



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

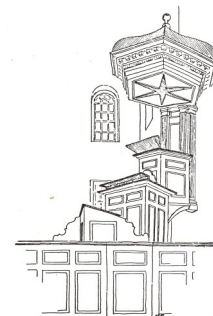
All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

For it is the God
who said, "Let
LIGHT
shine out of
DARKNESS"

2 Corinthians 4:6, NRSV

Inside

- "Our Beloved Hope": recalling inspirational stories in memory of Frances Elkins
- Christian Hospitality
- Remembering the Christian priest, St. Valentine
- Communion Preparation for children
- ECW Fellowship Breakfast
- Vestry and Annual Meeting Highlights
- Outreach Fundraiser





CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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Contact us:

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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

Christian Hospitality

When you hear or see the word ‘hospitality,’ do you think immediately about the rules and procedures of etiquette—like knowing which way to point the tines on a dessert fork, or how to address a diplomat in correspondence or conversation? Or do you think of workers in the hospitality industry, like a concierge or a maître d’hôtel? Those matters have their proper place, but they are not the same thing as Christian hospitality.

‘Hospitality’ derives from the same Latin root from which we get the word ‘hospital,’ and that connection points us in the right direction. Hospitality involves a relationship between a host and a guest, with all the courtesies that the host extends in welcoming and healing and all the attraction that the guest finds in being greeted. Hospitality thus promotes a healthy reciprocity between guest and host. The guest might be a relative or friend, a casual acquaintance, or even a total stranger; the host might be an individual or a small team or even a large group. What matters in effective hospitality is how the welcome is offered, so that it might be well received and returned. What matters in Christian hospitality, furthermore, is that those things happen in Christ-like fashion with Christ-like intention.

Aquia Church already has a solid reputation for demonstrating Christian hospitality in some ways. When a fellow parishioner dies, the Episcopal Church Women offer to host a reception with the burial. Briget Kane, ECW president, and other ladies know how to prepare comforting dishes and to show our love and concern for the bereaved. The ECW does the same thing under less sorrowful occasions, such as hosting Homecoming and diocesan events. Our welcome ministry members, led by Nancy and Bill Hoffman, also share hospitality to visitors at worship services who might be seeking a closer connection with God and

with a church family. Many parishioners are already involved with these forms of hospitality: bringing food to church, sharing a meal, greeting new friends, and phoning visitors to welcome them personally.

Yet there are still other ways we can extend Christian hospitality. Perhaps you might enjoy cooking breakfast for fellowship immediately after the 7:30 morning service, or bringing refreshments to share during Morning Call. If you have a favorite pew, perhaps you would be willing to share that pew with a stranger who is looking for a seat. When you see a new face at church, try introducing yourself and offering a handshake. You probably know someone from your workplace or neighborhood, or involved in your other organizations, who might does not have a church to call home, and your friendly invitation to visit Aquia might be all that is lacking in order for that person to feel welcomed here.

Jesus encountered various people who were strangers at first; but by the end of his earthly life, he deliberately spoke of his followers as friends (John 15). Jesus welcomed them into his company, spent time with them, and encouraged them for good. They did not always deserve his friendship—just ask the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) or Zacchaeus the unfair tax-collector (Luke 19)—but Jesus chose to befriend them anyway. When we open up our pews, our church doors, and our lives to others, we do what Jesus once did to us: as grace-filled hosts, we receive guests whom God already loves, and then strangers become friends. Christian hospitality doesn’t require a lobster fork, a fancy title, or anything that Martha Stewart is selling; instead, it merely requires seeing others the way Jesus did, inviting them, and welcoming them. That’s what friends of Jesus are supposed to do.

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

St. Valentine's Day

Dear Family in Christ,
I thank our God for you, especially for how you stand firm in faith and resist the temptation to assimilate to the world. The world has a different standard for living. It serves a different master than ours. Because of this fact, standing firm in the faith and giving God glory in all things is our response to a world with an insatiable appetite for those things that are displeasing to God. I find comfort in the knowledge that the Christian family at Aquia Church will stand for our Lord Jesus Christ and his truth.

In our larger society, however, there are myriad examples of how the Church has allowed her feasts to be co-opted by the world and by its prince (John 12:31). The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, commonly called Christmas, has become a false paradise of consumerism and self-indulgence. The Sunday of the Resurrection, commonly called Easter, has become a day to look for chocolates left by a magical rabbit (remembering that rabbits have for centuries been used as a pagan symbol of fertility). These two major feasts of the Church are integral to our story. The world removes any semblance of Christianity from them and appropriates them for its own nefarious purposes.

A minor example of this very fact appears this month. Feb. 14 is the Feast of St. Valentine, commonly called Valentine's Day. Far from being a Christian feast, this day has been appropriated as well, featuring Cupid (the Roman name of the Greek god Eros) as its star attraction. We speak of love, on that day, as being "shot with Cupid's arrow." But the Feast of St. Valentine couldn't be farther from this vulgar and pagan rendering. Valentine's Day is not about erotic (from the god Eros) love. It is about the self-giving love that is the hallmark of Christian marriage.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest who lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II (AD 268-270). Christian marriage was forbidden at the time, as Christians were being actively sought out for execution by edict of the emperor. As a

priest (and, according to some accounts, a bishop), Valentine was bold in his proclamation of the Gospel and in his refusal to stop solemnizing Christian marriages. He was eventually caught and brought before the emperor himself. When com-

manded to apostatize, Valentine persisted in his faith and, with even greater boldness, attempted to proselytize the emperor. For this 'offense,' St. Valentine was executed on Feb. 14, 269.

The Feast of St. Valentine is not about chocolates and flowers. It is by no means about the erotic side of love, as Cupid's presence in the mix would suggest. In fact, St. Valentine would be appalled that the Truth for which he died has been supplanted by the very mythological worldview that cried for his head.

The story of our salvation cannot imitate the idols of ages past. If you would like to celebrate Valentine's Day this year, feel free. But remember what the feast is truly about. A man gave his life to draw men and women into Christian marriage. He gave his life to solemnize this union, which represents Christ and his bride the Church. On Feb. 14, say a prayer of thanksgiving for the witness of St. Valentine. And engage in the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ, for whom St. Valentine gave his life.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*In Christ+,
Fr. James*

IF WE LOVE
ONE ANOTHER,
GOD
LIVES IN US
AND HIS
LOVE
IS MADE
COMPLETE IN US.

1 JOHN 4:12, NIV



AQUIA CHURCH VESTRY

Dickie Boes

Finance Committee Chairperson

Jackie Chichester

Jean Golas

*Administration
Committee Chairperson*

Bill Hoffman

Senior Warden

Ron Korth

*Junior Warden
Building & Grounds
Committee Chairperson*

Doug McGinty

Register

Larry Moxley

Mary Nixon

Ethan Shoen

Youth Representative

Chris Wanner

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Stepping back a moment, during the ECW's annual meeting in December, our 2019 budget was unanimously adopted. During the year we receive requests for support from several outreach or local ministries in and around our community, and annually we report on our support of local outreach programs.

Micah Hospitality is a ministry we continue to support. As Micah continues to grow the ministries that they serve, Aquia ECW supports Micah and their ministries, including transitioning services to the homeless, SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery Ministry, preventative medical, feeding the community, hygiene and communication. The journey assistance program helps guests with needs beyond basic survival to meet with an array of trained volunteers who can help them troubleshoot the complexities of various community services. Whether the service is offered internally or by another community agency, Micah staff maintains a culture

of not just referring guests to appropriate services, but also working with them to facilitate their access to those services. In 2005 the Micah Hospitality Center opened in Fredericksburg, located at 1013 Princess Anne Street. Their website's home page defines Micah Ministry's mission. Dropdown boxes include "Give Help" and most importantly "Get Help."

In February the ECW traditionally hosts the Bishop's Reception. We currently do not have a date for a visit by a bishop. The time always has been set aside for our parish to share in fellowship, celebration, and visitation. The members of ECW do not want to lose this time for our Parish families to share, so we extend a parish-wide invitation: Please join the Aquia ECW at a fellowship breakfast on Feb. 17, at 8:30 a.m. (following the 7:30 a.m. service),



and continuing during Morning Call (just before 10 a.m. service begins).

