




AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

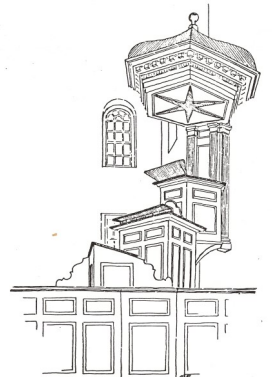
All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27



...the life
I now live
in the flesh
I live by
faith in

the Son
of God,
who
loved me
and gave
himself
for me.

Galatians 2:20, NRSV





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

How to Keep Easter Going

A number of folks have commented very favorably in recent days about our observance throughout Lent and about our celebration of Easter Day. Meaningful worship (including music and preaching), opportunities for Christian formation (with children and youth alongside adults), renewed connections across generations, and enjoyable time together are among the elements that have received high praise. With these good memories fresh in mind, a question naturally arises: wouldn't it be wonderful if we could keep that same spirit and energy alive beyond a given holiday?

For instance, consider what happened here on the Sunday of Easter. Our morning worship services were filled with familiar faces—and with plenty of visitors, too. Perhaps you brought relatives, co-workers, or other friends with you on that Sunday, and perhaps some folks attended without any prior connection to Aquia Church. Could all that happen again? We had a large number of children enjoying the Easter egg hunt (even some who did not make it to a worship service that morning). Could we see that many young people again? Many folks prepared in advance with work on the set-up, the flowers, the music, and so forth—all of which set the right tone for every good thing that followed. Could we experience that joy again?

The obvious answer to such questions is: of course we can! Yet the understandable follow-up to that reply is: *So what will you offer to make it happen?* In other words: *How can we together keep Easter going?* I think the key is found in the heart of that question: 'we together.'

Our clergy, our vestry, our staff, and our ministry group leaders generously offer their experience and expertise in their efforts to build up our parish. But none of them individually, and few of them collec-

tively, can sustain the entirety of the joy and momentum of our Easter festivities on their own power. That's where 'we together' really matters.

We advertised the fact that we would offer abundant opportunities during Lent and on Easter to draw closer to our Lord and closer to each other, and that's what happened. Church members reached out to others and invited them to celebrate our Lord's resurrection with us, and so many people arrived from near and far. Lots of preparation occurred behind the scenes, so to speak, and that inspired everyone attending to offer our best to our risen Lord that day, with everyone being blessed in turn. No individual worked separately in isolation; rather, we together joined for worship with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, and we together made a difference for everyone who attended.

Throughout the New Testament, our Lord reaches out to gather his people together. He does that personally in the Gospels, and he does that spiritually in the Acts of the Apostles and in the related missionary movements of Peter, Paul, and countless others who faithfully serve the Lord. They reach out with love, just as our Lord himself had reached out with love. Now you and I and the rest of the whole church are called to do the same thing: we together can reach out with love. That is how we can keep Easter going.

So continue to welcome and invite others around you to join you at church, for worship and inspiration and fellowship. Bring others with you as you serve the Lord and his people, whether in choir or in Aquia's Table and Aquia's Pantry or in some other setting or ministry group. Help others to see the good spirit that you have found here. We together can share the joy and hope of Easter long past that one day.

Jay Morris

... the whole body, joined and knit together ...



as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:16, NRSV



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Evil, Justice, and God's Work in the World

Dear Family in Christ,
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank our God for you, especially for the attention you pay to reading, marking, learning, and inwardly digesting the Holy Scriptures. This is essential for the Christian, as Scripture is the primary source for our knowledge of Jesus Christ and of his saving work. The fact that so many people at Aquia Church are intentional about reading the Bible is a joy for your clergy. This is why we enjoy leading Bible studies for you. Of the many themes found in the Scriptures, justice is one of the more hotly debated. With all of the political rhetoric involving the word 'justice,' it is hard to make heads or tails of just what that word means. It is even harder to figure out what place justice has in Scripture.

