

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AND MUSICALS FOR CHILDREN

- Bibliography -

Abingdon's Christmas Dramas for Children, by John and Nina Bates (Abingdon, 1993)
ISBN 9780687077748

Designed especially for children, these five productions help elementary age students embrace the true meaning of Christmas. Reproducible.

Angel Alert! created by Celeste Clydesdale (Word Music, 2007) ISBN 5557715045
The focus is on the angels as they wait to proclaim the Savior's birth. There are ten speaking parts and ten songs in this 40-minute musical. The CD features upbeat singable songs and strong character voices. The songbook includes production tips, puzzles and scripture references. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, by Celeste Clydesdale
A group of children from a local church have only one week to invite people from all over town to a birthday party for Jesus. Each day, they meet back at the church to share responses of the people they invited. These responses correlate to the way people in the Christmas story reacted to Christ's birth. A cast of six main characters, several church kids and ten upbeat songs come together to count down the days to party time. Dialogue and singing is crisp and easy to understand in this 40-minute musical. The town's TV station anchor gets involved, allowing the children on air to extend their invitation. He mocks the children and the activity. The final song asks the TV man and the audience, "What Will You Do with Jesus?" Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Bows of Holly: A Kids Christmas Musical About Giving, by Dennis and Nan (AllenBrentwoods-Bendon, 1997)
It's Christmas, and Holly, a young girl with a compassionate heart, has launched a toy/food drive for the needy. This 30-minute musical is easy to stage, uses six main characters, and features six new songs. This is a musical for youth, puppets and choir and to involve the entire church in ministry to the needy. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Celebrate Christmas: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children, by Peggy Augustine (Abingdon, 2002) ISBN 0687027918
This collection will enable any church -- no matter how many children it has -- to create church programs that help children experience the true story of Christmas. Celebrate Christmas includes recitations, speeches, and dramas for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

Christmas Around the World, created by Rhonda Frazier and Jonathon Willis
"God so loved the world" is illustrated in this simple presentation with simple narration and familiar carols. There are three speakers and seven songs in this 20-minute celebration of the birth of Christ. The carols are set in unique musical settings such as, "Away in a Manger" with a Mexican beat in the background, or "Joy to the World" in a Celtic flavor. Children pull various ornaments from a box to decorate the class tree. Each one has a card attached explaining its meaning and relation to a different country. It concludes with the kids adding international flags to the tree as they sing, "Spread a Little Love." Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch, created by Pam Andrews

The kids arrive at Bethlehem Gulch, out west, for their Christmas party. Miss Diane, the ranch owner, welcomes them and all is well until the kids realize there isn't a horse or any cattle around. They have mistakenly chosen a sheep ranch. 50 minutes; eight main characters, plus three shepherds and four sheep. The music can be done with puppets or choir. The message of Jesus' birth is clearly presented and one lonely child finds the best Christmas gift ever . . . Jesus. While many songs are new, they incorporate traditional favorites. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Christmas County Spelling Bee, created by Celeste Clydesdale

Imagine the Christmas story being told through a spelling bee. Contestants (four girls, three boys) are asked to spell names of Jesus such as Lord, Mighty God, Savior, Morning Star and others. Four main characters (three female, one male) are the contest officials. The Spelling Bee and Manger Pageant take place in the Town Hall. 40 minutes, nine songs. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Christmas Crosstalk, by Jeff Slaughter (LifeWay/Dove Tail Music)

A talk show host Beth Layhem interviews several guests who give their opposing views of Christmas. One team loves Christmas and everything it stands for while the other team thinks we make way too much out of this holiday. This musical is 38-minutes with nine speaking parts (six of which are main characters). The songbook offers suggestions for cast, clothing, staging and production. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Christmas Hang-Ups