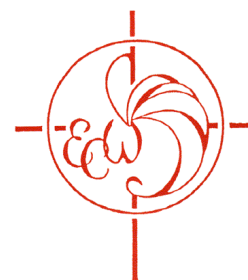
We hope you will bring your family immediately following the 7:30 a.m. service or before heading to Sunday school and Morning Call. All ladies of the ECW are invited to bring a breakfast/brunch item to share.

Plan to join us on March 5 for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. The ECW will begin selling tickets for the pancake supper in February.

Here is a list of a few of our partner ministries: Aquia's Care Team, Take Them a Meal, Fall Fest, and Aquia's Table. If one piques your interest and you would like to hear more, please contact me:

bkings_n_things@yahoo.com.

Briget Kane
President



STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

Sts. Mary and Martha Guild has just finished its first service project of 2019. On Jan. 31, we cheerfully cleaned around and about the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building, dusting baseboards, vacuuming corners, filling salt shakers, and straightening storage closets. In February we shall return to our regular meetings in the parish hall for worship (Morning Prayer), study, fellowship, and preparing crafts for Fall Fest 2019. These meeting dates

are Feb. 7 and 21. We have just begun the second half of our study book, *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. During

2018, by reading a 'day' of the study at each meeting, we slowly digested the first half of the book. The discussions that followed each chapter ('day') have been so insightful and heart-filled. We look forward to sharing the second half of the book during 2019. Come and join us to see how Rick Warren helps us answer the question, "What on earth am I here for?"

The guild is constantly looking for new ideas for the Fall Fest craft room. If you have a fun fall or Christmas decoration that you think we could make, please share it with us. We appreciate new ideas to keep our inventory fresh and interesting.

We are currently in search of wooden louvered (slatted) shutters to turn into snowmen. The craft looks like

a fun project! If you have an old shutter or two that we could use, please let us know.

Do consider joining us on the 7th or the 21st of February. Our meetings begin at 9:30 and end by noon. We have plenty of room around our table for you and a friend.

Mary Jane Cole
(maryjane@cfsbw.biz)
Denise Thornton
(neisieb@aol.com).

P.S. Please note that we do not meet when winter weather closes (or delays the opening of) Stafford County schools.



OUTREACH

The Outreach meeting date fell on Jan. 1, so we did not have our regular meeting. Instead, we met before Aquia's Table on Jan. 2 to pack 60 meals for the students in Stafford Junction's "Brain Builders" program. The meals were then delivered on Jan. 3, the first day back at school for Stafford County students.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to our projects during 2018. During the holidays we delivered 44 donated shoe boxes to the drop-off location at Hull Memorial. We collected gifts for 50 mentally challenged adults in our community as part of the Dove project. We conducted our annual Adopt-a-Family project and were able



to provide gifts and food to 10 families and 2 senior citizens. We are proud of our youth group for purchasing some of the children's gifts. Also, a special thank you to Chris Arey, Michael

Golas, and Doug McGinty for delivering the gifts to Register Chapel.

In February, we are planning a fundraiser. Other plans call for displaying the Lenten Cross beginning on the Sunday after Ash Wednesday. We will again sponsor the Head Start dinners during the Mondays in April. The annual Craft Show and Pig Roast will be held in May, and the Cash for Cows and Change for Chickens collection will run from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Come join us.

Johanna Jones

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The season of Lent is the time when Aquia Church offers a special Communion study and preparatory class for children in elementary school. Even if your child has been receiving communion but has not had formal instruction, we encourage you to take advantage of the classes being offered. Classes will meet on Sundays during Lent following the 10 am service. Stay tuned for more details.

Vacation Bible School: It may be the middle of winter now, but we are already planning for summer. Our annual VBS program will take place June 17-21. If you are interested in helping with planning this year's program, please contact Kristen Morgan at christianed@aquiachurch.org

Kristen Morgan

AQUIA'S TABLE

Here is some information to let you know how Aquia's Table served our community in 2018.

