

## *ECW of Aquia Episcopal Church*

### *“Gift of Life” Honorees*

In 1922, Miss Sallie Carrington Deane founded the “Gift of Life” , in hopes of establishing a fund to help train women in church work. In 1930, the Gift of Life was added to the financial objectives of the Women’ s Auxiliary in the Diocese of Virginia. Today in many parishes, money is given in thanksgiving for a birth, marriage, and anniversary, recovery from illness, a baptism or any other happy occasion. Here at Aquia, it has become a tradition for the ECW to contribute money in thanksgiving for the lives of special individuals who have worked long and tirelessly for the good of the church. These names are then recorded in the “Gift of Life” Book, a permanent record kept at the Mayo House. The money, which is contributed with each name nominated, goes to active Episcopalians with financial need from the Diocese of Virginia who are interested in furthering their education at seminary, college or technical school.

The names of people appearing in this book have been submitted and now appear in the “Gift of Life” Book. This is an ongoing project and each year we look forward to honoring other very special members of our Aquia Church family.





## **Kathie S. League**

I was raised in St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Richmond, VA, and was the fourth generation of my father's family to be confirmed in the church. I learned from my family from an early age, care and compassion for others including friends, neighbors and strangers.

I later joined St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, a mission church in Chesterfield County, VA. Prior to joining Aquia Church, I was a member of Episcopal churches in Winston-Salem, NC and Columbia, SC. With my husband, Bill, I was a member of Altar Guide, Outreach and Hospitality ministries in these parishes.

One of the greatest joys I have is baking for Aquia's Table. I learned baking in the kitchens of my mother and grandmothers, who were all wonderful cooks. I try to bake as much love as possible into each dessert, and decorate them to make each recipient feel special.

I have retired this year from a 47-year banking career, and look forward to taking on additional volunteer opportunities at Aquia Church and Moments of Hope Outreach, a non-profit serving the homeless and impoverished in Hanover County, which I have been a part of since 2016. MoHope serves a meal every Saturday, and on the last Saturday of every month, I bake cupcakes to

celebrate our guests that had birthdays during the month. Seeing the joy such a small offering brings has truly been a blessing to me.

When not baking or volunteering, I enjoy Wednesday Bible Study, reading, travel and puzzles.

## **Trudy Osborne**

Hi, my name is Trudy Osborne and I love volunteering with the Aquia Outreach and Aquia's Table teams. I live on a small hobby farm after living in multiple locations as a military wife and Mom. Today my husband aka "Farmer Bill" and I call the Shady Moose Farm our home. We have 3 grown children, 3 "spouses", 3 precious grandbabies and a multitude of animals. I work full time, hobby farm part time and join in the outreach missions of AE Church any chance I get.

Outreach opportunities bring me such joy. When I walk thru the doors, I feel so loved. I know we are called together for the good work of helping others and my heart rejoices. Happiness, joy, and love are the thoughts that enter my mind when I hand out that first meal and the last meal each time. We gather to provide warm meals on "Wednesday Night". Our sisters and brothers that stop by tell us they are blessed by the ministry. I believe them and know I too am blessed to be a part of this faithful team.

Years ago, Aquia Church outreach touched our family. My daughter joined in the Jr High/High youth group. Our family church was in Fredericksburg and often we could not make planned outings. She was invited, loved, encouraged and the rest is history. She married Kristopher Stanford. Dina became my biggest supporter in missions and my sister by marriage.

Oh, how I treasure all the friendships I have made at Aquia Church. I would be remiss if I did not thank you for reaching out to us. Our lives are so enriched by others in ways we do not realize often until years later.

Outreach is so important in a time where so many feel isolated. Thank you, for including me and allowing me to be included in this wonderful ministry and be included in the God's work here at Aquia Episcopal Church.



## **Lisa Schwartz**

Lisa Marie Schwartz comes from a long line of Virginians that can be traced back to pre-Revolutionary War, which prompted her to become an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Lisa was born in Washington, DC, where she resided until she turned five years old and moved to Maryland. She attended school in Maryland from kindergarten through her senior year when she graduated from Crossland Senior High School in Temple Hills, Maryland, completing a three-year vocational course of architectural drafting. Immediately upon graduating high school, Lisa enrolled in the Chesapeake Business Institute in Suitland, Maryland, but left midway through her course to accept a position with the Federal government at the National Credit Union Administration as a GS-2. For all but a brief nearly three-year career change with USAir in Crystal City, VA, Lisa worked for the Federal government in the intelligence and human resources fields of law enforcement agencies including U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Department of Justice. In September

2019, with nearly 34 years of Federal service, Lisa retired from the Drug Enforcement Administration as a GS-15 Program Manager of their Senior Executive Service program.