The Christmas ornaments that have been in their storage boxes at the Watson's home are awakened. Suddenly they are greeted by a hula-girl. The star, angel and others don't understand what she has to do with Christmas. The dialogue is cute as they each talk about why they are a special ornament and relate to Christmas, unlike the hula-girl. Joseph, the significant figure from the mantelpiece shows up to explain to all what Christmas is all about. His story is woven in with small parts of many traditional Christmas songs. The ornaments learn all about their individual meaning in Christmas and how baby Jesus grew to become a man. He changed the lives of the Watson family before they went to Hawaii. Joseph assures them ornaments and souvenirs alike will have a new meaning to the Watsons this Christmas. This 41 minute musical has six main speaking parts (angel, star, snowman, hula girl, cowpoke, Joseph. 18 songs. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Christmas Joy, by Pam Andrews and John DeVries (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

An easy-to-sing, easy-to-stage Christmas musical for children that focuses on the joy that came to earth when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. 23 minutes

The Christmas Present

This is a good choice for a volunteer children's leader or small choir with few resources. The message is presented as a poem intermixed with new songs as well as familiar carols. The ten rhyming lines between scenes can be done by one narrator or split up among several children. The songs are easy and fun for kids. It is 18 minutes in length but also can be shortened. The message centers on Jesus as God's true Christmas Present - the gift that gives daily. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Christmas Promise: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children, by Peggy Augustine (Abingdon, 2003) ISBN 068706497X

This collection of dramas and readings for children of all ages also includes prayers and readings for the four Sundays of Advent and selections that can be used in worship services for the whole church. Younger children can participate in rhymes and recitations that require very little or no speaking. Older children or youth will enjoy speaking and narration parts. Very simple dramas for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany round out the collection. No selection takes more than ten minutes to perform and the number of children can vary as needed by the size of the church. Props and scenery are minimal and selections can be performed with very little rehearsal.

Christmas Shorts, created by Pam Andrews

This is a collection of three short musicals each 12 minutes long. They can be performed individually or together to become a 40-minute program. They are titled: "May You March in Step with the Savior," "From our Herd to Your Herd" and "Have an Adventurous Christmas." Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Christmas Star: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children, by Denise Harris (Abingdon, 2008) ISBN 9780687647460

Children of all ages can participate in this collection of dramas, speeches, and recitations as they share the Christmas story with their congregations. Dramas include: the angel's message to Mary and Joseph, the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the shepherds, and the visit of the wise men. One drama will an overview of the entire Christmas story. Audiences will enjoy a contemporary drama that teaches the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas: Where, When & Why, by Jeff Slaughter (LifeWay/Dove Tail Music)

This musical focuses on Christmas memories. Researching a report for school, a group of children interview people at a Christmas tree farm about their favorite Christmas memories. They hear stories about warm childhood memories, finding joy in hard times, and getting presents where "it's the thought that counts." They also hear the biblical Christmas story and one of the girls asks Jesus into her heart. There are eleven speaking parts with several fun characters. The 42-minute musical has seven songs including an opening and finale. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Come to Bethlehem and See: A Collection of Dramas for Children (Abingdon, 1996) ISBN 0687065917

Four short, easy-to-use dramas for small and medium-sized churches. Includes speaking and non-speaking parts, with additional prayers, speeches, recitations, and suggestions for combining these into programs using all the children in the church.

Cookin' Up Christmas, by Nancy Gordon, Kellie Armstrong, and Luke Gambill

Join Betty Rocker, Emerald Lasagna, Miss Paula Queen, Rachael Day, Martha Steward and kids from the church choir as they do some serious cooking. Instead of the kids' Christmas party being all about them, this year they have collected recipes from the congregation to cook up some treats to share with the community. This easy 30-minute musical includes five songs and four scenes. In the midst of collecting recipes, cooking, and wrapping gifts, they all learn about the real "recipe" of Christmas: God's love! The characters could be puppets or people. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Countdown to Christmas

This fun Christmas musical stars Cameron, a crazy camel DJ coming to you on CMTV in the Middle East. It is 27 minutes long. His witty newscasts, weather report, and sports highlights are interspersed with his presentation of the top five Christmas songs. You'll also hear humorous commercials that could be fun to stage. There are four characters and an announcer voice. Includes pre-recorded musical on CD, with printed script, song lyrics, and production tips. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com.

