



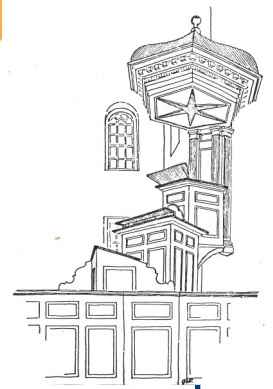
AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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

*Give thanks
unto the LORD;
for he is good.*

PSALM 136:1, KJV





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

Perspectives on Pledging

Since fall has finally arrived in full force, we can enjoy the dazzling colors of autumn foliage, we might celebrate Thanksgiving with relatives and friends, and (last but not least) we are able to make a financial commitment to God's mission and ministry at Aquia Church for next year. This present harvest-time prompts us to show our gratitude for the Lord's many blessings to us, even as we prepare to move forward in faith for what lies ahead. The coming year will undoubtedly have a mix of prospects and challenges, and we can get ready for them by faithfully participating in the pledging process.

Submitting a pledge card can seem somewhat intimidating, at least at first. Yet what we are asked to do in the pledging process is basically simple. As we consider how the Lord has abundantly blessed us in the past and stands ready to do so in the future, we find our trust in him growing stronger and deeper. Our confidence in his grace and mercy enables us to rely on him to provide what we truly need. Then through our financial pledges, we resolve to return to the Lord a portion of what he has lovingly given to us, so that our church can continue its mission and ministry for him. Remembering his goodness to us encourages us to pledge and contribute more generously than before.

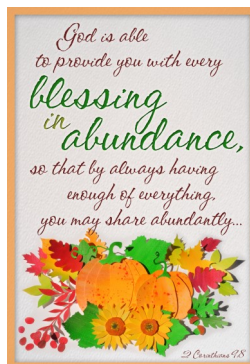
The payments we make toward our pledges, alongside our other offerings, helps countless people in countless ways. Some of our pledged gifts apply locally to the maintenance of our property, the important endeavors of our ministry groups,

and the work of our talented and dedicated staff. Some of our pledged gifts go beyond our walls to support shared ministry among other churches in our region and diocese, to support outreach to the disadvantaged, and so forth. All of these contributions reflect the missionary efforts and the ministry of the early church, as indicated in the last paragraph of Acts 2. There we read how those early Christians gathered together frequently for worship, formation, fellowship, and service to others in the Name of Jesus Christ, sharing their possessions and distributing to those in need and all the while creating a new world that is more faithful to the Lord. Our pledges and other contributions for 2020 can do the very same thing.

Consider the significant ministry supported mainly by our pledges. Worship in our historic church building, including communion, music, bulletins, and other supplies. The Noah's Ark nursery, Sunday school, youth group, Vacation Bible School, and other kinds of Christian formation for all ages. Properly functioning utilities, janitorial service, insurance, and other types of maintenance. The availability of our office staff and our clergy to assist with daily situations and special occasions throughout the year. Sharing our resources with other ministries and with neighbors in need. These forms of ministry are not inexpensive, but each of them is part of our commitment to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and advancing his kingdom.

God loves each one of us enough to invite us to join in his work to change the world. We can help do so by making and honoring a pledge as a financial commitment to the success of his mission and ministry. This is something in which everyone can play a part. This is something we can do by God's grace. This is something we can do in order to show our thankfulness to him. This perspective on pledging as a sign of gratitude to God is perhaps the most important perspective we can have.

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Thanksgiving

Dear Family in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Since November is the month wherein Thanksgiving occurs (and in light of Fr. Jay's youth sermon on Oct. 13), I want to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to you and to God for you. There is so much to be thankful for at Aquia.

I am thankful for your faithfulness in attendance at worship. It is obvious that Aquia also needs to grow in this area, as we have many who basically attend church only on Christmas and Easter. To those who fall into that category, I want to encourage you in the Lord Jesus to assess your priorities. Corporate worship is not a negotiable portion of the Christian faith. It is indeed requisite. But there are so many of you who are so faithful in coming to church week after week. I am joyful in the Lord that I have the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist and to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ to you week by week. For those of you who we see each Sunday, I thank God for your faithfulness. It is a light for the Gospel in an ever-darkening world.

