



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Severn Parish
Crownsville, Maryland
February 2009

IN THIS ISSUE:

Rector's Report
Page 1

**The Bible and Handel's
Messiah**
Page 2

Musical Notes
Page 3

Adult Ed Eucharist Class
Page 3

Soup Supper, etc.
Page 4

ET News
Page 5

Diocesan Pledge
Page 6

Vestry
Page 7

Women of the Bible
Page 7

Creation Care
Page 8

**Confirmation and
Communion**
Page 9

**This newsletter is either emailed to those who have online capabilities or sent through the postal system for those who don't. If you have a delivery preference, please let the church secretary know.

Rector's Report

Lent Edition of the Severn Light

Our Ash Wednesday Service reminds us that "The First Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season"...that puts..."the whole congregation...in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore in the name of the Church to the observance of a holy Lent." (*Book of Common Prayer* p. 264-265)

Through a deepened life of prayer, study of God's word, and service to others, we make Lent a meaningful season and enrich our experience of Easter. Please note our program offerings this Lenten season and join us on a closer walk with Christ.

Father Hagerman



Ash Wednesday
February 25

Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes
will be held

at **10:00 a.m.** and at **7:30 p.m.**

LENTEN PROGRAM 2009

Halleluiah
The Bible and Handel's Messiah

Wednesdays
7:00-7:45 p.m. in the church
March 4th through April 8th

*Scripture meditation and musical commentary within a
simple Evening Prayer Service*

*Lead us to
that Easter Joy!*

HALLELUIAH

THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

LENTEN PROGRAM 2009
 Wednesdays at 7-7:45 p.m. in the church
 March 4th through April 8th

This program adapted from the Kerygma course, is designed to deepen our appreciation of both the scriptural words and music of Handel's Messiah. The program will be done in the context of a simple Evening Prayer service. Father Hagerman will have meditations on the Scriptures and Don Chandler, our organist-choirmaster, will have commentary on the musical selections.

Handel's Messiah has three main sections.

- ◆ Part I deals with the prophecy and birth of the Messiah
- ◆ Part II reflects on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Part III anticipates the redemption of the world through faith.

Lead us to 
 that Easter Joy!

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

Session 1 – March 4: Comfort, Comfort My People

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Musical selections:

- 1.2 Recitative for Tenor (“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people.”)
- 1.3 Air for Tenor (“Every valley shall be exalted.”)
- 1.4 Chorus (“and the glory of the Lord”)

Session II – March 11: For Unto Us a Child Is Born

Scripture: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Musical selections:

- 1.7 Recitative for Alto (“Behold a virgin shall conceive”)
- 1.10 Air for Bass (“The people that walked in darkness”)
- 1.11 Chorus (“For unto us a child is born”)

Session III – March 18: Behold the Lamb of God

Scripture: *Isaiah 53*

Musical selections:

- II.9 Chorus (“Behold the Lamb of God”)
- II.21 Chorus (“Surely he hath borne our griefs.”)
- II.22 Chorus (“And with his stripes.”)
- II.23 Chorus (“All we like sheep.”)

Session IV – March 25: He Trusted in God

Scripture: *Psalm 22*

Musical selections:

- II.24 Recitative for Tenor (“All they that see him.”)
- II.25 Chorus (“He trusted in God”)
- II.26 Recitative (“Thy rebuke has broken his heart.”)

Session V – April 1: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:35-58 and Job 19:25-26*

Musical selections:

- III.40 Air for soprano (“I know that my Redeemer liveth.”)
- III.41 Chorus (“Since by a man came death.”)
- III.44 Duet (“O death where is thy sting.”)
- III.45 chorus (“but thanks be to God.”)

Session VI – April 8: Worthy Is the Lamb-Halleluiahs

Scripture: *Revelation 5:1-14 and 11:15-19*

Musical Selections:

- III.47 Chorus (“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.”)
- III.39 Chorus (“Halleluiahs!”)

Musical Notes,

by Don Chandler, Organist-Choirmaster



Almost but not quite—the arrival of spring, that is! Crocuses are up, but Puxatawny saw his shadow, so...it's not quite time to shed overcoats and scarves. Just as Nature prepares to burst into flower, so we musicians of the church prepare for pious Lent and joyful Easter.

As a conclusion to the Lenten series by Father Hagerman on Handel's *Messiah*, the Choir is working up two movements of it to sing on Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We need a small string ensemble on Easter Sunday to do this work justice, so we are asking the congregation's help to defray the extra expense, which will come to approximately \$1,000. Please be ready to help when the appeal is made in the Sunday services. Thank you in advance!

A wonderful end to the winter, one and all!

