

# News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren  
5352 N. Brick Church Road  
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Established 1820



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Eloise Beeson, Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

December  
2004

*Continuing the Work of Jesus.  
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

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## Carol's Comments

### "Light Procrastination"

*As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "at an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! II Corinthians 6:1-2 NRSV*

Last year during the Christmas season, I bought a seven foot pencil tree. I've always wanted a skinny tree that didn't take up a lot of room—one which could be left up all year and decorated with the changing season. I already had a huge full-branched tree decorated but intended to put up the pencil tree and then take down the larger tree when Christmas was over. It was a good plan. But...I never managed to get the pencil tree assembled or the lights strung on it. It sat in the box all year. Perhaps it was those 700 mini lights that needed to be strung and the time it would take to string them. Or perhaps it was the fact that I was busy planning for Christmas services. Whatever my excuses, it remained in the box.

Throughout the year, Bob would remind me about the pencil tree in the box in the basement. I always responded, "I'll get to it, when I have time." I never did. I never found the time. I would forget about it.

Here it is...another Christmas season. Being reminded again of my tree, I silently cringed envisioning the time it would take to string those 700 lights. At Thanksgiving my daughter-in-law, Gloria, asked me about the pencil tree and volunteered to take the task in hand. Yipee! I jumped at the offer. Fortunately for me, she likes stringing lights. The tree is now strung and decorated! Yahoo!

Did you ever put anything off? Maybe it was to send a note or to visit someone. Maybe it was to start reading the Bible or reading it more. Maybe it was to form a prayer group and be more intentional about prayer. Maybe it was to start a small interest group. What are your hindrances? No time? Too much work to do? Too many other commitments? Too much effort seems required? Shy? Whatever your hindrance... whatever your excuse, the time is at hand.

Each year as Advent rolls around, we have another opportunity to receive the Christ. We have another chance to ponder the wonder of God's life in us. We have another opportunity to marvel at a God who loved us so much that he came down in human form to show us how much he really loves us. The scripture tells us, "Now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!"

I procrastinated putting the lights on my pencil tree. For many of us that may be symbolic of whether we are "letting our lights shine" for God or have them somewhere in the basement of our souls. "Now is the day of salvation!" Now is the time to turn on the light of Christ to let him sparkle more brilliantly in and through us. I now have 700 lights brightly shining on my pencil tree. I hope that my life shines just as brightly for Christ. I intend for it to. What about you? Don't wait another year to let the "light of Christ" light up your life more fully. Don't hide the "light of Christmas" in the basement like I had my unstrung pencil tree. As you sing the



Christmas Carols, as you view the many sparkling and dazzling Christmas lights and displays, receive anew God's gift to each of us—Jesus Christ.

May the Christ of Christmas shine in your life,  
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

#### **Hometown Christmas Booths for December 4**

Be sure to attend Hometown Christmas, Saturday, December 4, 2004 in Hagerstown.

Nettle Creek CoB is participating by having **two food booths**. One food booth will be in the old Beachler Building, and the other will be in the Don McCullough Building. We especially would like to have pies (30 or more), but you may donate other food items also. **Juli**

**Proctor** is coordinating this effort, so you may direct questions to her. **Hometown**

**Christmas** is all day. We will need persons to **work** at both booths. Contact Juli Proctor as to how many pies or other items you will be providing. Profits will go toward the church budget



#### **All Junior and Senior High Youth – Let's Get Together – a Gathering**

There will be fellowship and sharing of ideas **December 5 at 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Marion Church of the Brethren**. All Junior and Senior High are invited to help build our South Central Indiana District Youth. Contact Mike or Kelly Mullen with any questions at email [mujllenmkns@insightbb.com](mailto:mujllenmkns@insightbb.com) or phone 765-998-2810.

#### **Community Advent Service, December 5**

The Nettle Creek Ministerial Association's Community Advent service will be held at the **Congregational Christian UCC Church at 6:00 p.m. on December 5**. Come join in this community service of celebrating the Advent season.

#### **Lincoln High School Holiday Concert**

Our own **Beth Bowman** will direct the Lincoln High School Choir, **Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m.** All are welcome to attend and enjoy the holiday music.



#### **Cantata at Congregational Christian UCC Church**

**Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.** there will be a cantata at the Congregational Christian UCC Church. This is another opportunity to enjoy Christmas music.

#### **Christmas Eve Service**

This year's **Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m.** Come share in the singing of Carols, the Christmas story and inspiring music. We will again have a live representation of the Holy Family.

#### **Christmas Day Dinner at Masonic Lodge**

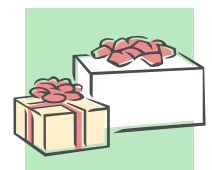


There will be a **Christmas Dinner served at the Masonic Lodge in Hagerstown on Christmas Day for anyone regardless** of income. If you have no place to go for Christmas consider attending the dinner. It is sponsored by the Nettle Creek Ministerial Association. Dinner will begin at 12:30 p.m. In preparation there will be a need for cooks, set-up help, decorating, and clean up. If you would like to help, **contact the Township Trustee's office at 765-489-4824** who is coordinating the dinner. If you plan to attend the dinner, **reservations are required**. Call to reserve at the same number.

#### **Christmas Opportunity from the Jefferson Township Trustee Office**



The Trustee's Office has families that need assistance for Christmas. The ages range from very young to 80 years. The Trustee's office can put you in contact with the families. There are currently 37 families and 12 elderly that need assistance. Call Joe Smith at 765-489-4824 to get names and to be able to



contact the families. Ask the families what the most urgent needs are, and then use your discretion as to how much you are able to assist.

### Angel Tree

Check out the Angel Tree at church in the East S.S. classroom. We are again buying gifts for children whose parent is in prison. Help to brighten a child's Christmas by choosing an Angel from the tree. For more information see Dee Reneau.

### Need a Gift and Don't Know What to Get?



If you don't know what to get someone for Christmas, **give a gift that keeps on giving.** **Heifer Project International** is a way to do that. Instead of material gifts, choose gifts from the catalog to honor your friends, family or business associates—gifts that help struggling families lift themselves out of poverty. You can give a flock of chicks (\$20), flock of ducks or geese (\$30), Honeybees (\$30), share of Rabbits (\$10) or a trio of Rabbits (\$60), share of seedlings (\$10), Tree Seedlings (\$60), Share of a pig (\$10), Pig (\$120), Share of a Sheep (\$10), Share of a Goat (\$10), Goat (\$120), Share of a Llama (\$20), Llama (\$150), Share of a Water Buffalo (\$25), Buffalo (\$250), Share of a Heifer (\$50), Heifer (\$500). The Gift Ark (\$5000). **You can call 1-800-698-2511.** It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Credit card orders only. You can also order online at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) or see the order sheet in the pastor's office.

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It's the season to be jolly because, more than at any other time, we think of Jesus. More than in any other season, his name is on our lips. *God Came Near, p. 22*

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### Licensing of William House

**Bill House** was licensed to the ministry by Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren on November 14, 2004 during the morning worship service. Allen Kahler, our District Minister brought the morning message as well as officiating at the licensing service. The church gave Bill a minister's manual of the Church of the Brethren, *For All Who Minister*. Bill is currently in search for a congregation.

### Church of the Brethren to Provide Christmas Eve Service on Christmas Eve on CBS

Television network CBS invited the Church of the Brethren to provide its nationally telecast Christmas Eve service. A different denomination is invited each year. The program **will air 11:35 p.m.-12:35 a.m. Eastern Standard Time** during the slot normally occupied by the David Letterman show. The service was taped Nov.



23 at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., and was produced by the General Board. Those who planned the service were Chris Bowman, pastor of Oakton (Va.) Church of the Brethren, who will deliver the message; music coordinator Shawn Kirchner, minister of music at La Verne Church of the Brethren and a professional musician with the Los Angeles Master Chorale; worship consultant Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm, assistant professor of Ministry Studies at Bethany; consultants Stan Noffsinger and Del Keeney, executive director of the board's Congregational Life Ministries; and executive producer Wendy

McFadden, publisher of Brethren Press. **The Proctor family which included Tim and Juli Proctor, Kylie, Drew, and Katie Cooper from Nettle Creek along with Pastor Carol had the opportunity to be in the congregation for the taping.** Be sure to watch this inspiring service.

### Brethren Press Taking Orders for Christmas Eve Service Items

Brethren Press is taking orders for two resources related to the Church of the Brethren Christmas Eve worship service on CBS: a four-color card to be used as an evangelism tool, bulletin insert, or invitation to be mailed out by congregations; and a DVD/video



of the service including a "behind-the-scenes" documentary by Brethren videographer David Sollenberger. A sample of the 5" by 8" inch card will be mailed to each congregation the first week of December. Quantities of the card can be ordered for only the price of shipping and handling, and will be shipped as of the beginning of December. The DVD (item #1122) costs \$14.95 and the video (item #1123) costs \$19.95 plus shipping and handling orders will be shipped beginning Dec. 27. Call Brethren Press at 800-441-3712.

**Continuing to Pray for...**

**\*Betty Proctor**                      **\*Farrell Jean Lightner**                      Harriet Burroughs                      Raymond Hoover                      Bob Klein  
 Jane Briar                      Terri Schmittler                      Jeremy DeVinney                      Cliff & Mary Jane Renaker  
 Home: Mary Werking                      Care Center: LuFreda Bowman

**New Book in the Library**

The new book in the church library, *Under His Wings and Other Places of Refuge*, was given to the library in **loving memory of Estella Hilbert**. It was written by Patsy Clairmont, a humorist writer. She is also author of *God Uses Cracked Pots*. Check it out and think of Estella and her sense of humor.

**Small Group Workshop**



Dr. Gary Newton came November 19 and 20 and led us in a workshop about small groups. The premise of small groups is to start interest groups—groups gathering together around a common interest. This is a way of outreach that we are considering. Those at the workshop were encouraged and given the tools for us to begin this way of outreach. Watch for interest groups to pop up and consider if there is an area of interest that you would like to see or lead.

**December Birthdays**

- 2 Diane Robinson
- 3 Andrew Pfeiffer
- 4 Heather Owens, Julie Wieseke
- 10 Bill Stout
- 11 Darrel Briar
- 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



**Giving For November**

Average Offering needed monthly to meet budget.....	\$1,420.29
<b>Average Offering for November .....</b>	<b>\$1,173.76</b>
7.....	\$2,104.65
14.....	1,017.08
21.....	864.00
28.....	709.30
Harvest Dinner Proceeds.....	420.00
Special Offering (Hagerstown Food Pantry).....	76.50
Special Offering (Small Group Workshop).....	75.00
UNICEF .....	56.67
<b>Average Attendance for November .....</b>	<b>55</b>



## Catherine Stout to Mexico

Catherine Stout is hoping to go to Juarez, Mexico again this year with the Christian Student Foundation at Ball State University. Last year they build a house for a family of eight. The primary goal of the team is to construct a home for a Mexican family. The dates for the trip are March 5-12, 2005. Catherine has to raise her own support to cover traveling and building material supplies. The cost she has to raise is \$775. If you would like to help Catherine, checks may be made payable to *Christian Student Foundation* and sent to Catherine Stout, 1411 W Riverside Ave., Muncie, IN 47303. Catherine needs the money by February 9, 2005 in order to participate. If you have questions contact her at [cnstout@bsu.edu](mailto:cnstout@bsu.edu)



## Camp Mack News

**Crosswalk, formerly Young Adults' Retreat, for single and married young adults is January 7-9, 2005** beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday and concluding at 11:00 a.m. following Sunday's worship. Plan to bring money for a pizza part, your DVD or VHS movies, board games, snacks to share and your friends. The cost for this two night/four meal retreat is just \$75. Plan to enjoy the fellowship, devotions, music and worship with Christians of similar age. Call camp Mack to pre-register. 574-658-4831

**Have you made reservations for the annual dinner?** Camp Mack invites you to the annual dinner on **Friday evening, January 21 for hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 p.m. and the banquet beginning at 7:00 p.m.** This is one of the 2005 events that will be a part of Camp Mack's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration! Please send names and \$30 per couple/\$15 per single to the Camp Mack office by January 14. Tables with preferential seating are available for six persons at \$300, for seven at \$350 and for eight at \$400. Allen Kahler, the new Executive of the South/Central Indiana District is the featured speaker. Special music will be provided.

*A Quiet Place Quote: At last I understood that if Jesus needed forty days in the wilderness, I very likely could use three or four.* – Dallas Willard

## **CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



"No no no! There were no reindeer at the manger!  
They came later... with the wise men!"