

## ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER!



Encouraging others has a great effect on the giver also. Proverbs 11:25 says that "he who waters will himself be watered." Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Also refer to Hebrews 10:24-25.

Affirm your team members when you see them encouraging others. Even set up experiences where your volunteers get the blessing of giving. For example, one church decided to give their children special gifts as affirmations. Rather than the leadership team giving these away, they distributed the gifts to their children's care-group leaders who were blessed to give directly to the children. Everything doesn't have to come from you!

One personal idea is to send handwritten notes to each teacher. Write specifically about what you appreciate about the teacher and their ministry. Also, it's critical to spend time with each teacher to get to know them and to find out how you can pray for them.

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## Christian Education Retreat Hosted by Lynnville Friends Church Saturday, April 12

8:30 - 9:00 Registration w/coffee & pastries  
9:00 - 9:45 Be an Effective Teacher OR Puppet Ministry  
9:45 -10:00 Break  
10:00-10:45 General Session  
10:45-11:30 Creative Ideas OR How to Lead a Child to Christ  
Cost: \$15 Register by calling the church at 641-527-3371  
or by email to Brenda: [btrpstra@netins.net](mailto:btrpstra@netins.net)

## NET SUPPORT



<http://msscrafter.com/objectlessons/> Object lessons listed by topics such as: worship, serving others, temptation, faith, friends, etc.

<http://www.youthministry.com/discussion/openers/index.asp>  
Discussion starters for Jr or Sr Youth Meetings

[http://www.childrensministry.com/ministry\\_strategies/vision\\_setting/creatingbuzz.asp](http://www.childrensministry.com/ministry_strategies/vision_setting/creatingbuzz.asp) How to get your community talking about the great things God is doing in your Children's Ministry.

<http://daniellesplace.com/html/vbs.html> VBS Crafts & Activity page with links to 2003 VBS programs.

## look In Search Of Christian Leaders

By Jan Cagno

Good Christian leaders will exhibit:

A passion for the task. The responsibility they accept is of the utmost importance to them.

Efficiency at the task. Good leaders will not confuse activity with accomplishment.

Pleasure in the task. He enjoys the challenge of completing the job with the best results possible.

Flexibility in meeting the task. Effective leaders are not afraid to change. Flexibility is important in reaching needs.

Commitment & Perseverance in the task. Those who see the task through to its completion exhibit excellent leadership.

Resourceful in the task. High level leaders know how to acquire and use resources – people, objects, money, equipment, knowledge and sources of support.

Creativity. Leaders generate ideas rather than judge them. They are eager to try new things, able to see things from several perspectives.

In addition to these characteristics, the effective leader in the church will exhibit a consistent faith in God and will be sensitive to God's leading. God has called out men and women in every generation to accomplish great things for Him. Where are the leaders in your congregation?



## Countdown to Easter

Ways to celebrate the greatest event in history  
by Annette LaPlaca

Lent is traditionally a season for "giving up" as a symbolic act of identifying with Christ's suffering. Your child may want to choose something to "sacrifice" for the 40 days of Lent—fast food, TV or chocolate.

Help your child understand why Jesus was called "the Lamb of God" (His role as the unblemished sacrifice: Ex. 12:21-24; John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7-8).

Fill a clay pot with soil and grass seeds. Watch the swift growth of the grass shoots.

Look up 2 Corinthians 5:17. As a symbol of a "new creation," make butterflies using a large piece of wrapping tissue scrunched and secured in the middle with a clothespin.

Make homemade pretzels, which originated as a Lenten treat.

Read Matthew 26:1-16, 47-56. Talk about your child's experiences of betrayal or disappointment. Imagine Jesus' personal hurt at Judas's treachery and the desertion of Christ's closest friends.

## Tapping Teens



Teens most often drop out of Sunday school because they feel it is unimportant in their lives. If you will involve your teens in the administration of your Sunday school, it will make a big difference in how they feel about it.

Teens like to feel that they are contributing something. Use teens in the worship programs of your various Sunday school departments. Younger children will respond well to them and the teens will enjoy a worship program provided by their own peers. It is important to discover the unique talents of your Sunday school members and give them assignments that will allow them to use those talents and will provide them with a task that they will feel comfortable performing.

This should not prevent them from being involved in the actual lesson time of their own class, but will encourage well planned worship periods for each department of the Sunday school.

Teens can also help in other areas of Sunday school administration, such as following up absentees, manning the Sunday school library, or helping to plan special events or social activities. The secret to keeping teens in the Sunday school is to keep them involved.

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## Mother's Night Out

One evening each month our Sunday school Youth Department sponsors an evening of free babysitting service at the church to give young mothers a much needed "night out." The youth, under the supervision of one or two older women of the church, do the babysitting. They do their own planning and have games, Bible stories, Christian children's videos, a snack and more to keep the kids occupied for the evening. Some of the parents give a small donation to the youth for the service. We save up the money for a pizza party or to take the youth to an amusement park. The youth have fun & learn a lot, while the parents appreciate an evening to themselves.

(This article appeared in the 1990 issue of "The PA Herald.")

## Build Sunday School Fellowship With A Family Fun Night

(This article appeared in the 1997-98" issue of "The Herald.")

The importance of building fellowship and friendships among all members of your Sunday school cannot be over emphasized. One way you might do it is by holding a "Family Fun Night."

You could have a planned program with group games or "TV-style games" (like "The Price is Right," "Wheel of Fortune" and "Let's Make a Deal") or you could have a more informal evening by asking people to bring their favorite board games and simply allow people to play games as they like. You could also have a TV and VCR playing for kids and others who don't want to play games.

Sometime during the evening you will probably want to have some refreshments. One idea for the refreshments would be to ask each person or family to bring a favorite dessert, snack or fruit dish to share.



Jesus called them one by one,  
Peter, Andrew, James and John,  
Next came Philip, Thomas too,  
Matthew and Bartholomew.  
James the one they called the less,  
Simon, also Thaddeus,  
The twelfth apostle Judas made,  
Jesus was by him betrayed.  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
The Bible tells me so.

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## CE Worker & Parent Retreat



Saturday, October 3  
Grinnell Friends Church

Topic: Training & Dealing with Today's Child  
Speaker: Linda Wilkerson, Elementary Principal  
having 30 years experience with children

More details in the next NETWORK

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## Email Discussion Group CETALK

Join the sharing of various Christian Education topics. To be involved, send your email address to Margaret, [goodhome@adiis.net](mailto:goodhome@adiis.net)