



**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Cross Section

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

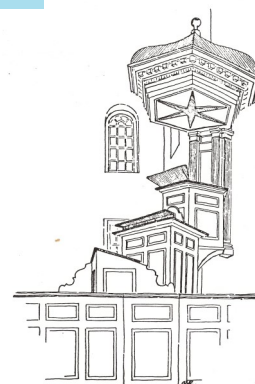
HOPE  
HOPE  
HOPE

OF  
PARDON

OF  
PEACE  
WITH  
GOD

OF  
GLORY

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.





## 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**

#### Assistant Treasurer

**Charlie Bingay**

#### Music Director

**Trystan Bennett**

#### Dir. Christian Education

**Kristen Morgan**

#### Parish Administrator

**Dennise LaBarre**

#### Executive Assistant

**Sue Selz**

#### Nursery Supervisor

**Dawna Spaulding**

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Overcoming Uncertainty

We face a lot of uncertainty these days: uncertainty about the pandemic, a vaccine, social unrest, the upcoming elections, when we may reconvene for worship indoors. We want to know what to expect for the future, and we want to be able to plan accordingly. Managing expectations and planning ahead can be challenging under ordinary circumstances, and right now our uncertainty is rather extraordinary.

Yet in some cases we have a good deal of certainty and do not lack confidence. By God's grace and with your support, Aquia Church continues to be the church, no matter what adverse conditions surround us. On the very first Sunday during the pandemic when we could gather for outdoor worship, we did so; and on the very first Sunday when we could receive communion together, we did so. Your clergy continue to baptize, to marry, and to bury as needed, and to pray with parishioners and to bless and advise them as requested. Our music ministry still broadcasts organ music and vocal music as a welcomed blessing to others. We are still offering Sunday school, youth group, Bible studies, and book discussions virtually. Aquia's Table and Aquia's Pantry have graciously adapted their ministry for curbside delivery, just as other ministry groups have adjusted their work as best they can. Our office staff members have combined work in the Fleurries with work at home in order to accomplish their tasks effectively. Even when opportunities for fellowship in person have been reduced, some folks have kept in touch with each other through phone calls, written notes, and conversations following outdoor worship or following their ministry that day.

Apparently the pandemic conditions and their uncertainty will continue for some time ahead, and we want to be ready. With electronic technology, we shall keep providing opportunities for worship and for faith-formation. Our newsletter and our

e-mailed announcements will keep everyone aware of the latest news. Our staff remains ready to serve, and our ministry groups still search for ways to reach out with signs of God's love. Yet in order to know what to expect for next year's work, and in order to plan accordingly, we need some guidance toward the financial needs of our ministries and our parish operations—for things like property costs and

other expenses that we shall certainly incur. That's where your interest in the success of our parish really matters.

As we begin to build the budget for 2021, we seek some certainty about our financial pledges, because that is by far the largest factor for our anticipated income. Many parishioners have steady, reliable incomes from which they contribute to our

parish. Even so, plenty of good folks here do not make a pledge, which makes our planning rather challenging. Our vestry will find it especially helpful when you make a financial pledge for next year, so that we may know in advance your strong commitment to the success of God's mission and ministry at Aquia Church. The pledge you make for 2021—whether pledging for the very first time, or extending an existing pledge, or especially increasing your current pledge if you can—will help us to have more certainty in our planning.

While the vestry has not yet discussed anything about my salary for 2021, I have already resolved to increase my financial pledge for next year, because I am certain about the good work that we accomplish together for the Lord by sharing our time, talent, and treasure. By sharing those resources, we become more certain of our success in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Won't you join me in making a pledge?

*Jay Morris*



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### Jesus Is King

**D**ear 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 how you recognize the importance of our Christian convictions. I thank him also that you realize the utter folly of political partisanship in the church. Jesus is not a Republican. Jesus is not a Democrat. Neither party perfectly encapsulates the Christian witness. Our hope is not found in earthly leaders. As the old hymn goes, "Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

I am writing this article to you in advance of the Nov. 3 election. There are among you a variety of opinions on how this election should play out. There are a variety of opinions about the candidates involved. However, Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15:19, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." No matter your political persuasion, no matter which person you vote for, Jesus is Lord. He is king. In him we all find the foundation of our identity. We are stamped with the image of God and are formed after his likeness. No one else can claim his place, and no one else deserves our worship and praise.

It will be tempting for those who supported the president-elect, in the upcoming days, to gloat or to "spike the football," as it were. But that is not what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. Those who supported the candidate who lost the election might be tempted to call foul, or to question the results, or to demonize the other side. This is not what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. There might even be some who found that they could not vote for either candidate or either party. Self-righteousness might pair well with that decision. This, as well, is not what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. Factional fighting in

the church is damaging to the body. It is sinful. We must strive to walk away from it. What we are called to do as followers of Jesus is to be a people formed and informed by the Gospel—a people who live out that faith in the world around us as an offering of gratitude to God for what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us.

