



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Severn Parish
Crownsville, Maryland
January 2010 Edition

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**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.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

9:00 a.m. Eucharist Service ONLY

followed by the

ANNUAL MEETING

in the Parish Hall

We need to have the *best* possible attendance at this meeting.

IMPORTANT PRESENTATIONS:

- ◆ *Emmaus* (new Church Growth Program)
- ◆ *Stewardship*

This will also be **Acolyte Sunday**
(all acolytes recognized at 9:00 a.m. Service)

Church School will be held at 9:00 a.m. (during service as usual)
Care for children of all ages available throughout the Meeting

You will be receiving a personal call in January encouraging your attendance and listening to any ideas you may have for a strong future for St. Stephen's.

~Father Hagerman & the Vestry of Severn Parish



This day is also designated as

Souper Bowl Sunday

We are collecting *soup and crackers* to give to the local Food Pantry.

Please bring your contribution to the Annual Meeting.

RECTOR'S REPORT



from the
PASTOR

Last Spring, the Vestry set three goals

1. Work on Church Growth
2. Work on Stewardship
3. Strengthen our work with the Crofton Christian Caring Council

Numbers one and two were being addressed in 2008 by one committee trying to do a variety of things by necessity and the clear goal in moving ahead was to have two separate groups working on these areas each of which has considerable work and a number of challenges. Good faith efforts have been made in all three areas above and my thanks to everyone who has contributed to that. Meetings that occurred Monday through Wednesday of last week correspond exactly to the three goals- Church Growth on Monday, the Crofton Christian Caring Council on Tuesday, and the first meeting of a Stewardship Task Force on Wednesday.

- 1) Church Growth had a productive meeting with a good spirit on Monday, we reviewed a four page prospectus of THE EMMAUS PROGRAM. This detailed document will be published in both the Annual Meeting Newsletter (Pages 6 & 7) and Annual Report Booklet. Initial programs are planned in all three stages of Emmaus – CONTACT, NURTURE AND GROWTH. Under the CONTACT stage in which we are reviewing parish communications, I will be meeting on Thursday with the diocesan Director of Communications, Sharon Tillman and the diocesan Webmaster, Jason Hoffman, for initial consultation. Sharon Tillman has also made the offer to come and meet with members of the committee. This is an important part of the process of preparing an application for a diocesan congregational development grant. Also in the CONTACT stage we are looking forward to our next Parish Brunch on Lent Family Sunday, March 7th. In recent years this has been one event in which we have welcomed newcomers. In the NURTURE stage, which covers basic teaching in the faith, we will be having an Adult Confirmation and Inquirers Class beginning on February 2nd and our regular program on bringing children to Holy Communion during Lent. We also see the ministry of building community through activities such as meal fellowship as being a part of the NURTURE stage and a new program, "Parent's Night Out" is being introduced on February 5th, organized by Berney, Amy Laughlin and Moira Valentine, in which parents of the Church School will gather at the Rectory for a pot luck while Berney, Hannah, and I have a program for the children in the Parish Hall. In the GROWTH stage, a Lenten Program on "Celebrating the Spiritual Disciplines" will be held in conjunction with Evensong beginning February 24th. Other initiatives we are working on include Norm organizing the men to revive the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Sheri organizing a ministry of greeters, and Phil working on the revision of our newcomer brochure and other materials.
- 2) On Tuesday, there was a meeting of the Board of the Crofton Christian Caring Council. We faced the first test of transition for our new Board as some current leadership was stepping down. A new chair and co-chair (a position I accepted) were elected and a new Treasurer is being trained by the outgoing Treasurer. As a Board member, I spoke to the Crofton Rotary Club on January 5th about our work and they were generous with their support. The needs especially of the Food Pantry continue to be great and we will do our share as a parish to help, including a special soup collection on "Souper Bowl" and Annual Meeting Sunday.
- 3) On Wednesday, we had the first meeting of the Stewardship Taskforce which the Senior Warden will regularly address in his report. I want to give my thanks in recognizing the foundational work Mike Duffy in introducing the Stewardship Corner and organizing a good campaign calendar and Shaun who did a number of excellent communications which spanned the year from March to December. We have some good efforts to build on. In recognizing that there are some unique challenges in growing in stewardship in the Episcopal Church as part of a larger entity, I am offering as part of my report in the Annual Meeting booklet a page called "Some Ministries supported by our Diocesan Allocation Dollar" (Page 4) which is a partial sampling of the broad range of ministries that we support as a community of churches.

