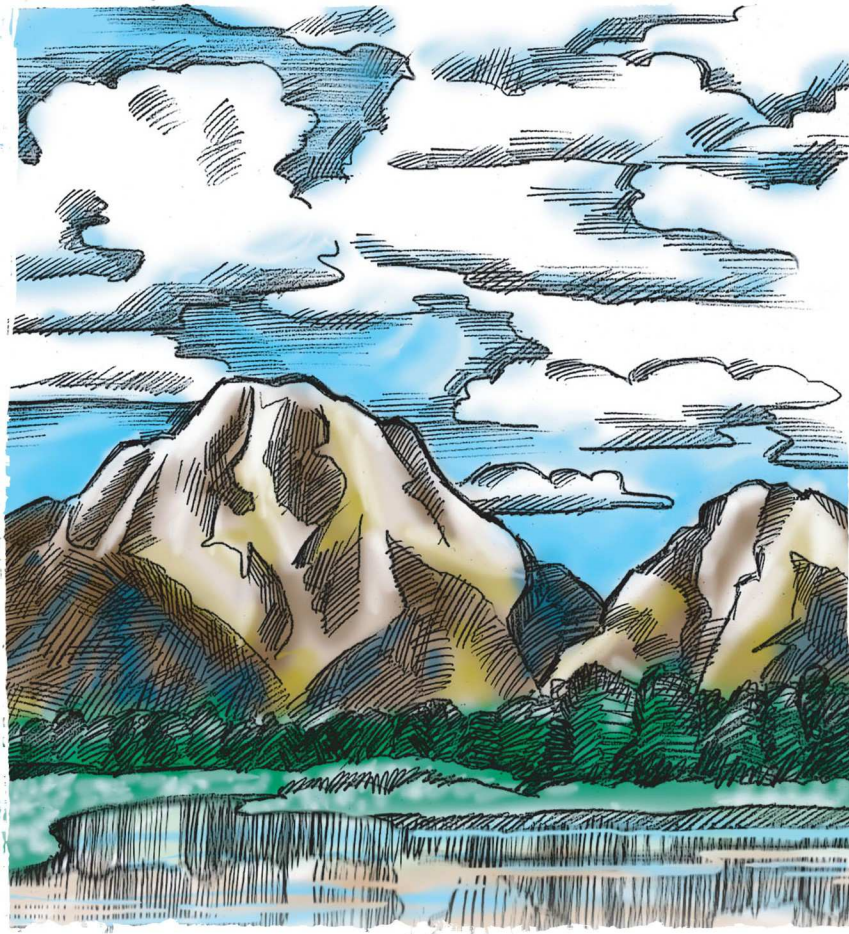




**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Cross Section

*All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27*



Those who trust in the LORD are  
like Mount Zion, which cannot  
be moved, but abides forever.

Psalm 125:1, ESV





## CROSS SECTION

### Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
P.O. Box 275  
Stafford, VA 22555

#### Contact us:

(540) 659-4007  
office@aquiachurch.org  
www.aquiachurch.org

**Office hours:**  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Monday– Friday,  
except Tuesdays (closed)

*Rector*

**The Rev. Jay Morris**

*Assistant Rector*

**The Rev. James Rickenbaker**

*Treasurer*

**Chris Arey**

*Music Director*

**Trystan Bennett**

*Dir. Christian Education*

**Kristen Morgan**

*Parish Administrator*

**Dennise LaBarre**

*Executive Assistant*

**Sue Selz**

*Nursery Supervisor*

**Christine Hammer**

*Nursery Assistant*

**Dawna Spaulding**

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Change in Worship Schedule

Starting on Aug. 5, Aquia Church will follow a new schedule for weekly worship:

<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Christian Formation for All Ages</b> (with Sunday School resuming on Sept. 9)
<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist with Music</b>
<b>5 p.m.</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b> (usually Holy Eucharist)

The clergy and the vestry unanimously endorsed this new schedule after receiving substantial feedback during June and July through 89 written surveys, plus several open forums and other communication.

