



**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Cross Section

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

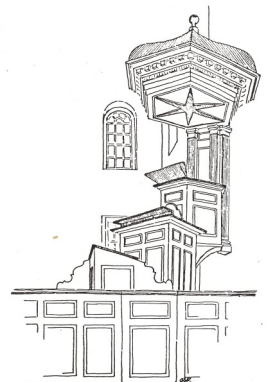


**Worship**

*Formation*

**Fellowship**

*Service*





## 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

### The Vision Thing

Last year I had surgery in order to remove the remains of retinal bleeding in both eyes, and more recently I had surgery in order to correct an astigmatism in one eye and to eliminate cataracts in both eyes. I continue to receive a monthly injection in each eye in order to reduce the risk of macular degeneration. All this medical attention to my eyesight calls to mind the importance of vision for our daily lives—and for our lives as Christians, too.

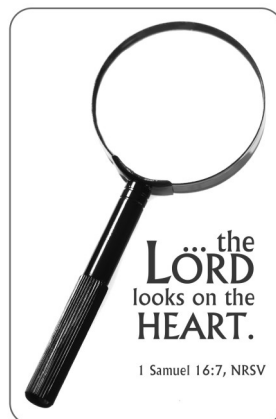
“We walk by faith, and not by sight,” a hymn rightly claims (#209 in *The Hymnal 1982*). Yet if we are to know the general direction in which we should be headed, and if we are to recognize some particular steps to take along the right path, then we certainly need to be able to see at least some of that way and at least glimpses of that destination.

Over thirty years ago, a political candidate grumbled when he was asked about the grand idea for his policy proposals and plans, all of which he summarized as “the vision thing.” There was a widely held perception that the candidate did not have an overall view about his direction for the country, and that perception hindered his campaign. By comparison, however, the Bible tells us: “Write the vision, and make it plain” (Habakkuk 2:2). Thus the LORD told the prophet to inscribe his revelation onto tablets and to advertise his divine guidance, so that everyone around could understand where to go and how to get there.

**The vision we have at Aquia Church is clear: worship, formation, fellowship, and service.** This vision—and nothing less—is what the Lord requires of everyone. The Lord expects and desires that we worship him, instead of worshipping ourselves or any other false god (including health or wealth, power or possessions, or anything else). The Lord expects and desires that we become formed to live more like Jesus, which in turn requires the transformation of the sinful devices and desires of our own hearts into being more cruciform, so that we can think and speak and act more like Jesus did. The Lord expects and desires that we enjoy fellowship by spending time with other Christians. The Lord expects and desires that we serve other people in his Name. Everything we do here—from worship services on every Sunday and major holy days, to formation in Morning Call and Sunday school and youth group, to fellowship at men’s breakfast and Sts. Mary and Martha guild and elsewhere, to service through Aquia’s Table and through other ministries—is intended to build up everyone’s faith in Jesus.

**Worship, formation, fellowship, and service is our vision** for how things should be for everyone at Aquia Church. When our vision becomes blurry or obscured, then we need to remove the obstacles blocking our sight. Just as cataracts can be removed from an eye, so our lives might require occasional adjustments and corrections. Just as astigmatism results from a misshaped cornea or lens, so our Christian vision can be reshaped and reformed. And just as eyeglasses and contact lenses can help our eyes work better, so we may need assistance with improving our awareness of God’s expectations and desires for our lives. If your clergy can help you remove barriers to your ability to see all this clearly, or if your clergy can strengthen your vision by adding our encouragement and counsel, then please let us know. Your clergy want better vision for themselves as well, and so we invite your suggestions in turn.

*Jay Morris*



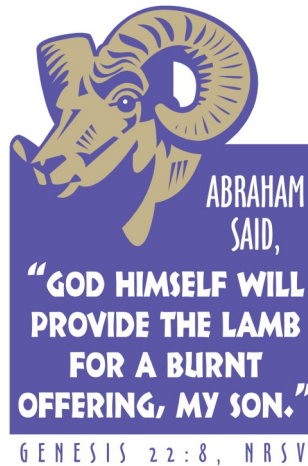
## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### Genesis as Christian Scripture

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 manner in which you desire to learn more about his desire for you as represented in Holy Scripture. I further thank God for the fact that you understand that the Old Testament is divinely inspired in the very same way that the New Testament is. Because of that, like the New Testament, it "is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). It is for that reason that on Oct. 16, we will begin a new Wednesday morning Bible study series focusing on select passages from Genesis. This series will specifically center around the concept of Genesis as Christian Scripture. How does God work out his plan of salvation through the stories represented in the pages of Genesis? How is Christ Jesus present in the story, without being named? How does Genesis set the stage for the cross and resurrection of Jesus? How did the writers of the New Testament read Genesis in light of the incarnation of Jesus? All of these questions and more will be addressed in this study. Until then, a couple of examples might prove helpful.