I am thankful for your hard work and diligence in caring for those in need. Aquia's Table, Aquia's Pantry, and Feed His Sheep are vital, life-giving outreach ministries. Each week we are feeding close to (and sometimes over!) a hundred people. We do so in Jesus' name. We feed their stomachs on Wednesdays and we offer food for their souls on Sundays. This model of feeding stomachs and souls is ancient, beautiful, and terribly important for the church. This gift that we offer is an opportunity. I believe that we are using that opportunity well, but, as always, there is room for continued growth. I thank God for you and for your service to others in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am thankful also for your hard work in putting on events for the church. These are events like Fall Fest, Movie Night under the Stars, Trunk-or-Treat, and so many more. These events do offer the chance for

evangelism in the community, to be sure. But they also do the important work of making Aquia the center of our common life. The ancient church understood the importance of living completely in community. They had to, lest they be discovered and put to death for their faith. Even though in the United States in general, and in Stafford in particular, we do not have to worry about being put to death for following Jesus, living in community is of profound importance. There are influences on television, in the news, in the political scene, and elsewhere that seek to pervert and distort the Christian faith into their own image. By offering alternative options here at church, we can limit the influence of the spirit of the age, all the while being encouraged ever more to go out into the world in the name of Christ.

Finally, I thank you for what you do to support this community of believers. Continue in faithfulness and diligence to follow Jesus daily. Where you have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, take stock and repent. I remain joyful in the Lord for the opportunity to serve him alongside you. To God alone be the glory forever and ever.

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 Live Auction "After Action"



A huge "thank you" goes to all parishioners and merchants who contributed to the 2019 Fall Fest Live Auction! This year, we offered 35 grouped or individual items for bidding; 24 were built with gifts of time, talent and donations from our own parish family. The 2019 auction accounted for over a third of the Fall Fest profits.

A big round of applause goes to our auctioneer, Shields Jones, and his helpers, Becky Monger, Brenda Monger, Joy Jones, Nancy Hoffman, Briget Kane, Olivia Popphan, and Peter Popphan.

The merchants who contributed to the auction are listed below. Please remember them when you do your holiday shopping and thank them for donating to your church's major outreach fund raiser.

Mary Jane Cole, Auction Chair

Sponsors of the Fall Fest 2019 Auction

610 Car Wash	Fatty's Taphouse	Paragon Village 12
Aquia Fishing Guide Service	Firehouse Subs	Pets Plus
Aquia Harbour Golf Club	Flowers by Val	Picker's Supply
Augustine Golf Club	Forest Greens Golf Club	Potomac Point Vineyard & Winery
Buffalo Wild Wings	Gari Melchers Home and Studio	Red Fox Inn & Tavern
Carlos O'Kelly's Inspired Mex	Giant Food	Sake Thai Sushi Bar
Cavalier Family Skating Center	IHOP of Stafford	Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster, Pa.
Chick-fil-A of Stafford	Ingleside Vineyards	Stafford House of Yoga
Cici's Pizza	Inn at the Olde Silk Mill	The Alpine Chef Restaurant
Corky's	Jabberwocky	Ulman's Jewelers
Crown Jewelers	Jersey Mike's Subs	Washington Nationals Baseball Team
Curves for Women	Kimman's Co. Gift Shop	Wawa
Dan's Wellness Pharmacy	Meadows Farms	Wegmans
Edible Arrangements	Monica Weadon Hair Studio	Zibibbo 73 Italian Restaurant
El Gran Charro	Olde Virginia Gourmet	
Family Pizzeria	Outback Steakhouse	



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Save the Date: Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas pageant will be presented by the children in our Sunday school classes on Sunday, Dec. 22, during the 10 a.m. worship service in the great hall. For more information about our annual pageant, please contact Kristen Morgan at christianed@aquiachurch.org.

Kristen Morgan



Christmas Pageant

VESTRY

Vestry Fundraiser

This year our vestry will sell Newsom's Peanuts instead of citrus. We will receive orders through **Nov. 24**, with order forms available at the back of the church or from the church office. Newsom's is a family-owned-and-operated farm in Newsom, Va., offering a wide variety of nuts that are not cooked until the order is placed (for maximum freshness). Options include Cajun spice peanuts, habanero & jalapeño spice peanuts, peanut clusters, peanut brittle, honey crisp pecans, chocolate & amaretto pecans, and cashews. They make great Christmas gifts, hostess gifts, or treats for snacking. Please contact Jean Golas with any questions: bjgolas@yahoo.com.