In the year ahead, the same three goals will be a priority so:

1. Join us in the programs of EMMAUS or even offer a program.
2. Let's continue to find creative ways to support the important work of the Crofton Christian Caring Council.
3. Be faithful in worship and stewardship and invite and welcome others to St. Stephen's.

MAY GOD BLESS AND GUIDE OUR MINISTRIES IN THE COMING YEAR!

Father Hagerman

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Severn Parish
Financial Statement
Period January 01 - December 31, 2009

	Jan-Dec 2009 <u>Actuals</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>	Jan-Dec 2008 <u>Actuals</u>
<u>OPERATING INCOME:</u>				
Pledges	\$229,000	\$220,594	8,406	\$240,933
Plate	23,027	22,650	377	29,892
Other	16,801	16,970	(169)	32,469
TOTAL	<u>\$268,828</u>	<u>\$260,214</u>	<u>\$8,614</u>	<u>\$303,294</u>
# of Weeks	52	52		52
Avg Pledge/Week	4,404	4,242	162	4,633
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES:</u>				
Parish Operations	48,210	49,681	(1,471)	58,941
Programs	12,729	14,825	(2,096)	11,464
Property	59,945	68,570	(8,625)	58,046
Salaries & Benefits	151,145	153,235	(2,090)	149,486
Other	7,213	5,300	1,913	10,090
TOTAL	<u>\$279,242</u>	<u>\$291,611</u>	<u>(\$12,369)</u>	<u>\$288,027</u>
Cash +/-	(\$10,414)	(\$31,397)	\$20,983	\$15,267

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Dietrich
Senior Warden

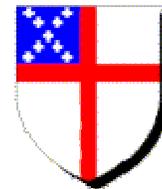
THE CONTINUANCE BUDGET EXPLAINED

At the December Vestry Meeting, the Vestry approved the Continuance Budget of 2009 for the first quarter of 2010. The Vestry took this action because historically we do not have an accurate count of pledges until sometime in January and trying to approve a budget in December is most difficult. Plans are to make the 2010 Budget effective April 1, 2010. Under this approach we will then be presenting a proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on February the 7th and soliciting parishioners input on the budget.

At the January Vestry Meeting, the Vestry approved a preliminary 2010 Budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. This budget is based on the 2009 actual receipts and expenditures with a modest increase (3%) in most categories.

James D. Dietrich
Senior Warden

SOME MINISTRIES SUPPORTED BY OUR DIOCESAN ALLOCATION DOLLARS



We are part of a larger Church in the state of Maryland and the United States and beyond. With that comes the opportunity to work collectively in the stewardship of our several churches to support some outstanding ministries.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT has an administrative organization that is supported by our giving to the Church. When the recent major earthquake struck Haiti, ERD was one of the first on the scene with disaster aid and in its ongoing fundraising efforts, will be an important source of rebuilding resources. Haiti is a diocese in the Episcopal Church with 170 churches and preaching stations, 254 schools, and medical clinics all helped by our stewardship.

THE BISHOP CLAGETT CENTER facilitates numerous summer camps and year round programs for our youth. There are special programs as well such as *Camp Amazing Grace* which provides a good summer program for the children of incarcerated parents. *The Rainbow Camp* provides a one week residential camp for children who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

NEW CONGREGATIONS are being developed and among them are special ministries with the Korean population, a Sudanese Congregation and a growing Latino ministry.

THE EPISCOPAL CHAPLAINCY AT JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL provides pastoral support of people from churches throughout the state and to any patients and families who have needs in critical times of illness.

The Diocese of Maryland is a partner with **EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES** in some very effective and innovative programs. Homeless children attend the *Ark Preschool*. Each year, nearly 75 children and their families are helped through the Ark's programs of education, meals and housing searches.

The Jericho Program also of EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES helps formerly incarcerated men rebuild their lives through employment and related services. President Bush visited this program a couple years ago and praised it as a model of church-community partnership.