Adult Education Program

The Holy Eucharist:

Knowing Christ in Scripture and the Breaking of the Bread

Sundays 9:10 – 9:50 a.m.

February 22

Part I – *Meeting Christ on the Road to Emmaus* (Luke 24:13-35)

(Father Hagerman)

Biblical and historic roots of the Holy Eucharist.

March 1

Part 2 – *I Am the Bread of Life* (John Chapter 6)

(Father Hagerman)

Fed by Christ in the changing seasons of our lives and the Church Year.

March 8

Part 3 – *Christ Our Passover Is Sacrificed for Us*

(Father Bill Anderson)

More important historic roots become evident as we consider the feast of Passover and traditions of sacrifice that influenced the development of the Holy Eucharist. How have they been transformed with a new meaning?

March 15

Part 4 – *“This Is My Body...This Is My Blood”*

(Father Bill Anderson)

The presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

This program is open to everyone and is highly recommended for Adult Confirmation, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Chalice Ministers, Lectors, Altar Guild members, and all who have a role in supporting our Sunday Holy Eucharist.



**SHROVE TUESDAY "SOUP SUPPER"
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH
6:00 PM—7:30 PM**

**PRICE OF ADMISSION IS A FREE WILL
OFFERING FOR ASP**

The Lenten season will be upon us beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 25th.

At St. Stephen's on *Shrove Tuesday*, we are planning a soup supper with a salad bowl, bread and/or saltines, beverages, and a light dessert.

The soup menu will be: chicken noodle, minestrone, and "clergy" soup. **As with all meal events, it would be helpful to know how many are attending in order to make enough soup, so please note the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Parish Hall, on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND.** However, please know that if your plans change at the last moment and you wish to join us, we are experts at s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g and everyone will be served.

The true "warm" spot of the evening will be the sale of the salad plates that our large group of volunteers produced on February 8th. The proceeds of this sale will also go to support the work of ET and their Appalachian Service Project scheduled for July.

Join us for a simple, but guaranteed delicious meal.

**"God's Promises" is the theme for
LENTEN FAMILY
SUNDAY**



March 8

Class projects presented at the 10 am Service Parish Brunch after the service.

Newcomers especially encouraged to join us!!!!



**RADIO CITY AND
NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP
FRIDAY~DECEMBER 4, 2009**

All 50 seats on the bus are first-registered, first-paid, first-seated.

Cost of \$154.00 per person includes travel in luxury video motor coach, bagel & juice breakfast, Orchestra Seating to Radio City Christmas Show, soft drinks & snacks upon departure from NYC, and all taxes and tips.

Half (roughly) of the Deposit due by March 28th
Balance due by October 1st.

PLEASE CONTACT BERNEY SOON, IF YOU WISH TO BE INCLUDED ON THE MANIFEST.

410-721-3958 (home) or shbjh@verizon.net

We have to limit ourselves to ONE bus, so put your name in soon!

As of February 17th, 20 of the seats have been booked, so an early decision is to your advantage!!



Vacation Bible School

June 22nd~26th

CLOSING PROGRAM~June 28th

"Join the FUN!"

Classes for Pre/K to 5th Grade

Vacation Bible School is in sight and plans are underway. PLEASE contact Berney if you are interested in volunteering.

We need help in the classrooms, craft center, and snack center. You do not have to commit to the entire week. Any help you can offer will be happily accepted.

THANKS~Berney (410-721-3958) or shbjh@verizon.net.

Episcopal Teen (ET) News:



The Episcopal Teens have received their Appalachian Service Project (ASP) assignment for the 2009 summer. We will be returning to Logan County, West Virginia. This year however, we will be going to the city of Man. Logan County is one of the largest counties in West Virginia. The population of Man was 770 at the 2000 census. Man is located along the Guyandotte River at the mouth of Buffalo Creek,¹ which was the site of the 1972 Buffalo creek flood following a dam collapse. The name of the town is believed to have come from the last syllable of the name of Ulysses Hinchman, who was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from Logan County between 1866 and 1869.

We will leave with the early birds on July 19th and return on July 25th. Please keep a close eye on your bulletin and calendar for many upcoming fundraising events. This summer will mark the seventh year St. Stephen's ET group has supported the ASP outreach program. Those teens who participated in 2003 have gone off to, and graduated from, various colleges. Some have returned each summer to participate again with St. Stephen's ET group and ASP. Each have taken their experience with them to college and some have travelled with the college to other countries, thereby continuing to bring the example of Christ to those less fortunate.

Looking back to our first year, we remember:

We were afraid of not knowing what we were doing ("and we didn't").

We were concerned that our efforts would fall short of the need ("some did").

We were anxious and keenly aware that to hammer this, or to unscrew that may result is a house falling down around us ("never happened, but CLOSE!").