Neither Fr. Jay nor I would deign to tell you who to vote for. That's not our place. But we are charged with and have vowed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ: to tell you of his saving death and resurrection, to tell you of his atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the world, and to tell you that—though we all stand convicted of sin and deserve death—Christ took our place and died in our stead. And finally, Fr. Jay and I are charged with telling you again and again that Jesus is Lord, that he is the ruler of us all, that he is the king, and that before him every knee shall bow and tongue confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11). No president can save you. No political party will usher in the Kingdom of God. Our hope is found in Christ's redeeming work on our behalf. If it is found anywhere else, we are indeed most to be pitied.

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**

*Finance Committee*

**Charlie Bingay**

*Finance Committee*

**Dickie Boes**

*Finance Committee Chairperson  
Building & Grounds Committee*

**Chris Bowie**

*Administration Committee*

**Bob Brandon**

*Building & Grounds Committee*

**Carrol Frederick**

*Administration Committee*

**Michael Golasz**

*Building & Grounds Committee*

**Bill Hoffman**

*Senior Warden  
Acting Chairperson of  
Administration Committee*

**Ron Korth**

*Junior Warden  
Building & Grounds  
Committee Chairperson*

**Patty Montgomery**

*Building & Grounds Committee*

**Patricia Springer**

*Administration Committee*

**Christopher "Kit" Stoltz**

*Youth Representative  
Administration &  
Finance Committees*

**Chris Wanner**

*Buildings & Grounds Committee*



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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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### November Tradition Changes

In writing ECW's article for the November newsletter, my usual tradition was to reach back to October and report on Fall Fest. But things have been somewhat different in 2020. It certainly speaks to non-tradition!

The ECW board and key members of the Fall Fest committee met over Zoom in the early stages of the pandemic and, after much discussion and deliberation, decided not to host Fall Fest in 2020. As the pandemic evolved through October, restrictions from the Diocese of Virginia on church events and the Commonwealth of Virginia eased up, and so the ECW successfully held a fundraising event on our traditional Fall Fest Saturday. With the support of our parish, the day not only provided a pulled pork meal; it also succeeded in a COVID-compliant event of fellowship. Win-win! Members of our parish visit-

ed with smiling eyes above their masks and voices of greeting clearly heard through their masks. We thank all those members of the vestry, Aquia's Table, and the parish for their donations of time and food.

The ECW board will meet virtually during November in order to vote on our budget for 2021. Our slate of officers for the 2021 year will be included in the December newsletter. The scope of our ministry hasn't changed; we are currently serving and will continue to serve our church, local community, and world with grace. We invite your ideas and talents as we move through these uncertain times. We hope you will join Sts. Mary and Martha in our weekly prayers and other activities. Look for Mary Jane Cole and Carolyn Hendrickson's newsletter article this month for information on becoming a part of

Aquia's ECW guild in prayer and service. If you think you would like to serve on the Board, please contact me [bkwnings\\_n\\_things@yahoo.com](mailto:bkwnings_n_things@yahoo.com).

In closing I would like to share a prayer from the national ECW:

*Almighty God, we pray that you will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your Son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen.*

**Briget Kane**  
President



**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.*

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## STS. MARY AND MARTHA

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### Worship, Service and Fellowship

With both Thanksgiving and the start of Advent coming near the end of November, the ladies of Sts. Mary and Martha Guild once again find so much for which to be thankful. We hope this gratitude is reflected in our lives as well as our hearts. We continue our weekly mutual prayer time of 9:30 on Thursday mornings. Our prayers are for our nation, the world, and our parish, as well as our friends and families, and we would be glad to include any of your prayer requests. Simply reach out to us at either of the e-mail addresses below.

Starting Sunday, Nov. 29, and continuing through all four Sundays of Advent, we will be setting up our annual

ECW gift table in the great hall for browsing and shopping around the time of the morning worship service. There you will find a lovely assortment of handmade Christmas ornaments along with Aquia Church gold ornaments, note cards and cookbooks, sets of Advent wreath candles, plus wax angels



and star candles made from Aquia Church altar candle stubs. Pictured here are our alphabet block elves, which are perfect ornaments for each child or grandchild in the family. In order to ensure that the letters you want are in stock, contact us soon to reserve what you need. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Mary Jane Cole**

[maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)

**Carolyn Hendrickson**

[cvhendrickson35@gmail.com](mailto:cvhendrickson35@gmail.com)

**Sts. Mary and Martha Guild, Co-chairs**





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## Vestry Fundraiser: Just in Time for Christmas

The vestry is very pleased to offer the Virginia-grown nut products from Newsoms Peanut Shop again in 2020. As you know, the consequences of the pandemic cancelled Fall Fest, eliminated rental income from the churches which were using the 1960 parish house, and has largely prevented us from offering our great hall for rental events. Accordingly, this fundraiser gives us a chance to offer a premium product at a modest price, just in time for Christmas, and help us raise some much-needed income. They are a very nice, affordable gift for relatives, friends, your newspaper delivery person, postal worker, barber, hair stylist, etc. Newsoms is a third-generation, family-owned, small business in Southampton County, Virginia; Blair and Jenny Bunn are good Methodists. Order forms are available at our outdoor worship services and at the church office; an order form is also included in this issue of the *Cross Section* newsletter, which is available at [www.AquiaChurch.org](http://www.AquiaChurch.org). Your paid orders are due by Dec. 7. **For this year, we will deliver your order to your residence. Please request delivery on the attached form.** Please consider supporting your church and this Virginia small business. If you have questions, please contact either Dickie Boes or Chris Arey.



