
A.W.E.SOME News

The Newsletter of The Children's Ministries for The Diocese of Bethlehem

Summer and Back to School: Time for Renewal

This issue of AWESOME News is full of possibilities for rethinking and renewing your program, yourself, and your fellow Christian Educators.

Use the summer to explore possibilities. Consider some of the unique programming available through Province III such as the retreat in late May, or the Art & Soul workshop in early June. There are many opportunities for Godly Play training - one begins in May at St. Mark's in Moscow.

Don't forget to encourage your children, grades 1 - 6, to attend the Narnia Family Movie Night at 6:00 pm on May 12th at Nativity, Bethlehem or St. Luke's, Scranton. It's a great preview to Bishop's Day with Kids: Narnia - The Lion, The Bishop & The Wardrobe in July.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

**Summer
and Back
To School**

Year B

2006

Remembering that The Lord is our Shepherd, may His blessings refresh and renew you as you enjoy the summer months and the change in routine.



Bishop's Day with Kids:

Narnia - The Lion, The Bishop & The Wardrobe

July 22, 2006 at Nativity Cathedral, Bethlehem

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

July 29, 2006 at St. Luke's, Scranton

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

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Mark Your Calendar

SPRING 2006

5/5/06 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training begins at St. Mark's, Moscow Contact: Julia Pickarski juliaandaaron@aol.com

5/7/06 Diocesan Children's Sabbath Safe Harbor Celebrations: Trinity, Bethlehem & St. Luke's, Scranton - 4:00 pm

5/12/06 Narnia Family Movie Night: Cathedral, Bethlehem & St. Luke's, Scranton - 6:00 pm

5/12 & 5/13/06 Godly Play Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, MD. Come and preview new stories from the book which will be published soon.

5/23-25/06 Province III Christian Educators Retreat, Shrine Mont Retreat Center, Orkney Springs, VA Facilitator: Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Diocese of Newark www.Province3ce.net

SUMMER 2006

6/4-8/06 Art & Soul: Nurturing Your Spiritual Life Through the Creative Arts. Shrine Mont, Orkney Springs, VA 540-856-2141 www.shrinemont.com

6/26-30/06 Advocating for Children College of Preachers Washington National Cathedral www.cathedralcollege.org

7/10-14/06. Montessori Essentials for Catechists - Year 1: The Child. Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH <http://www.cgsusa.org/events.htm>

7/22/06 Bishop's Day with Kids: Narnia - The Lion, The Bishop & The Wardrobe: Nativity Cathedral, Bethlehem 9 am - 3:30 pm

7/29/06 Bishop's Day with Kids: Narnia - The Lion, The Bishop & The Wardrobe: St. Luke's, Scranton 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

FALL 2006

9/21-23/06 Godly Play Accreditation Training at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, MD <http://www.province3ce.net/Events.html>

10/27-29/06 Weaving Our Gifts: A Conference of Catechists - "the Inherent Spirituality of the Montessori Method" Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT www.cctheo.org/conference.html



Writing Opportunity



If there are those within your network(s) who have a passion for Christian education and formation of young people and love for the environment, please share this writing opportunity with them. The hope is to have a group of qualified curriculum writers from diverse backgrounds (communion, gender,

race, age, abilities, experience, etc.) Please share this broadly.

Curriculum Writer Application: <http://www.nccusa.org/nmu/mce/WritersResourcesApplication.pdf>

Committee on Outdoor Ministries: <http://www.nccusa.org/nmu/mce/educaministr.html#anchor.com>

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN

5/13 St. Margaret, Emmaus
5/20 Christ Church, Stroudsburg

For registration information:
Rosemary Kleintop
Diocese of Bethlehem
610.691.5655
Registration deadlines are 5 days preceding the training.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd & Godly Play Internet Resources

<http://www.cgsusa.org/index.htm>

Official website of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Website has training information, Atrium locations and book resources. It does not contain "materials" resources

<http://www.godlyplay.org>

Official website for Godly Play or the Center for the Theology of Childhood. Website has training information, as well as information on theological reflection and classroom design.

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze1wvcy/>

Catechesis of Good Shepherd resources for both training and books.

<http://www.worshipwoodworks.com/home.php>

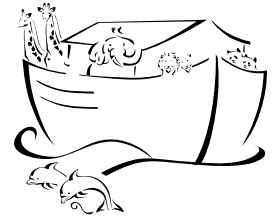
Wood religious play that is often purchased for Godly Play or CGS.

<http://www.handmadetoys.net/>

Not your typical materials for CGS but may be useful. Includes wooden Nativity and Noah's Ark puzzles.

<http://www.wildapples.com/biblicalsets.htm>

Not your typical materials for CGS but may be useful. Include 3D wooden Nativities, several Noah's Ark and Jonah stories.



<http://www.beulahenterprises.org>

Website for spiritual play resources. Includes wooden church set, Jesus doll and felt stories.

Additional Resources Available via Internet

Sandalstrap

Small wooden crosses, Meditation Mementos, bookmarks, ribbons for many occasions, lapel pins, stationary and more. Quality products at an affordable price. www.sandalstrap.com

Creative Communications

Liturgical season resources for study, worship, children, adults and families. www.creativecommunications.com

Family and Intergenerational Ministries

Variety of resources by the Presbyterians for family ministry in the church and home. www.pcusa.org/marketplace

Design Directions

Creative room designs for children's ministry for those build-

ing new or remodeling current classrooms.

www.churchschooldesign.com

Accucut

An incredible Die Cutting Machine that can take your art to new heights. www.accucut.com

Heifer International

Helping impoverished families worldwide alleviate hunger and poverty. Great mission project ideas. www.heifer.org

Friendship Ministries

Resources for helping those with cognitive impairments become an active part of God's family. www.friendship.org



Multi-Intelligence Christian Education

Workshop Rotation Model that can be used for VBS, multi-generation events or as a curriculum. www.cstones.com

Workshop Rotation

Creative curriculum for multidimensional learning for Sunday School and beyond. www.potters-workshops.com

Just Neighbors

Dynamic ToolKit to educate your congregation about poverty and spur them on to greater service. www.familypromise.org

In Stitches

Center for Liturgical Art that produces beautiful stoles, paraments, banners and a variety of forms of fabric art. www.institchescenter.com

Teaching Creationism or Intelligent Design in the Public School

If you or your parishioners are concerned about the teaching of Creationism or Intelligent Design in the Public School, below is an article and a link for a resource that can be used in congregations to address this issue. The brochure was developed by the National Council of Churches Committee on Public Education and Literacy and is endorsed by the Episcopal Church.

NCC releases a faith perspective on teaching evolution in public school

New York, March 27, 2006 - A National Council of Churches USA committee has released a resource on the teaching of evolution in public school science classes.

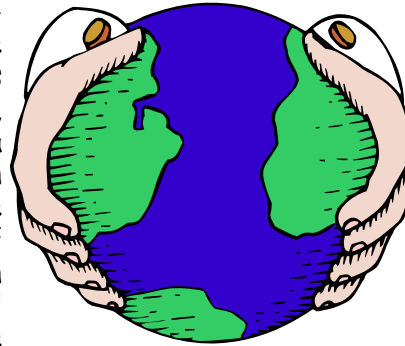
The brochure, the NCC Committee on Public Education and Literacy says, is "to assist people of faith who experience no conflict between science and religion as they consider the issues around the teaching of evolution."

"Often today we hear about the teaching of evolution in public schools framed as though it were a debate between people of faith and people of no faith," the committee said in a statement released today.

"Many well informed and well educated people believe that the learnings of science and religion enrich each other," and "embrace science as one way of appreciating the beauty and complexity of God's creation," the committee said.

The resource addresses four simple questions: What is science? What is religion? Is it possible to think that both relig-

ion and science are important? How is religious liberty, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, relevant to a discussion about the teaching of evolution in public school science classes?



While many excellent resources about the teaching of evolution in public school science classes have been made available for public school teachers and the general public from the point of view of science, there has been a shortage of ready resources written from the point of view of religion, the committee said.

Short statements from the book of Hebrews, from an Episcopal Church Catechism of Creation, and from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, and theologians John Haught and Marcus Borg bring additional perspectives to the resource on the meaning of the biblical story of creation in Genesis.

The resource references a December 2005 court decision in Dover, Pa., that found unconstitutional the teaching of Intelligent Design (ID) in public school science classes because it "cannot uncouple itself from its creationist, and thus religious antecedents." ID is not science.

While the Dover court decision affirmed the teaching of evolution in public school science classes, the judge pointedly refused to criticize religious

teachings about creation: "Repeatedly in this trial, Plaintiffs' scientific experts testified that the theory of evolution represents good science, is overwhelmingly accepted by the scientific community, and that it in no way conflicts with, nor does it deny the existence of a divine creator."

Members of the NCC's Committee on Public Education and Literacy represent: the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ; the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; the Episcopal Church; the Presbyterian Church (USA); the Progressive National Baptist Convention; the United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries; the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society; and the United Methodist Women.

