Advent - Christmas
2018

KISKIMINETAS PRESBYTERY RESOURCE CENTER
P. O. Box 339, 71 W. Main St.
Yatesboro, PA 16263

Phone: 724-783-7196
Email: micheleo@kiskipby.org

Find us on the web at www.kiskipby.org
(Look for Resource Center)
Like us on Facebook

Michaele Orgis,
Resource Center Coordinator
THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE (AU 5AX 001) Edward Haddington, from a long line of candlemakers, lives in Gladstone, a small village in the Cotswolds. Every 25 Christmases, an angel has visited his home and touched one of the candles and every person who has received one of these candles has experienced a miracle in their lives. Twenty-four years have passed since the angel last came, and Edward and his wife, Bea, wonder if the angel will come again. And if the angel visits, to whom should they give the candle? Many people in their village could use a miracle ... including them. Read by Greg Whalen. 2 CDs

A SERVICE FOR THE HANGING OF THE GREENS (BK 5AX 002) This is a PDF copy of a Hanging of the Greens celebration service including litany of the greens, Paraments, Advent Wreath, Wreaths and Garland, Holly and Ivy, Poinsettias, Manger, Caroling, Evergreen Tree and Tree Lighting.

CHRISMONS BASIC SERIES (BK 5AX 003) Patterns, diagrams, and step-by-step directions for making the basic series of chrismons, as well as the history, purpose, a worship program, and interpretations.

LIGHTING THE WAY TO CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 009) A different image of light serves each week as the symbol associated with the Advent and Christmas candles. The words "Glimmer, Glisten, Gleam, Glow, and Glory" name the candles and suggest the process that occurs for those who wait in faith during Advent for the birth of Christ at Christmas. Each candle is assigned a symbol to represent the increasing light as Christmas nears, for example, Glimmer - Candle; Glisten - Oil Lamp; Gleam- Lighthouse; Glow - Star; and Glory -Baby Jesus crèche figure. A children's story plus an original song tie together Scripture and visual images to draw all listeners into an enlightened celebration of the season.

A CHRISMON SERVICE (BK 5AX 012) This worship service portrays the drama of redemption through the use of chrismons-symbols of Christ. These symbols are presented, explained, and then hung on the Chrismon tree.

SYMBOLS OF THE SEASON (BK 5AX 013) Through six themes found in Matthew 2:1-12, and symbols which represent them, this book explores the significant story of the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. Six learning activities for each theme and symbol are designed to help participants experience, understand and appreciate the events in creative, concrete and challenging ways. The six themes and their symbols are: Seeking the Savior, Crown; Sign of the Savior, Star; Searching for the Savior, Path; Symbols of the Savior, Gift; Surrender to the Savior, Hands; and Serving through the Savior, World.
EVERLASTING LIGHT (BK 5AX 015) Worship resources for Advent as well as the Sunday after Christmas are offered in this collection. Services include litanies of candle lighting services, unison prayers, Communion meditations, children's sermon starters, and benedictions.

COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE: A Collection of Dramas for Children (BK 5AX 019) Four short, easy-to-use dramas for children with additional prayers, recitations, and suggestions for combining these into programs using all the children in the church or Sunday School. There are speaking and non-speaking parts for a variety of age levels. Suitable for small and medium-size churches.

FAMILY COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 020) A day-at-a-glance calendar format includes activities for the family, recipes, crafts, and fascinating facts about Advent and Christmas.

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY (BK 5AX 021) This book’s reflections on the birth of Christ are collected in a work designed for daily devotions, study groups, or general reading.

WHILE WE WAIT (BK 5AX 022) This Advent study examines Advent as a journey in which God seeks us at many levels of our understanding and spiritual willingness. It can be used as an individual study, but it also includes complete plans for small group sessions, as well as a fifth session for the week of Epiphany.

HOW MANY MILES TO BETHLEHEM? (BK 5AX 031) The author uses his poetic style to introduce each character in the Nativity story, allowing each, even the donkey, to speak about his role in the narrative. Modern renditions of Renaissance-type paintings illustrate this fresh vision of the Nativity story.

THE UN-SANTA BOOK (BK 5AX 033) Celebrate Christmas in fun ways that teach about the gift of God's Son instead of an emphasis on Santa Claus. Direct a church outreach event, present children's sermons, support children's ministries with crafts, games, and activities, or plan Christmas activities for your family. Pages are reproducible.

CHRISTMAS ON STAGE (BK 5AX 035) 28 one-act plays and readings provide a wide variety of material for Christmas programs for all ages.

A BOOK OF CHRISTMAS: Readings for reflection during Advent & Christmas (BK 5AX 038) This resource offers excerpts from the Upper Room publications. This is ideal for sermons and personal enrichment. Stories, poems, prayers, and meditations completes this resource on Christmas themes.

SIX PRESENTS FROM GOD (BK 5AX 040) A refreshing second look at the whole area of giving and receiving. When all is said and done, it is not us but God who is the gift-giver. By his rich giving we are graced for life and for eternity. Look together at the "gift list" God assembled for us once where shepherds watched and angels sang. These six sermons are each supplemented with simple object lessons for young children. The author focuses on God's gifts to us of: Angels, Mary, Shepherds, Wisemen, The baby Jesus and Joseph.

CHRISTMAS BELLS AND BLESSINGS (BK 5AX 044) This collection of services and dramas, programs and plays, is all that some churches will need for the Advent/Christmas season. There are readings and prayers for each of the four Sundays in Advent; contemporary plays for all ages; a candle lighting service, and much more. Perfect for generating ideas for intergenerational services.

JOSIE'S GIFT (BK 5AX 045) This story is about how a poor Depression-era girl comes to understand the meaning of Christmas, a piece of her legacy from her dad who has died suddenly and who she deeply misses. “Christmas is not about what we want. It's about what we have,” he told her year after year. This would make a great children’s message.
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES (BK 5AX 049) This resource contains pages of easy and reproducible crafts, activities, games, Bible stories and more for children ages 2 through grade 6. Each is labeled with the appropriate age level and complete list of materials needed.

101 THINGS TO DO FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 050) Exciting projects are highlighted and shown in clearly illustrated, step-by-step stages. Each activity includes a checklist of materials, most of which are inexpensive and readily available.

LIGHTS, SYMBOLS, AND ANGELS (BK 5AX 051) This collection compiles programs and worship resources exploring the Advent candles and wreath, Christmas symbols and songs, and angels. It provides ideas for youth programs, midweek services, Sunday worship, and a Christmas Eve candlelight service.

THAT SPECIAL NIGHT: A Christmas Service for Children (BK 5AX 052) This is a Christmas Service structured around a congregational worship setting, with songs and reading in the service for children from preschool through upper elementary. In this service, Jeff learns that Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is really the heart of Christmas festivities.

MARY'S MEMORIES (BK 5AX 055) This play will enable the participants to experience the Christmas story in a fresh and unique way. Organized around a series of boxes which are used to create a Nativity scene, this celebration shares the songs and stories of people such as Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna and Simeon.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS BABY? (BK 5AX 059) A Christmas Eve Worship Service perfect for small congregations wanting to do something special for Christmas Eve. It includes five brief scenes built around a suggested order of worship. There are speaking roles for a narrator and two readers. Preparation time is minimal. Included are suggestions for hymns for the service.

THE DAWNING OF INDESTRUCTIBLE JOY: Daily Readings for Advent (BK 5AX 060) Advent is for adoring Jesus. The Christmas season is one of the busiest times of the year. But it is also a season of reflection and preparation for that special day when we mark Immanuel’s coming—the arrival of our eternal God in our own frail humanity. These 25 brief devotional readings begin on December 1 and carry us to Christmas Day. Our hope is that God would use these meditations to deepen and sweeten your adoration of Jesus and help you keep him at the center of your Christmas season. May also be used for Advent candle readings.

CELEBRATING ADVENT IN THE SANCTUARY (BK 5AX 062) A guide for celebrating Advent, numerous ideas, suggestions, advent candle readings and background information for worship during this hopeful season. The author discusses the meaning of the use of the Advent wreath and Jesse Tree, and presents a theme for each Sunday in Advent and for Christmas. A list of hymns is also provided.

PREPARE HIM ROOM: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus (BK 5AX 64) If you want to be purposeful about making this December more Christ-centered for your children, then look carefully at this little book. This resource provides the ideas, the plans, and the details to help your family have a more gospel-filled Christmas season. This is a resource to help families focus on Jesus during the Christmas season. Tying together the whole Christmas story from the prophecies concerning Jesus; to his birth, death, and resurrection; culminating in the return of Jesus, Challenges families to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

THE CRIPPLED LAMB (BK 5AX 071) This Christmas story has inspired thousands of children, especially those who feel left out or who have special needs.

CHRISTMAS FROM THE BACK SIDE (BK 5AX 074) New possibilities of insight into the scriptures of the biblical Christmas story by approaching them from the "back side" - unique starting points, creative re-tellings, new viewpoints, or looking through the eyes of a not-so-familiar character. Includes 7 stories and a study guide.
SONGS FOR THE WAITING (BK 5AX 081) Despite the presence of many beautiful Advent songs in many of our hymnals, most of us would prefer to skip right to singing our favorite Christmas carols. But in our rush to get to the joy of Christmas, we forget what Advent is all about watching and waiting for the coming of a promised king. It is not about shopping, partying, gift wrapping, and vacationing. It is about resting, trusting, praying, and seeking. Through the words of moving Advent hymns and the powerful words of Scripture, Songs for the Waiting will help readers reclaim a sense of the beautiful anticipation and preparation that is central to Advent.

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY: Daily Readings for Advent (BK 5AX 82) These 25 brief devotional readings begin on December 1 and carry us to Christmas Day. These can be used for Advent candle readings. Our prayer is that God would use these readings to deepen and sweeten your adoration of Jesus this December and keep him as the center and greatest treasure of your Christmas season. We want to make sure that in all the Christmas rush and hubbub, we adore Jesus above all.

THE ANGEL, THE SPIDER, AND THE CHRISTMAS TREE (BK 5AX 083) Colorful children's book about a tiny spider with a large heart that offers her human family a gift that only she can provide in this folktale. Along the way, an angel even learns much about love, gift-giving, and the true meaning of Christmas. This would make a wonderful children’s message.

UNDERDOGS & OUTSIDERS (BK 5AX 084) Matthew names five women in the family tree of Jesus: Tamar, a forgotten daughter-in-law and widow; Rahab, a prostitute; Ruth, a foreigner; the wife of Uriah, an adulteress; and of course Mary, a young virgin. This Advent study explores the stories of each of these five women, showing how they all played a pivotal role in God’s purposes. By learning about these underdogs and outsiders, readers will uncover new dimensions of the story of God’s people and how that story comes into focus in the hope for the Messiah. Through the Old Testament stories the Gospel draws upon, Matthew reminds us to look for God in unexpected places during this Advent season

SCRIPTURE SCENES FOR ADVENT (BK 5AX 086) A five-part Advent/Epiphany series which can be presented during worship services in a Readers' Theatre style with one or more narrators and several actors portraying the action of the story. It gives the biblical story of the birth of Jesus and ends the Sunday after Christmas with the King's story. Each skit takes 5-7 minutes

CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 088) This resource contains a variety of worship for the Advent/Christmas season. They emphasize the message of love that Jesus brought rather than the messenger. This resource has a medieval feast with communion service, a St. Lucia service with communion, a creation service, and a service featuring the sounds of Christmas, and more.

ANGELS: Heralds of Hope and Advent/Christmas/Epiphany - Worship Resource (BK 5AX 089) This offers congregations a thematic approach for communicating the stories of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. To develop the theme, a different angel and symbolic word of the Christmas story is added each week to the Advent wreath, coordinating with the name and symbolism of the Advent candle. Also can be used for Advent candle readings.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! WAITING IS HARD (BK 5AX 090) This Advent book contains family devotions that focus on connecting Jesus and the symbols of Christmas. Each day includes a devotional, prayer, questions to discuss, the meaning of a Christmas symbol, and suggested activities to put the scriptures into action. Reproducible symbol activities.

ABINGDON'S CHRISTMAS DRAMAS FOR CHILDREN (BK 5AX 093) Designed especially for children, these 5 productions help elementary age school students embrace the true meaning of Christmas.

JOY TO THE WORLD (BK 5AX 094) This is a variety collection of Christmas programs for the church family. This book contains programs that celebrate Christ's birth in a number of dramatic ways using participants of all ages. These programs are easy-to-do alternatives to complicated cantatas and musicals.
PREPARE YE FOR A NEW ADVENT OF GOD’S LOVE IN OUR WORLD: Leader’s Guide (BK 5AX 096) Participant Book (BK 5AX 097) This workshop resource brings the Advent/Christmas message alive through fun, thought-provoking exercises. There are five sessions to this study. Some of the topics are The Problem of Receiving; Guess Who’s Coming to Town; Christmas Captivity.

O HOLY NIGHT: A Christmas Program (BK 5AX 098) O Holy Night is a Christmas program that can be presented by a church of any size. Readers tell the story while actors pantomime, thus avoiding the difficulty of memorizing lines. Children are involved with the singing of Christmas hymns. The program also includes places for congregational singing and the choir anthem, 'O Holy Night.'

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 100) A resource for Christian educators, clergy and worship teams that uses well-known Christmas hymns to communicate the story of Jesus’ birth. Each candle of an Advent wreath is assigned a phrase that also serves as the focus for a first-person narrative and weekly themes of Hope, Peace, Faith, Love, Joy, or Life. Each week’s theme forms the basis of a children’s story tying together Scripture, music, narrative, and lesson. 1st Sunday: Sing Hope, 2nd Sunday: Sing Peace, 3rd Sunday: Sing Faith, 4th Sunday: Sing Love, Christmas Eve Day: Sing Joy, Epiphany Sunday: Sing Life

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS RESOURCES FOR YOUNG & OLD: A Christmas Anthology (BK 5AX 101) A diverse collection of eight worship services for all ages. One of these is a verse play which takes place in the stable at the inn where Jesus was born. Ten friendly barn animals make up the speaking cast, while traditional nativity participants perform pantomime. Another service centers on dialogue between two angels.

IS IT CHRISTMAS YET? Five Candle Lighting Dialogues (BK 5AX 102) This resource has five dialogues on the five candles in the Advent Wreath. The first Advent candle- The Prophecy; The second Advent candle- The Bethlehem Candle; The third Advent candle- The Shepherd Candle; The fourth Advent candle- The Angel Candle; The fifth Advent candle- The Christ Candle.

GIFTS WE BRING TO HONOR THE KING: Sermons & Worship Resources (BK 5AX 109) This resource has sermons and worship resources for Advent and Christmas. This resource will help the congregation get involved in the drama of worship.

THE ADVENT INSTRUCTOR: Reflections on Christmas Symbolism (BK 5AX 111) The Advent/Christmas season is full of symbols that inspire and instruct us in our understanding of the Christian faith. It will be useful for children's sermons, Sunday school classes or even preparing sermons. This collection will help enrich readers’ and listeners’ awareness of the symbols that surround them during the season.

LETTERS FROM BETHLEHEM: Five Dramatic monologues for Advent (BK 5AX 113) Five monologues, in the form of letters, take you into the thoughts and reflections of the Advent figures as they share their experiences with those close to them. Letters are from: An angel to a friend; A shepherd to his family; Wise man to his court; and Jesus to children. Use this in worship, family use or devotions.

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY: Six Advent Dramas (BK 5AX 114) These dramas may be performed individually or combined. The performance time is less than 15 minutes with no more than six characters involved. There are few rehearsals required and the dramas can be used within the worship setting. They also use minimal props and costumes. This book use strong ties to scripture.

JESSE TREE ORNAMENTS: Advent coloring activities and Craft Projects (BK 5AX 115) This is a fun project to help kids learn more about the Christian faith. This Jesse Tree helps to tell the story of the Bible from creation to the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesse Trees can be used during Advent to help prepare for Christmas. This book has 24 ornaments to color and cut out and a pattern to make a tree out of construction paper to display the ornaments. There are also Bible stories for children and Bible passages for each ornament.
IT'S JESUS' BIRTHDAY! A Christmas Eve Service (BK 5AX 118) This inspirational service journeys to the inn where Mary and Joseph were denied lodging. The novel element that sets this service apart is an easy-to-produce skit that is actually a clever children's sermon in the form of a monologue by Leah, the innkeeper's wife. She invites the children of the congregation to come forward to listen as she shares the story of that special night long ago in a fresh, exciting manner. Following her narrative is a pastoral reflection that ties that night into today's celebration. This resource incorporates all the elements (Call to Worship, Christmas Hymns, responsive readings, a litany, a skit, pastor’s reflections, Christmas prayers) that help to create an inspirational Christmas Eve worship service.

COME TO CHRISTMAS: The Customs of the Christmas & Advent Seasons (BK 5AX 120) Families, clergy, congregational leaders, and others can find a treasury of information on everything from Advent wreaths and candles, the Jesse tree, chrismons, mistletoe, poinsettias, and more.