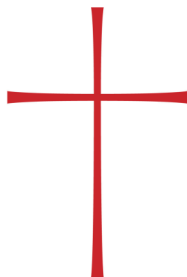


- ⇒ We were open 45 Wednesdays;
- ⇒ We donated 1,536 estimated volunteer hours;
- ⇒ We welcomed an average of 65.6 weekly diners;
- ⇒ We served 2,954 total meals (an all time high), with 659 of those meals served to children (that's 161 more than 2017).

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and we look forward to continuing to serve you in 2019.

Also, "Thank You" for supporting the "Dove Gifts" at Christmas time.

Michael Golas



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.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Dinner and Fellowship (starting at 6:30 p.m.) Gary Perkins and John Sondermann hosted. In attendance were Rector Fr. Jay Morris, Sr. Warden Joe Howard, Jr. Warden Bob Brandon, Mary Nixon, Jean Golas, Youth Rep. Ethan Shoen, Curt Bradford, Dickie Boes, Gary Perkins, Asst. Register John Sondermann, and Register Douglas McGinty. Treasurer Chris Arey also attended. Fr. Jay opened with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer. *[Subsequent events are italicized and bracketed.]*

Business Session

Treasurer's Report

Delivered by Treasurer Chris Arey. The Capital Campaign is kept on a separate line in the budget. Chris also reported on income and expenses for the year.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Delivered by Register Douglas McGinty. Unanimously approved with changes.

R-2018-16: Retaining Funds for

Aquia's Pantry (approved 10/16). (It is noted that the Youth Group, Flower Guild, Fellowship Events, Aquia's Table, and Aquia's Pantry all retain their funds from year to year.)

New Business

R-2018-17: Assets Valuation for Balance Sheet (finance committee).

Unanimously approved as amended.

R-2018-18: Credit Card Use for Flower Guild (finance committee).

Unanimously approved.

R-2018-19: RSVP Retirement Account for Rector (finance committee).

Unanimously approved.

Reports from Vestry Committees

Finance: Dickie Boes discussed the draft budget for 2019. The new budget will depend on the Pledge Drive. As of the vestry meeting, there were 2 new pledgers, with 63 total pledges so far this year. There are 43 pledgers in 2018 who have not yet pledged for 2019.

Church contributions have been eliminated for the Rector and Asst. Rector Discretionary Funds. It is hoped that parishioners can contribute for trash removal and lectionary inserts. The budget will be balanced to comply with the mortgage agreement.

Administration: Jean Golas discussed the cleaning contracts and the annual fruit sale. She also has been approached about a possible \$5000 contribution for a new sign, with suggestions as to its style. Fr. Jay noted that Clifton Chapel is due for a rent increase, with questions about the long range plans of the current tenants.



A spiritual gift
is given to each
of us so we can
help each other.

Building and Grounds: Bob Brandon thanked Dickie Boes for replacing the glass in a door at the great hall in the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building (CFFB). Bob indicated that John Posey of Aces Electric will provide an estimate for the placement of LED units in the great hall. Currently, a few lightbulbs have burned out and a cost estimate is sought for replacing all of them with LED units. Steve Anderson is painting at the Clifton Chapel and Bob will ask him for an update.

Reports from the Wardens

Senior Warden: Joe Howard thanked Charlie Bingay and Chris Arey for their great work on the 2019 budget. Joe also mentioned the need for follow-up soon on the Pledge Campaign.

Junior Warden: Bob Brandon delivered the Building and Grounds report.

Report from Rector

Fr. Jay reported that Stafford County released the \$57K Certificate of Deposit (CD) security for work on the CFFB. The vestry agreed with Chris Arey's recommendation to put the funds in a one-year CD with a bank. Fr. Jay recommended keeping church funds with the Trustees of the Funds (TOTF). John Sondermann related his discussion with a financial consultant. Fr. Jay noted that parishioners need to fill out the blue forms for vestry nomination. The Annual Meeting is on Jan. 6, 2018, and vestry members need to pitch in for refreshments. Questions were raised about the Aquia Association closing out and how long will it take to install a provisional Bishop.

Upcoming Dates

[12/9 Advent Lessons & Carols (5p.m.)]

[12/16 ECW Christmas Reception (9 a.m.)]

12/18 Vestry meeting (hosts: Brandon and Howard for wardens' chili cookoff)
12/23 Holy Eucharist with Children's Christmas Pageant in great hall (10 a.m.)
12/24 Christmas Eve services (5:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11 p.m., with Christmas music 30 minutes before each service)
12/25 Christmas Day service (10 a.m.)
12/30 Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion (10 a.m.)
1/6/19 Holy Eucharist with Parish's Annual Meeting and Election of New Vestry Members in great hall (10 a.m.) (back-up date in case of snow/ice: 1/13/19)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer by Fr. Jay, and Adjournment

*Respectfully submitted,
Douglas McGinty
Register, Aquia Episcopal Church*



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS: DECEMBER 18, 2018

Dinner and Fellowship (starting at 6:30 p.m.) Bob Brandon and Joe Howard hosted. In attendance were Rector Fr. Jay Morris, Assistant Rector James Rickenbaker, Sr. Warden Joe Howard, Jr. Warden Bob Brandon, Gary Perkins, Dickie Boes, Jackie Chichester, Mary Nixon, Jean Golas, Youth Representative Ethan Shoen, Curt Bradford, Asst. Register John Sondermann, and Register Douglas McGinty. Treasurer Chris Arey also attended. Fr. Jay opened with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

[Subsequent events are reported in Italics and bracketed.]

Business Session

Treasurer's Report Delivered by Chris Arey. The Endowment Report for November is down 3.8% for year. The Immanuel Church on the Hill contributes to the health insurance expenses for baby Eleanor Rickenbaker. There have been 79 adult pledges for \$328,802. Fr. Jay provided a follow-up on pledges. He noted that 20 or 22 households that pledged for 2018 have not pledged for 2019, and he plans to have friendly reminders sent out for them.

Minutes from Previous Meeting, Delivered by Register Douglas McGinty. Approved unanimously.

R-2018-17: Assets Valuation for Balance Sheet (approved 11/20)

R-2018-18: Credit Card Use for Flower Guild (approved 11/20)

R-2018-19: RSVP Retirement Account for Rector (approved 11/20)

New Business

R-2018-20: Designation of Parsonage Allowance for the Rector (finance committee), Approved unanimously.

R-2018-21: Designation of Parsonage Allowance for the Assistant Rector (finance committee), Approved unanimously.

Budget for 2019: Adjustments to the proposed budget were discussed. The vestry approved the budget unanimously with \$1000 change.

Vestry Nominees for 2019: Fr. Jay noted that there are 5 candidates – Larry Moxley, Chris Arey, Bill Hoffman, Ron Korth, and Chris Wanner. The Youth Representative candidate is Christopher (Kit) Stoltz. The vestry unanimously approved the slate. The vestry can appoint two additional vestry slots.

Reports from Vestry Committees

Administration: Jean Golas reports that all the goals have been accomplished, except for the inventory, which is underway. The new bylaws were drafted and approved earlier in the year.

Building and Grounds: Bob Brandon noted that the fall cleanup was done. The Clifton Chapel work is not finished and the Security System is not done. The cracked window pane door in the CFFB has been replaced. An anonymous donor offered to pay \$5000 for a new sign.

Finance: Dickie Boes offered a special thanks to Chris Arey and Charles Bin-gay for their great work on formulating the 2019 budget.

Reports from Senior Warden and Junior Warden

Senior Warden: Joe Howard thanked the ECW for their great work at the annual Christmas reception and other activities. Also, thanks to Trystan Bennett for the music at the Advent Lessons & Carols service. The good work of the vestry is appreciated as well. Fr. Jay added that it was a blessing to have no need for calls at night. He benefitted from Joe's leadership and help with legal issues. The CFFB passed the county inspection.

Junior Warden: Bob Brandon reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Report from Rector: Fr. Jay provided the Clergy Report. He listed three concerns he will raise at the Annual Meeting: 1) Some people are attending



Vestry Highlights

church less frequently; 2) more attendance is needed by the children, youth, and families; and 3) the construction loan needs to be paid. Fr. Jay and Fr. James are attending more events to promote interest, and more commitment is needed from parishioners. The David Wirman plaque was discussed, particularly editing the wording and mounting the plaque on the wrought-iron fence by the front of the church. The Wardens were thanked for their great chili cook-off.

Upcoming Dates

[12/23 Holy Eucharist with Children's Christmas Pageant in great hall (10 a.m.)]

[12/24 Christmas Eve services (5:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m., with Christmas music 30 minutes before each service)]

[12/25 Christmas Day service (10 a.m.)]

[12/30 Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion (10 a.m.)]

[1/6/19 Holy Eucharist with Parish's Annual Meeting and Election of New Vestry Members in great hall (10 a.m.)]

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer by Fr. James, and Adjournment

*Respectfully submitted,
Douglas McGinty
Register, Aquia Episcopal Church*

(Please turn to page 11 for the Draft Minutes for the Annual Meeting.)

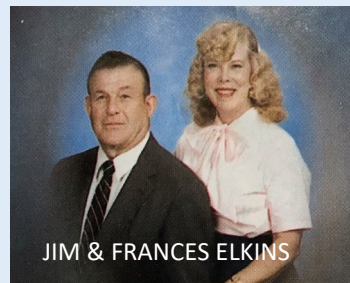




Aquia Church was blessed for many years with Frances Elkins' beautiful gift of putting together inspiring words that touched our everyday lives. Her uplifting articles were a welcome addition to our newsletter. She was a living example of using her God-given talents in a way that enhanced the lives of our parish Family.

Frances died on January 29, 2019. As a tribute to her, the newsletter staff decided to share one of her previously published columns in this month's newsletter.

Joan Nebel



Our Beloved Hope

Alice had finished her grocery shopping. All the bags of groceries were neatly arranged in the back of the station wagon. The next day would be Thanksgiving of 1998. Alice was eagerly anticipating the visit of her four grown children, two young grandchildren, and two elderly ladies from the church where her husband was pastor. She had already put her house in order; so for the rest of the day, she would prepare the family's favorite desserts. Alice thoroughly enjoyed planning festive holiday meals. As she drove along the main street of the small town where she and her husband resided in North Carolina, her mind was happily reviewing her anticipated schedule.

She stopped at the red light and being a cautious driver she looked in both directions. She noticed to her left a huge delivery truck approaching very fast on the intersecting street, but she thought the driver would have plenty of time to stop before reaching the traffic light. What she did not know, as she entered the intersection, was that he was accelerating, attempting to get through the caution light before it turned red.

After Alice had proceeded into the intersection, and before she could realize what was happening, she heard and felt the loud impact of the truck crashing into her station wagon on the driver's side and her vehicle being airborne.

The truck impacted with such force, it caused the station wagon to be slammed against a stone wall on the

corner of the street, and then it rebounded off the wall, back into the truck which had come to a screeching halt. The force of the three impacts caused the station wagon to be totally crushed lengthwise, from side to side, as if it had been through a car-crushing machine.

Every window of the station wagon was shattered into small pieces. Glass jars were smashed. Every can of food looked as if it had been crushed by a sledge hammer. Every egg was broken. Fresh fruit and vegetables were completely squashed. Plastic containers of milk, juice, and soft drinks were demolished. Flour, sugar, coffee, and bags or boxes of other staples were broken and scattered throughout the station wagon. Nothing was salvageable.

The vehicle was so badly damaged that a tool called the Jaws of Life had to be used to rip off the door in order for Alice to be rescued. After the door was removed, Alice miraculously stepped out of the automobile unscathed, except for the shock of the frightening experience and some soreness from the seatbelt restraints. She was taken to the hospital and examined for internal injuries, but none was found. She was released the next day.

After Alice's close encounter with death, the words from Hebrews 9:27, NIV kept coming to her mind. "Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment ..." Alice felt it had not been her time to die. She gave credit to God for saving her life. Always before

driving anywhere, she habitually offered a prayer to God for safety. On the day of the accident, she knew that God had been with her and had given her a miracle.

She held no malice for the driver of the truck, and she kept him in her prayers. She was glad that he had not been injured, and she hoped that he and others would learn from this experience how important it is to obey the laws, to have consideration for other drivers, to drive defensively, and to wear seatbelts.