**The 7:30 a.m. worship service will remain largely unchanged.** and will be followed by the usual breakfast fellowship. Those who offer to cook and serve this breakfast will *not* be expected to provide food for people other than those attending the 7:30 a.m. service. All breakfast participants are welcomed to remain in the great hall afterward for Morning Call, for the sake of their spiritual growth.

**9 a.m. will be the standard time for Christian formation classes.** Morning Call will begin at 9 a.m. Those who attend Morning Call and want to sign up to bring refreshments for fellowship will provide them at tables on the historic church end of the great hall, where the Morning Call conversation will take place. Also starting at 9 a.m., Sunday school will be available throughout the school year on the lower level of the new building.

**The new 10 a.m. Eucharist will feature music** from our adult choir most Sundays during the program year and occasionally from our Aquia Choristers choir for children. The 10 a.m. Eucharist will follow Rite Two more often than not, with Rite One included during some of the year—though *not* on an every-other-week rotation that would frustrate one's ability to get settled comfortably into a familiar pattern.

**Our Noah's Ark nursery staff will provide nursery care for children ages 3 and under during the 10 a.m. worship service** for sure, and likely also during

the 9 a.m. hour for Christian formation as needed.

**The evening worship service will begin at 5 p.m., one hour earlier than its current time** of 6 p.m. We are working toward offering choral evensong—the liturgy for Evening Prayer, with music included—more frequently than we currently do. The evening Eucharist, when it is offered, will continue to use both Rite One and Rite Two as appropriate.

There will remain a few days—most prominently: Easter Sunday—when we shall likely need to adjust this new schedule, with our parishioners and visitors being given ample notice in advance. But one benefit of this new schedule is a reduction in the need for such adjustments.

We hope that this new schedule will still offer members and visitors several engaging options for weekly worship, will encourage more interaction on Sundays among our parishioners (who are currently scattered across four worship services), and will promote greater attendance at all of our Sunday gatherings. Perhaps above all, we hope that this new schedule will increase our sense of togetherness and community by drawing us closer together in unity through worship, formation, and fellowship for serving here and hereafter in the kingdom of God.

While this new schedule undoubtedly will not suit everyone's personal preferences, we genuinely believe that it will help address a number of concerns and create some new opportunities for everyone. Please bear the transition as graciously as you can, trusting that it may enhance our Christian life together in this parish.

*Jay Morris*



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### The Joy of New Life

Dear Family in Christ,  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank our God for you in the wonderful support that you have offered to Rachel and me throughout my tenure at Aquia. It has been and will continue to be a gracious gift to us. As I write this, our little one has not yet been born. But, she has already been showered with love and care from folks at Aquia. Raising our girl in the church is a priority for us. Having places like Aquia and Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill to call a church home is of great comfort in such an important, Christian duty. As we await the arrival of our baby girl, I wanted to share with you a couple of meditations that have occurred to me in these final days of Rachel's pregnancy.

To invert a phrase from the Burial of the Dead in the Book of Common Prayer (page 484): in the midst of death, we are alive. This statement may seem strange offhand, but let me explain. Whenever Rachel and I watch the D.C. news, without fail, there is some kind of murder or other death on which they report. It is easy to get bogged down in human depravity. It is easy to fall prey to despair because of what we see happening in the world today. This response, however, is neither helpful nor Christian. St. Peter has something to say about this: "[B]ut in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15a). Our vocation as Christians is one of hope. This doesn't mean that we need to whitewash the problems of the world. It does mean, however that we cannot despair of sharing the Good News of God in Christ to that world. Our task is to live, breath, and speak light to the world: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). We are alive for the purpose of proclaiming with every breath the grace of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord. The joy of that truth transcends the sadness and pain of the day to day.