When God speaks at the creation of the world, he says to himself about humanity, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). On one level, this verse can be read as God using the divine/royal plural. This is a way of speaking that can be witnessed today when a king speaks on behalf of his people. He may say "we" when rendering a decision, so as to show his ability to speak vicariously for his subjects. As Christians, however, we read this statement from God at a deeper level. When God says "Let us make man in our image," he is speaking as the Father to the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is how the early church read these words. From the very outset of creation, the Holy Trinity spoke in heavenly council with himself to establish the world according to his purpose.



When Abraham brought his son Isaac to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice him, as per God's orders (Genesis 22:1-2), God stayed Abraham's hand at the moment of execution. In Isaac's stead, a ram caught in a thicket was sacrificed. The early church saw this story as a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus was crucified in our stead. Though we had been devoted to destruction because of our life of sin, God chose to offer his own Son Jesus as a substitutionary sacrifice in the land of Moriah, Jerusalem. Like Isaac, Jesus carried the wood of his cross up the hill of salvation. But instead of Jesus being Isaac, we see that he was actually the ram. His sacrifice became a sign and symbol of the renewed covenant with God.

As you can see, the Old Testament holds the foundation on which the Gospel proclamation of the New Testament was built. Much of that foundation was laid in Genesis. It is a book filled with wonder and awe. It is a book filled with the saving work of God that sets the stage for the ultimate act of salvation: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Come and study it with us. 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**



## FALL FEST AUCTION—October 5 at 11 a.m.---in Great Hall



A huge "Thank You" goes to all the parishioners and merchants who have contributed so generously to the Auction! **Below is a list of gifts that have been added since the last newsletter article was written** (gifts received from Aug. 15 through Sept. 15). If you would like a copy of the complete list, ask Mary Jane Cole. ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz))

### New from Fellow Parishioners:

**"Beachcomber's" Wreath:** handcrafted by Faye Andrews

**Teak Garden Bench:** given by Penny and Bob Stevens

**Lowe's Gift Card:** given by Liselotte Somlai

**China Tea Set:** Tea Pot and 6 cups made in Portugal given Margaret and Steve Hedger

**A "Basket for Baby and Mom":** given by Heera Kamboj Cole

**Chocolate Lover's Basket:** built by the Altar Guild

### From Merchants and Businesses:

**Aquia Harbour Golf Club:** four 18-hole rounds of golf plus cart

**Wegmans Healthy Eating** gift bag of pasta, and sauces plus \$15 gift card

**Forest Greens Golf Club:** green fees for 4 players plus cart (Monday thru Friday, no holidays)

**Giant:** \$20 gift card

**Chick-fil-A** on Rt. 610: 6 gift cards

**Olde Virginia Gourmet & Gifts:** \$20 gift certificate

**Cici's Pizza:** 10 BOGO coupons

**IHOP of Stafford:** \$25 gift card

**Firehouse Subs:** 9 coupons for free drink and chips with purchase of a Sub

**Flowers by Val:** a "Nautical Basket" valued at over \$100

**Gari Melchers Home and Studio:** four passes to tour historic Belmont

**The Cavalier Family Skating Center:** a birthday party package for up to 10 guests

**Jersey Mike's Subs:** ten coupons for a free regular sub

**Monica Weadon Hair Studio:** 6 products from Paul Mitchell's "Neon" plus Paul Mitchell Neuro Unclipped three-barrel size curling iron

**The Washington Nationals:** a LF/RF Corner 2020 Ticket Voucher (redeemable for two tickets) in the 2020 season

**The Outback Steakhouse:** gift basket with rubs and seasonings plus over \$30 in gift cards

**Jabberwocky Children's Books and Toys:** \$15 gift certificate

**The Alpine Chef:** \$50 gift card

**Dan's Pharmacy:** Basket of over-the-counter medications and natural remedies

Many of these items will be grouped together into single bidding items so we can keep our list to about thirty offerings.