Jean Golas



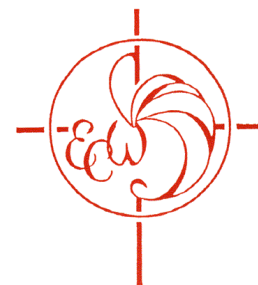
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

November's Tradition

In writing an article for the November newsletter, it has become my tradition to reach back to October. It has been barely a week since Fall Fest 2019, and I can't get to the second paragraph before doing a "refresh" about Fall Fest. After months of preparations and days of work and set-up, Oct. 5 dawned in beauty as the beginning of fall. Throughout the day I heard about what a great day it was for everyone. New members of the parish joined the tradition of 66 years. They priced, folded, baked, set-up, broke down, bid, joined us in lunch, cleaned, and shared that they had a great time and that they would return next year and begin again! So many visitors were smiling and talking about what they had 'scored.' Our Fall Fest regulars volunteered to be department chairs, donating many, many hours to organize, manage set-up and breakdown. and encourage visitors and workers until at the end of the day—it all made a big difference! Our doors closed on one of the most successful Fall Fests and all because of you!

Often I speak about the ministries of ECW. This month I submitted our proposed budget for the 2020 year. In December we will vote to adopt our budget. The proceeds from Fall Fest continue to be the major financial source of the ECW. We work throughout the year to maintain our ministry. In December our Advent Table will feature many of the traditional items of Advent, including candles, wax angels, handmade crosses, and mementos of our church. We also feature gifts for purchase, sock monkeys, wreaths, ornaments, and so much more. The Advent Table is yet another way the women of ECW share their talents with our parish and support our ministry. We are able to continue our support of the youth of Aquia, as well as local service organizations: SERVE, Hope House, and Moss Free Clinic, with these sources of funding each year.

The ECW board will meet during November to plan our December reception and choose officers. If you think you would like to serve on the Board, please contact me:



bkwing_n_things@yahoo.com. Our guild, the Sts. Mary Martha guild, will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays in November; we begin at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall. There is a place for you with Episcopal Church Women.

In closing I would like to share from a Litany for Thanksgiving (UTO 2009):

"For those who sustain the life of the Church by quiet acts of service, with children and youth, in worship, in the guilds, in the kitchen, in the classrooms, in meeting rooms, and in the offices, God of abundant blessing: We remember and give thanks."

*In Christ's love,
Briget Kane*

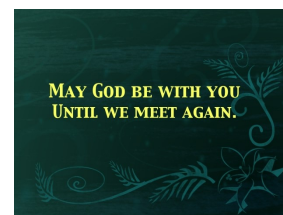
STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

The Sts. Mary and Martha guild would like to thank all parishioners who donated costume jewelry to our jewelry room at Fall Fest, and all who stopped by to shop in both our rooms during the Fall Fest! If you missed our craft room, be sure to see the lovely array of remaining Christmas items on the ECW gift tables in the great hall during Advent.

In November, the Sts. Mary and Martha guild will meet twice, on Nov. 7 and 21. These meetings will include Morning Prayer offered by a member of our clergy, a study, and a craft or the sorting of our inventory in preparation for the ECW gift tables.

The time is rapidly approaching to say goodbye to our dear co-chair Denise Thornton. As many of you know, the Thorntons are moving to St. Louis, Missouri, where Mace has already begun a new job. No group will miss Denise more than her sisters-in Christ in Sts. Mary and Martha Guild. Thanks to her leadership and creativity, the craft room was once again a huge draw at Fall Fest. We will miss her positive, "yes, we can" attitude, her insightful discussions, her willingness to listen and reflect, her servant's heart, and her hugs. We all wish Denise the very best as she blesses another congregation nine hundred miles away. Thank you



for blessing us, Denise. May God go with you.

All ladies of the parish and their friends are welcome at our Sts. Mary and Martha meetings. Please come and enjoy a morning of fellowship with your sisters-in-Christ. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild.

Mary Jane Cole
maryjane@cfsw.biz



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 17, 2019 meeting

Dinner and Fellowship started at 6:30 p.m. and was hosted by Jean Golas and Fr. Jay Morris. In attendance were Rector Fr. Jay Morris, Asst. Rector Fr. James Rickenbaker, Sr. Warden Bill Hoffman, Jr. Warden Ron Korth, Treasurer Chris Arey, Youth Representative Christopher (Kit) Stoltz, Dickie Boes, Jean Golas, Mary Nixon, Jackie Chichester, and Register Douglas McGinty. Fr. Jay opened with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer. [Subsequent events, if any, are bracketed and italicized.]

Business Session

- **Treasurer's Report** by the Treasurer Chris Arey. The matching challenge was discussed, along with expenses for August and the one-time expense for conversion to ACS. Pledges were at 77% for the year. The matching fund is line item 4062. Fuel oil cost \$58 last month. Chris will forward information on e-giving from Realm.
- **Minutes from Previous Meeting** by Register Douglas McGinty. Unanimously approved as amended.
- **R-2019-14 Tree Removal at Clifton Chapel**, approved 9/10/2019 by electronic vote.

New Business

- **R-2019-15 Delegate and Alternate to Diocesan Annual Convention** (Rector). Unanimously approved as amended.
- Possible Consultants for Capital Campaign. Bill Hoffman and Dickie Boes recommended a full-service consultant. Fr. Jay indicated that guidance is needed for the steering committee.
- Alcohol Policy (Administration Committee). Fr. Jay provided a memo on the need for policies concerning alcohol on church premises

and for recommendations by the Administration Committee. Serving and insurance issues were discussed.

- Fundraiser: peanuts instead of citrus (Jean Golas). The vestry unanimously endorsed.
- Current Total for Matching-Challenge Opportunity was \$30,038 as of 9/16/2019.
- Executive Session for Personnel Matters. The session was closed.

Reports from Vestry Committees

Administration by Jean Golas. Peanuts will be sold instead of citrus.

Finance by Fr. Jay. Charlie Bingay is working on budget requests by committees. For future audits, we need to see signature cards from Carter Bank and Trust for the ECW's checking account there. Fr. Jay proposed a shift in the dates for the Finance Committee meetings.

Building and Grounds by Bill Hoffman. Goals were submitted. Ron Korth raised the possibility of an exit-only sign near the brick gates.

Reports from the Wardens

Sr. Warden by Bill Hoffman. The painting project must be finished for Clifton Chapel. The David Wirman plaque is on its way.

Jr. Warden by Ron Korth. The campus looks good. Jason Stoltz has been told to order two windows for the rectory.

Report from Rector

Fr. Jay provided the Clergy Report. The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson is the newest Bishop in our diocese. She will visit Aquia Episcopal Church on June 21, 2020.

STARCH will not be coming on Fridays.



Vestry Highlights

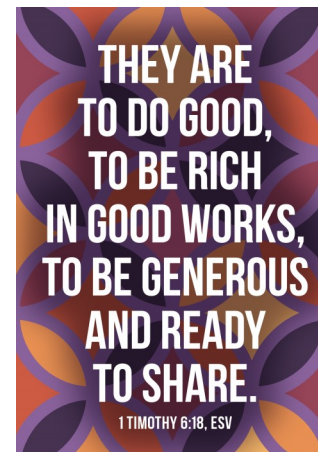
Fr. Jay asked for feedback from parishioners concerning his last sermon. [Evensong will occur on the second Sunday in October, which is Oct. 13, 2019.]

Upcoming Dates and Information

- 10/5: Fall Fest (with live auction at 11 a.m.)
- 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



Preparing for Confirmation

When infants and children are baptized at an early age, they are expected eventually “to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop” (BCP 412), once they are ready to do so on their own and have been duly prepared. The same opportunity is available to those who are baptized later in life—as teenagers or as adults—but have not yet been able to affirm their Christian faith and to commit themselves to the obligations of Baptism in the presence of a bishop, who lays hands on them. In other words: they are expected to become confirmed.

