazine. An article by Mark Oestreicher, who is the president of Youth Specialties (YouthSpecialties.com), the leading provider of resources and training for Christian youth workers.

# RESURRECTION BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies emerging from their cocoons are traditional symbols for Easter, reminding us of Christ's victory over death.. Make a butterfly. Attach a magnet to the back so you can display it on your refrigerator door, or tape it to a window.

What you need for each butterfly:

a white coffee filter washable markers water and paint brush
a wooden spring-type clothespin a chenille stem a magnet strip + adhesive back (or use tape)
newspaper to protect surface

## What you do:

- 1. Open the filter and draw your wing design. Paint with water so that the markers bleed. Allow to dry.
- 2. Scrunch the shorter end at fold.
- 3. Pinch into clothespin. Fan wings out.
- 4. Fold chenille stem in half and clip into clothespin. Glue or tape magnet to back.
- 5. Adjust antennae and wings. Stick on refrigerator door or on a window.









#### RESOURCE LIBRARIES

At our December Kidstuff meeting we reorganized all the resource libraries. Each Regional Library now has many new and updated resources which could be helpful both for children's ministry in your parish, and for families to use at home.

Contact your regional rep (see next column for coordinates) and check out these resources. Included in each library is a copy of the new DVD from our National Church, "Baptism, a life-long celebration". Also, each library has received the latest samples of curricula from Augsburg Fortress Publishing.

#### MUSTARD SEED NEWS

Gretchen Pritchard (one of our upcoming workshop series animators) is facing great difficulties with the U.S. Department of Health regarding facilities for their "Light and Peace" program.

Here is a short extract from her recent newsletter. Please pray for this valuable ministry that it will be able to continue. Kidstuff has sent a donation of \$100 from our budget to help with the cause.

From the MUSTARD SEEDS Fall, 2004 publication:

"The Department of Public Health paid an unannounced visit to the Children's Mission in April, setting in motion a process that is still ongoing. Shortly after the visit, DPH served us notice of a \$10,000 fine for operating our afterschool program as an "illegal child day care facility". We contested this action and are awaiting the outcome of a hearing held on October 20. Meanwhile, we are operating our program, but with reduced hours, to qualify for licensing exemption as a "recreation program".

# BUILDING A LENTEN TREE

At Christmas we use an evergreen tree to depict new life. The same thing can be done during the Lenten season. The difference is that the Lenten season uses the symbols of the events of Holy Week.

WEEK 1: The colour for Lent is purple.

You will need: artificial or real evergreen tree or a tree branch

purple cloth

purple ribbon floral wire or twist ties

Have on hand a purple cloth to be placed around the base of the tree and purple ribbon. Have the children drape the cloth around the tree base and make purple bows. Once the bows are made have them use floral wire or twist ties to attach the bows to

the tree.

NOTE: if you use a tree branch and place it in water, it might sprout blossoms or leaves in time for Faster!

WEEK 2: The Money Bag

You will need: nylon netting pennies

scissors ribbon and yarn

The money bag and coins symbolize the thirty pieces of sliver Judas received for betraying Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6). To make money bags to place on the tree this week, have nylon netting available. Have the children cut the netting into small squares and place several pennies in each square. Tie the money bags onto the Lenten tree using yarn.



You will need: small paper cups ribbon or yarn

aluminum foil tape

During the meal in the Upper Room Jesus instituted the Lord's Supbread and wine (Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20). Christ's body, and the wine, the blood of the new covenant. The

per by the sharing of
The bread represents
chalice will be this

week's symbol for the Lenten tree. Make the chalices by taping together the bottoms of two small paper cups. Cover the cups with aluminum foil, molding the foil to the contours. Punch a hole in the top of the chalice and hang it on the tree with yarn.

**WEEK 4**: The Pretzel

You will need: pretzels purple ribbon or yarn

The pretzel was created as a symbol of praying hands. In the Garden of Geth-semane Christ prayed (Matthew 26:36-46); Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46). Have the children tie purple yarn or ribbon through the pretzels and hang them on the tree in remembrance.

# BUILDING A LENTEN TREE, continued

WEEK 5: The Nail

You will need: nails ribbon and yarn

The nail reminds us of the suffering Jesus experienced on the cross. Have the children tie purple yarn or ribbon around the head of a nail in representation of the suffering and death of Jesus. Hang the nails on the tree.

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WEEK 6 (or whichever week you study Palm Sunday): Palm Branches

You will need: live palm branches, or construction paper and scissors

In celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, place live palm branches on the purple cloth at the base of the tree. If no live palm branches are available, construct some from paper or some other material.

