



# The Severn Light

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

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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:

410-721-2881 or  
st\_stephens@verizon.net

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

*The Paschal Mystery—Christ's dying and rising for us—is the heart of the Christian Faith. From Palm Sunday through Easter, we will walk this path with Jesus. Join us for prayer and worship.*

### March 28, Palm Sunday

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

### March 29, Monday of Holy Week

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
5:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer

### March 30, Tuesday of Holy Week

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
5:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer

### March 31, Wednesday of Holy Week

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
5:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer

### April 1, Maundy Thursday

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
6:00 p.m.—Agape Meal, Holy Eucharist, and Stripping the Altar to prepare for Good Friday  
(*The Agape Meal begins in the Parish Hall celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with a Seder-like supper and continues in Church at the Offertory for the remainder of the Service.*)

Prayer Vigil begins after the evening service and continues until Good Friday at noon.

### April 2, 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 4, Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m.—Lighting of the Paschal Candle and Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist



May the Light of CHRIST fill  
our hearts and minds

# GOOD FELLOWSHIP STRENGTHENS OUR MINISTRY

Many thanks to Norm and Judy Shackelton and the men of the parish who worked together so well to offer us a very successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Our thanks also to the Circle for the colorful Mardi Gras decorations. The children loved the masks. The turnout exceeded our expectations as many people were happy to come out after the snowy February.

In the past, the EDGE youth group had organized this event and in the interim we had a creative combination of family craft time at *X-Press It* ceramics where we made soup bowls and salad plates which were sold at our soup supper and raised over a thousand dollars for ET and the summer ASP mission trip. Our thanks to Berney and many families who were a part of that program.



from the  
**PASTOR**

Our Sunday brunches have also been good fellowship and we are following up our Lent Family Sunday Brunch with a Sunday Brunch to recognize our Confirmation Class on Sunday, **April 18th**. As in the past, our youth Confirmands will be offering Power Point presentations to introduce themselves to the parish.

Bishop Eugene Sutton will be making his first visit to St. Stephen's the following Sunday, April 25th. More on this follows.

## BISHOP SUTTON'S VISIT

On **April 25th**, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m. so the whole parish can worship together for the Confirmation Service.

There will be a Coffee Hour and Forum with the Bishop in the Parish Hall after the service. The Bishop likes the question and answer forum as part of the reception so he can communicate with as many people as possible. Please join us for this special Sunday.

## THE EMMAUS PROGRAM

The Church Growth Committee and the Vestry are continuing to develop the Emmaus Program. The Vestry will be having a retreat with the Rev. Daniel Webster, the new diocesan Canon for Evangelism and Ministry Development on Saturday, **May 15th** and Father Webster will be our guest preacher on Pentecost Sunday, **May 23rd**.

We have applied for a ministry development grant focused on Emmaus Contact activities and are beginning to organize a major outreach effort for the fall. Everyone can be an important part of the program by inviting and welcoming others to St. Stephen's at any time.

*Father Hagerman*

# Easter Flowers

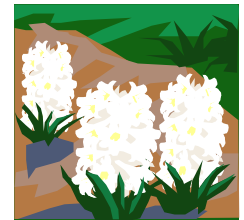


Giving thanksgiving and/or memorial flowers at Easter is a wonderful way to honor loved ones. Lilies, hyacinths, and tulips are being offered at \$10.00 each. Fill out the form and place in the collection plate or give to the church secretary.

After Easter, take your flowers home and plant the bulbs in your garden. Enjoy the blossoms again next Spring.



# Easter Flower Order Form



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY

PRICE

**LILIES** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

**HYACINTHS** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

**TULIPS** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

***ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 21, 2010***

**IN MEMORY OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Vacation Bible School

"Join the FUN!"

**June 21 ~ June 25**  
**CLOSING PROGRAM ~ June 27th**  
**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.

The most acute need is for 2 additional teachers.

You do not have to commit to the entire week and Berney will work closely to assist.

Any help you can offer will be happily accepted.

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



## Church School and Easter Schedule

**On Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter Sunday (April 4)**

All students are expected to attend the entire 10:00 a.m. Service with their families—as on Family Sundays.

