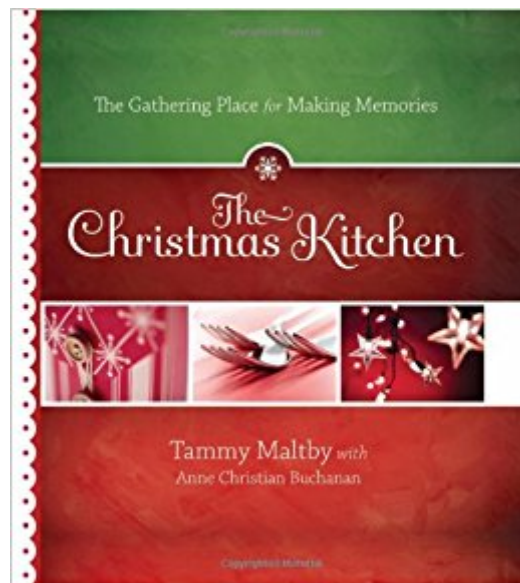




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# The Christmas Kitchen: The Gathering Place For Making Memories



## Synopsis

**The Heart of the Home** Even in today's busy times, the kitchen is the heart of the home. Author Tammy Maltby believes the true meaning of Christmas is realized when families gather to share activities that make Christmas "the most wonderful time of the year." More than any other holiday, Christmas is when family and friends gather for a cup of hot chocolate, fresh-baked cookies, and lots of laughter. Look inside this holiday treasure for: - Easy-to-do holiday recipes - Hints for new traditions - Personal gift ideas - Kid-friendly activities - Simple decorating tips The Christmas Kitchen is more than a recipe book, it's a book designed to help you enjoy the holiday season, not be burdened by it. Take a few minutes each day to browse these pages for the help you've been looking for. Merry Christmas and may your kitchen be filled, first, with the sweet aroma of love, and then with the spices of the season.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tammy Maltby is a speaker, author, Bible teacher, and media personality with a heart for helping real Christian women live richly and fully in the real world. A ten-year co-host of the six-time Emmy nominated, two time Emmy winning NRB TV talk show of the year 2005 *Aspiring Women*, Tammy has also been featured on *Focus on the Family*, *Family Life Today*, *Life Today*, *The 700 Club*, and *Midday Connection*, 100 Huntley Street, CBN's *Living the Life* as well as hundreds of other radio and television programs. She was the ongoing MC for the John Maxwell's international THRIVE! Tammy lives near the Rocky Mountains in Colorado with her husband

and four children, two of whom are adopted internationally, three of which are now adults. She has recently become a grandmother to Cohen...and is completely in love. Tammy Maltby is a writer, speaker, and media personality. For eight years she was the co-host of the four-time Emmy-nominated television talk show *Aspiring Women* and has been featured on other television shows such as *Focus on the Family*, *Life today*, *The 700 Club*, and *Midday Connection*. She serves on the board of the National Woman's Ministry Association, Christian Woman in Media and Arts, and Woman of Courage International. She and her family live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ann Christian Buchanan is a respected communicator with more than twenty-five years experience and considerable success in the gift and inspirational market. She works regularly as an editor and maintains an active sideline of writing liner copy for publishers. A Texan by birth, Anne lives in Terre Haute, Indiana with her professor husband, two dogs, and three cats. She and her husband have one daughter.

Chapter 1 Christmas Central  
The key to making your holiday dreams come true  
In so many ways, the kitchen is the heart of the home. And when the holidays roll around, the kitchen is -- or should be -- Christmas Central. The kitchen is where so many Christmas memories come from, where so many Christmas dreams begin. It's a place of intoxicating aromas, tantalizing tastes -- of bustling activity and endless creativity. It's a place where old meets new, where tradition gets spiced up with fresh ideas, where grown-ups and kids, friends and family, come together to cook and prepare and enjoy the festive results. You know what I'm talking about. There's the spicy-sweet, familiar fragrance of cinnamon and apples, the tangy taste of cranberries and cider, the sugary goodness of Christmas cookies. There's the childlike fun of playing with flour and sugar, the reward of giving presents you've made with your own hands. There's the camaraderie of swapping stories while chopping onions, the creative satisfaction of setting a beautiful table and gathering friends and acquaintances for a festive party. And of course there's the joy of gathering around a table to celebrate the coming of Love into the world. All these things are what the Christmas Kitchen means to me, to most of us. And I'm not just talking about the kitchen at Grandma's house or in a Norman Rockwell fantasy or on the pages of your gorgeous coffee-table Christmas book. I believe any kitchen can be the place where the fun and heartwarming business of Christmas memory making begins. And I promise you, you don't have to be June Cleaver or Martha Stewart -- or even Tammy Maltby -- to pull it off. Your kitchen, whatever it looks like, is your number one resource for holiday celebration and decoration. It's your comforting place to nurture relationships with people related by blood and those you choose to welcome into your life. It's rich with possibilities for gift giving, for

