



# The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Severn Parish  
Crownsville, Maryland  
November 2008  
Advent-Christmas Edition

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## *Christmas Message*

In the midst of a busy season, take time for the Lord.

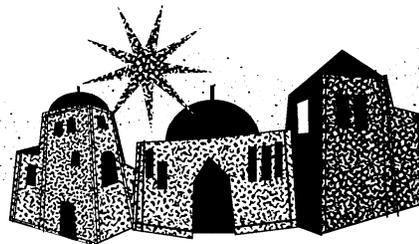
Let your heart find peace

and may Christ be born anew in your life.

In God's Peace,

*Father Hagerman*

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## *Worship Schedule for Christmas*

**Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Eucharist w/ Children's Pageant

**8:30 p.m.** Christmas Carols with the Choir

**9:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist

**11:00 p.m.** Christmas Midnight Eucharist Service

**Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day**

**10:00 a.m.** Christmas Day Eucharist



# CHURCH SCHOOL NOTES

We ALL have an extremely busy time of year fast approaching. A letter has gone out to all the Church School families detailing the particulars, so I will summarize the highlights in order to keep each of you informed.

## **Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> ~ (Sunday after Thanksgiving)**

There will NOT be Church School. However, I will be showing the "Veggie Tales" Christmas DVD for all our children and any child-aged guests, during the 10:00 AM Service.

## **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> ~ ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY**

We will begin at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Our theme is, "St. Nicholas and the Teddy Bear" and project is a stuffed teddy bear for outreach.

**ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

## **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> ~ JESSE TREE SUNDAY**

The younger children will decorate the Jesse Tree in Church during the 10:00 AM Service

## **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> ~ African Team Ministries Sale**

This sale will take place in the Parish Hall after both Services.

## **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> ~ NOON to 1:30 PM**

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

## **Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**5:00 PM Service**

This is why I don't bake at Christmas time.....

Thank you for your support and prayers ~ *Berney*

**Episcopal  
Teens**

### **HOLIDAY PIES**

'Tis the season for our Episcopal Teens (ET) to be selling their holiday pies. Those who have ordered Thanksgiving pies can pick them up on November 22 or 23. Those of you who missed out on this batch, will have

another opportunity in December to order their Christmas ware, which will include a choice of cherry or pecan pie. Look for the order forms in December's Sunday bulletin or call Sheri LaFleur at 410-923-2658 before the next baking date of December 20th.



### **Thanks4Giving Breakfast**

On Sunday, November 30, at 9:00 am, the youth of our parish take the opportunity to show you *their* gratitude for the support given them throughout the year by serving their annual "Thanks4Giving" Breakfast. Be sure to drop by the Parish Hall for some home cookin'.

# Musical Notes

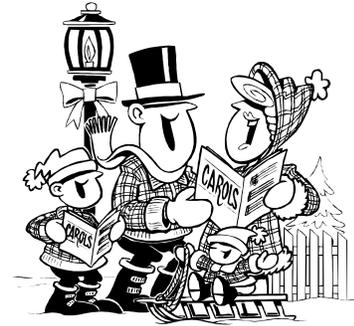
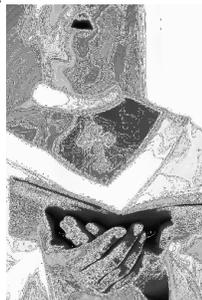
Thanks are in order at this time of year—for the beauty of the fields, the colors of the trees, the harvest so abundant in our area, and our senses to enjoy all these gifts of God. Several very old hymns of Thanksgiving lend voice to our urge to thank God: the German hymn “Now thank we all our God,” the Dutch standard, “We gather together,” and the English “Come, ye thankful people, come” - all very American today. Don’t miss our Thanksgiving service on **Tuesday, November 25**, when we plan to sing these wonderful old hymns.

Advent and Christmas fall hard on the heels of Thanksgiving. In fact, Advent I is on Thanksgiving weekend. Music for Advent includes a special appearance of our children’s choir, Spirit Singers, on December 7, and a solo on December 21 (Mary Sunday) by Marjorie Centofanti, soprano, from Bach’s *Magnificat*. Christmas Eve includes many traditional carols, of course, plus Vivaldi’s *Magnificat* with orchestra. This last requires expenditures beyond the budget: donations and memorial gifts are hereby solicited (one orchestral instrument costs approximately \$150.) Checks should indicate “Christmas Eve instruments” on the memo line.

