



# The Severn Light

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

May 2007

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\*\*This newsletter is 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.

## New Life in Spring



The gift of Easter to every life is the gift of new beginnings and new energy to heal what is broken and to build anew.

We see many signs of that around the parish. In programs, in property projects, and the life of the spirit which is a church's reason for being:

- 1) We are building a new Confirmation program. We had a good retreat last March and welcome all our young people to a special music and drama presentation by the group, *Soul Searchers*. This will be the second service on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> with a special starting time of 10:15 a.m. There will be a light luncheon reception after the service and a discussion time for our youth classes to conclude this special event.
- 2) After making a good beginning with our own Vacation Bible School last summer, we look forward to offering our second VBS, the *Great Bible Reef*, the week of June 25-29. (See more detailed article on this.) Registration will be starting shortly.
- 3) New windows in both the church and Parish Hall and some much needed brickwork for the church have been the highlights of our continued efforts to improve our property. Our thanks to Junior Warden, Lucile Seborg, and the Property Committee for their leadership in this area. We note also that the foundation is now in place for the new columbarium which will be installed shortly. Our thanks to Jean Sunday for her persevering efforts in support of this project.
- 4) Looking ahead, we will offer a great adult education program on Thursdays in the Fall, featuring nine presentations by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel of the Alpha Program. *A Life Worth Living* is a program based on Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. We welcome EVERYONE to the program and I know those who participated in the Alpha program will especially enjoy it. (see more detailed article)
- 5) I have been working with several new and long time families on Baptism and Adult Confirmation and Reception programs. We look forward to presenting a good group of youth and adults next Spring. Preparations begin now so let me know if you are interested in the program.

Grace and peace to you in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Father Hagerman*

"VEGGIE TALES"

## SUMMER SUNDAY SOMETHING

RESUMES

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17<sup>th</sup>**

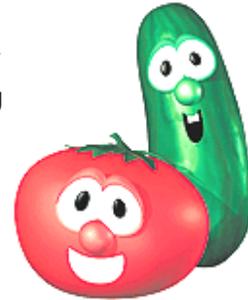
"Sunday morning values – Saturday morning fun"

During the 10:00 AM Service each Sunday of the summer – with the exception of JULY 1<sup>st</sup> - we will offer a DVD episode of "Veggie Tales" along with a peanut-free snack and simple craft. Any child is welcome to attend. They can stay for the entire hour or a family member can get them for Communion.

For those not familiar with "Veggie Tales" - they are a series of stories with a Biblical message using animated vegetables. Sounds silly, but they really are a treat. If anyone is interested in more information on Veggie Tales it can be found at [www.veggietales.com](http://www.veggietales.com)

This will be our third summer of offering this enjoyable and relaxing program. We do rely on two adult volunteers for the hour. The choice of DVD, the snack, and the craft are all arranged ahead of time. **SO, IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN GIVE A SUNDAY TO THIS MINISTRY, PLEASE LET BERNEY KNOW.**

THE CONTACT INFORMATION IS: 410-721-3958 (Rectory phone) or [shbjh@comcast.net](mailto:shbjh@comcast.net). THANK YOU!



### DINNER AND BAZAAR

Mark your calendars for **November 3, 2007**. This is the date for this year's fall bazaar and dinner. It is something new! Both in the same day. The bazaar will begin at 10:00 AM continuing through the day. The dinner will be from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM.



We will need everyone's help. Crafts, baked goods, and volunteers are needed. There will be lots to do—many hands make light work—just an hour or two is all that is needed. Proceeds from these activities are used to help with parish maintenance and community outreach.

There will be much more to come concerning this event! It will be fun for all.

*Carol McNemar*

### THEME "BASKET" PROJECT FOR FALL BAZAAR

The theme "basket" project for the Fall Bazaar will once again be a feature of this event. The Guild would like to scale down the number of "baskets" offered and keep the final amount at **30**. If you are interested in completing a theme "basket," a sign-up list with suggested themes will be on the Narthex table in August. **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.

If you have any questions, please contact *Berney* at the Rectory or via e-mail.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Summer is fast upon us and Vacation Bible School will begin in six weeks!

I want to use this opportunity to let you know about the week we have planned for our children and Parish family. I am thrilled that the week is nearly fully staffed. Having said this, any person who wants to volunteer is more than welcome. This week requires many helpers.

