



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday Morning Prayer 9 am

Tuesday Noonday Prayer 12 pm

Wednesday Eucharist and Healing 10 am

Thursday Evening Prayer 5 pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Severn Parish

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The Rev. Steven W. Hagerman, Rector

www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org



The Severn Light

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Crownsville, Maryland

A Time for Renewal: Alpha and Stewardship

Alpha means renewing our understanding and commitment to those matters of the faith that are of FIRST IMPORTANCE: Who is Jesus? What is the life of discipleship in following Jesus? Alpha is more than a program; it is a spirit of renewal. A renewal that is so vital to us as a parish that we are going to make the Alpha message as widely available as possible. The Thursday night program is the heart of the program (see the following article) and Sundays in September will also include Alpha keynote sermons. Our High School class will be staying with us in worship throughout September to be a part of that with their class resuming in October.

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Stewardship is a matter of first importance to us and we must lose no time in giving renewed attention to it. The Vestry did a

mid-year budget review in July and we are not where we need to be in our budget and will be making adjustments. There is an urgent message from the Vestry to the parish on page 3, and I commend it to your close attention.



As we approach the beginning of a new program year I am hopeful about the future of our parish. We will begin our new church school year in a greatly improved church school wing, refurbished largely by the work of many of our members. We showed in June that we can do a good Vacation Bible School and we look forward to continued creative programming in a Church School that has so much to offer and I believe will increasingly be discovered by the families in our area.

In an age of anxieties and divisions, we are stewards of a great treasure. United by the faith articulated in our Baptismal Covenant may we become the parish God is calling us to be.

Father Hagerman

Pew Bibles

We look forward to dedicating our new pew bibles at the services on August 20th. We are thankful for the strong response we received as many members gave bibles as memorials or thanksgiving offerings. The bibles will be especially helpful during sermon time when we look at the broader biblical context of our readings. They will also be valuable during times of private prayer, week day services and special programs.

We will also have the benefit of comparing the two leading translations of the Bible. The New Revised Standard Version, which is the translation of our Gospel book and our large print lectionary books, is the latest in a line of revisions of The King James Bible. (1989). The New International Version is a clear and popular translation completed in 1984 and is the translation used in our pew bibles. The bulletin will list the page number in our pew bibles for the readings for those who wish to follow directly in the Bible and view this translation.

One of the best modern resources for biblical understanding, THE NEW INTERPRETERS BIBLE, chose the New Revised Standard Version and the New International Version printed side by side as the best texts for biblical interpretation for the 21st century. This helpful resource is available in our church library in Wood-

ward Hall for all students and teachers of the bible in our parish. (We do ask that it be used only on site so it remains available for everyone.)

A deeper engagement of God's Word in Scripture will continue to be a central part of our spiritual growth as a parish.

An Eventful Vacation

July was a full month as my family and I were able to enjoy some welcome vacation time. I did some traveling but we still find this is an area with many enjoyable things to do for all of us.

I welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with my family in Chicago and to spend a week serving as the chaplain at one of the Middle School camps at Claggett. *Aslan's Adventure* was a great theme and I was glad to be an important part of it.

I also had the chance to visit some churches that are very creative. Cedar Creek Community Church is a leader in what is called the "emergent church movement" and The Church at the Mall at our own Annapolis Mall offers a unique model in bringing the church to today's society.

Finding creative ways to bring the Gospel to today's world is our call even while remaining grounded in a sound biblical faith and valued sacramental traditions.

Father Hagerman

DATES TO LOOK FOR- - - EVENTS TO REMEMBER

September



3-Sunday-Baptisms at 10 am Service

4-Monday-Office Closed (Labor Day)



6-Wednesday-My Brother's Keeper at 10:30 am (Wednesdays)

6-Wednesday-Senior Choir Rehearsals begin at 7:30 pm (Wednesdays)

7-Thursday-Alpha Course begins at 6:30 pm (Thursdays)

9-Saturday-Annual Altar Guild Meeting at 9 am

10-Sunday-Church School Open House at 9:30 am; Classes at 10 am



10-Sunday-Joint Guild-Circle Meeting at 11:30 am

17-Sunday-Contemporary Music Group at 9:10 am



17-Sunday-EDGE meets at 5 pm (1st & 3rd Sunday meetings)

18-Monday-Vestry Meeting at 7 pm (3rd Monday)

24-Sunday-Minstries Fair after both services

October

1-Family Sunday-Blessing of Animals at 4 pm, St. Francis Garden



2-Monday-Women of the Bible series (1st & 3rd Mondays, time TBA)

5-Thursday-Guild Eucharist at 9:30 am; Meeting at 10 am

8-Sunday-Youth Advisory Council at 9:30 am



14-Saturday-Fall Bazaar with Silent Auction, 10 am-3 pm

November

1-Wednesday-All Saints Day-All Souls Service at 7:30 pm



4-Saturday-Fall Dinner, 3-7 pm

NEWS SHORTS

Change in Cemetery Fees

The Vestry of Severn Parish approved the increase of fees to purchase a cemetery grave plot. **Effective September 1, 2006**, one grave plot (now \$600) will be \$750; two grave plots purchased at the same time (now \$1,000) will be \$1,300. A one-time grounds-care fee of \$500 per grave remains. These fees apply to baptized communicants of St. Stephen's. Additional information, please contact Jean Sunday.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will gather for their annual Meeting on Saturday, **September 9** at 9am.

Flowers

If you would like to give flowers in honor of a birth or birthday, a wedding or an anniversary, as a memorial or any other important event in your life, please contact Gail Brooks.

♪ Senior Choir ♪

Rehearsals for Senior Choir resume on Wednesday, **September 6** at 7:30 pm. We would love to have you join us in this ministry. Contact Don Chandler, Organist/Choirmaster if you have any questions.

≡Contemporary Music Group≡

We will have our first gathering of the new contemporary music group as previously announced, on Sunday, **September 17** from 9:10-9:50 am in the Parish Hall. Singers of all ages are welcome including children from the Junior Choir. We would especially like to have a bass guitar player to add to our accompaniment. In our first meeting we will learn a song to sing for our October family service and possibly begin looking at some other music. This will be an intergenerational music program much like our VBS closing program.
~Father Hagerman

My Brother's Keeper

My Brother's Keeper commences their program year on Wednesday, **September 6**. The ladies in this group meet every Wednesday at 10:30 am to make quilted sleeping bags for the homeless. You are welcome to join them in this important outreach.

Message to Parish Members of St. Stephen's Church Mid-Year Budget Update

Last December the Vestry approved a 2006 budget that projected a \$9,000 surplus. The budget included a projection of income totaling \$306,300 and total expenses of \$297,091.

At present, the Vestry is projecting expenses for the year totaling \$293,193 – approximately \$4,000 less than the budget. Even with this reduced spending level, the Vestry has been able to address several significant buildings & facilities issues over the past 6 months. Examples include: refinished the doors to Parish Hall and Church, replaced Parish Hall light fixtures, upgraded electrical connections in Woodward Hall, and painted and carpeted the Church School area of Parish Hall. Additional work is underway to repair the plaster and paint Woodward Hall, repair the brick entryway of Woodward Hall and handicap ramp into the Church, spot repairs to the Church roof, and to install two new security lights at the back of the Church.

The Vestry determined these repairs to be appropriate acts of stewardship necessary to properly maintain our Church facilities.

Unfortunately, income from pledges and plate has not kept pace with the budget projections. In February, the Senior Warden alerted the Parish to the potential for an income shortfall; in response, 29 families either increased their pledge or have added to their weekly offering. The Vestry is grateful for the additional sacrifices that have been made. Regrettably, this prayerful giving has not been enough. Through the end of June, income is projected to total \$270,462 for the year that ends in December - \$35,000 less than originally projected and \$23,000 less than what is needed to meet all projected obligations.

As a result, the Vestry has proposed a series of reductions that will further reduce expenses by \$5,300. If implemented, these reductions will impact several important mission areas such as Christian education, stewardship, evangelism and outreach and will constrain the Vestry's ability to address any property maintenance related issues. To be clear, the Parish is already operating on a minimal budget, and several mission areas have been working with less funding than in previous years. Further reductions, such as those the Vestry is now considering, will begin to impact the basic operations of the Parish. The problem we as a Parish face is not excess spending – rather, St. Stephen's does

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Vacation Bible School



I am so happy to use this larger mailing to extend my THANKS to the Parish Family of St. Stephen's for our recent VBS. It was a wonderful success and the generous support of the Christian Education budget allowed us the opportunity to provide a first-class program. The volunteers were extremely generous with their talent and time and the week would not have been possible without them. The *Linus* pillow project was deeply appreciated by the staff of Sarah's House. My thanks, again, to Joan Langenfeld for her help with this important outreach project.

Before you know it, planning will begin for VBS 2007!

Peace~Berney Jaroch-Hagerman

United Way Workplace Giving

Episcopal Community Services of Maryland (ECSM) is a non-profit organization with a 78-year history in Baltimore City. Our mission is to provide prevention and intervention services for men, women, and children whose lives, communities, and hopes for the future have been diminished by extreme poverty, drug abuse, and homelessness.

ECSM provides four community programs: **The Ark** serves homeless families and families in recovery in Baltimore City by providing quality services for pre-school children. **The Club at Collington Square** provides after-school and summer programs to middle school age youths living in the East Baltimore neighborhood. **The Jericho Program** works with men who were incarcerated to help them re-enter society and gain employment. **The Adoption Search & Reunion Program** seeks to reunite birth mothers and children for medical and personal reasons.

As we enter the **United Way Workplace Giving Campaign** season, please remember to designate Episcopal Community Services of Maryland as your choice charity.

- **The Maryland Charity Campaign designation is 0588.**
- **The Combined Charity Campaign designation is 4074.**
- **If you work for a private corporation, please designate "Episcopal Community Services of Maryland."**

For more information, contact ECSM at 410-467-1264.

Thank you for your support.



OUR BASKETS WERE A HIT! TIME TO DO IT AGAIN



The ENTIRE Parish Family of St. Stephen's is invited to participate in a fundraising project that will be part of the Fall Holiday Bazaar to be held on October 14.

The idea behind this project is that a theme is chosen for a "basket" and then items purchased to fill the "basket" that are appropriate to the theme. If you have a real basket to place the items in, GREAT. But, you can get creative and use another type of container.

Here is an example: A large plastic bowl as the container, filled with microwave popcorn packets, a Blockbuster gift card, juice packs, and candy you would find at a movie theatre, napkins, anything else you can think of that would make for a fun *Family Movie Night*. Most of these items can be gotten at any dollar store or discount department store, such as Target or K-Mart.



★★USE YOUR IMAGINATIONS!!★★

From September through the second week of October you can bring in your "basket" and it will be finished with shredded fluff, shrink wrapping, a bow, and tags. The "baskets" will be priced for sale at the Bazaar.

When you bring in your "basket" just add a note with your name and how much you spent, so we will have an idea of what price to place upon it.

There is a list on the entrance table of the Parish Hall with suggested themes for gift "baskets." Of course, if you come up with your own creative idea, all the better! There are web sites and books at the library that will give you no end of ideas.

THE WONDERFUL PART OF THIS PROJECT IS THAT IT CAN BE DONE AS A FAMILY, COUPLE, OR INDIVIDUAL DONATION.

If you have any questions, direct them to *Berney Jaroch-Hagerman*.

THANKS!

WELCOME TO THE 2006-2007 CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR!! CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 10:00 A.M.



Open House for Church School will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 10th. Registration papers are on the table in the entrance to the Parish Hall. We are asking that EVERY child be registered for every class in order to have updated information and enrollment files.

The Church School staff is EXTREMELY proud to provide instruction in the updated facilities of the Parish Hall. Combined with the renovations to Woodward Hall and the downstairs classroom in Church, the overall presentation of our teaching facilities is wonderfully improved. Thank you, Parish Leadership and volunteers for these initiatives.

Over the coming year, the teaching staff for the Preschool through Fifth Grade classes will coordinate their curriculum choice and use a new offering from the Episcopal Church. It is titled, "All Things New" and can be reviewed at the Publisher's website: www.morehousepublishing.com. We all feel that it will be a fresh, user-friendly approach that is thoroughly scriptural and liturgical.

The Middle School will again be using the FaithWeaver curriculum for the basis of their Church School lessons. FaithWeaver incorporates Bible exploration with real life application. The children discover how the lessons they learn in the Bible affect their daily lives. It is this connection that is important for Middle Schoolers as they grow in their faith.

The High School class will continue with the Synago program which imparts confidence in talking about their faith as the students take turns in leading their study group.

We are truly looking forward to the coming year and the opportunities to further engage the entire Parish Family in Church School activities. We encourage input and suggestions and welcome all individual involvement and support.

As always, keep us in your prayers.

PEACE ~ On behalf of the Church School Staff

Berney Jaroch-Hagerman
Church School Superintendent

On the **E.D.G.E.**
EVERY DAY GOD EXPECTS

E.D.G.E. is gearing up for a new year. We look forward to having old friends return and some new friends join us. Justin LaFleur and Sean McCardell-Nichols have moved up to high school and their contributions to **E.D.G.E.** will be missed. But we eagerly await getting to know Katie, Hannah, Ryan, Anna, Rebecca, and Steven. Of course we would also love to have some of the older kids who have yet to give us a try.... like Tina and Kaili....check us out!!! As always – friends (from any community, church, school etc.) are welcome!

With that goal in mind – All Middle School kids and their friends are invited to join **E.D.G.E.** for a “Rush party” on Sunday, September 17 at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. We’ll have some music, food and games. We may even have some prizes to offer the kids that bring a friend or someone giving it a try for the first time...

Remember – we meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays (starting Sept 17th) of the month at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. All 6, 7 & 8th grade kids are welcome. And we mean *all* kids – bring friends!

Lisa Eliot,
E.D.G.E. Advisor

Youth Advisory Council

We are blessed with good youth ministers with dedicated leadership at St. Stephen’s. As rector I like to have the opportunity to hear directly from our young people to better understand how our parish ministry can best serve and support them in their own gifts for ministry. To this end I am starting a youth advisory council to meet with me periodically. The first meeting will be Sunday, **October 8th** from 9:10-9:50 am in Woodward Hall. I want to make this an open invitation to any of our Middle School and High School members who would like to participate.

Father Hagerman

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH OUR PROPERTY!

A lot has been going on outside and inside at St. Stephen’s.

We have placed a new de-humidifier in the Archives room with Jean Sunday and our records.

The Vestry accepted the following bids for work:

- ◆ Baumgardner Construction for repair of the bricks at the front of Woodward Hall and the ramp in front of the church.
- ◆ The caulking has been completed at the Rectory and the cable wires re-attached to the building.
- ◆ The church roof has been cleared of debris which caused the leak in the narthex wall, and the new roofing has been put on the walkway from the Church to Woodward Hall.
- ◆ Two new security lights have been placed at the back of the church so that people can now safely see the sidewalk at night.
- ◆ August 28 the plasterer, C. J. Cover, will begin the repair job in Woodward Hall. This will be followed by the Dakes Company painting the main room of Woodward Hall as well as the entry columns, etc.

We are still in the “**fact finding**” phase of determining the cost to repair and replace the stained glass windows of the church. At present, we have dry rot on many of the framing supports and over 12 cracked panes. I will be meeting with the entire parish before any of the work is started. Some have already indicated that they would like to dedicate a window.

Painting needs to be done in the undercroft of the church, as well as the metal railing for the stairway in the church. Volunteers please contact Lucile.

August 19 is the moving day for the furniture to be taken from Woodward Hall to the Parish Hall. We need at least 10 men and teens to help with this project. We will meet at 9 AM to complete the task. Please sign up to help. ☺

*A Big **THANK YOU** to all of you who step forward to help with tasks at St. Stephen’s*

Lucile Seborg, Jr. Warden

THE *Alpha* COURSE

A time for renewal or discovery ...
an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, non-threatening atmosphere.



THURSDAYS from **6:30-9:15 pm** in the Parish Hall

TOPICS

- September 7 *Christianity: boring, untrue, and irrelevant?*
- September 14 *Who is Jesus?*
- September 21 *Why did Jesus Die?*
- September 28 *How can I be sure of my faith?*
- October 5 *Why and how should I read the Bible?*
- October 12 *Why and how do I pray?*
- October 19 *How does God guide us?*
- October 26 *How can I resist evil?*
- November 2 *Why and how should I tell others?*
- November 9 *Does God heal today?*
- November 16 *What about the Church?*

EVENING SCHEDULE

- 6:00 p.m. Leaders and helpers arrive
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:10 p.m. Welcome and Worship
- 7:30 p.m. Taped talk by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel-Holy Trinity Brompton Church, London
- 8:15 p.m. Coffee break
- 8:30 p.m. Small groups which end by 9:15 p.m.

Included in the Alpha Course is a week-end retreat which covers the topics:

- ◆ Who is the Holy Spirit?
- ◆ What does the Holy Spirit do?
- ◆ How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- ◆ How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Retreat to be held at St. Stephen's on Friday evening, Dec. 1 at 7 pm & Saturday, Dec. 2 at 9 am

**YOU CAN REGISTER IN THE CHURCH OFFICE TODAY
Or online at: www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org/alpharegister.html**

As our ET year ending with our Marquee Mission to the Appalachian Mountains comes to a close, we thank all the folks who contributed to our mission in 05 and 06. The list of individuals is too extensive to recognize but on behalf of ET, I would like to extend a special thanks to: The Parish Guild, The Circle and the Vestry for their monetary support of the ASP outreach mission. Without you this annual event would not be possible.

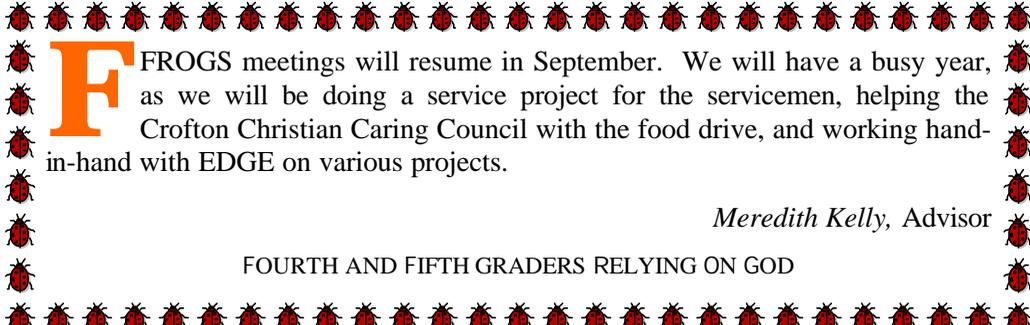


Our joint mission with "My Brother's Keeper" and the "Grace of God Ministry" is facing new challenges. I will meet with Allen Tate and come up with a strategy to continue our homeless mission to Baltimore after Allen's departure in September. I will be seeking individuals who would like to help manage this effort. Please contact me for further information.

To the parents of ET without whom all the fund raisers would not have been possible, I thank you. For those folks who may not know I had to relinquish a good portion of my ET duties due to a heavy personal work load. Without the wonderful parents of ET, I truly believe our ASP goal would not have been met.

Going forward into the Fall, ET will hold an after ASP picnic and we will begin again. We look forward to the challenges that will be set before us. Our motto for the 06/07 season is "Win for Christ". In order to win you have to be in the game and we are committed to playing. We know that we will make errors and we will lose sometimes, but we will never stop playing. We will always work to "Win for Christ".

IHL, *Sheri LaFleur*
St. Stephen's Youth Advisor



FROGS meetings will resume in September. We will have a busy year, as we will be doing a service project for the servicemen, helping the Crofton Christian Caring Council with the food drive, and working hand-in-hand with EDGE on various projects.

Meredith Kelly, Advisor

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS RELYING ON GOD

What's in store for the Guild

The Guild and the Circle have agreed to have joint meetings every other month. The first of these for the 2005-06 program year will take place on Sunday, **September 10**, right after the 10 am service. Their special guest will be the recipient of the Anna Sears Culinary Scholarship.

October's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 5** beginning with Eucharist at 9:30 am with a meeting and refreshments to follow. After business is discussed, the remainder of the morning will be focused on examining the way various charitable groups allocate donations. Members are asked to bring in names and addresses of organizations who have solicited donations from them.

In November, another joint meeting with the Circle is on the calendar for Sunday, **November 12**, again after the 10 am service.

The annual Christmas luncheon will be on fare at the Sunset Restaurant in Glen Burnie on Thursday, **December 7** at 11:30 am.

The Women of the Bible

group will resume study on Monday October 2nd at 1:00 pm. Our first topic will be a reading and discussion on the Old Testament character Rebekah, pages 47 -54 in the Women of the Bible Devotional. If you are interested in taking part in this study, please contact Monica Regan or Jean Cox through the church office.

The *Alpha* Hospitality Committee

invites volunteers to join us in preparing meals for our eleven Alpha meetings. Cook an entree, set up tables, make a dessert, clean up afterwards, bring a dish or come and help for one session and enjoy the rest of the presentations at your leisure.

Contact Monica Regan or Carol McNemar .



Banner Project



Plans are underway to construct a large banner of 24 symbol squares entitled, "The Cloud of Witnesses." Each square represents an Old Testament "witness" and will be the perfect complement to our Alpha Course. The hope is to have it completed by Annual Meeting.

Donations of material and trim remnants will be **GLADLY ACCEPTED**, even if we cannot guarantee every piece will be used. There is a visual of a few of the squares, if you are interested in seeing where we are heading. Speak with Berney Jaroch-Hagerman if you would like to see this and thanks for any help you can give. (Berney will be collecting the donated materials.)

Message to Parish Members Continued from page 3

not have sufficient income to operate the parish and accompanying facilities.

If income does not increase by the end of September, the Vestry may need to make additional reductions or will be forced to draw down on the Parish's savings account to meet all obligations for the year. These are short-term measures that cannot be sustained into next year.

Over the next six months, St. Stephen's - the Vestry, ministry leaders and the membership as a whole – needs to reflect prayerfully on how important it is to God and our community to sustain ourselves as a viable Parish. While efforts are underway to invite new members to join us, the reality is that the fiscal situation facing us now and for the foreseeable future has to be addressed by the current Parish membership – and not by a handful of families, but rather by the Parish as a whole. The Vestry is appealing to each parish family to consider what additional sacrifice you can make in honor and praise to God.

Mike Duffy
Stewardship Chairman