



The Severn Light

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

Advent 2017

Contents

A Word from Father Vic
Page 1

Thanks
Page 2

Sunday School
Page 2

Messiah Sing Along
Page 3

Holiday Bazaar
Page 4

Poinsettia Order
Page 4

Upcoming
Page 5

Christmas Services
Page 6

*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:

st_stephens@verizon.net

A WORD FROM FATHER VIC ADVENT NEWSLETTER



As soon as the leftovers from Thanksgiving are stored in the refrigerator, it seems that the world jumps straight to Christmas: holiday programming on the television, Christmas music playing on the radio, and stores and malls filled with all of the trappings of Christmas. And in the rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that in this sacred time of year, the church invites us to take time to look inwardly; to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah.

The season of Advent helps us focus on what is truly important about Christmas: the birth of the Messiah in the manger. In the midst of all of the busyness of the season, Advent calls us to slow down, to take time for ourselves and family; to find ways to reach out and help our neighbors in need, and above all to be open to God who comes to us in so many unexpected ways.



Even with a compacted Advent season this year, I really do love these four weeks. With its special music and our homes and church becoming greener by the week as we add holly, candles, lights, trees, and other decorations. And as the weather continues to get colder and colder, and the darkness of night happens earlier and earlier, Advent reminds us that Christ is that light which breaks forth like the dawn.

There are many opportunities to do this at St. Stephen's this Advent. Take a break from the busyness of the season on December 10th at 3:30 pm and listen to the Christmas portion of **Handel's "Messiah"** being performed, or better yet bring your music and join in on the holiday fun. Stop by the rectory on December 16th from 3-5 pm for light refreshments and an **Advent open house**. Remember all of the blessings that we have this Advent season, and be a blessing to others by being a part of our **Holiday Sharing Program**. Grab a card from the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and help provide food and gifts to families in our area this Holiday season.

Advent is our opportunity – a gift really- to re-orient ourselves to receive the gift of Immanuel – God with us. May we use it to take the chance to slow down, look for new beginnings, as we wait with hopeful expectations.

It is a blessing to be with you all,

A SEASON OF THANKS

As I was thinking about what to write for this newsletter, at first I told Irene I didn't have anything to say. But this morning I changed my mind and thought maybe I did have something to say. I think we are very lucky at St. Stephen's to have a wonderful priest-in-charge who truly cares about our parish not only in what he does *for* us but what he does *with* us. Father Hailey can always be counted on to help where ever there is a need. Thank you, Father Hailey.

The members of St. Stephen's are very caring and willing to help each other. If you need help, just ask and you will receive it. There are times you don't even need to ask; someone sees you need help and they are there. The Vestry is a good example of the love and caring that is in this church. Most are not only vestry members but are part of other activities in the church such as: Property Committee, Finance Committee, By-law Review Committee, Choir, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Ladies Guild, Lectors, Tellers, Ushers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers—members of all of these require extra meetings, then the extra time to do the good work these committees do.

I would like to thank a some of these members that helped make our parish shine for the Diocesan Fresh Start Meeting held here last month - David Lockard and David Langdon for working so hard to clear the hillside embankment (it was a very hot day!) - great job guys! David Langdon painted the door in the undercroft. Carol McNemar, Melissa Bednarik, Roberta Machande, and I worked in the undercroft a few days cleaning and polishing so it would be nice for one of the break out group meetings. Carol, Melissa and I washed the windows, doors and woodwork in the parish hall and we had to get David Lockard to come to our rescue when we couldn't get one of the windows back up--thanks David, you always come to the rescue.



I would like to thank all the members of St. Stephen's for the help and support they give to the fund raisers put on by the Ladies Guild, the ASP team, and any time we need help. Without your help we would not be able to do all the wonderful things St. Stephen's does for others in need.

Marsha Thompson, Senior Warden

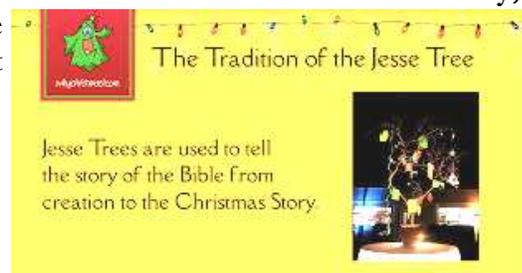
HELLO Sunday School Families,



The first half of the Sunday School year has been wonderful! We are now getting ready for the season of Advent. **Sunday, December 3rd** is the first Sunday in Advent and the nursery, preschool and kindergarten classes will be placing the first ornaments on the Jesse tree. Each class will place ornaments on the tree every week including Sunday, December 24th prior to the Christmas pageant.

