



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Severn Parish
Crownsville, Maryland
February 2007

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Lent Edition of the Severn Light

Our Ash Wednesday service reminds us that *“The First Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season”*...that puts *“the whole congregation...in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore in the name of the Church to the observance of a holy Lent.”*

We will have a special focus this Lent on deepening our life of prayer (see the Lenten program schedule). We are also planning a special Lent Family Sunday on March 4th which will include student presentations in church, a Parish Family Brunch, and an Introductory Retreat for the new Confirmation program that afternoon (see the article about the new Confirmation program).



Through a deepened life of prayer, study of God’s Word, and service to others, we make Lent a meaningful season and enrich our experience of Easter.

Father Hagerman

Ash Wednesday is **February 21**
Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes
will be held
at **10:00 a.m.** and at **7:30 p.m.**



Musical Notes

by *Don Chandler*, Organist-Choirmaster

Lent is usually associated with sadness, grief, repentance -- nothing very musical, one might say. But Lenten music is some of the greatest music of the church – there is a time for grief as well as for gladness, and this music helps us in our grief. The most amazing piece of Lenten music, in my experience, is J.S Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, the story of our Lord’s last week before his death. It contains an aria, “*Erbarme dich* (Forgive me, Lord),” supposedly the lament of Peter, the leader of the disciples, who had just denied Christ three times. The pizzicato cello part fairly draws the tears! If you have a chance to hear this, don’t miss it.

Anglican choral music is one of the best-kept secrets of the Episcopal Church. Our choir’s Lenten offerings include several gems from this repertoire: Farrant’s “*Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake*,” (March 4); Stanford’s *Nunc Dimittis* in F, and John Nares’ “*Search me, O God*,” (Wednesday, March 7’s Choral Evensong, at 7:00 p.m.); “*O taste and see*,” by Ralph Vaughan Williams (Maundy Thursday), among others.

Speaking of Anglican choral music, each summer the Royal School of Church Music in America puts on choral “courses” throughout the country; these consist of week-long institutes of choir music, with daily Evensongs using traditional English cathedral repertoire, culminating in a Holy Eucharist (choral) on Sunday morning and a Festal Evensong that afternoon, directed by an English or British-trained conductor. Now is the time to investigate these courses for yourself. Courses are available for boys and girls age 10 and up, teens, and adults. Consult the list/details on the RSCM America website www.rscmamerica.org. If you will join our choir and apply, the Vestry may even find some scholarship aid for you.

AND...Don’t forget that Daylight Savings Time starts earlier this year: March 11 (Sunday)!

Have a blessed Lent, AND Easter!

PENNIES FOR THE PLAYGROUND

There is a preschool in Akramah, Ghana, our companion diocese, without a playground, without swings or slides. BUT!! There is a preschool in Akramah, Ghana, that CAN have a playground. With our pennies (and other loose change) we can make the playground a reality.

This year, during Lent, I invite you to participate in a special Lenten activity to support the children in our diocese and help build this playground. I will place canisters in both the Narthex and Parish Hall to fill up as an offering to God from whom all good things come, including slides and swings. This project is being undertaken with Ghanaian Mothers’ Hope, one of the projects receiving funding from the Global Mission Committee of our Diocese.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR “PENNIES”

Berney
shbjh@comcast.net
 410-721-3958



Episcopal Teens

As we "SPRING" out of the winter months, ET is hopeful that the groundhogs prediction of an early season is correct. Although March will be a routine month, we are geared up for a very active April.



On Sunday April 8th the Krispy Kreme Kuhblanks will be selling dozens of donuts between the after both services.

On the last go round we made \$200 dollar profit and had donuts left over to take to the Boys home in Annapolis. We want to thank Wendy Chambers for carrying the donuts to the boys.

Bill Sykora is orchestrating our first Car Wash of the season to be held on April 21st. The rumor is we will have the wash in conjunction with the Crofton Craft Fair. But, that's just rumor, so stay tuned for the details.

A new event is taking shape for ET this spring. We are currently working with Eisenhower Golf Course in hopes of holding our very first "ET Golf Outing". Our target date is Sunday April 29th. We are hopeful this event will be a joyful time for all generations.



Sheri LaFleur, ET Advisor

FFROG's

Fourth & Fifth Graders Relying On God

FFROGs will have a very busy spring. We will be attending the Pancake Supper near the end of February and seeing a movie.

In March, we will continue with our service project for the military by sending cards and other items to cheer up those in service to God and our country.

