



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Severn Parish
Crownsville, Maryland
October 2009
STEWARDSHIP EDITION

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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.

GIVING, THE SACRED ART

This is the name of a book by Lauren Tyler Wright I have been studying as part of my own stewardship education. She brings a rich, insightful and creative view to a subject we may find dry or even scary.

"When practiced consistently and intentionally, giving can become a spiritual discipline and, even more, a sacred art. When we practice giving regularly, and understand that our motivation has some connection outside of ourselves (the living God), we have the opportunity to radically transform our lives, the life of another person, even the lives of entire communities."



Wright unfolds the many dimensions of giving:

- *Giving as Worship:* Responding to God's Generosity with Joyful Gratitude
- *Giving as Stewardship:* Managing Our Abundance
- *Giving as Holy Obligation:* Transforming Identity through Discipline
- *Giving as Redemption:* Restoring Money as Life-Giving Tender (This is an important look at moving from the dark, oppressive side of money to the light, life-giving creative side, leading us to a deeper understanding of how money functions as a spiritual power in our lives.)
- *Giving as Charity:* Providing for the Needy with Compassion (A fundamental Biblical teaching.)
- *Giving as Justice:* Believing in and Working toward Righteous Equality (*"Understanding and solving the causes of hunger, the causes of homelessness, the causes of illiteracy."*)

The Life of Stewardship is no easy road but it is fundamental to the calling of a church. We are continually reminded of who created us, why we are here and what our destiny in eternity is meant to be. It lives in our worship of the Living God. It lives in our regular discovery of God's Word—Christian Education for all ages. It lives in the many ways we can serve others. It lives in the ministries of St. Stephen's Church. So please grow in your giving for the sake of our Lord and his service and for the sake of God's vision for our parish.

Father Hagerman

Rector's Education Circle

God's Story of Salvation:

as told in the Lectionary Bible Readings and the seasons of the Church Year.

This program is Part II of our program on The Holy Eucharist that was begun in our last Lenten Program.

In the first part, we focused on the Holy Communion. In this second part, we will focus on the Liturgy of the Word which is the first half of the Holy Eucharist.

The program will be held on selected Sundays in between services in the Parish Hall from 9:10–9:50 a.m.:

Sunday, October 25th

The Old Testament, the Psalms, the Epistles, the Gospel—a rich garden of Biblical Teaching

Sunday, November 1st

How Scripture tells the story in the Church Year

Sunday, November 22nd

A case study—The Scriptures of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas

As with the first part of this program, this study is especially valuable for those who have liturgical ministries such as Lectors, Altar Guild Members, Chalice Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and Choir Members.

Our Prayer List

The many requests we receive for our prayer list show the deeply held belief we share in the power of prayer. In our tradition, prayer, medicine and good self-care work together for healing and good health. The Sacrament of Anointing and Prayers for Healing are always available for those who are sick and hospitalized and are a regular part of our 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays.

All of these things are God's gifts to us. It is also good that we personalize our prayer concerns by praying for people by name. We want to continue this practice in a way that is timely and meaningful for our liturgy. Our prayer list will be on a 60 day cycle. If you wish for names to be continued for each new 60 day cycle, notify the church office. The new cycle will begin Sunday, October 18th.

Thank you

Father Hagerman



Pray Always



Musical Notes

Musical Notes, by Don Chandler, Organist-Choirmaster (October 6, 2009)

Simple Gifts, the Shaker tune used as the basis of Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* ballet, applies supremely in fall, not just in spring. That is, the sentiment of simplicity of life, of appreciation for the simple gifts, of just letting God do with us as She will. The anthem of this name by Copland will appear at least once in our Choir's repertoire in the next couple of months—enjoy it as the fall favorite it has become.