Just to remind you of some more Auction highlights, in addition to above we have:

**Mouth-watering Pies:** a pie a month for 4 months baked by **Pat Moncure**

**A Beautiful Handmade Kaleidoscope Quilt**

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**A Scrumptious Dinner Party for 8 Guests** prepared and served at his home by Father Jay Morris

**Potomac Point Winery:** food and wine basket plus dinner for four in the Wine Library  
**A Night at the Red Fox Inn** in Middleburg, Va.

**Redskins Football Tickets:** two tickets to the Redskins vs. N.Y. Jets on Nov. 17

**Virginia Cavalier Football Tickets:** 4 tickets to the University of Virginia vs. Liberty University on Nov. 23 in Charlottesville

**A Feast** built around a Fall Fest slow-cooked **Pork Butt**

**Guided Fishing Trip** offered by Bill Hoffman, an awesome eight-hour fishing trip on the Potomac

**Baskets, Baskets and more Baskets: Best of Britain, A Basket of Baskets,**

**For Baby and Mom, Chocolate Lover's, Nautical Basket, Basket of Beautiful Angels**

**Family Fun Package**

**Three Foursomes of Golf**

**Let's Eat Out!** gift certificates and coupons from local restaurants

**Saturday Morning Errands:** gift cards from local merchants

A signed **print of Aquia Church** by Bernard W. Davis

**Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster Pa.**—two tickets to *Queen Esther* March 14 – Dec. 31, 2020

**Kettcar:** Child's peddle car made in Germany

**Vintage Primitive Rustic Artisanal Spinning-Wheel Chair**

**Two Cobalt Blue Lausitzer German 24% Lead Crystal Hand Cut Bowls**

**1970's Bohemian Wicker Peacock Chair**

Tell your friends and neighbors about our awesome list! See our **Facebook page "Fall Fest at Aquia Church."** There are a lot of the great auction items that we would like folks to know we are offering. Each merchant who has donated to the auction needs to be thanked. If you see something you like, please hit "Like"! If you think it is worthwhile, please "Share" it. Help us get the word out about Fall Fest 2019. Major credit cards will be accepted at the auction.

*Mary Jane Cole*



Tea Pot and Cups from Portugal



Beachcomber's Wreath



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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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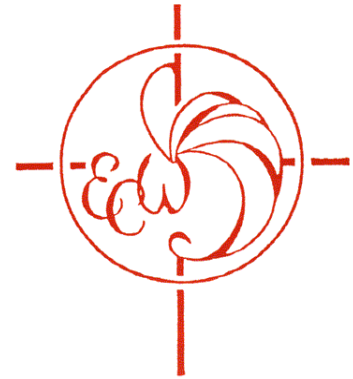
Fall Fest  
Oct. 5  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Fall Fest has become a festival of so many things at Aquia. As a result of months of hard work from the parish and from the community and business partners, Fall Fest remains the largest fundraiser to support the ministries of the ECW and the church. In its 63rd year, many things have changed, but so much has remained the same. We receive support from our parish families with time from their busy schedules, donations, work, and a commitment to make each year successful. We work to build on what we have done in prior years to make each year as great as previous years. In a look-back, we have overcome, with grace and support, such challenges as dreary weather and such

opportunities as the expansion of our facilities. We are grateful for the many returning volunteers and the generous support of the community. At the end of the day on that Saturday, we will close Fall Fest for 2019, notebooks in hand, ready to take on Fall Fest 2020. You definitely won't want to miss Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019.

Oct. 19, 2019: The 129th Annual Diocesan Meeting & 130th UTO In-gathering will be held at the Pohick Church, Lorton, Va. The ECW of Aquia will attend the meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Briget Kane or Becky Monger (ECW UTO Chair) for further information.

The ECW has many opportunities waiting for you within our ministry. If you are thinking of sharing your gifts and talents with your parish or community, we would love to talk with you. We have several teams who assist with



receptions, communication and support of our parish and community. Many hands always make light the work and most importantly bring joy into your life.

*Briget Kane  
ECW President*

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## STS. MARY AND MARTHA

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### Worship, Service and Fellowship

The ladies of Sts. Mary and Martha Guild are looking forward to seeing all our parish family at the Fall Fest on Oct. 5. Please be sure to come to the Craft Room located in the Parish House building upstairs beside the Book Nook. We have lots of delightful items to show you: fun gnomes, sturdy wooden soldiers, beautiful wreaths, all sorts of handcrafted ornaments and stained glass, clay pot snowmen and more!

