

## **Not your mother's Sunday School!**

There is a current blue jean manufacturer that tries to make an impression about the contemporary style of their product by asserting that “these are not your mother’s jeans!” The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is not simply a re-casting of the traditional child Christian education and Sunday School programs of the last century. It is a contemporary approach to helping children encounter God in the Person of Jesus Christ with their whole being – body, mind and soul. They don’t simply learn about the Christian God. They’re enabled to experience the sacramental presence of God through both hearing, experiencing and acting out the biblical narratives with physical materials. They are “mentored” to grow spiritually by observing and entering into this sacramental presence as mediated through the facilitators (teachers) who guide them. Inevitably, it also deepens and enriches the spiritual lives of the adult facilitators because they, too, participate in the portrayal of the living narratives of Scripture. Instead of merely learning about God and the Bible, the young people actually come to know the God revealed in Jesus Christ in the context of the contemporary disciples of Jesus Christ – the members of our Churches, attending to the Word of God and gathered around the Eucharistic table.

Rt. Rev. Don Phillips, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land