

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

our elderly and shut-ins, travel to Richmond to visit a couple people in the nursing facility there and then come back to the church to warm our hearts and our tummies with some hot chocolate and yummy cookies. The evening should end around 8:30. All are welcome!!!!!!!

Thank you to all who attended and helped out with the advent service with the Hanging of the Greens. The food, fellowship and worship were deeply appreciated!!!

God bless all of you,

Brad, Chad, Julie Wieseke, Valerie



Love came down at Christmas

The Children

The children will be participating in the worship service Sunday, December 21. Be sure to come to see what they have planned for us, and to experience the joy of Christmas through our children's eyes.



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. will be our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Dennis, Heather, and Ella Nicholson will portray the Holy Family in a still-life scene.

Help is Needed at the Thrift Shop Church Women United

Your help is needed to help sort clothing on Mondays and on sale days. You can play a vital part to help those in need in our community. Contact Carol Bullock for more information. 765-489-4372. The Thrift shop is located at 449 E. Main, Hagerstown, Indiana. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop go for scholarships for local students.




Young Adults' Winter Retreat, Crosswalk 2004

This retreat is for single and married young adults on January 9-11, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Friday will conclude at 11:00 a.m. following Sunday's worship. Plan to bring money for a pizza party, your DVD or VHS movies, board games, snacks to share and your friends. The cost for this two-night/four meal retreat is \$65. Plan to enjoy the fellowship, devotions, music and worship with Christians of similar age. Call Camp Mack to pre-register at 574-659-4831 or e-mail campmack@npcc.net. Check out the Camp Mack Website:

<http://www.campmack.org>

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Camp Mack

 If you would like to celebrate Valentine's Day at Camp Mack, make your **reservation by February 3**. The **banquet and romantic entertainment will be Friday, February 13**. Cost is \$30 per couple. Couples will have their pictures taken. Registration, hors d'oeuvres and picture taking begin at 6:15 p.m. with the banquet at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Please send names and payment to the Camp by the above date.

Sympathies

Our condolences go to the **Philip Stout family** on the passing of Philip, November 11, 2003.

Our prayers are also with **Harriet and Ron Finney** on the passing of Harriet's parents, Ammon and Blanche Wenger. Harriet and Ron are our District Ministers for the S/Central Indiana District.

Continuing to Pray for...



*Jay Nicholson

Fred Dilling

Shirley Root

Carl DeVinney

Care Centers: Estella Hilbert, LuFreda Bowman

Homebound: Ruth Crull, Viola Nicholson

Giving For November

Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....	\$1,513.56
Average Offering for November was.....	\$1,239.18
Nov. 2.....	\$1,821.50
Nov. 9.....	1,337.00
Nov. 16.....	1,195.16
Nov. 23.....	615.25
Nov. 30.....	1,227.00
Philip Stout Memorial Gifts:.....	\$380.00
Harvest Dinner:	\$343.00
Food Pantry:	\$55.90
Average Attendance.....	62



December Birthdays

December 2	Diane Robinson
4	Heather Owens, Julie Wieseke
10	Bill Stout
11	Darrel Briar
13	Natasha Healton
14	Gary Stout
19	Beverly Andrew
20	Barry Nicholson, Kaleena Briar
21	Donna King
22	Betsy Longnecker, Daniel Potter
25	Becky Flory
26	Greg Stout
27	James Petty
30	Joel Stout, Nathaniel Arn, Ashley Beaty

HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY
 JESUS

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

Gene and Eloise Beeson celebrated 50 years of marriage with a reception given by their children Brad Beeson (wife, Louann) of Brownsburg, Indiana, and Valerie Beeson Lyles, (husband, Richard of Atlanta, Georgia). Friends and family gathered at the Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren on November 29 to share in their memories. Congratulations!



He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree. – Sunshine Magazine

Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display--so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree not the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again. Unknown