To access the brochure go to: <http://www.ncccusa.org/pdfs/evolutionbrochurefinal.pdf>

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Books for Children

Although there may be no scheduled Sunday School, books are a wonderful way to extend the learning. Consider the following. You may want to share this list (and the website under the clipart) with parish families. Or, purchase some of them for the parish library. Invite members of the parish to donate books to your collection.

Yes, I Can! By Heidi Bratton - a board book about the 10 commandments. She has another book called *Where is God?*

The Little Shepherd by Sally Anne Conan & Heidi Bratton - a

board book about the good Shepherd looking for the lost sheep until it is found.

God's Paintbrush by Sally Eisenberg Sasso - this welcoming book invites children to encounter God through moments in their own lives, and provides questions an adult and child can explore together.

The Lord's Prayer - Illustrated by Tim Ladwig. The illustrations tell a story that brings into a



Check out this website for children's books: <http://www.faith-at-home.com/>

family's daily life the familiar words Jesus taught his followers.

Psalm 23 - Illustrated by Tim Ladwig. The illustrations tell a parallel story in our own times.

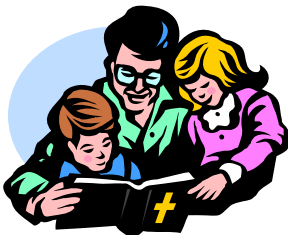
Water, come Down!: The Day You Were Baptized by Walter Wangerin, Jr. This beautifully illustrated book shows all of creation -- sun, rain, cloud, and more -- celebrating a child's baptism.

Recommended Children's Bibles

The Lion Bible for Children, retold by Murray Watts, with illustrations by Helen Cann (Oxford: Lion Publishing, 2002) **The best all-round version of the Bible for confident readers, 9 and up.**

Tomie DePaola's Book of Bible Stories (Putnam, 1990) is the one edition of American origin on this list. **Excellent for reading aloud with younger children, or for independent reading by early readers up to age 8.**

A Family Treasury of Bible Stories by Roberto Brunelli (Harry N. Abrams, 1997), a translation of an Italian edition, achieves its considerable impact from



the stunning illustrations by Mikhail Fiodorov. Fiodorov draws inspiration primarily from Russian icons, Byzantine art, and early Italian Renaissance painting. **Good for ages 8 to 12, especially children who are captivated by images of other worlds.**

The Children's Illustrated Bible, by Selena Hastings (Dorling Kindersley, 1994) fills a different need. Dorling Kindersley, a British publisher, excels at making factual information clear and accessible to children, with photographs and maps as well as illustrations. This book is **an ideal choice for the 8- to 12-year-old who is more drawn to facts and information than to emo-**

tionally stirring stories or visual images.

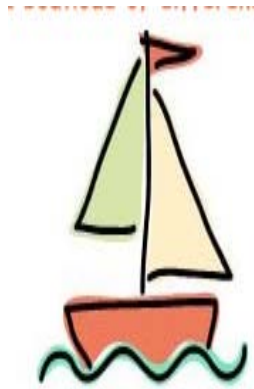
Stories from the Bible, illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger (North-South Books, 2000), unlike the other Bibles reviewed here, is more text than illustrations. **For serious readers aged 10 and up.**

Words of Gold: A Treasury of the Bible's Poetry and Wisdom, by Lois Rock (Eerdmans, 1997) was originally published in Britain and is a valuable supplement to the usual "story" Bible. **Outstanding supplement to other children's Bibles, for ages 8 and up.**

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Cruising to Equity Parishes

Allentown, Church of the Mediator
Allentown, St. Andrews
Ashland, St. John
Bethlehem, Trinity
Bethlehem, Cathedral Church of the Nativity
Clarks Summit, Epiphany
Dallas, Prince of Peace
Douglassville, St. Gabriel
Easton, Trinity
Emmaus, St. Margaret's
Forest City, Christ Church
Frackville, Christ Church
Hazleton, St. Peter's
Hellertown, St. George's
Jermyn, St. James and St. George
Jim Thorpe, St. Mark's and
St. John's
Kingston, Grace Church
Mt. Pocono, Trinity
Pen Argyl, St. Joseph's



Palmerton, All Saints, Lehighton & St John's
Pottsville, Trinity
Reading, Christ Church
Reading, St. Mary's
Sayre, Church of the Redeemer
Schnecksville, St. Elizabeth's
Schuylkill Haven, St. James
Schuylkill County, North Parish
Scranton, St. Luke's
Sinking Spring, St. Alban's
St. Clair, Holy Apostles
Susquehanna, Christ Church
Trexlerstown, St. Anne's
Troy, St. Paul's
Tunkhannock, St. Peter's
Whitehall, St. Stephen's
Wilkes-Barre, Holy Cross
Wilkes-Barre, St. Stephen's
Wind Gap, St. Mary's

Join Us at Port of Call #5 and the Celebration

Your congregation may not have begun the *Cruising to Equity Campaign* to support the needs of at risk children in your local community, but you can be engaged in the last Port of Call.

Below is a brief overview of the last *Port of Call* remaining in the journey. You will find additional suggestions in the guide which also include:

- Education Resources to help you learn about children's needs
- Suggestions of who to call in your community to donate collected items
- Community action ideas
- Worship suggestions

The guide and additional information can be found at two Diocesan websites: www.diobeth.org as well as www.bethlehemtreasurechest.org

Port of Call #5

A Safe Start

Season: Easter (Apr. 16 to May 6)

Fact: Every day almost 8,000 children are reported victims of abuse and neglect; a child dies from gun violence almost every three hours in America.

What to collect: Items for children going into foster care such as suitcases, nightlights, nap blankets & small pillows, phone cards, card & travel games

Celebrations

Two Diocesan-wide celebrations will be held simultaneously on Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 4:00 pm. One will be held at Trinity Church in Bethlehem and the other at St. Luke's in Scranton.

Parishes should bring the life boat, pictures, and photos of the parish effort to fill a *Boatload for Children*. Gather your artifacts and share the *Log of Your Journey*.

Everyone attending will participate in a child-friendly worship service in which we will celebrate, worship and pray for children.

A reception will follow!

New Resources in Diocesan Library for Review

CHURCH SCHOOL

Help! I'm a Sunday School Teacher! By Ray Johnston. 50 Ways to Make Sunday School Come Alive

Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week, by Sue Miller and David Staal. Use the principle from this book and children will beg to come to church.

Sunday School Specials Vol. 1-4, by Lois Keffer. Quick and Easy Bible Lessons for Combined ages.

Seasons of Faith, by Marcia Stoner. Teaching the Christian Year for Intergenerational use.

Symbols of Faith, by Marcia Stoner. Teaching Images of the Christian Faith for Intergenerational use.

Bible Train Teasers, by Lee Dell Stickler, Reproducible puzzles.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

More than a Movie, by Group Publishing. 20 Fun specials teaching Bible Truths through Movies Kids love!

The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry, by Group Publishing. 220 games arranged by age, topic and energy index.

101 Simple Service Projects Kids can do by Susan Lingo. Creative ways to touch families, communities, and the world.

Wee Three Kings, by Group Publishing. Instant Christmas Pageant - Just add kids!

101 Things to do for Christmas, by Debbie O'Neal. Exciting projects to be kept and given.

Before and After Christmas, by Debbie O'Neal. Activities and Ideas - Advent and Epiphany.

Before and After Easter, by Debbie O'Neal. Activities and Ideas - Lent and Pentecost.

Family Countdown to Easter, by Debbie O'Neal. A Day-by-Day Celebration activity book.

Welcoming Children. By Joyce Ann Mercer. A Practical Theology of Childhood.

SACRAMENTS

This Bread & This Cup, by Mary Lee Wile. Episcopal Communion Instruction for Children.

Making Disciples, by William Willimon. Confirmation program with Coordinator's Guide, Mentor's Guide, Confirmand's Journal and Video.

TEACHER TRAINING

Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach, by Donald L. Griggs. Comprehensive guidebook of practical ideas, advice and wisdom on the art and practice of teaching.

Takeout Training for Teachers, by Keith Johnson. 52 training

sessions for children's leaders.

Teacher Training On the Go, by Keith Johnson. Reproducible handouts to train and retain volunteers.

TEENS

A Good Friend: How to make one, how to be one. By Ron Herron and Val Peter. What you can do to build more and better friendships.

Who's in the Mirror? Finding the real me. By Ron Herron and Val Peter. Problem-solving help for teens striving to independence or struggling with responsibility.

What's Right for Me? Making good Choices in relationships. By Ron Herron and Val Peter. What every teen should know about Teasing, Prejudice, Date Violence, Teen Sex, Bullies, Sexual Con Artists and more.

Attitude: Life Skills. By Living the Good News. 32 powerful sessions on real-life issues for teens.

Quick Takes Rituals & Retreats. By Living the Good News. Topics include: Family Issues, Tough Emotions, World Problems and Relationship Issues.

Continued on page 8.

