



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Severn Parish
Crownsville, Maryland
November 2014
Advent-Christmas Edition

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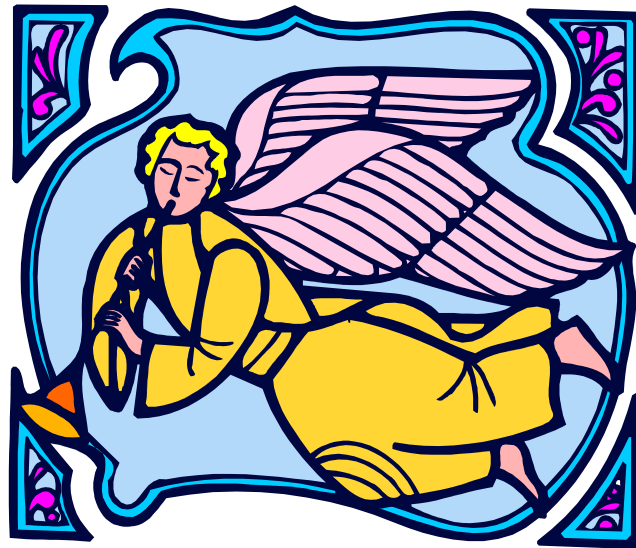
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**This newsletter is either emailed to those who have online capabilities or sent through the postal system for those who don't. If you have a delivery preference, please let the church secretary know.



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

Wednesday, 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

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist



Musical Notes

Happy Thanksgiving! Blessings on all at this wonderful season of the year, especially for safe travel.

Advent begins on the last day of November this year. Spirit Singers, Celebration Choir, and Senior Choir all sing on December 7(!). (Heads up, members of these choirs!) Don't neglect our rehearsals on November 23, 30, and (before service) December 7. Please notify me if you are going to miss rehearsals or performances: 443-924-8264/ ddpctuner@aol.com.

Spirit Singers will be singing at the 5:00 p.m. Pageant Service on Christmas Eve again this year. Again: rehearsals ("practice, practice, practice") each Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. Service. And, let me know if you will miss this very important performance (Christmas Eve).

Spirit Singers and others (Celebration Choir members) are encouraged to sing with our Senior Choir at the 9:00 p.m. Service on Christmas Eve. This is your opportunity to sing with our Senior Choir without committing to weekly rehearsals all year long! However, you must inform the director of your intentions and you must make as many Senior Choir rehearsals before Christmas Eve as possible (Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.). We intend to perform "*For unto us a child is born*" from *Messiah* again this year, with strings and organ. Great fun with a gem of the repertoire.

We are asking for help in the form of donations for musicians to supplement our Choir at the 9:00 p.m. Service on Christmas Eve, December 24 (8:30 Carol Sing also). Please note the special envelopes for this purpose, thanking our God for...the Great Recovery. Thank you in advance!

Thanks are due Rob Cortes for playing trumpet last Sunday! We hope to hear more of Rob's talent soon. Other instrumentalists are encouraged to come forward with offers of time and talent: might we even field a "Praise Band"??

A blessed Advent and Christmas to all!

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



Dear Church School Parent(s):

HERE IS A COMMUNICATION TO ADD TO THESE BUSY MONTHS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS SEASON!!



FIRST ~ Sunday, December 7th 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 – 5th 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 WEDNESDAY, December 24th**. 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 is 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 wear 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 20th 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 cannot be at the Rehearsal, please don’t think it means your child will not be in the Pageant. They will catch on the night of Christmas Eve and fit right in. However, 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. Thank you, for your support.

Berney Jaroch-Hagerman

shbjh@verizon.net/ 410-721-3958 (Rectory phone number)

There will NOT be Nursery care available during the Pageant Service, so plan accordingly.

VESTRY UPDATES

from Senior Warden, Jenny Levendusky

Crofton Nursery School Update

We are getting close! Upgrades to the Parish Hall are continuing as we prepare to welcome the Crofton Nursery School to St. Stephen's. The improvements to the lower level will not only ensure we meet current building codes but it will also provide a fresh look to the space. Our Church School students and teachers will also enjoy their new classrooms!