As we await our daughter's birth, we prepare to celebrate a new beginning. This new beginning is immanent. We have a new life that we have been given, i.e. taking care of our child. This will mean sacrifice on our part, joys both expected and unexpected, and even some sorrows. We won't be able to live exactly how we did before. Neither will we be able to make spur of the moment spontaneous decisions to travel, etc. We get to look forward to her first steps, her first word, her first day of school, meeting her friends, watching her graduate from high school and (God willing) college, walking with her down the aisle, and meeting grandchildren. We will also be there for the heartbreaks, the loss, and the sad times. We are tasked with being icons of God for her through all of this. That life translates to the Christian life rather easily. We have been given a new life in Christ through the blood of his cross and through his resurrection from the dead. We are different people than we were before the waters of baptism. We have been set on a different trajectory from the one on which we were in that life before. We have new responsibilities, new joys, and new sorrows. We have turned away from our former life, the one ruled by sin and death. We have turned to Christ. That means we have sacrifices that have to be made, things that we must work not to do again, i.e. sin. Through all of that, we are to be icons of God for the world, exhibiting the One in whose image we were made.

As we await this wonderful, joy-filled birth of our daughter, I hope that we all can ponder these things in our hearts, like the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*In Christ+,  
Fr. James*

*The Aquia Church family welcomes Eleanor Frances Rickenbaker, who was born on July 20 at 1:14 a.m., weighing 6 lbs., 14 oz., and measuring 20 1/2" long.*



### AQUIA CHURCH VESTRY

**Dickie Boes**

*Finance Committee Chairperson*

**Curt Bradford**

**Bob Brandon**

*Junior Warden*

*Building & Grounds*

*Committee Chairperson*

**Jackie Chichester**

**Jean Golas**

*Administration*

*Committee Chairperson*

**Joseph Howard**

*Senior Warden*

**Doug McGinty**

*Register*

**Mary Nixon**

**Gary Perkins**

**Ethan Shoen**

*Youth Representative*

**John Sondermann**

*Assistant Register*

**Kathy Trevarthen**

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## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

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It was a beautiful sight to behold. I was fortunate enough to arrive at church on July 15 in time to see the youth members of our parish family load up with the adult leaders and to begin their journey before 7:30 a.m. The enthusiasm and excitement were evident in everyone's face as they departed in the van. Thank you to the parents of these youth members for allowing them to experience this mission trip. They have worked hard to get ready for this expedition, and we should be proud of their efforts. Thank you to our adult leaders, Mary Nixon and Tim Spaulding, for taking on this responsibility.

By the time this is published, the mission trip will have ended and everyone will be home safely. We also will have heard or soon will hear the youth members report on their personal experiences on the mission trip. It is refreshing and inspiring to hear about their trip: what they did; what they accomplished; and the adventure of working with other Christian youth from all over our country. Most importantly, it is impressive to hear about what they learned about themselves, and how their spiritual faith grew as a result of this service to others, less fortunate than them. Please express your appreciation to the youth and adults who participated in this mission trip, representing Aquia Episcopal Church.

You should be anticipating and anxiously awaiting our upcoming fellowship event (as I am) to cap the summer, with our Annual Crab Feast. It is a very pleasant, laid-back affair, with plenty of seafood and a live bluegrass band. It is a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of fellow Christians. It is good to gather in such an atmosphere with friends who you like, but may only see on Sunday. It is also a good time to bring friends, neighbors and extended family members for this event. It is a fun time. My compliments to our fellowship events task group for hosting this memorable event each year. Come on out and see. You will like it, I guarantee it!

REMEMBER THE  
**SABBATH DAY**  
BY KEEPING IT HOLY.  
EXODUS 20:8

Talking about a relaxing event like the Crab Feast leads me into thinking about Sabbath time. This is something that we do not talk about or think much about in our society. When I was a little boy it was different. Sabbath time can take many forms, but it starts from the Bible, in the fourth Commandment, where we are to keep the Sabbath holy. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. So Sabbath time is biblical. Father Jay and Father James can expound on the various interpretations and history of the Sabbath in the Jewish tradition as well as in the early Christian Church. For me Sabbath time means rest. We need to rest from the daily obligations of work, school, errands, shopping, and going-going-going. Rest and relaxation are needed to recharge our minds and bodies. Sabbath time can take many forms, and it does not need to be a whole day, if that is not possible. Reading, praying, being with family; really being with the family doing something fun together. Taking a nature walk is something that relaxes me. Think about what relaxes you. Consider setting aside time for this and look forward to it, taking a "time out" from other responsibilities; just so this really relaxes you and gives you rest, not just another thing on your "To Do" list. Usually Sunday has been an ideal time for this, but it does not have to happen then. The Jewish tradition is to celebrate Sabbath from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. I am learning about Sabbath time by doing some reading of a spiritual nature. My hope is that I can develop into practicing a restful Sabbath time. See if you have what it takes to rest in and intentional Sabbath time.

Thank you for all you do for Aquia.

*Joe Howard*





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## Aquia Church Capital Improvement Fund

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After several months of careful discussion by the finance committee, with research and planning by our treasurer, in April the vestry created the Aquia Church Capital Improvement Fund, and in July the vestry approved the covenant (or terms of use and operation) for the ACCIF. A founding donation of \$15,000 by an anonymous donor is being matched by a subsequent anonymous gift, and you may wish to contribute as well. The needs for this fund are obvious, from at least three perspectives.

First: while some of our buildings already have an endowment fund or other reserve dedicated for their support, our other properties do not. The historic church benefits from the Moncure Robinson Trust Fund, the Fleurries office building benefits from the Anne E. Moncure Fund, and our property at Clifton Chapel benefit from rent paid by our tenants and from other contributions. But neither the 1960 parish house nor the new Christian Formation and Fellowship Building nor the rectory in Aquia Harbour have dedicated funds available for major needs. The same is true for the grounds outside the cemetery

Second: some reserve funds from the past have been depleted over time. The bulk of these expenses came in 2013, as we completed a major overhaul of the rectory in order to prepare for the arrival of the Newlun family when Connor Newlun was called to serve as our assistant rector. That renovation included new tile and carpeting, drywall repair and painting, bathrooms and closet doors, kitchen cabinets and appliances, and other features necessary to make the rectory an inviting home. Other expenses after that time have significantly drained our re-

serves as well, with little replenishment for them until now.

Third: the practice of saving money for financially lean times and for major projects has clear warrant in Scripture and in prudence. Recall how Joseph advised the pharaoh to store up crops during times of plenty in preparation for future drought (Genesis 42). Remember also how Jesus observed that a person about to begin a construction project needs to calculate the likely cost and prepare accordingly (Luke 14:28-30), and Jesus himself linked that need for adequate preparation with faithful discipleship.

The vestry has wisely decided that the founding donation for the ACCIF may not be spent for a minimum of five years—it will remain invested throughout that time—so that the initial principal and its reinvestments may accumulate. The only exception to this intention is the declaration of a financial emergency by unanimous vote of the vestry and trustees of Aquia Church. Other monies may be added to the ACCIF, perhaps with the same restriction for the same long-term enhancement. Eventually the fund may make disbursements for major capital improvements such as replacing a roof, an HVAC system, flooring, or security and alarm systems. The ACCIF is *not* being established to cover routine expenses for maintenance or the purchase of appliances and similar items that should be covered through our operating budget.

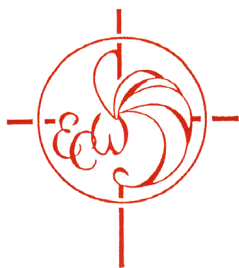
Any donation made to our Aquia Church Capital Improvement Fund will be treated as a fully tax-deductible contribution and will be acknowledged accordingly. Everyday gifts and bequests through wills alike are welcomed. Contributions to ACCIF are a most helpful way to contribute to our parish's financial health as we prepare responsibly for capital needs in the years ahead. The details of the ACCIF covenant are written in plain English on one sheet of paper and are available for your perusal from the church office. If you have any questions or concerns about ACCIF, please contact our treasurer ([chris.arey@gmail.com](mailto:chris.arey@gmail.com)).



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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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*The Episcopal Church  
Women of Aquia Church,  
with the grace of the Holy  
Spirit, wish to know Christ  
and make him known  
through prayer, education,  
concern for others  
and joyful service.*

Recently I had a conversation about a computer program platform and whether it could support other computer programs. It reminded me of so many parish members at Aquia, and how we support our parish, our community, and our world. I notice so often the joy we have in our service. We are led as the Episcopal Church Women's Mission Statement states, "guided by the Holy Spirit."

In this joyful service, we work together to continue with our annual tradition of Fall Fest. Sharing ideas, teams of volunteers work over the next two months to bring the day together so church and community can share in a day of fellowship, tradition, and fun. We hope you have your calendar marked to join us on Oct. 6, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Plans are in the works to have once again our Garden Mart filled with flowers, pumpkins, scarecrows, and favorite yard art. Maybe this is planned as your first stop! Zofia and Larry, our Depart-

ment Chairs bring joy to your time at the Garden Mart.

The parish hall houses our Flea Market, a favorite among so many; it will be back this year. The Clothing Closet and Book Nook will begin accepting donations in September. Not to be missed are the Craft Room and Jewelry Room: they are just a few of the stops to be added to your day.

Come share our joy in service and participate, donate or volunteer; please e-mail me (bkwings\_n\_things@yahoo.com) or contact the church office for my phone number.

**Homecoming Sunday on Sept. 16** is on the calendar! The ECW will host the reception in the Great Hall immediately following the 10 a.m. service. As the summer ends and we begin to settle in to welcome fall, we will once again enjoy the communion of Homecoming with fellowship, food, and joy.

*Briget Kane*

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## STS. MARY AND MARTHA

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### Worship, Service and Fellowship



Sts. Mary and Martha Guild would like to invite all the ladies of the parish to any and all of our five meetings in August. We are now meeting every Thursday morning until Fall Fest on Oct. 6. We start with Morning Prayer at 9:30, share a chapter of our study book, and then work diligently together on a craft for the Fall Fest Craft Room. August 30 will be the only exception to that rule. This will be a service day for us, during which we plan to clean the toys in the nursery after we share in Morning Prayer.

Crafts we are working on this summer include snowmen doorstops, gift tags, wine cork pumpkins, and several angel ornaments. If you make a craft of any kind, we would greatly appreciate a

donation to the Craft Room to supplement our offerings.

We still need lots of costume jewelry for our very popular jewelry table at the Fall Fest. Please search your jewelry boxes for any items you no longer want. They just might accessorize someone else perfectly.

All ladies of the parish are welcome to join us, even if you feel you are "all thumbs." We make our crafts in simple steps which make our meetings fun yet purposeful. Please join us for worship, service and fellowship with fellow sisters-in-Christ. For more information, contact Mary Jane Cole (maryjane@cfsw.biz) or Denise Thornton (neisthornton@gmail.com).

*Mary Jane Cole*





## Fall Fest Live Auction

October 6 at 11 a.m.

With just over two months to go until Fall Fest 2018, we can feel the excitement building. The ladies on the auction committee have been hitting the pavement to ask local merchants to donate items AND our fellow parishioners have been adding gifts as well. As of July 16 the list looks like this:

**Best of Britain Basket** – given by Jean and Don Bittner  
**Augustine Golf Club** – complimentary green fees for four valued at \$200.  
**610 Car Wash** – 5 deluxe wash tickets  
**Delicious Roasted Pork Butt** – hand-rubbed by Jean Golas  
**Pickers Supply** – \$79.95 gift card for group guitar lessons  
**Sedona Tap House** – \$50 gift card  
**Firehouse Subs** – 20 Kid's Combo coupons  
**Pet's Plus** – \$50 gift card  
**Jersey Mike's** – 10 chip and drink coupons  
**Buffalo Wild Wings** – 5 snack size coupons  
**Dan's Wellness Pharmacy** – First Aid Kit  
**Carlos O'Kelly's** – \$20 gift certificate  
**LifeWay Christian Store** – Devotion Guide and CD  
**Flowers by Val** – "All Things Red, White & Blue" gift basket - value \$100  
**Crown Jewelers** – three beautiful bracelets  
**The Melting Pot** – five \$20 dip certificates  
**Jabberwocky** – \$10 gift certificate

The new gifts listed above are in addition to the donations we mentioned last month:

**Potomac Point Winery:** food and wine basket PLUS dinner for four in the Wine Library Room at the winery (a \$500 value), offered by Cindi and Skip Causey  
**Mouth-watering Pies:** a pie a month for 4 months baked by Pat Moncure, famous pastry chef of The Happy Clam  
**Redskins Football Tickets:** two tickets to the Redskins vs. Atlanta Falcons on Nov. 4, offered by Marion Wall  
**Virginia Cavalier Football Tickets:** 4 tickets to the University of Virginia vs. Liberty University on Nov. 10 in Charlottesville, offered by Marion Wall  
**Made in Virginia Basket,** offered by Jean and Michael Golas and Briget and Tom Kane  
**A Scrumptious Dinner Party for 8 Guests** prepared and served at his home, offered by Father Jay Morris  
**Guided Fishing Trip,** offered by Bill Hoffman, owner of Aquia Fishing Guide Service, an awesome eight-hour fishing trip on the Potomac River in his boat. Bill's motto is: "No Fish Left Behind"  
**A Night Away in Historic Downtown Fredericksburg:** one-night stay for 2 in the **Courtyard by Marriott** (valued at \$200)  
**Italian Station Pastry Café** on Caroline Street: \$10 gift card  
A night at the **Red Fox Inn** in Middleburg, Virginia [www.redfox.com](http://www.redfox.com)  
A signed **print of Aquia Church** by Bulent Atalay, educator, author, scientist and artist. Visit his gallery at <http://www.bulentatalay.com/gallery/room3/room3.htm> for a preview

Please keep the momentum going by letting us know how you can help. Talk to Becky Monger, Brenda Monger or Mary Jane Cole ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)) about your suggestions and gifts. The earlier we learn about your offerings, the better we can advertise! Nothing is too small or too large! If you need more expert advice about your donation, contact our own professional auctioneer Shields Jones. Watch for updates in the bulletin, on the gate poster and on Facebook by following "Fall Fest at Aquia Church."



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## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms: "... sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever"

Angelina Giada DiMola

### NEWCOMERS/VISITORS

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2.

Kevin Kerr

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

*New Babies:* Thanksgiving for the birth of a child will be offered as part of the service on the second Sunday of the month (youth Sunday). This will be scheduled as needed. Please call the church office the week prior, if your family would like to be included. Also, please call the church office after a birth so that a red rose can be placed on the altar in thanksgiving.

*Those being deployed:* Please call the church office so that we can offer special prayers at a service prior to your departure. Also we want to put you on our prayer list for all those in the service of our country who are deployed.

### FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is Nov. 4, 2018. If you would like to have a baptism on this date, or if this date doesn't work for you and you would like to request another date, please contact the church office so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

### PRAYERS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

Kristopher and Liz Stanford



office@aquiachurch.com



(540) 659-4007



### **Aquia Church Prayer List – August 2018**

Willene Anderson, Faye Andrews, Charles Banks, Rhett Blythe and Family, Alex Bradley, Debbie Byers, Judy Chaplin, Laura Chichester, Elijah Colliver, Jeff Davis, Jodie Evans, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Drucilla Gosnell, Peggy Hall, Michelle Hanzlik, Patricia Hedger, Michael Houston, Chris Hundley, Ron Korth, Suzanne Lanterman, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Frances Marvin, Adelle McCrary, Pat Moncure, Vanessa Moncure, Patty Montgomery, Judy Morris, Rebecca Poole, Rosalia Pribble, Michele, Scott Smith, Donny Stanford, O.D. Taylor, Albert Trevarthen, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber.





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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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**June 19, 2018**

**Dinner and Fellowship.** (hosted by Curt Bradford and John Sondermann) In attendance were Fr. Jay Morris, Fr. James Rickenbaker, Bob Brandon, Dickie Boes, Mary Nixon, Jean Golas, Jackie Chichester, Ethan Shoen, Gary Perkins, Kathy Trevarthen, Curt Bradford, John Sondermann, and Doug McGinty. Treasurer Chris Arey also attended. Fr. Jay opened with prayer. *[Subsequent events are italicized and bracketed.]*

### **Business Session**

**Treasurer's Report.** Chris Arey delivered the Cover Letter and reports. The pledge for Longmont has not been made yet. The accounts for Office Equipment and Housekeeping are under-expended. *Minutes from previous meeting:* The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