Confirmation is an important custom in the Church. It is a process by which a Christian’s faith is made stronger, so that the good work begun at baptism can take root, grow, and blossom as that Christian matures. Something very similar is appropriate for those who were baptized in a different tradition but have not yet been presented to a bishop in order to receive the laying on of episcopal hands that assists in the strengthening of their faith. That could be true of folks who were baptized but not yet confirmed among Methodists, Lutherans, or Roman Catholics, for example, or among Christian groups that do not have bishops—such as Baptist churches or independent congregations.

Christians who have been baptized and confirmed elsewhere but want to become full-fledged, card-carrying members of The Episcopal Church can be received by a bishop here—that is, welcomed into this fellowship in a way that honors the baptism and confirma-

tion from their previous churches while offering recognition for a faith that is growing at Aquia Church. Here ‘reception’ does not mean a party, but rather the occasion of being received formally into the worldwide Anglican Communion. Still others who have been

as our assistant bishop. She will be here in order to confirm and receive some folks and in order to help others reaffirm their baptismal vows.

Sometimes in the past, churches (including Aquia) have conducted preparations that were a bit hasty or incomplete. In this era of rising secularity and more outward hostility to Christianity, when nowadays there are so many conflicting religious claims, your clergy want to do more to help our candidates have a more confident, more transformative faith that will serve them well over the years ahead. From now on, we shall expect a bit more of our candidates, and we shall offer more to support them in their faith journey.

If you are a teenager or an adult ready to consider being confirmed, being received into The Episcopal Church, or reaffirming the promises from your baptism, then please let one of the clergy know right away. Likewise, please let us know if you have any questions about these matters.

Once we have a clear idea who wants to begin preparation, we will announce a schedule of classes that should be amenable to those who are committed.

Jay Morris



baptized but desire to recommit their lives to Christ may reaffirm the vows from their baptismal ceremony.

Those teenagers and adults who desire to be confirmed, to be received into The Episcopal Church following baptism in another Christian tradition, or who want to reaffirm the promises made at baptism will have those opportunities in the new year on Sunday, June 21, at that morning’s 10:00 service. On that occasion, we shall welcome the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, bishop suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas, whom the Diocese of Virginia has recently called to serve



JOHN 6:27, NIV



CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Aquia Church Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, letters and memorial donations for Cuthbert. Our family has been comforted by your many acts of kindness during this very difficult time. We especially treasure your sharing with us how Cuthbert touched your life.

Fondly,
Jane Mandell and Family

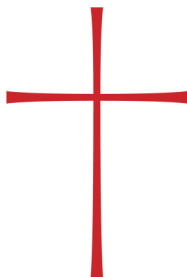


YOUR KINDNESS IS A BLESSING!

Dear Aquia Church Family,

Charlie and I want to express our appreciation for the prayer letter sent to us acknowledging the recent passing of my brother, Bob, and for the lovely vase of altar flowers that arrived on our doorstep. It takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a village to support a family during a time of great sorrow. We are blessed that you all are part of our village.

Barbara and Charlie Bingay



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

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 (when we generally have 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 Jan. 12, 2020. 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

Zac and Samantha (Hedger) Chesley, Patrick and Anna Hedger.



www.aquiachurch.org

office@aquiachurch.org

(540) 659-4007



NOVEMBER 3



NOVEMBER 11



Aquia Church Prayer List – November 2019

Faye Andrews, Rhett Blythe and Family, Edward Chaplin, Judy Chaplin, Elijah Colliver, Jeff Davis, Donnie Davis, Paula Davis, Brian Driscoll, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Larry Hartzler, Chris Hundley, John Jackson, 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.



2019 Christmas Flower Order Form



Enclosed is my donation for Christmas and Epiphany altar flowers, wreaths, and garland. I understand that I am giving my donation toward the overall preparation of the church for Christmas.

I would like my gift to the Christmas Altar to be:

In Thanksgiving for _____

In Memory of _____

I would like to take a poinsettia after Dec. 25 (Circle One) YES NO

Otherwise, I understand that the poinsettias will be taken to shut-ins or other people in pastoral need during the Christmas season.

Name: _____

Phone Number _____

Please enclose a check for \$20.00 made out to Aquia Episcopal Church. Please include "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line.

DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DEC. 9.





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thanksgiving Eve Worship



**Please join us on
Wednesday,
November 27
at 7 p.m.**

During this month, we shall conclude our Wednesday evening Bible study series on the Acts of the Apostles, in which Luke the evangelist tells the remarkable story of how the early Christian churches spread under the leadership of the apostles by the power of the Holy Spirit, starting out as a handful of Jesus' followers gathered in Jerusalem after his resurrection and ascension but within a generation becoming a rather global community. So much of the rise of the Christian movement in that period is attributable directly to the apostle Paul and to his various companions and traveling colleagues, who helped to transform Christianity from being simply a small sect within Palestinian Judaism to a wider network of Christians rooted in the Jewish Diaspora around the Mediterranean Sea to being an even broader array of people from so many regions, languages, nationalities, and religious backgrounds as we have up to the present time. Paul's accomplishments as a successor to Jesus, providing Christian preaching, teaching, pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and so forth—with powerful effect to the Christians of his day and to those afterward—is utterly remarkable and truly unprecedented, perhaps even unmatched by subsequent figures. It would be truly helpful for us to have a guide for understanding the breadth and depth of what this missionary achieved for Jesus, once Paul stopped persecuting the early Christians and became one of them and sought to attract more of them.

Fortunately, one of my former teachers has provided such a convenient and stimulating guide, in the form of a handsome volume: *In the Steps of Paul: An Illustrated Guide to the Apostle's Life and Journeys* by the English Anglican priest and New Testament scholar Paul Walker (Zondervan, 2008; repr. Augsburg Fortress, 2019, as *In the Steps of Saint Paul*). Consider the fact that by the end of the apostle Paul's life he had traveled around 1400 miles from Jerusalem to Rome, by ship and by land, in order to be a witness for the risen Christ—and that final voyage came only after he had already undertaken three separate missionary journeys that ranged around parts of the ancient near East, present-day Turkey and Greece, and several islands in the Mediterranean. Walker leads us through those travels, coordinating what Luke in Acts reports about those events with what Paul himself explained about them in his various letters to the churches he founded, to the churches he visited, and to specific individuals involved. Walker describes the places where Paul was born, lived, and worked—raised in Tarsus in Cilicia, blinded near Damascus in Syria, serving in nearby Antioch—before advancing to such places as the island of Cyprus, the regions of Galatia and Macedonia, the cosmopolitan cities of Athens and Corinth, Ephesus and Rome, and so many other locations inbetween. In every case, Walker gives us important details about each scene in biblical times and even to some extent today, accompanied by color photographs, charts, maps, diagrams, and the like.

For all the facts we can learn directly from the New Testament (especially from Acts and from the Pauline epistles) about these various locations, we can and do learn so much more about them from Walker's book. Just the photographs depicting the roads where Paul traveled, the scenes where Paul certainly or likely preached, and the archaeological remains where Paul once stood offer vivid insight about the cultural settings that Paul faced. Charts of dates and biblical references help connect passages of Scripture with historical events, periods, and persons. Maps and diagrams illustrate how the missionary voyages progressed, what the cities and meeting-places were like, and so forth. Then Walker's text richly describes the details behind the biblical texts—the things that might have been obvious to the first readers of the New Testament but to which we today would likely be oblivious, given our geographical and temporal distance from the biblical era. Perhaps more than any other resource I know, *In the Steps of Paul* succeeds at placing today's readers on the ground with Paul in his travels, his joys and sorrows, and in his mindset as itinerant preacher, teacher, evangelist, and pastor who must press onward in his journeys. It is the sort of book that makes for the perfect accompaniment to those reading the second half of the Acts of the Apostles (where Paul is *the* apostle of Luke's focus), or reading any of Paul's letters, or simply wondering how Paul could have achieved any of what he did.

This is not the only visual travel-guide that Walker has prepared for our information and spiritual growth. As truly helpful as I find this book for dealing with so much of the New Testament, you might be even more interested in a similar volume: *In the Steps of Jesus: An Illustrated Guide to the Places of the Holy Land* (Zondervan, 2007; repr. Augsburg Fortress, 2019). In both the volume on Jesus and the volume on Paul, the biblical expertise and the travel-guide experience on the ground that Walker has accumulated surely shine forth. Each book can make an excellent stocking-stuffer for a relative or a friend, or even for yourself.