Then stop next door to visit our Jewelry Room. There, in addition to the jewelry, you will find a nice assortment of greeting cards and even more stained glass.

Yes! We still need gifts of costume jewelry. All donations will be gratefully received!

All ladies of the parish are invited to join us at any of our meetings. Dur-



Wouldn't one of these cute little snowmen, made from clay pots, make a cheerful gift or decorate your own mantle during the Christmas season?

ing October we will return to our regular schedule of meeting on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month in the Parish Hall. These dates fall on Oct. 3, 17 and 31, 2019. We begin each meeting with a member of the clergy leading us in Morning Prayer at 9:30 and we finish by noon. Please come to enjoy a Thursday morning of Christian

fellowship with the ladies of Sts. Mary and Martha Guild. We are saving a seat for you!

Mary Jane Cole  
[maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)  
Denise Thornton  
[neisieb@aol.com](mailto:neisieb@aol.com)



## OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee met on Sept. 3, 2019, and packed 50 Tide-Me-Over take-home food bags for 50 students participating in Stafford Junction's Brain Builders program. In past years we packed meals for these students; however, Stafford Junction partnered with a company that will be providing healthy pre-packaged meals that will be kept at the individual schools and asked the churches to fill in with the Tide-Me-Over bags.

The Tide-Me-Over bags consist of 10 items. We include items such as juice, cereal bars, tuna snack packs, fruit cups oatmeal, soup, chips, fruit gels, cheese crackers, mac & cheese cups, cheese and crackers, granola bars, or single serve cereal bowls. We will be

checking the grocery ads for the best bargains and using coupons when possible.

We collected \$774.98 in our Cash for Cows and Change for Chickens campaign. We voted to purchase two flocks of chickens, a pig, and five goats through Episcopal Relief and Development.

The Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection will begin the day after Fall Fest on Oct. 6. We will have pre-printed shoe boxes available, along with the boy/girl labels, and suggestions for what to pack and what not to pack in the shoe boxes.

As in past years, we will ask for 50 Dove gifts this year. The Doves are mentally challenged adults in our community.

We voted to adopt eight families and two seniors in our Adopt-A-Family



campaign. We will submit our application to the Department of Social Services in October. When we receive the names of our recipients and their gift requests, we will prepare the gift tags.

We discussed ideas for fundraisers. We talked about doing a loaded-baked-potato bar later this year and a deli sandwich sale early next year.

Our next meeting will be on Oct. 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Come join us. All are welcome!

*Johanna Jones*

*Also from Outreach Johanna Jones: A report from Rebecca Hedger [who grew up in this parish and is now a leader in International House of Prayer, a ministry supported by Aquia's Outreach ministry group]*

My summer was really great! At the beginning of the summer, **I graduated 100 students in the first year of our new nine-month university program called Revival and Reformation.** It has three courses - Bible, Worldview, and Communications with practical skill set training throughout. It was an incredible year filled with wild testimonies of personal growth, projects that will help bring reformation in the nations, and a long-term team being sent to South Africa.

One of my **favorite testimonies of the whole year was from Parker, a student who has struggled his whole life with learning and reading disabilities.** He felt so defeated and discouraged that he assumed he would work menial and small jobs his whole life.

Before starting Revival and Reformation, he couldn't imagine ever reading the Bible. The most he had read was the book of John on his outreach which was a HUGE victory for him. Through tons of prayer, encouragement and support, **Parker read the WHOLE bible!**

**He became so confident that God could use him that he is now dreaming of becoming a long term missionary to Japan** and to help reduce suicide and depression rates in the youth. He is a completely different person!

Maybe you've felt the same way that Parker did - that your limitations disqualify you from \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). I know I have. You are in good company! In 2 Cor 12:9 it says **God's power works best in weakness.** May His power be displayed in whatever limitations you have and actually propel you into all He has for you!

*Rebecca Hedger*

P.S. We start our next school year at the end of September! Will you pray with me for our 80 students who are coming to have all their finances, visas would be approved, and their hearts would be ready to receive all God wants to do?

P.P.S. In August I went with a team of 22 women to New Zealand - I'll be sending some testimonies from that trip soon!