Automobiles and groceries are easily replaced, but there is no substitute for the life of one human being snatched away prematurely. Every person is unique in God's sight, and our days are ordained, as we are reminded by David in Psalm 139:14-16, NIV. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place ... All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Of course, none of us knows the number of our ordained days. According to "A Prayer of Moses" found in Psalm 19:10, NIV, "The length of our days is seventy years, or eighty, if we have the strength ..."

Through the grace of God innumerable advancements in science, over the years, have brought about increased knowledge in areas that affect our life span, such as nutrition, health, physical fitness, disease, medicine preventive

Continued on the next page ...



medicine, surgery, psychology, physical and mental illness, reduction of stress, safety, the environment and other knowledge. As a result, mankind is living longer, productive lives. It is thought by some that the average life span in the not too distant future will be more than a hundred years. For many this has already come to pass.

However, it is not the length of life that matters most but having a full life with God at the center of our lives which gives life meaning. According to Ecclesiastes everything in life is meaningless without God.

In Ecclesiastes 7:17-18, NIV, the Teacher warns: "Do not be over wicked, and do not be a fool – why die before your time? The man who fears God will avoid all extremes."

We can avoid extremes by allowing Jesus Christ to be at the center of our lives in order to give life meaning. By following Him, He will enable us to be alert, to be focused, to have direction, to do what is right, to have inner strength and peace, and to be prepared for the life to come. As a result of living a life for Christ on earth, we make an immediate transition to living a life with Him in Heaven after this life.

The Bible speaks of death numerous times. Christians are aware that death is a part of life, and it is not to be feared. The Scriptures show us that Jesus has changed the meaning of death for us. "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:54-55, NIV)

If we are believing Christians, our spirits enter into a life with Christ immediately after physical death. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise," (Luke 23:43, NIV). Our gain is to have eternal life with Jesus in his kingdom, and our relationship with him will become more and more enriched.

To become properly prepared for an eternal relationship with the Father, we must accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior during this lifetime and live the Christian life to the best of our abilities

in striving for the perfection of Christ. We then have the consolation of our Blessed, our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, as stated in Titus 2:13, NIV.

Like Alice, many people have had close calls with death, and for whatever reason, they feel God was not ready for them to leave this world. Perhaps with Alice, God had plans for her continued ministry with her husband, here and now, since they are loving caring dedicated Christians who give much to the world.

All are not delivered from death as Alice was. Everyone yearns to live. God made us that way. We desire love, happiness, peace and enjoyment of life for as long as possible. But when death happens, Christians have the consolation of the abundant life with Christ now and always.

Death should not cause us to fear the unknown if we believe the Word of God. There are many Scriptural passages that give us reassurance of our Blessed Hope. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies," (John 11:25, NIV).

In I Corinthians 13:12, KJV, concerning death, Paul reassures us, "For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

According to Paul, we cannot imagine the wonderful things God has prepared for us. "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God," (I Corinthians 2:9-10, KJV).

Philippians 3:20, NIV, reassures Christians of life after death. "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

May each of us be thankful daily for the life the Lord has given us, and try to live each day, as though it were our last, by giving to the world that part of ourselves which reflects the love of Jesus Christ and our belief in Him.

Let us strive to live our lives so that whatever amount of time we are ordained to live on this earth, our lives will be living proof of our love for Jesus Christ and his Church. Like Paul, in Philippians 1:21, NIV, when he gave his testimony of the meaning of his life, may we too, be able to say, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Frances Elkins

BLESSED
are those...
whose hope
is in the **LORD** their God.

Psalm 146:5, NIV



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Transferred in: *"And the Lord added to their number day by day..." Acts 2:47*

Thompson Gerke, Church of the Holy Spirit, West Haven, Conn.

Funerals: *"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let the light perpetual shine upon them."*

Agnes Aldonna (Connie) Moncure 1926-2018, Dorothy Smith, 1919-2019; Suzanne Lanterman, 1946-2019; Marion Stein, 1926-2019.

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 (which is when we generally observe 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 would like to put you on our prayer list for all those who are deployed in the service of our country.



FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is April 28, 2019. 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.