Regular Church School classes will resume on **April 11th.**

## LOOKING FORWARD

Mark the date

**Sunday, May 16**

### Church School Recognition

At the 10:00 a.m. Service  
 All students & teachers are encouraged to attend; participation certificates to be presented

&

### Parish Wide Pot Luck Picnic

Meet on church grounds (rectory side) after the 10:00 a.m. Service

Drinks, chips & two party size subs provided by the church

Attendees are invited to bring salads or desserts—no sign up necessary

## Food, Games, Fun for Everyone!!

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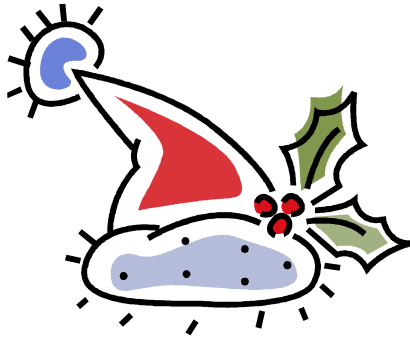
## FAMILY RETREAT IN THE MAKING

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**for the St. Stephen's Family Retreat**  
**on June 5-6.**

We will be gathering for fellowship and outdoor camping fun at a beautiful 32 acre spot in Northern Baltimore County on Saturday mid-morning and will return home on Sunday around lunchtime. For the kids there will be Field Day games, an orienteering activity, pick up baseball, football and plenty of free time for exploring, flying a kite or taking a walk with Mom or Dad. We'll cook out on a grill and/or an open fire and sleep in tents. Fr. Hagerman will have retreat services Saturday evening after which we can relax around the fire and, if it's a clear night, enjoy some wonderful star gazing. There is a cabin on the property so indoor facilities are available. Dogs are welcome!

Space is limited so please sign up early!!

If you'd like more information or would like to sign up, contact Laurie Selby at:  
 410-487-5325 or laselby1@verizon.net



# BUS TRIP

## to New York City and the Radio City Christmas Show

THURSDAY ~ DECEMBER 2, 2010

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

Cost of **\$140.00 per person** includes:

Travel in luxury video coach, with bagel & juice breakfast, Orchestra or Front Mezzanine Seating to the **2:00 PM** Radio City Christmas Show, and a voucher for popcorn/drink during the show.

Soft drinks & snacks are served upon departure from NYC and all taxes and tips are included.

**\$70.00 Deposit due no later than April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Balance of \$70.00 due by October 1<sup>st</sup>**

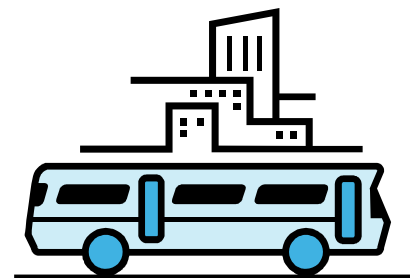
This year, we will include a visit to  
*Ground Zero and St. Paul's Chapel*  
*(the first Episcopal Church in the United States and*  
*a 9/11 memorial historic site)*

We will conduct this tour in the morning upon arrival in NYC, leaving time before and after the show for site seeing.

All checks should be made out to **“Tours and More”**.

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

410-721-3958 (home) or [shbjh@verizon.net](mailto:shbjh@verizon.net)





# Musical Notes

As I write, the sun pours down after 5 days of ... downpour! Has spring sprung? We sure hope so! Our music at St. Stephen's turns soon from penitential and Lenten, to the celebration of Easter. I'll get to the Easter part, but first I want to congratulate our choir for their faithfulness and hard work during snowmageddon and Lent. We have lost a couple members in recent months and so we work the harder! (We also look to the congregation for help in recruiting new members.) I would point with "pride" to the choir's fine offerings of traditional Lenten Anglican music in recent weeks, anthems such as "*Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake,*" "*Call to remembrance,*" etc. Thank you, choir, for persisting through thick and thin.

We hope to present Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* on Easter Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service and ask for help in doing so: those singers in the congregation who cannot join choir weekly are welcome to join for that Sunday only; please let me know if you wish to do so. Weekly rehearsal is Wednesday night at 7:40 p.m. (7:30 on March 31). We are also issuing an appeal for funds to engage several outside musicians to enhance our worship on Easter. The congregation has given generously in past years for this and I trust will continue to do so. A table with basket and envelopes will be placed near the font for this purpose; designate checks or envelopes to "Easter music."

Two choral concerts worthy of our attention are coming up, both at Washington National Cathedral. The cathedral choir of boys, girls, and men, with Baroque orchestra, performs Bach's *St. John Passion* at 4:00 p.m. on Passion (Palm) Sunday, March 28. Then, on April 18 at 4:00, the British Choirs Festival brings three British directors, the choirs of Christ Church Oxford and St. Thomas Church, Manhattan, along with the choir of the cathedral, in concert together and separately. I attended the first of these "three choirs festivals" last spring and it was instant heaven! Furthermore, one need only purchase the least expensive seats (\$20) because the choirs are situated in widely separated locations and so at least one can be seen clearly from any given seat in the huge room – the marvelous acoustics carrying the sound equally well to all corners. Tickets for both concerts are available from the cathedral box office, 1-877-537-2228, or see the website ([nationalcathedral.org](http://nationalcathedral.org)).