**The V.B.S. schedule is: Monday through Friday, June 25 – 29. On the Wednesday of that week, we meet at 6:00 PM, for a pot-luck dinner and a family craft outreach project. On Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a closing program for all the students during the 10:00 AM Service.**

All the handiwork from the week will be displayed in the Parish Hall and available for the children to take home after the Service. Realizing this is the Fourth of July weekend, if they can't be in Church for the Closing Program, then they certainly can take their materials home on Friday.

The theme of St. Stephen's 2007 V.B.S. is *GREAT BIBLE REEF*. It is a curriculum that uses the imagery and icons of the ocean, although we will be expanding on the theme in our opening lessons and crafts. If you wish to review this curriculum, it is posted at: [www.thevbsplace.org](http://www.thevbsplace.org) or at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).

Each day is assigned a color and our "challenge" to the children and staff is to wear something (visible) of that color. A brief summary of the week follows.

Registration forms will be available both on the Narthex table and Parish Hall entrance table beginning Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Or you may register on-line at: [www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org/vbsregister.html](http://www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org/vbsregister.html).

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL AS IT HELPS US BE CERTAIN TO HAVE ENOUGH MATERIALS, CRAFT KITS, AND SNACKS ON HAND FOR EACH CHILD.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.  
(410) 721-3959 or [shbjh@comcast.net](mailto:shbjh@comcast.net)

Peace ~ *Berney Jaroch-Hagerman*



**DAY 1 – GREEN - Baby in a Basket (Moses)**  
(Exodus 2:1-10)

SNACKS: Apple & Orange Segments ~ Lemonade

**DAY 2 – RED - People help Naaman**

(2 Kings 5:1-14)

SNACKS: "Ritz" Crackers & Popcorn ~ Apple Juice

**DAY 3 – YELLOW or ORANGE - The Miraculous Catch**

(Luke 5:1-11)

POT-LUCK DINNER AT 6:00 PM

**DAY 4 – BLUE - A Blind Man Believes**

(John 9:1-12)

SNACKS: "Fish Crackers" & Baby Carrots ~ Juice Packs

**DAY 5 – ANY COLOR OF THE RAINBOW - House on the Rock**

(Matthew 7:24-28)

SNACKS: "Hershey Bits" & Raisins & Pretzels ~ Juice Combos

## MANY HANDS ACCOMPLISH MUCH

The Church School Staff of our Parish has completed another strong year of service in the ministry of teaching and caring for our children. We are privileged to have their skills and talents. Extending a thank you through this newsletter is only a small way of showing appreciation for their dedication.



*Meredith (Kelly) Devereaux* – **Nursery and F.F.R.O.G.S**

*Margaret Duffy* – **Preschool through Kindergarten**

*Marcel Bernard and Mary Ann Michel* – **Grades 1-3**

*Bernadette Jaroch-Hagerman* – **Grades 4-6**

*Lisa Eliot* – **E.D.G.E.**

*Michael Duffy and Lee Devereaux* – **Middle School and Confirmation Preparation**

*Sheri LaFleur* – **High School and E.T. and A.S.P.**

See you in the FALL!!

### My Brother's Keeper

As the ministerial activities of My Brother's Keeper wind down for this program year, the ladies share a thank-you card with you from the Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. For, in addition to helping the homeless in our area, the ladies of My Brother's Keeper also give to other needy causes, this one being in Appalachia. This past Easter, instead of goods, they sent a gift card.

*Hello Joan and Everybody that had part in the gift card for Easter. We send our heartfelt thanks to you. We had hoped that this year we could do something special for our families. Now we can, thanks to you all.*

*Please keep remembering us. We at the Settlement are having it hard, a lot of people have been laid off, some time cut back (mine included). Our Daycare has shut down for a time, so has the kitchen and our Senior Care, they are in hope that it will pick up...but through prayers things can change. Please say a special prayer for Henderson and our mission that we are trying to do.*

*From my heart, I thank everyone.*

*Blessings,  
Judy Hurst*

### Circle News

**Volunteers are needed to host the "tea and lemonade" after the 10:00 AM service for the months of July and August.** Everything is provided to make and serve the tea and lemonade, you need only provide cookies, brownies, or some baked good (these can be bought or homemade).

Please consider doing this for your parish family. It is an easy and fun way to involve your entire family in a service project for the church.

Look for a sign-up sheet or contact Carol McNemar at 410-923-2744.

**The Circle will meet Thursday, June 7, at 7:00 PM in the parish hall.** This will be the last meeting until the fall. On the agenda will be the schedule for the summer "tea and lemonade" after the 10:00AM services on Sunday and the fall bazaar. Please join us!

