

instructed to go to Bethlehem to see for themselves what had taken place. Perhaps they were chosen to see the Christ-child because shepherds had to be alert. They had to be ready to act for the sheep. They couldn't just slough off their job and hope everything would be all right. They could be counted on to go and see. These humble hearts could receive because they were alert and ready. Their minds weren't cluttered with the "stuff of life."

When we're afraid we can't hear anything either. Hence, we can't or aren't ready to act in our daily lives. This Christmas we need to hear the words of the angel, "Do not be afraid." We need to approach the manger in humbleness ready to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we hear the words, "let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass," may we rise up and see the true meaning of Jesus Christ, who came to save the lost...who came as redeemer, counselor, Prince of Peace, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father. Jesus Christ is still being born today over and over again in the hearts of humankind. Let us still come in wonder and amazement at what the Lord has done for us. Glory to God in the Highest!

Christmas blessings,
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

Needed for the Food Pantry by Christmas

The Food Pantry has asked our church to supply some extra things for the Christmas season. We have been asked to supply **35 items of body deodorant**. Other churches in the ministerium will provide other items to be included in the food bags.

Angel Tree

This year we are participating again in Angel Tree. This program provides gifts to children whose parent is in jail. It is a way we can bring some joy into children's lives. If you did not get an Angel for whom to buy a gift and would like to participate, money may be donated. Give your donations to Dee Reneau, and she will see that the money goes toward gifts for the Angel Tree program. Gifts and donations need to be in by **Sunday, December 7**.



Angel Tree is a wonderful ministry. Last year Indiana churches reached out to over 13,000 children and their families bring the love of Jesus into the home wrapped in colorful paper. The reality is that the number of people/families who have been ministered to reaches far beyond 13,000 children. There are the estimated 7,500 inmates that the gifts are provided in their name. There are the countless caregivers that are touched by your generosity. Then, there is the church, which has shared in making this ministry possible. *Prison Fellowship Ministries - quarterly news from the Indiana area*, Charles Lange, Director

Community Advent Service



Sunday, December 7, 6:00 p.m. the Hagerstown Community Advent Service sponsored by the Nettle Creek Ministerial Association, will be held at West River Friends Church, 10638 Lacy Road, Economy, Indiana. Jeremy Green, from the New Testament Church will bring the message. The offering will go to the Hagerstown Food Pantry. Come join in the spirit of Christmas with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Progressive Dinner by CBWF

The Church of the Brethren Women's Fellowship is having a Progressive Dinner Party, Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m. Women and girls need to meet at the church to carpool to the homes of Ruth Stout for Salad, Dee Reneau for Entrée, and Harriet Burroughs for Dessert. Come on, ladies and join in the fun!

Worship Team News Notes - Christmas Caroling Upcoming



Greetings from the worship team! It's that time of year again. Time to begin preparing for the Holiday season. Since Christmas is a time of giving, what better gift to give than yourself? We would like to invite you to bring your voices to share with your church family for an evening of fun, fellowship, music and laughter. Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, December 17, 2003**. We will meet at the church at 5:30, travel around the neighborhood visiting some of