



The Severn Light

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

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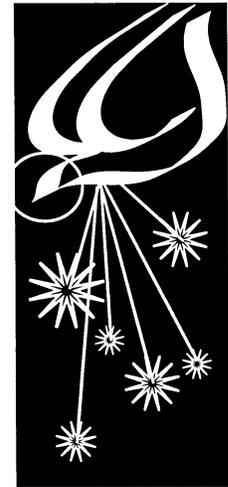
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**This newsletter is either emailed to those who have online capabilities or sent through the postal system for those who don't. If you have a delivery preference, please let the church secretary know.

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



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Worship Schedule for Christmas

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

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

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

9:00 p.m. Christmas Choral Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Christmas Midnight Eucharist Service

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Eucharist

REJOICE
your God is near!

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CHURCH SCHOOL NOTES

We ALL have an extremely busy time of year fast approaching. A letter has gone out to all the Church School families detailing the particulars, so I will summarize the highlights in order to keep each of you informed.

Sunday, November 25th ~ (Sunday after Thanksgiving)

There will NOT be Church School. However, I will be showing the DVD of, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," for all our children and any child-aged guests, during the 10:00 AM Service.

Sunday, December 9th ~ ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY

We will begin at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Our theme is, "The Light of Christmas" and our craft project is an angel wreath.

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Sunday, December 9th ~ JESSE TREE SUNDAY

The younger children will decorate the Jesse Tree in Church during the 10:00 AM Service

Sunday, December 9th ~ African Team Ministries Sale

This sale will take place in the Parish Hall after both Services.

Saturday, December 22nd ~ NOON to 1:30 PM

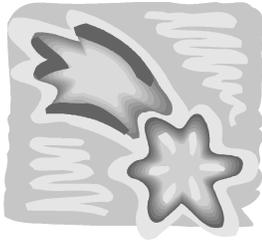
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, December 24th ~ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

5:00 PM Service

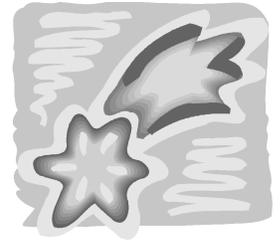
This is why I don't bake at Christmas time....
Thank you for your support and prayers.

~ Berney



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

★ ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY ★
 ★ AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES SUNDAY ★
 ★ JESSE TREE SUNDAY ★



Please join us as we celebrate this Season with a special Sunday morning of events.

We will begin at **9:00 AM**, with BOTH our sale of African Team Ministries items and our Parish-wide Advent Family Sunday Program.

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

is an Anglican-sponsored series of projects in East Africa that supports health facilities, schools, and outreach ministries. ALL the monies raised go directly to this group. In fact, all shipping is handled by U.P.S. as a charitable project. The items include hand-carved animals, jewelry made from stones and materials that are indigenous to East Africa, silk-screened scarves, and usually a wide variety of soapstone items, such as candlesticks and nativity figures.

We will be conducting the sale after both Services on this day and items may be paid for by a **check made out directly to African Team Ministries**.

ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY

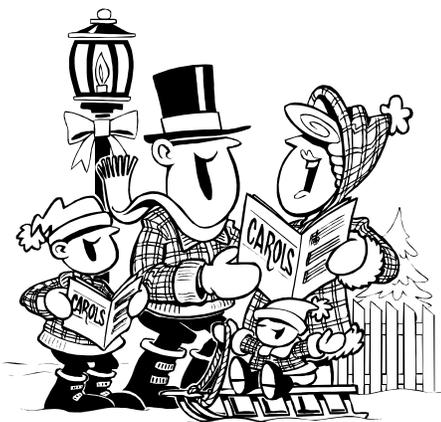
begins at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Our theme is, "**THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS.**" Our group craft project will be an angel wreath for each participant or family.

PLEASE sign-up on the list that can be found on the table in the Parish Hall entrance. Knowing roughly how many will attend helps in creating the needed number of craft kits and arranging the table set-up.

ALSO, we are asking that, if possible, you bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas treats to share at the Coffee Hour after the 10:00 AM Service.

JESSE TREE SUNDAY

During the 10:00 AM Service the younger children will be in Church to decorate the Jesse Tree with ornaments made during classes on November 18th. (That'll do...)



CAROLING CAROLING CAROLING

All interested volunteers are welcome to join Father Hagerman and the Contemporary Music Group in singing Christmas Carols at the Crofton Convalescent Center on **Sunday, December 23.**

Please meet in the Parish Hall at 1:00 pm for a bit of practice. We are expected at the Center at 2:00 pm.

