



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Severn Parish
Crownsville, Maryland
January 2014 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.

ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS COMING UP

Please note scheduling for the following dates:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 Bishop's Visitation Day Special Schedule:

8:30 a.m.—Bishop meets with Vestry

9:30 a.m.—Bishop meets with Confirmands

10:00 a.m.—Confirmation with Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m.—Church School for PreK-K & Grades 1-2

11:30 a.m.—Reception with Light Lunch Refreshments

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 Annual Meeting Sunday Special Schedule:

9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m.—Church School for PreK-K class

10:30 a.m.—Annual Parish Meeting w/ Elections

10:30 a.m.—Video & Activities for kids

Please see page 3 for more details...

THE MINISTRY OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry of St. Stephen's-Severn Parish consists of 12 members and various officers. 4 new members are elected each year at the Annual Meeting in February, for a term of three years.

The Canons of the Episcopal Church state:

The Vestry shall be agents and legal representatives of the parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to the clergy.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

A Vestry member must be a baptized and confirmed member of the Episcopal Church. (Confirmation/ Reception can be arranged within the first 6 months of taking office.)

In the Commissioning Service of the Vestry, we state the following as qualifications:

A commitment to Christ as Lord, regular attendance at worship and the knowledge of their duties to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well being of the Church.

Pursuant to the Canons of the Diocese of Maryland, the Vestry each year takes the following Oath of Office:

I declare my belief in the Christian religion and declare that I accede to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and that in obedience to the same, I will execute the office of a Vestry member without prejudice or favor according to the best of my skill and knowledge, so help me God.

The Vestry meets on the third Monday of the month (with occasional exceptions). The new Vestry will begin its work Monday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. They generally meet in the Parish Hall.

Among the Vestry's main responsibilities are the preparation and monitoring of the budget with the guidance of the Treasurer (Stewardship Education for the congregation is an important part of this), overseeing our many property projects with the guidance of the Junior Warden, and helping to assure that Christian Education is provided for all ages under the leadership of the Rector.

As leaders in a faith community, Vestry members are called to spiritual leadership as well. Author and Vestry member from the Diocese of New York, Judge Colleen McMahon writes: "Nothing is more important to Vestries and their members than prayer...since God is the added dimension that makes serving on the Vestry different from belonging to some other Board or Task Force, talking to God is as necessary to your work as your talents or your ideas or your commitment. If you shortchange prayer, you forget who you are and what you are about." (*Meditations for Vestry Members*)

WE ARE IN NEED OF FIVE VESTRY NOMINEES for the coming Annual Meeting (February 9). Four will serve for three years, and one will serve for one year, completing the unfinished term of a previous member. If you have any questions or think you may want to serve the church in this capacity, please contact either Warden, Father Hagerman, a member of the Nominating Committee or any Vestry member.

Nominating Committee:

Gary Berned (410-721-3087 / garyberned82@aol.com)
John DiBenio (410-697-3038 / dibenio@comcast.net)
Lorin Selby (410-721-5687 / lselby@alumni.virginia.edu)
Brian Shay (410-672-6831 / theshays2003@gmail.com)

Wardens:

Stan Miffleton (443-607-4189)
Pete Coakley (443-926-6862)

EPISCOPAL VISIT

Each year, every parish in the Diocese of Maryland receives a visit from the Bishop, Assistant Bishop, or Canon to the Ordinary. This year, we are honored to welcome the Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton to St. Stephen's this coming Sunday, January 19.



Bishop Sutton will have a full schedule during his morning with us. He will first meet with our Vestry members, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Then at 9:30 a.m., he will talk with the 12 members of our church who have been preparing to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church. At 10:00 a.m., Bishop Sutton celebrates Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. A light luncheon reception follows the Eucharist where he will be happy to greet our parishioners.

It is hoped that as many of you as possible will come and join in the festivities. It will truly be a joyous day!

ANNUAL MEETING

The President of the United States gives a "State of the Union" address. The Governor of Maryland presents a similar speech concerning state issues. And we at St. Stephen's have our "Annual Meeting." There will be much talk about this event in the next few weeks. It is an important time for every member of our parish—even if you are very new. It is a time when we assess our goals and programs, we look at what we accomplished this past year and what we hope to see happen in the new year.

One week before the meeting, an "Annual Report" booklet will be available (one per family) for you to look over before the meeting. Our Rector, Vestry Officers, and Ministry Leaders have taken the time to put together some information pertinent to their particular ministry here at St. Stephen's—each in their own way.

And of course, there will be election of new Vestry members. Some candidates will be known ahead of time, but there also will be nominations from the floor.

If you are concerned about your children, there will be a video and other activities to keep them busy while you attend the meeting.

So, please make note of the special service time that day (**February 9 at 9:00 a.m.**). Church School for the PreK-K class will begin at 9:00 a.m. The rest of the students should attend the service with their families. Our Acolytes will be recognized at the Eucharist Service since it will also be Acolyte Sunday. And the Spirit Singers will add their sweet notes to our liturgical celebration.

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.