We hope to be finished with all construction and have all permits issued for the building use by the end of December. If we can meet those deadlines, we will be welcoming the families from Crofton Nursery School in early January.

We will keep you posted!

CROFTON NURSERY SCHOOL

A cooperative preschool since 1968, CNS provides an amazing experience for our families as well as one of the most affordable tuitions in the area.

For more information, please visit their website:

www.CroftonNurserySchool.com or email membership.cns@gmail.com.

Looking for a new way to serve?

At the Annual Meeting in February, the congregation will be electing four new members to the Vestry and we hope you will consider serving in this very important role.

The Vestry is the elected, governing body of the church and attends to the welfare, mission, and vision of the St. Stephen's. It provides leadership for the ministry and missions of the church and is responsible for its business affairs. The Vestry consists of 12 members that serve a 3-year term on a rotating basis and meets on the third Monday of the month.

There are many ways to support St. Stephen's and serving as a Vestry member is an important one. St. Stephen's is working through a very challenging time in our history and needs dedicated and enthusiastic leadership to light the way.

Will you consider serving? Please see me or any Vestry member to ask questions and learn more.

Volunteers Needed

Parent or Teen Volunteers are needed to cover the Nursery for every Sunday from December 27th through all of February (10:00 a.m. service only). Contact Berney Jaroch-Hagerman if you are interested in helping out: 410-721-3958/shbjh@verizon.net. Berney will be present in the Parish Hall during volunteer time to supervise if you have any questions.

Another Nursery Note: No child care will be available on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day in the list of Services.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

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

Have safe, holy, and happy holidays!



OFFERING ENVELOPES
for all those who have handed
in their **2015 Pledge** will be
available in the narthex
beginning November 23.



Guild Notes & News:

Our next meeting will be our Christmas outing on **December 9th** at Killarney House, 584 Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035 at 6:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Guild I would like to thank everyone who helped out with our Fall Dinner beginning with *Bill & Carol McNemar* for doing the **shopping**.

Berney and Hannah Hagerman and Dorothy Waugh for **cleaning the turkeys**,

Pete Coakley for **cooking the turkeys**,

and Pete's **slicing** crew: *Bruce Rayburn, Bryant Centofanti, Howard Graves, Meade Turner and Dick Lynard*.

Then we come to all the helper's for all the **prep work** in the kitchen from Thursday to Saturday:

Marsha Thompson, Carol McNemar, Joan Fields, Joan Langenfeld, Kate Marshall, Gail Brooks, Mae Thompson, Sheila Miller, David Reddersen, Marjorie Centofanti, Sheri LaFleur, Wendy Chambers, Cris DiBenio, Joan Trisko, Pat Lynard and Melissa Bednarik.

To our **carry-out** crew *Kathleen McNemar, Nancy Cole, Arlene Rayburn and Evelyn Appleman*.

Kitchen runners: *Trevor McNemar and Jenny Levendusky*.

Dishwashers: *(Admiral) Lorin Selby, Jack Selby, Lorraine Seidel and George Shahinian*
and to wherever we needed help, *Bryant Centofanti*.

All the **servers:** *Don & Jean Cox, Laurie Selby, Sheila & Ed Miller, Eric Nelson, Bryant Centofanti, Cheryl Brown, Father Hagerman & Susan & Dave Lockard*.

Children servers: *Hannah Hagerman, Cindy Vining, Jimmy Selby, Annie Selby, David & Michael Nelson, Grace Karner, Emma Karner, Nat Lockard & Maggie Lockard*.

Clean-up crew: *Jenny Karner, Corey & Logan Nolet, Leland Kiang, Dave Langdon, & Berney Hagerman*.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE !!!!

Our totals were about average from past years, but seems the big items this year were sweet potatoes, sauerkraut and rolls.

We sold a total of 219 dinners, (205 adults and 14 children) for a total of \$3159.00. The Bake Sale total was \$578.00. Leftover food sales \$450.00. The Gingerbread House Raffle \$68.00. After expenses our Total Profit is approx. \$2876.00.

