



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

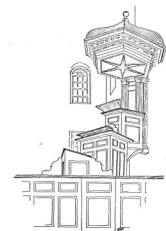
Cross Section

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



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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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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

Lent in This Extraordinary Time

Perhaps you already know that the Diocese of Virginia is prohibiting worship services in person on Ash Wednesday and for the foreseeable future, so too, many of the events that usually help us mark the season of Lent. All this is due to the current state of the pandemic. As frustrating as this news is, we shall not be deterred from the observance of a holy Lent: different in some ways this year, but not deterred.

We shall broadcast a worship service on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) at noon over Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch), and afterward it will be available anytime in order to assist you with the start of Lent. On the day prior, we shall offer a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner as a takeout meal with curbside delivery; see Briget Kane's ECW article in this newsletter for more details, or see the weekly announcements distributed by e-mail.

While our usual Thursday evening Lenten series for 2021 cannot meet in person with a meal beforehand, we are still going to gather (electronically) for six Thursdays starting on Feb. 18. Our book for this year is *What's So Amazing about Grace?* by acclaimed author Philip Yancey. The book is available in several formats—hardback, paperback, e-book/Kindle, and audiobook/Audible—through bookstores and the Internet. You can even purchase it for yourself through smile.amazon.com while naming Aquia Episcopal Church as the beneficiary of your donation! This year you will need to purchase the book for yourself somewhere unless you pay in advance for the church to secure it for you (which we shall gladly do). Our presentations on this book and related matters for

Lent will be available over Facebook Live, and we shall also offer supplemental sessions over Zoom that will allow for real interaction among interested participants. In order to express your interest in the Zoom sessions, or in order to request that we secure your book, simply e-mail me (morris@aquiachurch.org) or call me at the church office (540-659-4007).

There are some reasons why our attention is turning to grace at this moment in our lives. For one thing, God's gift of grace is a traditional topic for the Lenten season of penitence and reflection. For another thing, after all of the problems that the pandemic has posed, we might need some reminders of God's abundant goodness toward us, of his deeply abiding love for us, and of his never-failing presence with us. So reading and hearing about grace and discussing its meaning for our lives just might be what the doctor ordered (or what the Great Physician ordered for our hearts and minds—compare Mark 2:17).

Interestingly enough, the pandemic itself has some affinities with sin, which we confront throughout Lent. The virus's spread started small while the extent of its adverse impact expands quickly and limitlessly. COVID has rendered us somewhat isolated and separated from one another. We probably have had some unkind thoughts about others in the midst of this situation, partly through our suffering frustration and disappointment. Given everything we have endured lately, we might have felt as if the Lord were no longer on our side or as if He has abandoned us, in ways that have left us feeling desperate or hopeless. All that is true with sin, too.

Lent helps us cope with the human condition of the sinfulness in which we all find ourselves. Even Jesus himself was afflicted with the consequences of sin at the hands of others—no one is spared that!—and yet he had hope. As we look for God's grace this Lent, please join together in this journey.

Jay Morris



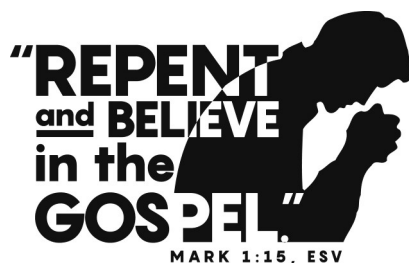
FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Repent and Believe the Gospel

Dear Family in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I thank our God for you, especially for how you take seriously the call and promise of our Savior Christ. This call with promise is the everyday movement of our faith. However, in this almost year-long exile with the coronavirus, it might seem like a bitter pill to swallow that Lent is upon us. Regardless of the state of things, it is good that Lent is here.

In the Gospel according to Mark (which is the Gospel for the liturgical year in which we find ourselves), the first sermon that Jesus preaches is a short one: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mk. 1:15). It is safe to say that this message was something that Jesus wanted us to hear. But what does “repent and believe the gospel” mean?

Repent. There are a number of different ways to understand this biblical concept. In the Old Testament, the word repent generally means “return” or “turn around.” It is often used regarding Israel. The prophets speak to Israel on God’s behalf, calling them back from their idolatry and licentiousness. In the New Testament, the word means “change the mind” or “change the heart.” It is still used in relation to sin, of course, but it is an orientation of the heart. This is the kind of repentance that is required of the Christian, to let our hearts rest in God and to return to the waters of our baptism every day. Turning away from particular sins is indeed a godly task. Lent is a good time for us to strive in such a way. But we should not be fooled into thinking that we can achieve perfection by our own merit and willpower.