Note our Choir's performing (with Seton Parish Choir) a benefit again this year for Crofton Christian Caring Council, on Wednesday, **November 11 at 7:30 p.m.** at Seton (Rte. 424: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church). We will sing a new work by Howard Goodall (English, 2008), a setting of the traditional Latin Requiem called "*Eternal Light*" that interposes texts that arose out of the tragedy of World War I—note the choice of Veterans Day for this service of remembrance of our loved ones who have gone before. Memorial contributions to the council may be made in the name of our dear departed, a list of whom will be read at the service as in past years. Memorial contributions may be made toward the orchestra honoraria as well. Please address these latter to the church office with the notation "Woodall orchestra honorarium in memory of _____." Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Please contact me if you wish to join our choir for this performance; I will make sure you receive a choral score and rehearsal schedule.

Have a wonderful autumn!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER



THANK YOU!!
THANK YOU!!



Thank you, for the many items contributed to the Baby Pantry of CCCC. It was a successful outreach project and we are reminded, once again, of the generous spirit alive among our Parish Family.

The Church School year is off to a strong start, as shown by the Family Sunday presentation on October 4th. The staff is happily preparing for the November All Saints' Presentation and the upcoming Advent/Christmas Season.

This is a fun time of the year, even if it seems to fly by all too quickly.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact me. I welcome your input.

Please continue to keep our ministry in your prayers.

PEACE,

Berney Jaroch-Hagerman

shbjh@verizon.net

410-721-3958

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Severn Parish
Financial Statement
Period January 01 - September 30, 2009

	Jan-Sep 2009 <u>Actuals</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>	Jan-Sep 2008 <u>Actuals</u>
<u>OPERATING INCOME:</u>				
Pledges	\$169,975	\$165,446	4,529	\$176,269
Plate	14,817	16,988	(2,171)	19,551
Other	<u>11,819</u>	<u>12,727</u>	<u>(908)</u>	<u>10,667</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$196,611</u>	<u>\$195,161</u>	<u>\$1,450</u>	<u>\$206,487</u>
# of Weeks	39	39		39
Avg Pledge/Week	4,358	4,242	116	4,520
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES:</u>				
Parish Operations	34,710	37,261	(2,551)	42,637
Programs	10,398	11,119	(721)	9,527
Property	46,460	51,426	(4,966)	42,987
Salaries & Benefits	112,846	114,926	(2,080)	112,507
Other	<u>5,250</u>	<u>3,975</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>6,612</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$209,664</u>	<u>\$218,707</u>	<u>(\$9,043)</u>	<u>\$214,270</u>
Cash +/-	(\$13,053)	(\$23,546)	\$10,493	(\$7,783)

In summary, it needs to be pointed out that 9 months into 2009, income is lagging expenditures by a little over \$13,000. At this same point last year, income was only behind by about \$8,000.

Please note also that expenditures in 2009 are well below 2008 levels. If pledge/plate receipts were in parity with 2008 levels, these reductions would have actually generated a \$4,000 deficit by the end of September. In other words, the Vestry has made a concerted effort to reduce costs, but reduced income has more than negated their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Dietrich
Senior Warden

STEWARDSHIP LETTER—OCTOBER 2009

The following is our annual stewardship appeal letter. A hard copy along with a pledge card will be mailed to you shortly. Please read and consider carefully.

Dear St. Stephen's Parish Members,

It must be autumn. The Senior Choir is back in full voice, the Spirit Singers are as spirited as ever, Sunday School is open for business, our yards are full of leaves, school activities dominate the calendars of our young parents, and our thoughts turn toward the Holidays and all the hectic, wonderful, crazy, warm and loving times they will bring once more. Autumn also means that it is once again time for the Vestry and the Stewardship Committee to ask you to help us support the operations, outreach, and ministries of our beautiful and historic church home. We ask that you help us by renewing, or perhaps for the first time making, your annual support commitment to St. Stephen's in order for us to better plan and manage the necessary business aspects of the church.

