

## 2017 Synod Report by Penny Love

In late October I travelled with Sean and Tracey Larter to Toronto (Burlington actually) to attend the Anglican Network in Canada Synod (National Church Annual Meeting) as a delegate of SJR and a representative of the Canadian Catechesis Council.

Sean and I led a workshop on Wednesday morning and afternoon that helped people to imagine what catechesis might look like in their parish. For the first half an hour of the workshop Sean defined catechesis and outlined seven different ways SJR has done catechesis and offered resources for doing likewise. And how, you might ask, does SJR catechize? Through **preaching** catechetical-ly through the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, through **simple teachings** written in the bulletin, emails or given during Sunday morning or in textboxes at the side of Synod reports, through **Baptism and Confirmation Courses** such as *Grounded and Growing* (which Ben was involved in writing), through one day **seminars such as Bible-in-a-Day** (which was developed by Sean and David McElrea and many others at SJR), through our Sunday Morning on-going **Adult Catechesis Classes** that works through the *To Be a Christian* catechism (we invite you to join in anytime!), **training of children's Catechist** (aka Sunday School teachers) by means of teachers notes and their own guided study and prayer, and the weekly **catechesis of children** (with a curriculum developed by SJR and St. John's Vancouver). It was wonderful to share all these ideas with other churches providing inspiration and practical resources.

The word 'catechesis' comes from the Greek word for 'teaching' or 'instruction'. Catechism refers to the content being taught (the gospel), while catechesis refers to the Church's ministry of teaching. J. I. Packer and Gary A. Parrett define catechesis this way: "Catechesis is the church's ministry of grounding and growing people in the Gospel and its implications for doctrine, devotion, duty, and delight."

In the next hour of our workshop we showed everyone what we do for children's ministry on Sunday morning. Everyone participated, sitting on the floor, saying the children's litany, singing, learning memory verses and the catechism question/answer, listening to the story of the Ascension, pondering "I wonder" questions, coloring, drawing, playing during response time, praying and watching and listening to a teaching on the Trinity.

I had lots of positive feedback from the participants in the workshop. It was wonderful to connect with other children's ministers and encourage them. Please pray for all the ANiC churches and their children's ministries. There are a few churches with active children's ministries but there are many that are struggling with only a few children and limited resources and teachers. And please pray for me as I continue to finish the editing of the *God's Big Story Curriculum* and get it out to others.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Penny Love