The Gingerbread House Raffle was won by Berney Hagerman.

A Special Thanks to our "**BAKE SALE ANGELS**" *Kate Marshall and Janice Africa* (both in their 90's) for their devotion to our Bake Sale each year (and to *Dixie Korbach*).

We could not do this each year without all the help from each and everyone of you. Have a nice and *safe* Thanksgiving.

I would like to bring to everyone's attention the new cover for the Chair Rack in the Parish Hall. It is being donated by the Guild in memory of my husband, *Albert Bednarik*, from donations made to the Guild in his memory. The cover is what we decided on instead of building closets to hide the tables and chairs. (Don't think we have decided on the table cover yet.)

Thanks Again & God's Blessing!!
Melissa Bednarik, Guild President

OUTREACH

OPPORTUNITIES at St. Stephen's

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

The Arundel House of Hope Winter Relief Program

From January 12—January 19, 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 21). 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 have any questions, please contact Carol McNemar (410-923-2744) or Nancy Cole (410-721-2112). There will be a sign-up sheet available after Christmas.

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 21 before the 10:00 a.m. service.** Food and gifts will be delivered after the 10:00 a.m. service that day.

ENJOY A CONCERT AND HELP THE CCCC

Crofton Christian Caring Council Partnering with the Chesapeake Chorale

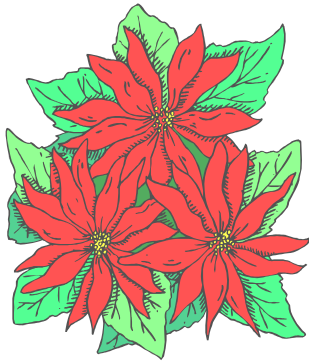


On Sunday, December 7th, at 7 pm, the Chesapeake Chorale will perform a Christmas concert to benefit the Crofton Christian Caring Council. The concert will be at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church on Davidsonville Road (Route 424) in Crofton. Along with lush and novel arrangements of seasonal favorites, the featured work be Francis Poulenc's lovely "*Gloria*" with dramatic soprano soloist Daniele Loria, winner of the 2007 Edvard Grieg Competition. All are invited to let beautiful music raise our spirits as well as funds for those who need a helping hand. Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors (60+) and military; free for students and children (up to 18). For

tickets, contact our parish secretary, call [410 721-5422](tel:4107215422), or visit www.chesapeakechorale.com.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

St. Stephen's has been called the most beautiful church in the area at Christmas. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, help decorate the church by donating poinsettias. Order your thanksgiving and/or memorial plants at a cost of \$8.00 each. Place your order and check (made out to St. Stephen's) in the collection plate or give to the church secretary. Last day for ordering is Sunday, **December 14, 2014**. After Christmas, take your plants home and enjoy the lovely flowers all winter. 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

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

Office Hours: MON-FRI 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org

The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*



ADVENT RESOURCES

taken from the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

November 18, 2014

Clergy Emailing

Audio and Online Daily Advent Meditations

Join the Diocese of Maryland on the journey beginning Nov. 30 at <http://advent.episcopalmaryland.org>. You'll be able to ready daily meditations online, listen daily at <http://WBAL.com> or listen by clicking the link provided to the audio file. Each post will include an image, too.

As part of this year's daily Advent calendar please consider giving a gift of hope this Christmas season in support of the Bishops' Annual Appeal for Ministry throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, <http://episcopalmaryland.org/support-the-bishops-annual-appeal/>.

#AdventUs | A Digital Discipline | The Slate Project

Join the Slate Project this Advent in a digital discipline of preparing for the coming of the Light. Use each day's word, verse, or story as a starting point for an image, poem, song, clip, something awesome to share on your favorite social media site with the hashtag #AdventUs. For thousands of years, followers of Jesus have taken part in practices - both ancient and future - that connect us as community (beyond just face-to-face in #Baltimore). Interested in connecting? Check out slateproject.org.



The Episcopal Church

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/advent-resources-2014>