In these times of economic stress, it is difficult not to strike a somber tone. Almost all of us know someone who has been or continues to be impacted by the current difficulties with the economy and we are all aware that the need for ministries of all types is as great as it has been for a very long time. Food banks and shelters are overtaxed and charitable giving is lagging behind demand. We are blessed at St. Stephen's to be able to modestly support a few effective outreach ministries in the area through the Crofton Christian Caring Council and others and to have leadership that is so deeply committed to carrying the mission of St. Stephen's; "To proclaim by word and example, the good news of God in Christ", out to our world. Please know that through your contributions, YOU are there when Father Hagerman hears the confession of a prisoner and visits the sick and bereaved. YOU are there when the ASP youth group fixes the floor of an elderly couple in the mountains of Appalachia. YOU are there when one of our teenagers hands a sandwich and a blanket to a man without a home on the streets of Baltimore. We are a small but deeply faithful church and our generosity shows it.

As the Vestry and the Stewardship Committee began to look at drafts of the budget this year, we found that we were about where we expected to be year to date. We commonly run a deficit of 5% to 10% on paper and commonly end the year with a modest surplus or deficit. We believe that it is more important than ever to be able to responsibly forecast and manage our budget for the coming year. Our Finance and Investment Committee recently made the point that if all of us who make an annual pledge to St. Stephen's gave just an extra \$1 a day (or a couple of fancy coffee drinks at Starbucks a week), we would balance our budget and not have to consider reducing any ministry, staff or service as costs of all kinds rise. As you know, the vast majority of our modest annual budget is committed to simply keeping the Parish functioning like staff salaries, insurance, and grounds and utility costs as it is in all churches of our size. We project an overall cost increase of around 8% for 2010 and it is your support commitment that allows us to develop a responsible budget for the coming year.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your support commitment for this coming year and complete the pledge card enclosed, return it to the church as soon as you are able and by November 1st if possible. **There will be a pledge card collection during the offering on the last Sunday of October** and many of us choose to return them together at this time as a statement of support for St. Stephen's and each other.

If you are new to St. Stephen's and have questions regarding the practice of support commitments, first, welcome to our Church home and thank you for celebrating with us! Second, we encourage you to speak with a member of the Vestry, the Stewardship Committee, or Father Hagerman for more information. We want to meet you!

May God richly bless you and keep you in His peace through Jesus Christ our Lord

St Stephen's Vestry and Stewardship Committee

NEWS NEWS NEWS



FAMILY FALL EVENT

Join the Circle for a night of **SPOOKY BINGO!** On **Friday, October 23**, the Circle will host an evening of fun and games - and a light dinner! Please join us from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall for Halloween-themed Bingo and a few other games. Feel free to come in costume (or not...). We understand Count Dracula will be in attendance! Dinner will also be provided: hotdogs, baked beans, chips, dessert and beverages. Come on out for an evening of fun, food and fellowship! This is a complimentary, parish-wide event - all are welcome!! Please use the sign up sheet posted in the Narthex or Parish Hall entry area. Questions? Contact Vicky Wolf at (301) 261-6908 or vicky.wolf@dlapiper.com

CEMETERY NEWS

Honoring Veterans



On Veteran's Day, the Cemetery Committee is going to place small American flags on the graves of veterans who are buried in our cemetery. If you know of any relatives or friends who are interred here who are veterans, please notify Norm Shackelton (410-266-0997) or Dorothy Waugh (410-923-2878) as soon as possible.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

The semi-annual *United Thank Offering* will be collected at all services on October 18 and 25. The money collected will be presented to Bishop Sutton at the UTO Ingathering to be held at the Church of the Transfiguration, Braddock Heights on Wednesday, October 28. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Kate Marshall, who will represent our parish at this service. (410-923-2272) All funds are used for grants at home and abroad. To find out more, you may visit their web site: www.episcopalchurch.org/uto.

HELP FOR THE FALL BAZAAR WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Crafts

An annual event that has a large following is our *Holiday Bazaar with Silent Auction*. There are a variety of items for sale, all crafted and donated by parishioners. If you have a special hobby and would like to add to the assortment of goods offered, please contact Melissa Bednarik, (301-261-3623).

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is a fun part of the day, where patrons enter a bidding war to see who will come out on top. Many of the items have been donated by local businesses or sports teams (see the list on page 7). But we also offer items in good condition that have been given to us by parishioners—a white elephant to you but a treasured possession to someone else. Again, if you think you have something you would like to contribute, please contact Mary Brown, (410-266-6672).

