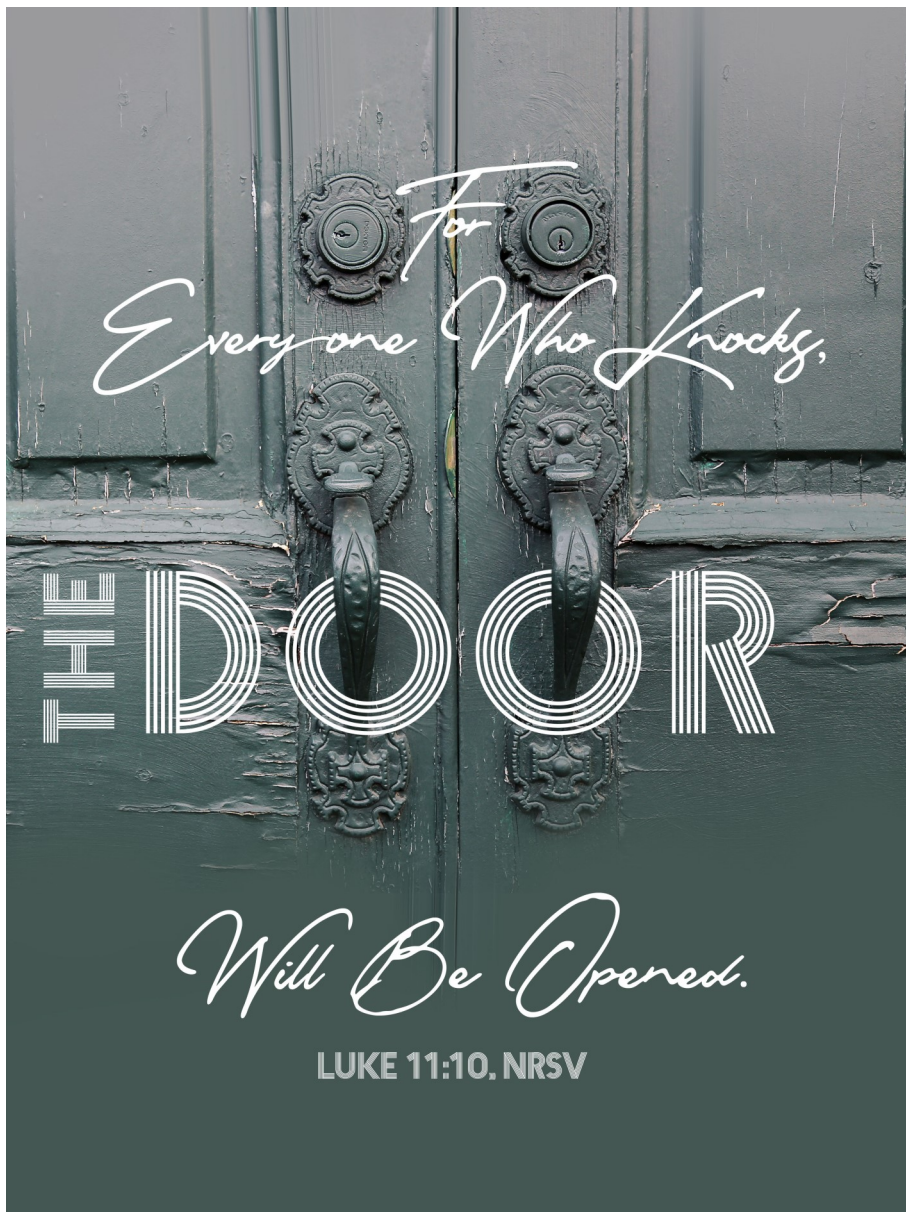




**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

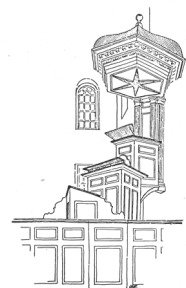
# Cross Section

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



## INSIDE . . .

- Fall Fest Auction List
- Allison Gannon's Mission Trip Experience
- Ethan Shoen's Graduation Sunday address
- Fr. James: "Why do we need Liturgy?"
- Fr. Morris: "How to Travel First Class"
- Daughters of the King returns to Aquia





## 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 Travel in First Class

Part of summer always involves travel. My mother, my daughter, and I recently enjoyed a vacation around Colorado, including the ancestral Puebloan ruins at Mesa Verde National Park in the far southwestern corner and a variety of sites around Denver and Colorado Springs, which are cities toward the center of the state. Also, my daughter and I will devote a few days to riding roller coasters at Cedar Point in Ohio and seeing some points of interest nearby. I trust that you are finding ways this summer to spend time with family and friends, whether with outdoor recreation or with cooler opportunities. The change of scenery and the change of pace can certainly be refreshing, especially as we explore new territory and broaden our horizons.

Sometimes, however, the reason for travel is not optional and might not include recreation in the usual sense of that word. Consider, for instance, what we find in the Acts of the Apostles, as Luke records them in the New Testament. There one finds trips around many key parts of the Holy Land. The apostles gather for meetings in Jerusalem while other Christian servants travel around other places like Azotus and Antioch. The apostle Paul undertakes three different missionary journeys in order to plant some churches and to visit other congregations all over the Mediterranean, including parts of present-day Turkey, Greece, and Italy. The nascent Christian community begins to spread like wildfire as members of the body of Christ share the Gospel with their relatives, friends, neighbors, and even strangers. So much of that early growth occurs by means of ventures far and wide, and the Book of Acts at times seems to be an extensive travel log.

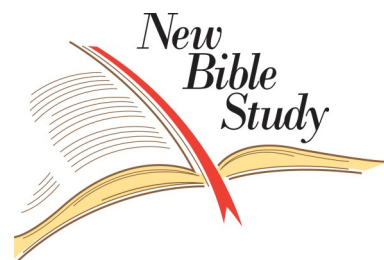
What else one finds in Acts is truly remarkable. While the very first Christians came from Jewish roots, soon enough the Gospel encompasses non-Jewish people, too. As these Gentiles become included within the body of Christ (with resulting competition between Jewish-background Christians and pagan-background Christians about worship, rituals, meals, and

social customs), various tensions inevitably arise like growing pains. The monotheism of Jewish and Christian believers confronts the polytheistic idolatry of the dominant Greco-Roman culture. Disputes develop among different sources of authority as well—between different religious groups with conflicting principles, between religious figures and secular powers, and so forth.

As the story unfolds throughout the Book of Acts, there are plenty of changes of scenery and pace alike. The location of the events moves from jam-packed Jerusalem to isolated roads in rural lands, from synagogues and homes to marketplaces and jails, from the Holy Land to regions far away. Sometimes the pace rushes quickly toward a climactic moment; at other times, however, the narrative slows down as the missionaries spend months or even years in the same area before moving elsewhere. There are miracles and conversions, debates and speeches, storms and shipwrecks, and tons of twists and turns that seem to surprise even some of the characters involved. All of these elements make the Acts of the Apostles into a real page-turner (certainly by comparison to, say, First and Second Chronicles!).

As this summer winds down, I shall start up a new Wednesday evening Bible study about the Book of Acts, and I plan to savor it like a good summer read. We begin this adventure on August 14, right after Stafford County Schools have begun their new semester. Please join us on this journey! Even if you do not ordinarily travel in luxury with limousines, planes, or trains, you are surely welcomed to join us in first class as we explore together the Acts of the Apostles.

*Jay Morris*



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### Why Do We Need Liturgy?

Dear Family in Christ, Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank our God for you, especially for the interest you have in deepening your faith in Jesus. This is the hallmark of a mature Christian. For that reason, I wanted to write about something that we might take for granted: liturgy.

The word liturgy comes from the Greek *leitourgia*, which means “work of the people.” The liturgy, properly understood, is an offering to God. We offer him ourselves in worship. We offer him bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of his Son, Jesus. We offer him our lives as he sends us out at the end of the service to love and serve in his name. The whole of the service is an offering. Liturgy today, though, has been defined as structured worship, reductionist though that be.

When my wife Rachel and I were away in early June, we went to a conference at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. One of the many topics covered was why young people have become so enamored with liturgy. Why are young people coming back to churches that have structured worship? A few thoughts occur to me on the matter.

Liturgy is bathed in Scripture. In the Episcopal Church, for example, the whole service is filled with Scriptural references. Some are more obvious than others. Some require a deeper knowledge of Scripture to understand. This means that our worship services are a kind of Biblical instruction. We have actual readings in church from the Bible. But the whole of the service is filled with references. For example, the priest says a blessing over the people at the end of the service. We say, “The peace of God, which passes all understanding . . . .” That comes from Paul in his letter to the Philippians (Phil. 4:7).

Liturgy is ancient. From the very earliest church, there was structure to the service. The church has always had a kind of structure. It was even a common occurrence in the early church to have the Eu-



charist daily! An example of ancient action is when we greet one another at the peace: we are performing an ancient action. In the early church, they would greet one another with the “kiss of peace” (Rom. 16:16, I Thess. 5:26, and others). The things we do in church connect us to the communion of saints—past, present, and future. This is an attractive quality.

Liturgy engages all of the senses. This is perhaps the most obvious. We touch the bread to receive the Body of Christ, and we taste it as well. We smell the wine that is his Blood. We see each other and everything we are doing together in worship. And we hear the sermon and our unified response to the sermon with the Nicene Creed. Every sense is engaged. Not all denominations can say this about their worship. We recognize in the way we worship that the human body is an integrated whole. We are not just brains with legs.

These are just a few reasons for why we do what we do on Sunday. Rest assured, there are many more! (Our young adults found it important enough to talk extensively about it at our meeting last month.) By all means, free to ask Fr. Morris or me more on this subject. We enjoy talking about it.

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**

**Kit Stoltz**

*Youth Representative*

**Chris Wanner**





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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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**June 18 2019**

**Dinner and Fellowship** (starting at 6:30 p.m.; hosts: Chichester and Hoffman).

In attendance were the Rector, Fr. Jay Morris; the Asst. Rector, Fr. James Rickenbaker; and the following vestry members – Sr. Warden Bill Hoffman, Jr. Warden Ron Korth, Youth Representative Christopher (Kit) Stoltz, Treasurer Chris Arey, Dickie Boes, Chris Wanner, Jackie Chichester, Mary Nixon, Jean Golas, and Register Douglas McGinty. Fr. Jay opened with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

*[Subsequent events are italicized and bracketed.]*

**Business Session (starting at 7 p.m.)**

*Treasurer's Report:* Treasurer Chris Arey delivered and discussed the cover letter and related documents. Due to the mortgage payment, there was a negative cashflow of \$15K for May. Bill Hoffman asked whether the Dipple Cemetery Fund may be merged with the regular cemetery fund. Fr. Jay indicated that more research was needed. *[On June 28, 2019, Chris Arey provided a copy of a 1943 report by Rector Henry Heaton on the Dipple Cemetery and Graveyard Fund.]*

*Minutes from Previous Meeting,* provided by the Register Douglas McGinty.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

- R-2019-07 Employee Health Insurance Adjustments (approved 5/21).
- Directional Sign to various buildings. There is no quote yet on replacement of the older sign at the present location. *[As authorized by vestry consensus later during this meeting, the Junior Warden subsequently and successfully installed a new metal directional sign at the top of the driveway, replacing the prior wooden sign that was deteriorating.]*

**New Business**

Review of vestry's ministry year-to-date, including goals. Fr. Jay asked how well the vestry and committees are working together, and asked about progress toward their goals. The congregation should be encouraged to serve on the vestry, committees, and other church activities. With respect to the annual pledge campaign, a more balanced approach is needed, with more communication and possibly a narrative discussion to make the points more tangible. With respect to the upcoming capital campaign, a committee of 9-12 people is desired, with the core in place by next month. An outside consultant should be considered because it has been a while since the last capital campaign here and the effort needs to be productive. Feedback is requested as to the prospective consultants on the list. Vestry members should check the consultants' websites. Each consultant has different levels of support and approaches. The amount of \$1.7 million will pay off the balance of the mortgage loan. Committee goals are discussed further below.

**Reports from Vestry Committees**

*Administration* by Jean Golas. The committee did not meet in June.

*Finance* by Dickie Boes. Dickie believed that the committee loads are fair. Chris Arey indicated that a draft resolution on new accounting procedures will be submitted to the vestry next month. *[Chris Arey drafted a proposed resolution that was submitted to the finance committee on July 9, 2019.]* Chris noted that new accounting procedures are needed to ensure confidence with internal controls. The new accounting system will have better reporting and greater transparency. The system may be described as a three-legged stool, with



## Vestry Highlights

different people handling the money, posting the amounts, and reconciling the accounts. A full CPA audit would be good after ACS is implemented, possibly for the 2020 records. The committee has the goal of drafting bylaw changes by the end of the year. *[The audit committee met on June 24, 2019 to review the Church's financial records.]*

*Building and Grounds* by Ron Korth. The cemetery fence has been fixed and the insulation of the Fleurries (church office) has been completed. Ron provided a drawing of the proposed directional sign. He did not believe the sign should cost more than \$350. The vestry recommended that the arrows on the sign be made clearer by making the stems longer and narrower. The term "Building" should be taken out and an arrow placed at the center of the top. The committee will ask for an adjustment to budget item 6820, Equip. Repairs & Maintenance. The water bill came down for the last month but is still high.

**Reports by the Senior and Junior Wardens**

*Senior Warden:* Bill Hoffman indicated that there have been five incidents of vandalism at the cemetery in the last few months. Some stones have been tipped over and others turned around. Advice was sought on how to proceed

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and it was suggested that the police be consulted.

*Junior Warden:* Ron Korth already reported on the Building and Grounds Committee.

#### Report from Rector.

Fr. Jay provided the Clergy Report. Of interest are demographic studies of youth and the thoughts and concerns of "Gen-Z" members. Fr. James reported that his wife, the Rev. Rachel Rickenba-

ker, will conclude her ministry at Immanuel Church on the Hill in Alexandria at the end of August.

#### Upcoming Dates and Information

[6/23-29 Parish-wide mission trip led by youth group to Scranton, Pa.]

7/16 Vestry meeting (hosts: Boes and Stoltz)

Meal hosts for August: Chichester and Moxley

Meal hosts for September: Golas and Nixon

Meal hosts for October: Arey and Moxley

Meal hosts for November: Boes and Korth

Meal hosts for December: Hoffman and Korth (wardens' chili cook-off)

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Douglas McGinty*

*Register, Aquia Episcopal Church*

### Matching Challenge Opportunity

Aquia Church has received an exciting opportunity for a matching challenge grant toward the new building, thanks to a generous and anonymous donation. Every dollar received for the new building between now and Oct. 31 (unless otherwise specified) will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$100,000.00, with the combined funds being applied toward reduction of the principal on the construction loan. This will work in much the same way as when you pay a bit extra on your car loan, home mortgage, or other debt: the

faster you can pay down the original cost, the less accumulated interest you must pay in turn, and then the overall expense is reduced, too (and ahead of schedule!) – and in this case, your donation will be matched for even more powerful effect. Your contribution of any size will be counted toward the match, up to the limit, so that we can defray our total costs on the construction loan at a more rapid pace.

Think about this: if we can meet this challenge, then we can reduce our principal repayment by

the very significant amount of \$200,000.00 AND reduce our interest repayment, too! Your tax-deductible donations can take the form of cash, check, or investments like stocks or mutual funds. For gifts of cash or check, simply make your contribution to Aquia Church, with "New Building" on your envelope or on the memo line of your check. For information on donating investments in tax-advantageous ways, please contact the church office or treasurer Chris Arey ([chris.arey@gmail.com](mailto:chris.arey@gmail.com)).