Starting on May 15, we are going to begin a new Wednesday morning Bible study series on the theme of justice. We will seek to define the word 'justice' (or is it 'righteousness?'). We will see from the outset that there is more than one kind of justice. We will focus on the problem of evil and what God has done about it. This is divine justice, which is decidedly the weightier of the two. We also will focus on the call throughout Scripture to help those in need in whatever way we can. This is social justice.



It is important to note the distinction between these two types of justice, as they are often conflated. Such a conflation creates problems for the Christian. For some, social justice is supposed to supplant all things. For this reason, I have actually heard someone say that they don't come to church because they're helping in a soup kitchen (and they believe that to be their church). While helping in a soup kitchen is a wonderful and important thing, it is not the same as worshipping the Lord in the liturgy. For others, divine justice is all they want or feel that they need. For this reason, I have heard of some folks who shirk their responsibility to help those in need, instead depending on God to take care of everything. Read the prophets in the Old Testament. Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Scripture is clear that sitting on our hands and doing nothing isn't an option. Both of these views are problematic. In this study, our desire is to understand justice in Scripture, seeking to answer the question, "What is our responsibility to justice?"

We will cover the arc of Scripture as best we can, gleaned from what we hear from the patriarchs, the psalmists, the wisdom literature, and the prophets, as well as from the New Testament view of justice. This will give us an encompassing view from Scripture of just what justice means and how we are to live it and enact it. My hope is that when we finish, those who participate will be able to better explain justice and its importance to the Christian. Hopefully, the study will also combat the false narratives that are out there about the Christian responsibility (or lack thereof) to justice.

We look forward to seeing you there at 10:30 a.m. on May 15. May the Lord bless you mightily as we continue to rejoice in the power of his resurrection this Easter season. 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*



AQUIA CHURCH VESTRY

Chris Arey

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

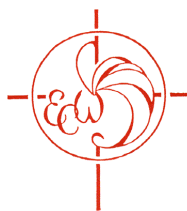
Tradition

I hope that over the past several weeks you had an opportunity to read in the weekly bulletin the announcement for the Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering (UTO) on Sunday, May 12th. At the 1889 Triennial Meeting in New York, the Women's Auxiliary of the national Episcopal Church instituted the *United Offering* for the support of specific mission projects and individual missionaries. The United Offering eventually became known as the United Thank Offering (UTO) for collecting the prayers and grateful offerings of the women of the Episcopal Church in thanksgiving for the many blessings of this life. Today, your offerings support the missions and missionary work, scholarships, building loans, and overseas development of the *ECW of the Diocese of Virginia for the mission of the whole church*.

Heritage Sunday: The Episcopal Church Women of Aquia Church will host a traditional gathering on Sunday,

May 19, to celebrate Aquia's heritage. It is a weekend which brings together families and friends of Aquia Episcopal Church to worship and welcome the Peyton family for their annual meeting. Aquia is steeped in traditions, and with our annual luncheon reception on the third Sunday in May, we are reminded of another. Immediately following the 10 a.m. service, we will look forward to seeing familiar and new faces in the great hall to share this time of fellowship and (always) great food.

With the theme of tradition, I thought I would include a note about the ECW logo. The meaning of the design can be applied in all our lives. *The Cross represents Christ and our service to Him in the world. The Circle stands for our hope for wholeness in our lives. The*



out-flowing lines from the center depict the many works of the Episcopal Church Women, going out into the world. The intertwined lines represent our lives centered in Christ.

I am excited to announce in May the tradition of Aquia ECW's Anne E. Moncure Scholarship. The application process for graduating seniors begins in May, with the final day to submit applications to the church office occurring on May 31. Applications can be picked up at the office. The ECW scholarship supports all continuing education and will be awarded in June during the 10 a.m. service.

We will also begin the preparation for many events on our calendar for June. It's not about joining the ECW, it is about sharing in our ministries: parish, local, and worldwide. Contact me: bkwnings_n_things@yahoo.com.