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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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Aug. 20, 2019

**Dinner and Fellowship** started at 6:30 p.m. and the hosts were Jackie Chichester and Larry Moxley. (Larry was unable to attend but provided food and refreshments.) In attendance were Rector Fr. Jay Morris, Asst. Rector Fr. James Rickenbaker, Sr. Warden Bill Hoffman, Jr. Warden Ron Korth, Treasurer Chris Arey, Mary Nixon, Jean Golas, Jackie Chichester, Chris Wanner, Dickie Boes, and Register Douglas McGinty. Fr. Jay opened with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer. *[Subsequent events are italicized and bracketed.]*

**Business Session** started at 7 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report** was delivered by Chris Arey. The \$105 K matching grant is in a money market fund, line item 4062. The operating income was good in July. Pledging income was 70% for the year. Aquia's Table expense is 82% for the year, so the budget line needs to be changed. Janitorial supplies expense is 105% for the year.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**, presented by Douglas McGinty. The minutes as revised were adopted unanimously.

- R-2019-09 Adoption of ACS Financials and Realm Connect (approved 7/16).
- Vestry Co-Chair for 2019 Fall Fest will be Bill Hoffman.
- Capital Campaign Committee and Possible Matching-Challenge Opportunity.

### New Business

- R-2019-10 Retaining Funds for Rectory Expenses (Finance Committee). Approved unanimously as amended. *[Fr. Jay emailed revised resolution on Aug. 21, 2019.]*
- R-2019-11 Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention (Rector). Unanimously approved.

- R-2019-12 Adjustments to 2019 Budget (Rector). Unanimously approved as amended. *[Fr. Jay emailed revised resolution to vestry on Aug. 21, 2019.]*
- R-2019-13 Employee Health Insurance. Adjustments (Rector). Unanimously approved.
- *[R-2019-14 Tree Removal at Clifton Chapel. Approved unanimously by email on Sept. 13, 2019.]*
- Audit Report on 2018 (Audit Committee). Signature cards are needed at bank. Practice standards must be followed for check signing by the ECW. The report was accepted unanimously.
- Capital Campaign Committee. Fr. Jay asked the vestry to review the list of possible consultants and to provide feedback.
- Alcohol Policy. Different policy issues were discussed. The Diocese and other churches may be consulted.
- Current Total for Matching-Challenge Opportunity: \$23,695.00 (as of 8/19), which is one-fourth of the way to fulfilling the challenge.

### Reports from Vestry Committees

- *Administration* by Fr. Jay. The checklist for Robynn's Nest has been finalized.
- *Finance* by Dickie Boes. Finance matters have been addressed already.
- *Building and Grounds* by Ron Korth. The cupola on the historic church is rotted and needs work.

### Reports from Senior Warden and Junior Warden

- *Sr. Warden* by Bill Hoffman. The annual picnic was a success. Bill discussed lessons learned.
- *Jr. Warden* by Ron Korth. Clifton Chapel needs to have a tree cut down. (See the aforementioned R-



## Vestry Highlights

2019-14.) The AC units have been adjusted to promote efficiency.

**Report from Rector.** Fr. Jay asked for feedback on the recent Morning Call series.

### Upcoming Dates and Information

- *[9/8: First day of new Sunday school year.]*
- *[9/8: Homecoming Luncheon (immediately after 10 a.m. worship service.)]*
- 10/5: Fall Fest (with live auction at 11 a.m.)
- Meal hosts for Sept. 17: Golas and Nixon
- Meal hosts for Oct. 15: Arey and Moxley
- Meal hosts for Nov. 19: Boes and Korth
- Meal hosts for Dec. 17: Hoffman and Korth (wardens' chili cookoff)

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

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





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## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

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### Creating Strong Connection

Our efforts this fall are focused on studying and beginning the practice of “Lectio Divina” or sacred reading of the Holy Scriptures. We are doing so to develop and continually strengthen two-way conversations with God each day. Through daily readings of selected Scriptures, meditation, prayer, and contemplation, our intent is to individually and collectively create the strongest possible connection with God.

Aquia’s Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King meets at noon in our historic church on the first Saturday of each month. If you would like information on the Order or how you can join us, or simply wish to attend a meeting, contact Patricia Springer at [plms1369@verizon.net](mailto:plms1369@verizon.net).