In the end, the rag tag team of teenagers and clueless adults managed to help two families be safer, warmer and drier the following winter. Each year we have become more confident, more equipped and more clever in our ASP duties. It is important however, to remember the simple nature of God's call to us.

A good many are kept out of the service of Christ, deprived of the luxury of working for God, because they are trying to do some great thing. Let us be willing to do the little things. And let us remember that nothing is small in which God is the source

D. L. Moody, quoted in the Berean Call 1997

IHL
Sheri



Calling all scrapbookers to **CROP DAY**

**Saturday, February 28 in the Parish Hall
9 to 9**

Food provided A computer & crop tools available for use

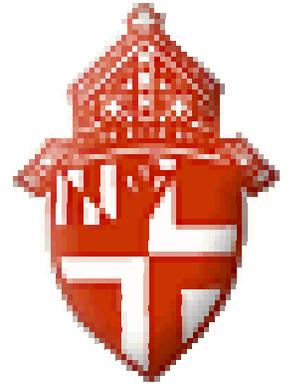
\$50. fee will be donated to the

Episcopal Teen's **APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT**
Make your check payable to: Vestry of Severn Parish

Contact Lisa Eliot at 410-721-5087 or
bypassbylisa@verizon.net
to reserve your spot or ask about details.

Spreading the Light:

Where our Diocesan Pledge Goes



Most of St. Stephen's parishioners know that we contribute a yearly sum to the Diocese of Maryland. It's not an insignificant amount---more than \$30,000---that all diocesan churches offer, varying somewhat from year to year depending on each church's economic health.

One of the intriguing things about being on the Vestry, I've discovered, is seeing the "workings," the machinery that's our more formal translation of Jesus' request that we love our neighbors as ourselves. So when we received a copy of this year's report of the Diocesan Comptroller this December, detailing where that money goes, I was surprised at the breadth and goodness of what we support. I thought you, too, would like to know some of the specifics of where our diocesan pledge goes.

Obviously, the pooled monies support the actual running of the Diocese: paying for its Center and staff, producing the *Maryland Church News*, operating the Claggett Center camps and programs. Funding let the Rev. Mary Glasspool conduct this year's Vestry retreat, it supported training of deacons, workshops on Christian formation, and help for struggling congregations to redevelop themselves.

And here's an additional sample:

- We sent the poorest children in inner city Baltimore to summer camp. These are children whose parents are in prison or who, themselves, are dealing with HIV and AIDS.
- We provided children in Panama and Africa with playground equipment, immunizations, health care and clean drinking water.
- We provided a safe afterschool place for children in impoverished districts, offering tutoring and mentoring, as well as summer instruction in anger management and social skills for at-risk kids.
- We furnished protected, warm housing for people affected by domestic violence.
- We supported suburban laity volunteering in urban ministries related to poverty.
- We funded chaplains at Towson State, Morgan State and UMBC.
- We helped support a full-time Episcopal chaplaincy program at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Marjorie Centofanti, Vestry member

Church Growth Committee

Monday, March 2 is the meeting date set for a revitalized Church Growth Committee. Interested parishioners are invited to attend. Meet in Woodward Hall at 7:30 p.m.

The *NEW* New Vestry

The Annual Meeting of St. Stephen's-Severn Parish was held on February 1st along with the election of new Vestry members. An audit of the election ballots revealed that there was a mistake in the count and one of the announced Vestry members actually was short two votes. The new Vestry members are: Phil Hoge, Norm Shackelton, Shaun Laughlin, and Mark Valentine.

There has also been a few changes in Vestry officers and we are pleased to announce the following slate of officers for the 2009-2010 Vestry:

Senior Warden – Jim Dietrich

Junior Warden – Pete Coakley

Registrar – Wendy Chambers

Finance and Investment Chair – Rob Clemmons

Diocesan Delegate – Shaun Laughlin

Diocesan Alternate – Kathy Shahinian

Archivist – Jean Sunday

Cemetery Administrator – Norm Shackelton

Treasurer – Sue Hoge

Many Thanks and Congratulations to All!

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The ladies gathered for a lively discussion of the last few interesting, lesser known women of the Bible. The Shulammite woman of the *Song of Songs* seems to epitomize God's passionate love for us His children and His church and God's gift of love especially in the sanctity of marital relationships. Rizpah and the Wise Woman of Abel will be our final studies, both of whom worked for the rights and safety of their families despite little power as women in that era. Rizpah will be discussed on March 2nd and The Woman of Abel on March 16th.



Interested in joining us? Learn more about the Old and New Testament. Contact Monica Regan 410 729 4036, monicaregan3@verizon.net or Jean Cox, meeting at 12:30 pm on Mondays in the Parish Hall.