In many ways, we at **ST. STEPHEN'S** have benefitted from diocesan staff and services:

- Four Vestry Retreats were conducted at various times by Bishop Rabb, the Rev. Mary Glasspool and the Rev. Mark Gatza.
- Legal services were provided by the Diocesan Chancellor in response to some special parish legal needs.
- As we begin work on our Emmaus Church Growth Program, Sharon Tillman, diocesan director of communication, and Jason Hoffman, diocesan webmaster, have been available for meetings not only in their offices but in the parish as well in their consulting role to help us strengthen communications.
- We are in the process of preparing an application for a Congregational Development Grant. With this source of funding THE OTHER CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE ARE PREPARED TO HELP US.

So, we find we are blessed in giving and receiving in being part of a community of churches.

ST. STEPHEN'S ARCHIVES.....*preserving our church history*

Jean Sunday, Archivist, is very pleased to announce that Lynn Bernard has accepted to be an assistant Archivist, effective January 2010. Fr. Hagerman presented her name to the Vestry at the December 21, 2009, Vestry Meeting, and the Vestry "Resolved to accept Lynn Bernard as an assistant Archivist". Lynn's professional background includes extensive archival work, and she is very proficient with various computer programs, which will be an valuable asset to the Parish Archives.

Thank you,
Jean Sunday

EMMAUS

WALKING WITH CHRIST, WALKING WITH OTHERS IN THE FAITH

INTRODUCTION

Emmaus is a SPIRIT of growing in our own faith and sharing that faith with others that is reflected in three streams of programming in the three stages of Emmaus:

CONTACT

NURTURE

GROWTH

There are some efforts that are being made in all three areas now, more programs we hope to introduce and an open door to receiving ideas for the development of The Emmaus Program.

One of the important strengths of this program which was developed by leadership in The Church of England, is that it offers an approach to evangelism which addresses the traditional reluctance of Episcopalians to be “overbearing” in sharing the faith. The approach is summarized in the Emmaus Contact booklet as “*Let us go together and see what God will do.*” Walking together with Christ is the image of the biblical account of Jesus walking on the road to Emmaus on the first Easter with disciples who were very confused and frightened about where they were going or even if there was any place to go after the Crucifixion of Jesus. (Luke 24: 13-35) Jesus does not force them into a quick decision but LISTENS to them, unfolds the SCRIPTURES to them and joins them for a meal where “he is known to them in the BREAKING OF THE BREAD.” Here we see Jesus himself modeling a way of evangelism that begins with *listening* and from that listening, discerning the way to open up the power of *God’s Word* and community in *meal fellowship*. So powerful was this experience that knowing Christ in Scripture and the breaking of the bread became the model for the principal form of worship for the new Sabbath Day which was to be celebrated not on the last day of the week but the first, the day that Jesus rose again from the dead. So Christ is known to us each Sunday in the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread in The Holy Eucharist as we follow his command to “do this in remembrance of me.” The journey to having this kind of fellowship with Christ and each other is a journey of many steps - steps the Emmaus program will help us understand and develop as we recognize that we too are still on the journey.

STAGE 1 CONTACT THE BRIDGES OF GOD PRINCIPLE

“In growing congregations, two-thirds to seven-eighths of the recent adult new members first attended at the invitation of a friend or relative. The faith spreads most naturally and contagiously along the lines of the social network when the invitation is extended from credible Christian friends, relatives, neighbors and fellow workers.”

Lyle E. Schaller

This principle can also be at work among children and youth. However the strongest influence by far in bringing children and

youth (pre-school through high school) to church is the commitment of the parents to worship as a family.

We will be looking at various ways to strengthen publicity and communications as part of our church growth efforts but what the above principle makes clear is there is no substitute for effective personal contact. This continues to be true even in a high-tech age where our messages can be sent with a variety of media.

Invitation and Welcome are the keynote themes at the CONTACT STAGE and as we will see, a good **Welcome** requires good programs at the NURTURE STAGE.

St. Stephen’s has in various ways been doing programs at the three Emmaus stages of CONTACT, NURTURE AND GROWTH, but we need improvement in all three areas.

For the rest of this Emmaus overview, I will outline some efforts we have been making in the three Emmaus stages, and what we would like to explore in the future. You are welcome and encouraged to contribute ideas to our future efforts. This is one of the strengths of our approach to the Emmaus Program: It is open to new ideas in its development. You may even be called to be a leader or teacher in one of the Emmaus ministries.

