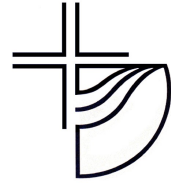


# News from the Brick

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

**Established 1820**



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

**December  
2006**

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

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## **Carol's Comments**

## **"The Wish Book"**

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9: 6-7 NIV*

When I was a little girl, I would curl up with the "Wish Book" and dream of what I wanted for Christmas. I couldn't wait till it would come out after Thanksgiving. I'm talking about the Christmas Sears and the J.C. Penney catalogues. They were the books that had lots of toys listed. Of course, I looked at the toys back then. They were usually in the back of the catalogue. But I would also thumb through every page and gaze at the beautiful sweaters and fabulous gifts that were offered for everyone. It was called the "wish book," because people looked at it and made out their Christmas lists after perusing its many pages. And did I peruse them! Over and over again...wishing for some fabulous gifts for Christmas. Though I wished for things, I didn't always receive all those wishes.

I don't even know if they still have those catalogues. Today we have ads in the paper that come weekly or the internet to surf out specific gifts. But to me, there was nothing like the good ole "wish book." There was just something enticing about them...the colorful pictures...the fairy tale-like articles that were dreamy.

Christmas will soon be upon us. We are in the season of Advent awaiting the birth of the Christ child. And children wait with the same anticipation though they may not have a catalogue to dream and wish over. Adults are grown up children, who can lose that child-like wonder of Christmas with all the busyness of the season. But it is still a wonder creating time.

I question if we stop to think that we have our own book with us for all time, not just at Christmas time—the Bible. People of the ages had the book read to them, so to speak, throughout Israel's history. In a sense, it was their "wish book," for the Book told them of marvelous things to come. They dreamed of a better life...of the advent of the Messiah...comfort...peace... "the Wonderful Counselor... the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace". Like children they hoped. They anticipated.

We still have the Bible with us today. Not to trivialize the Bible by calling it a "wish book," but it still gives us the wonderful picture of the future. It is a glorious future in Christ. Yet that future is here and also not yet. We know that Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah was born in Bethlehem. We know that he grew in knowledge and wisdom as well as stature. We know that he showed us how to be compassionate...how to love our enemies...how to be peaceful...how to forgive...how to trust in God...how to become new creatures in him. Wow! What a Book! What a dynamic, living, breathing book that continues to come alive when we continue to read and study it daily. When I need direction, I can go to the Bible. When I need comfort, I find it in the words of Jesus. When I need hope, it is there.

