***What Gift Can We Bring?***

**Staging**
This play begins and ends at the front of the church. It is helpful to have an adult shepherd to direct the young shepherds. The middle scenes wind through the congregation in a figure eight—back, middle and sides. Villagers are placed on the inside and outside aisles. The shepherds travel to each “house” in their quest for the baby. This surprising staging gives more people a chance to see the actors close up. It also makes the play less intimidating to inexperienced actors and gives physical release for their energy.

**Christmas Camp**
We use 3 afternoons during Christmas school vacation, to hold a music, drama and art day camp. The cast goes through the music and drama at the beginning and at the end of each afternoon. Each day there is choir practice. On the first day, everyone is assigned a costume. The actors with speaking parts work with the director on lines. All actors rehearse their staged movements. The angels learn two dances. Each day a staff of non-parent volunteers provides high quality craft projects, snacks, and story time. Everyone dances to a few Christmas carols.
The atmosphere is relaxed. As director, I have the opportunity to work with the cast in small groups, dependent on their role.  The other children are happily engaged elsewhere. The children deepen friendships with one another and with the adult volunteers.  The cast is able to memorize the music and drama in just 3 afternoons. The parents have time off for last minute errands. **Dances**
Angels We Have Heard on HighWith the angels in pairs, right hands high and touching, walk in a stately circle around each other. Switch hands and directions on next line of text. On the refrain, they stand back to back and slowly take 3 steps away from each other, turn and walk back. Touch right hands and bow to each other on Deo. Continue 3 steps past each other, turn and come back, bow on Deo and they are in position for the next verse.Hark the Herald Angels Sing
With 6 angels, make 2 lines of 3 facing each other (1A, 2A, 3A facing 1B, 2B, 3B). Take 3 steps toward each other, 3 steps back twice. On “joyful all ye nations rise” 1A & 2B trade places. On “join the triumph of the skies: 1B & 2A trade places. On “with angelic hosts proclaim” 1A &3A trade places. On “Christ is born in Bethlehem” 1B & 3B trade. On the last bit of the song, 1A & 1B form an arch. The other angels cast off, go under the arch and return to their spot for the next verse.

Joy to the World
Form circles of 6 to 8 people. Walk in a circle, holding hands. On chorus walk to center and back twice. Reverse direction at each verse.