April will see us participating in Lenten and Easter activities, and we plan on helping in some way with the Spring Dinner in May.

We encourage all fourth and fifth graders and their friends to join us! We meet on the first or third Sundays of the month (depending on our activities) and hope you can come out and take part in the fun!

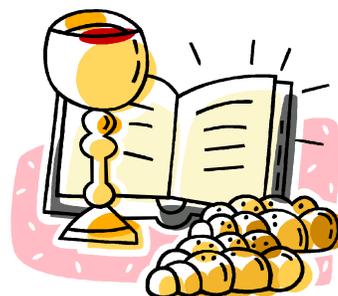
Meredith Kelly, FFROG Advisor

HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

The Preparation Class for Holy Communion will be held on three Sundays in Lent: **March 11, 18, and 25**, from 9:10-9:50 a.m. in Woodward Hall.

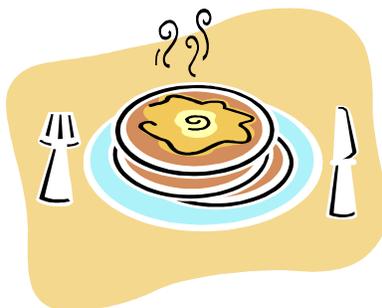
This class is for children and their parents who would like to prepare to receive Holy Communion *or* for those who are receiving and would like to learn more about this sacrament.

Please notify Father or Berney Hagerman, or the church office if interested.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**Feb. 20, 2007
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**



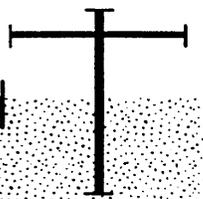
Parish Hall

Adults...\$6
Children 2-12...\$4
Under 2...free

Must have tickets ahead of time

Proceeds benefit the activities of
E.D.G.E. and E.T.

ENTER INTO
THE HOLY SEASON
OF LENT



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Lenten Program 2007
Growing in Prayer
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

A meditation and prayer exercise will be offered in church, on each week's topic in a service of Evensong/Evening Prayer

- February 28th An Introduction:**
Deepening Our Prayer Life
- March 7th Praise and Thanksgiving:**
Prayer's Forgotten Season
- March 14th Prayers of Petition:**
Help Me Lord
- March 21st Intercessory Prayer:**
Love On Its Knees
- March 28th Penitential Prayer:**
*Forgive Us Our Sins As We Forgive Those
Who Sin Against Us*

Please join us!

MARCH 4

Lent Family Sunday Service
10:00 a.m. (student presentations)

Parish Family Brunch
Shared meal to follow service
Sponsored by the Church Growth Committee

TO
OVER
MARCH
4

TO
OVER
MARCH
4

Confirmation Update

*The following information was provided during
the Confirmation Youth and Family Meeting held on Sunday, February 11:*

We are introducing a two stage Confirmation Program

Stage 1

Students **age 12 and 13** will be working on Youth Alpha.

Youth Alpha will lead to a Service of Celebration and support in the parish.

Alpha begins with the most basic questions

- Christianity: Boring, Untrue, and Irrelevant?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can I be sure of my faith?
- How does God guide us?

Stage 2

Students **age 14, 15, and above** will be working on Confirmation.

The sacrament of Confirmation may be received at the age of 15 or older.

Confirmation is a mature renewal of the Baptismal Covenant which calls us to the most demanding aspects of the Christian life.

- Spiritual life in a fellowship of prayer, God's Word, and Sacrament
- Reflecting Christ in our relationships: being friends in Christ – reaching out to others.
- Striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being.

The program will include

Class/retreat participation

Service projects

A Confirmation portfolio

Classes will be available at various times (Sundays at 9 or 10; weekday sessions)

We invite *you* to help with the program

- 1) Serve on the Confirmation Mission Team
- 2) Be a sponsor/mentor
- 3) Help with activities
- 4) Make a family commitment to the program

➤ **Introductory Retreat** ◀

for both levels of the program

Begins at the **Lent Family Brunch** on **Sunday, March 4** after the 10 am Service
and continues until 4 pm

Contact the church office for more information.

What's Happening at St. Stephen's

We began the year with cold weather reaching 10 on Sunday the 11th. This triggered a pipe freezing and break in the garage area of the Rectory. Charlie Mayes, our plumber, came to the rescue at 7 AM and capped off the water going into the garage. In the spring, we will probably permanently cap that off as we don't need any water in the garage.

A contract was let to Dreamscapes for our snow removal. They have performed this function once and by the time you get this Severn Light, they will probably have worked to remove the snow again as we are expected to get snow on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 13th and 14th.