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

GUILD NOTES & NEWS

Our last meeting was held at Killarney House for Dinner on January 14th. This was the Christmas Dinner that was postponed last month. We had a total of 21 guests (1 absent due to work) at our dinner which included Father Hagerman, Berney Jaroch Hagerman and Irene McEntee. Everyone had a great time and a good meal.

We have changed our monthly meetings to the "First Sunday" of each month. The meetings will be from 9:00 am to 9:45 a.m. in between services during our program year (September—May). Hope this time works better for some of the younger ladies and perhaps for all of the ladies.

We discussed that we will be having our annual Spring Dinner again this year thanks to Cris DiBenio. There will also be a Raffle. We have a folding wagon that we will be filling with Garden items. If anyone has any ideas on items to fill this please let someone in the Guild know, or if you would like to donate something, it would be appreciated. The raffle tickets will be available for sale in March and April. Remember we need all the help we can get from ALL our members with the Dinner and the Raffle.

Did you get an item for Christmas that you do not like? If so, would you like to re-gift it to the Silent Auction (appropriate, of course) held at our Bazaar in November? Mary Brown said she can store any item if needed.

Hope to see everyone at the February meeting (and maybe some new members):

February 2, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Melissa Bednarik
Guild President

Crofton Cares needs you!



Plans for the 4th Annual "Crofton Cares" Walkathon are under way.

This Walkathon is meant to raise not only funds for the *Crofton Christian Caring Council* but also awareness among businesses and members of the community that there are people in need - right here - and that we can help them.

While a few members of St. Stephen's volunteer in the Council year round, we would like to invite more people to join us. Just assisting once a year with the Walkathon would be a *tremendous* help!

Please come to the planning meeting on **Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Woodward Hall**, here at St. Stephen's. We need all kinds of support staff to work on things like publicity and registration. You might have an idea that we haven't thought of yet. (The Walkathon is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m. in Crofton.)

If you can't make that meeting but might be interested in helping, let Father Hagerman know or leave your name with the church secretary: 410-721-2881.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

Placing altar flowers at the altar is a wonderful way to honor loved ones' births, birthdays, anniversaries, memorials or any other special occasion. Reserve your important date now. If you have any questions call Gail Brooks, Altar Guild director, 301-261-0647, or Irene the church secretary.

Gail Brooks

WINTER RELIEF

January 15, 2014 our parish provided dinner for the participants in the Winter Relief program. Fifty people were served dinner at Seton Parish, where they were staying for the week. This program gives shelter to homeless men during the cold winter months. From mid-October to April, churches in the area provide meals and a warm place to sleep. This is the third year St. Stephen's has been a part of this undertaking.

We would like to thank all who donated or prepared food: Pete Coakley, Nancy Cole, Wendy Chambers, Melissa Bednarik, Betsy Oliver, Roberta Machande, Beth Nelson, Bob Versis, Arlene Rayburn, Jean and Don Cox, Moira Valentine, Diane Nelson, Lynn Bernard, Marjorie Centofanti, Kate Marshall, and Chuck and Barbara Sands.

~Nancy Cole & Carol McNemar

News

WEATHER

Bad weather happens—sometimes when we least expect it. We can't always predict the weather here in Maryland. And the question might arise, "I wonder if they will cancel church services on Sunday?"

Well, there are several ways of checking on that answer:

1. Call the church office. No one will be here to answer the phone on the weekend, but there will be a message on our voice mail system.
2. Check our website: www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org. If at all possible, we will have a message on our home page.
3. We might have time to send out email messages or phone calls through the Cluster list.
4. Check the WBAL radio station (1090 AM) or their website: www.wbal.com and look under school cancellations.
5. And if there is no electricity, and the roads are icy or snowy—use common sense... and be safe.



The next edition of the *Severn Light* will be published in February.

News

BERNEY SAYS...

THANK YOU to the Church School students, staff, and parents for the Jesse Tree, Pageant, and Miters projects. And the Spirit Singers, with a special THANK YOU to Quinn Scruggs for her beautiful duet with Marjorie Centofanti of "Away in the Manger."

Thank you!

WE FOUND IT WHO LOST IT?

We are amassing a variety of items left in church or Parish Hall. If you find you are missing: keys, gloves, glasses, umbrellas, a cooler, children's purses, etc., please stop by the church office in Woodward Hall to see if any of these items belong to you. (They are on top of and beside the small refrigerator on the left hand side of the room.)

CONGRATULATIONS

May God bless those who will be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church this Sunday:

*Mallory Connaughton,
Jacqui Nowell,
Jimmy Selby,
Kenna Valentine,
Zoe Wollenschlaeger,
Cheryl and David Ani,
Cris DiBenio,
Jessica and Corey Nolet,
Sharon and Kevin Wanamaker.*



Musical Notes

Musical Notes, by Don Chandler, Organist-choirmaster

I hope the severe cold has passed for good! The wide swings in temperature cause wide swings in humidity in the church, affecting the tuning (negatively) of the piano almost on a weekly basis. This is in contrast to the tuning of the organ, which is affected on a minute-to-minute basis by change in temperature. We roll with the punches! I hope to obtain funds this new year for installation of a climate control system in the Nave piano; this will keep the need for tuning to a minimum (the Choir Room piano has such a system; it requires tuning only about once every two years).