Sue Selz



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

Aquia Church Prayer List –February 2019



Faye Andrews, Leon Annandale, Carol Bailey, Rhett Blythe and Family, Dickie Boes, Alex Bradley, Debbie Byers, Edward Chaplin, Judy Chaplin, Laura Chichester, Elijah Colliver, Sheryl Colliver, Jeff Davis, Scott Davis, Jodi Evans, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Peggy Hall, Bill Hoffman, Chris Hundley, Joy Johnson, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Michele, Kenny Miller, Pat Moncure, Vanessa Moncure, Patty Montgomery, Rebecca Poole, John Pribble, Marian Richardson, Kenny Reilly, Janice Shelton, Scott Smith, Liselotte Somlai, Donny Stanford, David Stein and Family, Charlotte Stemmler, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber, Catherine Willis.



Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Aquia Episcopal Church

The Rector, Fr. Jay Morris, called the Annual Meeting to order with a prayer. Sr. Warden Joe Howard stated that there was a quorum. Fr. Jay introduced the returning vestry members and candidates for election to the vestry. He explained the election rules and the ballots were collected.

After the worship service, Fr. Jay resumed the business meeting. Register Douglas McGinty, provided the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes, which were adopted unanimously.

Fr. Jay then delivered the pastoral address. He listed three concerns. First, worship attendance needs to increase. Declining attendance is part of a national trend. Second, more children and youth should be coming for Sunday school and youth group meetings and events. Adult volunteers are needed as well. Third, the CFFB mortgage still needs to be paid. The matching Second Capital Campaign has concluded and the final accounting is still on-going.

The matching donor has extended the deadline until the update is done. The vestry will address funding issues in 2019. Fr. Jay concluded his address.

Sr. Warden Joe Howard addressed the congregation. He commended the vibrant parish with so many people helping out. Changes were made in worship schedules and work hours. The church is in good hands with the returning vestry members and the new members. The vestry works well together. Bob Brandon has done a great job as Jr. Warden. We are blessed to have Fr. Jay and Fr. James as our clergy. As a token of gratitude, Fr. Jay presented Joe with a study Bible.

Jr. Warden Bob Brandon then spoke. He recommended serving on the vestry. They are a great group of people. He also thanked the Building and Grounds Committee for refurbishing the historic church, installing the water main, insulating the Clifton Chapel, and lawn mowing.

Chris Arey delivered the Treasurer's Report. He discussed Quick Books, the ACS data base, the Endowment Fund, and the switch-over to the accrual system. The 2019 budget was discussed. There is a budget squeeze for 2019. If there are increased expenses, the vestry should be consulted. The Trustees of the Funds (TOTF) organization is being watched closely.

Fr. Jay announced the vestry election results. Chris Arey, Bill Hoffman, Ron Korth, and Chris Wanner were elected to three year terms. Larry Moxley was elected to a two year term. Christopher (Kit) Stoltz was elected as the Youth Representative starting in May 2019.

Fr. Jay closed with a prayer.

***Respectfully submitted,
Douglas McGinty
Register, Aquia Episcopal Church***

Dear Aquia Family,

Thank you so much for remembering
my mother, Carol Stewart.

Your prayers provide a sense of comfort
and strength at this time.

Love,

Sheila, Megan and Gregory Olson



Dear Aquia Church,

Just a note to thank all the many
members of this wonderful church
who have enriched the life of my ag-
ing wife, Marion. Her interface with
the clergy and the congregation has
been a fabulous experience. We will
not be attending Aquia again as we
are moving to Gainesville, Virginia on
3 December.

David Stein

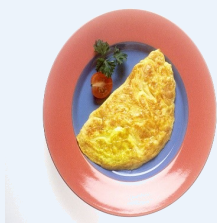
*[Editor's note: Marion Stein died on Jan. 24,
2019. May she rest in peace.]*





Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Outreach Fundraising



Build Your Own Omelet Bar

March 31, 2019

After the 7:30, during Morning Call
and after the 10 a.m. service

\$10 Omelets

(Choice of bacon, ham, cheese, green onions,
green peppers, jalapenos, banana peppers)

Sausage Links, Oven Fried Potatoes, and Fruit

Come out, support Outreach, and eat some good food.