**EASTER**: Resurrection Symbols

You will need: craft items to make resurrection symbols and a white cloth

Make you favourite resurrection symbols for the tree: flowers, butterflies, decorated eggs, and so forth. Remove ALL the Lenten symbols from the tree. Remove the purple cloth and replace it with a white cloth. White symbolizes purity and joy and is why Easter lilies are always white. Fill your Easter tree with the symbols of Resurrection that you have made.

# BEST OF BLESSINGS - LENT, EASTER

The following programs are available from Kidstuff in hard copy by contacting Valerie Taylor: (see next column for coordinates):

- 1. From Ashes to Hope—a 4-hour event for children aged 4-14
- 2. Changes: Caterpillar to Butterfly—a 3-session program for children aged 3-12
- 3. A Lenten Fair—a 3-hour session for all ages
- 4. Preparing for Easter—a 3 1/2 hour event for children aged 3-12
- 5. Why, on this Night ...? Understanding the Seder
- 6. A Good Friday Walk—a 1-hour service of the Stations of the Cross for all ages
- 7. Were You There? a neighbourhood walk for families

# THE EMPTY TOMB

Make this votive reminder to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave in triumph over sin and ldeath.

#### What you need:

one small votive candle one small baby food jar a black permanent marker black construction paper small scraps of tissue paper glue & a paint brush





# What you do:

Copy the pattern of the empty tomb onto black paper.

Paint the jar with watered down glue.

Stick bits of torn tissue over the outside of the jar, overlapping colours.

Glue the cave silhouette around the jar, and trim excess.

Print "He is risen as He had said" in the empty tomb.

Place a candle in the jar.

#### SUMMER CAMPS-2005

Quebec Lodge offers a full summer program for ages 6 to 15 of one & two week camps. Que-

bec Lodge also runs a Counselor-in-Training Program for those aged 16 or 17.

Applications can be downloaded from the web site www.quebeclodge.com.

Call 819-842-2286, or email quebeclodge@accglobal.net for more info.



Crosstalk Ministries offers:

DAY CAMPS—June 25 to August 7 in parishes around the Diocese, and

JUNIOR (ages 8-12) and SENIOR (ages 13-15) RESIDENTIAL CAMPS: August 14-20

Call 514-484-1414 or email ctm@cam.org for more info.

#### SPRING WORKSHOPS

Included in this mailing are 2 copies of the brochure for our Spring Workshop series. Please make extra copies if needed and encourage Leaders and Parents to register for any or all of these valuable learning sessions. See dates on last page.

# **CALENDAR**



#### JANUARY 2005

Jan13th 7:30 pm Kidstuff Core Group Meeting—3491 Hingston Ave.



#### FEBRUARY 2005

- Feb 3rd 7:30pm Kidstuff CITY RE-GION Meeting @ 3491 Hingston Ave Deanery of Christ Church Cathedral, Deanery of Hochelaga, Deanery of Royalmount, Deanery of LaSalle, Deanery of Western Montreal: All those involved with children from churches in these deaneries are welcome
- Feb 9th Ash Wednesday look for special child-friendly programs in your area. St. Matthew's, Hampstead offers "Ashes to Hope" from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Call 486-1700 to register.



# APRIL 2005—SPRING WORKSHOPS

- © Sat Apr 9th 10am-2pm Fulford Hall— CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOP, David C. Cook Communication Focus
- Sat Apr 16th 10am-2pm Fulford Hall— MUSIC MINISTRY WORKSHOP
- Sat Apr 23rd 10am-2pm Fulford Hall— GRETCHEN PRITCHARD'S WORKSHOP "LIGHT AND PEACE" Children's After School Program



#### MAY 2005

- May 1st Pentecost Newsletter Mailing Date
- May 5th 6 pm Kidstuff Meeting @ Holy Trinity Ste. Agathe - LAURENTIANS REGION: All those involved with children from Laurentians region churches are welcome



#### **JUNE 2005**

- June 3rd & 4th—Festival celebrating our Worldwide Anglican Communion @ Christ Church Cathedral—includes children's events and activities
- June (date TBD) Kidstuff Core Group Dinner Meeting—6pm
- June 25th to Aug 20th—Summer Camps in many locations—see page 7 for details



#### March 2005

- March 3rd 7:30 pm Kidstuff Meeting @ St. Barnabas, 95 Lorne Ave, —SOUTH SHORE REGION: All those involved with children from South Shore region churches are welcome.
- Mar 27th Easter Sunday