... it is an orientation of the heart.
This is the kind of repentance that is required of the Christian, to let our hearts rest in God and to return to the waters of our baptism every day.

Perfection comes only in the resurrection of the dead, by the sole and saving work of Jesus Christ. That’s where we get into the next part.

Believe the Gospel. On this side of the cross and resurrection of Jesus, the word Gospel takes on its full meaning. The Gospel is that Jesus Christ—God the Son, in the flesh—lived in perfect obedience to the Law on our behalf, an obedience that found its culmination in his cross. But the Gospel would not be complete without the wonderful news of the resurrection. In Christ’s death and resurrection, he conquered sin and death. This is the message that we are called to believe. As Paul writes in Romans 10:9, “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” When we believe, we put our full faith and trust in what Christ has done for us.

This is the grammar and movement of the Christian life, and it happens every day. We refocus our eyes on the cross, ask God for forgiveness for the sins that we have committed, and crawl back to the waters of our baptism. We trust in what God has done on our behalf in Jesus Christ, bestowed upon us in baptism. This is not just a Lenten thing. It is a life thing.

Please do join us for all of the offerings during Lent. May the Lord bless you and give you true repentance, enlivening your heart with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 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*



AQUA 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

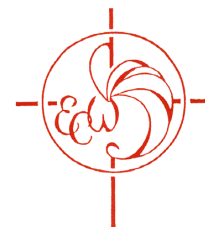
Ron Korth
Junior Warden
Building & Grounds
Committee Chairperson

Patricia Springer
Administration Committee

Christopher “Kit” Stoltz
Youth Representative
Administration &
Finance Committees

Chris Wanner
Buildings & Grounds Committee

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN



As the Lenten season begins on Feb. 17—a little early this year—and as I reflect on Christ's love for us, I can clearly see how it is demonstrated by labors of love in our parish. To reflect on the labors and laborers of love as seen every day at Aquia Episcopal Church, I need only to reflect quietly on our parish as a whole. We work to do God's ministry and to do the work of Aquia Church, not as repentance, but rather as an act of love. The ministry of the ECW and its guild (the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild), the Vestry, the administration committee, the office staff, and so many others all work quietly at their labors of love throughout the year. Aquia's Outreach ministries, our Table and Pantry ministries, our buildings and grounds committee, our newsletter team, our Altar Guild, and music ministry and choir continue—as we are physically distanced (not by choice, but by

circumstance)—to bring our parish and our community together in love. Our Rector and Assistant Rector continue to bring us together, even with the challenges of social distancing and COVID; and beginning on Ash Wednesday, they will lead us and help us to prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

Shrove Tuesday—the day for our annual pancake dinner—is traditionally celebrated on the day before Ash Wednesday, and this year's Shrove Tuesday falls on Feb. 16. Shrove Tuesday usually features a pancake dinner. Our fundraising event, hosted by the ECW and the youth of Aquia (to support our youth group), will change in order to be COVID-compliant: this year our traditional meal will be served as a takeout meal with curbside delivery. You will reserve your order by contacting me via e-mail, text, or phone call, or

else by submitting your order to the church office by Monday, Feb. 15.

Order forms can be found on the back page of this newsletter, or in the weekly e-mailed announcements, or at the great hall on Wednesdays from 2 - 4 p.m. You may request pancake dinner pick-up between 5:30 and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16. We might need to postpone this event if there is insufficient interest, and we will notify you of any such decision in advance.

Your help and support for the many activities of the ECW is only a contact away: bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com or contact the church office for my phone number.

*Yours in Christ,
Briget Kane*



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.*



PHOTO: MICHAEL GOLASZ

Betsy Husser, Sheryl Colliver and Chris Arey prepare the Church for the Christmas season. Despite the Church being closed for Coronavirus restrictions, the greenery was a welcome site to outdoor worshippers.

IN APPRECIATION ...

The Flower Guild greatly appreciates all of the work Chris Arey did to green the church with garlands and wreaths for this Christmas season. He also single-handedly removed the greenery after the season was over, which helped us so much! Let's hope and pray that this year we will once again be able to adorn the sanctuary with beautiful flower arrangements honoring and remembering loved ones and special events in the lives of our parish family.

