



Volume 4 | Issue 2
 Fall 2021

Canadian Circle Godly Play Canada

In this issue:

As lockdowns lift, in-person Godly Play carefully resumes (p. 1)

A Message of Encouragement from the GPC Executive Director (p.2)

Reflections on the 2021 Virtual GP North American Conference (p.3)

Honoring Indigenous People and GP (p. 4)

Book Review: The Butterfly Trap (p. 6)

Godly Play at Children Ministry Matters (p.6)

Upcoming Training Events (p.7)

As lockdowns lift, in-person Godly Play carefully resumes!



At Islington United Church, Toronto the Story of Creation is told by Amy Crawford in the outside playground, beside the building as in-person ministry recommenced this September.

were the norm at Islington United; however, zoom is still being offered as an option for families more comfortable with the virtual choice.

At St. George’s Chapel, Petawawa, Ontario, in-person worship recommenced in June and in-person Godly Play recommenced this September. Prior to this, on-line zoom Godly Play with interaction between the storyteller and children using Godly Play *Stories of God at Home* was the norm.

Should you wish share your thoughts, feelings, and ideas on where Godly Play Canada is called next, please contact Karen or the editor.



Pictured above are children in Petawawa placed into family cohorts to do their 'work' while maintaining social distancing after the telling of the Exodus.

A Message of Encouragement from the Godly Play Canada Executive Director

As we settle into a new season and a new school year becomes familiar territory once again, I hope this newness comes with a sense of vitality for your corner of the world. As an organization, we are seeking to explore what will be new for us in this next chapter. With the strong and steady foundation our founders have provided, we want to explore with you who is Godly Play Canada now?

We can ask this question because we have been planted, tended, and nurtured into sharing the gift of Godly Play in many different places across the country. Now, we need to do the work of finding our next steps so that more can come to know the grounding and hope that Godly Play invites us into. I invite you into this exploring and growing, I invite you to be a part of this next chapter.

I know in these anxious and uncertain times, we can lean into the hope that Godly Play provides and will continue to provide long after the pandemic has become a "remember when". I wonder how your life is richer because Godly Play is in it? My hope is that you will share these riches and help us find a way of that sharing.

All good things,
Karen Eade

Reflections on the 2021 Godly Play Virtual North American Conference

So, the conference was a little different this year. Are you surprised? Does anything surprise us in 2021??!!

And yet, it was still good to get together with over 300 like-minded people from throughout the world who were passionate about children's faith and spirituality and Godly Play, in particular.

From June 17 to June 19, Canadian Godly Players participated in on-line worship, keynote addresses, workshops, storytelling in different languages, panel discussions, and affinity groups.



Canadian storyteller- Autumn- tells the story of the Ark and the Temple in French during the 2021 North American Conference.

Dr. David White from Austin Seminary spoke of beauty in faith formation and Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams from Virginia Theological Seminary, spoke about play and the cultivation of a Holy Imagination. Participants also heard from Rosemary Beals and Cheryl Minor with regards to revisions with Volume 6 of *the Complete Guide to Godly Play*- the extension stories. A number of Canadian Godly Players helped to make this event a great success with planning, leading worship, workshops, and facilitating stories & discussions.

On the last afternoon of the Conference, Godly Play Founder Dr. Jerome Berryman, read from his new book, *Autumn in Florence*. Although the virtual conference allowed for a diversity of people to gather from all over the globe unhampered by travel costs, it is hoped that the next North American conference will be back in-person. ed



*A Family Portrait from the Conference – Courtesy of the Godly Play Foundation.
<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/news-and-blog/the-great-family-reunion>*

Honoring indigenous peoples and Godly Play

With indigenous and non-indigenous friends, I have pondered how Godly Players might honor indigenous peoples. Some have suggested wearing orange shirts in the circle. Others have considered writing stories of someone like St. Kateria Tekakwitha- with inputs from indigenous elders and communities. Still others have suggested having children work with the *Story of the Child's Own Saint* described in Volume 7 of *the Complete Guide to Godly Play*, remembering indigenous saints- some of whom are known to God and the child alone.