Musical Notes

by *Don Chandler*, Organist-Choirmaster

We are moving into the most musical season of the traditional church year, Advent and Christmas!

Famous even in the middle ages, English choirs have supported a long and illustrious tradition of anthems, descants, motets and other forms, due in part to the continuity of music policy and royal support for cathedral music throughout the ages. Christmas carols are another part of English church tradition: they were sung in English already in the 13th century, despite the Latin of their liturgical context. English-language hymn and carol singing thus became a hallmark of the Church of England long before the protestant movement or Henry VIII. This is one reason for the resilience of the hymn-singing tradition within Anglicanism. We look forward to caroling at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 23 at Crofton Convalescent Center, led by Father Hagerman, as well as the carol-singing of the Christmas services: Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, 9:00 pm (special congregational carol-sing at 8:30 pm), and 11:00 p.m. on Monday, the 24th, and then more Christmas singing on Sunday, Dec. 30th.



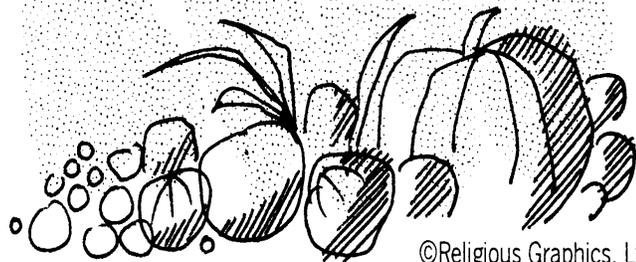
While in some places music is subdued or eliminated entirely during Advent in keeping with the penitential nature of that season, in others, such as at St. Stephen's, it is celebrated. Anthems will include the German chorale, *Sleepers Awake*, with Bach's brilliant organ setting as background, and one or more settings of the *Magnificat* (Mary's song of praise, *My soul magnifies the Lord*), especially on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23.

Anthems planned for the 9:00 o'clock service on Christmas Eve include: *And the glory of the Lord*, by Handel; and *Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light*, by Bach. Former Junior Choir members and those adult singers not customarily in choir may join the choir for the Christmas season by showing up at 7:30 pm Wednesday evenings (except Nov. 21) for rehearsal -- we've already started these pieces. (Please notify the director in advance.) Questions? Contact director/organist Don Chandler, 410-451-4366 or by e-mail: ddpctuner@aol.com.

A very blessed season to all!

Yours for church music,
Don Chandler

Thanks to the Lord!



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Thanksgiving Service Times:

**Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. or
Wednesday, November 21 at 10:00 a.m.**

Fall Dinner and Bazaar

On behalf of the St. Stephen's Guild, we would like to thank everyone who helped with the Fall Dinner and Bazaar. We had a great turnout this year. With the dinner and the bazaar both being on the same day, it was quite a busy day. The advance sales for the dinner tickets was a big success but we have to iron out a few wrinkles for next year.

All of the tables were set up by the E.T group and the Circle ladies. Thanks to Sherri LaFleur and Carol McNemar for getting everyone together to help.

The quilt was won by Lauren Smith. She is one of our 10:00 a.m. parishioners. Congratulations!!

THANKS

- ◆ to everyone who donated items for the Silent Auction
- ◆ to Mary Brown, Bertha DeVeaux, & Marsha Thompson for all their work on getting these items together and setting it all up
- ◆ to Kate Marshall, Janice Africa and Dixie Korbach for all the work on the Bake Sale
- ◆ to Joan Langenfeld for all her work on the Bazaar
- ◆ to Berney Jaroch-Hagerman for putting all the baskets together for us
- ◆ to all the children that worked in the dining room: Ryan Manion, Ben Gillen, Melissa Bernard,
- ◆ Katie Duffy, Sarah Sykora, and Hannah Hagerman
- ◆ to Patty Hardisty for printing the Raffle and Dinner tickets
- ◆ to Paul Bednarik and Meade Baldwin for getting the ice
- ◆ to Tricia Seeman for printing our signs

We wish to thank everyone that helped out in any way with our dinner (we will not try to list everyone because we know we will miss someone), starting with our turkey cleaners, turkey cookers, our hostess, our ticket sellers, all of the kitchen help (some of whom worked diligently for three days *and* on the day of the dinner), and all of our cooks that that seem to get everything out (almost) on time. The dishwashers really did a bang up job. Nothing broke, good job. Our clean-up crew did a fantastic job. We were out of the kitchen by 8:00 p.m. GREAT JOB!!