*Sheryl Colliver
and Betsy Husser,
Flower Guild Co-Chairs*



STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild would like to thank everyone who dropped by to shop at our ECW Advent gift tables in the great hall. We thank you for your patronage and your generosity. Our remaining inventory is now packed up; but if you should need Aquia Church note cards, a star candle, a church cookbook, or one of these lovely pocket prayer quilts (see photo nearby) for a gift, or anything else that you saw on the tables, just send us an e-mail. We would be glad to get it to you.

As a guild, we have once again fallen into our wonderfully comfortable and comforting routine that we established in 2020. During this quiet time of physical separation from each other, we

continue to lift up our prayers together on Thursday mornings. It is comforting to know that others are also praying alongside us for our friends and families, for our church family, our nation, the world, and for each other. If you would like to join us from your home on Thursday mornings, please reach out to us via e-mail. If you have a prayer request, send it to us. We will be glad to include your request in our intercessions.

Mary Jane Cole

(maryjane@cfs.w.biz)

and **Carolyn Hendrickson**
(cvhendrickson35@gmail.com)

Co-Chairs



Each small (2 in. x 2 in.) pocket prayer quilt has a tiny brass cross sewn inside. They are perfect little gifts for family and friends, and they are hand-crafted by Penny Stevens.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We continue to offer weekly online Sunday school via Zoom for kids in pre-K through twelfth grades at 9 a.m. each Sunday. Thank you to our teachers Kim Bamber, Linda Burghart, Holly Embrey, David Morgan, Fr. James Rickenbaker, and Dana Van Metre for their continued dedication and leadership. I would like to recognize the following students for outstanding attendance (missing 2 classes or less from September through December): Camden Bamber, Hadley Bamber, Jason Edmond, Aidan Embrey, Kara Morgan, Ryan Morgan, Elizabeth Morris, Lori Passarello, Christopher Stoltz, Ciara Stoltz, and Tristan Stoltz. For more information about our weekly Sunday school class, contact Kristen Morgan at christianed@aquiachurch.org.



**Outstanding
Attendance!**

In December, our church family lost long-time member and vestry member, Patty Montgomery. Aquia Church's Christian education ministry lost one of its most beloved and dedi-



cated volunteers. Patty spent many years teaching Sunday school and created and led crafts for Vacation Bible School every summer. She also made the Christmas pageant costumes and fitted the children at rehearsal each year. Patty's passion for teaching the Gospel to our youngest members and supporting the Christian education ministry continued even through her illness. She was instrumental in making our first Virtual VBS this past summer a success by creating crafts that could be done at home and helping to package individual craft bags that children

could pick up for Virtual VBS week. Thank you, Patty, for your support, friendship, and passion for children's ministry. It is hard to imagine future Christmas pageants or VBS programs without you in them.

Speaking of VBS: our next Vacation Bible School will be held during the week of June 21-25, 2021, almost immediately after the end of the current school year for Stafford County Public Schools. So save those dates on your family's calendar for your child or grandchild in pre-K through fifth grade. We'll conduct as much of that week outdoors and in person as pandemic conditions at the time will permit, knowing that much of that week will likely have to be conducted electronically. Throughout our trip on the "Rocky Railway" (railroad theme), we'll learn how "Jesus' power pulls us through" all of life's adventures. Stay tuned for more information.

Kristen Morgan



AQUIA'S TABLE

In January and February, the temperatures are cold at dusk and the sky is overcast, but fortunately each day following the winter solstice is a minute or two longer. Aquia's Table continues to serve curbside, COVID-compliant hot meals on a weekly basis to those who come by on Wednesday evenings. Our numbers each week vary from over 250 to nearly 300 meals. We have found that the difference in the numbers we serve can be attributed to many reasons, including menu restrictions, weather, and availability to arrive during serving hours.

As the manner in which we serve has changed (takeout only and environmentally sound) and as the numbers of meals steadily increased during 2020, our costs rose and supplies became limited. The largest fundraiser for our ministry (the annual Bob Jones Memorial Golf Tournament) was cancelled because of the pandemic, and so we were forced to look for alternative avenues to support our ministry in 2021.

