



# The Severn Light

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

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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.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22nd through June 26th

Closing Program held during the  
10:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, June 28th

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9 am—noon

Each day consists of Opening Worship, classroom time,  
healthy snacks, a play period, and craft center.

Parish Family Night on Wednesday at 6:00 pm begins with  
Pot-Luck Supper, Bible Study *for all ages*, & a Family Craft Outreach Project.

Staff and children are encouraged to wear the color of the day and to bring  
something to share that corresponds to the color of the day.

**DAY 1 - RED - The Song of Miriam - We Share**

**DAY 2 - GREEN - Hannah Prays for a Child - We Give**

**DAY 3 - YELLOW or ORANGE - A Storm - We Grow**

**DAY 4 - BLUE - A Dying Girl and a Sick Woman - We Love**

**DAY 5 - We Praise - ANY COLOR OF THE RAINBOW -  
Jesus Heals a Man Who Cannot Walk - We Praise**

Vacation Bible School requires a host of  
volunteers, from teachers to staff for the Snack,  
Classroom and Craft Centers.

If you wish to join our Staff, please contact:  
Berney Jaroch-Hagerman  
410-721-3958 (Rectory)  
shbjh@verizon.net

Registration forms are in the narthex or on-line at:  
[www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org/vbsregistration.html](http://www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org/vbsregistration.html)



## New Youth Group Program Begins in Fall



At the May 3rd meeting of the Christian Education Mission Team, plans were discussed for reviving our youth group programs in the fall. **Sunday, September 20th, 4:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall, will be the first meeting and activity.

We will be issuing a broad invitation that will include those who previously participated in the FFROGS program (fourth and fifth graders), EDGE (Middle School), and our Confirmation Class and others in High School. We invite parents to join us as part of what we hope will be a broad-based ministry team. Service, recreation, and learning through creative activities are among the things we will be doing. I hope that our youth can be among our planners and ministers in the program.

Among our first steps in improving communications has been to set up a St. Stephen's Youth Group Page on FACEBOOK. Our thanks to Lee Devereaux and Irene for helping us get started.

I consider this a priority ministry for us at St. Stephen's and so I will be overseeing this personally and look forward to building a strong youth ministry team that includes our young people. Our families have begun to come forward on this and I look forward to strong and creative development for the program. Contact me if you are interested in being a part of it.

We also commend your continued support for the Appalachia Service Project which has taken on a great mix of High School and College students as well as adults. Our thanks to Sheri LaFleur for her dedicated work to this ministry over the years.

*Father Hagerman*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ROOF DEDICATION

The church roof will be officially dedicated at the 10:00 a.m. Service on June 14th. A plaque will be presented to the parish from Roof Fund Chair, Lucile Seborg, with the names of all contributors tastefully added by Tricia Seeman. It will be permanently displayed in the narthex.

### VACATION TIME

The Rev. Charlotte Moore will be with us on July 5, 12, and 26, while Father Hagerman is on vacation.

### REGIONAL COUNCIL

Father Hagerman was elected by the Regional Council to serve a 3-year term as the Representative for the Anne Arundel County Region on the Diocesan Council. On that same note, St. Stephen's will host a Regional Council Meeting here on Monday, June 29th at 7:00 p.m.

### EDUCATION SUNDAY

Graduates from Kindergarten, Elementary School (Grade 5), Middle School, High School, and College will have these milestones recognized at the 10:00 a.m. Service on **June 7**. Please let the church secretary know if you have a family member that should be included in this celebration. Email her at: [st\\_stephens@verizon.net](mailto:st_stephens@verizon.net) or call 410-721-2881.



### DIOCESE OF MD AT CAMDEN YARDS

May 29 \*\*\* 7:05 p.m. \*\*\* Orioles vs. Detroit Tigers  
Please contact Tracy Silwick (410 547-6288) of the Orioles for tickets to a great night out with family, friends and fellow Episcopalians. The National Anthem will be sung by choir members of The Cathedral of the Incarnation and St. James' Church, Lafayette Square. \$6 tickets include fireworks after the game. Any questions about the game, call or e-mail Sharon Tillman in the diocesan communications office, 410-467-1399.

# Musical Notes

*By Don Chandler, Organist-choirmaster*

Spring has definitely sprung! With thanks to God for a beautiful return of the season—the flowers and trees and spreading green of crops and grass don't know anything about recessions, do they! - we offer thanks also to our choirs for their ministry among us this year. Thanks especially to Miss Amy, (Amy Laughlin), for her direction of our new children's choir, Spirit Singers. Thanks also to each of the members of this enthusiastic group. We look forward to your singing in the fall; have a great summer! Thanks go also to our Contemporary Music Group and their leader, Father Hagerman, for your musical leadership this season past; you help us worship in many and varied styles! Our Senior Choir is to be congratulated on their excellent work with *Messiah* this season. Thanks to one and all for your faithful service to St. Stephen's and to our Lord.

Those wishing to offer musical items for worship this summer, please contact me with your ideas. We'll schedule them and start rehearsing!

All the best at this wonderful time of the year!

Sincerely,  
Don

## MANY HANDS ACCOMPLISH MUCH

The Church School Staff of our Parish has completed another strong year of service in the ministry of teaching and caring for our children. We are privileged to have their skills and talents. Extending a thank you through this newsletter is only a small way of showing appreciation for their dedication.

*Meredith Devereaux – Nursery*  
*Margaret Duffy – Preschool through Kindergarten*  
*Mary Ann Michel – Grades 1-2*  
*Bernadette Jaroch-Hagerman – Grades 3-5*  
*Lee Devereaux – Middle School*  
*Michael Duffy – High School*  
*Sheri LaFleur – A.S.P.*  
*Amy Laughlin - Spirit Singers*



The *United Thank Offering* Ingathering for the Diocese of Maryland will be held at Christ Church, West River, on Wednesday, May 27. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist begins at 11:00 a.m. All are invited to attend.

The *United Thank Offering* is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of The Episcopal Church. Twice a year, we at St. Stephen's, join our fellow churches in collecting donations which are then presented to our local bishop at an Ingathering Service. Every penny of these thank offerings go to support grants for ministries at home and overseas. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

# The Pleasure of Giving

*"If I have sufficient treasure for my own pleasure then surely I must also have treasure for my church and my God who have given me so much."*

I have included the above quote for your enjoyment and hope that you find it to be as beautiful as I did. A long time St. Stephen's Parishioner sent me this in response to a request I recently made to a small group of people on email to answer a very simple question; "Why do you pledge to the Church?" This is a topic that Father Hagerman has been speaking about for some time and I will continue to pass along the answers in various forums as the year progresses. More on this later...

Allow me to interrupt myself for a moment. My name is Shaun Laughlin and I am the newly appointed Stewardship Committee Chairman for St. Stephen's. I would normally write under the name of the entire committee but I wanted to introduce myself in this first piece so that you knew who I was and would know where to come with questions and comments regarding stewardship in general. I will include contact information at the end of this article. I also wanted to make some personal comments on my own behalf. Other members of the Stewardship Committee are Father Hagerman, James Dietrich, and Mike Duffy, the past Committee Chair, who continues to sit in an advisory position to the Committee as well as a member this year for which we are very grateful (and by "we" I mean "me"). Any member of the Committee would be pleased to speak with you regarding stewardship at any time. The Committee serves at the pleasure of the Vestry, of course, and also works closely with the Finance and Investment Committee chaired by Rob Clemmons (for which we are ALL very grateful!).

Taking on this role for the Vestry this year has got me thinking hard about how these types of responsibilities are generally handled. As a long time Episcopalian who has served in many roles in the church, I have observed that there are generally two approaches to the task of stewardship that tend to mirror the general approaches to all tasks that are viewed as difficult or somewhat unpleasant in life (let's face it, asking for money from folks you sit in

church with isn't most people's idea of a fun job). Either the task is tackled directly right away to get it going and on track or put off until the last possible minute to avoid it as long as possible. I have chosen the former approach not because it is my nature so much as I see an opportunity to bring a couple of important principles to bear on our stewardship efforts that, as a member of the St. Stephen's Vestry, have come to mind as potentially helpful and even joyful. *Yes, joyful.* Here are the principles that Father Hagerman and the Vestry have been discussing for quite some time: ***simplicity and generosity.***

Let's start with *simplicity.* St. Stephen's is a formally organized church in a diocese with paid staff and physical plant and programs that must be funded for its continued existence. Salaries and benefits must be paid, fiscal commitments to the larger church must be met, grounds and buildings must be maintained and environmentally controlled, Sunday School must be supported, and equipment must be serviced and replaced when necessary. There are clear limits to how much of this need is voluntary. Yes, we don't *have* to have live music and an organ and we don't *need* to offer Sunday School but few of us would be pleased to see these things absent and overall attendance would almost certainly eventually decline to the point of non-sustainability if they were. Many costs are out of our control such as the cost of energy in all of its forms and other goods and services that are integral to the continued functioning of the Parish. To manage these things, the Vestry (as well as various committees and our Treasurer) develop and approve an Operating Budget for each year just like any responsible "business". The difference is significant however since a church can only plan on income it receives from its members. I suppose that this would be somewhat like a business that could only count on revenue from its employees. This is why the annual pledge commitments are so important to the continued successful operation of the church. The catch is that there is no absolute guarantee that income will come in at projected levels and in this respect, all budgets in a church are "faith" budgets whether they are projected as shortfalls or overages. This year's projection is for a shortfall of about \$20,000 in the Operating Budget and the Vestry is faithfully making plans for the worst while having faith in the best outcome. In truth, if each pledger would exceed or "overachieve" their pledge by a small percentage, we would easily meet our

minimum budget for this year and I believe that if we communicate the financial status of the church budget clearly and consistently, that we will meet this goal as we often have this level of shortfall as do many, if not most, churches. To this end we have included a summary of the year to date status of the budget in this issue of the *Severn Light* (Mr. Dietrich's idea and work). As Stewardship Chair, I would ask that we all attempt to give just a little extra, as we are led and able, to support the operational aspects of the church for this year and to consider a modest increase as we begin the 2010 drive this fall and winter.

And now for *generosity*: I would also like to introduce the concept of a "Preservation" Fund that I would like to kick off immediately to support the ongoing requirements that come with repairing and maintaining our beautiful and historic grounds and buildings. The reality is that we have had an annual average requirement of an additional \$60,000 in major maintenance projects over the last 11 years. Some years required far more than this and others far less but we must approach the issues and realities of maintaining a physical campus that is in excess of 173 years old with seriousness and good planning. We have a modest amount of "cushion" in reserve funds (about \$200,000) which is intended to produce income and be self sustaining as a reserve but the fund has been depleted over time (and recently due to the poor market conditions we are all familiar with) to a critical level and it must be replenished from time to time in order to preserve its function. So rather than running annual campaigns for specific projects as we did not long ago to replace the roof on the church, I would like to establish a regular preservation offering to moderate this need. Any excess in the annual drive would grow our modest reserves and serve as a hedge against more expensive and as yet unplanned projects and repairs. I have set a goal in conjunction with the Finance Committee of \$25,000 as the baseline for this annual drive. This means that if only 100 pledging families contributed an average of \$250 each or about the cost of a tank of gas every two months, we would greatly reduce the need for individual drives for major repairs and maintenance. A good example can be found in the budget year to date summary in this issue where you can see that even though we are currently running a modest surplus (because many expenses are loaded toward the end of the quarter or the end of the year)

we have an immediate need to repair the brickwork on Woodward Hall that will cost about \$17,000. I would ask that we establish this fund right away and I will begin by pledging \$250 towards it myself and ask you to join me again, as you are led and able. Please consider making this gift right away and note the memo section of your check with the word "Preservation".

So why do I pledge to the Church? Simply for me, it is absolutely the most pleasurable thing I do with my money (such as it is). The church needs funding to operate and there is no other check that brings me as much joy to write. I never worry about whether I am getting a good deal, paying too much, if there is another service that is cheaper, if my taxes are too high, if I am agreement with policy, if I am getting enough value, or if the product or service will even be delivered. It has already been delivered and I could never pay enough for the value, even with the money of Solomon and all the governments of this world. I love the liturgical worship of the Episcopal Church and at some point during the Eucharist something happens to me that I cannot explain regardless of whether the sermon was stirring or if I have been distracted the entire time by my children or my mind. Something happens, and when it does, I am a better father and husband, a better employee and manager, a better friend, a better person. Forgiven and in less fear. I for one need that and prefer to receive it in the company of kind people that feel the same way and struggle with the same humanity and that it comes in a beautiful and historic setting is a added joy and gift. And I do love the music too.

Thank you for your loving and faithful support of St. Stephen's. I am available at any time to discuss these and other issues regarding Stewardship, pledging, planned giving and am honored to sit as your Stewardship Chair this year.

May God richly bless you and keep you in His love.

*Shaun Laughlin*

St. Stephen's Stewardship Chairman

H-410-721-4402

shaunlaughlin@earthlink.net

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Severn Parish  
Financial Statement  
Period 01 Jan - 30 Apr 2009**

	Jan-Apr 2009 Actuals	Budget	+/-	Jan-Apr 2008 Actuals
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>				
Pledges	76,077	73,531	2,546	75,041
Plate	9,776	7,550	2,226	10,905
Other	6,118	5,657	461	5,164
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,971</b>	<b>86,738</b>	<b>5,233</b>	<b>91,110</b>
# Of Weeks	17	17		17
Avg. Pledge/Week	4,475	4,325	150	4,414
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Parish Operations	13,821	16,560	(2,739)	17,330
Programs	5,639	4,942	697	4,365
Property	20,294	22,857	(2,563)	23,404
Salaries & Benefits	48,437	51,078	(2,641)	48,154
Other	1,199	1,767	(568)	3,478
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,390</b>	<b>97,204</b>	<b>(7,814)</b>	<b>96,731</b>
Cash +/-	2,581	(10,466)	(7,885)	(5,621)

## Revenue Category Definition:

Parish Operations: Bookkeeping Services, Copy Machine, Advertisement, Telephone/Internet, etc.

Programs: Sunday School, VBS, Flowers, Bulletins, Pledge Envelopes, etc.

Property: Electricity, Heating Oil, Repairs/General Maintenance, Service Contracts, etc.

### Pending Capital Projects for 2009

Re-pointing the bricks, Woodward Hall      Estimated Cost: \$17,000

### First Quarter 2009 Summary

At first glance, the current surplus in the operating budget is encouraging, but one must not forget that operating expenses are not incurred on a straight-line basis and there are several big ticket items that are looming in the near future. In addition, as always, there are several high-priority capital expenditures that need to be addressed in the coming months. A well and capital reserves have been somewhat diminished by the events of recent months. So when all things are taken into account, the Vestry will need to closely monitor all planned expenditures and match them against actual pledge/offering receipts in order to ensure God's gifts to our Parish are wisely nurtured.

Respectfully submitted,  
*James D. Dietrich,*  
Senior Warden

# St. Stephen's in the COMMUNITY

We are starting a new column for the newsletter—**ST. STEPHEN'S IN THE COMMUNITY**. Please keep us informed of the service work that our members are doing to make our community a better place.

We begin by offering our congratulations to **Barry Regan** for receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Anne Arundel County Department of Corrections. This award was announced on April 22nd at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet.

**Father Steve** also serves the inmates at the Jennifer Road Detention Center in Annapolis by teaching an evening Bible Study every Tuesday.

**Berney Jaroch-Hagerman**, who works in the Autism Program at Millersville Elementary School created a marvelous artistic display of a giant puzzle with each piece being the work of a student or teacher in the program. This was the centerpiece of the display table at Marley Station Mall on April 15th as the Old Mill cluster of schools presented an Education Fair for the community. Millersville Elementary has one of the model programs for the State of Maryland in the education of students within the autism spectrum.

**Father Hagerman** is serving on the newly created Board of Directors for the Crofton Christian Caring Council. **Irene**, our parish administrator, also continues to be active in support of this growing program of services for those in need. This group offers emergency assistance to those in our immediate area and limited assistance to those outside of our vicinity. A Food Pantry housed at Seton Parish and a Baby Pantry located at the Community United Methodist Church offer another source of help. All funds and pantry items depend on donations from the faithful in our community, without whom this ministry could not function. So, hats off to all those who fill our food bin in the narthex and to **Bertha De Veaux** who faithfully delivers these items to the Food Pantry.

Several groups at St. Stephen's come together to minister to the homeless in our surrounding area. The women of *My Brother's Keeper* diligently work on home-made quilted sleeping bags throughout the program year. Members of *Giving Back* routinely make sandwiches for bag lunches and an occasional meal on the second Friday of each month. These items are delivered to the homeless of Baltimore by *Episcopal Teens and helpers*.

The American Cancer Society is the beneficiary of "EDGE OUT CANCER" the slogan for participants in the Relay for Life which raises funds and awareness for cancer research and outreach programs. After a few years of respite, St. Stephen's will have a team taking part in the Relay, to be held at Old Mill High School on May 29.

Our Parish Hall will be the location of a 5 week reading enrichment program, sponsored by the **Institute of Reading Development** and staffed by instructors from George Washington University. The program works with students from 4 years through adulthood to build and improve reading skills and to experience absorption in literature.

A few of our members are involved in **HAP** (Handmade Afghans Project) which provides home-made knitted or crocheted afghans for wounded service people. The women who make the afghan squares meet from time to time in our Parish Hall to sew the squares together and ready them for shipment to 10 military hospitals around the world to show our thanks and hopefully bring some comfort to our country's finest soldiers. For more information, you can check out [www.rectangle6x9.org](http://www.rectangle6x9.org).

