



# The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Severn Parish  
Crownsville, Maryland  
November 2013  
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*

## Worship Schedule

*Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve*

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

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

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

*Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day*

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



# St. Stephen's Parish Survey

## And the results are in...

Thanks to everyone who completed the St. Stephen's Parish Survey this fall. We received great feedback and the comments were honest and constructive. It gave us great insight into your impressions about life at St. Stephens!

Overwhelmingly, we heard that the parish is very happy with the Church School/VBS program as well as the beautiful buildings and grounds. Many members appreciate the traditional, reverent worship service as well as the special services throughout the year. The parish values the community outreach programs, including support for CCCC, ASP, the homeless ministry, Holiday Sharing and My Brother's Keeper. In addition, there was great support for several parish events including the Fall and Spring dinners, NYC trip, Crab Feast and the Pancake Supper.

There is always room for improvement and we heard your suggestions on ways to make the service more spiritually fulfilling and to help you become better Christians. Some improvements have already been implemented including keeping services timely, revising the prayer list, including new music selections, expanding the LEM program and encouraging the use of nametags. Other suggestions may take more time to address but we are working on ways to address these areas.

The Vestry specifically is aware of your concerns about the budget deficit and the need for communication improvements. These are both priorities.

There were some great new ideas about programs and ministries that members would like to start. Although many of our current ministries have full programs, we welcome anyone to help us launch these new programs. Please see me if you are interested!

As Lorin Selby mentioned during his stewardship message, the answers to "What does St. Stephen's mean to you?" produced some of the most heartwarming responses. We will be sharing these in the Sunday bulletin in the future, but thought I would share this one:

***"It feels like home. It is warm, welcoming and comfortable. People care about me even if they don't know me. A warm smile while sharing the Peace makes me feel like I belong."***

Just because the survey is over, doesn't mean we don't want to hear from you – we still do! Feel free to leave a note in any Vestry mailbox if you have suggestions. Although steeped in tradition, St. Stephen's is also a church looking to the future and we can only get there if we work together.

*Jenny Levendusky*  
Vestry Member

**Dear Church School Parent(s):**

**HERE IS A COMMUNICATION TO ADD TO YOUR BUSY MONTH! MERRY CHRISTMAS SEASON!!**

**FIRST ~ Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY. ALL Church School students will be in Church for the 10:00 AM Service during which all the younger children (Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade) will decorate the *Jesse Tree*. The tree will be in Church near the altar.**



**SECOND ~ THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is fast approaching. The Pageant takes place during the 5:00 PM Service on TUESDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we are using a script that simplifies the telling and involves the congregation in singing. The entire story takes place in the front of the Church near the altar, so viewing the story and children will be easier for the congregation and all you digital recording experts!! I have arranged cast members for all the main parts. Spirit Singers will be singing the Opening Anthem.**

If your child is not Mary, Joseph, the Star, a wise person or special angel, then every child is invited to be an Angel or Sheep or Shepherd and it is entirely up to the child which part they want to play. The sheep will have ears to wear - I have a sample I can show - and a large bell to wear around their neck. Other than that, they can wear either comfortable sweats or their Christmas finest – the choice is up to you. They get to keep the bell. **NOTE: PRESCHOOLERS AND TODDLERS IN THE NURSERY CAN BE SHEEP OR ANGELS, AS WELL AS THE YOUNGER SIBLINGS OF OUR STUDENTS.**

The Angel Chorus will not be wearing wings, but will have star halos and bells to wear around their necks. The “Angel Chorus” has one line: *“Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to His People on Earth,”* followed by the ringing of their bells. They get to keep their halo and bell.

**THERE IS A REHEARSAL FOR THE PAGEANT ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> AT NOON.** We will begin with a hot dog and soda lunch in the Parish Hall, quickly go through the Pageant once in Church, and then get everyone into their costumes and again go quickly through the script. I know this is all we need do to get the children ready. Once you see how this script flows, you can see that a simple telling goes smoothly. My goal is that during the *Sign of Peace* on Christmas Eve every child should be able to get their costumes off and be back with their families with the least amount of fuss.