Chris Arey

## Treasurer's Note

Parishioners are reminded that they can retrieve their contribution statements by logging into their Realm accounts. For those who are not able to do so, please contact Sue Selz ([sue.selz@aquiachurch.org](mailto:sue.selz@aquiachurch.org)) or Chris Arey ([treasurer@aquiachurch.org](mailto:treasurer@aquiachurch.org)), and we can e-mail or snail-mail your statement to you. Also, we sincerely appreciate all who use Realm for on-line contributions, especially if you are able to absorb the transaction cost in your contribution. *Please note to use the correct category of contribution:* if you submitted a pledge card for 2020 and make a donation online, then please use that category. If you did not submit a pledge card, then please use the non-pledged category—just as important and helpful. We are trying to ensure that we track our income appropriately. Questions? Contact the Treasurer at the e-mail above.

Chris Arey



<https://onrealm.org/AquiaEpiscopalC/SignIn>

## Matching Challenge Grant

Can you make a year-end gift toward reducing the construction loan debt on our Christian Formation and Fellowship Building? As of Oct. 19, we have received nearly 77% of the goal for our current matching challenge (\$76,618.00)—a recent gift has given us a significant boost!—but we still have more funds yet to raise toward our goal, with the clock still ticking. Thanks to an anonymous pledge, we have a new opportunity to help retire our debt sooner than planned, and for less money overall. Every contribution that we receive for the new building between April 21, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020 (unless otherwise specified) will be

matched dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$100,000.00, with all such contributions being used to pay down the construction loan. Your gift should have “New Building” marked on the check or on the envelope. For online giving via Realm, under the “Giving” tab, select “Give,” and then on the pull-down menu for “Fund,” select “Matching Challenge 2020.” For information about how to transfer investments in tax-advantageous ways for this purpose, please speak with treasurer Chris Arey ([treasurer@aquiachurch.org](mailto:treasurer@aquiachurch.org)) or contact Sue Selz in the church office ([sue.selz@aquiachurch.org](mailto:sue.selz@aquiachurch.org)).

Jay Morris



## Ghosts, Goblins, Saints, and Souls

October 31st brings us Halloween, though it has been available at Walmart since right after Labor Day. Copious amounts of candy, Great Pumpkin lawn decorations, jack-o'-lanterns, and children dressing up as superheroes have transformed this solemn occasion into an explosion of crass consumerism rivalling Christmas in the amount of money spent.

It is a far cry from the origin of All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve (as the saints were the 'hallows'). The online *Episcopal Dictionary of the Church* states that All Hallows' Eve was also:

the eve of Samhain, a pagan Celtic celebration of the beginning of winter and the first day of the new year. This time of the ingathering of the harvest and the approach of winter apparently provided a reminder of human mortality. It was a time when the souls of the dead were said to return to their homes. Bonfires were set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits. Samhain was a popular festival at the time when the British Isles were converted to Christianity. The church "adopted" this time of celebration for Christian use by observing All Saints' Day on Nov. 1, and All Hallows' Eve on the evening of Oct. 31.

Customs differ across the Western world; but whereas Halloween is widely observed by the general population, All Saints' Day and the succeeding All Souls' Day are largely the province of Christians only. All Saints' Day commemorates all saints, known and unknown, on Nov. 1. It is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year, and one of the four days recommended for the administration of baptism. All Saints' Day may also be celebrated on the Sunday following Nov. 1. We traditionally sing "For all the saints," based on Hebrews 12:1, which was written by William Walsham How, the Anglican bishop of Wakefield, to the tune *Sine Nomine* ("Without Name") composed by Ralph Vaughn Williams. The original verses

3, 5 and 6 of How's composition are omitted from our hymnal. Other hymns we frequently sing are "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones," and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

All Saints' Day, on its current date, is traced to the time of Pope Gregory III (731–741). In the *Episcopal Dictionary*, it is noted that in the New Testament, the word 'saints' is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian community. Paul addresses the saints (or those called to be saints) who are the members of Christian communities that receive his letters (see Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Phil 1:1; Col 1:2). Christ makes it possible for us to be saints as we share his life. We are washed, sanctified, and justified "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor 6:11). From very early times, however, the word 'saint' came to be applied primarily to persons of extraordinary piety, devotion, and sanctity. Special regard was made, and prayers were made to the saints, especially for those martyred. Prayers to the saints to intercede on behalf of the faithful was practiced locally. When I travelled to Wales last year, I was introduced to a whole new constellation of saints—including Cadoc, Illtyd, Tathyw, Rhidian, Madoc, and Amphibalus, among many others.