THREE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN (BK 5AX 123) This resource shapes music, drama and art into short, fun, easy-to-produce programs that help younger and middle elementary children bring the special spirit of the season to others. There are parts for children and the cast can be expanded or shortened. The running time of the programs are 20 minutes.

THESE ARE THE CANDLES - Five Candle Lighting Readings for Advent (BK 5AX 124) A series of readings precedes the lighting of each candle to reveal the significance of the traditional Advent characters: the angel, the shepherds, the wise men, Mary and the Christ child. Contains five candle lighting readings for the five candles in the Advent wreath.

THE JESSE TREE: 28 Ornaments for Advent: Family Devotions & Images To Color (BK 5AX 125) Looking for a fun way to celebrate Advent with the children in your life? What if you could learn more about Jesus' heritage at the same time? The Jesse Tree is a creative resource that helps us focus on Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. A collection of stories make-up the Jesse Tree. Stories about Jesus' family and the history of the Israelites. This book contains 28 Ornaments - one for each day of Advent! The Ornaments include a Bible Story, Scripture reference, discussion ideas, Prayer reading, and Illustration to color.

CHRISMONS - They Point to Jesus (BK 5AX 126) This book offers an order of worship with a play, directions for making Chrismons, and a way to display the Chrismons.

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS (BK5AX 127) This Advent, take a break from "teaching as usual" and focus on the timeless wonder of Christ's birth! Alternative to the lectionary-based Scriptures for the Church Seasons is a four study sessions for adults on the miracles of Christmas, the good news, hospitality, and giving.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY? A Children’s Christmas Program & Worship (BK 5AX 128) This resource gives the small church a children's Christmas program which takes little preparation time and includes a worship service. The true message of Christmas is spoken through 'the friendly beasts.' The children become involved in a Christmas project in which they share Christmas ornaments and angel food cake with the congregation.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE CHRIST CHILD? (BK 5AX 129) Four-week study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides one lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a Scripture reading, a brief reflection, study/discussion questions, and a focus for the coming week. This study looks at what can we learn from the Christ Child, Mary, Joseph, and Innkeeper.

THINGS TO MAKE & DO FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 130) An activity book designed specifically to delight and engage children as they experience and explore the wonder and mystery of the real Christmas story. This resource also includes thoughtful activities for Epiphany. Activities are given by age groups. Some activities are: Advent wreaths, calendars, cards, and ornaments.
CHRISTMAS MAKE & DO (BK 5AX 131) Each project supports portions of the Christmas story and includes illustrated step-by-step directions. The book is designed for use with ages 6-12 and includes craft tips, reproducible patterns, and Bible references.

ALL THE EARTH IS WAITING (BK 5AX 132) Explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind. This resource calls us to consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. Anticipating in Christ’s birth the reconciliation of the heavens and the earth, and highlights our responsibility to care for this earth in preparation for Christ’s return. This thematic Bible study is designed to be used by individuals and small groups during Advent. Also included are Advent candle lighting liturgies, a Call to Worship, a Prayer of Confession that can be used throughout Advent, and hymn suggestions for each chapter. These can be used for small group worship opportunities or in corporate worship.

WRINKLED WRAPPINGS (Sermons for Advent and Christmas) (BK 5AX 133) This is a series of pulpit messages for Advent and Christmas. The flowing style of the sermons contained in this book is peppered with gripping illustrations that catch us where we are and carry us along as he the light of God's Word into our lives.

HEAR THE BELLS RING (BK 5AX 135) This resource is complete with everything you need for a Christmas Day service. The service requires little preparation, rehearsal, or props. It is theologically sound and spiritually uplifting. It’s all here: call to worship, Christmas carols, litanies, meditations, scripture readings, etc.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH: A Christmas Drama (BK 5AX 136) This 25-minute Christmas Nativity pageant tells the story of Jesus Christ from creation to present day. The birth of Christ is seen as an event with a much wider scope than an incident that occurred long ago in Bethlehem. This drama is unique in highlighting Jesus' birth as part of the greater picture of God's activity throughout history.

COMING HOME: Advent/Christmas Sermons from the Book of Haggai (BK 5AX 137) This resource presents seven sermons for the Sundays beginning with Advent and ending with Epiphany. The messages are based on the Old Testament book of Haggai. Here is something a little different.

A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC CELEBRATION: Candlelight Service/Christmas Eve (BK 5AX 138) This is a unique candlelight service that incorporates scenes of Christmas that are all around us. Popular Christmas songs such as 'Silver Bells,' 'I'll Be Home For Christmas,’ and 'Do You Hear What I Hear?' are combined with the traditional Christmas hymns. Six brief meditations are spaced throughout the service.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT: A Christmas Eve Worship Service (BK 5AX 140) This resource offers a heartwarming dialogue between a pastor and Santa which focuses our attention on the truest gift of Christmas, the Christ child. This worship service is simple to prepare and requires little in the way of advance rehearsal. Two good presenters can provide a meaningful worship service for all. Good Christmas Eve program.

SERVICES FOR THE ADVENT WREATH: Based on lectionary Years A (BK 5AX 141A), B (BK 5AX 141B), & C (BK 5AX 141C) These resources covers all three years of the lectionary cycle. It provides bulletin inserts, litanies, prayers, scripture readings, Advent Candle lighting and original choral introits, which could be sung by a choir, ensemble, duet, or as a solo. This is a very easy-to-use resource which includes every Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

THE ESSENTIAL CHRISTMAS BOOK (BK 5AX 143) This resource offers an alternative to the consumer Christmas through ideas and activities that go to the heart of the feast. Family crafts, activities, stories, poems, recipes and other ideas with instructions and patterns.

MANGER AND MYSTERY (BK 5AX 144) An Advent Adventure to help the reader prepare for the birth of Christ through Scripture, readings, reflection, and prayer. Includes guides for individual use or group study.
COUNTING THE DAYS, LIGHTING THE CANDLES: Christmas Advent Devotional (BK 5AX 145) Of course we know that Christmas is about Jesus...So why is it that we miss seeing him in the midst of all the hustle and bustle? This is a Christmas Advent Devotional to help you and your family rejoice and rest in the holiday season. Beginning with December 1 and all through the month, you'll find separate readings for adults and children for each day. Also included are 4 activity suggestions that will enhance your family's experience.

TASTE AND SEE: Experiencing the stories of Advent and Christmas (BK 5AX 146) An innovative Advent small-group study built around a careful contextual reading of scripture combined with the imaginative reading approach introduced by St. Ignatius. The title Taste and See hints at how readers are invited to experience the stories of the season with their senses. Drawing on that experience of scripture, participants then consider how these stories speak to their own lives.

I WAS THERE (BK 5AX 149) This book of dramatic monologues includes readings by Joseph, Mary, the Soldier, the Innkeeper, a Wise Man, a Shepherd, and Herod. The appropriate Scripture passage is cited above each reading.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERMONS (BK 5AX 150) Fourteen preachers from various denominations, races, and geographic areas share sermons of Advent and Christmas.

SENSE THE SEASON - A Resource for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (BK 5AX 151) This resource offers a thematic approach for communicating the stories of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. To make the theme visible and reinforce the message, a different animal serves each week as the symbol associated with the Advent candle. People of all ages will be challenged to use sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch to appreciate the true gifts of Christmas.

SIMPLY WONDERFUL (BK 5AX 152) This set of five children's sermons includes activity pages as well for Advent and Christmas. The lessons are planned so each child can take back to his seat an activity sheet. One side is a coloring page for young children; the other has word games and puzzles for older children.

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS (BK 5AX 153) Subtitled 'A Liturgical Advent Calendar,' this practical handbook for homes and churches helps to enrich the Christian celebration of Advent through the creation and use of an Advent calendar. More than a pattern book, this resource also offers a brief history of the development of Advent in the Christian calendar as well as explanations of various Christian symbols.

LIGHT OF LIGHTS: Advent devotions from the Upper Room daily devotional guide (BK 5AX 155) This book invites readers to commit to the practice of daily prayer. The collection of meditations from The Upper Room daily devotional guide is arranged to coordinate with the themes of the four candles on an Advent wreath: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Meditations are included for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the Sunday after Christmas. A complete Leader's Guide for small groups and instructions for making an Advent wreath are included.

ADVENT PRESENCE: Kissed by the past, beckoned by the future (BK 5AX 156) This book offers a new look at Advent by seeing the four weeks through the lens of morning, mid-day, late afternoon and evening, and night. Photographs, stories, and perspectives enrich our travel and invite us to other dimensions of experiencing Advent, as a season and as a resource in our daily living. The book can serve as a devotional for individual or small group study for the Advent season, with a particular focus on the Year C gospel readings from Luke.

ANGEL AT MCDONALD'S (BK 5AX 159) Realistic dialogue and situations make this drama perfect for use with teenagers. The message is about belief in something that seems impossible and the courage to do what God commands.
CHRISTMAS THROUGH OUR EYES - Three Plays for Youth (BK 5AX 162) These three skits for youth were written by the youth of a Lutheran Church in East Earl, PA when they could not find a Christmas play to suit their needs.

MARY, DID YOU KNOW? (BK 5AX 165) Inspired by the hauntingly beautiful lyrics of the Christmas song written by Mark Lowry, this picture book captures the wonder and mystery of God's coming to earth ... and explores a mother's heart's perspective of how His life would forever change the world.

THE CHRISTMENT TREE: How To Make Christian Ornaments (BK 5AX 167) This how-to book tells how to make twenty-one different "Christment" tree ornaments celebrating the true meaning of Christmas (the life of Christ depicted in ornaments). Clear and concise directions are included for the star in the East, a shepherd's crook, the manager and other appropriate symbols from the birth and life of Jesus.

TRACKS IN THE STRAW - Tales Spun from the Manger (BK 5AX 178) A powerful new view of the ancient story, giving voice to unusual witnesses of the nativity: a midwife who helped Mary, an observant donkey, a tent-bearer to the Magi and Joseph revealing his hidden feelings about the birth.

CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE (BK 5AX 179) This "book of bits" contains a wealth of different types of worship resources: litanies, meditations, monologues, poems, prayers, readings, scripts, and symbolic actions.

WERE THEY WISE MEN OR KINGS? (BK 5AX 182) In answering 50 Christmas questions, the author gives us the details behind Christmas traditions - things like Santa's origin, the story of Rudolph, holiday decoration and greenery, the nativity, gift-giving and card-sending. Christmas trivia questions.

WON'T YOU LET HIM IN? (BK 5AX 183) This 4-week study is appropriate for both group and individual use and provides one lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, study/discussion questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

LET US GO OVER TO BETHLEHEM (BK 5AX 184) In this 4-week study appropriate for group or individual use, it invites us to get away from business as usual and plot a course toward Bethlehem. Each lesson includes a reference to a key scripture passage, a brief reflection, study/discussion questions, and prayer.

AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE (BK 5AX 186) Begin your celebration of the Advent season with this meaningful program that weaves together informative readings, scripture, and familiar lessons in Carol's hymns with the lighting of the Advent wreath and the "hanging of the greens." It’s a wonderful creative way to have the congregation participate in decorating the sanctuary while at the same time learning about the symbols of the season.

AT THE MANGER (BK 5AX 189) Six characters share their thoughts about the nativity in a series of brief soliloquies that come complete with an order of service for your Christmas Eve worship planning. Characters are Caesar, Mary, Joseph, an angel, a shepherd, and God.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD (BK 5AX 190) If you're looking for a fresh new approach to telling the old, old story -- what better way to celebrate the Christmas message than to do it from the viewpoint of the angels? From the promise to Abraham to its fulfillment in Bethlehem, angels are a vital part of the story. This is a beautiful service that combines many of the traditional elements of Christmas worship with brief dialogues between angels and a number of characters relating to the Christmas narrative. This program is an easy-to-use service that's adaptable for any size congregation. A number of speaking parts are specified, but it's easy to combine parts and use just two readers. It features Christmas Eve service, candlelight service and an optional Communion service.
CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AROUND THE WORLD (BK 5AX 192) The author has gathered customs and traditions from many sources, and the book is well indexed both by country and by subject and/or name.

WORSHIP INNOVATIONS: Hanging the Greens for Christmas (BK 5AX 194) Beginning with a step-by-step guide for initiating a “Hanging the Greens” celebration, there are nine creative, easy-to-produce programs in which all ages of the church family can participate in the process of decorating worship areas for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Also includes five plans for breathing new life into using the Advent wreath. This step-by-step guide for decorating worship areas during Advent and Christmas includes 9 creative, easy-to-produce programs with the flexibility to fit the worship style of almost any congregation.

IN SEARCH OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 195) This collection of holiday drama and worship material includes a Thanksgiving children's event; a service using Chrismons; four easy programs celebrating angels, bells, colors, and gifts; and some simple plays.

CHRISTMAS PROMISE (BK 5AX 198) This collection contains short dramas, speeches, recitations, and finger plays for ages four through older elementary

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 199) Explore how to move beyond materialism to discover the true meaning of the Advent season. Each session includes a Scripture reference, a personal reading, discussion questions, and suggestions for enhancing the Advent journey.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN (BK 5AX 200) This collection includes recitations and poems plus longer plays and programs selected especially for children.

ADVENT FOR EVERYONE: Journey through Matthew (BK 5AX 203) Tom Wright takes you into the heart of the Gospel of Matthew, exploring the key themes of watching, repenting, healing and loving. Sparkling reflections by our most popular Christian author, from Advent to Christmas. Packed with vivid anecdotes and stimulating insights into the Matthew's portrait of Jesus. A welcome devotional resource, both for fans of the “For Everyone” commentaries and for anyone who has not yet read them. Each of the four themes is explored over a week, beginning each time with the Sunday reading from Matthew in the Revised Common Lectionary; and each of the 28 sections ends with helpful questions for group discussion or personal reflection.

THE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM SHINES ON (BK 5AX 205) This seven-part series for Advent, Christmas Eve, the Sunday after Christmas, and Epiphany Sunday provides a comprehensive seasonal resource for busy pastors and worship planners. Each chapter includes a sermon, a children's message, a candle-lighting response with scripture reading, and a pastoral prayer.

CELEBRATE ADVENT - Worship & Learning Resources (BK 5AX 207) Based on the Advent hymn "People, Look East," this resource offers congregations an innovative experience for the Sundays in Advent. The colorful metaphors of the carol are skillfully used to engage the biblical message of Advent.

EXPLORING ADVENT WITH LUKE: Four Questions for Spiritual Growth (BK 5AX 212) This examination of Advent helps readers to rediscover the power of the events leading up to the birth of Christ. The four questions of Luke 1, as posed by Zechariah, Mary, Elizabeth, and the people in the Temple, spur readers to personal reflection on disappointment, inadequacy, openness, and trust. Ideal for individual and small-group use.

A VERY OPINIONATED CHRISTMAS TREE (BK 5AX 214) This collection of three short dramas, monologues, recitations, and skits for Advent and Christmas enables churches to create programs whether they have large numbers of children or only a few. Selections are reproducible and designed for ages 3 through 12.
WATCH FOR THE LIGHT (BK 5AX 215) Rediscover the reason for the season with great spiritual writers and poets, past and present. This unique collection brings together Advent meditations from favorite classic and contemporary spiritual writers. Ecumenical in scope, these 40 essays and poems celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth, and infuse it with rich meaning for today.

ONCE-A-DAY: 25 Days of Advent Devotions (BK 5AX 216) This devotional booklet takes you through the entire Advent season with thoughts on the person of Jesus: his involvement at the creation of the world, his life in the Gospel accounts, and who he is today. You will meet and examine the lives of various individuals involved in the incarnation, and during the week of Christmas examine the response to this miraculous and gracious event, both in heaven and on earth.

UNDER WRAPS: The Gift We Never Expected (BK 5AX 217) Four weeks of daily devotions on the character of God exemplified in the Old Testament and then revealed through Jesus Christ. The reflections, ideal for use during Advent, include Scripture, reflections, personal stories and insights, daily challenges, and prayers.

AN INTER JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS: Advent Devotional (BK 5AX 221) This provides you with a way to set aside time for a short spiritual journey every day--a time to reconnect and meditate. Each day begins with a short prayer followed by an inspirational story.

SERMON OUTLINES ON ADVENT & CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 223) Five sets of outlines are included in this book, which may be used as a series or adapted as standalones. As the pastor develops these outlines through further research and personal illustrations, the resulting sermons become effective channels for spiritual growth for the congregation.

SONGS FOR A SAVIOR (BK 5AX 224) This is a resource of five sermons with complete worship services provides a solid, thematically integrated worship program for Advent and Christmas. It celebrates the deep songs of faith which result from personal encounters with Jesus Christ.

SEASON OF LIGHT AND HOPE (BK 5AX 226) Original prayers, liturgies, and other worship aids to enrich worship from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord are included. Liturgies for other special times such as the Hanging of the Greens, Advent candle lighting, Service of Healing & Hope, and Service for the New Year can also be found.