A friend from Manitoulin Island recently adapted materials and presentations from her faith formation program so to meet the needs of her own First Nations community. While not Godly Play, the pictures below may encourage you to wonder if and how Godly Play might appropriately and respectfully honor Indigenous people in your own context. ed

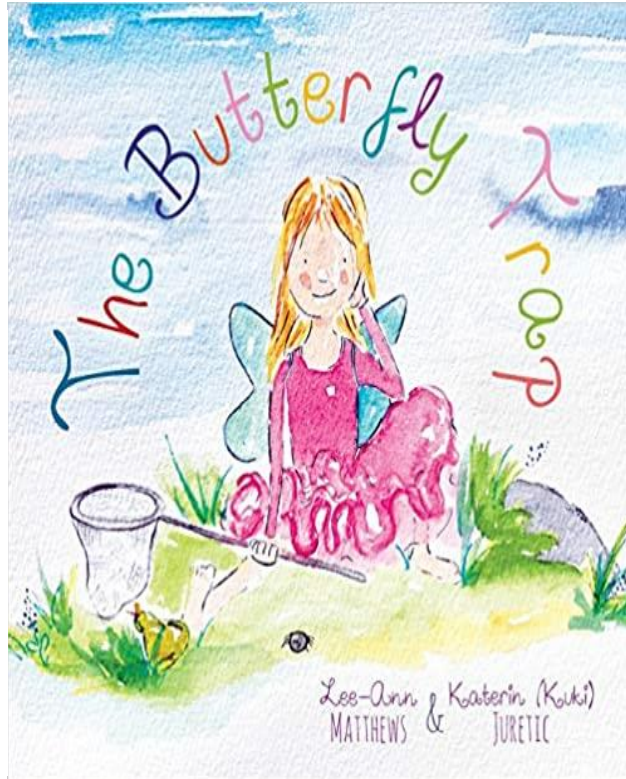
Pictures to the right. Examples of *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* materials adapted by a First Nations catechist.

I wonder what your thoughts, feelings, and ideas might be regarding this initiative?



Book Review: *The Butterfly Trap*

Should you
have a book
or
resources
that you
recommend
to our
Godly Play
Community
-please let
the editor
know!



The Butterfly Trap by Lee-Ann Matthews and Katerin (Kuki) Juretic is a wonderfully written and beautifully illustrated book that holds true to its promise of exploring ‘big questions for little humans’ in manner that respects the playful and curious nature of children.

Luki loves butterflies! But I wonder what Luki’s love of butterflies has to do with traps? Join Luki as she comes to an important conclusion about life, purpose, butterflies, and freedom. Visit:

www.dragonbunnybooks.com


Lee- Ann Matthews is a Godly Play Storyteller in Montreal, Quebec. ed

Godly Play at Children’s Ministry Matters

Godly Play will be featured as one of many short virtual presentations in a zoom gathering that will explore topics of contemporary children’s ministry and encourage those involved in faith formation- especially in this challenging season.

While offered by the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, it is open to everyone! Sat Oct 16 from 9am to 12pm. Please register by visiting the Montreal Anglican Youth FB page or email mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca
ed


If you have any upcoming events that feature Godly Play, please let us know!




Saturday, October 16 2021

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MATTERS

short presentations, workshops & conversations on recovering children's ministry after a pandemic

 REGISTER MONTREAL.ANGLICAN/YOUTH



Upcoming Training Opportunities!

Core Training – In-Person: Greater Toronto, ON

Module A: Saturday, October 23, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Module B: Saturday, November 6, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Module C: Saturday, November 20, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Trainers: Andrew Sheldon and Amy Crawford

All modules will be hosted at Islington United Church, 24 Burnhamthorpe Road, Toronto.

Hosted by Cynthia Smithers, For more info email, cynthia@islingtonunited.org

Register at <https://www.eventbee.com/v/godly-play-core-training/event?eid=178395193#/tickets>

Please note that all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal COVID-19 guidelines will be adhered to. In addition, all participants will be required to be fully vaccinated or provide proof of a negative COVID19 PCR test taken no more than 48 hours prior to each training session. Should the event need to be cancelled due to health and safety protocols, adequate time and full refunds will be provided.

Core Training- Online!

Proposed Dates:

Module A: Saturday, January 8 & 29, 2022.

Module B: Saturday, February 12, 2022.

Module C: Saturday, March 12, 2022.

Trainers: Ruth Lumax, Mary Nichol, and Anne Clark

Contact: Anne Clark, arbc52@gmail.com

<https://godlyplaybcevents.weebly.com/>

Core Training – In-Person: Petawawa, On

February 2022 (Final dates and location to be determined)

Trainers: Judson Bridgewater and TBD.

All modules will be hosted at St. George’s Chapel, Petawawa, On between Thursday and Saturday.

Contact: Judson Bridgewater – judsonbridgewater99@hotmail.com

Please note that all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal COVID-19 guidelines will be adhered to. In addition, all participants will be required to be fully vaccinated. Should the event need to be cancelled due to health and safety protocols, adequate time and full refunds will be provided.

Godly Play Canada

Canadian Circle

Issued three times per year

For comments, feedback and submissions, please contact:

Editor: Judson Bridgewater **Email:** judsonbridgewater99@hotmail.com