**PLEASE, let me know by Monday, December 1st** either in person, or email, or phone, if your child is going to be in the Pageant, and what part they would like to play. This will let me know how many ears and halos to make. It will also let us know the names to place in the bulletin prepared for this service, as we list the Cast Members. I could use a few parent volunteers in the Sheep “Pen” and sitting with the Angel Chorus during the actual Pageant to make certain both groups get in their places at the proper times.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you can’t be at the Rehearsal, don’t think it means your child can’t be in the Pageant. They will catch on the night of Christmas Eve and fit right in. Having said that much, it would be very helpful if the Wise People, the Star, Announcers, and the other key players attend the Rehearsal.

**IMPORTANT: EVERY CHILD IN THE PAGEANT MUST BE IN THE PARISH HALL BY 4:45 PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE.**

**Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, for your support.....**

**Berney Jaroch-Hagerman**

[shbjh@verizon.net](mailto:shbjh@verizon.net)

410-721-3958 (Rectory phone number)

# NEWS & REVIEWS

## FALL DINNER

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, when I told Melissa I would lead the Fall Dinner, I had no clue what I was getting into but I was super excited. Before this year, I attended the fall dinner twice, worked as a runner once. All I knew was that the ladies and gentlemen who worked the dinner worked hard and everything ran like clockwork. Once again, I think everything ran like clockwork and it was not because of anything I did. I am in awe of my church family!

Ladies, gentlemen, boys and girls stepped up to help make this dinner a success before the dinner, during the dinner and after the dinner. Without your help, this dinner wouldn't have been successful. Our children did an amazing job! The number one complement received was how awesome our kids are. I was so proud of them for serving cold drinks, pies, clearing dishes and resetting the table. To the ladies, gentlemen and youth who helped before, during and after dinner, thank you for all of your hard work. To all of the ladies and gentlemen who offered me advice before, during and after the dinner, thank you. I had little insight regarding the complexity of the event but thanks to all of you, I looked like I knew what I was doing. I also want to thank the first time workers at the dinner; I hope we can count on your assistance next year!

This year, we served 242 dinners; and the bake sale and dinner raised approximately \$3,500 for the Guild.

Again THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of you who stepped up to help! Without you, this dinner wouldn't have been possible. I look forward to working with you all again next year!

God Bless,  
*Cris DiBenio*

## LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

of *the Severn Light* in January,  
our Annual Meeting Preview.

Have safe, holy, and happy holidays!



Members of the Monumental Brass Quintet at the October 12 concert at St. Stephen's

## ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHT

The Vestry sent official letters of thanks to three people who were instrumental in helping to celebrate our 175th Anniversary: Melissa Bednarik, for making the parish quilt that is now hung in the Parish Hall; Marjorie Centofanti, for arranging the Monumental Brass Quintet Concert; and Carol McNemar, for her lead in the Parish Brunch during Homecoming Weekend. Carol is also to be commended for her efforts in obtaining for display, pictures of past events and items used here at St. Stephen's.

Special thanks to all who served on our Anniversary Committee throughout this momentous year: Father Hagerman, Berney Jaroch Hagerman, Carol McNemar, Arlene Rayburn, and Jean Sunday.

## EPISCOPAL VISIT

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, will visit St. Stephen's on Sunday, January 19, 2014.

The following schedule will be in place on that day:  
8:30-9:30 a.m....Bishop meets with the Vestry  
9:30 a.m..... Bishop meets with Confirmands  
10:00 a.m.....Holy Eucharist with Confirmation  
(Note: there is only one Eucharist service this day.)

## CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Youth Class Schedule:

Sun. December 15—9:10 a.m. Woodward  
Sun. January 5—9:10 a.m. Make-up Class  
Sun. January 12—9:10 a.m. Rehearsal in Church

Adult Class:

Father Hagerman will be in touch with interested adults to arrange times to meet in January.

# Stewardship Corner

Welcome to pledge season! A hearty THANK YOU to all who have submitted their pledges for 2014. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, you can mail it in, put it in the collection plate on Sunday or put it in the little mahogany box just inside the church (on the small table to the left of the church doors just before you go outside). If you do not have a pledge card you will find some next to the small mahogany box in the church. Please endeavor to get your pledge in as soon as possible.

Remember, I'm looking for a pledge card from each of you!

Thank You,  
Lorin Selby  
Stewardship Chair

OFFERING ENVELOPES  
for all those who have handed  
in their **2014 Pledge** will  
be available in the narthex  
on December 1.



## Musical Notes

As Advent approaches, I thought this item about Lutheran composer and organist Paul Manz would be of interest. It is his famous anthem, *E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come*, which our choir will sing on December 15, that occasioned the following bulletin note in a church in New York, the note brought to me by Marj Centofanti (thank you, Marj) this week:

[On December 15] "we will hear the fabled motet, *E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come*, by American composer Paul Manz (1919-2009). Widely known as a Lutheran church musician, recitalist, improvisationalist, and educator, Manz is particularly identified with this fine motet which had its genesis in a personal experience for Paul and his wife, Ruth, as they maintained an all-night hospital vigil with their firstborn son, whom they had been told would not likely survive the night. An initial sketch of the work, a setting of a paraphrase from the twenty-second chapter of the Revelation to John by Ruth Manz, became the inspiration for this choral classic. Their son John survived to become a highly respected Lutheran pastor and seminary professor."

*Mark Peterson* [music director, St. Mary the Virgin, NYC]

Incidentally, my grandmother's maiden name was Manz, so maybe we're related!

Have a calm season of expectancy, awaiting Messiah...

Yours for church music,  
Don Chandler, Ch.M.  
Organist-choirmaster



## Take time out for thanks...

### Holy Eucharist Services

Tuesday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27 at 10 a.m.

# OUTREACH

## OPPORTUNITIES at St. Stephen's

### FEEDING THE HOMELESS

#### The Arundel House of Hope Winter Relief Program

From January 13—January 20, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish will house and feed approximately 35 homeless men through the Winter Relief Program of the Arundel House of Hope. St. Stephen's participates in this outreach by providing dinner and company for these guests on our assigned night (Wednesday, January 22). The menu is the same as last year's: Western Barbecue. We have recipes available to make dishes ahead of time. We will need people to help prepare the food and serve it.

If you would like to participate in some way, please contact Carol McNemar (410-923-2744) or Nancy Cole (410-721-2112) to find out what you can do to help.

### HELPING THE NEEDY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

#### Holiday Sharing: Partnering with Anne Arundel Department of Social Services

Thanks to all who have provided food and/or delivered it to 12 grateful households, to make their Thanksgiving Day a bit brighter.



We will help these same households at Christmas by providing food and gifts. The tags for Christmas giving will be on the Holiday Sharing bulletin board in the Parish Hall soon. Please take a tag and bring in the item(s) by **Sunday, December 22 before the 10:00 a.m. service**. Food and gifts will be delivered after the 10:00 a.m. service that day.

### SUSTAINING COMMUNITY AID

#### The Crofton Cares WALKATHON: Raising funds and awareness for the Crofton Christian Caring Council

A planning meeting for the 2014 Walkathon is scheduled for Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Stephen's. The "Crofton Cares" Walkathon is a fund raiser for the CCCC and will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014. Any parish member is *welcomed* to participate in the planning process. We are looking for volunteers from the parish to help with this event.

There are many ways for people of all ages to participate from getting sponsors and doing the walk itself to handing out snacks & water to the walkers. Beforehand, there is publicity to work on, business sponsors to contact, administrative details, and staging to take care of.

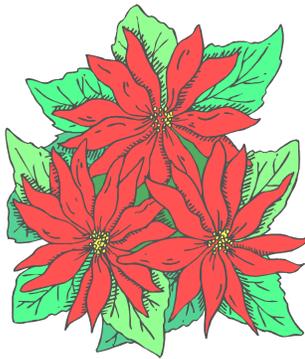


Our rector, Father Hagerman, presented this idea four years ago as a way to shore up the CCCC funds to meet the increasing need for assistance. As you may know, the Crofton Christian Caring Council is an ecumenical cooperative among seven churches in the area. Financial assistance is provided for utilities, rent, and prescriptions to the needy in our local community. Each church takes a turn meeting with clients. Our turn is on Friday. If you have any questions about the activities of the CCCC, do not hesitate to ask Father Hagerman or Irene, the parish secretary.