THE NIGHT BEFORE (BK 5AX 228) Comprised of two compelling services plus a pair of delightful children's messages, this complete set of Christmas Eve resources provides everything you need to create a special worship experience that your congregation will remember long after the holiday decorations have been stored away. A Christmas Gift contemplates Christmas Eve's mixture of madness and magic through a creative weaving together of carols, prayers, scripture readings, and several brief meditations. By highlighting some of the diverse moments, memories, and traditions that contribute to the gift of Christmas, this worship service evokes the powerful mystery and miracle of the nativity. O Come, Emmanuel is a moving candlelight service which utilizes the ancient antiphons of Advent to explore the longing behind our search for the Messiah. As the service unfolds, the singing and reading of each antiphon leads worshipers to reflect on the hopes and desires that bring us to Bethlehem, culminating in the joyful announcement that God has come among us. The service employs two readers and a solo quartet, along with congregational singing of several traditional hymns. An original choral arrangement of the Christmas antiphon is included.

SURPRISED BY CHRISTMAS: Stories Told Through Advent & Christmas (BK 5AX 230) This resource consists of twelve heart-warming short stories, using vignettes of Christmastime experience of ordinary people to illustrate the spiritual meaning of Christ's birth for today. These are stories which seek to connect the meaning of the incarnation to people's everyday experiences surrounding the Christmas season, especially in regard to family life.
PAUSES FOR ADVENT: World of Wonder (BK 5AX 231) This resource focuses on one biblical word of wonder each day of Advent. Explore the lives and thoughts of four significant characters in the Christmas story, encouraging readers to immerse themselves in the dramatic story. A simple approach provides a doable daily practice and gently leads readers to discover how they can open their hearts and lives more generously to God.

WE REJOICE IN THE LIGHT (BK 5AX 232) Advent candle lighting ceremonies for worship are presented for the four Sundays of Advent as well as the Sunday after Christmas.

SETTING THE CHRISTMAS STAGE (BK 5AX 233) By examining the Christmas story as a pageant, this resource provides a dynamic view of how Advent gradually moves the drama forward to the climax of Christmas. Readers will see how the familiar stories flow together into an encounter with God in Christ.

PRAISE GOD! Jesus is Born! (BK 5AX 239) A diverse and easily produced collection of dramas, speeches, and recitations for the Advent/Christmas season.

MAGNIFICAT: Mary’s and Ours (BK 5AX 242) A series of wreath-lighting worship resources for Sundays in Advent and Christmas eve. Resources include liturgies for the lighting of Advent wreath candles. Themes in this series are hope, peace, joy and love. Two different Christmas Eve services are offered. One is suitable for worship with young families and the other is for communion. The Christmas Eve services summarize the ideas and themes of the Advent wreath-lighting services.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON: Celebrate The True Meaning of Christmas (BK 5AX 245) Overflowing with a rich collection of readings on Advent, Scripture meditations, Christmas tips and special traditions, recipes, prayers, poems and more.

ADVENTURE OF CHRISTMAS: Helping Children Find Jesus in our Holiday Traditions: (BK 5AX 249) This is a guide for moms concerned that their children are losing sight of Jesus in the midst of the distractions the holiday season brings. This book is an expedition to discover the Savior in the center of all things holiday-shopping, baking, decorating; and even the candy cane, the pear-tree partridge, the Santa suit, and the meaning of the mistletoe kiss.

THE DAY MISS GROUCHY MELTED: A Low-stress Christmas program (BK 5AX 253) Trying to prepare a holiday children's program is often a stressful affair for both the youngsters, who worry about memorizing their lines; and, for their directors, who tear their hair out trying to make sure everyone attends rehearsals, not to mention coordinating props and costumes. This program has devised a way to lower the stress for everyone involved while still providing a meaningful experience. The solution is in the form of a story told by a narrator, with children "acting out" their parts. This frees children from memorizing lines, makes the program very adaptable (it's easy to add or delete characters), and allows for many ages to participate. It's perfect for churches looking for a fun, easy-to-do resource that requires a minimum of rehearsals and few props!

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED: Inspiration for the Christmas Season (BK 5AX 254) Containing a beautiful collection of Scripture meditations based on the names of Jesus. Each page includes a Bible verse with devotional comment and brief prayer.
THEY CAME TOGETHER IN BETHLEHEM: Messages For The Advent/Christmas Season (BK 5AX 257) This book provides a complete worship resource: Sermons for Advent, Christmas Eve, the Sunday after Christmas; Advent candle readings with scripture verses; Pastoral prayers; Children's object lessons; and dramatic monologues which can be presented by the pastor or a lay person.

A PROMISE KEPT AT CHRISTMAS: Christmas Eve Service (BK 5AX 259) This resource offers congregations a complete order of service with suggested carols, lighting of Advent candles, and scripture readings.

O COME, EMMANUEL: Daily Reflections on Hymns & Carols for Advent & Christmas (BK 5AX 260) This innovative Advent devotional is a "musical mystery tour" of daily readings for the season, which will help us draw closer to God through what we sing and hear at this time of year. As we read and reflect, we consider the meaning of some of the famous Christmas carols that we sometimes sing without a passing thought.

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED: An Advent Devotional Guide (BK 5AX 261) Engage your members with an Advent devotional resource different from any other they have seen. This book is far more than a typical retelling of the Nativity story. Instead, this daily devotional guide presents snapshots from throughout Jesus’ life in which he persistently does the unexpected. For each day of Advent, this book offers reflections on: instances when Jesus did the unexpected, and when we personally encounter the unexpected in our own lives.

FIVE LITTLE CHRISTMAS DRAMAS FOR TODAY'S KIDS (BK 5AX 263) Every year small congregations stress over the difficult task of producing a successful children's play. These fun and simple dramas let small churches celebrate Christmas without mayhem and stress, and they empower children to play a pivotal role in highlighting the divine purpose of the Christmas holiday. With minimal set design and diverse roles for children of all ages, this collection of Christmas dramas will bless directors and congregations alike. Each drama has listed the approximate length of time the play will take, how many cast members are needed, props, and the stage set-up. This book also has the copy/printing privileges included.

THE BEASTLY CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 267) Based on the familiar song "The Friendly Beasts", this comedy program portrays what the animals might have been thinking as they witnessed the birth of Jesus-- if they had human minds. This Christmas Eve production allows various parts of the congregation to partake in. Recommended for all ages.

THE THREE WISE WOMEN: A Christmas Reflection (BK 5AX 268) Three wise women--Mary, mother of Jesus; Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist; and Anna, a prophetess who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth. Each played an important role in the Christmas story. Each one, in her own way, sets a powerful example for us to follow today. Take a closer look at the Gospel accounts of these wise women, discusses what their stories reveal about their hearts, and reflects on what we can learn from them.

WHERE HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH: An Advent study for Adults (BK 5AX 269) This study looks at the ways in which we can become more aware of and more involved in where Heaven touches earth around us, in us and through us. This four-week study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides one lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson focuses on a portion of the Christmas story scripture from Luke 2:8-14 and includes questions for reflection or discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

BEHIND THE SCENES CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 270) Children are fascinated by how people live in other places and other times. This book explains how the characters in the Christmas story were real people living in real situations. With lots of colorful illustrations, and details about the Christmas story, this will be a reference book for older children.
MORE STORIES BEHIND THE BEST LOVED SONGS (BK 5AX 271) What precise moment in history do we still connect with the angelic message of "The Hallelujah Chorus"? Which country singer's early struggles are reflected in the song "Pretty Paper"? Why was "The Little Drummer Boy" set aside for so long after its writing? The hidden stories behind these and 29 other Christmas favorites!

STORIES BEHIND THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 272) Christmas trees, presents, nativity scenes, wreaths, holly and ivy - these symbols infuse our holiday season with warmth and meaning. But do you know the origins of our favorite Yuletide traditions? Weaving faith with history, Collins's fascinating stories of the inspiration behind beloved Christmas customs will enrich your holiday celebrations for years to come.

FACES AT THE MANGER: Advent-Christmas Sampler of Poems, Prayers, & Meditations (BK 5AX 275) This resource describes the thoughts, feelings, questions and dreams of those who gathered around that manger of long ago, as well as the faces that have been there in the centuries since. Through poems, stories and prayers, Shepherd leads the reader to be one of the many who have knelt in worship beside the Manger of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL I REALLY WANT FOR CHRISTMAS: Reading for a Modern Christmas (BK 5AX 279) Sometimes the happiest and holiest time of the year is also the hardest for people to enjoy. These daily readings offer the skeptic, the over-committed the opportunity to make room—perhaps just enough room for God to show up. The weeks leading up to Christmas can spark a strong spiritual longing for more. Although it may never be articulated, we sense beneath those longings is a yearning for an experience of God. These brief writings address the challenges and realities of the season and include a simple action, ritual or meditation designed to gently steer the reader toward the deeper meaning of the season.

CREATE A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS TREE (BK 5AX 280) Have you been looking for a way to put more meaning into your church or family's Christmas celebrations? Let Create-A-Christian Christmas Tree show you how to make symbols from the Bible that effectively proclaim your faith. Just gather some common household items and follow the easy instructions to shape beautiful ornaments that tell the story of God's love—from the Old and New Testaments.

GOD GAVE US CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 285) This enchanting tale provides the perfect opportunity to help young children celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and to discover how very much God loves them. Wonderful Children’s message.

THE LAST STRAW (BK 5AX 286) Hoshmakaka, a proud, old camel, is chosen to perform a very special task—he is to carry the wise-men's gifts to the new baby king in Bethlehem. At first Hoshmakaka is reluctant. But the admiration of the younger camels causes him to foolishly boast of his strength, and the next thing he knows he is headed toward Bethlehem. On the way Hoshmakaka meets many others who also have gifts for the new king. The proud camel agrees to carry each item, even when it seems that his burden will be too great. Then a small child pleads with him to carry the proverbial last straw. Will this final gift bring the mighty camel to his knees? Wonderful children’s message.

REJOICING IN HOPE (BK 5AX 287) This four-session Advent study looks at the Christmas story through the experience of four characters from the Gospel of Luke, each of whom, in their own way, finds joy in hope.
THE ADVENT JESSE TREE (BK 5AX 290) A collection of 25 devotions for adults and 25 devotions for children each covering the same Scripture passage for a given day. Each day's devotion is accompanied by a drawing based on that day's theme. These can be reproduced and colored to hang on a designated Jesse Tree.

PREACHING AND WORSHIPING IN ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY: Years A, B, AND C (BK 5AX 293) This helpful one-volume commentary resource provides brief preaching commentaries and prayers for worship for the first Sunday in Advent through Epiphany of the Lord (Years A, B, and C). This book includes: lectionary readings for each Sunday and Holy Day in the season; three sermon briefs for each Sunday in Advent and the Sunday after Christmas; sermon briefs for Christmas, Christmas Eve, and the Day of Epiphany; creative prayers for each Sunday and Holy Day in the season; scripture index; and calendar of First Sundays in Advent, 2005-2015.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS? (BK 5AX 294) When a friend or family member asks you what you want for Christmas, do you wish for the type of gifts worthy of God's Kingdom or do you generally have material things on the mind? This four-week study, for group or individual use, provides an introduction and an informative lesson for use through each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a personal reflection, study or discussion questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

SCRIPTURES SING OF CHRISTMAS: Advent Bible Study (BK 5AX 295) This bible study examines songs of praise found in the Scriptures of Christmas, including stories about Mary, the shepherds and angels, Simeon, and the prologue of John's Gospel. The 4-week study includes a reference to a key passage, a brief reflection, study/discussion questions, prayer.

GOD IS IN THE SMALL STUFF AT CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 296) An inspiring look at the marvelous season of Jesus' birth. Featuring 42 chapters on the characters and places, symbols and celebrations, and thoughts and feelings of the Christmas season, this brand-new volume combines the best features of a devotional with the traditional appeal of an Advent book. You will find new inspiration for celebrating the wonder of Jesus' birth.

PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 298) The Purpose of Christmas will stir readers to honor the true significance of Christmas and to nurture God's gifts of love and peace in this world.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY (BK 5AX 301) These theologically sound and creative worship resources include prayers, litanies, calls to worship, and complete liturgies crafted to encourage rhythmic public responses during worship. All material is drawn from the readings from all three years of the Revised Common Lectionary. This collection also contains Scripture selections from the nativity narratives in Matthew and Luke and the messianic sections of Isaiah and the Psalms, making it useful to churches that do not follow the RCL.

THE LION BOOK OF FIVE-MINUTE CHRISTMAS STORIES (BK 5AX 303) Take a unique look at the birth of Jesus with this collection of 10 fun tales, each of which tells the story from a different point of view. The donkey who carries Mary to Bethlehem takes pride in his job; the caring innkeeper's wife notices that Mary needs a bit of comfort; and the choir of angels have their rehearsal interrupted due to an important and sudden concert they must give! The stories are all faithful to the Gospels and together provide a special perspective on the message of Christmas. Each of the stories can be read in just five minutes.
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION (BK 5AX 304) Three Christmas stories by Max: The Christmas Candle  - In a small village in the Cotswolds, nothing out of the ordinary ever happens. Except at Christmastime. Then a mysterious angel suddenly appears in a lowly candlemaker's shop. There the holy and the human collide in a way that only God could imagine. The Christmas Child - A Chicago journalist finds himself in a small Texas town on Christmas Eve. Lonely and alone, he encounters old faces and new facts . . . a hand carved manger, a father's guilt, a young girl's faith. The trip into the past holds his key to the future, and a scarlet cross shows him the way home. An Angel's Story - Journey back in time to the very throne of God . . . and witness firsthand the glory, the wonder, and the battle that took place on the very first Christmas.

IT'S SO CHRISTMAS – SEE! A collection of resources for Thanksgiving and Christmas (BK 5AX 305) This resource provides a wide range of dramatic and worship material for seasonal celebrations. Thanksgiving resources include: Come, See What God Has Done, a Thanksgiving children's event featuring 6 learning centers designed for kindergarten through sixth grade; A One-Act Drama for Thanksgiving; Recalling Our Blessings, a responsive reading and interactive children's lesson; and Is It Still Wonderful?, a sermon for Thanksgiving Day. There are 5 plays of varying lengths, ages, and cast sizes for Christmas, as well as a "hanging of the greens" service, a children's story formatted both as a narrative that can be read and as a play. Copy privileges included.

LIGHTS OF LOVE (BK 5AX 307) Faith, Hope, Love, Joy, and The Light Of The World are themes in this candle lighting service for the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve. Each service includes a scripture, message and prayer with optional listing of hymns and calls to worship. Also, provides a banner instruction section, Christmas Eve candle lighting, order of service, and a brief explanation of the meaning of Advent.

A GOD FOR THIS WORLD: Gospel Sermons for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, Cycle B (BK 5AX 308) Sixteen Gospel-based sermons for the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. Unforgettable in their power and witness, these messages hold the listener's attention from beginning to end.

AND THEN CAME THE ANGEL: Gospel Sermons for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, Cycle A (BK 5AX 310) The biblical texts of these sermons are familiar, but don't expect the same tired old treatment of them. The author brings freshness to these lessons and produces sermons that are powerful and insightful ... a wonderful blend of scholarship and spirituality.

CELEBRATING ADVENT: 25 Legends and Ornaments (BK 5AX 311) Each story is accompanied by colorful illustrations and matching ornaments, reflecting God’s use of ordinary people, plants, birds, and animals to herald the birth of Christ. The ageless tales reflect the celebrations in many countries, including England, Russia, Syria, Mexico, and Poland. This storybook answers questions such as “Why does the robin have a red breast?” and “Why are rosemary flowers blue?”

LIGHT UPON LIGHT: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany (BK 5AX 312) This collection of daily and weekly readings goes through the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. New voices are paired with well-loved classics by Dickens, Andersen, and Eliot. With their assistance, you will experience the Christmas liturgical season in its raw strangeness, stripped of sentiment, turning your heart, eyes, and mind toward Emmanuel.

FIVE CHRISTMAS PLAYS FOR CHILDREN (BK 5AX 315) 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. Includes: -- Christmas? Bah Humbug! Scrooge Jr. doesn't understand the reason for Christmas celebrations until a group of children share their understanding of Christmas through word, carols, and Scriptures. Everywhere, Everywhere Christmas Tonight Children share traditions from around the world, while reminding us that the one thing that never changes is that we celebrate because Jesus was born. Christmas Hide and Seek may be done as is or used for a "do-it-yourself" musical by inserting your choice of music after each scene. The Birthday Gifts: At a birthday party for Jesus, children come up with gifts to give Jesus. What the Animals Made Known can be done using a narrator and eight children. Parts can be expanded by adding additional children for bees, lightening bugs, and sheep. Instructions are included for simple masks.
WORSHIP FEAST ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: Complete Worship Outlines for Advent and Christmas (BK 5AX 318) This takes youth groups from 1st Sunday of Advent through Epiphany, experiential worship outlines. The book also contains 7 worship openers for Sunday school classes and other settings. To deepen the Advent & Christmas journey even more, Worship Feast Advent includes 7 original Advent Christmas worship songs on audio CD and printed lyrics with chords. Worship Feast Advent is a resource for youth groups and postmodern worship communities. Through these multi-sensory worship and prayer experiences, young people will sing together, wait together, pray together, and together prepare room in their hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. The project includes a prayer station experience around the lighting of the Advent candles and an audio CD of original Advent and Christmas-themed worship songs for groups to sing together.

WHAT COLOR IS CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 320) Have some color-FULL Christmas fun with this delightful retelling of the Christmas story--with rhymes, daily Advent devotions, Scripture and Seek-and-Find photographs. Like in the popular I SPY books, beautiful photographs, rich in visual interest, provide challenging family fun. The photos feature the colors of Christmas and contain hidden objects that tell the story of the Savior.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY: Stories and reflections on the Sunday readings (BK 5AX 322) Lectionary readings for the entire Christmas season come alive through the stories and reflections of popular author Megan McKenna. Her words show us how we can center our lives on bringing justice and peace into the world while we wait for Jesus, the Son of God, to come among us.

THE CHRISTMAS BOOK (BK 5AX 323) This resource book contains two session plans—one based on the Christmas story in Luke and one on the story of the wise men—plus a collection of songs, dramas, ideas for worship, craft activities, service projects, patterns, and other resources for the Advent season. All the materials can be photocopied, so you'll only need one book for the group leader.

IT'S NEWS TO ME: Messages of Hope for Those Who Haven’t Heard (BK 5AX 325) Inspiring sermons share the message of hope with modern Americans by bridging the gap between the sacred and the secular. McCoy's short, to-the-point messages effectively and relevantly communicate the good news to anyone who is searching for an experience of the Divine. Readers of these sermons, based on the Revised Common Lectionary, will be connected to a deep sense of purpose and enriched by God's amazing love and grace. Year A

HUMMING TILL THE MUSIC RETURNS: Second Lesson Sermons (BK 5AX 326) Scripture lessons for these seasons combine themes of waiting in expectation and displaying the effects of eternity within the context of time. Though the dulling ache of sin and corruption pushes the song of creation out of tune, Jesus intervenes with a melody of grace, and the church keeps the music alive in witness and testimony while longing for the chorus of eternity to shout hallelujah once again. Based on the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B.

PRAYING FOR A WHOLE NEW WORLD: Gospel Sermons (BK 5AX 327) At a time of year which is often as stressful and exhausting as it is exhilarating, William Carter reminds us that while holiday celebrations will fade into winter gloom, Jesus Christ, the Light that casts no shadow, remains at the center of our faith and lives. This collection of 17 sermons based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Year C.

CRADLE, CROSS AND CROWN (BK 5AX 330) Drawing from a lifetime of writings and sermons, beloved preacher and author Billy Graham pierces through the meaningless activity we get caught up in by taking readers back to the time when heaven descended to earth—and the place where Christ was born. Included in this classic Christmas message are excerpts from This Christmas Night, Scriptural accounts of Christ’s birth, favorite carols, and beautiful poetry by Ruth Bell Graham. It’s perfect for keeping focused on what’s truly important during the hustle of the season. Messages could be used in Advent candle lighting.
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER (BK 5AX 331) Versatile -- "ready-to-use" -- no memorization required. Appropriate for Christmas Eve or any Sunday morning in Advent. Involving children of all ages and one adult, it can be used in any size church with a few participants or many. Two versions -- a longer version intended for a full-length service and a shortened version to be used in place of a sermon -- are also included. Symbols of Christmas (a tree, ornaments, candy canes, a crèche and more) are combined with biblical readings and brief dialogue to create a greater understanding of Christian traditions. While the narrative dialogue is being read, a silent, active nativity scene is shown to illustrate the first Christmas present ever. (Copying privileges included.)

REMEMBER THE REASON: Focusing on Christ at Christmas (BK 5AX 333) Amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, everyone yearns to experience the peace, holiness, and wonder of Christ, the real Reason for the season. This 28-day Advent devotional is a tool for reflection, prayer, and new traditions to create a spiritually meaningful celebration.

CHRISTMAS: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly (BK 5AX 334) Four-week Advent study focuses on people in the story of Christ’s birth. There are those we associate with the joy and celebration of Christmas—the wise men, the shepherds, and Joseph. But, let us not to forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story, and how it is because there is evil in our world that we so desperately needed - and need - a Savior.

FUN TO MAKE CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 335) Children and adults alike look forward to Christmas and Halloween, and the crafts in these handy books will help everyone prepare for the excitement. From homemade ornaments and spooky crafts to special Christmas gifts, these books have plenty of fun projects (150 each) to make the holidays festive.

AN ANGEL’S STORY (BK 5AX 339) Since there weren't video cameras back then, we can't really know what happened the night Jesus was born. But Max Lucado puts his imagination into high gear as he speculates on the events from a heavenly perspective----through the eyes of Gabriel. A remarkable journey to Bethlehem and the stable, and revealing what might have happened behind the scenes!

A FAMILY ADVENT: Keeping the Savior in the Season (BK 5AX 340) Light the first candle and illuminate your household's Advent journey! Filled with thoughtful devotions, fun facts, activities, and more, this interactive guide helps even the busiest families discover meaningful ways to keep their focus on Jesus. Learn about "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the angels at the nativity, and more.

WAITING HERE FOR YOU: Advent Journey of Hope (BK 5AX 342) Christmas. We have plenty of time to anticipate it, or in some cases...dread it. And, before we know it, it's gone as quickly as it came. What's it all for? Is there really hope for today in the story of a baby born so long ago? These questions and others are answered in the promises of Advent. Advent is simply a season of expectant waiting and preparation. Most often, the arrival of an event or a person is made sweeter by our anticipation. How could waiting and expectation change your Christmas season?

UNCLUTTERED HEART: Making Room for God during Advent (BK 5AX 343) It's a time when we prepare our lives - hearts, minds and spirits - for the coming of the Christ child. We sweep out the corners of our hearts, cleaning up the clutter, to make space for God's hope, peace, joy, love and presence. This resource offers four weeks of guided reflection through the weeks of Advent and on through Epiphany. Each day provides a quotation, scripture passage, reflection, prayer. Includes a study guide for groups.
CHRISTMAS JARS (BK 5AX 344) On Christmas Eve, Hope Jensen is quietly grieving the recent loss of her adoptive mother when her apartment is robbed. The one bright spot in the midst of Hope's despair is a small jar full of money someone has anonymously left on her doorstep. Eager to learn the source of this unexpected generosity, Hope uses her newswoman instincts to find other recipients of "Christmas jars," digging until her search leads her to the family who first began the tradition of saving a year's worth of spare change to give to someone in need at the holiday. A wonderful message about the power of giving.

MEETING THE MESSIAH: Scriptures for the Advent Season (BK 5AX 345). This book encourages you to slow down and pay attention to the real meaning of Christmas. Six weeks of short readings and guided reflection will enrich your celebration of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. You will be filled with joy and thanksgiving as you think about scripture passages from the perspectives of the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist, Mary, the shepherds, the Magi, and Jesus himself. This year, look closely at the Christ child as if you were meeting him for the first time. For individual or group study.

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS: A Celebration of 40 Beloved Songs of the Season (BK 5AX 346) You love Christmas carols—now learn the “story behind the story” for 40 of the best-known songs of the season, each with a devotional twist! From “Angels We Have Heard on High” to “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” from “The Birthday of a King” to “O Holy Night,” the carols of Christmas each have an amazing story to tell—about the birth of Jesus, or even the birth of the song itself. Celebrate the season with The Carols of Christmas!

THE CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN: Creating 25 Day of New Advent Traditions (BK 5AX 347) Easy-to-use devotionals with Scripture, music, food, and fun family activities to prepare your heart and home - and reach out to others - in celebration of Christ's coming. This book isn't simply another list of things-to-do this December but rather it is a plea to stop 'doing' and begin 'being' once more. Twenty-five new traditions remind us that family is a gift which reflects the great Gift of God incarnate, restoring us to the beauty of Christmas.

COME, SEE THE WONDER (BK 5AX 351) This book contains four different, complete programs for Christmas, just what churches need to prepare services and presentations at the most pressing season of the year.

KERYGMA: The Light Will Shine - a Study for Advent Student Book (BK5AX 352S)

KERYGMA: The Light Will Shine - a Study for Advent Leader (BK 5AX 352L) Discover new light in traditional texts and seasonal themes. Week by week participants explore suggested scriptures to discover they lead us through Advent to Christmas and beyond. Designed for 4 to 5 sessions.

THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 354) The agnostic neighbor, the unbelieving friend---you never know who may show up at church this Christmas. For just such seekers, Strobel uses his investigative abilities to dig for the truth in Scripture. Focusing on Luke 2, he has answers for those who ask: “Was the incarnation a hoax----or the pivotal event of history?”

STEP BY STEP CHRISTMAS CRECHE (BK 5AX 357) Parents, teachers, and Sunday school leaders can make Christmas a special occasion for young children with this delightful book that brings the story alive in a fresh and exciting way. Children will make their own Christmas crèche step by step and learn the importance of the figures they are making. Each spread tells, in rhyming couplet, a part of the story of the first Christmas. This is accompanied by a list of things needed and very simple, step-by-step instructions to make each of the characters in the story - Mary and Joseph, ox and donkey, angels and shepherds, innkeeper and wise men. Very clear instructions make this a book that will be well used. Nothing is too difficult for little fingers with a bit of guidance. All this combines to make a homemade Christmas crèche to be treasured. For ages 4-6.
THREE GIFTS, ONE CHRIST (BK 5AX 358) This 4-week Bible study is more than about what the magi gave the child; it’s about what Jesus offers us. The first chapter starts by setting the stage for the birth of Christ and what makes any of us worthy of the gift of salvation. The following three chapters focus on the gifts of the magi and the gifts of salvation they represent to us. Each session concludes with ten questions for reflection and/or group discussion. Designed for use with the Common English Bible, but can be used with any translation.

A CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION (BK 5AX 360) This complete program book will help you plan and organize a Christ-centered Christmas outreach event for your entire church and community. This easy-to-use instruction guide tells you all you need to know—whether you've been planning church events for 25 years or this is your first time! Includes promotion and programming ideas, recipes for refreshments, craft instruction sheets, step-by-step instructions for planning and set-up, worship service guides, quick and easy decorations and centerpieces, Nativity Pageant scripts, Missions project ideas CD-ROM included!

BOOK OF FAITH ADVENT REFLECTIONS: I Wonder as I Wander (BK 5AX 361) Hope, love, joy and peace - for many of us, these are the names of the four candles lit during Advent. But do these words mean anything to us and to the world today? Is hope still alive? Does love always find a way? What gives joy to the world? Will nations - and next-door neighbors - ever be at peace? Join the writers as they explore questions like these and as they reflect on who God is and what God has done through Jesus in this season of preparation. Each week, readers will focus on one of these four themes - hope, love, joy and peace. Along with the daily readings and reflections, a weekly Bible study is also included, as well as a section with weekly activity ideas for families to help link church and home.

'TIS THE SEASON: Church Celebrations for Advent & Christmas (BK 5AX 364) This creative and practical church resource offers 18 programs and services connect God’s people with God's story, from generation to generation, across the ages. This resource takes beloved Christmas stories and weaves them into the big picture.

THE CHRISTMAS CODE (BK 5AX 365) Trace the birth of Jesus from its roots in the Old Testament to the ultimate gift of God: salvation. With a short reading each day leading up to Christmas, this devotional will be the perfect way to keep daily focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

WE LIGHT THE CANDLES: Devotions Related to Family Use of the Advent Wreath (BK 5AX 367) A 40-page booklet of day-by-day family Advent devotions centering on the Advent wreath and its meaning.

CELEBRATING ABUNDANCE (BK 5AX 370) This powerful devotional by best-selling author Walter Brueggemann includes daily reflections on the Scriptures and stories of Advent in order to invite us to see beyond the worlds faux extravagance and realize the true feast laid out before us. Twelve prayers are also included for the twelve days of Christmas.

GOD WITH SKIN ON (BK 5AX 371) In these nineteen Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany gospel sermons, pastors can find ways to help expose to their congregations the truth that can transform the world: living a life that serves as light and hope. Looking for a fresh homiletical approaches to the lectionary texts; preaching illustrations; a clearer understanding of scripture passages; adult study and discussion groups; personal devotions and Bible study on each Sunday's readings. Year C.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MERRY CHRISTMAS? (BK 5AX 372) To avoid offense to non-Christians, the words Merry Christmas are being replaced with Happy Holidays. With words and pictures, this unique book answers this question by showing children that Christmas is everywhere we look, particularly in the Christian home. In the Advent wreath, the star on the Christmas tree, the nativity set, and even the gifts under the tree, what we see at Christmas reminds us of our anticipation, preparation, and celebration. This resource reminds readers that God came in the person of Jesus Christ to be our Savior from sin and to bring the promise of eternal life through Him. This resource will help readers distinguish between the emptiness of a materialistic Christmas and the fullness of the Gospel. Children ages 4 to 10.

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 373) This Advent study features four reflections, all relating to the theme "Come Home for Christmas." Readings are personal and are applicable to life as we experience it today. Each of the four sessions includes a reference to an important passage of Scripture, a prayer, questions for study/discussion or personal reflection, and a focus for the coming week that suggests enriching ways to deepen the Advent experience. This resource is ideal for both group Bible study and individual study.

IN DAYS TO COME: From Advent to Epiphany (BK 5AX 374) Many people end their celebration of Christmas on December 25, but the celebration is just beginning. This resource has meditations that begin with Advent and continue through the 12th night of Christmas January 6 or Epiphany. The meditations, like the surprises of an Advent calendar, touch on many different subjects. Some topics included are "An Editor," "A Counting Song," "Prudence," and "Chrismons." Instead of putting away the decorations on December 25, celebrate all the days to come. This devotional meditation is based on a merger of several Christmas traditions: Advent calendars, ancient Advent prayers known as the O Antiphons, the traditional celebration of Christmas on December 25, and the Armenian Orthodox celebration of Christmas on January 6.

ILLUMINATE: An Advent Adventure (BK 5AX 375) Through this 5-week devotional for families, small groups, and faith communities, experience the light of Christ as it breaks into the darkness of a lost world. With fellow brothers and sisters, engage in scripture, storytelling, prayer and interactive group activities, as you journey through this Advent experience.

POCKET FULL OF CHRISTMAS: Having a Purpose Filled Advent (BK 5AX 376) Have you ever wished to be free from the busyness and distraction of the holiday season so you could enjoy the real meaning of Christmas? Pocket Full of Christmas will help keep your daily focus on Christ through meditations, Bible Study, application exercises, and planning sessions for the Advent season.

FAMILY BOOK OF ADVENT (BK 5AX 377) Use with your Sunday school to create significant and unforgettable memories with The Family Book of Advent. It’s the perfect way to spend quality time with young children during the Advent season while helping them grasp the true meaning of Christmas. Capture the childhood excitement and joy of counting down the days until Christmas with this fun hands-on devotional. Scripture, questions, stories, and simple activities draw families together to celebrate the coming of Christmas. As the events in the story of Jesus’ birth and life unfold, parents and children will build bonds of tradition and faith that will last a lifetime. It is the one present all members of the family will be happy to share.

WHEN GOD COMES DOWN: Advent Study for Adults (BK 5AX 380) A five-week study, providing one lesson for each week of Advent and one for Christmas. Each lesson includes a key Scripture, a brief reflection, discussion/reflection questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. In this study, you will explore the meaning of the incarnation…God with us in human flesh. Often our Advent/Christmas journey is focused on us – our memories, feelings, relationships and experiences. This study puts the focus on God’s action in Jesus Christ. It encourages participants to think more deeply in terms of the biblical, theological, and spiritual meaning of the Nativity and to apply it to their own life experiences. The study looks at the stories of the primary biblical characters in the birth stories through whose lives the miracle of incarnation happened: Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. This study also looks at a traditional character in nativity plays, one who is not mentioned in the Bible, the innkeeper.
NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH: An Advent study (BK 5AX 382) With guidance from author Walter Brueggemann, readers will ponder each of the four royal titles used in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. This seasonal study features prayers and reflection questions and it is perfect for individual or group study.

GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS AWAY: 101 Simple Way to Give this Christmas Away (BK 5AX 383) Celebrate Christmas with a giving heart! A Story of Joyful Giving, practical ideas and uplifting stories will encourage you to share God's gifts with the brokenhearted this holiday season. An inspiring action plan for living out the true meaning of Christmas! Based on his duet with Amy Grant on the Veggie Tales DVD Saint Nicholas (DVD 5AX 023)

INFUSE: Christmas Light Splits the Night (BK 5AX 384) What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Gifts and decorations? Family parties and high-calorie treats? Santa Claus? It can seem odd that the origin of such a glittering holiday is in the birth of a child long ago, whose arrival had none of the comforts and pleasures we connect with Christmas today. That child was born in a cattle stall over two thousand years ago, and his first bed was the animals' feed trough (a manger). That's how Jesus Christ, the Savior-Messiah and King of kings, came to us—and grew into a person like no other in history. Each Christmas season with all its fanfare gives us an opening to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us. Use this 4- or 5-session study during Advent to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us. Optional Advent activities are included.

THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 385) This unique Christmas book contains Scripture followed by brief writings that will take readers on a voyage as they explore God’s prophecies and promises for Christmas—prophecies and promises that began centuries ago. Readers will be transported through the miracles of God’s promises from Genesis throughout eternity and that Jesus would come to fulfill those promises. More than a simple story, The Hope of Christmas reveals the broad and miraculous scope of Christ’s birth in the manger and the continual gift of His love, joy, peace, grace, comfort, and much more—all within our grasp because of our one true hope, Jesus Christ. The Hope of Christmas is Jesus’ gift foretold from the beginning of time, offering salvation and a life in Him for those who believe.

THE SPARKLE BOX: The Story of a Very Special Christmas Gift (BK 5AX 386) The moving story of an uncommon gift and how giving to others shows a little boy the true meaning of Christmas. Sam is so excited about Christmas! He's thinking about his Christmas list, anticipating holiday parties, and puzzling over one very mysterious gift—a sparkly box sitting on the mantel above the fireplace. In the midst of the festivities, Sam and his family participate in various acts of kindness to others. On Christmas morning, when Sam finally opens the Sparkle Box, he finds only slips of paper that record the family's good deeds. Sam's parents explain that the things that they've been doing for others are, in fact, a gift for Jesus — for Jesus said that whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Him. This heartfelt story will inspire readers to adopt this faith-centered … Wonderful children’s message or children’s sermon.

LOVE’S PURE LIGHT (BK 5AX 387) Light is an integral symbol in the Christian faith, especially during Christmas. The light of a single candle can disperse the deepest darkness, bringing warmth, comfort, and illumination. The soft, warm candlelight at a Christmas Eve service creates an atmosphere of worship and reverence as congregations celebrate the arrival of the Light of the world. This book offers pastors a valuable source of inspiration for Christmas sermon preparation. Includes an order of service, providing congregations with a complete Christmas candlelight worship experience
A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY (BK 5AX 389) With dramatic monologues, sermons, children's messages and worship liturgies, a Sunday school program, and a pair of Christmas Eve candlelight services, there's something for everyone, whatever your congregation's size or worship style. An Unlikely Cast is a set of dramatic monologues that reveal the inner thoughts and feelings of five characters who were deeply involved in the unfolding divine drama of the nativity: Joseph, Mary, John the Baptist, the innkeeper, and a shepherd. The Colors of Christmas is a creative series of six sermons and children's messages in which each week features a different color. The color idea to stress such Christian themes as royalty, sacrifice, and holiness, while the children's messages utilize the inventive device of passing out ribbon swatches of the color of the day; as the youngsters receive the various ribbons, they can collect a "ribbon rainbow." Is This The Road To Bethlehem? is an Advent worship liturgy in which children are the main participants. The centerpiece is an "action/sermon" featuring six brief readings using illustrative wooden figures. All the elements of a typical worship service are present -- but in a manner that focuses on the interests and expressions of children, allowing them to experience worship rather than just listen and watch. Producing Christmas is a humorous children's play which casts the Christmas story as the ultimate Hollywood blockbuster. Everyone wants to be a part of the big movie -- and they all have ideas about how to make it a hit, only to finally learn why the coming of the Christ child is truly the "greatest story ever told". A Christmas Journey and Christmas Letters are imaginative Christmas Eve services weaving together carols, prayers, scripture readings, and several brief meditations. In A Christmas Journey, the reflections guide worshipers on a journey from being home alone to the ultimate destination of the Christmas cross. Anticipation, symbolized by the lighting of the Advent candles, gives way to the joy of arrival as the service climaxes with the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. Christmas Letters celebrates the human connection of the holiday season, demonstrated by the diversity of letters and packages we send to one another. The heartwarming meditations build on a compelling theme: that the incarnation was God's Christmas letter to us -- and that as we live out our faith, we are God's Christmas letter to the world.

I SPY CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 390) An excellent resource for pastors and churches that either need to add another element to their Christmas service or are simply in need of a Christmas order of worship. This volume provides both, including three Christmas dramas that are intended for casts of various ages, from children to teenagers to adults. Each play can be produced by congregations of various sizes, providing an attractive mix of humor, wit, and inspiration that will speak to any congregation.

CHRISTMAS, CELEBRATING THE CHRISTIAN HISTORY OF CLASSIC SYMBOLS, SONGS AND STORIES (BK 5AX 392) Was Jesus actually born on December 25th? Are Christmas trees really pagan in origin? Why did the author of "O Holy Night" try to stop his song from spreading? Learn the intriguing history behind a selection of 20 classic Christmas symbols, 20 songs and 20 stories. This carefully researched guide highlights the biblical relevance of many American Christmas traditions and is an excellent resource for the whole family. Texts of favorite stories, as well as the words of Christ-honoring songs, are included for reading and singing aloud.

A STUBBORN SWEETNESS AND OTHER STORIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON (BK 5AX 393) A collection of modern-day short stories of real-life people such as a shopping mall's night watchman, a lonely widower, a pregnant teenage runaway, a political prisoner in China, a grieving mother, and a privileged American, who have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas because of loss, pain, greed, or circumstances. Through unexpected and uplifting ways, each is reminded of the first Christmas story and the vision of hope and peace it offers the world. They realize that even in the darkness, the light and song of Christmas can be seen and heard. This book is filled with stories of realistic people finding hope, courage, and faith amidst life's circumstances, radiates the spirit of the season and reminds each of us what Christmas truly means.
ADVENT A to Z (BK 5AX 394) Scripture and tradition fill the season of Advent with an abundance of characters, themes, and symbols. Each casts a slightly different perspective on the meaning of Jesus’ birth and God’s promised realm, the two chief components for which this season bids our preparation. Beginning December 1 and running through December 26, each day will explore an Advent-related word that begins with a successive letter in the alphabet. This is followed by suggestions for simple, easy-to-prepare, and complete activities (discussion starters, games, crafts, meditations, journaling, outreach project, devotions). The activities are based on that day’s word and are ideal for parents teaching their children about Advent.

GOD’S NEW POSSIBILITY: Cycle a Gospel Sermons for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany (BK 5AX 395) This resource reflects upon the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, unpacking the truths of a divine hope ushered into the world through the infant Christ. In seventeen sermons, James L. Killen Jr. reminds us that we serve a living and breathing God, one who became visible through Jesus and remains tangible through His Church.

FINDING BETHLEHEM IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM - Advent Study (BK 5AX 397) Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don’t have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. God breaks into our confusion and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion--weren’t they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget.

JUST IN TIME: Prayers for Advent and Christmas (BK 5AX 398) Handy, helpful prayers to use in public worship during Advent and Christmas. The collection includes invocations, opening prayers, prayers of confession, and pastoral prayers for the Sundays of Advent, and Christmas Eve services. Drawn from a variety of traditions, the prayers in this collection will aid any congregation as it worships throughout the journey of Advent.

THE WOMEN OF CHRISTMAS: Experience the Season (BK 5AX 399) A sacred season is about to unfold for three women whose hearts belong to God. Elizabeth is barren, yet her trust in God remains fertile. Mary is betrothed in marriage, yet she is willing to bear God’s Son. Anna is a widow full of years, yet she waits patiently, prayerfully for the Messiah to appear in the temple courts. Following in their footsteps, you too can prepare for the Savior to enter your heart, your mind, and your life in a vibrant, new way. Best-selling author Liz Curtis Higgs explores the biblical stories of Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna, unwrapping each verse with tender care and introducing you afresh to The Women of Christmas. Study guide is included in book.

THE GREATEST GIFT: Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas (BK 5AX 400) The author reaches back into the pages of the Old Testament to explore the lineage of Jesus -- the greatest gift --- through the majestic advent tradition of "The Jesse Tree," each day featuring its own exquisite ornament highlighting the Biblical story (free download of each of the 25 ornaments available from website, annvoskamp.com ).Beginning with Jesse, the father of David, The Greatest Gift retraces the epic pageantry of mankind, from Adam to the Messiah, with each day's profound reading pointing to the coming promise of Christ, so that come Christmas morning you find that the season hasn't blurred past you but your heart's fully unwrapped the greatest gift you've always yearned for.

OF LOVE & MIRACLES (Bk 5AX 401) Present the Christmas story to your congregation this year with story, song, verse, and warmth of candlelight. This service includes an optional service of Holy Communion, suggested hymns and prayers, and a complete order of worship. The service can be presented by the pastor alone or with the help of as many lay participants as desired. The order of worship may also be adapted for use during the Sundays of Advent.

MISSION POSSIBLE: Cycle B sermons for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany based on the gospel texts (BK 5AX 402) In nineteen sermons, Charley Reeb sets out to remind us that God's mysterious ways are limitless in power.
THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 404) Consider God's gift of salvation; the treasure of his friendship; the transforming power of his presence; and the victory he offers us in Christ! In this classic collection, contributors including Charles Swindoll, Max Lucado, and Charles Colson offer meditations on "The Birth of Jesus Christ"; "Adopted Children of the King"; "The True Meaning of Peace"; etc.

COMING HOME (BK 5AX 405); LONGING FOR MORE (BK 5AX 406); EXPECTING (BK 5AX 407) A collection of daily Advent devotions that are excellent for personal or congregational use such a Advent Wreath lighting devotions.

THE JESSE TREE: Advent Devotional (BK 5AX 408) Each day throughout Advent a different part of the biblical story is highlighted leading us through the Advent season to the birth of Jesus Christ. Great for use with children, families, small groups, and individuals.

TRAVEL THE HIGHWAYS OF ADVENT: (BK 5AX 409) Written by Stan Purdum, this adult study is based on the particular pathways to Jesus during Advent. In addition to the main content, each chapter offers questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week. The focus emerges from the chapter content and encourages the readers to engage in spiritual practice or do something specific that will help them grow in faith.

REKINDLING ADVENT: Rediscovering the Season of Joyful Waiting (BK 5AX 410) Pastor John Allen Bankson shares the whys, when’s, and how’s of observing Advent. He encourages us to tap into the time-honored rhythm of prepare, celebrate, reflect by rediscovering how the anticipation of Advent gets us ready for the glories of Christmas. Through Scripture, song, and symbol, we can prepare ourselves, our homes, and our churches for a celebration of Christ's coming that is not merely happy, but truly joyful.

NOT A SILENT NIGHT: Mary looks Back to Bethlehem (BK 5AX 411) Imagine Jesus from Mary’s point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary’s beautiful baby.

THE EXPECTED ONE: Anticipating all of Jesus in Advent BK 5AX 412) Every Christmas, Christians all over the world celebrate the Advent season, recognizing the love, hope, joy, and peace that is found only in Jesus Christ. Through this devotional, Scott James brings to light the many promises of Christ—from birth to ascension—that demonstrate His love for us during this Christmas season. These daily devotions, which are designed for both family and individual use, are timeless and moving.

UNWRAPPING THE GREATEST GIFT: A Family Celebration of Christmas (BK 5AX 416) Based on the overwhelming success of The Greatest Gift, Ann Voskamp has expanded her presentation of the timeless Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree so families can celebrate together. Each day, families can read the provided Scripture passage (in connection with the original book), engage with a specially written devotion to help children of all ages understand the Advent theme for the day, and participate in suggested activities to apply the theme.

THE SEASON OF THE NATIVITY: Confessions and Practice Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (BK 5AX 417) Advent and Epiphany are the often-neglected parentheses around Christmas. As the opening three acts for the liturgical year, it sets the stage for our yearlong journey through Scripture and salvation history. This book combines memoir, front-porch theology, and pages of spiritual practices and activities to invite individuals and families into a deeper relationship with...
12 WAYS OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 419) In the midst of the busyness of the Christmas season, the time worth reading this book will be well worth it. It will remind you of what is truly important, and help you to keep your focus on the CHRIST of Christmas. There are some great ideas that families and churches could use to bring the focus of the season back to the correct meaning of the season.

JOYFUL MEDITATIONS FOR EVERY DAY OF ADVENT AND THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 421) From the First Sunday of Advent through Christmas and Epiphany for each liturgical year (A, B, and C), this book will help prepare for and deepen our experience this holy season. Opening each daily reflection is a Scripture quote from the day's readings. The reflection then reaches out to us in our busy lives to consider what God's Word has to offer us during the holidays.

MESSY CHRISTMAS (BK 5BX 422) It’s time we explore what Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are really about. The Messy Church series provides resources to help your church bring together people of all ages and stages of faith, allowing them to experience a creative and fun-filled Christian community. Messy Christmas offers your church a tool to create a unique, come-as-you-are experience built on creativity—allowing space for all to play and create celebration—worshiping God and his redeeming work in Jesus hospitality—sharing a meal where all are welcome These three once-a-month sessions include Christmas prayers, global action suggestions, games and competitions, Christmas food crafts, and many other ideas to experience joy during this time of the year. This season, give your community the gift of a messy church!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE: Advent Experience for Children (BK 5AX 423) An event where your Children's Ministry children from Preschool to 6th Grade will hear the Christmas story, create Christmas gifts, and prepare their hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The gifts created can be given as gifts. In six "shops", children hear part of the Christmas story and make items for sale or gift-giving (Angel, Manger, Candy Cane, Star, Card and Bakery.) Each shop's craft activity offers different levels of creative difficulty to match all age-groups. Choose a program format that best fits your church's needs: Enclosed CD-ROM provides music, PowerPoints, Bible story scripts, scripts for use during worship, and patterns for crafts. (Note: Craft patterns are also in reproducible format in the book.)

FIVE QUESTIONS OF CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 424) The Christmas story is well-known. We know the decorations, the family parties, the carols, the manger scene, even the familiar Scripture passages. But have you ever considered the questions of Christmas? Five questions spiral throughout the ancient stories surrounding Christ’s birth. These questions open the door to some of life’s great mysteries. By exploring questions asked by the Magi, Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, and the crowd witnessing the naming of John the Baptist, readers explore their own curiosities about purpose, favor, trust, justice, doubt, and promise: How can we find truth and meaning? Why is the world so unfair sometimes? Why do people have to suffer? How can we trust the unseen? How can we design the future we desire?

AWAITING THE ALREADY (BK 5AX 425) Each Gospel, in its own way, leads us on the Advent journey of preparation for Christ’s coming. This book takes a tour through the four Gospel narratives that announce Christ’s birth or make way for his ministry. Readers will discover what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, recognizing an invitation from each Gospel writer to prepare for a fresh experience of Christ in the past and the future. This thematic Bible study is designed to be used by individuals and small groups during Advent. In addition to the main content, each chapter offers questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week.
LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS: Lessons and Carols, public and private (BK 5AX 426) A fresh interpretation of the well-loved Advent tradition of Lessons and Carols. Replacing the usual scriptural readings from the old and new testaments will be first-person dramatic monologues based on these, and other, passages of scripture. Special emphasis will be given to the role of the prophets not only in pointing the way to the Messiah and in offering guidance to the Hebrew people, but in offering very contemporary guidance in the 21st century. With a reading for each day of Advent, churches can choose pieces for their own services of Lessons and Carols, while individuals can use the book for their own private devotions.

THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS: A Celebration of the Surprising Stories behind Your Favorite Holiday Songs (BK 5AX 427) This resource tells the story of some twenty carols, each accompanied by lyrics and music, unraveling a captivating, and often surprising, tale of great musicians and thinkers, saints and pagans, shepherd boys and choirboys. Delve into the history of such favorites as 'Good King Wenceslas,' 'Away in a Manger,' and 'O, Tannenbaum,' discovering along the way how 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing' came to replace 'Hark, how all the welkin ring' and how Ralph Vaughan Williams applied the tune of an English folk song about a dead ox to a poem by a nineteenth century American pilgrim to make 'O Little Town of Bethlehem.' A charming book that brims with anecdote, expert knowledge, and Christmas spirit, this is a fittingly joyous account of one of the best-loved musical traditions.

ADVENT IN NARNIA (BK 5AX428) “Walking into Advent can be like walking through the wardrobe.” With its enchanting themes of snow and cold, light and darkness, meals and gifts, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope—and even an appearance by Father Christmas—C. S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe fits naturally into the Advent season. As the reader seeks a storied king and anticipates the glorious coming of Christmas, these twenty-eight devotions alternate between Scripture and passages from the novel to prompt meditation on Advent themes. Each devotion also includes questions for reflection. The book also provides several resources for churches, including four sessions for small group discussion and ideas for creating a "Narnia Night" for families. Readers will ultimately come to know God better while journeying through Narnia.

WONDERS OF WONDERS: Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer (BK 5AX 429) Never are moments of quiet reflection more important than during the rush of the Christmas season. These beautiful meditations from the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the most beloved theologians of the twentieth century, are perfect as brief devotions for those who already love Bonhoeffer's work and as wonderful introductions to his writing for young readers and others not yet familiar with him. Combined with beautifully evocative, full-color photographs, these passages remind us of the profound wonders we celebrate during Advent and Christmas and of the reverence appropriate to the season.

WALKING BACKWARDS TO CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 430) Congregations are often confused or uninspired by the emphasis on Old Testament themes during Advent and too "over" Christmas by December 26 to pay much attention to the gospel stories that follow Jesus' birth. This resource starts at the end of the story, with Jesus' presentation to Anna and Simeon at the temple, and moves backwards through Herod's slaughter of the innocents, the wise men's visit, Jesus' birth in a stable, Mary's pregnancy, and finally to the much-earlier hopes and dreams of Isaiah and Moses. Telling the Christmas story through the eyes of both famous figures like King Herod and imagined characters like the innkeeper's wife, Stephen Cottrell invites readers to experience Jesus' birth anew, with greater appreciation of the dark themes and ancient figures relevant to the Advent story.

WHY THIS JUBLIEE?: Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season (BK 5AX 431) Music is such an important part of Advent and Christmas. Can you imagine Advent without "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"? How about Christmas without carols like "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World"? It pleases the Lord Jesus when we sing of his coming with carols we know by heart. It pleases him even more when we think about the words we are singing. In 24 reflections on well-known carols and Christmas songs, James Howell explores the birth of Jesus. He ponders the meaning of certain phrases from these songs and relates them to our daily lives. The four weeks of devotions are arranged by topic: The Place, The Men (Joseph, shepherds, magi), The Mother, The Child. A guide for weekly discussion is included.
WAITING FOR THE WONDER: Voices of Advent (BK 5AX 432) Imagine the hushed excitement and the vivid anticipation of a child on Christmas Eve. How much more intense that anticipation must have been for those who waited for the wonder of the very first Christmas. From the ancient prophets to the three kings, from the angel Gabriel to the Joseph, imagine their astonishment and joy at the events unfolding around them. Author, Whitley places herself in the hearts and minds of the biblical characters—both real and imagined—who played a part in the Christmas narrative. She weaves stories, solidly based in Scripture, at once compelling and thought-provoking. The voices of her characters lead us closer to the Christ Child and deepen the meaning of the season of Advent for twenty-first century readers.

25 CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS (BK 5AX 434) Prepare your heart for the miracle of Christ's birth as you reflect on God's many graces during this joyful season! Featuring a meditation, prayer, Scripture reading, and "Top 10 Ways to Bless Others This Christmas," each holiday-themed reading explores topics such as love, giving, listening, resting, celebrating, remembering, and more.

THE ADVENT OF GOD'S WORD (BK 5AX 435) Are you missing out on the true meaning and mystery of Advent amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season? Rev. Dr. Brenda K. Buckwell invites you into a daily retreat experience, offering inspiring reflections, fresh perspectives on the season's traditional scripture readings, and creative ways to let God’s word sink deep into your heart and soul. With prayer practices that engage the senses and guidance in creating a visual reflection in response to each day’s reading, she helps you move beyond articulation of what you know of God to discover the possibilities awaiting you.

3-MINUTE DEVOTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 436) Got 3 minutes? Your family will find the seasonal wisdom and encouragement they need with these just-right-sized readings. This delightful devotional packs a powerful dose of inspiration into dozens of 3-minute readings designed to meet families’ right where they are in life. Minute 1: meditate on a scripture selection; Minute 2: read through a devotional created with your family in mind; Minute 3: read a prayer designed to help jump-start a conversation with God. In 3 short minutes, you’ll be on your way to a meaningful seasonal devotional time!

CHARACTERS OF CHRISTMAS: Advent Candle lighting readings (BK 5AX 437) A great resource as we prepare for Christmas in the season of Advent. In the Characters of Christmas each week we meet some of the characters of the first Christmas as we light each Advent candle. The readings are designed for weekly Advent candle lighting and reflection in church worship, school or home devotions.

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS: Once you believe, anything is possible (BK 5AX 438) Awaiting the birth of Jesus—no other time of year captures our imagination quite like Advent! Designed to share with your entire congregation a 4-session study will help Christians of all ages focus anew on the wonder of God's name, the star, the manger, and his eternal promise.

THE CHRISTMAS DANCE: Celebrate God's Gift for You (BK 5AX 439) This resource is about God's story and his invitation for us to join him not only in the narrative of salvation history, but also in divine relationship and ongoing communion. The story began before the foundation of the world, but through creation, he invited us to become characters whose lives are intricately woven into the storyline. The Bible contains hundreds of accounts about people whose roles demonstrate the differences of being willing or unwilling participants in the story and the dance. He is the divine author who has the ability to create and recreate, to write and rewrite, to sweep you off your feet, and place you into a heavenly dance that goes on throughout eternity. The choice is yours. Will you accept his invitation to dance?

WHY THE NATIVITY?: 25 Compelling Reasons We Celebrate the Birth of Jesus (BK 5AX 440) Every year, millions of people around the globe celebrate Christmas. But what does it all mean? Drawing from both the Old and New Testaments, noted pastor and theologian David Jeremiah provides answers to 25 of the most thought-provoking questions surrounding the most pivotal moment in human history—the birth of Jesus Christ. The 25 chapters can be read according to the Advent calendar.
MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 441) In this book, James G. Kirk provides meditations to help Christians celebrate Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. After a synopsis of the recommended Bible passage, there is a reflection, written in understandable language with real-life examples, which provide insight and direction for making the day more meaningful. A closing prayer follows. Based on Scripture readings from the lectionary, these meditations can be read by individuals or used with a group.

ALL CREATION WAITS THIS ADVENT (BK 5AX 442) Short, daily reflections that paint vivid, poetic images of familiar animals, paired with charming original wood-cuts, will engage both children and adults. Anyone who does not want to be caught, again, in the consumer hype of “the holiday season” but rather to be taken up into the eternal truth the natural world reveals will welcome this book.

ADVENT: A Calendar of Devotions (BK 5AX 443) Contains brief readings for each day in Advent, including a passage of Scripture, a short devotion, and a closing prayer. In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the selections for 2017 reflect the writings of the Protestant reformers.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS for Busy Families (BK 5AX 444) Instead of a frenzied blur of activities and crisis shopping, your children can learn the true meaning of Christmas. This is a simple guide for bringing families together to celebrate and learn about the Reason for the Season. Fascinating facts about Christmas trees, poinsettias and other symbols of the season. Candy canes, decorating a tree and Christmas cookies are all opportunities to teach children how they relate to the birth of our Savior. With free ornaments to copy, cut and color and many free activities, this Advent devotional will bring your whole family together in a Christ-centered way.

COOKIE ADVENT COOKBOOK (BK 5AX 445) COOKIE LOVERS here is a unique twist on the traditional Advent calendar. Starting on December 1 through Christmas Eve, the cover of the book invites readers to peek under an ornament flap to discover the cookie of the day—then turn the pages to find the appropriate recipe. Beginner and experienced bakers alike will enjoy these simple recipes for beautifully decorated homemade cookies counting down to December 25. With its mix of familiar and global Christmas treats and entirely new ones, this festive calendar and cookbook will create new cookie-baking traditions, bringing tidings of great family and community joy.

ADVENT FOR EVERYONE: A Journey with the Apostles (Bk 5AX 446) An inspirational guide through the Advent season, from the first Sunday in Advent through the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Popular biblical scholar and author N. T. Wright provides his own Scripture translation and brief reflection, helping readers understand Advent in the wider context of God’s love.

52 LITTLE LESSONS FROM A CHRISTMAS CARD (BK 5AX 447) The lessons and stories from the beloved novel A Christmas Carol point to bedrock values we all share. Award-winning author Bob Welch takes readers deeper into the nuances of this classic by Charles Dickens. From the miserliness of Scrooge to the innocence of Tiny Tim, 52 Little Lessons from A Christmas Carol will inspire readers to live for what really matters, not only at Christmas, but all year long.

HIDDEN CHRISTMAS: The surprising truth behind the birth of Christ (BK 5AX 448) The author takes readers through various Bible verses that describe the Nativity in order to explain its power supplying ample historical context to drive home its teachings. This is a book for believers and the reasoning he applies to the examined passages should be intellectually persuasive to his audience. He answers for instance questions about the Immaculate Conception by examining verses in which Mary and Joseph show their faith after first displaying skepticism.
THE MEANING IS IN THE WAITING: The Spirit of Advent (BK 5AX 449) Advent is about learning to love the waiting... * Abraham and Sarah--who waited a lifetime for the fulfillment of God's promises.* The Hebrew prophets--who waited for God's intervention, both longed for and feared.* John the Baptist--whose ministry marked the end of one era and anticipated the new.* Mary--whose life was shaped by waiting and by events beyond her control. This thoughtful book will enable you to grow more fully into a way of being that is expectant rather than urgent, more focused on God's presence right now than on some imagined future. You will venture on this journey in companionship with the God who waits with us.

A CHRISTMAS OF HEAVENLY PEACE: Readings for the Advent Season (Bk 5Ax 450) Peace . . . everyone wants peace. There is good news! God wants to give us peace. In fact, He sent Jesus expressly for that purpose. That's why Christmas is a season focused on peace. Unfortunately, because of the commercialization of the holiday, it is generally anything but a peaceful season. The parties, gift buying and financial stress are just the beginning of the death of our peace. The 28 daily readings you'll find in this book are short inspirations to help you find Peace as you prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 451) We long for a Christmas of meaning, one that leaves us feeling full of love instead of empty longing for anything other than what we see in our lives and under the Christmas tree. The Best Christmas will bring the true meaning and purpose of Christmas back to life in real meaningful ways. Twenty-five days of brief inspirational devotional readings will guide us to the babe in the manger, the Christ Child, who came into the world to fill our hearts with a Love that will never leave us, or disappoint us, or break our hearts. Join us for the Best Christmas, ever.

LOOK!: A child's guide to Advent and Christmas (BK 5AX 452) Told from the point of a view of a child, the story weaves together familiar Advent traditions like the Jesse tree and the Advent wreath, biblical stories and characters, and reflections on what these stories call us to do and be. This book reassures children of the presence of God in all times and places and invites them to become part of the holy work of making Christ present in the world.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: Devotions of Light in a Season of Darkness (BK 5AX 453) The Advent and Christmas season is often associated with joy, love, generosity, and unity. But for many people, this time of year magnifies loneliness, anxiety, grief, and despair. While others are enjoying celebrations with their friends and families, those who are hurting often feel even more lost, abandoned, and alone than ever. This resource reminds us that all of our Christmases, even the darkest ones, can be filled with honesty and hope if we are first willing to sit in silence and bring our deepest fears to God.

JESUS CALLING FOR CHRISTMAS (BK 5AX 454) A compilation of 50 seasonally appropriate devotions from Sarah Young's bestselling brand. In addition to the heartwarming devotions, enjoy the Christmas story from the Bible, Old Testament prophecies about the birth of Jesus, and exquisite images.

BIG BOOK OF HOLIDAY & BIBLE CELEBRATIONS (BK 5DX 030) Children's ministry leaders will find 30 ready-to-use lessons on 14 seasonal holidays (including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day) and 16 lessons about Bible-time celebrations. Each lesson provides holiday information, Bible story, object talk, game, art activity, puzzle and coloring page. Reproducible.

SEASONAL SPECIALS FOR CHILDREN’S MINISTRY (BK 5DX 038) Fun, new, timely holiday ideas to make or add to your own lessons kids can make a Christian connection to their favorite holidays you can address holidays from a biblical perspective. Covering preschool--6th grade, this resource covers 13 holidays, each one with step-by-step instructions for: crafts, snacks, devotions, games, songs, skits, service projects, plus tips, jokes, and more.
A HOMEMADE YEAR (BK 5DX 039) This gorgeously-designed book is a guide to celebrating the rhythm of life’s calendar of events, as well as the Christian liturgical year, focusing on God’s love in our lives. The author weaves her own faith story with original recipes, crafts and entertaining ideas, creating a vibrant, personal narrative that is a modern take on timeless traditions.

BANNER’S UNFURLED (BK 2HE 004) This is a book on how to make banners inexpensively. In this book you will find 10 projects for elementary through senior high students to make. The banners will express the celebration of Advent, Earth Day, Easter, Christmas and others.

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL DAYS (BK 8EC 029) Each of these services actively involves the congregation through the singing of several hymns, as well as scripture and dramatic readings which can be performed either with or without costumes. Many of these versatile pieces can even be used without a pastor, so this is an excellent resource to have on hand for pastoral vacations or other occasions when the laity is in charge of worship. Services are included for New Year's Day, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve, and others.

PRAISE THE LORD: LITANIES, PRAYERS AND OCCASIONAL SERVICES (BK 8EC 093) A very helpful resource when looking for help in preparing a worship service with a fresh approach. It includes: liturgies and occasional services, worship services, celebrations and observances and many pages of thoughtful, inspiring prayers for every gathering and occasion.

FEASTING ON THE WORD: Advent Companion (BK 8ED 076A) This volume in the Feasting on the Word series provides an all-in-one pastor's companion for Advent, including worship materials as well as sermon preparation tools. A complete order of service is provided for each of the four Sundays in Advent, plus Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Hymn suggestions, sermon illustrations, and children's sermon suggestions make this an invaluable resource for the Advent season. This resource is not for check out. Call or email the resource center for print-out of material you would need.
**CURRICULUM for Advent**

**WORKSHOP ZONE- Faith Finds the Messiah- Vol.4 (CU 5AX 006)** Workshop Zone, is Sunday school reborn! More and more churches are turning to the workshop model to draw kids into the ultimate kid-friendly, Christ-centered Sunday school adventure. How Workshop Zone Works: Each unit or Workshop Zone's Year of Faith curriculum contains eight complete workshops—four for 2nd and 3rd graders and four for 4th and 5th graders, enough for one month of lessons. In each unit, kids approach a new Bible story through workshops carefully designed to appeal to all their intelligence. Drama, video, art, games, outreach, missions, music, science, food and storytelling meld into rich, Bible-based lessons focused on spiritual formation. **Faith Finds the Messiah** leads the children on a journey of preparation for the coming of Christ. Learning of the faithful responses of Israelites who waited for centuries for the promised Messiah, kids will prepare their hearts to welcome the newborn Savior.

**BEING REFORMED: Illuminating Advent (CU 5AX 011)** This Advent study reflects on the blessed themes of Advent—hope, love, joy, and peace, often used in connection with Advent wreaths in churches—as well as the birth of Christ and Epiphany light. The study’s rubric of “head,” “heart,” and “hands” invites adult and young adult participants to connect with this sacred season in their own personal lives of faith. “This study is important for providing understandings of the history of salvation and meanings associated with what is central to Christian faith.”

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS (CU 5AX 012)** Children learn how the birth of Jesus brought light into a dark world—and how Jesus' light still guides us today. Grades K - 8

**JUST LIKE ME (CU 5AX 014)** Jesus was born in an ordinary stable for ordinary people like shepherds—and like you and me! Grades K – 8

**PREPARE HIM ROOM: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus in the Classroom (CU 5AX 016)** This includes a 12-lesson CD, a hardback Prepare Him Room family devotional, and a reproducible template for a manager scene activity for elementary age children. Guide your kids and their families into the heart of Christmas with this gospel-focused, four-week Advent curriculum featuring a New Testament Bible story, a look at Old Testament promises, object lessons, Bible memory, a craft or coloring page, and a Christmas carol to sing together. Change the way kids and families at your church celebrate Christmas.

Silent Night Oh Holy Night.
NATIVITY (DVD 5AX 001) After the cross, the Nativity scene is Christianity's most recognized symbol. Its history, art and spirituality have been embraced by cultures around the world for nearly 2,000 years. This DVD unites theologians and collectors with an astonishing and beautiful array of nativity scenes collected from across the globe. It provides interesting information about when the first crèches came about and how they evolved over the centuries.

THE NATIVITY STORY (DVD 5AX 002) It was the cruelest of times. Under Herod's torturous reign, families struggled to survive and yet, in the midst of utter turmoil, a young woman's faith is put to the test. This DVD lets you join Mary and Joseph on an incredible journey of hope and discovery.

PRINCE OF PEACE (DVD 5AX 004) See the story unfold as Mary and Joseph are visited by angels while Herod plots to erase any competition to his throne. The birth of Jesus in that Bethlehem stable changed the world, and to this very day, men, women and children kneel to worship the one who is called the Prince of Peace. Recommended for ages 3 to 10. Approximately 29 minutes.

THE CRIPPLED LAMB (DVD 5AX 005) This heartwarming animated special is based on Max Lucado's story of Joshua, a little lame lamb, and the special chance he had to honor the Christ child one starry night in Bethlehem. Joshua, a crippled lamb always felt left out. Joshua longed to keep up with the flock, but God had a very special plan for him--just as he does for everyone. One cold winter night, Joshua was in the right place at the right time to watch history's greatest event unfold, and he even got to play a part in it.

AN ANGEL FOR CHRISTMAS (DVD 5AX 007) In Ironville, wealthy mill-owner D.D. Kovet has a monopoly on everything...including Christmas! The holiday is against the law as long as he controls things. But when a charming orphan girl named Angela appears in the village square selling holly sprigs, the entire town is enchanted by this mysterious stranger and her magical wolf companion. Soon, renewed faith and glorious goodwill prompt citizens to delight in the long-forgotten wonder and joy of Christmas.

RED BOOTS FOR CHRISTMAS (DVD 5AX 011) It's nearing Christmas in a small town in Germany. Hans the shoemaker works into the night, purposely shut away from the holiday festivities around him. Alone in his shop, with no family and few friends, Hans has never learned the true meaning of Christmas. While he mocks the townspeople's merry preparations, Hans is visited by an angel who brings the promise of a very special gift. Hans eagerly awaits the return of this angelic messenger and crafts a gift to give in return--the finest pair of red boots ever made. As the story unfolds, Hans learns the joys of sharing and fellowship, and finally embraces the spirit of Christmas as he does indeed receive the ultimate gift--a gift from God. A wonderful program to teach children the true meaning of Christmas.

THE LITTLEST LIGHT ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE (DVD 5AX 012) A timeless, magical tale about two unforgettable friends; an abandoned, discarded Christmas bulb, afraid and alone - and an eight-year-old boy who finds him and takes him home. When the town suffers a blackout from a fierce winter storm, Little Light triumphs over all odds - and his own self-doubt - to 'shine' lighting the way for others to 'see the light'. A warm and touching animated story about the miracle of believing and the power of the human heart.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER (DVD 5AX 024) *Oldie but goodie!* When the Herdmans (the nastiest kids in the neighborhood) decide they want to be in this year's Christmas pageant, everyone is sure it will be a disaster. But when the curtain finally goes up, a miracle happens---making it the best ever! Loretta Swift stars in this wonderful adaptation of the classic book. 60 minutes

BETHLEHEM: Year Zero (DVD 5AX 028) This program looks at how modern news teams might cover the birth of Jesus Christ and related events if they were taking place today. Segments feature Mary's pregnancy, a comet streaking across the sky, three men planning to meet with Herod, the urgent trip to Egypt, and the massacre of the newborns. Imaginative efforts help re-create the political climate that surrounded Christ's birth. Special bulletins and other modern news formats are creatively used throughout the video.

ADVENT CALENDAR (DVD 5AX 029) Here are 25 brief reflections on treasured songs and carols for the entire family to enjoy during Advent. Explore the wonders of Bethlehem revealed in the stories of treasured songs and enjoy new arrangements of traditional Christmas favorites by composer Steven Bias.

MICAH'S CHRISTMAS TREASURE (DVD 5AX 030) Micah, a poor shepherd boy, makes a wonderful discovery amidst the tumult and uncertainty of ancient Israel at the time of Christ’s birth.

THE LITTLEST ANGEL (DVD 5AX 049) When a mischievous little boy enters heaven, he finds a new world of wonder. One day the archangel makes an announcement--God is to have a son. Every angel rushes to find the perfect gift. The Littlest Angel, with his tilted halo and untested wings, has no idea what to do until he realizes that the most valuable gift always comes from the heart. 24 minutes

VEGGIE TALES HOLIDAY PACK: The Star of Christmas, The Toy That Saved Christmas, A Very Veggie Christmas, The Incredible Signing Christmas Tree (DVD 5AX 055) *The Toy That Saved Christmas* - Mr. Nezzer, president of Nezzer Toy Company, has all of Dinkletown convinced---"Christmas is when you get stuff." He even creates talking dolls that promote greed and have kids whining for more, more, more! But then one brave doll learns the real meaning of Christmas and sets out to tell everybody the truth---with the Veggies' help! *The Star of Christmas* - An electric-light extravaganza called The Princess and the Plumber on Christmas Eve . . . in 19th-century London? Nothing's impossible for producers Cavis and Milward (Bob and Larry) - or so they think until a valuable 6th-century artifact from a local church grabs the limelight. Join the Veggies for song, spectacle, and a heartwarming holiday lesson about love. PLUS 2 CD’s *The incredible, Singing Christmas Tree and A Very Veggie Christmas*

STAR OF BETHLEHEM (DVD 5AX 061) For centuries, skeptics and seekers alike have pondered the star of Bethlehem. The Bible describes unusual or even impossible astronomical events at Christ's birth. Was it a miracle or mere myth? This compelling DVD - from producer Stephen McEveety ("The Passion of the Christ") - examines Scripture, ancient writings, indisputable astronomical facts and more. Learn nine specific features of the star recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, how it established a date for Jesus' birth and death . . . and its significance for you today! 65 minutes.

LITTLEST ANGEL - The movie (DVD 5AX 062) A heartwarming holiday movie starring Johnny Whitaker as Michael, a shepherd boy lining in Biblical time, who finds himself transported to Heaven on his eighth birthday. Michael doesn’t fully understand where he is or why he’s there. A guardian angel named Patience (Fred Gwynne) is given the task of showing Michael the joys of heaven and helping him find his place in the hereafter. Great old time family favorite.

READ AND SHARE: Christmas (Jesus Series) (DVD 5AX 064) Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with the children in your life. Animated straight from the pages of the popular Read and Share TM Bible, this story of Christmas is an uninterrupted half-hour presentation of Jesus' arrival on earth. With enchanting art style, warm narration, and gentle musical underscore, children will experience the Christmas story in a powerful way.
THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS (DVD 5AX 065) From the appearance of the angel to Mary, Mary and Joseph’s travel to Bethlehem to the birth in the stable. A touching story for the Advent season. This presentation has been used effectively as an outreach and evangelistic presentation. Joe Castillo illustrates the greatest story ever told in sand. Amazing! What an exciting new live performance art form.

PERFECT GIFT, THE (DVD 5AX 068) What if the world threw you a birthday party but you weren’t invited? Discover how a spoiled schoolgirl, her overworked executive mother, and a disillusioned young minister receive an uplifting message about friendship, commitment, and the true meaning of Christmas from a mysterious "drifter" named Jess. Approx. 86 minutes.

KINGDOM UNDER THE SEA: The Gift (DVD 5AX 069) Beneath the waves lies a wondrous world: an enchanted place of colorful coral reefs and spectacular sunken ships, a Kingdom Under the Sea. It's Christmas time in the Kingdom, and the town has been transformed into a holiday wonderland. But somewhere between the lights, the presents and the decoration, everyone in the Kingdom has forgotten what Christmas is really about until the town's archenemies Professor Pinch and his not-so-bright sidekick Clawed try to destroy it. A magical mix of adventure, discovery and comedy, The Gift is about the journey to rediscover the meaning of Christmas. Come unwrap the truth. Approximate running time is 30 minutes. Recommended for ages 7

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE (DVD 5AX 070) A group of strangers are forced to seek refuge in an abandoned church after a major snow storm hits. Over the course of the evening these strangers rely on one another to make do during these very difficult times. 90 Minutes

GINGERBREAD CHRISTMAS (DVD 5AX 071) Christmas has been canceled in the town of Gloomsbury – and something must be done. So, the Prince and Princess of Gingerbread attempt to save the day in this fun-filled holiday classic. The spirited narration and lively musical score will whisk you through this merry tale about the true meaning of Christmas. Ages 4 and up. 20 minutes

WHAT’S IN THE BIBLE: Why Do We Call it Christmas? (DVD 5AX 072) Join Veggie Tales and What’s in the Bible? Creator Phil Vischer and his friends from the popular What’s in the Bible? Series Buck Denver, Captain Pete, Sunday School Lady, Clive and Ian for the most unusual Christmas party ever! We know Christmas is one of everyone’s favorite holidays. But have you ever wondered why we celebrate the birth of Jesus by chopping down trees and putting them in our houses? Or why we hang stockings by the fire? Or how Santa Claus became such a big part of Jesus’ birthday party? And why do we even call it “Christmas,” anyway? You’ve probably heard the Christmas story - but have you ever heard the story of Christmas?

NO ORDINARY SHEPHERD: A Heartwarming Tale of Faith . . . and Miracles (DVD 5AX 073) As the sun beams brightly on the hills surrounding Palestine, one young shepherd boy thoughtfully considers the significance of the day. The child, crippled in a terrible accident, has always treasured his shepherd father's tale of that starlit night so many years before - a night filled with the wonder of angelic heralds and a tiny Bethlehem stable sheltering the chosen Messiah. Now, years since that sacred event, tales of Jesus of Nazareth's miraculous birth touch the young boy's faith. When he meets the gentle stranger in the hills - a man strangely familiar to him - the faithful young shepherd encounters a miracle of his own. 22 Minutes

THE STAR: A tale of Faith and Friendship (DVD 5AX 074) An adventurous donkey named Bo (voice of Steven Yeun) goes on an epic journey while using a star for navigation, which eventually leads him to the birth of Jesus. Along the way, he is joined by a number of animal companions, including a lost sheep, a proud dove, and a trio of wisecracking camels.
VOICES OF CHRISTMAS (DVD 5AX 075) FROM SIGHT & SOUND PRODUCTION: Voices of Christmas is a sparkling holiday experience for all ages, a fresh, cinematic adaptation of the live theatre production that played on the Living Waters stage at Sight & Sounds Theatres. Come along as a talented cast arrayed in vibrant costumes presents a series of captivating segments depicting the significance of many beloved Christmas traditions. Rediscover the treasures of the season through toe-tapping melodies, favorite carols, and bright instrumentals, filmed both on stage and on location throughout the Lancaster County region. From an enchanting Victorian village to snow-swept landscapes to a whimsical toy shop and more, each heartwarming scene will inspire you to fully celebrate the birth of the Savior.

STORYTELLER CAFE: The Gift (DVD 2MD 003 C) When the lights are out and the door is locked, the toys come alive at the Storyteller Cafe! Join Pete the WWII pilot, Tex the lasso-wielding yo-yo, Gallop the happy-go-lucky horse, Tina the tutu-wearing elephant, and a myriad of other fun characters in this award-winning, 3-D computer animated series for ages 4-12. In each episode, children will see the Bible brought to life in a new, engaging way as the toys re-enact treasured stories from the Bible. This episode, The Gift, is a wonderful reminder to celebrate the life of Christ all year long, not just at Christmas.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS/ THE STORY BEHIND THE CROSS (DVD 2MD 011 A) Contains two complete videos featuring the stories of Christmas and Easter with footage straight from The Visual Bible, cut into modern-day stories just for kids. The Birth of Jesus features guest star Kirk Cameron, and The Story Behind the Cross features guest star Judge Reinhold.

DRIVE THRU HISTORY: HOLY LAND SERIES – Bethlehem to Caesarea (DVD 8AA 006 C) Just released in 2013, the all new Holy Land Series. In a style all his own, Dave Stotts---host and editor of Drive Thru History---speeds through the ancient world of the Bible, delivering a fast-paced encounter with the people, places and events that have shaped our world and the Christian faith. This DVD includes: Miracles, Messiah, and the Roman Empire. Episode 1: Transition to New Testament, Prophecies of the Messiah, and Bethlehem (including the Church of Nativity, Shepherds Field, and the Star of Bethlehem) Episode 2: Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Jesus’ Boat, Capernaum, the House of Peter, Synagogue at Capernaum, and Tabgha. Episode 3: Caesarea Philippi and Caesarea Maritima. PDF with discussion questions is included.

FLASH DRIVES

WORSHIP IN A FLASH FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS (FD 5AX 001) Flash drive You know how important it is to plan meaningful, engaging worship services—especially during this season. What if all these elements were together for you in one place? What if all that help fit easily in your pocket or your purse? Welcome to Worship in a Flash. Drawing on a vast library of worship resources, Abingdon Press provides everything you need to plan worship throughout Advent and Christmas, all on a convenient USB drive with room to store your notes as you plan worship each week. The Worship in a Flash USB drive is compatible with Windows and Macintosh formats. It includes prayers, calls to worship, litanies, benedictions, sermons, music, projection images, and more. Liturgies, prayers, sermon outlines, and other text materials are in PDF format. Images are in JPEG format.
THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BANNER (KT 5AX 002) Two-banner package provides church school children the chance to participate creatively in an all-church Christmas activity. At a worship service during Advent, the children present their own banner liturgy. Many young readers and nonreaders can participate. Each symbol represents part of the Christmas story.

THE CHILDREN'S ADVENT BANNERS (KT 5AX 005) Four banner designs and liturgies for Advent.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD (KT 5AX 006) 30-minute Christmas musical with fun new music, traditional carols and easy-to-perform drama. Join Sam, Halo, Slim, Skyler and Holly as they get ready with the angelic choir to announce the miraculous birth of Jesus. Simple. CD included.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (KT 5AX 008) Rejoice with the angels' announcement of the birth of Jesus with this simple Christmas musical for kids. This 15-minute celebration is perfect for churches that desire an easy, yet powerful presentation. CD

THE ADVENT BANNER (KT 5AX 009) Banner kit includes both banner design instructions and pattern and scripts for a banner presentation liturgy.

PATTERNS FOR CHRISMONS (KT 5AX 010) A kit of patterns for Chrismons / Jesse Tree.

THE GRUMPY SHEPHERD (KT 5AX 011) A musical adaptation of a book by Paddie Devon, which uses music, drama, and worship to create an exciting experience for kids in grades 3 through 8. The kit includes a singer's edition, a leader/accompanyant edition, and CD.

STRANGER IN THE MANGER (KT 5AX 018) Delightful new musical tells about the birth of Jesus with the fun use of rhyme. Add a dose of new songs and familiar carols with a new “swing” feel and you have a spectacular presentation that kids will love. This is an easy-to-learn 30-minute musical that allows you to keep your production simple or take it over the top. CD included.

INSTRUMENTS OF INSPIRATION: An Advent and Christmas Worship Resource (KT 5AX 022) This offers congregations a thematic approach for communicating the message of Advent and Christmas. The symbolism of musical instruments provides the focus for a wide variety of Advent and Christmas worship experiences including: lighting candles, children's message, singing songs, readings, and decorating.

LIVE FROM BETHLEHEM (KT 5AX 023) This "instant Christmas pageant" is the Christmas story told by first-century television reporters covering the census in Bethlehem. Complete instructions for casting, costumes, props, and rehearsals are included, as well as reproducible patterns. It is designed for ages 4 through 12. CD included.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS (KT 5AX 030) Suggestions for hanging of the greens decorations are made, and music and dialogues for the total liturgy are scripted. Four readers set the mood, while others act as garland hangers.

A KING IS COMING TO TOWN (KT 5AX 035) Come along to the little town of Rumor Mill, USA, where this morning the whole town seems to have gathered in the town square. What sparked all the excitement? A sign, posted anonymously, declaring “A King Is Coming to Town!” Just who this King is, no one seems to know. Is it King Tut, King Kong, or the King of Rock & Roll? Drew and Ellie have the answer, as they want to tell the real story of Christmas. CD included.
THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT (KT 5AX 036) An easy to sing, easy to stage Christmas musical for Children. This is presented as a poem intermixed with new songs as well as familiar carols. This is a great choice for a volunteer Children's leader or a small choir with little resources. The message centers on Jesus as God's true Christmas Present - the Gift that gives daily. CD included.

ON OUR WAY TO BETHLEHEM (KT 5AX 038) Take the journey then and now to Bethlehem. This 25-minute musical is a perfect way to showcase the younger children who portray the Biblical characters in rhyming dialogue, while the older youth share the significance of the journey as it relates to today. The easy-to-learn songs add to the telling of the story. Include your younger children and youth in this meaningful message of our journey to the manger. CD Included.

THE NOT-SO-SILENT NIGHT (KT 5AX 039) A musical drama for a Children's Christmas Program! This is a complete script & an already-recorded soundtrack (CD) that saves time and money. This is an instant Christmas pageant...just add kids! The story: 3 young shepherds joyfully shouted God's praises after visiting the baby Jesus. How were they to know they were 'disturbing the peace'?

THE BACKWARD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (KT 5AX 040) How do we tell the story of how the birth of Christ had changed things long ago and how it continues to change things today? Tell the story backwards! The Backward Christmas Pageant shows us that time doesn't matter in this story. The birth of a baby 2000 years ago, in fact change everything - God's grace is timeless. The story of our redemption, begun in Christ's birth, is always before and ahead of current events in our life and world. This pageant is designed for a production with no set, no budget, no live musical accompaniment, and it can be performed with the cast reading from their scripts OR it can also be performed fully staged and memorized, with sets, costumes and live accompaniment. This is a fun and flexible pageant. The spiral bound book is reproducible and comes with a CD with all music.

THE SURPRISING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (KT 5AX 041) This comedy musical tells the story of Christ's birth, reminding us that God's grace and love appear new to us every day. Production features are flexible and rehearsal time is minimal. Children's parts are reproducible and an accompaniment CD is included. Designed for kindergarten through 6th grade.

THE VERY IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (KT 5AX 042) Enjoy the story of the birth of Christ, told with humor, mystery and awe. This pageant is designed for a production with no set, no budget, no live musical accompaniment (CD included), and where the cast reads from their scripts.

THE FUMBLY BUMBLY ANGELS (KT 5AX 043) Four fumbly, bumbly angels set their sights on singing in the glorious Heaven Choir. Instead, they find themselves singing in Bethlehem. This musical (CD included) is an instant Christmas pageant: every line, song and sound effect is pre-recorded and the actors simply follow along.

WEE THREE KINGS (KT 5AX 045) Time travelers Gert and Ernie discover they have been deposited in Jerusalem during Bible times. Their adventure tells a compelling biblical message about commitment to Jesus. This instant Christmas pageant has no lines to memorize, a simple set to assemble, and an accompanying CD with prerecorded soundtrack and clip art.

DECK THE HALLS (KT 5AX 046) This Advent celebration provides a feast for the eyes and the heart. Each decoration has a distinct meaning relating to Christ's birth - the Advent wreath, evergreens, poinsettias, Nativity Scene, Christmas tree and star. This highly flexible service allows for as few as 4 or as many as 20 participants.
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL (KT 5AX 060) All Lindsay wants for Christmas is... everything she sees! While she's pouting over her mother's true words about why we celebrate Christmas, Lindsay finds some new friends... cool “toy” friends... that come alive to her. Together Lindsay, Miss Glamour Doll, Chucko the fluffy teddy bear, the action figure Captain Courage, and the ever popular Jack-In-the-Box tell the story of the first Christmas and discover the true meaning of the season. This 40-minute musical teaches a wonderful lesson about the ultimate gift that God gave to us. CD included.

LAMB’S TALE (KT 5AX 063) - Zeke is a young Bethlehem boy who seems sadly destined to be a shepherd just like his father, and his father's father... but what a change occurs when his special little lamb, Snowflake, gets lost. In his search, Zeke discovers a newborn King. CD included

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD (KT 5AX 068) Almost no rehearsal time is needed for this Christmas PowerPoint presentation. Digital photographs of your church's children in costume are used to portray scenes from the story of Jesus' birth, from Gabriel appearing to Mary to the Magi presenting their gifts. No memorization is required in this appealing, no-fuss pageant alternative.

THE ANGELS SPEAK (KT 5AX 069) This collection of readings for the Advent wreath feature the angels that appeared to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Only two persons are needed to give these weekly presentations. A simple banner pattern is included.

GLOWING WITH ADVENT (KT 5AX 070) Two persons - the pastor and the speaker - are needed each week for this service of Advent candle lighting. Representing the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love are a farmer, fisherman, bride, and a mother. Responsive readings and a simple song verse are also included.

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (KT 5AX 071) The popular song "The 12 Days of Christmas" is presented with a hidden meaning of Christian instruction of the catechism, with each gift relating to some aspect of Christian faith. 20 minutes.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (KT 5AX 072) Four skits involving worshipers of all ages - seniors, young, married, singles, and children - are used in presentations combining scripture with present-day observations in the lighting of the Advent candles.

BUILDING THE NATIVITY (KT 5AX 073) Scripture readings, narration, and singing focus on different characters in the traditional Nativity scene each Sunday of Advent. The brief scripts can be used as Sunday School openings, children's sermons, or in conjunction with an Advent candle lighting service.

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CANDLES (KT 5AX 074) Everything you need to present this service is included, from suggested music to a brief sermon. Readers offer scripture and narration, children trim a tree and place gifts for the needy under it, and familiar carols are sung by the choir and congregation.

THE VOICES OF ADVENT (KT 5AX 075) The simplicity of biblical monologues is combined with the meaningful tradition of Advent candle lighting in these presentations for each Sunday of Advent. Four costumed characters share brief point-of-view reflections on the impending birth of the Savior as they light a candle. A Christmas Eve service for lighting the Christ candle is also included.

ADVENT ATTITUDES (KT 5AX 076) The humor of blending biblical stories with today's language bridges the 2,000 years since Jesus' birth in these sketches designed to accompany the lighting of the Advent wreath. The themes of stop, look, listen, and prepare complement the traditional Advent themes of peace, hope, joy, and love.

IF I WERE THE INNKEEPER (KT 5AX 080) Two players and a narrator are needed to present this effective series to be used during the lighting of the Advent candles. The themes for the four Sundays of Advent and the Christmas Eve service are the invitation, the preparation, the restoration, the proclamation, and the celebration.
WELCOME, EMMANUEL (KT 5AX 081) Intended to be used through Advent and Christmas Eve, this collection of scenes explains Advent in a visual way. The scenes provide a month-long hanging of the greens and explanation of the symbols of Advent as well as candle-lighting services.

SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND A SAVIOR (KT 5AX 086) On a hill just outside of Bethlehem, lowly shepherds were tending their sheep at night. They didn’t get much company out there. People had been passing through for several days as the census was underway, but they hardly spoke at all as they walked by on their way to Bethlehem. Nobody really wanted to talk to the shepherds. That is, nobody except an angel! 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-minute musical about one of the most familiar parts of the Christmas story.

SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS (KT 5AX 088) Simple musical for children that celebrates the birth of Christ using familiar carols and easy narration. This 25-minute program is easy-to-learn and presents the Christmas story in a fun way that children can understand and enjoy. Everyone loves to hear children sing - especially at Christmas, so let the joy of the season ring throughout your church as your children present Sing-A-Song of Christmas.

LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS (KT 5AX 090) A creative approach to help children experience the spirit of Christmas. A unique participation resource designed to make Christmas a real experience for church school students and all who witness it. Everyone is involved as the Christmas story unfolds through hearing, seeing and touching. Even the audience participates. The program itself is presented unrehearsed, although some preparation is required. All the major Nativity characters are represented. 20 - 25 minutes

CHRISTMAS: FAQ (KT 5AX 091) Who hasn’t heard a child ask “Why?” Kids and questions go together like Christmas and trees. A narrator reads the Christmas account from the second chapter of Luke. No sooner does “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus…” than the hapless narrator gets the first of many queries. The children’s delightfully innocent questions pepper the remainder of the storytelling as they try to make sense of a wonderful but at times confusing story. A baby born in a stable instead of a hospital? What about the shepherds “living in the fields” – didn’t they have houses? And why didn’t baby Jesus get a toy instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh? Other children respond, revealing the true nature of Jesus and our need for Christmas. Carols and dramatic enactments are interspersed with the Q and A.

BETHLEHEM BOUND (KT 5AX 096) Create, rehearse, and present a complete Christmas play in one easy event. With just one hour of rehearsal, four scenes involving everyone who attends, original script and music, Bethlehem Bound presents Jesus as the real star of Christmas. Marty and Ramona, a Bible-times couple, lead the way to Bethlehem on the night of Jesus’ birth. They encounter Mary and Joseph, a musical caravan, Wise Ones going to meet the baby king, harmonic angels, and shepherds with a flock of inspiring sheep-all played by your church family decked out with creative props they have just created.

CAROLING, CAROLING (KT 5AX 097) A collection of thirty short monologs dramatizes familiar Christmas carols by telling stories that match the meanings of the songs. Monologs are structured according to three themes: We Were There, Still We Come, He Will Fulfill. The monologs are easy to perform, with only minimal rehearsal and few props required. Suggested carols include: "Silent Night", "Angels Come from the Realm of Glory", "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and others. (music not included.) Each are one to four minutes long. All ages.
ADVENT OUT LOUD (KT 5AX 098) Did I say that out loud? Yes! These Advent wreath sketches feature vocalized thoughts pointing to the challenge of living a life of hope, peace, joy and love in a confused and conflicted modern society. 1. Hope in the Pew – Everyman’s Christmas to-do list seems overwhelming and hope seems elusive, but we can hope on that which never changes. 2. Peace on the Overpass – A couple bickers in heavy traffic amid radio announcements of stalled peace talks in the Middle East. Where is peace? 3. Joy in a Candy Store – Grandpa can be Scrooge-like – can’t we all? But all are capable of choosing God’s joy. 4. Love in a Manger – The stress of a play rehearsal gone wrong can’t overshadow the reason for Christmas: love.

ADVENT ANTICIPATION (KT 5AX 099) These short dialogs have the lively conversational feel of a discussion between friends. All the banter, repartee and reflection centers around the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love. The running commentary relates the coming of the Christ child to our contemporary lives. Selections are intentionally kept concise to allow for typically full church services during Advent. Each selection begins with an attention-grabbing bit of humor and ends with reverent candle lighting and prayer. In this busy season when all have so much to do, no memorization is a big plus!

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS: Women’s Holiday Event Kit (KT 5AX 100) Looking for something fresh and new for your next Christmas event? This is exactly what you need! This event is centered on the special Christmas memories women cherish, and it explores the very center of all our Christmas traditions—the birth of Jesus. Women will enjoy getting to know one another as they share their own Christmas traditions and memories. They will also be challenged to keep Christ at the center of everything they do—especially during the busy holiday season. A unique and meaningful way to bring women together to celebrate the reason for the season—Jesus! The kit provides everything you need to plan and host a wonderful winter event.

CONTAGIOUS CHRISTMAS: Women’s Holiday Event Kit (KT 5AX 101) Looking for something fresh and new for your next Christmas event or holiday tea? Contagious Christmas is exactly what you need to breathe new life into your holiday gathering. This event is centered on spreading the joy of Christmas. Women will enjoy getting to know one another as they share their own stories and connect with the story that started us all on a mission to make joy contagious—the Christmas story. The kit includes: Leader Guide which also includes planning tips, a supply list, simple decorating ideas, recipe suggestions, and a Bible-based devotion for the event; a DVD with stories of people who have made sharing Christmas joy contagious. Used during the devotion portion of the event. Downloadable Graphics and a Memory Booklet.

Whole Church Advent Study

THE JOURNEY (KT 5AX 092) Take your group on a journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels on video from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. This five-session DVD was filmed in on location in the Holy Land. Each exciting and informative session contains 10-15 minute video vignettes of pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton retracing the actual path of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. Also includes a bonus segment on the Holy Land today. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. This is a study that can be used for the whole church or small groups or even individual study. Available in this kit is: The Journey- reading book; A Season of Reflections devotional; DVD with Leader Guide for adults; Youth Study guide and Children’s Study guide.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: Advent Study (KT 5AX 093) Cast a vision of living and giving like Jesus. This five-week study helps participants see the traps and discontentment of consumerism and the call of God to live generously to fulfill God’s mission in the world. Includes DVD with Leader Guide for Adults, Youth Study, Children’s Leader Guide, and devotional.
GOD CAME NEAR (KT 5AX 102) When God came to earth, his first cries were heard not by powerful rulers but by a lowly peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. Join Max Lucado as he reveals profound spiritual truths through vivid re-creations of the first Christmas—and engaging stories about Simeon, Saint Nicholas, a shoebox, and more. Six DVDs, approx. 3 hours total. Perfect for families and church congregations, this set includes six 28-minute episodes narrated by Lucado, a 32-page Discussion Guide/Devotional book and printable discussion guide (PDF).

DOWN TO EARTH: The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight (KT 5AX103) Church Wide Advent Study: Nothing in all the vast, created universe could prepare us for God coming down as a helpless infant, or for Jesus the son of God intentionally positioning himself as a mere servant, identifying with the lowest of lows. It's enough to confound the mind, to make the heart contrite. This four-week Advent study that opens up God’s Christmas surprise to us and examines how God’s great surprise changed everything. This Kit includes the following components: Leader Guide contains everything needed to guide an adult group through the 4-week study for Advent, including session plans and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options; Youth Study everything needed to conduct a 4-week study of Down to Earth, including leader helps and current examples that have meaning to young people grades 6–12. Includes leader helps with discussion questions and can be used with the adult-level DVD; Children’s Leader Guide contains session ideas for younger and older children, including games, activities, craft ideas, and reproducible handouts; DVD contains four video segments (approximately 10–12 minutes each) featuring Mike Slaughter and Rachel Billups teaching in their dynamic style for use during group sessions, along with the book and Leader Guide. All video sessions are closed-captioned; Devotions: Four weeks of devotions for use during Advent and leading up to Christmas, based on the down-to-earth, missional messages of the book and videos. Each devotion includes Scripture, story, and prayer; Book: Down to Earth.

SENT: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas (KT 5AX 104) Advent study series that can be used for the whole church. God sent Christ at Christmas and in turn, Christ sends us into the world to be his hands, feet, head and heart. Dynamic pastor Jorge Acevedo and other pastors, leads us on a 5-week Advent journey to discover how, where, and why we are sent. The DVD contains five sessions of 8-10 minutes of video for small group use, each led by a different presenter. Each session begins with a story about a memorable Advent or Christmas and is followed by a lively discussion among the presenters. Participate Book with Stories show that Christ sends us to liberate, to heal, to reconcile, to transform, to bring new life. The Leader Guide contains everything needed to guide a group through the study program. Includes session plans and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options. The Youth Study Book contains everything needed to conduct a five-week Advent study geared to youth, including current examples that have meaning to young people ages 13-18. Can be used with the adult-level DVD. The Children's Leader Guide contains session ideas for both younger and older children, including games, activities, craft ideas, and reproducible handouts.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON’T BREAK (KT 5AX 105) This church wide Advent study focuses on four of those gifts that also coincide with the four outer candles of the traditional Advent wreath: hope, love, joy, and peace. What are the Christmas gifts that won’t break? They are those gifts that cannot be lost, that never go out of style, and that are independent of the chances and changes of life. They are the gifts that have been graciously given by God. As participants go through this 4-session study, they will receive from God and pass onto others the Christmas gifts that won’t break. Provides weekly Advent readings: Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:15-20; Matthew 1:22-25; Luke 2:8-14; Looks at spiritual gifts everyone can offer that will bring hope, love, joy, and peace to their family, community, and world; Challenges people to rethink the gifts they ask for and give during the Advent and Christmas seasons; Leaders and participants work from the same book. Includes Scripture and excerpts drawing from popular author James W. Moore’s experiences as a pastor, speaker, and church leader. Provides commentary and questions for reflection and discussion Includes worship experiences appropriate for the season. Adult Study, Youth Study and Children Study.
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS: Opening the Gifts of God’s Grace (KT 5AX 106) As we give and receive Christmas gifts, it is important to remember that the best Christmas gifts are wrapped in heaven. This study asks the question: "What are the gifts you would really like to receive from Christmas this year?" Each of the five sessions focuses on a real-life story or an interview to draw out the theme of the chapter, showing how individuals and churches embody the key ideas from the book, All I Want for Christmas. This kit contains resources: DVD (sessions are about 8-10 minutes in length) Leader guide is to be used with the DVD. Children’s study contains session ideas for younger and older children, including games, activities, craft ideas, and reproducible handouts; Youth Study includes readings for reflection, age-appropriate teaching and learning activities that groups can choose to fit their needs and setting, as well as a short devotional reading for each day of the Advent season. Leaders and participants work from the same book. Also included is a large print extra 5-session Advent study includes discussion questions, prayers, a weekly focus, and daily Bible readings.

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS: Once You Believe, Anything Is Possible (KT 5AX 107) This year, rediscover the true wonder of Christmas by sharing the love of Christ with others. Each chapter in The Wonder of Christmas, centers on one element of the Christmas story, looking to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to offer inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas and throughout the year. Chapters Include: The Wonder of a Name, The Wonder of a Star, The Wonder of a Manger and The Wonder of a Promise. The Wonder of Christmas is perfect for an all-church study and includes resources for all ages, teaching video, worship ideas and visuals, and preaching guides, all areas of church life weave together for a wonder-filled Advent celebration. The adult study book is the centerpiece of the program, serving as the adult small group resource and the source of content for worship planners and leaders. Kit contains: Devotional, DVD, Leader Guide, Adult Study Book, Youth Study book, Children’s Leader Guide.

BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM (KT 5AX 108) In this four-session video-based study, bestselling author Max Lucado reveals that Because of Bethlehem, we have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always with us. The Because of Bethlehem Study Guide includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (BKT 5AX 109) The Gospel of It's a Wonderful Life Bible Study follows the story of George Bailey as you study the biblical principles of Goodness, Godliness, Prayers, and Miracles. In this DVD, author Stephen Skelton leads you through four video illustrations and four written lessons.

THE STAR (KT 5AX 110) This five-week campaign contains everything you need to plan and host a powerful series celebrating the themes of Advent (Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace), as well as a Christmas Eve experience that members and visitors will remember for years to come. The printed kit will help you prepare for an effective sermon series on these topics: Week 1: A Journey of Hope, Week 2: A Journey of Love, Week 3: A Journey of Joy, Week 4: A Journey of Peace, Christmas Eve: A Journey to Christmas.

FAITHFUL: Christmas thru the Eyes of Joseph (KT 5AX 111) In this study, you will understand how Joseph's place in the nativity story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would have never chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. Learn to accept and glorify God's will even when circumstances make it difficult to do so.
I hope this has helped you find what you needed to have a deeper and more spiritual Advent and Christmas season in your church, home and Community.

Please remember that if you check out several to “preview” that you be prompt in returning those you do not wish to use so they are available for others. Have a Christ-filled Season.

Come let us Adore Him