So Aquia's Table is going back to our roots. When we opened over 11 years ago, we reached out to the community, our parish family, and local businesses for support. With the impact of COVID, many of these avenues are currently unavailable. Our original food drive kicked off with the slogan "Aquia's Table, a hot meals ministry of Aquia Episcopal Church." Now we intend to conduct another food drive and I have included 2021's version of our food drive in this edition of our newsletter.

We encourage you to make your donations for this food drive by check, cash, or online in the Realm program (designated for "Aquia's Table"). The lists of foods, supplies, and prices accompanying this article will give you an idea of what your contributions can provide for our guests. Could you donate the cost of providing your favorite food, for instance, or could you cover the cost of a case of bulk food (1 case = six No. 10 cans) or additional cases?



Would you like to join with some friends and cover the cost of an entire meal? You are also welcomed to make in-kind donations of food and supplies as suggested below. This drive for donations will run throughout February and March. If you have any questions about it, please e-mail me (bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com) or call the church office for my phone number.

*In Christ's love,
Briget Kane, Aquia's Table*



A Little Goes a Long Way in Feeding the Hungry Can You Help?



Here are some food items and their costs for Aquia's Table. Choose what you will give so others might eat.

Applesauce \$18.81/case
Black Beans \$20.35/case
Pears \$22.79/case
Steak Fries, frozen \$24.95/case
Mandarin Oranges \$25.88/case
Corn \$29.02/case
Green Beans \$29.33/case
Mixed Vegetables \$32.81/case
Peaches \$33.12/case
Fruit Cocktail \$33.12/case
Chicken Cutlets \$38.09 (43 pcs)
Bush's Baked Beans \$40.08/case
Beef Patties \$45.15 (40 pcs/4 oz ea)
Ground Beef \$180.80 (80 lbs, avg \$2.26/lb)

Other Staple Foods and Supplies
Baby Carrots (38 lbs per meal)
Celery (10 bunches per meal)
English Cucumbers (18 per meal)
Fresh Fruit (Apples, Grapes, Oranges)
Fresh Chicken, whole or parts (108 lbs per meal)
Hamburger Buns (300 per meal)
Potato Chips/Taco Chips/Sun Chips (300 servings/
personal-sized bags per meal)
Hot Food/Soup Cups \$25.04 (250 pcs)
Take-Out Boxes \$41.00 (200 pcs)
Sandwich Bags



TREASURER'S NOTES

Good Season of Glad Tithings

As has been reported in the weekly announcements, as of Jan. 25, we have received 86 adult pledge cards for \$405,291.92 towards God's mission and ministry at Aquia Church in 2021, plus 6 pledge cards from youth and children. Among the adult pledge cards, at least 8 pledges are new for 2021, and at least 30 pledges include increases from the prior year. Considering the challenges of this past year, and those still before us, this is remarkable progress. Nonetheless, there is more opportunity for adults, youth, and children to make this important spiritual commitment. (By comparison, for 2020 we had 97 adult pledge cards for over \$415,000, plus 13 pledge cards from youth and children.) Pledged income provides the preponderance of the funds necessary to keep Aquia Church operations financially stable. For many years,

we have been blessed by those who not only meet their pledge but exceed it. After you make a pledge, should your circumstances change, you are absolutely free to inform the church office or the treasurer, and then we shall make the necessary adjustments. At Aquia, we know we are blessed by your faithfulness and generosity.

The end-of-year financial statements will have been sent out via USPS at the end of January. Upon receipt, please review your statement for accuracy. If you detect an error, please contact Sue Selz (sue.selz@aquiachurch.org) or 540-659-4007 at the church office) in order to remedy the situation. You should review your statement for the inclusion of in-kind donations and cash contributions, too. Additionally, most all in the parish received an e-mail invitation from Sue in January 2020 to ac-



cess their Realm account online. Having access to Realm online gives you the ability to check your own account at your convenience. That e-mail might have escaped your attention or might have gone into your spam folder or junk folder; so if you have not attempted to access Realm on-line, please contact Sue as indicated above, and she will send you another invitation. If the checking your giving account online is not feasible but you need the current status of your contributions, Sue can assist.

Christopher M. Arey
Treasurer

At Aquia, we know we are blessed by your faithfulness and generosity.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Ministry still cannot meet in person; however, our goal is to continue our work in 2021.