### In Memory....

The family of Alan Mace extends their gratitude to the parish of St. Stephen's for all the support received during the trying days before and after his passing. They are particularly pleased with the outpouring of memorial donations that is being used to maintain and repair the church building that is so dear to them.

Thank you all!

## WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

The Women of the Bible group celebrated the completion of the study of fourteen more female Bible characters with an afternoon Tea at Reynold's Tavern in Annapolis on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Posh frocks and hats helped to enhance the feminine character of the occasion. The Biblical women who had been discussed ranged from Rebekah and Jezebel in the Old Testament to Elizabeth and Mary, mother of Jesus in the New Testament.

Next September we will be learning more about lesser known ladies of the Bible such as the "Woman at the Well" and "The Widow of Zarephath" and their impact on our Christian lives today.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Monica Regan 410 729 4036 or Jean Cox or Irene for more information.

## HOUSE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The House Group Bible Study members will be completing discussion of our "Christian Community" in June. References were found in the Old Testament such as in Nehemiah or Psalms and in the New Testament in John and Mathew and so on. The group has been faithful to the commitment and maintained a consistent attendance. Two members of the group committed themselves to God and his church at confirmation in April.

Next year we hope to continue with a new discussion Guide "A Journey of Love - Reaching out as Jesus Did" used in England by Monica's cousin's House Group or "Joshua - The power of God's promises".

We would love to have new members and even begin a second group. Contact Monica or Barry Regan or Father Hagerman.

## Vacation Time

We are moving into that time of year for family vacations. I wish you good times of family renewal.

For myself, I have decided to divide my vacation time into two segments. (A month of backed up mail and messages is not a good way to return.) The four Sundays impacted will be:

- July 8 (Father Herzog)
- July 22 (Morning Prayer)
- July 29 (Father Herzog)
- August 5 (Father Herzog)

I will be here for services on July 15.

*Father Hagerman*

# What's Happening at St. Stephen's

The stained glass windows in the nave were dedicated April 15. They are really beautiful! Bill Miles, co-owner of Artisan Glass Works in Baltimore, was here to give a first hand report on how they were made. He pointed out that the fleur-de-lis patterns are now in line from top to bottom of the windows. One of the observations which he made is that because our windows are simple but beautiful, our attention goes toward the front to the Sanctuary and not to the sides of the nave. Some of the pieces of glass that were removed will remain in our Archives. Father Hagerman gave a wonderful sermon tying the Baptism of two children to the dedication of the windows. He pointed out that we are representing about 6 generations of what has passed and what is to come at St. Stephen's!

Plans are to shut the boiler down in the Parish Hall in May. Our weather has played a trick on us and stayed cold longer this year. We did have some repairs on the boiler but it is now running well.

Dreamscapes, our new landscaping company, has finished the edging and mulching of the flower beds. They have been back to aerate, seed, and weed and are doing a wonderful job.

Thanks to Peter Coakley who helped Lee, our Sexton, to change the air conditioning filters.

The Property Committee made a choice for the brick on the old part of the church to match as closely as possible. This is difficult as the bricks on the older part of the church are 169 years old. McFee Masonry has completed most of the work on the church as of this writing and has just to apply a sealer and then clean up.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

**Work days** for the parish will be **MAY 19** and **JUNE 9** from 9 AM to 12 PM. Both of these dates are Saturdays. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex so that you can use your talent in sanding, painting, raking, dusting, waxing, etc.

I want to thank the members of the parish for their wonderful generosity in completing the nave windows, as well as giving money for the renovation of the Parish Hall, and the brick and column work. None of these improvements would be possible without YOU!!! The windows in the upper story of the Parish Hall have been replaced with thermal windows. The lower half is tempered glass, while the upper part is regular thermal glass. The window brand is Certainteed and the pattern is Bryn Mawr, which will have the cross pieces of the windows inside glass. The windows tilt so that they can be easily cleaned during the year.

A big THANK YOU to our super Altar Guild. They arranged the flowers in the church beautifully for Easter. They then removed the flowers from the window sills for the dedication. These ladies give an enormous amount of their time and talent which all of us appreciate. We also want to thank all of you who gave the flowers for Easter.

My thanks to the Property Committee & Vestry for all of the support constantly given to me. And a special thank you to Mack and Anne Young and Pete Coakley, for taking charge of the property needs while Hugh and I were away on our cruise through the Panama Canal. We have returned refreshed and excited about the marvelous programs that are going on here at St. Stephen's.

In His Service,

*Lucile Seborg*, Junior Warden

# A Life Worth Living

## *Thursday Evenings This Fall*

Many scientific advances in recent years have enabled us to live longer lives but will they be A LIFE WORTH LIVING?