expressing thanks, for reaching out to others and showing love to them. It's also an ideal place to connect with children, passing along the experience of Christmas and recovering a little of the child in you at the same time. Or it can be all those things -- if you don't let the busyness of the season or your own inflated expectations or kitchen insecurities overwhelm you. But that's the problem, isn't it? So many women I know long to have the kind of delicious, fragrant, fun, and festive holiday I've just described. They pore over magazines, delighting in the beautiful images and ideas. But that stuff doesn't happen in their own homes -- not the way they'd hoped. And they cite any number of reasons. "My kitchen (or my house) is too small." "I'm not much of a cook." "The idea of entertaining scares me to death." "The kids are too small -- they're all underfoot." "The kids are all grown -- why bother?" "I don't have kids -- I don't even have a family!" "Money's tight." And then there's the perennial "I'm just too busy!" We're all too busy -- with jobs, with kids, with other obligations. There really are a million excuses -- good ones! A million valid reasons to just pick up a dozen cupcakes at the bakery for a child's party or a loaf of store-bought bread for a potluck and order the turkey-and-dressing package from the supermarket for Christmas dinner. Don't get me wrong. There's absolutely nothing wrong with taking shortcuts. In fact, I think shortcuts can be crucial in making the Christmas Kitchen a real possibility in many people's lives. (You'll find a lot of them in this book!) Not everything needs to be made from scratch. Not everything needs to be done the way Grandma did it -- or even the way you've been told is the "right way." And not everyone is in a position to throw a big party or even stage a traditional Christmas dinner. But if you've picked up this book, I know something about you. I know you don't really want a prefab, carryout, catch-as-catch-can Christmas season. You certainly don't want a hectic, stressful, overworked holiday season where you wear yourself out meeting everyone's unrealistic expectations. Instead, you dream about a Christmas that is beautiful, special, warm, delicious, and as stress-free as possible. In some part of your heart, the Christmas Kitchen lives in all its intoxicating glory. And I'm here to tell you it can be part of your life -- regardless of your circumstances, your kitchen skills, or your time limitations, and with far less stress and work than you ever expected. The Christmas Kitchen, you see, isn't just a collection of appliances, recipes, and techniques. It's really a state of mind and heart, and the best way to get there is to adjust your thinking. How? A good place to start is to let go of perfection. Perfectionism can paralyze you, while an attitude of "good enough" can set you free. Next, I encourage you to embrace the principle of true hospitality -- not performing for others or impressing them or "entertaining" them, but using your life and your home (including your kitchen) to communicate to people how much you value them.\* And it's not just something you do for guests but also for your family -- and for yourself! I hope you'll also promise yourself, no matter

what, to enjoy the experience of Christmas, to laugh and celebrate and sometimes sit in silent wonder. It would be such a shame to be so caught up in activities, kitchen or otherwise, that you end up missing Christmas in your heart. And finally, when you've wrapped your mind around a different approach to a beautiful Christmas, I urge you to start simply...but simply start. That's so important! Take just one step beyond dreaming and do just one delicious thing to make your Christmas season merry and bright. It really doesn't have to be much. Maybe your one thing will be to just sit quietly, read this book, and dream while sipping a warm mug of holiday cider. But that's the beauty of it -- because once you do that one simple thing, I predict you'll find yourself wanting to do something else. And before you know it, your kitchen really will be Christmas Central, a true gathering place for making memories and serving up holiday joy for family and friends old and new. Are you ready? I am. Let's take our first simple step into the Christmas Kitchen. The Christmas Kitchen

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This is a terrific book! I have a copy for my family and have given it as a gift various times...it makes a lovely hostess gift. I have also included it in gift bags/baskets that I have put together. If you are looking for a book filled with marvelous holiday recipes and ideas, you can't go wrong with this book. These recipes can also be enjoyed many times throughout the year. I highly recommend it!

This book is a true nugget of inspiration, creative ideas for the Christmas season. Author Tammy Maltby ventures beyond mere recipes to gift giving & presentation, decorating, plus things to do to celebrate the season when just spending an evening with family. I love sitting down and thumbing through this book. Each time I find the inspiration I need to complete something on my Christmas to-do list that can easily be done without consuming a lot of my time that is so precious during this season. I highly recommend this as a gift for yourself or for others on your list. This is the perfect handbook for making beautiful, warm memories at Christmas time!

gift

Not only do I LOVE this little book, but I have already given several copies away to friends and family! It makes the perfect "hostess" gift, also...especially for the upcoming holidays!

This book is filled with great ideas for the holidays! I love the combination of old traditions with new.

A great way to shift the focus to what is really important!

While a good book to read to get in the mood and to help with the holidays, there isn't enough in the book that makes me to really want to keep it and to use it for holidays to come.

Does the thought of Christmas preparations send you into a panic? It shouldn't. Isn't Christmas the celebration of Christ our Savior coming to earth to dwell among us? (John 1:1) It seems as though in the hustle and bustle of everything else we feel we "must" do - the gifts, the parties, the decorations - the most and only important part of Christmas gets pushed to the back of our minds. Tammy has put together *The Christmas Kitchen*, a delightful book full of tips, traditions, and simple recipes to slow your Christmas focus. You will find everything from tips for stress-free fun with kids in the kitchen, how to make gingerbread houses, recipes for homemade hot chocolate, to a full Christmas meal. Tammy shares many of her own family traditions, which is something I always enjoy hearing about. *The Christmas Kitchen* is a gift-sized book, perfect for you or someone else you know that might enjoy a peek into Tammy's family traditions with hopes to start some of your own! I'll share one of the recipes that I can't wait to make and package up for my family's Christmas goodies baskets! It sounds fabulous (much better than Swiss Miss)!!! ;-)

**GOURMET HOT COCOA MIX**  
Tammy Maltby from *The Christmas Kitchen*  
4 cups instant nonfat dry milk powder  
2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar  
2 cups French vanilla powdered nondairy coffee creamer  
2 cups powdered chocolate milk mix (store brand works just fine)  
1 5-oz (6 serving) package cook-and-serve (not instant) chocolate pudding mix  
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
2 cups miniature marshmallows and/or miniature chocolate chips (optional, but yummy)  
Boiling water or milk, for serving

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and stir well. For a better blend, mix the dry ingredients in a blender or food processor before adding the marshmallows. Store the mix in an air-tight container. Makes about 12 1/2 cups mix, for 50 servings. To serve, place 1/4 cup mix (or more) in mug or cup. Add 3/4 cup boiling water or hot milk and stir well. Tammy also gives several variations to the hot cocoa: Mint, Mexican, Rich Mocha, and Sugar-Free. Mmmm, Chocolate is so good. Warm, liquid chocolate is really good. :-)

Check out more recipes and reviews at [thecreativesideofsteph DOT blogspot DOT com](http://thecreativesideofsteph.com)!

A very dear friend of mine Tammy Maltby, wrote *The Christmas Kitchen*. Ladies, Martha Stewart has NOTHING on Tammy....believe me. I've been to her home, she is beautiful, charming, encouraging, she'll pray over you and you know you've been prayed over, and fix you a meal that

rates right up there with The Mansion in Turtle Creek! She entertains with such a grace that it's so difficult not to be envious. Well, this is not just a cook book with yummy recipes, but also this book is chock full of ideas for entertaining ....from simple to grand. You've just got to check it out . In fact, Tammy has a blog with recipes and ideas and is generous to share this ideas, and you can find her on Facebook. Be sure and tell her I sent you!

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