CONTACT STAGE

- 1) A personal invitation to Sunday services, Church School, Vacation Bible School, an adult education program, or other church meal or program.
- 2) We find that our website is the single biggest media source for reaching people and are working on ways to improve it.
- 3) Strengthened newspaper publicity is worth pursuing.
- 4) Special mailings to new residents in the community.
- 5) We have wanted to add greeters specifically focused on newcomers to be added to our usher roster and need to follow up on this.
- 6) We have held newcomers’ coffee hours in the fall and our parish brunch in Lent is designed to invite and welcome newcomers. We need to improve both of these events and add others like them.
- 7) In conjunction with all of the above, we need to improve our “welcome packets.”
- 8) We need to connect newcomers with “shepherding” members and families who can be a companion and guide to a deeper growth in faith and involvement in the parish. This begins to move us into the NURTURE stage.

NURTURE STAGE

An Emmaus nurture program has teaching units in three areas.

- What Christians Believe
- How Christians Grow
- Living the Christian Life

These areas can be addressed in shorter or longer courses. A basic summary of all three is contained in THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (BCP p. 304) and THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES (BCP p. 302-303) in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Our programs of instruction for Baptism and Confirmation

have this focus and so a sacramental route is one good option for nurture in our faith tradition.

Not everyone will feel ready for this step, so covering these areas in other courses is needed. (Someone may even choose to participate in one of the sacramental courses as an “inquirer” with the option of making a commitment at a later time.)

Our Church School program for children and youth is a NURTURE program leading to the GROWTH stage as we help our young people find ministries and learn the life of Stewardship which is a Growth stage topic for everyone.

The three above areas of teaching introduce a number of topics and going into them deeper and finding our own ministry in the faith is the focus of The Growth Stage.

Nurture in The Christian Faith is not just a matter of gaining knowledge but also of building relationships so a creative development of fellowship meals for small and large groups will be important. Developing shepherding relationships between newcomers and current members will also be important as we noted in the CONTACT stage.

GROWTH STAGE

I quote directly from *The Emmaus Manual* here:

“This stage is something quite new for the Church. Its emphasis is on formation rather than information. Too often we are content with letting growth come to a halt after a very short period of nurture and instruction leading to initiation. The aim of the GROWTH STAGE is to lead people beyond themselves to a new way of being human. This is the part of EMMAUS which challenges most traditional models of preparing people for church membership. It also carries the most potential for facilitating major change in the whole culture of the Church. If the bottleneck is stunted growth of so many churchgoing Christians, then the active discipling of all who come to faith will have a direct and dramatic effect on our mission to the world. ...The GROWTH STAGE consists of several possible short courses. The starting off points are the areas of study in the NURTURE STAGE but the aim is to go deeper and allow for much more sharing and exploration. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EACH GROUP AND CHURCH TO PLOT ITS OWN COURSE. The important point is that GROWTH does not stop. Commitment leads somewhere, and wherever possible it is focused outwards on mission.”

Growing into The Baptismal Covenant is a lifelong journey, a journey that is guided by a rule of life with three pillars:

1. PRAYER AND WORSHIP.
2. LIFELONG LEARNING and discovery of God’s Word as a “lamp unto our feet” and guide in “Living the Christian Life.”
3. SERVICE is the discovery and use of our gifts for ministry to the Church and to the World.

SOME EXAMPLES OF GROWTH COURSES

- A Spiritual Gifts Inventory and discovering our ministries
- The Celebration of Spiritual Disciplines (This year’s Lenten Program)
- A School of Prayer
- Relating the faith to contemporary issues and social ministries
- A Life of Stewardship (introduced in #2)
- Workshops for Christian Educators
- Studies of Word and Sacrament in Worship
- Transforming Church Boards into communities of spiritual leaders
- Topics in Bible Study (thematic or individual books)
- The history that has shaped us. The history we are making.
- Christian Care giving: Pastoral ministry for all people
- Education/training for Ministries of The Baptismal Covenant

There is an openness and creativity at this level which calls us to be “constant in prayer” to discern where God is calling us as a faith community and as individuals.

A CLOSING WORD ON CHURCH GROWTH

One of the books we have been studying in The Church Growth Committee is MORE THAN NUMBERS, THE WAY CHURCHES GROW, by Loren Mead of The Alban Institute. He cites three areas of Church Growth:

MATURATIONAL GROWTH – This involves “the ability of a congregation to challenge, support and encourage each one of its members to grow in the maturity of their faith, to deepen spiritual roots.”