*Patricia Springer*

Dear Aquia Episcopal Family,

Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during a very difficult time. The flowers were beautiful and I felt the love and support at church and again when I received the prayer letter. Thank you for making me and my family feel like we are home.

God Bless,  
Penny Stevens



**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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### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

Eleanor Basinger, St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Md; Joseph Sampson, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Mechanicsville, Pa.

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

Marjorie Ronall Korth, 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 (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) Wisner, Brett and Sarah (Selz) Moran, Zac and Samantha (Hedger) Chesley, Patrick and Anna Hedger.

*Sue Selz*



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

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

(540) 659-4007

### Aquia Church Prayer List – October 2019



Faye Andrews, Kate Bastien, Rhett Blythe and Family, Karen Burrell, Edward Chaplin, Judy Chaplin, Elijah Colliver, Jeff Davis, Donnie Davis, Paula Davis, Brian Driscoll, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Larry Hartzler, Chris Hundley, Korth Family, Molly Lewis-Suttles, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Patty Montgomery, Rebecca Poole, Kenny Reilly, Janice Shelton, Scott Smith, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Gayle Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.





## PLAN AHEAD

**Movie Night:** Friday, Oct. 11: SHAZAM. Meet at 6:30, showtime at 7:30. Hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks provided; we invite you to bring some food to share.

**Holocaust Museum Field Trip:** The Fellowship Events Task Group is planning a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 14 (Columbus Day). Parishioners, their families and friends are invited. The transportation cost will be \$15 per person (cash or check payable to Aquia Church, marked "Fellowship Events"). Any other expenses (such as the cost of lunch in the museum's café) will be up to the individual, and outside food is not permitted in the museum or in the café. We will provide light snacks during the trip. The bus will depart from in front of the great hall at 9 a.m. and return there around 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in going, please contact Michael Golasz at [golaszmichael@yahoo.com](mailto:golaszmichael@yahoo.com).

**Youth Group:** Our youth group for teens in grades 6-12 has resumed its regular Sunday morning meetings, 9-9:45 a.m. in the youth room on the lower level of the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building. This year we are blessed to have Dana Van Metre and David Morgan joining Father Rickenbaker as morning group leaders. Our next evening meetings (on an every-other-Sunday rotation) will be held on campus on Sundays, Oct. 6 & 20, 4:00--5:30 p.m. in the youth group room, with refreshments served. Teens who want to form Christian friendships, who want to be a part of our parish-wide mission trips led by the youth group each summer, or who want to prepare for baptism or confirmation or otherwise grow stronger in their faith, are encouraged to begin attending the youth group gatherings right away.

**United Thank Offering:** UTO Fall Ingathering is Sunday, Oct. 13. Look for the blue and white boxes or the envelopes in the pews. "UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia for the mission of the whole church." Your loose change, cash and checks are used in missionary work, training, pension funds, building loans, scholarships and overseas development. UTO is based on the "theological premise that it is good to give thanks to God."

**All Saints Day:** Nov. 3 we will be celebrating All Saint's Day at Aquia. Please let the office know if a loved one has passed away since last All Saint's Day; their names will be read on that Sunday. Please get the names to the church office by Oct. 28 to Sue Selz at [sue.selz@aquiachurch.org](mailto:sue.selz@aquiachurch.org) or 540-659-4007.



### Get Your Peanuts!

This year our vestry will sell Newsom's Peanuts instead of citrus. Newsom's is a family owned and run farm in Newsom, Va. They offer a wide variety of nuts that are not cooked until the order is placed. We will start taking orders at Fall Fest (Oct. 5) until Nov. 24. They make great Christmas gifts, hostess gifts, or treats just to eat. All proceeds go to the General Fund. Please contact Jean Golas with any questions ([bjgolas@yahoo.com](mailto:bjgolas@yahoo.com)).

*Jean Golas*





**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Aquia Church will hold our annual service for the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, **Oct. 6, at 2 p.m.** at the St. Francis statue in front of the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building.

Please bring your animals on a leash or in a carrier. An offering will be collected for the Stafford SPCA. Any dog or cat food and treats received will be donated to the Stafford County Animal Shelter.