Creation Care



Being good stewards of God's creation is a dimension of the Christian faith and life that has been growing in recent years. We are making some modest efforts in the parish in this area and in hope we can do more in the future.

Recycling

We practice recycling in the Rectory and Woodward Hall and are restarting it in the Parish Hall kitchen. Please note the bins near the outside door of the kitchen are now for recycling only.

I would encourage future supply purchases to discontinue styrofoam cups and move to cup materials that are more easily biodegradable.

We planted a new Dwarf Alberta Spruce Tree not far from the large Blue Spruce near the church. During the holidays and beyond it is lit at night using lights that are solar powered.

Our St. Francis Garden and trail is a strong witness to one of the greatest witnesses to the gifts of God's Creation, St. Francis of Assisi.

We welcome ideas you may have about good creation care for the parish.

Father Hagerman

Altar Flowers

Giving flowers for the chancel on Sundays is a wonderful way to honor a birth, birthday, anniversary, or a memorial. If you would like to do so, call Gail Brooks, Altar Guild Director, 301-261-0647, or contact the church secretary. The Altar Flower Chart for 2009 is in the narthex for you to check the open dates. But remember, there are no flowers during Lent and Advent, but the rest of the year is yours for the choosing.



Feeding the Hungry

Thanks to all who add to our collection of non-perishable items that are delivered to the local Food Pantry, housed at Seton Parish in Crofton. More and more people are coming in to ask for food. Fifty bags of groceries were handed out the first two weeks of February alone.

Suggested donations include, peanut butter and jelly, soups, cereals, side dish mixes, canned tuna and Spam, pasta, and spaghetti sauce.

CONFIRMATION 2009



Bishop's Teaching Day—Saturday, March 7 at St. Margaret's in Annapolis from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Parish Brunch & Power Point Presentations by the confirmands—Sunday, April 26 after the 10:00 a.m. Service

Class Dates continue on March 8 and April 19 at 9:10 a.m. in Woodward Hall.

Confirmation will be on Sunday in May 24 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, at 4:00 p.m.

Special Presentation for all confirmands, Sunday, May 31 at the 10:00 a.m. Service.

Any adults who are interested in Confirmation or Reception should contact Father Hagerman or the Church Office as soon as possible.

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

3 Sunday Sessions

9:10-9:50 a.m. Woodward Hall

This program is **for children and their parents** who wish to prepare their child to receive First Holy Communion *or* who have children already receiving and wish to deepen their understanding and experience of the sacrament. We are being flexible about the age because a variety of ages can benefit from this program. Generally, children K-1st and up will be able to participate. If you wish to be a part of this class, please call the church office to register.

March 15: Holy Eucharist Means Thanksgiving

- a. God's good creation
- b. Marked as Christ's own child forever in Baptism

March 22: I Am The Bread of Life

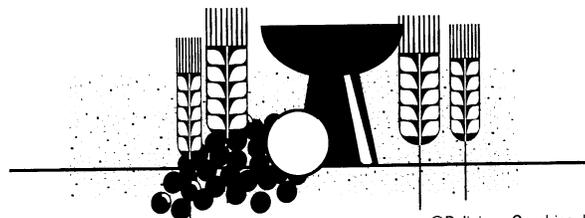
Jesus feeds us together (Father and Mrs. Hagerman will teach this lesson together)

March 29: A Visit to God's House

Father Hagerman will bring everyone into the sanctuary area of the church. We will learn about the vessels and vestments of the Holy Eucharist and review the proper way to receive Holy Communion.

April 9, Maundy Thursday: The Agape Meal and Holy Eucharist

The families will join us for this 2-part Service, an excellent time to receive Holy Communion for the first time. (Begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.)



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

1110 St. Stephen's Church Road

Crownsville, Maryland 21032

Phone: 410-721-2881

Fax: 410-721-0043

Email: st_stephens@verizon.net

Office Hours: MON-FRI 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org

The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*

Ash Wednesday

February 25

**Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes**

10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead to HOLY WEEK

April 5, Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of Palms
and the Passion according to St. Mark

April 6, Monday of Holy Week

9:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer

5:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer

April 7, Tuesday of Holy Week

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

5:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer

April 8, Wednesday of Holy Week

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer

April 9, Maundy Thursday

9:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer

6:00 p.m.—Agape Meal, Holy Eucharist, and Stripping the Altar to prepare for Good Friday
Prayer Vigil begins after the evening service and continues until Good Friday at noon

April 10, Good Friday

12:00 p.m. noon—Good Friday Liturgy from the *Book of Common Prayer*

7:30 p.m.—Stations of the Cross

April 12, Easter Sunday

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist