

AT HISTORIC ST. MATHEW'S, STEVENSVILLE

Christmas Fest at 'one of the treasures of our area'

A traditional service of Christmas Lessons and Carols will be held at historic St. Matthew's Church, Stevensville, on Sunday, December 3, at 2 p.m.

"For the first time in many years, there will be a Christmas service at one of the treasures of our area," reported Rachel Warriner Bartron, senior warden of St. Paul's Church, Montrose, which is yoked with St. Matthew's. "The Church was founded in 1799, and the current sanctuary was erected in 1820. It is a joy to celebrate Christmas in this historic church and welcome people from the area to join," added Bartron.

A traditional, yet informal, service is planned. Included will be lessons drawn from the scripture, favorite Christmas carols and hymns, musical instruments, and the Church School Choir of St. Paul's Church. Mary Ann DeWitt will be the organist and accompanist.

The current building still stands as it was built in 1820. The only "modernization" has been the conversion of the whale-oil lamps to kerosene. The original large pot-bellied stove still stands



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Stevensville

in the rear of the church, but has been disconnected for safety reasons.

The stones at the entrance are Pennsylvania Bluestone; they were purchased as a single flagstone, but had to be cut for transportation from the quarry. A balcony runs along the side and rear walls. The sanctuary will be decorated with greens and wreaths, as it would have been throughout the 1800's.

The public is welcome to join in the festive event.