Christmas caroling will be on **December 14**, in the afternoon. Watch the bulletin for details.

I hope all of us find time to take in one or more musical gems of the season, such as Bach’s *Magnificat* or *Christmas Oratorio*, Handel’s *Messiah*, or other live performances by prominent area choirs. Christmas is the most musical time of the year. The choral tradition is the most Church-based aspect of the West’s musical heritage. Revel in good singing these next few weeks! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Yours for church music,  
Don Chandler



## Caroling Sunday, Dec 14

All are welcome to join us for a potluck brunch after the 10 am service followed by some practice time before we go out and visit some parish shut-ins with Christmas Carols.

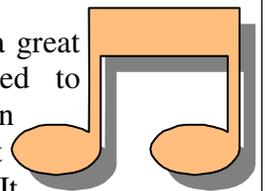
This can be a nice event for the whole family, combining holiday fellowship and outreach.

Fr. Hagerman  
Amy Laughlin

## Spirit Singers

The Spirit Singers are having a great fall! Several children joined to participate in the American Guild of Organist’s fall concert at the Naval Academy Chapel. It was a great experience for them to sing in such an awe inspiring setting! The Spirit Singers are preparing several songs for church during the upcoming weeks. We will be singing “*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*”, a traditional Advent hymn, at our next family service on December 7<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate Epiphany, the group will be performing “*Sing We Noel*”. The kids are also planning to spread some Christmas joy by going caroling after church on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Amy Laughlin





## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

- ★ ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY ★
- ★ AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES SUNDAY ★
- ★ JESSE TREE SUNDAY ★

Please join us as we celebrate this Season with a special Sunday morning of events.

We will begin at **9:00 AM**, with BOTH our sale of African Team Ministries items and our Parish-wide Advent Family Sunday Program.

**AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES** is an Anglican-sponsored series of projects in East Africa that supports health facilities, schools, and outreach ministries. ALL the monies raised go directly to this group. In fact, all shipping is handled by U.P.S. as a charitable project. The items include hand-carved animals, jewelry made from stones and materials that are indigenous to East Africa, silk-screened scarves, and usually a wide variety of soapstone items, such as candlesticks and nativity figures.

We will be conducting the sale after both Services on this day and items may be paid for by a **check made out directly to African Team Ministries**.

**ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY** begins at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Our theme is, “**St. Nicholas and the Teddy Bear.**” Our group project will be a stuffed teddy bear for Outreach. You’ll see.....

ALSO, we are asking that, if possible, you bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas treats to share at the Coffee Hour after the 10:00 AM Service.

**JESSE TREE SUNDAY** ~ During the 10:00 AM Service the younger children will be in Church to decorate the Jesse Tree with ornaments made during classes on November 16<sup>th</sup>. (That’ll do....)

### **TELLING MINISTRY INVITATION**

If you like to count money and do simple record keeping, you would enjoy serving as a teller at St. Stephen’s. Our tellers work a couple of hours following the late service about seven Sundays per year to count the week’s receipts, record them on the church computer, and deposit them in the night deposit at the bank. Training is offered until you feel comfortable with the procedure. If you are interested, please contact Donna Graves at 410-551-5829.

### **GOD’S POWER TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

We will wrap up our study of Rick Warren’s book in December. Note the last two classes:

Monday, December 1 at 7:00 pm—Chapters 8 & 9

Monday, December 8 at 7:00 pm—Chapters 10, 11, & 12

### **THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

The next issue of the Severn Light will be published in mid-January. If you would like to keep up with parish happenings until then, please tune into our website for the latest calendar information:

