

# News from the Brick

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

**Established 1820**



Carol M. Pfeiffer, Pastor  
Church Phone: 765-489-4430  
Parsonage Phone: 765-489-3435  
[pastor@nettlecreekcob.com](mailto:pastor@nettlecreekcob.com)  
[www.nettlecreekcob.com](http://www.nettlecreekcob.com)



Jodi Johnson, Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**December  
2005**

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

---

## **Carol's Comments**

### **"Are You Ready For Some Christmas?"**

*<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."*

*<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2: 15-19 NRSV)*

When the announcer shouts, "Are you ready for some football?" a crowd's thunderous cheer goes up through the stadium. The anticipation and thrill of the game runs through the fans' veins. When someone asks, "Are you ready for some Christmas?" shouts of "yes" are heard throughout the land. Well, at least most of us would say, "Yes." There is the excitement and wonderment of the season. There are gifts to be bought and decorating to be done. There are parties and gatherings with friends and families. It is a most generous time of the year. But, what if the question is phrased, "Are you ready for some Jesus?" What kind of response do you think you would get? Would you get stares from people? Would they think you were a bit of a religious fanatic? Would there be a thunderous cheer go up or shouts of "yes?" Probably not.

Interesting isn't it that we can get all cranked up for football and even Christmas, but when we mention Jesus, we're not so quick to get cranked up. Yet it is Jesus that Christmas is about. Christmas we can be excited about, but Jesus, well...we don't want to be too religious. Human nature is a funny thing.

The Israelites waited a long time for the Messiah. They just didn't recognize him in Jesus. He was just too common being born of common folks in a humble stable out behind the inn with the animals. They expected a different kind of Messiah—a king, someone with political power. Someone who would get them out of a jam. Someone who would attract a football crowd or a seasonal secular bunch who wanted to feel warm and fuzzy.

With our pluralistic society, religion has many other options to offer. And so it seems that Jesus isn't quite as important to many folks. He gets relegated to the position of just another religious leader. You've heard the phrase, "Put Christ back into Christmas." With so much commercialization of the season, we who are Christian definitely would like to see that. To do that we need to remember that Christmas is about God coming into our midst. He came in the form of a baby to experience life as a human—to identify with us. Jesus was born to show us what God is like. God gave us the best gift of all in Jesus. He gave the gift of himself.

Certainly there were no roaring crowds at the birth of our Savior, but there were the heavenly angels singing. (I think I'd rather have singing than a roaring crowd.) There were no Christmas shoppers stopping by the manger, but there were shepherds, who gazed in awe at the birth of the Savior. The shepherds were ready for some Jesus. There was the thrill of being the first visitors to celebrate the coming of the Messiah. They