THEME "BASKET" PROJECT FOR FALL BAZAAR

The theme "basket" project for the Fall Bazaar will again be one of the features of this event. The Guild would like to scale down the number of "baskets" offered and keep the final amount **at 25**. If you are interested in completing a theme "basket", a list with suggested themes is on the Narthex table. **HOWEVER**, you are most welcome to let your imagination run wild and create your own masterpiece.

For those not familiar with this ministry, you pick a theme, container, and contents, donate the finished product and a Guild member will finish the "basket" for you. All proceeds benefit the Parish and Outreach Ministries of the Guild and the Circle.



If you have any questions, please contact Berney at the Rectory (410-721-3958), Church, or at shbjh@verizon.net.

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1. Don't forget to:

FALL BACK

The next edition of the
Severn Light
will be issued in
mid-November.



Annual Fall Dinner

Saturday, November 7, 2009

3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



CARRYOUTS
available from:
3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

BAKE SALE IN BASEMENT
10 am til 5 pm



Adult Advance Ticket: \$15.

Call church office to place your
advance ticket order: 410-721-2881

Adult at the Door: \$17.

Children 5-12 years: \$6.

Children under 5: free

Children's prices are the same,
advance or at the door

Roast Turkey with Gravy and Dressing
Parslied Potatoes Green Beans Candied Sweet Potatoes
Sauerkraut Cooked with Spareribs Cranberry Sauce
Freshly Made Rolls Apple or Pumpkin Pie
Coffee, Tea, Milk for Children



St. Stephen's Holiday Bazaar & Silent Auction

Saturday, November 21, 2009

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Crafts & Holiday Decorations
Theme Baskets
Homemade Baked Goods
Lunch



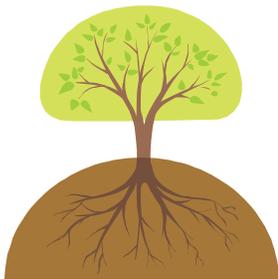
(chicken salad sandwiches, chili dogs, or just plain chili..)



Silent Auction items (Bidding ends at 3 p.m.)

- 4 Tickets to see **Annapolis Symphony's Peter and the Wolf**, Gift Certificate for the **Maryland School for the Creative Arts**,
- Certificate from **Edible Arrangements**, 2 Guest Passes for Sunday Brunch at **Buddy's Crabs & Ribs** in Annapolis,
- 4 Guest Passes to play golf at the **Crofton Country Club**, **Toby's Dinner Theater** ticket for dinner & show,
- Memorabilia from **Baltimore's Ravens**, Autographed Pictures of **Pittsburgh Steelers** Hines Ward and Troy Polamalu,
- Stainless Steel Fruit Bowl and Glass Pedestal Bowl from **H&S Bakery** in Fell's Point, **California Tanning Sessions**,
- Year-long Parking Passes to **Anne Arundel Parks**, **Sundance Carwash** Coupons, Certificate from **Killarney House**,
- 2 tickets for baseball game at **Ripken Stadium** with **Ironbird** memorabilia,
- Elephant-shaped watering can from **AA Farmer's Co-op**, Flying Lesson at **Bowie Airport**, Crystal Vase,
- 1 large chair & 1 small **chair made from tobacco sticks** obtained from local farms,
- 10 tickets to the **Colonial Players Christmas show: The Christmas Doll**, 4 tickets to **Bowie Baysox** game, and more...

Go Green Now, So We Won't Be Blue Later



Without a lot of fanfare but a good bit of real desire, a handful of parishioners led St. Stephen's into a movement that's both green and hot: church-based environmental stewardship. Last month, *St. Stephen's Green*—a new committee—held an hour-long brainstorming that was both creative and wide-ranging. Some ideas were of the “no duh” variety, like increasing what gets into our recycling bins after church dinners and coffee hours; others, such as looking into more environmentally-friendly take-out containers or the need for a church-wide energy assay will take more doing.