*Please consider lending a helping hand...*

# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

A wonderful way to honor your loved ones at Christmas is to donate poinsettias to help decorate the church as we prepare for the birth of Christ. Order your thanksgiving and/or memorial poinsettias using the form shown and place it with your check in the collection plate or give to the church secretary. Plants are \$8.00 each. **LAST DAY FOR ORDERING IS Sunday, December 15.** After Christmas, take your plants home and enjoy for many months.



## *Christmas Poinsettia Order Form*

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

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

**In memory of**

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

**In thanksgiving for**

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

# Crofton Christian Caring Council

*The following data was taken from a report distributed at the CCCC Board Meeting on November 18.*

## **FOOD PANTRY UPDATE—Thanks you so much for your support!!!**

The Crofton Christian Caring Council Food Pantry, located at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish quietly distributes food to needy families on the first Sunday afternoon of each month and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Some records should never be broken—unfortunately, we broke one.

Last month 165 clients visited the food pantry, obtaining food for 642 persons. That was a record high number, and the number of people has been growing through the last half of 2013. We anticipate that number will continue to increase as the cutback in the Good Stamp Program takes effect.

We now have a database of client information that allows us to learn more about those who come to the food pantry. We would like to share that with you. Some of the findings may come as surprises.

### **Where do our clients come from?**

Of the 165 clients who visited in October, 33 are our neighbors, right here in Crofton. (The Odenton-Millersville area is second highest in numbers, with Edgewater-Riva-Deale-Lothian area third.)

### **How big are their households?**

Over 75% of our clients have three to six members in their households and a few have as many as nine. In October, a total of 642 persons were served.

### **Do they have shelter?**

Of those clients visiting the Food Pantry in October, all but five had shelter. Those five homeless clients, as a group, have eight children under the age of 18. They are temporarily with relatives, friends or in public shelters.

### **How diverse is the client base?**

Our clients represent a diverse population with a little less than half from minority populations.

### **How often do clients come to the Food Pantry?**

Our client database has 471 clients with 33 new clients added in October. Clients can come to the Food Pantry once each month. Just over half the clients visited between one and four times a year, 13% came nine to 12 times a year and 1% came every month.

The good news is that most of our clients need only occasional help. There is however a small group that needs help most of the time. In those cases we can provide them with information so they can seek additional assistance from county and state agencies.

The Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers from Seton Parish and the six other churches that make up the Crofton Christian Caring Council. Volunteers, food donations and money donations (by check to Seton Parish with a note that the donation is for the food pantry) are always welcome.

To become involved or learn more, please contact Susan Bixby, 410-721-8724.



**In November, our parish has been asked to provide mac 'n cheese for the Pantry.**

**In December, canned chili, beef stew, or Chef Boy R Dee products are on the wish list.**

**(CCCC food bin is in the narthex.)**

# 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

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The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*



## Looking for a spiritual pick me up?

Look no further than **THE CLAGGETT CENTER**, the place for camps, conferences, and retreats in the Diocese of Maryland!

Here are a few retreat opportunities for adults coming up:

### **The Heavens Declare Retreat**

December 13, 5 p.m. to December 14, 4 p.m.

A 24 hour retreat to explore the Earth and sky open the books of nature and poetry, and deepen our connection to the universe as a part of God's creation.

### **Women's Retreat: God's Magic Kingdom**

January 17-19, 2014

A spiritual weekend of fun-filled worship and fellowship, large and small group discussions, Holy Eucharist, music, and time for reflection. Join other women for a weekend of reading about, thinking about and discussing how we can make God's Kingdom on earth a place for all to share in God's love.

### **Women's Voices: God Inspired**

January 24-26, 2014

An invitation for women to explore personal empowerment through Christ's strength

### **Diocesan Men's Retreat: "that we may gain a heart of wisdom"**

February 7-9, 2014

Explore and celebrate the presence of God in your life



For further information and/or to register, go to this website: [www.claggettcenter.org](http://www.claggettcenter.org)