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

## From a grateful heart.....

Dear Friends of St. Stephen's Church, Severn Parish,

The All Saints' Sunday (late service) will be remembered when a much surprised announcement was given to join Father Hagerman and Pete Coakley before a standing congregation to honor me for my work with the cemetery. On behalf of the parishioners, Pete presented me with generous gift certificates for dinners at my favorite Odenton Hunan L'rose Restaurant and a spending spree at the Westfield Shopping Center in Annapolis. Upon retirement from federal service in 1980 of 31 years, it was time to devote my blessings of a wonderful life to a new career. The church had no secretary, so I enjoyed 15 years of association with parish ministries and also assisted my husband, "Chuck", the cemetery administrator. After his death in 2001, I was inspired to continue this service. With the memorials and the many contributions received, over 80 granite grave markers were installed for unmarked burials, many over 50 to 100 years ago. Other surprise honors were given me in 2005 for outstanding achievement in cemetery presentation by The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. with the Periwinkle Award and by the Ann Arrundel County Historical Society. These past 28 years of deep devotion and sharing the sadness of many families in their loss of loved ones, has enriched my life to be more understanding with patience and love. To all of you at St. Stephen's, your gifts, your friendship and the joys given me throughout these many years will remain in my heart. I relinquished this service in gratitude to Norm Shackelton who volunteered as the Cemetery Administrator.

Peace and Love, Jean Sunday

## Thanksgiving Service Times:

Tuesday, November 25  
at 7:30 p.m. or

Wednesday, November 26  
at 10:00 a.m.





# Women of the Bible

2008 - 2009

*"Be beautiful inside, in your hearts, with the lasting charm of a gentle and quiet spirit which is so precious to God" 1 Peter 3:4*

On November 17<sup>th</sup> the Women of the Bible Study group continues with a discussion of the promiscuous character Gomer from the book of Hosea. On December 8<sup>th</sup> we look at the life of the Samaritan woman who was amazed that Jesus spoke to her and knew all about her lifestyle. She brought many to Him and they were converted. December 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate **Christmas** with a Pot Luck Luncheon at Jean Cox's beautifully decorated home and discuss the life of Priscilla, a builder of the early church.

What is God telling us with the lives of these women? What do we learn from them and their lives and times? These are the subjects of our discussions.

We meet roughly every other Monday when possible at 12:30 in the Parish Hall. The reading and preparation are completed at home in readiness for discussion in the group, using the Women of the Bible Devotional from the Church office.

Join us and discover how these Old and New Testament women can be models for our lives. If you would like to be part of this daytime group, contact Monica Regan 410 729 4036 [monicaregan3@verizon.net](mailto:monicaregan3@verizon.net) or Jean Cox.

## "Women of Joy" Women's Retreat

January 9-11, 2009

The Bishop Claggett Center

Buckeystown, MD



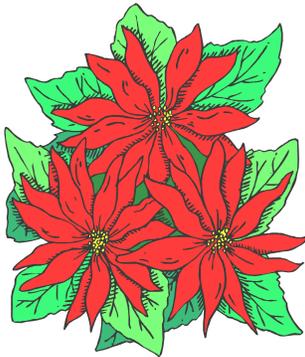
Spend a spiritual, fun filled weekend with other women from around the Diocese learning about the Bible, how to bring it into your daily life and how to share the stories. The retreat starts at 6:00 Friday evening and ends midday on Sunday. There will be large group presentations, small group discussions, worship, music, prayer and fellowship. Participants will have some free time available to take a walk, visit Frederick, learn about prayer shawls, or just to relax.

Cost is \$165.00. Scholarship funds are available. Space is limited, so register early.

For more information, contact Barbara De Lorenzo, Coordinator at 410-254-7145 or [bdelorenz0@verizon.net](mailto:bdelorenz0@verizon.net) or the Bishop Claggett Center at 301-874-5147 ext 102, or [dkerner@bishopclaggett.org](mailto:dkerner@bishopclaggett.org). Locally you may talk with Sue Hoge or Cheryl Brown.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

A festive Christmas is a tradition at St. Stephen's. Help decorate the church by giving thanksgiving and/or memorial poinsettias. Plants are \$8.00 each. Fill out the form below or the one in Sunday's bulletin and leave in the collection plate along with your check (payable to Vestry of Severn Parish), or give to the church secretary. Last day for ordering is Sunday, December 14, 2008. If you have any questions call Gail Brooks, Altar Guild Director, at 301-261-0647.



## *Christmas Poinsettia Order Form*

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **plants @ \$8.00 each**

**In memory of**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In thanksgiving for**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Last day for ordering is Sunday, **December 14**

# Crop to feed the hungry



Saturday, December 6

9am - 9pm

St. Stephen's Parish Hall  
1110 St. Stephen's Church Road  
Crownsville, MD 21032

We invite you to make time to visit with friends, sort through your memories and work on your scrapbooks.

We'll provide music, food and drinks.

We'll have some crop tools & a computer for you to use, but you should bring your regular crop materials.

**Cost: \$50**

100% of the money is going to the Holiday Sharing to feed hungry families in our area.

Make your check payable to  
Vestry of Severn Parish,  
noting Holiday Sharing in lower left corner  
100% tax deductible!!!!



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

## Stewardship Update—YOU are the Glue!

Your stewardship connects us together! We often overlook or take for granted the things we come to expect from our Church home. Consider how just a single ministry connects us more deeply as a Parish family. Take the music ministry. How many more families are worshipping together just a little more frequently than they would without this wonderful element in our worship? Between the Senior Choir rehearsals, worship participation, and special programs, the Contemporary Music Group, and the Spirit Singers ministry and performances (children of all ages welcome!), just a few more of our members are drawn just a little closer to each other and just a few more non-members are drawn to us as well because of the richness this ministry adds to our experience of God in His Church. This is the “connective tissue” or “glue” if you will, that all effective ministries provide to a Church family. But the Choir needs robes and music, instruments and a Director to provide this ministry that edifies us all. This is just one example among many that could be cited of a ministry that opens our hearts and feeds our souls that would leave emptiness if lost from our worship experience. Here is a brief update on the status of our stewardship campaign for the coming year and what you can do to “be the glue” that holds us more closely together:

At this writing in mid-November, the St. Stephen’s Church Growth and Stewardship Committee continues to follow the pledge drive results as the appointed stewards of the church’s financial drive to fulfill our 2009 budget requirements. We have nearly reached the midpoint of our goal in pledge card returns and income commitments; but we are less than halfway there. We respectfully remind you that this information is absolutely essential to St. Stephen’s to responsibly plan and administer our modest annual budget without a disruption of ministry or other activities and services as well as to fulfill our payroll obligations to church staff. We ask you to prayerfully consider renewing or making your first support commitment to St. Stephen’s for this coming year if you have yet to do so and challenge our Parish family with the concept of “fearless generosity” as we articulated in the letter that kicked off our annual pledge drive campaign. As stated earlier, we still expect an increase in budget for 2009 of 10% or more to cover rising costs of all kinds. Having this financial housekeeping behind us as we head into the New Year is an enormous blessing to the Vestry officers, members, and ministry leaders as they fulfill the commitment they have made to govern the business and outreach aspects of St. Stephen’s, our beautiful and historic Church home.

We are your elected and appointed representatives in things great and small in our parish life and deeply respect and appreciate your generosity and dutifulness in our continued financial health. We are a small parish and each and every pledge and dollar in the Sunday offering truly does make a difference and we thank you for your faithful support regardless of the amount. Extra pledge cards are available in the narthex if yours has been misplaced; simply drop one at the church office or into the collection plate when complete. Our Treasurer has reminded us that **even if you do not wish to commit to a specific amount for this coming year, that your pledge in any amount, even \$1, triggers our accounting system to generate quarterly statements for your tax records (as long as you write a check and/or we know who gave what).** Of course, donations to St. Stephen’s, including pledges, are tax deductible for most people. Thank you again if you have made your support commitment for the coming year and thank you for continuing to consider it in prayer if not.

May God richly bless and keep you in His love

*St. Stephen’s Church Growth and Stewardship Committee*

## 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*

### Advent Family Sunday

"St. Nicholas and the teddy bear"

December 7

- ◆ Parish-wide program begins at 9 am in the Parish Hall
- ◆ Jesse Tree Project presented in Church at 10 am
- ◆ Coffee and Holiday snacks at 11:15 am
- ◆ African Team Ministries sales after services



## ANGEL VOICES! HEAVENLY TRUMPETS!

Christmas services are made special by more than poinsettias and lovely candles. The coming of the Christ child is made closer to our hearts through music.

Please help support our Christmas instrumentalists! This year, the adult choir will sing Vivaldi's glorious *Magnificat*—and a cello, violins, a horn or two make a world of difference.

Please add your support on **December 7th** or **14th** in special music offering envelopes which will be available in the narthex.