Alan Jacobs, in his book *Original Sin*, cites Peter Brown, a scholar of the early church, for an explanation for the rise of the cult of the saints in the late Roman world. According to Brown, early Christians—having very limited abilities to redress injustice or clear their names from illicit charges of wrongdoing—turned to their social betters for succor. If a local patrician was sympathetic, he became their patron and improved the chances of a favorable outcome. Brown states, "It is in this hope of amnesty that pushed the saint to the foreground as *patronus*. For patronage and friendship derived from their appeal from a proven ability to render malleable seemingly inexorable



processes, and to bridge with the warm breath of personal acquaintances of great distance of the late-Roman social world." Brown's book *The Cult of the Saints: Its Rise and Function in Latin Christianity* is the definitive work on this subject.

In the Roman Catholic Church, this remembrance on the day after All Saints' Day is called All Souls' Day, when the bereaved have the opportunity to offer prayers and masses for loved ones who have died. However, this practice was rejected by many Protestant Reformers, because the theology behind the observance was associated with the medieval doctrine of Purgatory, along with the practice of paying for masses to be said for the dead to assist their souls into Heaven. At the time of the English Reformation in the mid-16th century, All Souls' Day was integrated into the celebration of All Saints' Day in the Church of England. But by the 19th century, some parishes influenced by the Anglo-Catholic Revival reinstated the observance of All Souls' Day on Nov. 2. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer officially restored the observance in the Episcopal Church, renaming it the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (BCP 29).

All Souls' Day, as distinct from All Saints' Day, was (according to tradition) started in 998 by Odilo, abbot of Cluny, though it may have begun many years later. According to his biographer,

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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Sunday school for children in pre-K through 12th grades continues to meet virtually each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. In addition, learning leaflets are available for weekly lessons for children in our elementary school class. For more information about Sunday school for pre-K through 5th grades, please contact Kristen Morgan ([christianed@aquiachurch.org](mailto:christianed@aquiachurch.org)). For information about our middle and high school class, please contact Father Rickenbaker ([rickenbaker@aquiachurch.org](mailto:rickenbaker@aquiachurch.org)).

Advent season begins on Nov. 29. This year we will be providing an at-home activity called “Flat Nativity,” similar to the “Flat Stanley” projects that many schoolchildren have done. We will also be sending out weekly Advent newsletters with fun, Advent-themed activities that families can do together. Stay tuned for more details.

*Kristen Morgan*



## Aquia Church Association

In September the Aquia Church Association, which across many decades has provided for our parish in various ways but with a particular interest in our historic church building, made its final contribution to our parish. This last gift was intended to support the most recent work of painting and other forms of restoration for the interior of our colonial structure. In recent years, the Association played a significant role in securing the replacement of the copper roof, and subsequently they released to us the remaining copies of the book by Tom Moncure and Molly Pynn about Aquia Church’s history. Over time the Association, collectively and by the service of its members individually, has

often contributed to the furnishings, repairs, and maintenance of our property and has worked for the benefit of our parish as a whole.

*The generous assistance that the Aquia Church Association has long provided for our parish has made a difference for all of us.*

While the Association has decided to conclude its operations, its members retain an abiding interest in our historic church as a place of worship and as an organization of which they are a part, and they are always welcomed and encouraged to visit as our honored guests

whenever possible and to continue to uphold their dedication to this place. Their combined years of interest in and support for our parish are too great to number, but they remain cherished. Our parish hereby publicly conveys its appreciation and gratitude for the support of the Aquia Church Association over the years, including among its leaders Jerrilyn Eby MacGregor, Jonathan Wight as treasurer, and Earl Bradford as president. The generous assistance that the Aquia Church Association has long provided for our parish has made a difference for all of us.

*Jay Morris*

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Odilo heard the story of shipwrecked pilgrims to the Holy Land who had been saved by a hermit. He learned of the hermit’s discovery of an underground cavern where the tormented souls were being alleviated by the prayers of the faithful—more precisely, by the prayers of the monks at Cluny, whose prayers were supposed to be

especially effective. Alan Jacobs writes, “Upon hearing this news, Odilo determined to establish a new day on his abbey’s calendar, a day devoted to prayer for the souls who, while not damned, had not entered into blessedness: Nov. 2, later to be called All Souls’ Day.”

There is a distinction between these two days. Our celebration of All Saints’ Day is always momentous, as we honor

and remember the “great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1) that has gone before us.

For more details, see such articles as “Saints,” “All Saints Day,” and “All Hallows Eve” in the online *Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*, and see Alan Jacobs’s book *Original Sin*, pp. 70-72.

*Chris Arey*



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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Aug. 18, 2020 via Zoom

In Attendance: Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden; Ron Korth, Junior Warden; Chris Arey, Treasurer; Charlie Bingay, Dickie Boes, Chris Bowie, Bob Brandon, Carroll Frederick, Michael Golasz, Kit Stoltz, and Chris Wanner.

### Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer: Fr. Jay Morris

#### *Treasurer's Report*

Online giving showed an increase of 9% between July 2019 and July 2020. Expenses were down, in part due to having no need to make pension payments during the recent two-month waiver from Church Pension Group. CFFB expenses were slightly increased, reflecting the purchase and installment of the new alarm intrusion system, and also the need to pay utilities twice in the month of July. Weekly income for July was consistent.

#### *Minutes from July Vestry Meeting*

Approved unanimously by the vestry.

### New Business

The annual internal financial review was completed. This audit satisfied the church's requirements but was not a CPA-level audit. It was clarified that the Diocese of Virginia does not play a direct role in the Aquia Episcopal Church audit, and that perhaps a more formal audit would be conducted in the future. It was noted that all three parish volunteers who conducted the audit—Anette Evans (chair), Curt Bradford, and Lisa Schwartz—were not vestry members. The internal financial review was approved unanimously.

**R-2020-09 Adjustments to the Budget** was approved. It was noted that the clergy voluntarily reduced travel allowance by \$1,000.00 each. Spending authorization in many categories was decreased due to changing needs; some increases in the budget were approved,

due in part to the ongoing maintenance and repairs to the rectory; the result was a more balanced budget. The resolution was unanimously approved.

**R-2020-10 Appointment of Alternates to the Diocesan Convention** was discussed and at the Rector's suggestion, Bill Hoffman would replace Chris Arey and Michael Golasz, while Charlie Bingay would serve as an alternate for Mary Nixon, should the need arise. The resolution was approved unanimously.

**R-2020-11 Adjustment to Pioneer Roofing Contract** was sent for discussion by the Rector. Pioneer Roofing Company advised the church of a requested change in the already contracted sum of money for the repair of the cupola roof of the historic church and wrapping the cross in new copper, stating that the extension of time needed to complete the extended repairs (among other factors) would drive up the cost of labor, materials, and rental equipment needed for the job. Pioneer Roofing Company therefore proposed an additional \$4,000.00 be added to the already approved sum needed to complete the repairs to the cupola and cross of the historic church. The vestry discussed several scenarios, including vetting another vendor, and also entering into negotiations with Pioneer Roofing Company in order to reduce the additional sum of \$4,000.00. The vestry resolved to accept additional costs up to a mutually acceptable limit of \$4,000.00 in order to complete the repairs to the cupola of the historic church, or else to seek a new vendor in the case that negotiations were to fail, and the resolution was approved.

#### *Clifton Chapel*

The vestry continued ongoing conversation regarding the use, maintenance, and occupancy of Clifton Chapel. The current tenants, St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church, had at one time expressed an interest in the purchase of Clifton Chapel, but subsequently have purchased land elsewhere in Stafford

County and are moving forward with the construction of a new church. Some

speculation existed that St. Herman of Alaska would purchase Clifton Chapel for further use in mission and ministry. As it stands, there is no definitive plan for any church or agency to purchase Clifton Chapel. As mounting costs for maintenance and repairs to the church continue to grow, the sale of Clifton Chapel is a matter of interest for the vestry. It was clarified that the Diocese of Virginia would need to be apprised of this discussion, should the diocese have any moral or legal deed to Clifton Chapel. The vestry determined to continue discussion regarding the future of Clifton Chapel as it is owned and maintained by Aquia Episcopal Church. Fruit and Nut Sale for 2020 was discussed. Since Fall Fest has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Fruit and Nut Sale would be viewed as an opportunity for fundraising, thus benefitting the budget for Aquia Episcopal Church. Vestry member Dickie Boes volunteered to promote the fruit and nut sale, with more details to come in the future.

The status of a capital campaign was questioned, and in light of the current matching grant campaign for 2020, any launch of a new capital campaign would be deferred to 2021.

### Reports from Committees

Sent to the vestry electronically

### Reports from Jr. and Sr. Wardens

The Junior Warden reported that installation of the alarm intrusion system in the CFFB was almost complete. Any additional monitoring sensors would cost \$15/month. It was advised that a sign about the new system should be posted and also electronic communication about the system should be sent,



*Vestry Highlights*

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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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**Sept. 7, 2020**

### Special Vestry Meeting Via Zoom

In Attendance: Rector, Fr. Jay Morris, Junior Warden Ron Korth, Treasurer Chris Arey, Chris Bowie, Charlie Binyay, Bob Brandon, Carroll Frederick, Kit Stoltz, Chris Wanner.

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer: Fr. Jay Morris

### Special Business Session

The meeting was called by the Rector of Aquia Episcopal Church, Fr. Jay Morris, to clarify the current situation regarding repair of the historic church cupola roof and cross, with regards to R-2020-11, which was the resolution that approved the contract with Pioneer Roofing Company to make said repairs.

- Pioneer Roofing Company entered into a contract with Aquia Episcopal Church to complete the outlined repairs to the cupola roof, adjoining fascia, and cross.
- After some sort of consideration within Pioneer Roofing Company, they determined that the outlined repairs needed extended time beyond that stipulated in the already-signed and approved contract, and that an additional \$4,000.00 should

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while avoiding use of the system's keypad until all final testing was complete.

The Senior Warden reported that the Administration Committee's revision of bylaws may be proceeding to a vote within the next month or two.

### Report from Rector

No newsworthy items to report beyond the clergy's written report.

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Fr. James Rickenbaker closed with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carol F. Korth*

be added to the original amount of the approved and signed contract in order to allow for extended use of rental equipment and for additional material and labor.

- Since a contract had already been signed, Aquia Episcopal Church moved to negotiate the \$4,000.00, believing that the church had not approved of additional funds being added to the original contracted amount, up to \$4000.00.
- To date, Pioneer Roofing Company has not entered into negotiations regarding their requested added amount of \$4,000.00.
- In question also is the fate of the 50% of the total contracted amount that was placed as a deposit from Aquia Episcopal Church. Should AEC void the contract, it is feared that the deposit money may be forfeited to Pioneer Roofing Company.
- With the approval of the vestry, Junior Warden Ron Korth vetted another roofing repair company, Habalis Construction, Inc., of Fredericksburg, in order to put forth a good-faith estimate of the costs associated with the repair of the cupola roof, cross, and fascia of the historic church, in the event that Pioneer Roofing Company decides to void the contract with the church.
- Some specifics regarding contracting Habalis Construction, Inc. exist: will Habalis request additional funds added to the contract for equipment rental? Will Habalis give the church the copper shingles that now exist on the cupola roof? Some further clarification would be needed before entering into a formal contract for Habalis Construction Company, Inc., to make the needed repairs to the cupola and cross on the historic church. *[After this special meeting, Habalis Construction clarified in writing that they would not seek additional*

*charges for renting a manlift or crane above and beyond their bid price, and that they would give the church the existing copper shingles now on the cupola roof.]*

Fr. Morris called the question to the vestry, and the vestry approved and seconded the motion that Aquia Episcopal Church would give Pioneer Roofing Company the option to do the work on the historic church cupola, cross, and fascia at the originally agreed price without any increase in cost or else return the deposit. Should the deposit be returned and Pioneer Roofing Company withdraw their contract, the church would move forward immediately to contract Habalis Construction Company, Inc., to make and complete the repairs to the cupola, cross, and fascia of the historic church. The quorum of the vestry present unanimously approved the motion.

### Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Regarding the Eagle Scout project of Kit Stoltz, the Rector will allow the vestry the deadline of 10:01 p.m. on 9/8/2020 to respond with any questions regarding the project, and then will move to call the question to approve the project. *[By electronic vote ending on 9/8, the vestry gave unanimous approval for the Eagle Scout project proposed by Kit Stoltz for fencing a playground area on the lower level behind the CFFB.]*

Fr. Jay Morris announced that Holy Eucharist in one kind (wafer) has been approved by the Diocese of Virginia to recommence on Sunday, Sept. 13, at all outdoor services. Regular Eucharistic prayer will resume in place of Morning Prayer except for the 7:30 a.m. virtual/online service, which will continue to offer Morning Prayer.

Fr. Jay Morris closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carol F. Korth  
Register, Aquia Episcopal Church*



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## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

*New Babies:* Thanksgiving for the birth of a child 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 those who are deployed in the service of our country.

### FUTURE BAPTISMS

If you would like to schedule a baptism for someone in your family, please contact the church office, so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

### PRAYERS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

Derek and Emily (Selz) Wisner

### Aquia Church Prayer List

November 2020

Faye Andrews, Linda Beville, Rhett Blythe and Family, Julie Burgess, Elijah Colliver, Richard Craven, Donnie Davis, Brian Driscoll, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Robert Garrett, Christopher, Shawna & Oliver Gray, Larry Hartzler, Gary & Kandy Howard, Chris Hundley, Jerry & Dot, John Jackson, Will King, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Patty Montgomery, Rebecca Poole, Terry Prickett, Linda Raisovich-Parsons, Kenny Reilly, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Gayle Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



### How to reach us:



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

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

(540) 659-4007

<https://www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch>

Our fall cleanup day for the church grounds and cemetery is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 8 a.m. Bring your gloves, rakes, power blowers, pruning gear, and other tools for sprucing up our property. This is a good occasion for families to have some outdoor fun and a good way for teenagers to accumulate some community service hours. Rain date is the following Saturday, Nov. 21. If you have any questions, please contact junior warden Ron Korth ([rakorth@aol.com](mailto:rakorth@aol.com)).



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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Sept. 15 via Zoom

Fr. Jay Morris, Rector, Fr. James Rick-enbaker, Assistant Rector, Bill Hoff-man, Senior Warden, Ron Korth, Junior Warden, Chris Arey, Treasurer, Charlie Bingay, Dickie Boes, Chris Bowie, Bob Brandon, Patricia Springer, Kit Stoltz

### Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer: The Rev. Jay Morris

#### *Treasurer's Report*

August saw a fall-off of income. 75% of pledged income had been received year-to-date, but concerns remain regarding income. New fire and security expenses were reported due to the new intrusion system purchased for the CFFB. The church organ needed repair, which resulted in another expense. Some discussion ensued as to whether the repair to the church organ should be a budget item, which will be further discussed by the Finance Committee.

