

## ***PRESCHOOL CHURCH BAG***

*by Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div.*

When my teenage daughters were preschoolers, each had a special tote bag that would only be taken to Church. It was filled with Bible story books, a children's Liturgy book, paper, colored pencils and quiet toys. From time-to-time I would change the storybooks and toys.

Since my purpose was to keep them focused on Church, the girls were asked to draw pictures of what they saw in Church. I have dated and kept some of the special drawings.

One day I observed a family with a photo album of icons! What a great idea!!! Children spend hours looking at their favorite books. Why not a book of icons. And what a great way to utilize all the icons we save from calendars, funerals, Sunday bulletins and catalogues.

This past year the Church School provided tote bags for our preschoolers. They were placed in a basket near the entrance to the Nave of the Church with a sign inviting their use. Periodically I check the bags to make sure everything is there. Sometimes the bags go home, but they reappear the following week.