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Narnia: The Lion, the Bishop and the Wardrobe
The Bishop's Day with Kids - 2006

Children Registration Form

****This program is offered for children who will be completing grade 1 – 6 in June 2006****

Registration Fee: \$10.00 per child (scholarships available) Make checks payable to:
Diocese of Bethlehem with notation to "Bishop's Day with Kids"
Mail to: Rosemary Kleintop, 333 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Child Name: _____ Male () Female () Grade Completed: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parish/City: _____

Will attend (check one) _____ July 22, 2006 – Nativity Cathedral, Bethlehem

_____ July 29, 2006 – St. Luke's, Scranton

Early Registration Deadline: June 15, 2006
(Free T-shirt to each Registrant)

Late Registration Deadline: July 5, 2006
(Free T-shirt is NOT Guaranteed)

This section to be filled out by Parent or Guardian:

Are there any life circumstances or behavioral issues involving your child that may be helpful for the event's staff to know about? (check one) _____ Yes _____ No. If "yes", please give additional information below:

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Clergy, Vestry, or Staff Endorsement:

THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE CLERGY, A VESTRY MEMBER, OR A STAFF MEMBER.

(It is essential that this section be filled out. Please check where appropriate.)

_____ actively participates in the life of the congregation

_____ does not participate in the life of the church

_____ is not someone I know or on whom I am able to comment

Signature of Clergy, Vestry, or Staff Member: _____

NO COSTUMES PLEASE

Parents: Please come to the days' Closing Program and Holy Eucharist
in the Church Nave beginning at 2:45 PM!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED - NO WALK-INS!

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Bishop's Day 2006
CHILDREN'S MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

Please print and leave no spaces blank.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOUTH CAN ATTEND THIS EVENT.

Child Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parish/City: _____

Social Security No: _____

Family Physician Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Insurance Carrier: _____

ID No: _____ Group No: _____

Name of Primary Insured: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Allergies: Food, Drug, or Environmental: _____

Please list all medications taken regularly, any dietary restrictions or physical limitations:

Does your child have any other known medical conditions we should be aware of? (such as asthma, diabetes, low blood sugar, seizures, etc.) _____ Yes _____ No

If "yes", please explain (list any special medications)

I give permission for my child to attend the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem "Under the Big Top." In case of illness or accident, I give permission to have my child evaluated and treated by available medical personnel. I understand a reasonable attempt will be made to notify me in such an event. I also understand that no obligation or responsibility in regard to rendering treatment or medication is assumed or undertaken as a consequence of this activity; notwithstanding, the adults in charge have permission to authorize any medical care, which in their judgment, they deem necessary and to sign any medical forms necessary on my child's behalf and I do hereby release the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, my parish, and all persons connected therewith from any liability, claim and expense related to any such condition, circumstance or treatment.

Diocesan Library Resources continued

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children Learn What They Live. By Dorothy Law Nolte. Parenting to Inspire Values.

Faith Questions for Families. By Augsburg Fortress. A tool to help families explore the basics of Christian faith with words and actions.

Bible Questions for Families. By Augsburg Fortress. A tool to

help families explore the Bible with words and actions.

SAFE CHURCH MINISTRIES

Safe Sanctuaries. By Joy Melton. Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church.

Safe Sanctuaries for Youth. By Joy Melton. Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries.

Boundaries: A Guide for Teens. By Val Peter and Tom Dowd. How to build relationship that protect your personal space and respect your feelings.

Better SAFE than Sued: Keeping Out of Trouble in Youth Ministry. By Jack Crabtree. Practical advice for Insurance Coverage, Screening Volunteers, Safety Training, Accident-Proofing Games and more!

Vacation Bible School Resources

Are you offering a Vacation Bible School this summer? Wondering what the different programs have to offer?

Visit the Virginia Theological Seminary website for reviews of over 20 Vacation Bible School resources. Included in the reviews are many of the latest curricula for 2006 along with old favorites from the past.

To read the reviews, go to www.vts.edu and click on the tab for Center for the Ministry of Teaching. On the opening page look for the VBS information, which can be downloaded with Adobe software in a pdf format.

Narnia Family Movie Night

Friday, May 12, 2006

Cathedral, Bethlehem & St. Luke's, Scranton - 6:00 pm



Bishop's Day with Kids:

Narnia - The Lion, The Bishop & The Wardrobe

July 22, 2006 at Nativity Cathedral, Bethlehem 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

July 29, 2006 at St. Luke's, Scranton 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Registration and Medical forms are found on pages 8 & 9 or at BehlehemTreasureChest.org