ORGANIC GROWTH – Strengthening community, structure and procedures in the church for better decisions and follow-up

INCARNATIONAL GROWTH – How is the congregation growing in its impact on the community around it?

When we can grow in all these ways the numbers follow even as the Scripture tells us through St. Paul,

“I planted, Apollos watered but GOD GAVE THE GROWTH.” (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Join us in ministries that will “plant and water” confident that God will give the growth.

Father Hagerman

ADULT CONFIRMATION/INQUIRER'S CLASS

An Emmaus *Nurture* Program (All are welcome!)

Tuesdays

February 2 – March 23

Woodward Hall

7:30-8:30 p.m.

- February 2** A Personal God Calls Us By Name
February 9 Foundations of the Faith in the Baptismal Covenant: An Introduction (4 parts)
February 16 The Baptismal Covenant Part 2 – What Christians Believe
February 23 The Baptismal Covenant Part 3 – How Christians Grow
March 2 The Baptismal Covenant Part 4 – How Christians Live
March 9 Welcome to the Episcopal Church – Part 1
March 16 Welcome to the Episcopal - Part 2
March 23 The Deepest Spiritual Journey: Walking with Christ in Holy Week and Easter

Sunday April 18 - Rehearsal for Confirmation, 9:10 a.m. in Church

There will also be a Parish Brunch that day to support the Confirmands and their families after the 10:00 a.m. Service.

Sunday, April 25 – Confirmation by Bishop Sutton at the 10:00 a.m. Service at St. Stephen' s

LORD
send out
your
SPIRIT



and renew
the face
of the
earth

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LENTEN PROGRAM 2010

An Emmaus *Growth* Program

A CELEBRATION OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES:

A time of prayer and Bible study in the framework of Evensong.

Wednesdays in Lent

7:00 -7:40 p.m.

- February 24** PRAYER: "Finding the heart's true home"-the foundation of all spiritual discipline
March 3 PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS: A traditional Lenten focus
March 10 ORIGINAL BLESSING: A surprising look at Celebration and Thanksgiving as spiritual disciplines
March 17 A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP: An introduction
March 24 THE WAY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE: A vocation for all Christians

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

An Emmaus *Nurture* Program

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. Generally, children K-1st and up participate.

Parents and children meet for three classes: **March 7, 14, and 21**. The Sacrament is celebrated on **Maundy Thursday (April 1)** at the Agape Meal and Eucharist Service which begins in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m.



Musical Notes

Many thanks to all who gave “over and above” toward the Christmas Eve special music appeal. Over \$500. was raised toward a goal about \$300. above that. The supplemental musicians (two singers and four stringed instruments and a flute) were truly amazing and enhanced our service immensely (Vivaldi’s *Gloria*).

Light Blue Ribbon classes have begun for our Spirit Singers junior choristers! This program is designed to teach sight-singing and ear training at Level 1 of the Royal School of Church Music “Voice for Life” curriculum. Classes meet at the conclusion of each Sunday’s rehearsals, after the 10:00 a.m. service, in the Choir Room of the church undercroft. In a couple months, these brave songsters will be taking their first musical test on the materials covered. Please let them know how important their singing is to us at St. Stephen’s!

One of the few purely “Anglican” things our Choir does is the traditional singing in Anglican chant of Psalm 51 at the evening service on Ash Wednesday. This year’s chant is by Herbert Howells. Don’t miss it!

Many sacred choral works of great note are performed each year during Lent and Holy Week. Don’t miss out on these, many of which are in Episcopal venues in the area, especially Washington National Cathedral, whose boys’ and girls’ choirs join the men’s choir to perform Bach’s *Passion according to St. John*, using period instruments. Check their website for more information and tickets. (wnc.org)

A neighboring church musician pointed out to me a year ago that, with February as Black History month, it would be appropriate to recall that many of our ancient church buildings in this state had been built using slave labor—which had not occurred to me until the moment he mentioned it! As February dawns again soon, let us not forget this and the history to which we are inevitably connected.

May I remind everyone that requests for hymns are always welcome. This is especially so during Lent, a season of contemplation and of looking inward. Is there a hymn that speaks to you or for you in a special way? Please let me know. I will include it in the plans for music in the next two months.

