

## DRAMA PROGRAM WITH BLAZING LIGHTS & SHOOTING STARS

The typical process to prepare for Sunday Service presentations is this: Stephen and I select the dates for Youth Sunday which is scheduled every 6 or 7 weeks. He gives me the Scriptures from the Liturgical calendar. I select the two that feel like they could be turned effectively into scripts for each group. I write all the scripts to fit our kids. Between the two groups they number 14 – 16 actors.

I give each actor as many lines as they can handle and character elements that will challenge them. They receive their scripts before first rehearsal and we start working hard right from the start. Memorizing their lines is just the first phase. The biggest work is to build their characters through authentic strong voices and intentional movement around the space, as well as listening and responding to each other. Our goal is to make the performances compelling and understandable – and to make us all think with fresh minds. We pray for one another and give thanks to God for this privilege.

In our Summer Musical Theatre Camp in July, we take on a larger story either directly from the Bible or inspired by Biblical truth. Most of our weekly kids are involved in that as well. If there is space (we cap it at 20) we open it up to the community.

This is kingdom ministry in which we dig into the kingdom stories in the Bible, and allow ourselves to be instruments of God's passion. None of this would happen without the steady creative presence of Joanna Olan and the musical brilliance of Kirk Reed. We are a team. I look to them a lot for another "outside eye" opinion. Of course parental support is critical for the expected level of excellence. For summer camp we are joined by several volunteers who help in small group rehearsal segments in the morning, and another group of artists who lead creative elective workshops in the afternoon.

Carlynn Reed – Director