*Chris Arey*



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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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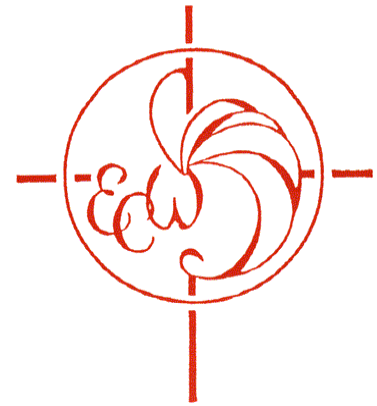
We are guided and impacted by many things in our lives. It begins very early in our lives and continues as we move through this journey. My earliest remembrances of guidance are from my parents, as I think most of us remember. I often ponder how guidance impacts my daily life and my life as a whole. I continue to receive guidance as my life journey continues, while coming from many different avenues. It is always my choice to choose to be guided or not. At Aquia we are blessed to have the avenues of guidance in our faith, in our ministries, and in our missions. This guidance impacts our faith at all levels, ours to choose to apply. We are led as the Episcopal Church Women's Mission Statement states: guided by the Holy Spirit.

It is with joyful service and guidance we work together to continue with an annual tradition: Fall Fest. By sharing ideas, and with teams of volunteers, we bring Fall Fest together so our 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. 5, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Plans are in the works to once again have our garden mart filled with flowers, pumpkins, scarecrows, and favorite yard art. Maybe this will be your first stop! Zofia and Larry, our department chairs for the garden mart, bring joy to your visit there.

The parish hall houses our flea market, a favorite among so many; it will be back this year. The clothing closet, jewelry room, and book nook will begin accepting donations in September. Not to be missed is the craft room. Our live auction and the country store are just a few of the stops to be added to your day.

Homecoming Sunday on Sept. 8 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 tradition of Homecoming with fellowship, food, and joy.



Come share our joy in service and participate, donate, or volunteer. Simply contact me ([bkwnings\\_n\\_things@yahoo.com](mailto:bkwnings_n_things@yahoo.com)).

### Mission Statement:

**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.**

*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 October 5. Meeting in the parish hall on the lower level of the 1960 parish house, we start with Morning Prayer at 9:30, share a chapter of our study book, and then work happily together on a craft for the Fall Fest craft room.

Crafts we are working on this summer include letter-block elves, clothespin soldiers, wood gnomes, and, of course, 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 Fall Fest. Please search through your jewelry box and pass along whatever you no longer wear. They just might accessorize someone else perfectly.

All ladies of the parish are welcome to join us. Working together, 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, ask Mary Jane Cole ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)) or Denise Thornton ([neisieb@aol.com](mailto:neisieb@aol.com)).

*Mary Jane Cole*



Meet the Gnomes. Cebus, Debus and Febus, plus a few of their cousins, will be waiting to greet you in the craft room at Fall Fest.



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## Mission Trip



### Aquia's mission trip

Suitcase? Check. Clothes I can get dirty? Check. Toothbrush? Check. Deodorant? Check. I was unsure what God had planned for me as I got ready to head out to Aquia Church. I was unaware of how amazing the people that I would meet in 30 minutes would be, unaware of how much of an impact the people in my crew were going to have on my life, and unaware of how important going on this mission trip to Scranton, Pennsylvania, would be.

Fast forward to the evening program. We were introduced to our crews and played some ice-breakers. My crew consisted of two adult leaders (John and Christine) and four youth (Amanda, Christian, Steven, and myself). We all were so excited to be there and to start our project. Our project consisted of ripping up old parts of a deck and placing down new boards, re-painting the entire deck, and painting the interior rooms of the house. We assigned roles to the group, and I was in charge of reporting back to the red shirts [the workcamp staff members] about our progress.

After we finished the evening program, the youth group and I headed off to find a good spot for evening devotions. Devotions were my favorite part during the week. It was a time to reflect on the events that happened during the day. Furthermore, evening devotions helped me connect the Bible to my dai-

ly life and strengthen my relationship with God and the youth group. Our crew devotion leader was John, and every day after lunch we would find a nice shady spot to discuss stressors in our life and how to relate events in the Bible to our struggles.

People often talk about 'God-sightings' they have on mission trips. Personally, I had two God sightings; the first one was with my crew. We had a great connection and we all worked really well together. The amount of work done was always an equal share and everyone was willing to help each other out. By the end of the week, we were starting to call ourselves a little family. My second God-sighting I saw was in my residents: Tom, John, and Fred. These three bothers made my week. Fred used to be in the house-building business. On the first day, my crew and I just finished up ripping up boards and measuring the new ones but realized we were out of time to nail them in place. We told Fred, Tom, and

John to be careful while walking across them because they were not nailed in. After we left, Fred took the time to nail and screw screws into the two fresh boards. The next day we arrived at the sight and saw Fred and John standing on the deck. Furthermore, Fred went and bought pizza for my crew and me because he really appreciated the work we were doing, and he said it was the least he could do. The projects were not hard, and we ended up finishing all of the work with a little help from another crew on the last day.

Scranton, Pennsylvania, became my home away from home. I am blessed that I got to stay in such a nice facility. From the people I met on a mission trip to the yummy food I ate in the cafeteria, I wouldn't trade a second of it. It was a life-changing trip, I feel that my relationship with God has grown, and I have found new ways to keep my relationship with him strong.