Several families from our Spirit Singers junior choir made the trip to Washington Cathedral this past Sunday and heard Evensong as led by the cathedral choir of Girls and Men and organ. A special treat was the prelude, which lasted about half an hour: a program by a concert choir of 80 voices from a private school in Alabama. And that was just the prelude!

As Anglicans we are truly blessed to have a glorious Christian choral tradition to enjoy and pass on. Utilize this heritage in your worship and devotion this holy season, through recordings, attendance at services that include music, singing in choir or congregation, or giving of our time and treasure in support of church music.

Yours for church music,  
*Don Chandler, Organist-choirmaster*



*The Selby, Laughlin, and Hagerman families enjoy the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is uniquely observed here at St. Stephen's. The evening service begins in the Parish Hall with an Agape Meal in a design borrowed from the Jewish Passover Meal. Children are chosen to ask questions that will tie the Old Testament with the New Testament. For some families, this meal will be the culmination of Holy Communion instruction and there will be a special presentation to the children who participated in these classes.

The food is simple - a salad bar potluck. Please bring a dish to share (no desserts). We will have lamb shaped cakes as part of the symbolism of the evening. We also have hot dogs available for the children. Even if you did not participate in the Communion Classes, we invite all of our parish families to join us.

At about 7:30 p.m., we will go into the church where we will continue with the Offertory, beginning with the hymn, *I come with joy to meet my Lord*. Please understand that if you are joining us in church at this time, this is the point of the service in which we are continuing. (The Liturgy of the Word is done in the context of the Agape Meal in the Parish Hall.) After Holy Communion, which may be the First Communion for some of our children, we set the stage for the Stripping of the Altar, first by singing the hymn, *Go to dark Gethsemane*, followed by a reading of the 17th chapter of the Gospel of John, which are the final prayers of Jesus before his arrest. The altar is stripped and the church is prepared for Good Friday. The altar of the prayer vigil has already been prepared in Woodward Hall, where the sacred elements will be contained until noon the next day. All are invited to take time to come, pray and meditate during the night hours. (There is a sign up sheet in the narthex to make sure all hours of Night Watch will be covered.)

Many events in salvation history converge on Maundy Thursday. Come and join us for this unique and powerful experience of worship and fellowship.

## NIGHTWATCH

*"Could you not spend one hour with Me?"* Sign up for the Night Watch after the Maundy Thursday service. Each hour till noon on Good Friday should be covered. It isn't limited to one or two persons—families or groups of friends can participate in this silent, devotional prayer time. This is a wonderful way to end your Lenten meditations. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

## CIRCLE NEWS

Like everyone else, Circle members have had enough snow shoveling and are looking forward to blooming flowers and sunny days! Keep your eye out for announcements about a *Spring Health Fair*. We hope to have opportunities for parishioners to donate blood, participate in a few routine screenings (blood pressure, body mass index readings, etc), and there might even be chances to win prizes! Feel free to join us for a meeting - our next three are: Wednesday, March 31, Thursday, May 6, and Thursday, June 3.

## LAST CHANCE FOR CANDLES

The Guild's Candle Campaign ends Sunday, **March 21**. Help in their quest to raise money for a new floor for the Parish Hall. Contact one of the Guild members or Vice President Joan Fields, for more information. (410-923-3156)

## CLAGGETT OFFERINGS

The Bishop Claggett Center is the retreat, conference, and camp facility for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland located outside of Buckeystown in western Maryland. Throughout the year, it offers retreats and workshops for people of all ages.

Right now we invite you to look into the summer camp opportunities available for youth during the summer months. Check out their website at: [www.bishopclaggett.org](http://www.bishopclaggett.org). There are also informational flyers and registration forms in the church office.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Severn Parish**  
**Financial Statement**  
**Period January 01 - February 28, 2010**

	Jan-Feb 2010 Actuals	Budget	+/-	Jan-Feb 2009 Actuals
<b><u>OPERATING INCOME:</u></b>				
Pledges	\$34,163	\$39,312	(5,149)	\$33,221
Plate	2,823	3,953	(1,130)	4,232
Other	5,862	2,326	3,537	2,073
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,848</b>	<b>\$45,590</b>	<b>-\$2,742</b>	<b>\$39,526</b>
# of Weeks	9	9		8
Avg Pledge/Week	3,796	4,368	-572	4,153
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES:</u></b>				
Parish Operations	6,137	8,393	(2,256)	5,313
Programs	1,908	2,246	(337)	1,632
Property	14,376	10,343	4,034	9,625
Salaries & Benefits	26,829	26,041	788	26,093
Other	600	883	(283)	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,851</b>	<b>\$47,906</b>	<b>\$1,945</b>	<b>\$43,263</b>
Cash +/-	<b>(\$7,003)</b>	<b>(\$2,316)</b>	<b>(\$4,688)</b>	<b>(\$3,737)</b>

The weather, during the month of February, played a key role in this \$7,000 deficit. We missed two Sunday services and that had a big impact on revenue. Hopefully with spring just around the corner we can get back on track. The weather also contributed to Property expenses being higher than expected.