St. Stephen's Green aims to start with easily-do-able, inexpensive efforts. Better awareness is also an important part of our mission. We'll rely on everybody doing their small bit so that, like Christ, the “burden is light, the yoke easy.” Please sign up when you see the task list in the church narthex. Got ideas? Questions? Email Marjorie Centofanti at mcentofanti@jhmi.edu.

➔St. Stephen's ECO-TIPS

Do the Bells of Virtue ring when you toss your used printer cartridge in the recycling bin? Ring them even louder by going to Staples or Office Depot, which truly recycle them for use, not for the plastic. Staples gives you \$3.00 back on every cartridge if you have one of their free rewards cards. Sign up for the card and get mailed a \$10 store credit. Office Depot has a similar offer.

We share the seasons of life.

from St. Stephen's Registry

October 2008 through September 2009

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...Ecclesiastes 3:1

Baptisms

Kacie Gale Rawlings
Hayden Elisabeth Hatch
Raegan Michelle Blackwell
Dillon Charles Lewis
Ava Madelynn Shay
Elizabeth Barbara Younkin
Lena Colette Lusby
Jesse Reiger
Samantha Jane Turner
John William Bindas

Marriages

Katherine Hebble-Steven Kidwell

Confirmations

Hannah Elliott Street
Peter Joseph Sykora
Moira Beth Schneider Valentine
William Mark Valentine

Funerals

Betty Harris Reid
Kevin Douglas Sears
Danielle Monique Smith
We also mourn the passing of:
Jeanette Greenip
Don Paul



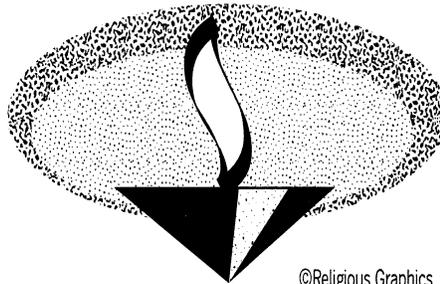
A Service for the Faithful Departed

October 29, 2009—7:30 p.m.

The ancient *Feast of All Souls*, the day after All Saints Day, is a time to remember departed loved ones and turn to Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, for loving remembrance deepened by our faith. Our service that day begins with prayer and Scripture and a candlelight service of remembrance. *All those buried from St. Stephen's the past year as well as loved ones from parish families deceased this past year will be the list from which we start.* In our first year of having this service at St. Stephen's, there was a good response and we will continue to open the candle lighting service to any one who would like to remember a departed loved one in a special way.

The prayer necrology (the listing of additional names of deceased) that follows the candle lighting service is for those who may not wish to light a candle but would like a loved one remembered by name. My family has several names that we include in this section of the service every year.

If you would like to be a part of the service, please submit the form below to the office so we can prepare a bulletin that includes all the appropriate names.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

YOUR NAME: _____

I would like a candle for:

NAME OF LOVED ONE: _____

I would like to include the following name (s) in the necrology, (to be read after the Candle Lighting Ceremony):

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 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org

The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*

Fall Dinner

November 7

3:00 pm-6:30 pm

Holiday Bazaar & Silent Auction

November 21

10:00 am-4:00 pm

SAVE THESE DATES!!



YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES COMING UP

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY—(all ages invited)



Sunday, October 11th: CORN MAZE ADVENTURE

We will be going to the maze located across from the Gambrills Post Office in Gambrills on Annapolis Road. To carpool, meet at church at 3 pm.

We will have a group rate and share expenses. \$10. per family or \$5. for one child.



Sunday, November 15th: GROUP OUTING TO CINEMARK THEATER

For a movie party featuring Disney's new production of "A Christmas Carol."

Details are still being worked out. We would likely be departing St. Stephen's about 2 pm.

We were able to arrange a birthday party rate. Family contribution: \$5. per person (includes movie, games and refreshments.) Checks should be made payable to "EDGE/Vestry of Severn Parish."

We have a limit of 50, so sign up by notifying the church office ASAP.

~St. Stephen's Youth Group