*Allison Gannon*

NOTE: *The author of this article, Allison Gannon, was one of ten participants on our parish-wide mission trip led by the youth group during June 23-29. Aquia's other teenage participants were Alec Amador, Cristina Amador, Shawn Bourne, Bailey Burghart, Marilyn Burghart, Brandon Spaulding, and Kit Stoltz, with Linda Burghart and Tim Spaulding serving as our adult leaders.*

## "Daughters of the King" Returns to Aquia

This spring marked the reinstatement of the Aquia Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King®. This Anglican lay religious order for women was founded in New York in 1885 and was a part of our parish in the past. Since its inception, Daughters of the King has grown to be an international organization of women dedicated to prayer and service wherever appropriate in their church or in surrounding communities. Members take lifelong vows

to follow a 'Rule of Life,' including a 'Rule of Prayer' and a Rule of Service.'

This Aquia Chapter meets on the first Saturday of each month at noon in the historic church. Our focus will be on exploring and experiencing the power of prayer together. We intend to use our worldwide network to learn and grow as 'prayer warriors' for ourselves, our families, and all who need the healing support of our prayers. Please join us to work together to explore all ways



to strengthen our prayer links with God and his son Jesus.

Contact Patricia Springer for additional information, or join us at our meetings on the first Saturday of each month.

*Pat Bowers*





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## Graduates Sunday

Good Morning, everyone. When Father Jay e-mailed me about speaking in front of you all, I was honored and I immediately responded back, saying I would love to. I was at Crystal City waiting to take the VRE back to Stafford, for I was at Georgetown University for an Army ROTC interview. So after a long morning of walking and thinking about what to say, I was glad that I had a topic that I thought would come easily. I have soon found out that this is not the case. I do not talk about myself a lot unless I am describing my day or asking for advice. So when Father Jay gave me a few recommendations of what to talk about, I immediately wanted to go to my essays I wrote for college, but I decided to write something completely different.

So I know most of you know me; but for those who do not, I am Ethan Shoen. I have been a member at Aquia Church for about three years. During my time here I have helped with grounds clean-up, I have been an acolyte, and I have been the youth representative on the vestry. All of these things I have greatly enjoyed.

Now that I have that over with, let me tell you a little about me and what I will be doing after today. I grew up in Michigan. I learned to play the tuba while I was there, and I started to play for marching band my freshman year of high school. I also went on two mission trips before we moved here to Stafford. On those trips, I met truly amazing people that I still talk to every now and then, even today. I have learned valuable lessons on those trips. For example, we had one lesson where we were each given two pennies before it started. We were then encouraged to drop them into a bucket in front of a cross. I don't remember the specifics of the lesson as it was five years ago, but I do remember that us putting the pennies into the bucket was supposed to represent us

giving ourselves to Jesus. What I mean by this is that we would follow in his footsteps and serve, rather than be served. We would also put our complete trust into him, knowing that he would always be by our side, no matter what. We ended that lesson with a group meeting as we did every night and we sang "Jesus Loves Me." This was Thursday night, which is always supposed to be the most emotional night mostly because it is our last night together before Friday night where we invite our residents to come and worship with us.

I moved here to Stafford in August of 2016. We were driving through town, and I pointed out the sign for Aquia



Church, and I did the research to see when the services started and thus started our weekly trips to this church. I remember the first day we attended. We were welcomed by all of you and Father James and Father Jay both greeted us with the warmest welcome, and we're glad each time we came back. Towards the end of my sophomore year, Father Jay mentioned they needed a new youth rep for the vestry. I swear every time Father Jay mentioned it in the announcements, he would look directly at me. One day I told my parents to pay attention, and they agreed with me. I eventually went up to Father Jay and said I would be interested in it, and he listed the criteria and told me I met all of it. From there on, I was a member of the vestry. It was a great experience. I enjoyed the laughs, and it was very interesting learning how the church func-

tioned, and (seeing as I want to go to college for a business degree) it was very useful.

While here in Stafford, I met loads of new people and made lasting friendships. One in particular is my best friend Logan. She is very important to me because she has always pushed me further and further. She even introduced me to cheer. So one thing none of you know about me is that I am indeed a cheerleader. Logan was talking to me about it one day and said I should totally try it. She sold me on it, and I wanted to join for my senior year; but football season with marching band did not allow this, so I choose marching band since I was low brass captain for the second year. Luckily in November, Logan told me that they were having winter cheer tryouts, and so I told her I was definitely going to try out, and I showed up and tried out and made the team. The way the cheer team works is they have a few days of 'workshops' where you come in and learn the material needed to audition, then you audition. The very first day I

was at the workshops, we started with stretching. The coach had us go into splits and I looked at Logan with a look of "what did you talk me into." The coach and she laughed and told me to go as far as I could. (Keep in mind I had to do this at every practice.) At the end of the season, we had a banquet as most sports do, and I was telling everyone on my team that it was the most memorable high school experience I have had and that I wish I had started sooner. That of course made most of them cry, but I was prepared and brought tissues.

Now, time to talk about me. I have been in marching band for four years and I have played the tuba for seven years. I have played the trombone for three and have been a part of jazz band for four years. I was invited to go to the Virginia Tech honor band this past January. I was also a member of the all-

*Continued on next page ...*





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## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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We had a very successful Vacation Bible School in June thanks to our many youth and adult volunteers. Approximately 60 children registered for this summer's *In the Wild* program, where we had amazing encounters with Jesus through Bible study, music, games, crafts, and tasty snacks.