How do we live life to our full God-given potential? Based on Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, A LIFE WORTH LIVING is a positive and practical guide to achieving exactly this, uncovering in us a new heart, new purpose, new attitude, and a new confidence to the way we live our lives.

The Rev. Nicky Gumbel's approach to the Scriptures is relevant and challenging. We invite EVERYONE to join us. Those who participated in the Alpha Program and are looking for more of Rev. Nicky Gumbel's teaching on Scripture will find this to be an excellent program.

We will combine the elements of learning, prayer, fellowship and group discussion that we enjoyed in Alpha with a somewhat simpler format. We will have a welcome potluck dinner on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to introduce the program. The remaining weeks will not include dinner but will have a coffee-dessert fellowship time each session.

### **The format will be as follows for weeks 2-9:**

- 7:00 Welcome and opening devotions
- 7:10 Video talk by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel (35-40 minutes)
- 7:50 Coffee-dessert fellowship
- 8:15 Small group discussions

Our goal will be to conclude before 9:00 p.m. each week.

We will have a course manual as we did in Alpha so it will help us to have advanced registration to prepare well.

### **Schedule of Topics**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>September 13</b> | A New Heart – <i>Philippians 1:1-11</i>           |
| <b>September 20</b> | A New Purpose – <i>Philippians 1:12-30</i>        |
| <b>September 27</b> | A New Attitude – <i>Philippians 2:1-11</i>        |
| <b>October 4</b>    | New Responsibilities – <i>Philippians 2:12-18</i> |
| <b>October 11</b>   | New Friendships – <i>Philippians 2:19-30</i>      |
| <b>October 18</b>   | New Confidence – <i>Philippians 3:1-11</i>        |
| <b>October 25</b>   | New Ambitions – <i>Philippians 3:10-21</i>        |

(November 1<sup>st</sup> we will break because of hall preparations for the Fall Dinner and Bazaar and the scheduling of our All Souls Service that evening.)

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>November 8</b>  | New Resources – <i>Philippians 4:1-9</i>    |
| <b>November 15</b> | New Generosity – <i>Philippians 4:10-23</i> |

# Foyer Group Q&A

*Part II (see March issue for Part I)*

## **Q. How will Foyer Groups be set up?**

**A.** Once you sign up, you'll be randomly grouped with three or four other singles and/or couples, potentially from different circles of the parish community and in varying phases of life. We will take into consideration your preferences regarding smoking, alcohol, and pets in the home and will mail you contact information for your group, as well as a list of suggestions for how to get started.



## **Q. I'm not much of a cook. Do I really have to be able to prepare a full meal for eight or ten people in order to join a Foyer Group?**

**A.** Foyer Group gatherings are intended to be shared meals, and that includes the preparation. Typically, the host might provide the main dish and beverages, with other members contributing the appetizer, salad, side dish, bread, and/or dessert. Many grocery stores and restaurants offer tasty, freshly prepared take-out dishes that you can serve. Those with the inspiration and capability to prepare a full meal on their own are, of course, welcome to do so, but that's not the expectation.

## **Q. I'm afraid my home isn't grand enough to host other parishioners. Will my standard of living be judged if I join a Foyer Group?**

**A.** Here's what Foyer Groups are not: they're not a House Beautiful tour, they're not a Martha Stewart showcase, and they're not an Iron Chef cooking competition. They are casual gatherings where the focus is on fellowship and friendship, conversation and conviviality. We meet each other where we live, and accept our surroundings as they are just as God does.

## **Q. My home/condo/apartment isn't large enough to hold eight to ten people for a sit-down dinner. Can I still join a Foyer Group?**

**A.** Who says the meal must be a sit-down dinner? There are several alternatives. You could plan a menu of finger- and fork-food that can be eaten from plates held on laps while sitting on sofas, chairs, or the floor. Or, when it's your turn to host, arrange for the group to meet at a local buffet-style restaurant, or reserve the picnic area at a county park and host a cookout.

## **Q. I have food allergies. How can I be sure that other group members' meal contributions will be suitable for me?**

**A.** If you have food allergies, dietary restrictions, or strong taste preferences, please simply inform your group of your concerns at the beginning so that everyone understands what they must consider when planning their menus. All participants should make their best effort to accommodate the needs of their fellow group members.

## **Q. Are Foyer Groups for adults only, or are children welcome to participate?**

**A.** Whether your group's gatherings are for grown-ups only or include kids too, is largely up to the membership and will depend on the ages of the children in the group's families. Hosting a meal for just the adults allows for undistracted conversations, while including children unquestionably livens up the evening. The group should attempt to strike a comfortable balance that accommodates the needs and concerns of all members.