*[R-2018-11: Purchase of Washer/Dryer for Rectory was approved by electronic vote during July 6-8, 2018.]*

### **Discussions Continued from Previous Meeting**

- Draft of New Bylaws: A vote was not taken on the new Bylaws. Comments may be made to Father Jay and a vote will be taken at the July meeting.
- Clifton Chapel: Palmer Swift advised that St. Herman's Orthodox Church may buy land to build a new campus at some point in the future. Fr. Jay expressed concern about the Clifton Chapel becoming vacant. The vestry discussed the possibilities of other uses and selling the property.

- Habalis Construction Work in Historic Church: Fr. Jay and Bob Brandon noted that some minor repairs are needed. Fr. Jay, Bob, and the Habalis representative may do a walk-through.
- Schedule for Worship Services
- Fr. Jay discussed the current survey trends and possible options. For instance, the 7:30 service may be maintained and the 9 and 11:15 services may be consolidated. The changes may take effect in August.

### **Reports from Vestry Committees**

**Administration.** Jean Golas reported the intent to finish the Bylaws soon.

**Finance.** Fr. Jay indicated that Finance Committee met the previous Thursday. The mid-year budget review will occur in July. Jean noted that the Audit Committee conducted its review on June 9, 2018. The final report on the review is forthcoming.

**Building and Grounds:** Bob Brandon reported that the south end of the fence has deteriorated and a \$250 repair bid is under consideration. Jason Stoltz is planning to repair the water main at the end of July. The vestry approved a contest to choose a new design for the entry way into the Christian Formation and Fellowship Hall. The vestry approved a volunteer ad hoc committee to consider entries in the contest. Members of the ad hoc committee include Bob Brandon, Gary Perkins, Curt Bradford, and Jackie Chichester.

### **Reports from Junior Warden and Senior Warden**

**Sr. Warden:** Joe Howard was unable to attend.

**Jr. Warden:** Bob Brandon delivered the Buildings and Ground report.

### **Report from Rector**

Fr. Jay reported that the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnson, Bishop of Virginia, has announced his intent to retire early in 2019. A provisional Bishop may be appointed.

Possible changes are being discussed at the Diocese level and questions have been raised with respect to the Trustees of The Fund (TOTF).

*[Fr. Jay had eye surgery on Thursday, June 21, 2018, and is recovering well.]*

### **Upcoming Dates**

- *[On June 23, 2018, Aquia Church hosted the diocesan Church Vitality & Stewardship Day.]*
- 7/15-21 Mission trip week to Erie, Pennsylvania
- 7/17 Vestry meeting (host: Morris)
- 8/20 New date for August vestry meeting, one day earlier than usual (host: Chichester)
- 9/9 First Sunday of Sunday school
- 9/16 Homecoming
- 9/18 Vestry meeting (hosts: Golas and Nixon)

### **Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment**

Fr. James closed with a prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas McGinty  
Register  
Aquia Episcopal Church*



We, as Aquia Church, joyfully respond to the grace, love and fellowship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit at work in our midst by celebrating His presence, sharing His abundance, and proclaiming His word throughout the world.





Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## **ALL YOU CAN EAT SEAFOOD FEAST**

**Saturday, Aug. 25 4-7 p.m.**

**Live Music: "Reckless Brigade Bluegrass"**

**Adults: \$35      ages 6-16: \$10**

All-you-can-eat crabs, steamed shrimp, fried cod, corn on the cob, coleslaw, and hushpuppies. Lemonade and iced tea will be provided. BYOC (bring your own cooler) or BYOB. Come to a great fun-filled event, enjoy bluegrass music and delicious food, and enjoy fellowship with your family and friends.



## August 2018 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

During July and August, our Wednesday evening Bible study has been exploring a number of issues pertaining to the Holy Trinity. The fact that God is a trinity of divine Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has clear biblical warrant, of course. Unfortunately, however, the Bible rarely spends much time explaining at length how exactly the relationships among these persons really works, or how certain events like the Incarnation and Pentecost have a bearing on understanding the earthly implications of the Trinity's activity and mission. Those are among the issues we have been trying to address in this current series. While there are a tremendous number of volumes and articles about various aspects of the Trinity, wading through them to see which ones are truly helpful requires some care. Here I want to recommend a couple of books that have been quite pertinent to our study this summer that might interest you as well.