#### *Minutes from Previous Meeting*

Minutes from the previous vestry meeting (Aug. 18, 2020) as well as two other special sessions (Aug. 28, 2020, and Sept. 7, 2020) were unanimously approved by the vestry.

### New Business

- **Resolution 2020-12:** A tree was identified in the historic church cemetery on the south side that had been struck by lightning and was dead. Removal of the tree is needed, as it jeopardizes a portion of the iron fence surrounding the historic church cemetery. Payne Tree Service submitted a bid of \$1875.00. Mitchell's Tree Service submitted a bid of \$2000.00. The vestry unanimously approved to contract with Payne Tree Service at their submitted bid.
- Aquia Episcopal Church's pledge to the Diocese of Virginia was discussed. The vestry voted and approved to pledge \$3000.00 to the Diocese of Virginia in 2021.

- The Annual Pledge Campaign for 2020-2021 was discussed and it was determined that Aquia Episcopal Church would move forward with its annual pledge campaign, regardless of the fluctuations in the economy due to the pandemic. A tentative date of Nov. 8, 2020, as Pledge Sunday was reserved. The campaign could follow the diocesan theme of "One Together," with adopted graphics and icons for publishing of brochures and other campaign materials.
- A schedule for setting up chairs for outdoor worship was discussed, allowing more volunteer opportunities, as well as a schedule for cleaning the historic church once the building is open (disinfection process) rather than leaving all of the responsibility to the wardens.

### Committee Reports

- The *Administration Committee* reported that with the assistance of other committee leaders, 100% of an inventory of church items has been completed.
- The *Finance Committee* reported that the Aquia Association had submitted a check of approximately \$36,000.00 for the Moncure Robinson Memorial Fund. How the funds will be distributed will be a future vestry discussion. The Finance Committee also discussed a change of accounting software to QuickBooks, which would be more appropriate for use at Aquia Episcopal Church. The vestry agreed with using QuickBooks, to be in effect as of Oct. 1, 2020.
- The *Building and Grounds Committee* reported that the iron fence surrounding the historic church cemetery was in the process of being painted. Also, a leak in the CFFB, which resulted in water and mold contamination, was cleaned up. In a discussion with JES Water

Proofing, JES submitted a quote of \$8000.00 to repair the issue. In addition, a fall clean-up is scheduled for Nov. 14, 2020, with a rain date of Nov. 21, 2020.

### Senior Warden Report

Repairing the headstone for the grave of one of John Peyton's wives was advised, as the stone had fallen due to a crack at the base. A substantial repair should be made to restore the stone properly.

### Clergy Report

- The ECW Homecoming Meal was successful due to the motivation of the ECW to continue the tradition of a homecoming meal.
- Sunday School was off to a good start for the year, with no reported technical issues from virtual meeting platforms.
- The distribution of communion wafers during the celebration of the Eucharist at outdoor worship was a move in the positive direction.
- Members of St. Herman of Alaska Russian Orthodox Church, renters of Clifton Chapel, have filled in some potholes in Clifton Chapel Lane. Selling Clifton Chapel remains a financial priority, which would also require a congregational meeting and vote.

### Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, Adjournment

Newsom's Peanuts was contacted, and the same products as last year's fundraiser will be offered this year. Orders are due Dec. 7, 2020, with distribution to parishioners possible, if needed.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment by Rev. James Rickenbaker

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carol F. Korth  
Register, Aquia Episcopal Church*





**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thanksgiving is formally celebrated once a year, but thankfulness is never out of season, and this year gives us cause to be especially thankful for our church community. The *Cross Section* newsletter is one of the ways we have to communicate with each other. Each month we are eager to read inspirational messages from Aquia's ministries and take note of the many activities offered for worship and enlightenment. Many readers may not realize the time and effort our contributors dedicate to this effort each month. We would like to thank those who take the time and effort to reflect about what to write and the best way to write it. The church community is grateful for your gifts.

***Carol Bailey & Mary Karcher***  
***Newsletter Ministry***



## November 2020 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

Throughout 2020 the Old Testament has been particularly prominent in my pondering. This is due partly to the fact that so many of the first readings in our Sunday lectionary this year have been taken from the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus, where the lessons are as familiar as foundational for our faith. The narratives about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Exodus out of Egypt into the desert wilderness toward the Promised Land, the Ten Commandments, and the golden calf are powerful accounts from the origins of our spiritual heritage, and these stories have received appropriate attention at our Sunday worship in recent months. In the spring and summer, Father Rickenbaker led a Wednesday morning Bible study series on the book of Job, highlighting the importance of the Old Testament's wisdom literature, and his subsequent series on holy baptism explored the Old Testament roots of that sacrament. Also, several of my Wednesday evening Bible studies this year—Deuteronomy, the prophets Elijah and Ezekiel, and the recent launched survey of Ezra and Nehemiah—have focused on historical and theological themes that are important at various points in the Old Testament's overarching story. Even my series on the Gospel of John from earlier this year paid attention to that Gospel's look back to Old Testament sources. In the grand scheme of things, our understanding about the Christian doctrines of creation, redemption, sacrifice, reconciliation, eschatology, and grace simply don't get off the ground without being grounded in the Old Testament (pardon my mixed metaphors). Yet grasping what is going there can be quite difficult for obvious reasons: the enormous length of its time-span, the sheer breadth of its conceptual framework, its range of literary genres, and its geographical and historical distance from our present world are among the reasons for our lack of awareness about it—not to mention that the Old Testament sometimes seems to go on forever and is occasionally boring, both of which facts contribute to some disinterest on our part. So whenever I discover books that help bridge the gaps between the Old Testament and ourselves, or books that present clearly and compellingly what is happening in the Old Testament, I try to learn what I can from them—especially when the bridge-building books are also clear and compelling. Lately I have been relying considerably on two such books.

One that has been quite helpful for our recent look into Ezekiel and remains helpful for our new tour of Ezra and Nehemiah is ***Old Testament Turning Points: The Narratives that Shaped a Nation*** by Victor H. Matthews (Baker Academic, 2005). In 180 pages of well-organized and lucid text, Matthews depicts eight essential episodes in Old Testament history in his eight chapters with these titles: Adam and Eve are expelled from Eden, Yahweh establishes a covenant with Abraham, Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt, King David makes Jerusalem his capital, Jeroboam leads the secession of the northern tribes, Samaria falls to the Assyrians, Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and deports the people of Judah, and Cyrus captures Babylon and the Exiles return home. (Participants in the Wednesday evening discussions about Ezekiel and Ezra will know already how crucial those last three episodes have been for our understanding of these books.) Matthews does more than summarize the factors contributing to each of these events; he also explains why these events served as hinges in the history of God's people and thus of God's governance and grace by explaining their impact. Moreover, Matthews brings in enough of cultural and historical perspective from outside the Bible so as to illuminate what the biblical texts present—which can be useful for folks without much previous exposure to the history of the ancient near East or world civilizations. While these eight moments from the Old Testament are not the only highlights from that era, they are probably the decisive points at which the development of biblical history began to change direction, such that getting clear about them can do wonders for grasping the flow of the Old Testament. Another virtue of Matthews's book is his practice of using a different part of the Old Testament to expound the particular event under discussion, so that readers can draw connections quickly from throughout the Old Testament.

Another author who (like Matthews) uses central characters and moments in the Old Testament as entry-points into the greater whole of the Old Testament, but does so for the majority of the Old Testament books and all of its genres, is Ellen F. Davis in her new work, ***Opening Israel's Scriptures*** (Oxford University Press, 2019). Starting with Genesis and pursuing the basic chronological flow of Old Testament history (so that she treats minor prophets before major prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah, and so that she treats the late histories like Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles last—just as they appear in the classic order of the Hebrew Bible), Davis offers insightful, thoughtful overviews about nearly every book in the Old Testament by using its key passages and themes in order to provide a way into their thought-world. For instance, in discussing Ezekiel, she takes the four visions he receives from God at various points of his ministry as exemplary for that prophetic book's interest in the future of God's work with his people across history, and Davis links Ezekiel with the minor prophet Haggai (whose own ministry came soon after Ezekiel's). This book graciously reflects Davis's lifetime of teaching and preaching the Old Testament as a layperson in The Episcopal Church (as I believe Matthews is, too), and I am turning to this volume quite frequently as I see how the Lord is still speaking through Israel's Scriptures.

## Order Form for Vestry Peanut Fundraiser

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery to you? Check one: Yes ( ☐ ) No ( ☐ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Item Code	Description	Quantity	Price	Total
RT 101	1 lb. Home Cooked		\$10.00	
RT 102	1 lb. Home Cooked (no salt)		\$10.00	
RT 201	1 lb. Redskins		\$10.00	
RT 113	1 lb. Cajun Spice		\$10.00	
RT 301	12 oz. Peanut Brittle		\$11.00	
RT 601	1 lb. Cashews		\$14.00	
RT 918	8 oz. Chocolate Amaretto Pecans		\$10.00	
RT 914	6 oz. Honey Crisp Pecans		\$9.00	
RT 101H	1 lb. Habanero/Jalapeno Nuts		\$10.00	
RT 905	1 lb. Chocolate Covered Peanuts		\$12.00	
RT 906	1 lb. Peanut Squares		\$11.00	
RT PT	6 oz. Trail Mix – Critter Mix		\$7.50	
RT 907	1 lb. Chocolate Covered Peanut Brittle		\$15.00	
RT 924	1 lb. Chocolate Covered Almonds		\$15.00	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Total

**Make Checks Payable to:**

**Aquia Episcopal Church (in Memo line: Newsoms Peanuts)**

**Due to Church Office by: Monday, December 7, 2020**