An only child, Lisa always maintained a very close relationship with her parents, Laura and Leon Annadale. In May 1988, she married her husband Arnie Schwartz, and shortly thereafter moved to Stafford, VA. In 1998, Lisa began attending Aquia Church, finding it to be a warm and welcoming home. In October 1999, she was baptized and confirmed at Aquia Church. Lisa is most grateful to Joan Nebel for her encouragement in becoming a member and looks forward to being a part of the Aquia Church family always. Lisa has made lifelong friends here and treasures each service as a learning experience and source of great comfort. She is very appreciative of Aquia's clergy and has a profound respect for both Father Jay and Father James. Lisa's favorite bible verse, even though extremely popular, is John 3:16; it's a verse that speaks so strongly to the sacrifice that was made for Christians...it says so much in so very few words.

## **Penny Stevens**

Psalm 18:2 My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, \* my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge; you are worthy of praise. This Psalm encompasses my relationship with God. It has been relevant throughout the trials, tribulations and joyous times of my life.

My favorite bible verse has become my life's mantra; Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love. I am happiest when I am serving others, no matter how mundane the chore or task at hand. The ladies at Aquia's Table have heard me say on several occasions, "this was made with love" and they have even seen it written on an occasion or two.

I am thankful for Aquia Church and its parishioners. I am thankful that Richard Moncure invited us to attend his church. On our first visit, I knew we were "home". We were greeted by Father James, and I am thankful he made that simple, but meaningful gesture.

I am thankful for Carol who was seated in front of us, and Briget, who was seated behind us, for helping the “newcomers” keep up with the service. That is a memorable Sunday for me because of the wondrous fellowship, spiritual uplifting, and knowing we were truly finally “home”.

Aquia Episcopal Women  
Annual Report 2020

2020: I haven't read or spoke with few people who aren't ready for 2020 to end. Part in partial I feel, because much of what we planned our year to be never happened in 2020. Some of it was uncomfortable and hard to cope with and will move with us into 2021. The ECW's year wasn't any different than other organizations, it did however, with God's Grace bring out so much good within us individually and together. We made changes to our daily lives and more importantly our spiritual lives to accommodate our daily lives and the lives of others. Our ministry changed or altered the 2020 planned year from our personal contacts, service to church, community and our world. Our meetings,

worship and service of the Sts. Mary Martha Guild reinvented how we gathered together yet apart. We move forward to 2021 with a definite renewal of fellowship, prayer and faith albeit different.

Spring and Fall each year the ECW coordinates the United Thank Offering: we are reminded to give with grateful hearts thanks for the blessings and challenges that inspire the work of the mission and ministry. The UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia for the mission of the whole church. Our Spring Ingathering was cancelled (Pandemic related) and the Fall Ingathering was supported greatly by our parish family.

Heritage Sunday held in May fell near the beginning of Covid compliances on our state and church, mandated by the Diocese and Commonwealth. With Parish support, the annual Homecoming Reception was a great success with Covid 19 compliant curbside takeout meal. We again celebrated fellowship and faith, known for this occasion, somewhat different with a traditional meal and lemon tarts!

Each May we honor our graduating seniors with an Anne E Moncure scholarship. In 2020 the ECW awarded virtually their choice for the scholarship to Christine Amador, her many achievements in both Christian and scholastic activities with honors made her a worthy recipient.

Members of Aquia ECW attended virtually the Diocese's 130th ECW Fall Meeting and the 131st UTO Ingathering meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Triangle of Hope Reflections Project, the United Thank Offering, and ECW Scholarships were several topics of discussion. Guest speaker Bishop Susan Goff announced the next President of the ECW and other speakers presented their work and life in mission.

Although the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fest was cancelled, the ECW held a successful pulled pork carryout meal fundraiser. It helps to sustain our campus projects, local community, and Diocese. We will continue to financially support our ministries which include support of



the Diocesan Seminarians, Father Jack's Cow Project in Africa, Sex Trafficking, GraceInside, Triangle of Hope, "Book of Life and Remembrance"; others are listed in detail in the budget.

Each year we present to the Parish our Annual Budget in December for the upcoming calendar year. Our budget supports the mission and ministries of ECW. Some of our behind the scene activities include preparation and cooking for Shrove Tuesday, support and work with our guild, Sts. Mary and Martha Funding for unspecified projects, as needed, throughout the year around our church campus continues to be a priority.