On Friday, December 5th, 2008, the official Hereford Inlet Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony for the City of North Wildwood began at dusk on a quiet chilly winter evening. The townspeople gathered in the courtyard of the Lighthouse, in front of the gazebo to officially welcome the holiday season ‘island-style.’ The festivities included the singing of the national anthem by Dolly McGee, the Margaret Mace School Choir singing traditional Christmas Carols, led by Ms. Macrie. The evening was also blessed with a beautiful prayer by Al Mouklas, a ‘Friend of the Lighthouse’, especially praying for peace, for our new president and for the state of our economy along with special prayers for the former Mayor Anthony Catanoso who had taken a severe fall that afternoon. He’s is doing much better as we go to print!

The night culminated in a long line of very good children waiting in line to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was open for touring, free of charge, encouraging everyone to come in and do a little Christmas shopping in their Gift Shop and to get warmed up with hot chocolate (donated by Lehigh Dairies in Wildwood) and homemade cookies. Be sure to mark your calendars for next season’s event! It’s a real nice way to get into the spirit of Christmas and to get out and mingle with friends, neighbors and family. The night could be compared to a Norman Rockwell or Currier & Ives scene.

“I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year long.” ~ Charles Dickens