We finished the Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign with a total donation of 40 shoe boxes. This exceeded our goal. If you traced your



shoe box, please let us know where it traveled (e-mail: rjones1549@aol.com).

Our Christmas Adopt-A-Family program was also successful. With donations received, Outreach purchased toys, games, puzzles, winter scarves, and gloves, clothes, toiletries, books, miscellaneous teen and senior gifts, and two bicycles. The gift cards received as donations and others purchased by Outreach were from Walmart, Target, 5 Below, CVS, Giant, and Aldi.

The drop-off location for Adopt-A-Family this year was the old Anne E. Moncure Elementary School. The room being used was dark, and it was hard to see in there, but we could see it was

full of joy. We saw the Department of Social Services (DSS) employees and volunteers in the process of separating donations by category and of course wearing masks and socially distancing. An amazing amount of gifts were donated. Black bags lined the hallway outside the room, and we were told that those bags were for foster children. DSS was able to provide those children with everything on their wish lists. Such a bright spot in an otherwise terrible year!

We are so thankful to our congregation for the support we received during 2020.

Johanna Jones



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

December 15, 2020 (via Zoom)

In Attendance: Rector, the Rev. Jay Morris; Assistant Rector, the Rev. James Rickenbaker; Treasurer, Chris Arey; Sr. Warden, Bill Hoffman; Jr. Warden, Ron Korth; Bob Brandon, Dickie Boes, Chris Bowie, Michael Golasz, Patricia Springer, Kit Stoltz, Chris Wanner,

Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

The Rev. Jay Morris.

Treasurer's Report

- November expenses for CFFB maintenance and utilities were slightly higher due to paying electric bill twice.
- About 20 months' worth of mortgage payments for CFFB is available in the bank.
- Expenses for Aquia's Table have increased significantly due to the expanding need of feeding people in the community.
- Line 1201 pledge balance can show an overage if people making pledges overpay on their pledges.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Accepted and approved unanimously by the vestry.

New Business

R-2020-13: Sale of Burial Rights to Heather Joy Lynch: approved unanimously.

R-2020-14: Designation of Rector's Housing Allowance (finance committee): concerns the ability of the Rector to use housing allowance larger than actually received by Rector for tax advantages. Discussion centered around the need to make this designation yearly. Approved unanimously.

R-2020-15: Designation of Assistant Rector's Housing Allowance (finance committee): concerns the ability of the Assistant Rector to use housing allowance larger than actually received by Assistant Rector for tax advantages. Approved unanimously.

R-2020-16: Sale of Burial Rights to Dale Montgomery for spaces A-9 and A-10 in Aquia Episcopal Church's memorial garden (rector and wardens): Purchase price of \$750/space. Amended and approved unanimously.

R-2020-17: Adjustments to 2020

Budget (Rector):

Expense Lines:

- Changes to Line 6012 Aquia's Table: previously authorized expenditures had been reduced by the pandemic's temporary shutdown for a number of weeks. However, the needs from the community grew, and Aquia's Table gradually doubled their expenses. With funds still in hand, the financial concern is small, but the authorized expenditure should increase.
- Changes to Line 6050 Christian Education: additional expenses needed due in part to switch to virtual Bible school curriculum. Purchase made put expenses over the actuals. Proposed to extend by a couple of hundred dollars to cover expense of virtual curriculum.
- Changes to Line 6028 and Lines 6040 in the form of reduction of monies due to effects of the pandemic upon these ministry groups, where their usual expenses were not needed.
- Other expenses not needed in originally anticipated amounts: kitchen, prayer books, conferences.

- Line 6098 Assistant Rector Continuing Education: increase proposed.
- Line 6334 covering additional expenses for electronic giving fees as this electronic opportunity is being used more frequently.
- Line for nursery care expenses reduced due to pandemic.
- Line 6810 B&G Equipment: previously estimated expenses not needed, resulting in a reduction.
- Line 6821 Repairs in office equipment: reduction in expenses.
- Line for CFFB equipment: reduced based on low actuals for this year.
- Line for trash removal and janitorial supplies: reduction.
- Line for refunding building rental must be increased due to covering refunds for groups renting campus buildings where pandemic cancelled some events.
- Line for electricity: reduction due to reduced need.
- Line for fuel oil: reduction due to reduced use of campus buildings.
- Line for water expense: increase due to use of kitchen to support events.

Income Lines:

- Line 4010 General pledges and offerings: some pledges still coming in; this is prorated as the currently anticipated income.
- \$388,757.41 reflected in Realm is real money already received.

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- Non-pledged income line: not anonymous loose plate, but income that is not pledged but is received from identifiable donors. Raise to \$28,454.
- Loose Plate: anonymous giving, which has suffered from the pandemic.
- Income for the Matching Challenge Grant has exceeded \$100,000.
- Fruit & Nut income not as lucrative as expected prior to pandemic: reduce.
- Line 4610 Building Rent Fees: raise to \$8860.00 in order to match actuals.
- Additional comment about broad categories of income and expenses: total contributions could be raised to just short of \$1,000,000.00. This is worth noting due to extenuating circumstances around the pandemic and its effects upon all budgetary concerns.

R-2020-17 is being offered as Aquia Episcopal Church moves forward to construct a budget in 2021. Motion to adopt made and seconded, with motion approved unanimously.

R-2020-18: Budget for 2021 (finance committee) Written resolution will follow. Regarding budget:

Income side of draft budget

- Operating income: Line 4010: \$390,000 in pledges for 2021.
- Line 4015: Non-pledged income: \$27,500.00 for 2021.
- Contribution income line 4060: Income for CFFB payment \$100,000.00 for 2021 by an anonymous donor for a matching challenge grant
- Line 4062 Matching principal income: this income, combined with Line 4060, should cover mortgage payments for 2021.
- Line 4210 Fall Fest Income: \$12,000.00 projected based upon success of previous fests.
- Some lines have been zeroed for the time being due to the effects of COVID pandemic.

- Outreach for next year: \$2000.00 must be raised in fundraising.
- Aquia's Pantry: well ahead of requested fundraising (can carry over funds from year to year).
- Line 4610 Building Rent and Fees: income still subject to COVID-19 guidelines and regulations and some rental groups are seeking other arrangements elsewhere.
- \$4,980.00 in anticipated income from Clifton Chapel renters, who will still be present in 2021.
- Line 1083 Aquia's Table: budget requests that Aquia's Table use \$5000.00 of their funds in hand during 2021 to support their ministry. They have \$6000.00 in the general fund and \$10,000.00 in our money market account, so they have funds available at the start of 2021; this ministry is expected to be self-supporting.

Expense side of draft budget

- Ministry groups gave guidance to the finance committee about their likely needs and expenses for 2021.
- Retained income (general fund money to be carried over from 2020): \$49,000 and change....carry over money to be budgeted due to where the general fund stands now. For the sake of tracking the carryover money, the actuals may be greater.
- General Fund Reserve is at \$30,000.00 and is useable as needed.
- Line 6066: reduced to \$200.00.
- Diocesan pledge left in place with no increase.
- Fredericksburg Region pledge \$250.00 (reduced from past years).
- Line 6230 Kitchen Supplies reduced due to reduced use of supplies.
- Line 6250 Office Supplies: some needs for office materials, proposed increase.
- Line 6290 Training, Retreats, and Conferences: due to pandemic, expenses do not need to be increased.
- Line 6275 Special Events Unreimbursed: parish picnic costs elimi-

nated by holding the parish picnic on our main campus rather than renting a pavilion at a local park.

- Lines 6296 and 6297: clergy travel budgets reduced due to pandemic concerns.
- Line 6334: \$1500.00 proposed to cover fees generated by electronic giving.
- 0.92% for personnel compensation is the minimum COLA recommended by the diocese, and finance committee says it's easier to calculate 1% for clergy and lay employees.
- Line 6610 Parish Coordinator's salary: forecasts retirement at end of July 2021 with 7/12 of salary and the 1% COLA left in that line, then taking the remaining 5/12 for a new bookkeeper salary line.

Property Expenses

Building and Grounds equipment line: purchases on hold.

Office Equipment line: reduced to \$1000.00.

- Line 6825 Building Maintenance for CFFB: elevators, sprinkler inspection, foundation repair, etc.
- Line 6828 New Building Utilities: new line proposed so that that building's expenses for utilities can be tracked separately from utilities for the rest of the main campus.
- Line 6831 Parish House maintenance: assumes roof replacement in 2021.
- Line 6832 Rectory maintenance: reduced due to ongoing maintenance completed in 2020.
- Line 6861 Fuel oil cost: reduction to \$7000.00 due to reduced use of historic church & 1960 parish house.

