

# 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