Continued on page 9

Foyer Group Q & A Continued from page 8

**Q. Is there some “program” or entertainment we should offer when we gather?**

**A.** The primary goal of Foyer Groups is to extend and deepen ties within the parish by giving people a chance to get to know one another better, and that is most easily accomplished through conversation. There is no requirement for structured debate or religious experience (well, it would be nice if you say grace before eating!). However, if the group is so inclined, you could play a party game after dinner, or you could arrange to attend a movie together and then discuss it afterward over the meal. For some people who struggle to make small talk with those they don’t know well yet, having something in particular to do or to discuss helps facilitate the process of becoming acquainted. Each family is encouraged to personalize their hosting turn according to their interests. Just chatting and nibbling is fine too!

**Q. Is the guest list meant to be limited to members assigned to a particular Foyer Group?**

**A.** Not at all, one of the wonderful things about Foyer Groups is that they are a convenient way to introduce newcomers to longtime members of the parish and each group should be receptive to extending their hospitality to those who have recently entered our faith community. As with most details pertaining to Foyer Groups, the issues about how and when to invite others to join your group is best decided by the membership of the group and should be an item discussed at the initial gathering. However, when inviting others to join in your fellowship remember that it is generally advisable to touch base with the host for the upcoming get together prior to extending an invitation that will expand the guest list, in order to avoid unexpected surprises.

For more information, contact either Rob Clemmons [410-451-8635] or Bill Sykora [301-261-6985] – or keep your eye on the St. Stephen’s website at: [www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org](http://www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org)

≧SOUL SEARCHERS≧

In place of the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist Service on **Sunday, June 3**, we are hosting the “Soul Searchers,” a *dynamic* youth group who will perform a musical play with spiritual themes. The presentation will begin at 10:15 a.m. All teens and their families are highly encouraged to attend.

## Musical Notes

by *Don Chandler*, Organist-Choirmaster

I hope that summer will provide an opportunity for several singing parishioners to think, pray, and commit – commit to joining choir in the fall. The work of the choir is front and center in our major activity as Christians, the worship service on Sunday. Singing is, on most Sundays, the main way we as laypersons participate in worship. The entire western history of music was a direct result of the invention of music writing in the Church during the early Middle Ages.

Please speak to the director or any choir member about choir and the possibility of your joining us in ministry this fall. I will organize a series of music-reading classes in summer if there is sufficient interest—let me know ([ddpctuner@aol.com](mailto:ddpctuner@aol.com); 410-451-4366).

Those desiring to attend the final Evensong of the RSCM Course at King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, PA, please let me know: we could organize a carpool.

Have a music-filled summer!

## EPISCOPAL TEENS

**Clean Cars for ASP**—June 9, ET will hold the last Car Wash of the season from 9 am to 2 pm on Saturday, June 9th, in the Kmart parking lot in Crofton. Our last car wash pulled in 475 dollars. ET would like to thank all the supporters. Mike Duffy and Bill Sykora get a big ET bear hug for leading the troops.

**Raising Dough with Donuts**—June 10th is our last Krispy Kreme Donut Sale before we head to Appalachia. Grab a dozen between either service. All proceeds fund our ASP trip to Russell County, Virginia.

**ASP Stock Purchase Program**—ET will be selling shares

of ASP stock after the Sunday Services. Each share purchased affords the owner a post card from Russell County during our trip, a spaghetti dinner and a slide show where we can share our experiences with our congregation.

As we close our season, ET would like to thank everyone in our church family for all the support you give us through out the year. From our Donut Sales to our ASP Stock Purchase Program everyone lends fabulous support. Our teenagers get a wonderful sense of community and family from our congregation. This summer we will be able to spread the word via our outreach to the Appalachian Service Project destination in Russell County, Virginia. 21 folks from St. Stephen's will embark on June 17 for a week of community

service and fellowship. The people of Appalachia that we touch have limited means and resources and we are blessed to serve them.

*Sheri LaFleur*  
ET Advisor

Episcopal  
Teens

## EDUCATION SUNDAY

Graduates from Kindergarten, Elementary School (Grade 5), Middle School and High School will have these milestones recognized at the 10:00 a.m. Service on **June 10**. Please let the church secretary know if you have a family member that should be included in this celebration: [st\\_stephens@verizon.net](mailto:st_stephens@verizon.net) or call 410-721-2881.



### 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

### 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*