The draft budget was approved unanimously by the vestry.

R-2020-19 Outreach Committee from 2020 to retain funds into 2021:



Vestry Highlights

Continued on page 10 ...





Grateful for Our Vestry

over funds into 2021, while the finance committee deliberates making the carryover a permanent permission for the outreach committee. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds Committee:

- Regarding the left front corner of the CFFB at the foundation wall leak: JES has bid \$7,504.00 to repair the foundation and structures. \$1876.00 deposit needed before the permitting process can begin. Permitting process between 4-8 weeks for Stafford County. Project endorsed unanimously.
- Cross and cupola roof work by Pioneer Roofing continues around any inclement weather.
- It was proposed to paint the crosses at the main entrance to the main

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Through donations the committee raised \$4000.00 and has spent less money than planned. Since these funds officially do not carry over, the resolution would allow the committee to carry

campus white, but no final decision was made.

Administration Committee:

- Inventory of Clifton Chapel should be included in future inventory of all buildings and materials.

Finance Committee:

- Worked on budget for 2021.
- Received matching challenge grant update.
- Matching challenge grant for 2021 will be settled and announced at a later time, but terms and duration should be discussed starting soon.
- Website will become available for viewing of financial particulars.
- New format for 2021 parochial report has been tailored for reporting the pandemic's effects on Aquia Episcopal Church.

Reports from Junior and Senior Wardens

Senior warden requests vestry support for setting up outside worship for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Report from Rector

- Cannot foresee in-person worship any time prior to April/May 2021.
- Vacancy in the Vestry due to the death of Patty Montgomery will be discussed in 2021.

- Regarding race relations, Fr. Jay Morris has recently completed participation in Bishop Goff's book discussion for clergy regarding The Episcopal Church's role in race relations. What is the next step for Aquia Church? To be considered in the first part of 2021.

Upcoming Dates and Information

12/24: Christmas Eve Eucharist outdoors (10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.)

12/25: Christmas Day Eucharist outdoors (10:30 a.m.)

1/19/2021: Vestry meeting (via Zoom)

2/16/2021: Vestry meeting (via Zoom)

3/7/2021: Earliest possible date for delayed annual meeting

3/16/2021: Vestry meeting (via Zoom)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Fr. Jay Morris suggested that detailed examination of budgets promotes trust within the parish.

Closing Prayer: the Rev. James Rickenkaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Korth

Register, Aquia Episcopal Church

SPECIAL MEETING VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 5, 2021 Special Meeting

In Attendance: The Rev. Jay Morris, Rector; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden; Ron Korth, Junior Warden; Chris Arey, Treasurer; Charlie Bingay, Dickie Boes, Chris Bowie, Bob Brandon, Michael Golasz, Patricia Springer, Kit Stoltz, Chris Wanner.

Business Session

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

Special Business

The vestry met to discuss some revisions to the bylaws of Aquia Episcopal

Church being proposed by the administration committee and some being proposed by individual members of the vestry. Those proposed revisions, as considered and amended and finally approved after approximately two hours of discussion at this meeting, will be available to vestry members for their review prior to the regular January vestry meeting on Jan. 19, 2021. Only after vestry members have had a chance to review and affirm the draft of the approved changes will any copies of the revised version of the bylaws be circulated beyond the vestry.

Good of the Order and Closing Prayer: The Rev. Jay Morris.

The Rev. James Rickenkaker, and his wife, the Rev. Rachel Rickenkaker, continue to make good progress regarding recovery from COVID-19, thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Korth

Register, Aquia Episcopal Church



A Man for All Seasons

Today the intersection of politics and religion—aside from being traditionally *verboten* at family gatherings—may seem interesting but less than existential. In former times, however, this was not so.

February 7 marks the birthday of a compelling and influential figure in church history whose life reflects the vortex of politics and religion that dominated life during the Reformation. Some older readers (like me) may remember the 1966 Academy Award-winning film *A Man for All Seasons*, which featured the story of Sir Thomas More, who was Lord High Chancellor to England's King Henry VIII from 1529 to 1532. He opposed the Protestant Reformation, directed polemics against Luther, Calvin, and Tyndale, fought separation from the Roman Catholic Church, along with Henry's self-designation as the head of the Church of England. Likewise, More opposed the annulment of the king's marriage to Catherine of Aragon and refused to take the Oath of Supremacy. Accordingly, after imprisonment in the Tower of London, More was beheaded for treason on July 6, 1535.