One impressive book that succeeds brilliantly at its task is *Jesus the Eternal Son: Answering Adoptionist Christology* by the Australian New Testament scholar Michael F. Bird (Eerdmans, 2017). Properly speaking, this is not so much a book about the Trinity itself as it is a book on the Second Person of the Trinity as incarnate in Jesus Christ, and hence a book about Christology. But because questions about that Second Person inevitably have a bearing on the other two Persons—for instance: how Jesus is conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, how Jesus receives his mission from our heavenly Father, and when precisely did Jesus become the Son of God)—Bird's research in this book can be very informative for understanding God and Jesus better. While there are some scholars who believe that Jesus became the Son of God (or Messiah or Lord) only at some occasion of his earthly ministry (such as his baptism, transfiguration, crucifixion, or resurrection) or even at some earlier point (such as his birth)—to such an extent that the earthly Jesus was merely 'adopted' as the Son of God or was somehow transformed into eventually being the Son of God—Bird marshals evidence to support his claim that Jesus was the Son of God from at least the moment of his being conceived, such that there never was a time when Jesus was not already God incarnate. Bird draws upon various accounts in the New Testament to support his contention, with particular attention to a detailed interpretation of Mark's Gospel, since it is the New Testament Gospel that allegedly has the most obvious adoptionist Christology (in ways that are less easy to see in Matthew and for Luke and are basically impossible to see in John). In the end, Bird argues that there is no New Testament support whatsoever for adoptionist Christology, which he finds does not emerge until the second century—at which point it can be dismissed readily as a heresy because it so clearly contradicts New Testament depictions of Jesus.

Another book that has been instrumental for our study (though a bit more technical at times than Bird's volume, and necessarily wider in scope, but still sufficiently clear to follow) is *The Birth of the Trinity: Jesus, God, and Spirit in New Testament and Early Christian Interpretations of the Old Testament* by Matthew W. Bates (Oxford University Press, 2015). The title might be a bit misleading, by unwittingly giving the impression that the author thinks that God at some point in time began to be a Trinity of divine persons that God had not been before. But instead, Bates shows that God has always been a Trinity and always will be so, such that any talk about a birth of the Trinity really pertains to our discovery in the religious experience of the early Christians that God is a Trinity who became incarnate in Jesus Christ and who has acted in history by the power of God's own Holy Spirit. Bates reads through the New Testament reports about the conception, birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus and through the New Testament reports about the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the early Church, and then Bates connects the dots about the ways in which Jesus and the Holy Spirit conducted their various missions as appointed by our heavenly Father, and connects those dots about earthly perceptions about God with what must then be true about God in himself. Where Bates is particularly intriguing and creative is in showing how the early Christians linked their experience of Jesus and the Holy Spirit with various accounts in the Old Testament about the long-promised Messiah, about God's eventual outpouring of his Holy Spirit, and so forth, and then sought to reinterpret the Old Testament passages in light of their being fulfilled by the great dramatic events of the New Testament, in order to show how the persons of the Trinity were (so to speak) talking with each other in Old Testament times about what they would do (in New Testament times) to show their love for each other among human beings in ways that would reflect the love that the divine Persons of the Trinity share among themselves. What Bates helps us understand, therefore, is how the New Testament accounts of the arrival of Jesus and the Holy Spirit fulfill Old Testament promises for a messianic Savior and God's own Spirit to achieve our salvation and to change our world—as though in such a Christian re-reading of the Old Testament, we can hear the inner voices of the Trinity sharing among themselves the grand plan for salvation to be revealed by the events of the New Testament. I think that Bates relies considerably upon the kind of clear and faithful thinking about Jesus that one finds in Richard Bauckham and N. T. Wright, two Anglican Biblical scholars whose work I have long found insightful, and in fact Bates acknowledges some affinity between his argument and their perspective.