Briget Kane
President

STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

In the month of May, Sts. Mary and Martha Guild will have three meetings, one of which will be a service day. Service days are mornings during which we use our time, hands, and hearts for our Parish family or our neighbors.

During our meetings on May 2 and May 16, we will continue to work on crafts, as well as enjoy Morning Prayer and fellowship together. We are delighted to report that the craft inventory is starting to build, and we are looking forward to sharing it all with you at Fall Fest 2019 on Oct. 5.

Our service day will be on the third Thursday of the month, May 30. We will be busy in the great hall, dusting the baseboards, scrubbing stray marks

off the walls, filling the salt shakers, cleaning out the refrigerator, taking inventory of the supplies we need for the various receptions that the ECW offers, and straightening under the counters. These basic housekeeping chores will be cheerfully done for our Parish family.

For the past 25 years, Sts. Mary and Martha Guild has taken a day in May, as well as a day in December, to

visit the residents of Parker Adult Care Home, a small assisted-living center on Shelton Shop Road. Parker Home closed its doors last month as Mrs. Parker retired. For our guild, it marks the end of an era, the end of a happy discipline. We thank God for our memories of the smiles and hugs we received there on those service days, and we rejoice for Mrs. Parker.

We invite all ladies of the parish to join us at any of our meetings. If you would like further information about who we are or what we do, please let us know!

Mary Jane Cole
(maryjane@cfsw.biz)
Denise Thornton
(neisthornton@gmail.com).



OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee met on April 2 to pack the meals for the Stafford Junction delivery on April 4. This is the last time we will pack meals for this school year. We have a new contact at Stafford Junction and will talk with her about the next school year.

After our pot luck meal, we held our meeting. We first discussed the omelet bar fundraiser. We served many, many omelets and had positive feedback. Thanks to all the helping hands and to all who purchased omelets.

The Lenten Cross was on display throughout Lent.

The spring Pig Roast, Craft Show, and Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 4. So far we have registrations from 13 vendors who will have indoor spaces and four who will be outside. We will need help setting up on May 3, and with everything on May 4. We will prepare a sign-up sheet and have it available after services starting Easter Sunday.

The Cash For Cows collection will start on Mother's Day and run through Father's Day (May 12 – June 16). We will check with Episcopal Relief and

Development and Heifer International to see what animals are on their lists for purchase this year.

We discussed holding a shoe collection for a local ministry. This ministry provides shoes to those who need shoes and cannot afford them. This is the same group who collects the leftover shoes after Fall Fest. We will contact them and see if we can hold a collection in June. They provide the signs and collection boxes and will pick up the shoes when the campaign is over.

We will be participating in a stuff-the-truck volunteer day at a local grocery store on June 13. Shifts will be 90 minutes long, and we will need two volunteers per shift. We will check with the Scouts to see if they would like to join in on this volunteer opportunity.

We were contacted by Choices Women's Center (CWC) about having a person be a liaison between Outreach and CWC. In the past this entity was known as the Fredericksburg Pregnancy Center, and we worked with them on their baby bottle collections. They had some tumultuous times, and a few years ago after much discussion and soul-

searching, we had decided to concentrate our efforts on a different cause. At this time we decided not to reopen our connection with them.

We talked about having some additional fundraisers. Some time ago we had a rock-a-thon to benefit a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina. That rock-a-thon was a success, and we are considering sponsoring another one. We also talked about holding a walk-a-thon. We will be looking for other ideas, too.

We will host the April Head Start dinners, and will only have to cover two Mondays this month. We have already purchased the plates, napkins, dessert bowls, and silverware for both nights.

We voted to send \$150 each to our two missionaries.

Our next meeting will be May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. We welcome anyone who would like to join this active ministry.

