



# KIDSTUFF

## BISHOP'S LENTEN PROJECT 2005

The Comfy♥Cozy fund

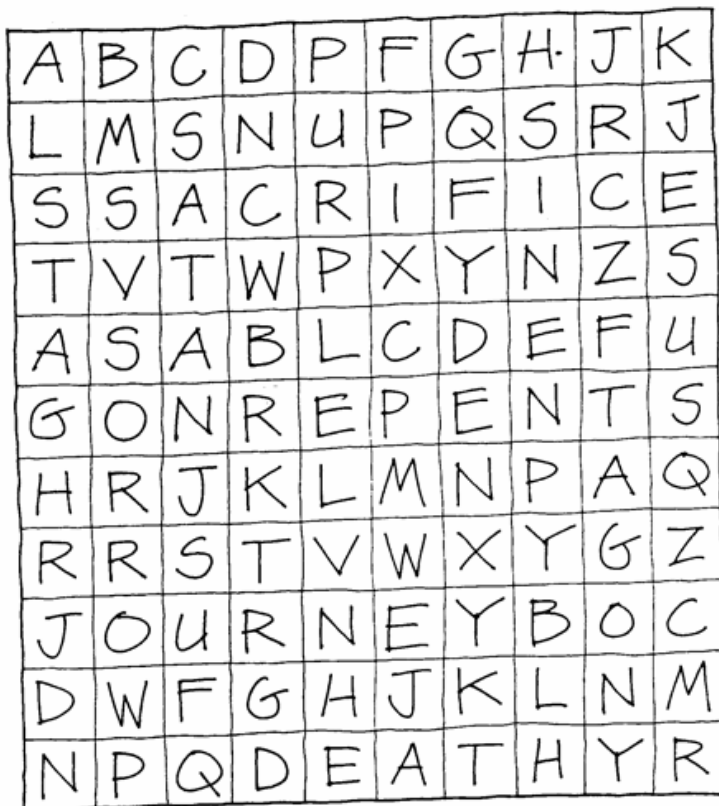
Be on the lookout for the Bishop's Lenten Project package (it should arrive at the same time as this newsletter). We hope that you and your community will embrace this year's project enthusiastically and help us to make it a truly successful undertaking. This new fund will benefit the children in the 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!



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](http://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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On the web at:

[www.montreal.anglican.org/kidstuff](http://www.montreal.anglican.org/kidstuff)

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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!

***"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 for 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 the 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 heed 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

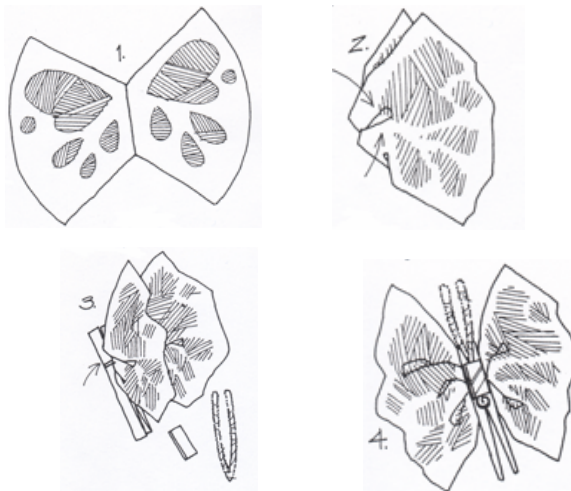
*Butterflies emerging from their cocoons are traditional symbols for Easter, reminding us of Christ's victory over death.. Make a butterfly. Attach a magnet to the back so you can display it on your refrigerator door, or tape it to a window.*

*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".





## THE EMPTY TOMB

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

### What you need:

one small baby food jar      one small votive candle  
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 Camp



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](http://www.quebeclodge.com).

Call 819-842-2286, or email [quebeclodge@accglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

- ☺ Jan 13th 7:30 pm Kidstuff Core Group Meeting—3491 Hingston Ave.



## FEBRUARY 2005

- ☺ Feb 3rd 7:30pm Kidstuff CITY REGION 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.



## 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



## 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