A huge THANK YOU to our musicians for their over-and-above contributions to our Advent and Christmas services! Spirit Singers outdid themselves at the Pageant on Christmas Eve by a wonderful showing: 8 out of our nine members showed up! They did a wonderful job with "Ding dong merrily on high," including our new first-grader, Ryan Wanamaker, and a duet by David & Michael Nelson on "Once in royal David's city." Thanks to one and all, and especially, to our parents corps! Senior choir attempted-- and succeeded-- with the difficult Messiah chorus, "For unto us a Child in born," with small orchestra. I thought they did splendidly! That's the most difficult Christmas anthem we've done in my memory, I think. Congratulations, Choir! Special mention must be made of Sarah Bass, who braved her way through a difficult violin part on...flute!! Note-perfect! It must have been her new master's degree from London School of Economics! No...she has been giving us note-perfect performances for many years! Thanks so much, Sarah! and best to you with your new career. Thanks also to Quinn Scruggs and Marjorie Centofanti for their fine duet on December 29, the Sunday after Christmas. You gave us a wonderful treat!

I ask for your help and prayer in regards to RSCM classes for Spirit Singers over the next two months. I will offer these during the timeframe of 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, at the Light Blue Ribbon level. Spirit Singers, let me know of your interest in taking these classes and passing your tests. Green ribbon required before Light Blue instruction can be given. If you haven't passed your Green Ribbon, please notify me as soon as possible to set up an appointment after rehearsal for your Green Ribbon test: this is not a difficult test: everyone passes!

All the best to all in the new year! I hope your life is enriched by church music on many occasions this year!

Yours for church music,
Don Chandler, ChM, M.Div., etc
Don Chandler, Organist/Choirmaster

Lenten Program 2014: Genesis for a mature faith

Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
Woodward Hall

The Book of Genesis is Sacred Scripture for three of the major world religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The stories and images of Genesis were a major influence in the shaping of Western Culture and for many the childhood stories of Sunday School.

How does Genesis still speak to us as we seek to grow into a mature faith? The issues are profound for all ages: The meaning and integrity of Creation, the struggle to know and live by God's will and the challenge of being a "people of God." We will draw on many perspectives on the Book of Genesis including how we understand it as Christians in light of the New Testament.

Session 1—March 13: Creation (Chapters 1 and 2)

Pointing to Christ—The Image of God (Colossians 1:15-20)

Session 2—March 20: The Lost Garden (Chapters 3-11)

Pointing to Christ—God's Will or Self Will (Romans 8)

Session 3—March 27: Abram becomes Abraham, the Father of many nations. (Chapters 12-25)

Pointing to Christ—Journey to God's Plan, Christ is our companion. (Luke 24)

Session 4—April 3: Jacob becomes Israel (Chapters 25-36)

Pointing to Christ—A light to the nations, God for all people. (Isaiah 49:6; Matthew 4:15)

Session 5—April 10: Joseph, the dreamer, saves Israel. (Chapters 37-50)

Pointing to Christ—God's redemptive response to suffering. (Romans 8:28-30)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

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The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WITH VESTRY ELECTIONS

Sunday, February 9
After the 9:00 a.m. Service

ONLY ONE Service that day...at 9 am

Meeting immediately follows Service

Activities for children in Parish Hall during Meeting

A GOOD THING TO SHARE

Recently I found a cookbook that had been compiled by the choir in 1975. It is filled with recipes submitted by parish members. Titled The Severn Parish Cookbook, it has a pencil drawing of the church after the 1975 renovation and addition.

The book was dedicated to Olive Warfield King. The dedication reads:

"Organist at St. Stephen's Church for uncounted years, from time to time supported by a choir; mainstay of its Altar Guild; builder of the St. Francis Garden; and donor of the first electronic organ in Severn Parish."

The purpose of the book: *"The members of Severn Parish are now remodeling and enlarging 130-year-old St. Stephen's Church to double its seating capacity-a considerable venture. As a supplement to the major effort, our Church Choir is raising funds for the purchase of a larger, more adequate organ. Profits from the sale of this cookbook, and from other Choir projects, are devoted entirely to this purpose."*

I thought it would be fun to share some of the parishioners' recipes. The following recipe is from parish member Lolly Schorreck, a retired member of the current Choir. Enjoy!

COOK-DURING-CHURCH CHICKEN CASSEROLE

2 c. water

1 can cream of celery soup-no milk added

1 c. regular rice (not Minute Rice)

4 chicken breasts

Carrots, sliced lengthwise

Grease a covered casserole. Pour in water and rice. Over this, lay carrot strips. Arrange 4 chicken breasts over the carrots. Pour over chicken a can of soup. Bake at 350 degrees about an hour and fifteen minutes. (Set on "timed -baked" if going to church!)

~Carol McNemar