Respectfully submitted,

*James D. Dietrich*  
Senior Warden



## Snowmygosh, it's Lent! (A Stewardship Perspective)

As the snow finally recedes from the lawns and roofs of the Parish, many of us were surprised to see that spring was indeed underway beneath the thick blanket of winter that we had come to take as the normal state of affairs since December. Many of us now must find places in the garage for new snow shovels and extra bags of salt and turn our thoughts and efforts towards spring. At the Laughlin house, we have discovered that the gentle crocus is a mighty resilient little sentry of spring and that tulips will not be denied their entry into the Easter season here in Maryland, as they were emerging under the snow all along. Surely it is true that *“Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these”*. These perennial harbingers of new life are a perfect reflection of the Church's life and an analogy for our commitment to support St. Stephen's.

As expected, due to the Sundays missed during the “Snow Troubles” and the extra expense incurred to keep the property safe and functional, we are a bit behind in the cash flow projections in the budget. However, like the spring flowers that bring beauty and color to the Easter season, we are seeing new life emerge from under the snow of financial need. I thank you, who, knowing the importance of your pledges and contributions, now strive to catch up with your support commitments. At the Annual Meeting this year, we also addressed the need to make up a modest budget shortfall by giving just a little extra each week to bridge this gap. Since the meeting, we have seen pledging beginning to come in at levels slightly above those projected, and have received at least two significant gifts to the general fund. The elevated pledging contributions are partly due to efforts to “catch up” from missed Sundays and, I suspect, partly due to the increased commitment and charity of the Parish. The gifts speak for themselves. Equally impressive to me was a note I received this Monday from Irene, our church secretary, who wrote to inform me that a pledging member of the Parish had notified her that they were increasing their pledge for the year in response to the appeal to bridge our budget gap. This act of faith and charity is very powerful and my heart is full of gratitude and respect for you whoever you are (remember, as Stewardship Chair I NEVER know the details of who pledges and how much). Thank you all for your commitment to the Church, the Parish family, and to God. Our real treasure is in heaven and it is obvious that many of you will need a wheelbarrow to collect yours when that time comes!

In closing, Lent is traditionally a season focused on three elements of Christian life: Prayer, Fasting, and Charity. Please consider making a small sacrifice this Lenten season by giving just a little beyond your commitment in order for St. Stephen's to continue to reach into our community and our world like a spring flower from the snow and to continue our mission: *“To proclaim by word and example, the Good News of God in Christ”*.

My God richly bless you all and Happy Easter!

*Shaun Laughlin*  
Stewardship Chair

**Look for the next  
Severn Light in May  
which will highlight  
Pentecost and end of  
the program year  
activities.**



## 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](mailto:st_stephens@verizon.net)

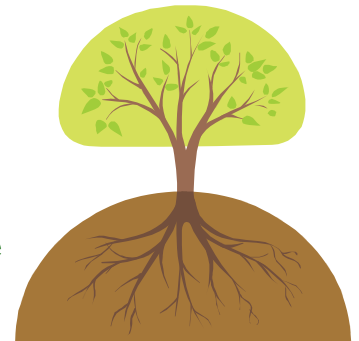
Office Hours: MON-FRI 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

[www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org](http://www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org)

The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*



## St. Stephen's Green



Like the first shoots of green, *St. Stephen's Green*, our eco-committee is showing its promise. We've only met twice and so far we're small, so we're aiming first for what's easily do-able. For example:

- Our church office is now using approved Earth Choice copy paper (thank you Lisa Eliot!) and has a new printer with 73 percent lower energy consumption and low ozone production (thank you, Irene!)
- We're looking into getting state support to do an energy assay of St. Stephen's.
- We've put out feelers to see about bringing a really thorough, secure recycling service for electronics here for a collection day.
- Plans are afoot to bring St. Stephen's in line with the county's 50-50 recycling. Look for the changes to come.
- We're planning our Close to Nature activities—a way for church families to get out together to enjoy natural beauty. Look for a short, guided hike in May.

Anyone can join St. Stephen's Green! We're helping St. Stephen's while we help the Earth.