Yours for church music,

Don Chandler, Organist/Choirmaster

PARENT’S NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 5th at 6:00 PM

In order to facilitate fellowship between the parents of younger children and those in the primary grades, a plan has been hatched.....

The children will be fed a hot dog/chips dinner and watch a movie in the Parish Hall, while their parents meet at the Rectory for a pot-luck supper. The children can come in their pajamas and bring pillows/blankets to get comfortable, if they wish.



The “sitting” is **FREE** with the condition that the parents join with each other for the meal - in other words, not using the drop off to make separate plans.

Hopefully, as a group, the parents can then plan other events together. If this is a success, then I will plan another meal/movie night in late spring and perhaps the parents can attend a Baysox Game or go bowling, or any other idea the group may have.

The main coordinators of this first *Parent’s Night Out* are: Amy Laughlin and Moira Valentine. They will handle the lists (what to bring) for the pot-luck dinner. If you are interested, please contact them by **February 1st** at:

amy.laughlin@earthlink.net

valentinefam@comcast.net

Berney, Fr. Steve, and Hannah will be handling the evening in the Parish Hall. We truly hope that many parents/children will take this opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow parishioners. It’s about time we all got to know each other better!!

SNOWTUBING FUN

On Saturday, January 30 families will carpool from the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to travel to Liberty Mountain Resort (NW of Baltimore on MD RTE 140 W just across the PA line).

The cost for two hours of tubing and tube rental is \$24. per person. Kids must be 5 years old to ride the main tubing hill. (There is a smaller hill for the little ones—\$9. ticket/unlimited tubing.)



RSVP Amy Laughlin at 410-721-4402 or amy.laughlin@earthlink.net.

ANNUAL MEETING

With Election of Vestry Members Sunday February 7

Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Service in the Parish Hall
(There is only **ONE** Service on this Sunday-at 9:00 a.m.)

Why do we have an Annual Meeting? (answers in bold)

****Article I, Section 3. Annual Meetings.** There shall be an Annual Meeting of all Ordinary Members of the Church... **The business to be transacted at the Annual Meeting by the Voting Members shall include election of Vestry Members, consideration and action upon reports of the Rector, the Treasurer, the Wardens, other Officers, Vestry Members, Vestry Committees and Church Ministries.** Annual reports shall be written and distributed to the congregation one week prior to the annual meeting. Reports shall identify accomplishments for the past year with resources expended, and goals for the next year with resource requirements. Any other business within the power of the Church as a religious corporation of the State of Maryland may also be addressed.

Why should I attend?

****Article 1, Section 1. Ordinary Members.** All persons who have been baptized, whether in the Episcopal Church or in another Christian Church, and whose baptisms have been duly recorded in the Episcopal Church, and who regard The Vestry of Severn Parish/St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (the "Church"), as their regular place of worship, shall be Ordinary Members of the Church. **Ordinary members have the right to attend all Parish Meetings with voice on all matters** but may not vote.

Who may vote?

****Article 1, Section 2. Voting Members.** All Ordinary Members not less than sixteen years of age who have been confirmed or received in the Anglican Church and who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times in the previous twelve (12) months are Adult Communicants. Likewise, all Ordinary Members not less than sixteen years of age who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times in the previous twelve (12) months, and have been Ordinary Members of the Church for twenty-four (24) months preceding the day when they may wish to vote are also Adult Communicants of this Church. **All Adult Communicants** who are faithful in their corporate worship, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving to the Church for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are qualified as Voting Members with the right to vote in the election of Vestry Members and upon all other matters placed before a quorum of the parish of the Church. Only Voting Members who have been confirmed or received are eligible to become Vestry Members of the Church.

What if I am eligible to vote and cannot be there?