Please contact the office with any stories you have about the service of St. Stephen's members to our community.

**KUDOS TO ALL!!**



## CIRCLE NEWS

Our 2008/2009 program year has come to a close, but that doesn't mean you won't be seeing Circle members helping out here and there over the summer. Look for our Iced Tea and Lemonade Hour following the 10 a.m. service throughout the summer months. We will begin hosting the first Sunday in June and hope the entire congregation will take some time to join us for fellowship, a refreshing splash of iced tea or lemonade and maybe a sweet or two!

Parish members are invited to help us in this weekly event which takes the place of the traditional Coffee Hour. Tea and lemonade (and sometimes sweet snacks or fresh summer fruit!) are provided just outside between the church and Woodward Hall. If you know of a weekend when you would be available to host our Tea and Lemonade Hour, we could certainly use your help. There is minimal set up: a table from the parish hall, 2 or 3 gallons of tea and lemonade, and a snack of your choice - cookies, mini muffins, donut holes (*we're an easy crowd to please!*). We encourage everyone to participate - ministry group reps, families, "best buds" - whatever works! Please contact Vicky Wolf ([vicky.wolf@dlapiper.com](mailto:vicky.wolf@dlapiper.com) or 301-467-4849) to sign up for a particular Sunday. Your help is very much appreciated!



We may also have a few craft-making sessions scheduled throughout the summer to prepare for the Fall Craft Fair/Bazaar. Please watch for announcements in the bulletin. We welcome one and all and, really, skill-level is NOT an issue!

The Circle is actively seeking new members. Our pool of helping hands has dwindled a bit. In order to continue some of our regular activities (Trunk or Treating/Fall Fest; Bingo Nights; assisting with the fall dinner; etc, "Souper" Bowl Supper), we need more people to get involved. The St. Stephen's Circle meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the

month, September through May or June. Everyone is welcome. We collect yearly dues of \$12, all of which goes into our working budget. We focus on outreach both here within our parish and outward into the community. We actively support our youth groups in their outreach programs and assist with property expenses (contributions to the roofing project, kitchen appliance replacements/repairs, carpet cleaning, etc.) as necessary. Please consider giving us some of your time, talent and treasures toward these worthy causes.

Enjoy the summer!  
Vicky Wolf

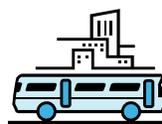
## MORE NEWS

**TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR**

### **The New York City Bus Trip with Tickets for the Radio City Christmas Show**

**THURSDAY~DECEMBER 3, 2009**

Seats for this bus trip are still available. The cost is \$137.00 per person which includes travel in luxury video motor coach, bagel & juice breakfast, Orchestra Seating to the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Show, soft drinks & snacks upon departure from NYC, and all taxes and tips. Roughly half (\$75) of the Deposit due immediately with the Balance (\$62) due by October 1.



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

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

We are limited to **1 bus**, so put your name in soon!

**Look for the next Severn Light in  
AUGUST for Fall Preview Activities.**

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

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Crownsville, Maryland 21032

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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*



### Explore the Wonders of the Word at **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**June 22-26**

**Pre-K through Grade 5**

**Register at:**

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

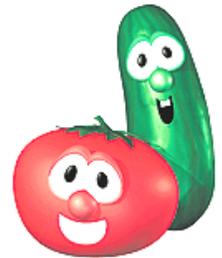
"VEGGIE TALES"

## SUMMER SUNDAY SOMETHING

RESUMES

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

"Sunday morning values - Saturday morning fun"



During the 10:00 AM Service each Sunday of the summer we will offer a DVD episode of "Veggie Tales" along with a peanut-free snack and simple craft. Any child is welcome to attend. They can stay for the entire hour or a family member can get them for Communion.

For those not familiar with "Veggie Tales" - they are a series of stories with a Biblical message using animated vegetables. Sounds silly, but they really are a treat. If anyone is interested in more information on Veggie Tales it can be found at [www.veggietales.com](http://www.veggietales.com)

This will be our fifth summer of offering this enjoyable and relaxing program. We do rely on two adult volunteers for the hour. The choice of DVD, the snack, and the craft are all arranged ahead of time. SO, IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN GIVE A SUNDAY TO THIS MINISTRY, PLEASE LET BERNEY KNOW.

THE CONTACT INFORMATION IS: 410-721-3958 (Rectory phone) or [shbjh@verizon.net](mailto:shbjh@verizon.net).

THANK YOU!

~Berney Jaroch Hagerman