Countdown to Christmas: A Life-size Advent Calendar (Cornerstones) Available from: http://www.cstones.com/creative_uses.htm

This is a Christmas program enacted by children or by several generations. It brings to life 24 different elements of the Christmas story via a life-size advent calendar. The days are counted down and the story of Jesus' birth is revealed. Prop and set recommendations are provided.

Cowboy Christmas: A Puppet Musical

This 25-minute musical has plenty of country flavor with a strong Christmas message for all ages. Main characters include ranch hand Jeb, who gives a new lasso as a Christmas gift and uses it to tell about God's love, Sal, the good-natured mess hall cook, and Flint, a cowpoke who figures he knows how to run his own life without God. 5 speaking parts plus a narrator, and extra voices needed for the songs. Includes pre-recorded musical on CD, with printed script, song lyrics, and production tips. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Finding the Christmas Star, by Jeff Slaughter (LifeWay/Dove Tail Music)

The setting is a middle school auditorium where Miss LaToe and the school choir are preparing for the annual Christmas Star Competition. Coach Chris Masader, who once attended the school, threatens to halt the "Christmas craziness" by demanding the auditorium for his class achievement test. Through song and narration, the kids and Miss LaToe help the coach discover the excitement he once had about Jesus and Christmas. When Coach decides to help by reading the Christmas passage from the Bible, and tells how the wise men followed a star, it becomes evident who the real Christmas Star is. 40 minutes. *The recorded version of this musical references the year 2007. This musical is now only recommended for live performances.* Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Five Christmas Plays for Children, by Peggy Augustine (Abingdon, 2000) ISBN 0687014689

Five short dramas especially for children in elementary classes with non-speaking parts for younger children. Easily produced with minimum rehearsal time, simple props, and costumes. For further specifics, go to: www.abingdonpress.com.

The Flower of the Holy Night, by Pam Andrews and Pam Walker (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

An easy-to-sing, easy-to-stage Christmas musical for children that celebrates the wonders of Jesus' birthday in a special musical retelling of the legend of the poinsettia.

The Great Gift Exchange, by Reed Eldridge (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

An easy-to-stage musical that teaches children to take the spot light off of themselves and discover the ultimate gift exchange, which is Jesus giving himself to us in exchange for our sins. 27 minutes

The Grumpy Shepherd - Leader Accompanist Edition (Abingdon, 1998) ISBN 0687066492 – www.abingdonpress.com

Based on the best-selling storybook, *The Grumpy Shepherd* by Paddie Devon, this 25-minute Christmas musical has six speaking parts plus unlimited additional parts as sheep, angels, and shepherds. Children, grades 2-6, will enjoy acting out the story of Luke 2:1-20 from the shepherd's perspective. *Leader/Accompanist Edition. Ten easy session plans for teaching and directing. Includes information on sets, props, auditions, staging, publicity, and more. (Additional components available.)

Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem? by Michael and Jill Gallina

Perfect for smaller and/or younger children's choirs. The animals in Bethlehem stable have been informed of the coming Messiah, but they aren't quite sure who it will be. Hearing that the baby is the "Lamb of God," the lambs believe the baby will be like them. The doves heard that the baby is the "Prince of Peace" and think the baby must be a dove. All the other animals are sure the baby will be like them. Through easy-to-prepare-and-present songs and rhyming dialogue, it tells the Christmas story in a fresh and creative way. The musical is offered in reproducible format. The cast size is flexible and can be reduced or increased by either doubling or dividing parts. Speaking parts are: narrators, lamb, mouse, dove, donkey, owl, cow, duck, goat, chicken, chicks, and three angels. The musical is approximately 15 minutes in length. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com.

Hark, the Herald Angel, by Ron E. Long, Joanne Barrett (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

A children's Christmas musical, set in heaven, where the angel choir is preparing to announce the birth of the Son of God. An inquisitive young angel named *Hark* wants to know all the whys and wherefores of the momentous event and God's plan. Music that is fun and singable as well as humorous dialogue communicate the Christmas event in a way that both children and adults will enjoy and appreciate. Arranged for unison, optional two-part choir. Cast: 1 boy, 1 girl, 7 children, 1 teen male, 1 teen, plus choir.

