



Dear Friends,

In this season of preparing for the birth of Christ, I have some suggestions for things that will bless others.

- 1) Come to our very first Christmas Market Sunday Morning, December 3rd! You can see some groups that our church supports, buy items that support those ministries, and give a gift tag to your family members or friends for whom you bought the gift!
- 2) Come to my Blue Christmas service Wednesday December 6th at 1:00 p.m. if you have lost a loved one recently. I will let you give voice to anyone you will be missing in the holiday season.
- 3) Come to our first Christmas Concert of this kind, called "Reflections and Carols: A Christmas Concert." Unlike Christmas Eve, this will include inspirational readings and anthems. December 10th, 4 p.m.
- 4) Consider sending Christmas cards. More and more people have gotten away from that, just sending wishes electronically. But the time to prepare a card and envelope, (and even your choice of a stamp!) is noticed by many! Our church sells some wonderful cards!
- 5) Once again breaking with trends, consider buying a good book for someone at Christmas; even consider buying it locally. Supporting local bookstores will keep them from closing. I would miss the visits to bookstores if I could only get them online.
- 6) Consider reading something seasonal. I sometimes re-read Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" but there are other good stories to read too. It is even in our library, which brings me to point 7:
- 7) Visit our library. As I did that in November, here are some books I noticed and recommend:

Angels: The Mysterious Messengers, Edited by Rex Hauck. Many people contributed to this masterpiece book.
Angels Billy Graham. As the great evangelist turned 100 this year, re-visit his book on this subject!

Prayer is Good Medicine by Larry Dossey, M.D. I always take seriously a medical doctor who has such a belief in the power of prayer.

Mourning into Dancing by Walter Wangerin. This season can be difficult for some.

On Christmas Eve by Penny Ives and David Hawcock- A Three Dimensional Celebration. This one is great for children and all ages!

The Glory of Christmas Charles Swindoll, Max Lucado, Charles Colson. Contains inspirational short messages.

Angels and other Strangers: Family Christmas Stories. By Katherine Peterson (Our copy is signed by the author) These stories were first told at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and they will warm your heart!

Consider ways you can lift up your own heart, and the spirits of others, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ!

Merry Christmas!

Jeff Sumner