Our profits for everything were approximately \$9400.00. All of our profits go to Outreach Programs such as E.T, My Brother's Keeper, C.C.C.C, Gideons, Hospice-Chesapeake, just to name a few.

Again *Many Thanks* to everyone that helped with both of our fundraisers. Without your help we would not be able to do this each year.

GOD BLESS!

Melissa Bednarik - Dinner Chairman
Lucile Seborg - Dinner Co-Chairman
Joan Langenfeld - Bazaar Chairman
Jean Cox - Guild President

House Group Bible Study

Our next study will probably be the Old Testament Book of Nehemiah beginning January 14th and 28th 2008, and continuing every second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm starting in the Regan home.

Nehemiah gives us a great example of rebuilding broken walls. Possible study titles are "The Courage to Face Opposition" or "Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition"

New members welcome. For further information contact Monica or Barry Regan 410 729 4036, Monicaregan3@verizon.net or the church administrator, Irene.

Women of the Bible study group

This day time study group is discussing the lives of lesser known women of the Bible, how God worked in their lives and the truths we can learn from their experiences.

The group meets on Mondays at 12:30 pm. In the new year, the Mondays will change to the first and third Mondays of the month; beginning with January 7th and 21st.

New members are welcome to help widen our discussions and enhance our knowledge. Contact Monica Regan 410 729 4036, Jean Cox, or Church administrator Irene for further information.

Donating Through the United Way

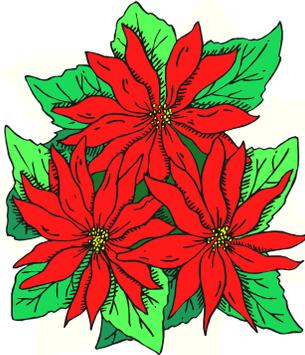
To those of you who are able to designate specific charities as part of the United Way Campaign, might we suggest the following:

- ◆ **The Episcopal Housing Corporation #7127**
Episcopal Housing Corporation's Mission is to respond to God's call to establish justice for those most in need by building affordable housing and creating foundations for healthy and sustainable communities. (www.ehc.ang-md.org)

- ◆ **The Episcopal Community Services of Maryland**
Combined Charity Campaign #4174
Combined Federal Campaign #47156
Maryland Charity Campaign #0588
Based in Baltimore, the Episcopal Community Services of Maryland is a non-profit, faith-based, organization with 80 years of experience in transforming lives, one at a time. Their missions include: providing education to homeless pre-schoolers, providing support to middle school students to prevent them from dropping out of school, helping addicted and alcoholic adults return to productive roles while avoiding relapses, and providing a confidential way for adopted children or birth parents to gain information about each other or to reunite. (www.ecsm.org)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

A festive Christmas is a tradition at St. Stephen's. Help decorate the church by giving thanksgiving and/or memorial poinsettias. Plants are \$9.25 each. Fill out the form below or the one in Sunday's bulletin and leave in the collection plate along with your check (payable to St. Stephen's), or give to the church secretary. Last day for ordering is Sunday, December 9, 2007. If you have any questions call Gail Brooks, Altar Guild Director, at 301-261-0647.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____

_____ **plants @ \$9.25 each**

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

Last day for ordering is Sunday, **December 9**

What's Happening at St. Stephen's

Dennis Stanley and son finished repairing and painting the breezeway, and the entry and steps into Woodward Hall. What an improvement! It was completed just in time for the people to enter the Woodward Hall for the Bake Sale. Dennis also replaced the sink and fixtures, as well as the top of the vanity in the bathroom of the main hall of the Rectory.

New valves were installed to close the water system for the boiler in the Parish Hall. We now have a nice even heat for that building. Servpro Carpet cleaners have cleaned the carpet in the entry way and Parish Hall. The Guild paid for that bill which was \$434.25. Thank you for all your hard work ladies during the dinner and bazaar.

A new parishioner, Gregory Yuhas, will be repairing the pie safes for us. People have sat on them and kicked the front of the doors. Our thanks to Gregory. Barry Regan began the project of preparing the old supply room as a Vesting Room for the Rector. He patched and painted the room, made a shelf and hanging pole to hold the vestments, and then Hugh Seborg helped put in the floor and mirror, and Norm Shenton installed the new light fixture. Tricia Seeman put on the "finishing touch" with a Rector's Vesting Room sign.