Our regular Sunday school program will resume on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m. This year we will use a lectionary-based curriculum called *Activate*

*Faith* produced by Sparkhouse Publishing. This program connects worship with Sunday school. You can register your child or grandchild for Sunday school at any time during the year. If you are interested in helping with our Sunday school program, please contact Kristen Morgan: [christianed@aquiachurch.org](mailto:christianed@aquiachurch.org).

*Kristen Morgan*



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district band for three years and a member of the all-county band for one. I have gotten a one [i.e. the top rating] at solo and at ensemble with one of my friends as a duet, and I got a one this last month performing a solo. I have also been training this last year to go into service in the Coast Guard, but I had decided in the last few months to switch gears and go Army. I am going to Norwich University in the fall to study business management and international business. I have joined the Corps of Cadets and have received the General I. D. White scholarship and a three-year ROTC scholarship as well as many others from Norwich. I will be joining the armor branch of the Army and will serve until I am forced to retire. I have also been known to set goals

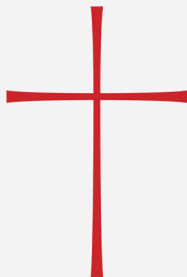
for myself to push myself further. For example, I have a higher GPA and have one more cord than both of my brothers did in high school, and I have almost all of my college paid for. The next goal I have is something I have learned from church; make a difference. I have no idea what that means to me yet, but I know at some point I will see what that is, and then I will know.

The main part of this long speech is that I do not like talking about myself, but more importantly that church and Christianity is a huge part of my life. I will make it a point to go to church while I attend Norwich and for the rest of my life. After reviewing the last eighteen years of my life, I couldn't imagine doing half of the things I have done without church; the support I have received from everyone at church has helped me with pushing myself further

and further each and every day. While I may be leaving this church family soon, I will still be praying for each and every one of you and will be thankful for all of your help and guidance. Thank you.

NOTE: Near the end of each school year, Aquia Church recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of our parishioners graduating from high school, college, graduate school, and other professional programs, typically inviting a graduate or two to speak on Graduates Sunday in place of the usual sermon. In 2019 we observed Graduates Sunday on June 2, on which occasion high school senior Ethan Shoen spoke at our morning worship services. His remarks on that Sunday are represented here.

*Ethan Shoen*



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.



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## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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### NEWCOMERS/VISITORS

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”* (Hebrews 13:2). Brian and Hildamar Potvin, Greg & Leigh Moynihan.

### 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.

### FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is Nov. 3, 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) Wisser; Brett and Sarah (Selz) Moran, Zac and Samantha (Hedger) Chesley.

*Submitted by Sue Selz*



[www.aquiachurch.org](http://www.aquiachurch.org)

[office@aquiachurch.org](mailto:office@aquiachurch.org)

(540) 659-4007

### Aquia Church Prayer List – August 2019



*Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart.”*

Acts 1:24, NRSV

Faye Andrews, Rhett Blythe and Family, Edward Chaplin, Judy Chaplin, Elijah Colliver, Jeff Davis, Donnie Davis, Paula Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Chris Hundley, Elaine Lewis, Molly Lewis-Suttles, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Kenny Reilly, Janice Shelton, Scott Smith, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber.



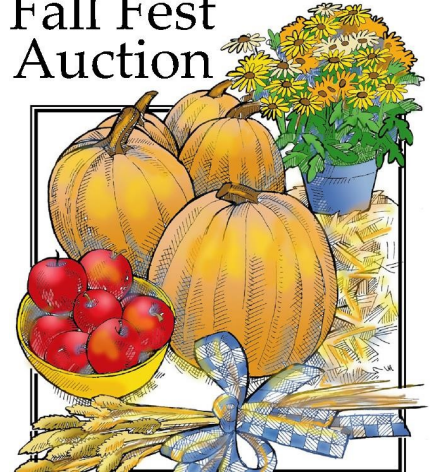
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## Fall Fest Live Auction

With just over two months to go until Fall Fest 2019, we can feel the excitement building. The ladies on the auction committee have been out and about asking local merchants to donate items, AND our fellow parishioners have been

- **“Best of Britain” Basket:** given by Jean and Don Bittner
- **A Scrumptious Dinner Party for 8 Guests** prepared and served at his home, offered by Father Jay Morris
- **Inn at the Old Silk Mill:** located in historic Fredericksburg, a night in a Royal Suite. Check it out at [www.innattheoldesilkmill.com](http://www.innattheoldesilkmill.com)
- **El Gran Charro:** \$25 gift card
- **A Basket of Baskets:** Large “Day Basket Factory” basket filled with Longaberger baskets, Charleston Sweetgrass baskets, and more
- **Buffalo Wild Wings:** 10 “Free Snack” cards
- **Zibibbo 73 Restaurant:** \$25 gift card
- **Augustine Golf Club:** Complimentary green fees for four valued at \$200
- **Carlos O’Kelly’s Inspired Mex:** \$30 in gift certificates
- **Two lovely Cobalt Blue Lausitzer German 24% Lead Crystal Hand Cut Bowls** made in the German Democratic Republic (pictured below)
- **Fatty’s Taphouse:** \$30 gift card
- **Sake Thai Sushi Bar Restaurant:** \$25 gift certificate