****Article II, Section 4, Election.** Vestry Members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by the Voting Members who are either present or have submitted an **absentee ballot** in accordance with administrative procedures outlined below. Each Voting member shall have the right to vote for one candidate to fill each vacant seat. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

Procedure for voting by Absentee Ballot: Voting members who are hospitalized, shut-in, and /or are too ill to attend the meeting, or who will be physically located beyond a normal commuting distance (50) miles from the Parish on the date of the Annual Meeting shall be allowed to submit an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are to be available from the church office at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting. Absentee ballots may be obtained by the member or, in the event that the member is physically unable to travel to the church office, by either the member's nearest adult relative, the Rector, or a designated Lay Minister of the Parish. Completed ballots must be sealed within a self addressed envelope provided by the church office, and may be either physically returned or mailed so that they are received at the church office no later than the Last Business Day falling immediately before the date of the Annual Meeting. The absentee ballots shall remain sealed until they are counted with the regular ballots at the Annual Meeting.

****BYLAWS OF THE VESTRY OF SEVERN PARISH, ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

On February 7, after a 9:00 a.m. Service, we will hold our Annual Meeting with Election of 4 new Vestry Members.

MEET OUR VESTRY NOMINEES:

HOUSMAN, L.J.

I was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic religion and remained a Catholic until three and a half years ago when I began attending St. Stephen's. At St. Stephen's, I have been a member of the Altar Guild and am currently attending Bible Study. Assimilation at St. Stephen's has been made easy by the warm and welcoming membership.

I retired seven years ago as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for an International Wallcovering Manufacturer and Distributor. I have been active since then taking various classes at Anne Arundel Community college, doing Mediation with the Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center at the Jessup Boot Camp Prison as well as with the public at large, and serving as an officer of my local Homeowners Association.

I would like to offer my services to the Vestry of St. Stephen's Church.

LA FLEUR, Sheri

My vision for the future is to help St. Stephen's maintain a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where our faith is nourished. Our clergy and parishioners collectively work together to create a community that cares for each other's religious, social, and personal needs. I feel it is important that we work together as a parish to spread the word of God and nurture and teach the children of St. Stephen's what Christianity is truly about.

I have been attending and have been an active member of St. Stephen's for more than 15 years. During that time, I have been involved with or participated in the following activities:

- Appalachian Service Project Youth Group Leader
- Outreach Ministries: Homeless of Baltimore; Appalachian Service Project – 7 Years
- Parish Dinners
- Lector
- Usher
- The Altar Guild
- Vestry Member
- Growth Committee
- St. Stephens Circle

I currently work for Mitel in Beltsville, MD as a System Implementation Specialist and enjoy working with and helping people. I personally feel a great joy in helping those in need, regardless of who they are. My husband Rich and I have been married for 25 years and have two sons.

MC NEMAR, Carol

I have been a member of St. Stephen's my entire life. My husband and I have operated carwashes in the area for thirty years.

Presently, I am a member of the usher committee, property and hospitality committees, and a member of the Circle. In the past I have served on the Vestry, taught Sunday School, acted as Sunday School Superintendent, sung in the choir, and volunteered as a nursery worker. Over the years I have served on a number of community association boards, been a PTA officer, and last year worked at Waugh Chapel Elementary as a parent (grandparent) volunteer.

St. Stephen's has been serving the area for 172 years. It is important to me to help this service continue, and I will work to preserve the traditions of our parish in this service, and pass on new traditions to future generations.

MIFFLETON, Stan

My family and I have been members of St. Stephen's since 1991. Both of my daughters attended Sunday School and were confirmed at St. Stephen's. It has been my privilege to have taught Sunday School for a number of years and to have served on the Vestry for one term, one year as Senior Warden. I currently serve on the Finance and Investment Committee and the Property Committee.

Retiring after over thirty years as a Human Resource and Labor Relations Manager with an international chemical company, I spend much of my time reading and gardening. I'm an Army veteran and holder of two degrees in Business from the current National Football champions (University of Alabama.)

My primary interests should I again serve on the Vestry, would be in the areas of Church Growth, Christian Education, and the continuing financial viability of St. Stephen's.

Professionally, I have worked in the sales and marketing, telecommunications, high-tech, and organizational development fields for more than 25 years. I currently hold a business development position with a renewable energy organization based in the DC area. I have a Fine Arts education and carry several business and development certifications. My interests include writing, music, literature, fly-fishing, religious history, and education.