The gutter guards around the roof at the Rectory failed to handle the amount of water we received in a 12 hour period on Oct. 27. A large puddle formed at the base of the Bilko doors leading to the basement and water ran down the stairs. Dennis Stanley has cleaned the gutters. All of the carpeting in the living area will be replaced at a cost of \$2500, the week of the 19th just in time for Thanksgiving!! The Hagerman's did a stellar job of cleaning and sucking the water into a shop vac to avoid further damage. The pump which brings the water from the Parish Hall holding tank to the Rectory failed. We had to install a new one at a cost of \$650.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO PLEDGED!! As you can see, we are constantly

having to keep our property in good repair. If every family in the Parish pledged, we would be able to have a good program for the entire parish! This year has been a particularly busy one. Again THANK YOU to those of you who contributed the money for the windows in the nave, brick pointing on the church building, and the new windows and repairs for the Parish Hall. We could not have accomplished these things without you!!!

My thanks to Irene who is a miracle worker, to the property committee who have kept me on track, to Steve who listens to my concerns, and to the entire Vestry who work tirelessly to accomplish the "Best" for St. Stephen's.

In His Service,
Lucile Seborg



Stewardship Corner

Since Thursday is Thanksgiving Day, the following passage seems an appropriate message for the week:

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

As of this week, St. Stephens has received 80 pledges totaling over \$189,000. This represents 71% of our 2008 goal. Thank you to all who have pledged. For those still contemplating your pledge, please consider doing so this week in thanksgiving to God for all with which he blessed us.

Raise your voices in
THANKSGIVING
to the LORD

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CIRCLE SELLING ORNAMENTS

Christmas Tree Ornaments For Sale-

Beautiful brass Christmas tree ornaments showing our church and Woodward Hall will be on sale after each service until Christmas. They are \$12.00 each and nicely gift boxed. The ornament will make a lovely addition to your Christmas tree, or a thoughtful gift for family, baptisms, confirmation, and weddings.



ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD

The ladies of the Guild will meet at 11:00 am on Thursday, December 6 to carpool to their annual Christmas Luncheon which will be held at the Sunset Restaurant in Glen Burnie. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jean Cox, president, 410-573-1638, ASAP. The next Business Meeting will be held on January 3 at 10:00 am, following Eucharist at 9:30 am.

LOUD THANKS FOR SILENT AUCTION

One of the main highlights of our annual Bazaar is our Silent Auction. We received many contributions from area businesses, but we also had a good showing of new and almost-new items donated by parishioners. A big THANK YOU goes out to those members who added to our list of goods and services. We couldn't have done it without you!

THE COLUMBARIA

The columbaria is now a permanent structure in St. Stephen's Cemetery. Double niches are available for \$1,000 plus \$90 for two bronze containers. Please contact Jean Sunday, 410-672-3680.

ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY

St. Stephen's Cemetery has plots available - single, \$600 and \$1,000 for a double plot when purchased at the same time. An additional one-time grounds fee of \$500 per plot is included at the time of purchase. Please contact Jean Sunday, 410-672-3680.

ST. STEPHEN'S ARCHIVES

St. Stephen's Archives, located in the church undercroft, is seeking articles of family history and news of the past relating to our historical church. Copies can be made and personal documents will be returned to the owners. Please contact Jean Sunday, 410-672-3680.

ELECTING A BISHOP

As many of you are aware, the Diocese of Maryland is in the process of finding a new bishop. The Diocese has provide a series of bulletin inserts that will help us to understand that process a little bit more and to look in to our own history as a church and a diocese as we look at some of the bishops that have played a significant role in the past.

These inserts can be found in our Sunday bulletins beginning this week, November 18. In case you will not be here, the inserts can be downloaded from the diocesan website, www.ang-md.org.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next issue of the Severn Light will be published in mid-January. If you would like to keep up with parish happenings until then, please tune into our website for the latest calendar information:

www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org

HOLIDAY PIES

'Tis the season for our Episcopal Teens (ET) to be selling their holiday pies. Those who have ordered Thanksgiving pies can pick them up on November 17 or 18. Those of you who missed out on this batch, will have another opportunity in December to order their Christmas ware, which will include a choice of cherry or pecan pie. Look for the order forms in December's Sunday bulletin or call Sheri LaFleur at 410-923-2658 before the next baking date of December 22.



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*

Advent Family Sunday "The Light of Christmas"

December 9

- ◆ Parish-wide program begins at 9 am in the Parish Hall
- ◆ Jesse Tree Project presented in Church at 10 am
- ◆ Coffee and Holiday snacks at 11:15 am
- ◆ African Team Ministries sales after services



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church *Severn Parish*

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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

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

Pre-Kindergarten through High School Classes

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SUNDAY SERVICES

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. Eucharist & Healing

THURSDAY

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer