

## MARYLAND

# Town's postmark a holiday tradition

## Bethlehem a lot closer to home

---

By Rachel Mauro  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

---

The expected 20 billion cards, letters and packages moving through the U.S. Postal Service this holiday season will again include the select few that residents from around the world will send to the Eastern Shore for the Bethlehem postmark.

"It's a tradition. Though it may be an old hat for the residents of Bethlehem, they still flock to the post office to carry on with the ritual. A lot of the same people come, at least a couple hundred families that do this every year," said Karen Durham, an employee of the Bethlehem post office in Caroline County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Though most of the holiday mail going through Bethlehem comes from surrounding residents, the branch's second biggest customer is the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., crowd "from across the bridge," Mrs. Durham said.

Others come from Delaware and Virginia. And this year, Mrs. Durham said, residents from New Jersey and North Carolina came over Thanksgiving while visiting relatives.

Those from places too far