Johanna Jones



The annual Pig Roast, Craft Show, and Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meal includes a pulled pork sandwich, two sides, a dessert, and a drink for \$10. The craft show features old friends from previous shows, including the woodworker who makes the beautiful wooden crosses, Virginia Night Lights, Peacock Glass, and Sugar Hollow Quilts. New friends include All Bottled Up, Pennies 4 Memories, KB Treasure Trove, and a vendor selling jams, jellies, and salsa. This is a perfect time to pick up gifts for Mothers Day. Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to this event.

We will be asking for donations for the rummage sale. Space is limited, so we will be asking for small items.

Help will be needed the day before, the day of, during, and after the event. A sign-up sheet indicating what help will be needed and when it will be needed will be posted on the picnic bench in front of the Church.

Proceeds from the Pig Roast will benefit the historic Aquia Episcopal Church, and the Craft Show and Rummage Sale proceeds will benefit our Outreach Ministry. Your support of these fund raisers is appreciated.

Johanna Jones



AQUIA'S TABLE

Aquia's Pantry is now an official partner with the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank. The pantry can now acquire food items at a very low rate, thus being able to offer their guests a wider selection from which to choose; milk, cheese, eggs, and produce carry absolutely no maintenance fee, with all other products going for 19 cents or less per pound.

Recently, parishioners Dina Stanford, Mary Jane Cole, Douglas McGinty, and Michael Golasz attended a food handling safety course and received certificates, in order to better insure the well-being of the pantry's clientele.

Aquia's Pantry is open on Wednesday evenings, in conjunction with Aquia's Table, and has become a valuable resource for people who may be facing food insecurity since its inception in September 2017.

Michael Golasz



Aquia Episcopal Church
2938 Jefferson David Highway
Stafford, VA

Community Yard Sale

Saturday, June 8

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

\$20 for a 2-car vendor space

Call (540) 659-4007 to reserve a space.

Food will be sold.

All proceeds from table rentals and food sales will support the general fund of the Aquia Church Administration Committee.

Jean Golas





T O U R N A M E N T

Annual Bob Jones Memorial Golf Tournament

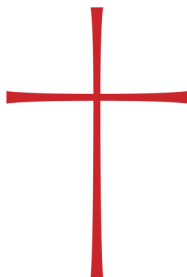
Playing with a Purpose So No One Goes Hungry

On May 10, at Augustine Golf Course, Stafford, we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Aquia's Table Ministry. The ministry continues to be sustained with the generous donations and partners of our community.

Augustine Golf Course, as a collaborative member, works with our core team to host a day of golf, an awards luncheon, and a silent auction. A continental breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m., and we tee off at 9 a.m. If you want to join the fun and come to the Awards luncheon, a place can be set for you! The silent auction is a great place to pick up a Mother's Day wine basket or take a chance in the 50/50 raffle.

Forms to sponsor, to register for golf, and to reserve a space for lunch are located in the church, at Aquia's Table on Wednesdays, or from a core team member. You are INVITED to us join in this day of celebration!

Briget Kane



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.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

Thomas Maxwell Fallon.

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

Peggy Hall, 1936- 2019.

NEWCOMERS/VISITORS

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

Jeff & Lori Seidel, Joseph & Sandra Sampson, Patricia Northcutt.

FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is June 9, 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.

PRAYERS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

Derek and Emily (Selz) Wiser; Brett and Sarah (Selz) Moran

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 would like to put you on our prayer list for all those who are deployed in the service of our country.



www.aquiachurch.org

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(540) 659-4007

Aquia Church Prayer List – May 2019



Faye Andrews, Rhett Blythe and Family, Dickie Boes, Hayden Boes, Edward Chaplin, Judy Chaplin, Elijah Colliver, Jeff Davis, Donnie Davis, Scott Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Hank Grizzard, Betty Haeberer, Larry Hartzler, Chris Hundley, Carol LaPorte, Elaine Lewis, Lori, Ken & Anne Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Osborn Family, Rebecca Poole, Kenny Reilly, Landon Santelli, Janice Shelton, Scott Smith, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

March 19, 2019

Dinner and Fellowship (starting at 6:30pm) (hosts: McGinty and Shoen). In attendance were Rector Fr. Jay Morris and Assistant Rector Fr. James Rickenbaker, along with the following vestry members: Sr. Warden Bill Hoffman, Jr. Warden Ron Korth, Treasurer Chris Arey, incoming Youth Representative Christopher (Kit) Stoltz, Youth Representative Ethan Shoen, Jean Golas, Mary Nixon, Chris Wanner, Dickie Boes, Larry Moxley, and Registrar Douglas McGinty. Fr. Jay opened with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Business Session (starting at 7:00pm)

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Arey delivered the cover letter, balance sheets, and reports.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Presented by the Register, Douglas McGinty and approved unanimously by the vestry.

- R-2019-01: Authorize Bank Signatories (approved 2/19).
- R-2019-02: Wage Increase for Nursery Supervisor and Nursery Assistant (approved 2/19).
- R-2019-03: Adjustments to 2019 Budget (approved 2/19).
- R-2019-04: Cemetery Tree Removal (approved 3/3 by electronic vote).

New Business

- R-2019-05: Appointment of Audit Committee to Review 2018 Financials (finance committee). Unanimously approved with modification, but substantially the same.
- R-2019-06: Cemetery Mowing Contract (Bill Hoffman and Rector). The mowing schedule extends through October under the terms of the contract. Unanimously approved with correction of minor misspelling.

- Work of Committees: Goals for each committee were accepted by the vestry. The administration committee goals were amended to include Goal 10 for researching the ownership of church parcels.
- Plaque honoring David Wirman. The vestry endorsed by consensus work on the plaque.
- Proposal for Eagle Scout project. The vestry endorsed by consensus the project of building benches for the cemetery.

Reports from Vestry Committees

Administration, by Jean Golas. Work on the sign is done. Larry Moxley is working on the cleaning list and will meet with Robynn's Nest.

Building and Grounds, by Ron Korth. Posts, signs, and guard rails are being considered to keep cars on the driveway. Addresses also may placed on the church signs. Fr. Jay noted that VDOT has seen the flooded entrance and can work on it soon.

Finance, by Dickie Boes. It was suggested that 16 regular parishioners be reminded to pledge again this year.

Reports from Junior Warden and Senior Warden

Sr. Warden Bill Hoffman and Jr. Warden Ron Korth indicated that their matters already had been addressed.

Report from Rector

Fr. Jay delivered the Rector's Report. There may be conflicts with two Sundays in June when he plans to be away for continuing education, but both Sundays are covered. The vestry will meet on the fourth Sunday in April.

Upcoming Dates

4/14 Palm Sunday (worship schedule: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 5 p.m.)



Vestry Highlights

4/14–4/20 Holy Week (weekday worship every evening at 7 p.m., plus noon service on 4/19 Good Friday)

4/21 Easter Sunday (worship schedule: 6:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 5 p.m.)

4/23 vestry meeting (special date: fourth Tuesday of April)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas McGinty

Register, Aquia Episcopal Church





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



May 
COME JOIN US!

MAY 4: PIG ROAST, CRAFT SHOW & RUMMAGE SALE

MAY 10: BOB JONES MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 12: UNITED THANK OFFERING INGATHERING

MAY 19: HERITAGE SUNDAY

MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY



May 2019 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

The current Wednesday evening Bible study series that began in late April is titled “Studies in Luke’s Gospel.” In this short-term series, we are exploring what is unique about the Third Gospel, what Luke the evangelist emphasizes in his writings, and what tips will be helpful for better understanding Luke’s portrayal of Jesus. The Morning Call series that will run throughout May is titled “What are the Acts of the Apostles?” Perhaps you noticed that starting on Easter Day, we began to have a reading each Sunday from the Book of Acts, with this approach continuing through the Day of Pentecost (this year on June 9). This Morning Call series will thus explore some themes in the fifth book in the sequence of the New Testament, in order to see what makes Acts so important in general, especially throughout the Easter season. There is a simple reason these two offerings for adult education are dealing in tandem with the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts: with almost absolute certainty, these two books were written by one and the same author. He is Luke, the one who is named “the beloved physician” in Colossians 3:14 and was apparently an occasional traveling-companion with the apostle Paul during some of his missionary voyages. For starters on why virtually every New Testament scholar thinks that Luke wrote both the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, read the first paragraph of Luke’s Gospel and the first paragraph of the Book of Acts, and notice the connections. Furthermore, read the four passages in Acts where the narration shifts from third-person reports about what various Christian leaders like Paul were doing to first-person-plural reports about what “we” were doing, thus indicating that the narrator—Luke himself—was indeed accompanying Paul and others in those travels. For most of Christian history, perceptive readers have observed various parallels and affinities between the Third Gospel and the Book of Acts. Yet many smarty-pants scholars have spent so much time dissecting Luke and Acts into various discrete units that they ended up focusing on the individual trees instead of on the huge unified forest that the combined essay Luke-Acts was originally intended to be. Likewise, there are many commentaries that deal either with Luke or with Acts, but not often both writings together. In my preparation for the pair of series on Luke and Acts that I am leading in May (and for an upcoming, more in-depth study of Acts that will likely begin in August), one of my primary guides has been a remarkable book that I wholeheartedly recommend to you: *A Theology of Luke and Acts: God’s Promised Program, Realized for All Nations* (Zondervan, 2012) by Darrell L. Bock.

Bock’s book begins by explaining the importance of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles within the context of the entire New Testament. Did you know that the combined Luke-Acts comprises over one-quarter of the New Testament’s content? Obviously, if you’re going to understand anything about the New Testament, then you need to understand this huge chunk of it! Bock also discusses fascinating historical and literary details about Luke-Acts (such as authorship, date, and literary genre), how Luke and Acts came to be separated from their original unity, and the pros and cons of reading these two books separately from each other or else together as a whole. After those sixty-odd pages, the next forty-odd provide a step-by-step tour of what happens in Luke and what happens in Acts (such as the birth and infancy narratives about Jesus, the start of his ministry in Galilee, the early church in Jerusalem, the various missionary journeys, and so forth). The next hundred-seventy-five pages explore the central themes of Luke-Acts under several categories about God, such as his promise and plan for salvation, the various elements of salvation as accomplished within history, a comprehensive explanation of who Jesus is and what Jesus did (including an array of ‘titles’ for Jesus or aspects of his ministry), what the Holy Spirit does to empower God’s people, and so forth. The final hundred-seventy-five pages present other important themes of Luke-Acts at the human level: Israel and the Gentiles (or various national/ethnic groups), the early church of Jesus’ disciples who are on ‘the Way,’ a very engaging section on how different outsiders (especially Jesus’ opponents, the crowds, and Roman officials) respond to their encounters with Jesus, women and the poor and other outcasts (who are often favored in Luke-Acts), summaries about leaders in the early church, matters about future judgment and hope for end-times, and the relevance of the Old Testament for understanding Luke-Acts.

Bock is one of the world’s leading scholars on Luke-Acts, having written no less than three different commentaries on the Third Gospel and a commentary on Acts across some four decades of biblical scholarship. (His two-volume commentary on Luke averages over 1,000 pages each, and his commentary on Acts is nearly 900 pages long. Bock has lots of details in those books, to be sure, but much of their insight is distilled into this more recent book—with very ample margins!) Currently, Bock is senior research professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he also serves as executive director of cultural engagement (he often appears in podcasts and other electronic media). While he has written some forty books mostly in New Testament, his best-selling book (*Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answering the Claims Everybody’s Asking* [Thomas Nelson, 2004]) refutes a number of claims in the popular work by Dan Brown. But the present book on the theology of Luke and Acts is the capstone of Bock’s lifetime of research and patient listening to what Luke the evangelist proclaims in his own terms, and it is the mature work of a seasoned and faithful scholar.