YANDOW, Beth

Husband Dan, daughter Morgan and I have been an active part of the St. Stephen's family since our arrival. We wanted to be part of a church that is family oriented and gives back to the community. St Stephen's is wonderful and certainly fits that bill! I retired from the Air Force after 22 years of active duty as an Airborne Linguist and am currently working for Syracuse Research as a Government contractor. Dan is still Active Air Force. Our travels have taken us to various ports. When we met in Saudi Arabia, Dan and I found that we both called Vermont home. During our seven years in England, we attended and were confirmed in the local Anglican Church. We later "tied the knot" in the Episcopal Church in Middlebury Vermont. Morgan was born in Germany and is a cutie patootie "most of the time". She has jumped right into the church family, joining the Spirit Singers and the Sunday School with a passion. Morgan and I both volunteered to assist ET with the Holiday Pie event in November. Dan and I have recently joined Donna and Howard Graves as tellers and look forward to the venture. We really look forward to being part of the St. Stephen's family for many years to come!

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AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Members of the congregation will be asked to approve these proposals at the Annual Meeting.

1. Regarding changing the name of the church

Parish records of Articles of Amendment and Restatement, Deeds and the Parish Bylaws are titled: "The Vestry of Severn Parish". The church is known as "St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Severn Parish". An amendment was submitted to the Vestry and approved for recommendation to the Voting Members of the Church for favorable action at the 2010 Annual Meeting of such members to amend the Bylaws to read "St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Severn Parish".

Page 1. The Principles of Religion. The members of this Church (**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Severn Parish**) shall instruct their families

Page 1. Article I, Members. Section 1. Ordinary Members. All persons who have been baptized, whether in the Episcopal Church or in another Christian Church, and whose baptisms have been duly recorded in the Episcopal Church, and who regard **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Severn Parish** (the "Church"), as their regular place of worship,

2. Regarding the number of signatures on a check over \$2,000.

In accordance with the Vestry resolution to establish an investment account with Schwab it was necessary to comply with their corporate policies regarding cash management accounts (including the number of signatures on checks). Their security system allows for only one signature, so we are technically out of compliance with the requirement in our by-laws for "two signatures" on checks over \$2,000. Therefore it is proposed that the current verbiage be re-worded as follows:

Page 8. Article V, Fiscal Matters. Section 2. Signature to Commercial Paper. All checks and drafts shall be made, drawn and endorsed in the name of the Church in such manner as the Vestry may from time to time authorize. Any check above \$2,000 shall have two signatures as shall be designated by the Vestry.

[Suggested revision]

Section 2. Signature to Commercial Paper. All checks and drafts shall be made, drawn and endorsed in the name of the Church by an appointed officer of the Vestry in such manner as the Vestry may from time to time authorize. Any check above \$2,000 shall require an approved Vestry resolution prior to being disbursed and the resolution number shall be annotated in the memo section of the check, as designated by the Vestry.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

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Phone: 410-721-2881

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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*

Annual Parish Meeting

With Vestry Elections

Sunday, February 7

After the 9:00 a.m. Service

ONLY ONE Service that day...at 9 am

Meeting immediately follows Service

Church School Classes begin at 9 am

Activities for children in Parish Hall during Meeting



PANCAKES RETURN TO ST. STEPHEN'S

Shrove Tuesday, February 16
6:30 p.m.

There will be a pancake supper for the parish and the community on Shrove Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The men of the church will cook pancakes and sausage on this night before the start of Lent. Mark Valentine will make his famous beignets (New Orleans style sugar doughnuts) to add to your eating pleasure. There is no charge for this event but donations will be accepted.

Please join us for an enjoyable family night out!!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are placed at the altar every Sunday except during Lent and Advent. We use all our senses when we worship with flowers helping one focus on sight and smell. The new altar flower chart for 2010 is posted in the narthex. If you would like to give flowers to honor a birth, birthday, anniversary, in memory of a loved one, or any other special occasion, call Gail Brooks, 301-261-0647, Altar Guild director, or the church secretary.



GREEN TIPS

Many people don't realize what single stream recycling is. Single Stream recycling is when you can put all your recyclables in one bin. In Anne Arundel County you can put all your paper, metal, and glass into the same container! A couple more green tips are:

- Bottles, cans, jars, and even their caps don't have to be rinsed when put into a recycling bin
- Use a yellow bin or any other bin marked with an X for curbside recycling
- You can put an unlimited amount of recycling out

You can get more info from www.recyclemoreoften.com.

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live... you shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell."
Numbers 35:33-34

Submitted by Sarah Sykora



Ash Wednesday

is February 17

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
will be held at 10:00 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m.



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