I Witness News: Live from Bethlehem: A Christmas Musical for Children About God's Perfect Plan for Us, by Peter and Hanneke Jacobs (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

This children's musical explores God's plan at the first Christmas and God's perfect plan for all of us. *I Witness News: Live from Bethlehem* is based on the second chapter of Luke. The unison and optional 2-part writing in this musical make it accessible to most children's choirs. Cast: 1 announcer, 4 boys, 1 girl, 2 children, 4 preteen boys, 2 preteen girls, 1 man. Performance Time: 56 minutes. Voicing: Unison (opt two-part).

Instant Christmas Pageants: The Fumbly Bumbly Angels (Group Publishing) – www.grouppublishing.com

The Fumbly Bumbly Angels are four delightful angels who yearn to sing in the glorious heavenly choir, but discover their debut will be for a few ragged shepherds on a Bethlehem hillside, an enjoyable perspective of Jesus' birth. (Ages 4-84)

Instant Christmas Pageants: Live from Bethlehem (Group Publishing) –
www.grouppublishing.com

Three first-century TV reporters are chasing a big story on the census when they stumble upon the story of a lifetime -- the birth of the Messiah! See their exclusive interviews with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and from eyewitnesses present at the manger! (Ages 4-12)

Instant Christmas Pageants: The Mouse's Tale (Group Publishing) –
www.grouppublishing.com

The Mouse's Tale is the Christmas story, narrated by Granny Mouse, and told by the animals in the stable Christmas night. Meet the animals... -the donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem, -the cow who gave up his manger for the baby Jesus' bed, -the sheep who saw the angels on the hilltop, and -the camels who were guided by a bright star in the East...as they witnessed the miracle of Jesus' birth. (ages 4-84)

Instant Christmas Pageants: The Night-So-Silent Night (Group Publishing) –
www.grouppublishing.com

Follow three young shepherds who joyfully shout God's praises after visiting the baby Jesus. How were they to know they were "disturbing the peace"? You'll join them in a Bethlehem courtroom for a rib-tickling trial and a surprising verdict! (Ages 4-84)

Instant Christmas Pageants: Operation Baby King (Group Publishing) –
www.grouppublishing.com

Join angel agent Double O-Heaven and a host of helpers in this delightful Christmas pageant. Agent Double O-H is assigned the mission of ensuring that no nation or single group of people claim the baby king as their own. (Ages 4-84)

An Island Christmas

This takes place on a Caribbean island. Kids gather to join one island boy who has a treasure map and they search for a buried treasure. They also discover that a missionary girl who has just moved there will have her first Christmas away from home. The kids decide to give the gold they find to the missionary family to help towards building a new church. Accepting the gift, Emily thanks the kids for making her feel welcome and they all sing, "Christmas is Christmas Wherever You Are." There are two boys and three girls along with one adult male and one adult female cast in this program. It is 42-minutes long and offers an international theme with island music. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

It's a Wonder-full Life, by Pam Andrews and Luke Gambill

The Christmas musical is over, and kids are putting away the Christmas set. One child begins complaining that he would rather go home and open presents. When Terrance appears (the children think he is the janitor) and asks God to remove Christmas. The set disappears, the tree lights go out, the bell has no ring and the present is empty. In this 45-minute musical there are nine people characters in addition to the tree, bell and present. The children soon realize Jesus is the reason for the season and He is the gift that truly gives a Wonderful Life. Nine songs tie the story all together. When Foster apologizes, the stage and set change back and all the kids rejoice. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Jesus: Light of the World, by Bette Dale Moore (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

Teach preschoolers and toddlers about the true meaning of Christmas with this simple program. An adult narrator takes the children through this short 14-minute presentation. It features: easy songs set to familiar kids' tunes, simple phrases that the kids say in unison, simple actions, such as clapping and raising hands.