*Kristen Morgan*



October 2019 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

With this fall's Wednesday evening Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles, I have been doing some reading beyond the New Testament in preparation for that series. One of the secondary sources through which I have perusing is *World Upside Down: Reading Acts in the Graeco-Roman Age* by C. Kavin Rowe (Oxford University Press, 2009, paperback 2010). The basic argument of Rowe's book is a challenge to the past several centuries of scholarship on Acts, which tends to see the Christian faith and life depicted in Acts as something that is quite compatible with Roman authority in the early Christian era. That trend in Acts scholarship is due considerably to the argumentative strategy that the apostle Paul pursues in the latter chapters of Acts, chapters in which Paul contends that the nascent Christian movement is not a brand-new religion (and therefore not an illicit religion that was prohibited by the *Pax Romana* as a threat to social stability and to Roman religious practice) and that Paul himself as a leader in the nascent Christian movement was neither socially nor religiously subversive. In other words: when Paul himself in Acts appears to be demonstrating the compatibility between Christianity and Roman authority (as did other early Christian apologists defending the faith, such as Justin Martyr), there seems to be a simultaneous suggestion that Luke as author of Acts is trying to do the same thing. Rowe, however, calls all this into question, for reasons that become quickly obvious. For one thing, the Roman empire assumed that the Roman emperor is an almighty lord and indeed a god on earth, whereas the early Church was convinced that Jesus is Lord and that Jesus was the only fully divine person who had ever lived on earth; this indicates an important conflict between Christianity and Roman authority. For another thing, the very kind of uncommon and extraordinary expectations that the early Church had for the everyday ethics of its adherents—including Christ-like altruism, a shared life together in which property and possessions were shared in common, a generous life of self-sacrifice—tended to contradict the common and ordinary approaches in the ethics of Greco-Roman culture. Part of the success in Rowe's argument lies in his showing that the early Christians were not trying to overthrow the Roman empire in order to replace it with just another empire, one headed by Jesus or the apostles; Christians were genuinely not subversive in that way. Part of Rowe's success also comes from his showing how the real commitments by Christians would nevertheless undermine their willingness to do everything expected of those living under Roman control and influence, and thus Rowe's showing the particular ways in which Christians were indeed subversive. In light of that comment, you might have identified some connection between Rowe's book and our recently launched Morning Call series, "Turning the World Upside Down: What the Early Church Discovered," which deals with the ethical theory and practices of the early Christian movement as reflected in the letters of Paul, in the Acts of the Apostles, and in other New Testament books. A Presbyterian (or so I gather), Rowe is professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School and has written on issues in Luke, Acts, and the early Church.

Another remarkable book I have been reading recently in connection with our Bible study on Acts is a fairly new volume by Stanley E. Porter: *When Paul Met Jesus: How an Idea Got Lost in History* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). Around a century ago, there were a number of biblical scholars who were favorably convinced about the likelihood that Saul of Tarsus (even before he became better known as the Christian apostle Paul) had encountered Jesus face to face while Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem even before his death and resurrection. Subsequently, however, there were other New Testament scholars whose prominence and whose views about the differences between Jesus's teachings and Paul's teachings cast serious doubt upon this possibility, and soon afterward this idea seems to have faded away in the dustbin of history. Along comes Porter—a New Testament scholar who has widely published on a variety of issues, perhaps especially on Paul—who plausibly reasserts this hypothesis and shows its implications for our understanding of Acts 9:1-9 and related passages, I Corinthians 9:1, and II Corinthians 5:16, among other texts. To be sure, and by Porter's own admission, an actual meeting between the pre-Christian Saul and the pre-crucifixion Jesus is an event for which Porter cannot demonstrate absolute certainty; after all, such an event is not attested anywhere in the New Testament, which does not claim any direct encounter between the two until Saul's experience of the risen Lord as mentioned in Acts 9. Yet if one follows the trail of circumstances that Porter establishes, and if one bears in mind the existence of a synagogue in Jerusalem that frequently attracted Jews from Cilicia (the region in which Paul's hometown of Tarsus was located), then the plausibility of such a meeting (or perhaps several over time, or perhaps even some considerable engagement between the two) begins to grow. If Porter's hypothesis can be accepted, then a serious implication is that we can more readily accept as well the considerable continuity between Jesus' teaching as reflected in the Gospels and Paul's teaching as reflected in his letters and in the Acts of the Apostles, rather than supposing (as often happens these days) that Paul was the second-generation Christian leader who was the 'real' founder of Christianity (instead of Jesus himself). This book by Porter is based on his 2014 lectures at his alma mater, Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego; he now serves as dean, president, and professor of New Testament at McMaster Divinity College in Ontario, Canada.