## Fall Fest Auction



Lausitzer German 24% Lead Crystal Hand Cut Bowls

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
- **Basket of Beautiful Angels:** A precious collection of angels, tall and small, offered by Dennise and Ed LaBarre
- **“Made in Virginia” Basket:** offered by Jean and Michael Golas and Briget and Tom Kane
- **Guided Fishing Trip:** offered by our Senior Warden 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.”
- **Delicious Roasted Pork Butt:** hand rubbed by Jean Golas
- **Kettcar:** Child’s peddle car made in Germany by Kettler, given by the Stoltz family and tuned up by Bill League the Bike Man. (Car pictured below)
- **A night at the historic Red Fox Inn and Tavern in Middleburg, Virginia.** Check it out at [www.redfox.com](http://www.redfox.com). A charming inn, built in 1728.
- **Vintage Primitive Rustic Artisanal Spinning-Wheel Chair**
- Tastefully matted and framed **Pen and Ink Print of Aquia Church**

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.”

Mary Jane Cole





**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019**

**NATIONAL NIGHT-OUT 2019**

**National Night Out is designed to:**

- ★ Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back
- ★ Generate support/participation in local anticrime programs
- ★ Heighten crime & drug prevention awareness
- ★ Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships

**How can I be involved?**

- ★ Coordinate a neighborhood block party\*
- ★ Exhibit your business/organization at Target - Stafford Marketplace\*

\*Register at [www.staffordsheriff.com/content/front/nationalnightout.cfm](http://www.staffordsheriff.com/content/front/nationalnightout.cfm)

- ★ Attend National Night Out at the Target - Stafford Marketplace
- ★ Turn on your front porch lights, lock your doors and spend the evening with neighbors

**STAFFORD'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME**

**FREE**

**Target - Stafford Marketplace 5-8pm**

**Stafford's Night Out**  
**Tuesday Aug. 6**  
**5 - 8 p.m.**  
**Stafford Marketplace**

Come join us for evangelism and spreading the good news about all that Aquia Episcopal Church has to offer. Come talk to fellow neighbors and spread the news.

*Jean Golas*



Our current Morning Call series on ministry among the younger generations has generated considerable interest from a spectrum of parishioners—not only those with relatives in Gen Y (also known as the ‘Millennials’) and Gen Z (a.k.a. ‘iGen’ because of their connection to iPods, iPads, iPhones, and other Internet-era devices), but also folks generally concerned for the health and well-being of the Church, both now and into the future. A good deal of scholarly and popular literature on the Millennial generation has been available for some time now, and increasingly it is being supplemented by information and perspective about the very youngest generation (now that it has been around long enough for longitudinal studies and other surveys to be conducted and interpreted). Both of your clergy have an array of experience (professional and personal alike) in working with the younger generations. In addition, we have been engaged in a good deal of reading and reflection on these groups—especially this summer, when I participated in a conference at Calvin College on this very topic. Here I want to provide further introduction and description of some of the resources upon which we have been relying in our Morning Call series—beyond what has been mentioned in those presentations—because of the ways in which these same books might be helpful to you as well.

For some preliminary direction from a sociological perspective, I do not think one can do better than to consult ***Gen Z: The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation*** (Barna Group & Impact 360 Institute, 2018). The Barna Group is a California-based polling and research firm with over one million surveys on record, whose past clients have included ABC/Disney, NBC/Universal, Paramount Pictures, VISA, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Templeton Foundation, and the military, but which now specializes in collecting and interpreting data for the Church. The Impact 360 Institute is a Georgia-based organization cultivating transformational Christian leadership through residential training and experiential learning; this group serves as one of Barna’s professional partners. Much of this report focuses on four areas of survey, statistical analysis, and demographic reporting that together offer a clear and often startling picture of the generation in question: *identity* (“how they define themselves, what makes them who they are”), *worldview* (“their spiritual and moral beliefs, their understanding of what life is about”), *motivations* (“their life goals and priorities, what they think is important”), and *views on faith and church* (“what they think about Christianity and Christian communities”) (page 10). Through broad-based surveys and interviews with focus groups, the reporters learned details about this generation’s interaction with technology, their views on financial and emotional security, their approaches to various kinds of diversity (including race, ethnicity, and sexuality), and their ties with their parents and other elders. Among the themes explored in the report are family, relationships, sexuality, spirituality, education, work, money, and marks of maturation toward adulthood. Besides the extensive amount of well-organized statistical information that is presented with visual clarity, the book includes brief commentaries by authors, youth workers, and pastors about what all this data entails for the faith formation and the future of this generation. The book is fast-paced at roughly 100 pages of text and is saturated with insight about what makes this generation tick, and thus it provides a lively, incredibly handy overview the very youngest generation.

A related book reflecting some of the same kind of information but with far more supplemental details, extended anecdotes, and a bigger dose of clinical psychology (and required reading for my Calvin College conference) is the likewise provocative ***iGen: Why Today’s Super-Connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood\* (\*and What That Means for the Rest of Us)*** by Jean M. Twenge (Atria Paperback/Simon & Schuster, 2017). Note carefully the book’s subtitle, which reflects a snapshot about this generation. The author of over 120 scientific papers and author or co-author of several books (including ***Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable than Ever Before*** [orig. pub. 2006, rev. ed. 2014], which deals directly with the Millennial generation, and ***The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement*** [2009]), Twenge is a professor of psychology at San Diego State University and is the mother of three daughters in Gen Z. Twenge explains why so many members of the iGen are maturing socially and emotionally at slower rates than members of previous generations, facing more mental health crises over such matters as cyber-bullying, anxiety, depression, and loneliness (much of which is attributable considerably to the enormous amount of time spent online), engaging less frequently in pre-marital sex than did previous generations but also facing a wider array of sexual pressures than ever before (starting with ubiquitous pornography but not ending there), and holding political views in the particular directions they choose. For her analysis and recommendations, Twenge draws not only on nationally conducted surveys (i.e.: Monitoring the Future, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System of the CDC, the American Freshman Survey, and the General Social Survey), but also on her own psychological research and many discussions in public media. Twenge’s book offers more in-depth diagnosis and is generally more of a page-turner than the Barna/Impact 360

report, thanks to her greater emphasis on narrative presentation. Her analysis of the social situation for our youngest generation is starkly candid, even frightening at times. But at least we have been warned.

In some ways, part of the path charted by the Barna/Impact 360 report and by Twenge's work was prepared by a major milestone in research about the faith of young people: *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (Oxford University Press, 2005) by Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton. Smith is a nationally renowned sociologist of religion who taught at the University of North Carolina and currently teaches at the University of Notre Dame; he was the principal investigator for the National Study of Youth and Religion, on which research this volume is based. A specialist in religion, family life, and adolescents, Denton taught sociology at Clemson University at the time of publication and now teaches at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Smith and Denton's sociological research about the religious beliefs and spiritual practices of youth was groundbreaking for its comprehensive perspective and its rich detail. This is the book that introduced the phrase "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism" (abbreviated MTD, with deliberate allusion to another kind of transmitted disease) as a summary-term for the core faith of contemporary American teenagers. Smith and Denton pay attention to the influence of religions, denominations, religious institutions, families, and the general culture in producing the religious commitment in the teenagers (at the time of their study) who have subsequently become today's young adults. Toward the end of their 300-page book, Smith and Denton make some initial suggestions about what might be done to address the situation of those suffering from MTD. Based on completely new research from surveys and interviews, Christian Smith more recently co-authored a different book, *Lost in Transition: The Dark Side of Emerging Adulthood* (Oxford University Press, 2011), a book that Twenge heartily endorses. In this volume with just over 240 pages of text, Smith and his colleagues describe how contemporary teenagers and very young adults have inherited a social and religious culture that promotes in them moral relativism and faulty moral reasoning, intoxication as an everyday reality, a consumerist attitude about life goals and crass materialism, tremendous pressures about sexuality that lead to unfortunate and even regrettable encounters, and civic and political disengagement. My bet is that if these writers were to revisit their book for possible revision, they would affirm that the widespread attachment to high-tech devices among today's young people only exacerbates each of those conditions of social detachment.

In my judgment, what Smith and Denton discovered and developed about MTD was most helpfully amplified and conveyed to the Church in useful, practical terms by Kenda Creasy Dean in her important work, *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* (Oxford University Press, 2010). An ordained Methodist pastor and a professor of youth, church, and culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, Dean is a widely recognized and widely published author about youth ministry and faith formation among teenagers, and most anything she has written is worth reading. She also has the advantage of having served (at least early on) as part of the research team in the National Study of Youth and Religion that Smith and Denton directed. The title of Dean's book is taken from a phrase first used by George Whitefield and later by John Wesley, both Anglican priests who served in the United Kingdom and in the American colonies; an "almost Christian" embraces much of the outward form of traditional Christianity but is neither obviously motivated nor deeply sustained by its substance. Where Smith and Denton's *Soul Searching* lays out the range of data from their research but barely begins to suggest some responses, Dean's *Almost Christian* summarizes their findings and then moves quickly and directly toward listing lessons learned and strategies for responding faithfully, in the hope that attempted cures might be administered and received. She recommends specific steps that can support a faith that matters with real benefits for youth and that generates greater commitment to Jesus than before, and she is keenly aware of teenagers' need to become mission-minded witnesses for Jesus. Dean is also clear about the important responsibility that parents and other elders have in sharing their own faith with their children, grandchildren, and even young people to whom they are not related, about the parental role in helping youth to cultivate trust in the living God, and about ways in which mentors and other adults can help teens see the value of Christian practices that strengthen their Christian faith.

While I readily admit that a good deal of the information and perspective in the resources mentioned in this column can be downright depressing about the present reality and the likely future of the youngest generations, there are also some leading lights who bring fresh perspective and who offer hope about this situation. One such optimist is the leader of the conference I attended earlier this year: the Reverend Mary Hulst, who is the chaplain of Calvin College (now Calvin University). In January 2018 she gave a public lecture on *Why Millennials are the Hope of the Church*, and the video-recording of her lecture is well worth watching. That hour-long presentation is easily available on YouTube at the following URL < [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epIdUJX2\\_GE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epIdUJX2_GE) >. While not uncritical about the daunting dangers, Mary's approach looks for positive possibilities in her chaplaincy and in her ministry among the younger generations, and she continues to look for silver linings in every cloud casting a shadow over them.