Speaking of the Christmas pageant, we need ALL students to participate. The younger children will be lambs and angels, older children will be shepherds. We need Mary, Joseph, the Wiseman, and narrators. Please do not think you are too old for this pageant, we need everyone. We will have one rehearsal **Saturday, December 23rd** (with a pizza lunch.) A rehearsal time will be announced shortly. Thank you for a great start to the year. The next half of the year is looking just as great.

Sincerely,
Meredith Devereaux and Carolyn Younkin
Sunday School Directors



Come and Sing



Sunday, December 10

3:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is hosting a

“Messiah Sing-Along”

(Christmas portion)

All are welcome to enjoy this beautiful music featuring a string quartet and to join in singing the choruses.

Singers are encouraged to bring a musical score although a limited number will be available for sale.

A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the
Crofton Christian Caring Council.

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Holiday Bazaar & Silent Auction

Saturday, December 9, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CRAFTS & HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS

VENDOR TABLES

SPORTS FUN RAFFLE

Ravens and/or Redskins?

Choose your favorite team-we have them both!

Football Game Tickets and more

LUNCH

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

SILENT AUCTION (BIDDING STOPS AT 3 PM)

Gift from Washington Nationals, Toby's Dinner Theater, Sam's Club, Buddy's Crabs & Ribs, Maryland Hall of the Creative Arts, Maggiano's, Escape Massage, a Baby Lock Sewing Machine, Autographed hockey puck from the Capitals, and much more....



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

_____plants @ \$9.00 each

In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:



Last day for ordering is Sunday, **December 17**

UPCOMING...

VESTRY

In February 2018, St. Stephen's-Severn Parish will be electing four new people to the Vestry. Please look at your calendar and your heart and ask yourself if serving the church as a Vestry member for the next three years could be a way to give back to St. Stephen's. The Nominating Committee consists of outgoing members: Carole Day, David Lockard, David Langdon, and Roberta Machande. Feel free to ask them any questions or concerns you may have. Don't be afraid to step up.

GUEST SPEAKER

On Sunday, December 17, we welcome *Kate Riley*, the Diocesan Youth Missioner, who will be preaching at both services and sharing about her work with the young people of our diocese.

YOUTH GATHERING

Efforts are being made to gather the youth of the Episcopal churches in Anne Arundel County to share in fellowship, fun, and ideas. St. Stephen's is hosting the next event on **Friday, January 18, 2018** at 6:30 p.m. We are asking the ASP team to come and share their experiences with our guests and hopefully, they will in turn tell us of their outreach experiences.

HOLIDAY SHARING

This year we are supporting 9 families and 3 seniors for the Holiday Sharing program. If you have not taken a food or gift tag from the bulletin board in the Parish Hall, please do so. Gifts should be wrapped and tagged with the child's name. All gifts and food need to be at the church **NO LATER THAN** the 10:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, December 17**. We will be delivering the food and gifts on **THAT DAY**. Driver sign up will be posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.



Thank you to everyone who donated food, the Middle and High Schoolers who sorted and help

load, and the drivers who delivered food - your support allowed 12 families to have a better Thanksgiving!

STEWARDSHIP

As we begin the season of Advent it is a good time to reflect on giving. Our stewardship campaign theme this year was *Journey to Generosity*. Our spiritual journey has many parts and one of the most important is stewardship. Stewardship is about sharing our gifts. Our gifts that God has entrusted us with and expects us to share with the world. If we are to grow spiritually, we must share these gifts. That is our journey to generosity. As we reflect on the gift that God has given to us in His Son, let us also consider where we are on our journey to generosity.

Sue Hoge

Stewardship Chair

CROFTON CHRISTIAN CARING COUNCIL

The CCCC Baby Pantry is having a SOCK DRIVE from now until the end of the year. They are collecting new socks for babies, toddlers, and kids. Besides handing out formula, diapers, and wipes, the Pantry coordinators, Vicky and Art McQuade of Community United Methodist Church, have expanded the type of items given out to include kids' pajamas, books, toothbrushes, juice, and of course—socks. If you would like to contribute, just put them in the CCCC bin in the church narthex.



WANTED: LECTORS AND LEMS

St. Stephen's is in need of more Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. If you feel you may be interested in joining either one of these ministries, please feel free to talk with Father Hailey or Clare Banwart.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HANDED IN
THEIR 2018 PLEDGE,



You may pick up your offering envelopes from the narthex beginning this Sunday, December 3.

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 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.ststephens-severn.ang-md.org

The Rev. Victor Hailey, *Priest-in-Charge*



HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m.-Family Eucharist with Pageant

8:30 p.m. - Carol Sing with the Choir

9:00 p.m.-Christmas Eucharist

Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m.-Christmas Eucharist

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m.-Lessons & Carols with Eucharist