Joyland: A Children's Christmas Musical Teaching the Blessing of Giving, by Pam Andrews (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

Welcome to **Joyland** where Christmas will never again be the same - a marvelous story about giving to others. Unsold toys have been left behind at Joyland Toy Store on Christmas Eve. Magically, the toys come alive helping us see the true giving spirit of the season... and showing us God's plan for each of us by sending Emmanuel. A wonderful mission opportunity for your children's choir! Cast: 2 adults, 8 kids, plus extras. Performance Time: 54 minutes. Voicing: Unison with optional two-part.

Just Believe: A Children's Christmas Musical About Trusting in God, by Pam Andrews (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

This story line casts seniors as well as kids. A children's choir prepares to leave for a big city convention center. When their bus breaks down, they end up performing at the Heavenly Peace Retirement Center and find the true meaning of Christmas is more than glitz and glamour. With hip contemporary music, Latin American music, country music, and a little bit of swing from the 40s every child will have a favorite style! Cast: 4 boys, 7 girls, 1 senior adult male, 2 senior adult females, 4 children; senior adult roles may be played by children. Performance Time: 54 minutes. Voicing: Children's choir, unison with optional 2nd part, plus optional parts for senior adults.

A King is Coming to Town, by Davis, Smith and Adams

A sign posted anonymously in the town square of Rumor's Mill declaring that "A King is Coming to Town!" has sparked a lot of excitement. This 40-minute musical for children takes the audience along into the confusion of, "just who this king is"? Is it King Tut, King Kong, or the King of Rock & Roll? Join the mayor, town reporter, sheriff and president of the Chamber of Commerce as they all try to sort through the town uproar. Ellie and Drew have the answer and finally get everyone to listen to the real Christmas story. There are seven main characters and eight songs. Works well with puppets and choir together. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Legacy of Love, by Katie Combs

Kids of the Mega Media Club at Mr. Thompson's school enter a "Leave a Mark" contest in an attempt to win a new laptop for Mr. Thompson. This is Mr. Thompson's first Christmas without his wife, who loved that holiday. He tells the kids about how people leave an imprint of their heart on our lives that we see when they are gone. Meanwhile, the kids are busy doing community projects so they can win the contest. Everyone learns what it means to "leave a legacy of love" in this 38-minute musical with ten speaking parts. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Mary Had a Little Lamb

This 32-minute musical tells the Christmas story from the viewpoint of the stable animals. God's plan of replacing the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb with the Messiah, who would eventually die for man's sin, is presented in a way that

children and adults can each understand at their own level. There are twelve speaking parts: ten animals (4 lambs, 3 camels, 1 pig, 1 donkey, 1 cow), a male and female narrator. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Mayhem in Bethlehem, created by Dave Noel and Jay Rouse

Tune in to the Nosy News Network coverage as they look into the events surrounding Christ's birth in Bethlehem. In a "30 Minutes Special Report," a modern news team broadcasts the breaking news about crowds traveling to Bethlehem for a census, King Herod worrying about prophecies of a new king, the wise men following a star, angels singing to shepherds in their fields, and the birth of Christ. There are also humorous interludes with commercials by Randy Looney (a parody of 60 Minutes' Andy Rooney). This CD has excellent character voices, music and sound effects. This 42-minute musical has eight speaking parts and nine songs. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Meet Me at the Manger, by David T. Clydesdale and Celeste Clydesdale (Word, 2002) ISBN 5550138999

This Christmas musical has an emphasis on the gifts of the wisemen. Each song has a different musical style like 50's rock, ragtime swing, gentle ballad, Latin salsa feel, rhythm and blues, fast pop shuffle and more. 37 minutes long; ten speaking parts (seven male and three female). Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Mighty Messengers' Big Adventure, by Barny Robertson, Carter Robertson (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

This is a Christmas musical for children of all ages and provides the scriptural setting of the Christmas story along with some unique perspectives. Traditional seasonal favorites are included plus nine original songs. Some special moments are included to utilize younger children. Cast: 10 boys, 3 girls, 8 children. Performance Time: 50 minutes.

Miracle on Main Street, created by Celeste Clydesdale (Word, 2006)

The Mayor tells the six main children in this 41-minute musical that they can't be part of the town Christmas pageant. The kids know it's going to take a miracle. There are 14 total speaking parts and ten songs. This is a "play within a play" as it incorporates the Christmas story. The music combines traditional and new music. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Mystery of the Manger, created by Celeste Clydesdale (Word, 2007)

Jane Blonde, an investigative reporter for The Morning Star newspaper, wants the facts . . . just the facts about "the whole manger scene, wise men, baby Jesus story." As she observes rehearsal for the Christmas pageant, the children teach her through their songs, scripture and, "The Gospel Truth," there is overwhelming proof that the baby born 2,000 years ago in that manger is the Savior of the World. This 37- minute musical includes nine songs and ten characters. The popular Stephen Curtis Chapman song, "Facts are Facts," is one of the songs. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Night the Angels Sang: And Three Other Dramas for Christmas, by Leigh L. Gregg and Kathy K. Lindsey (Abingdon, 2004) ISBN 0687054672

This book contains four 20-30 minute dramas, including one by the name, *The Night the Angels Sang*. A simple drama that uses familiar carols and Scripture along with dialog for seven shepherds to tell the Christmas story. Small churches can combine the shepherd speeches and use as few as two speaking parts. An

angel chorus, a choir or the congregation can sing the carols. As few as two speaking parts up to seven with as many non-speaking parts as you wish. Simple sets and costumes. Running time 20 minutes. Additional dramas include: *The Christmas Card*, *Get Back in Your Box*, and *The Jazzy, Snazzy Shepherd Boy*.

Once Upon a Christmas Light, by Michael and Jill Gallina

It's the very first Christmas Eve ever when Super Nova and Grandiosa, the heads of Galaxy Productions, appear and make an announcement. They have heard on the Greatest Authority that this is the night our Holy Savior will be born. They launch a "star search" to determine which star is worthy of lighting the sky above the manger. After dramatic twists and turns, we all learn we can be the brightest and the best through God's love and light. With a flexible cast size, six songs and minimal staging, this 23-minute musical will inspire a cast of shining stars with their profound message to the congregation. Available from:

www.onewaystreet.com

One Rehearsal Christmas Plays: Preschool through Middle School (Creative Bible Activities for Children Series), by Kendra Smiley (David C. Cook, 2004) ISBN 078144120X

Encourage, entertain, and enlighten the congregation as they follow the "Footsteps to the Manager" or as they present a slightly altered version of "T'was the Night before Christmas." This book features these productions and ten others with a Scriptural message and minimal preparation! Reproducible.

One Starry Night, by Luke Campbell

It seemed to be an unassuming starry night - but that one special starry night changed everything! This is a 15-minute simple Christmas musical for kids, based on the shepherds' journey that first Christmas night. This Christmas celebration is good for churches desiring an easy, yet meaningful presentation to enrich the lives of children. With simple narration and familiar carols, children will embrace the amazing story of that first Christmas night. Available from:

www.onewaystreet.com

The Plane Truth About Christmas, by Jimmy Travis Getzon and Gail Getzen

When a family is stranded at the airport on Christmas Eve, they decide to share the true meaning of Christmas with their fellow travelers. Using props and costumes improvised from items in their suitcases, several children present the Christmas play. This 40-minute musical has 15 speaking parts. Could be used with a live choir or a total puppet presentation. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Praise God! Jesus Is Born! - Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children, by Judy Newman-St. John (Abingdon, 2006) ISBN 0687490014

A diverse and easily produced collection of children's worship performances for the Advent / Christmas season. These children's performances can easily be coordinated with overall congregational worship themes throughout your Advent & Christmas calendar.

The Really Really Really Holy Night, by Myrtle Felkner (Abingdon, 2007) ISBN 9780687645770

Five dramas for children ages 3 to 12 retell the story of Jesus' birth including the angel's message to Mary and Joseph, the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of baby Jesus, the angel's announcement to the shepherds, the shepherd's visit, and the visit of the wise men. Two contemporary dramas will help children proclaim the

real meaning of Christmas. Poems, prayers, and recitations are also included to program a complete program for churches during Advent and Christmas.

A Shepherd's Story, by Pam Andrews (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

Easy to learn, easy to stage, and easy to sing, this children's musical is effective for all churches, especially those with great vision but few resources.

Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior

They may have been at the bottom of the social ladder in Bethlehem, but God chose shepherds to be the first ones to see the Savior! This is their story - what they heard and what they saw that marvelous night when God came to dwell with men. 23 minutes; 7 speaking parts, plus additional shepherds. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Signs of Christmas, by Pam Andrews (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

The signs of Christmas are everywhere. The important thing we must do for our children at Christmas is to make sure all these signs point to Jesus. This is an easy-to-sing, easy-to-stage Christmas musical for children.

Simply Christmas: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children, by Peg Augustine (Abingdon, 2001) ISBN 0687046742

This collection will enable churches to create a Christmas program whether they are blessed with a large number of children or only a few children. The traditional Christmas drama, "Let's Get Ready" tells the complete Christmas story. For further specifics regarding content, go to: www.abingdon.com.

Sleigh Bells are Ringing

Snowed in at Grandpa's house, two youngsters, Marie and Gilbert learn the secret of Santa's flying sleigh. They are delighted as Grandpa introduces them to Luiz, a singing penguin who used to be one of Santa's sleigh mechanics. This 20-minute secular Christmas musical gives us a whimsical look at Christmas and points us to the power of the holiday, which is love. Includes pre-recorded musical on CD, with printed script, song lyrics, and production tips. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

A Song of Joy, created and compiled by Kimberly Meiste

Children gather at Sunday school for their annual Christmas party. A new girl has just moved to town, as her family was in a hurricane. The kids share with her some of the songs they performed in the Christmas musical the preceding week and recreate the nativity scene. She is excited to go home to share her renewed joy with her parents. This 31-minute musical includes five students and the teacher. Extra children can be added for the nativity scene. This is a shorter musical if you are looking for that. It is easy to sing (six songs) and easy to stage. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Star Journey: A Most Heavenly Children's Christmas Musical, by Don and Lorie Marsh (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

The story of Christmas is told from the vantage point of the stars as they watch God's plan being revealed. Each star tells of their journey as they follow the characters of the Christmas story. Children learn that we, like the stars, are to illuminate God's gift--Jesus! Includes songs in a variety of styles that kids will find FUN to sing! *Star Journey* is musically suited for older children, with six dramatic parts suitable for kids. Cast: 3 boys, 2 girls, 1 woman; Performance Time: 40

minutes; includes a variety of musical styles like traditional, contemporary, calypso. Voicing: Unison/Two-part.

Stranger in the Manger, created by Sue C. Smith and Johnathan Crumpton

This 30-minute Christmas musical tells of the birth of Jesus with the fun use of rhyme. There are six distinct speakers who deliver the dialogue in short rhyming stanzas that detail the events of the Christmas story. The lines are so simple that lower elementary children could be assigned parts. Costumed children could reenact a nativity scene. There are eight songs; some of them are new and some are familiar carols done in a new "swing" or "big band" feel. This is a very simple musical to produce. If using puppets, they could do some of the dialogue or some of the songs. It is a musical that would be best suited to do as choir/puppet or choir/drama mix. There are seven songs and ones that are easy to learn or perform. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Super Christmas

This is a 30-minute musical and is set in a Christmas Command Center. The main character is Christmas Crusader (a super hero) who knows exactly what makes Christmas super. There are several kids who help keep the control center going and a "cool dude" who thinks Santa is the center of Christmas. This musical is good for using lots of props, lights, and decorations. Includes pre-recorded musical on CD, with printed script, song lyrics, and production tips. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd, by Michael and Jill Gallina (Glory Sound)

Aaron, a shepherd, is sleeping on the job and the sheep are disappearing rapidly. The President of Wee R Sheep, Inc. is coming for his annual inspection and if Aaron can't stay awake and shape up, he's going to have to "sheep" out! Nothing short of a miracle can change things for this drowsy shepherd... and word has it from a band of angels that one has just happened in a small stable down the street. The true message of Christmas and the power of faith is presented in this easy-to-prepare and present 30-minute musical. Available from: www.onewaystreet.com

Twinkle and the All-Star Angel Band, by Tom Fettke (Lillenas) www.lillenas.com

All ages will enjoy this fun, original play-within-a-play story about angels. Features traditional and original songs in unison with optional second parts; designed for older and younger kids to perform together. Cast: 7 boys, 4 girls, 5 children, 1 preteen boy, 3 preteen girls. Performance Time: 36 minutes

A Very Opinionated Christmas Tree: Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children, by Alice Glenn, et. al. (Abingdon, 2005) ISBN 0687495660

This collection will enable churches of all sizes to create a Christmas program. Includes DRAMAS speeches, recitations, and very short dramas for Advent and Christmas. Three short plays are presented along with monologs, reader pieces and skits for the Christmas season. The title drama will help your church see what makes a real Christmas tree – not just a decorated tree. Reproducible. Ages 3-12.

The Wonder: A Christmas Program for Children (Augsburg Fortress, 2003) ISBN 9780806646923

Experience the story of Ben, the dreamy son of a Bethlehem innkeeper, who helps his father and us as well to see the wonder of the baby born in a manger. Use as part of your Christmas service, or as a separate program. Congregation and characters sing favorite Christmas songs and some new music. Includes up to 20

intergenerational parts for children, youth, or adults – shepherds, angels, innkeeper, magi, and townspeople. Program length: 30 minutes.

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*A Night in Bethlehem Planning Kit* (Group Publishing) -[www.grouppublishing.com](http://www.grouppublishing.com)  
Invite your church family and your community to a Christmas experience where participants do more than just hear about the birth of Jesus-they'll see, touch, feel, and smell what life was like during this miraculous time of Jesus' birth. The Event Planning Kit includes everything you need to plan, prepare, and recruit. Step-by-step instructions help you create a you-are-there Bible adventure. *A Night In Bethlehem* can be used over a day or weekend, on Christmas Eve or anytime during the Christmas season. Guests make authentic Bible-times crafts in the Marketplace, and share in meaningful Biblical traditions and rituals.

*Jingle Jam* (David C. Cook) ISBN 078140357X  
This is an event for kids K-5 and their parents. Centered around Christmas, it will inspire parents and kids in your community and church.

*Jubilation Station: The World of Christmas Prophecy* (Downloadable Product) (David C. Cook) ISBN 6125222772  
A 6-week program that immerses kids in biblical cultures. Flexible Scheduling: A 1-2 hour Sunday morning or mid-week program. This title tells of Christmas prophecies. Downloadable product only!

## **SOURCES**

### **Lillenas Publishing Company**

[www.lillenas.com](http://www.lillenas.com)

- Dramas and Musicals

### **Cokesbury**

<http://www.cokesbury.com>

- children's Christmas musicals

### **Contemporary Drama Service/Meriwether Publishing**

[www.christianplaysandmusicals.com](http://www.christianplaysandmusicals.com)

[www.meriwetherpublishing.co](http://www.meriwetherpublishing.co)

- dramas and musicals for all ages; drama helps

### **Group Publishing**

[www.grouppublishing.com](http://www.grouppublishing.com)

- children's Christmas

### **One Way Street**

[www.onewaystreet.com](http://www.onewaystreet.com)

- children's Christmas musicals; puppet resources, etc.

This bibliography was prepared by the staff of the Covenant Resource Center. While not specifically endorsed by the Evangelical Covenant Church, the above resources may be helpful as you plan for ministry. For additional assistance or suggestions, contact the Covenant Resource Center at 1-800-338-IDEA(4332) or [resource.center@covchurch.org](mailto:resource.center@covchurch.org).

11/09