The Property Committee is reviewing three contracts now for the lawn care. After review, they will recommend one of the contracts to the Vestry for vote on the 19th. We are also looking at a contract to repair all of the old brick in the old part of the church. Many of the bricks have deteriorated and are falling apart. All of the mortar has to be removed. This is a large job but we have a good bid from a highly recommended contractor who has worked on the Paca House and other historical homes in Annapolis. The columns between the Woodward Hall and the Church building are in bad condition and will be replaced, as we can, with a PVC type of material which is called PermaCast. The warranty is good as long as the church stands.☺ Some of you who didn't have the opportunity to give to the nave windows or the repair of the Parish Hall may be thinking about donating a column or two. I will let you know the cost as soon as I have the figures.

The nave windows are in the final stage of production. The glass portion will be finished the week of February 12. The windows will then be taken to Huntingtown to Renew Restorations for the final wood finishing of each window. The plan is to have a special dedication service one Sunday when all of the donors are going to be in town. I will let you know the date later.

Again, thank you to everyone who helps to keep our buildings and grounds in good condition. I have one request: when you are using one of the buildings and turn the heat up, please don't turn it over 70 degrees and then when you leave, turn it down to 65 degrees. We have found the thermostat in the Parish Hall as high as 85 degrees. Unless someone owns an oil well, we can't afford to use that much oil. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

In His Service, *Lucile Seborg*, Junior Warden

Severn Light Survey

I hope you have noticed our new Severn Light format. We have made the change so that it would be easier to read if it was sent via email. We will email the newsletter to you—**only if you choose**. You would surely receive your copy sooner than the postal service can deliver. And just think.....no more mangled newsletters! Please let us know your thoughts and choices.

NAME: _____

- Yes. Email the Severn Light to:
- Continue to send me the Severn Light through the mail.

Vestry News

We are pleased to announce that the following slate of candidates was approved at the Annual Meeting on February 4:

Marcia Clemmons, Pete Coakley, Richie LaFleur, Barry Regan, Lucile Seborg (2 year term), Dorothy Waugh (2 year term), and Emily Gillen (Youth Representative).

Our thanks go to outgoing members:

Rob Clemmons, Tom Gillen, Bryant Centofanti, and Jeff Volosin for their hard work and dedication.



News Shorts

THE PARISH COLUMBARIUM has been ordered and is expected to be installed in April 2007. The columbarium is an alternative to the committal of an in-ground burial, and the granite construction will provide a lasting entombment for decades. Parishioners desiring to purchase niches or consider a donation are requested to contact Jean Sunday, 410-672-3680 or sundayofodenton@verizon.net.

A **BUS TOUR** of five Baltimore churches will be conducted on 12 May 2007 by James T. Wollon, Jr., architect and historian. The bus will depart the Diocesan Center at 8:30 AM, returning by 3 PM, visiting St. Thomas' Church, Garrison Forest (18th century), the Hannah More Academy Chapel (mid-19th Century-Gothic Revival), All Saints', Reisterstown (late 19th century-Romanesque Revival), Ascension, Westminster (Baltimore's first Gothic Revival architect), and St. Barnabas', Sykesville (late colonial period). Tickets are \$45 each, including lunch. Reservations by 25 April. Contact Jean Sunday, 410-672-3680, sundayofodenton@verizon.net.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

April 1, Palm Sunday

8 a.m. and 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of Palms and the Passion according to St. Luke

April 2, Monday of Holy Week

9 a.m.—Morning Prayer

5 p.m.—Evening Prayer

April 3, Tuesday of Holy Week

9 a.m.—Morning Prayer

5 p.m.—Evening Prayer

April 4, Wednesday of Holy Week

10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

5 p.m.—Evening Prayer

April 5, Maundy Thursday

9 a.m.—Morning Prayer

6 p.m.—Agape Meal, Holy Eucharist, and Liturgy of Stripping the Altar to prepare for Good Friday

Prayer Vigil begins after the evening service and continues until Good Friday at noon

April 6, Good Friday

12 p.m. noon—Good Friday Liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer

7:30 p.m.—Stations of the Cross

April 8, Easter Sunday

8 a.m. and 10 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

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Email: st_stephens@verizon.net

Office Hours: MON-FRI 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

traditional language

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

contemporary language with music

10:00 a.m. Church School (Sept-May)

Pre-Kindergarten through High School Classes

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SUNDAY SERVICES

The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, *Rector*