As a young man, he considered becoming a monk; though he eventually elected to remain a layman and pursue a career in law, he adhered to ascetic practices, including wearing a hair shirt. Rising rapidly in the court, he eventually succeeded Cardinal Wolsey as the Lord High Chancellor after Wolsey's fall from grace and the confiscation of his estate at Hampton Court. Among More's many positions were serving as a Member of Parliament and eventually as the Speaker of the House of Commons. His private life differed from that



of his peers. After his first wife died young, he remarried and ensured that his four daughters and two young women for whom he became guardian received a classical education equal to his son's, which was highly irregular among the nobles of his time.

More's literary works had a lasting impact. In 1516 he wrote *Utopia* in Latin, with that term defined to mean "an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect." The word itself is a pun on the Greek words 'ou-topos' (no place) and 'eu-topos' (good place). Though not translated into English until 15 years after his death, over time it spawned a companion genre of literature better known as 'dystopian,' meaning failed or execrable social orders, such as found in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* or Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*.

More also wrote a biography of King Richard III, the last Plantagenet king, slain at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 and succeeded by Henry Tudor (later Henry VII, father of Henry VIII). Though *Utopia* was not published until after More's death, it is believed to have strongly influenced William Shakespeare's portrayal of an ignoble Richard III in the eponymous play.

Given his strident defense of the Roman Catholic Church, it is a bit curious that More is recognized in both the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England. In 1935 Pope Pius XI canonized More as a martyr. In 2000 Pope John Paul II declared him the patron saint of statesmen and politicians. (Is it not a bit surprising that politicians did not have a patron saint prior to 2000?) In 1980, despite their opposition to the English Reformation, Thomas More and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester (who was also executed on order of Henry VIII), were added to the Church of England's calendar of "Saints and Heroes of the Christian Church." They are commemorated on July 6 (the date of More's execution) as "Thomas More, scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs." John Fisher was also canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in 1935.

A final connection Thomas More has with the Church of England is the final resting place of his head. After his execution, his daughter Margaret Roper recovered his head and it is interred in the Roper family vault at St. Dunstan's Church, an Anglican parish church in Canterbury. Richard Marius's *Thomas More* is recognized as the authoritative biography of this saint.

Christopher M. Arey



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms: *"sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever"* (BCP 308)

Zy'eer Griffin
(son of Sumari Nixon Griffin and Ta'qee Griffin);
Jane Hendon
(daughter of Caroline Hendon and Dale Hendon).

Deaths: *"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord: And let light perpetual shine upon them"* (BCP 486)

Larry Hartzler, 1934-2020;
Patty Montgomery, 1955-2020.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

New Babies: Thanksgiving for the birth of a child will be offered as part of the service on the second Sunday of the month (youth Sunday). This will be scheduled as needed. Please call the church office the week prior, if your family would like to be included. Also, please call the church office after a birth so that a red rose can be placed on the altar in thanksgiving.

Those being deployed: Please call the church office so that we can offer special prayers at a service prior to your departure. Also, we would like to put you on our prayer list for those who are deployed in the service of our country.

FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is April 4, 2021. If you would like to have a baptism on this date, or if this date doesn't work for you and you would like to request another date, please contact the church office so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

PRAYERS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

Derek and Emily (Selz) Wiser

HOW TO REACH US:

www.aquiachurch.org

(540) 659-4007

office@aquiachurch.org

www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch



Aquia Church Prayer List

February 2021



Faye Andrews, Rhett Blythe and Family, Julie Burgess, Debbie Byers, Richard Craven, Donnie Davis, Jennifer Davis, Paula Davis, Brian Driscoll, Kristin Driscoll, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Christopher, Shawna & Oliver Gray, Chris Hundley, Jerry & Dot, John Jackson, Will King, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, the Montgomery family, Rebecca Poole, Terry Prickett, Linda Raisovich-Parsons, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Carolyn Stringer & family, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Gayle Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



So, though the winter is long, let us not curse the darkness, but light a candle .

Candlemas

For those who enjoy historical fiction on early European and medieval times (think Ken Follett), the reference to now-unfamiliar church feast days can be confusing. Today we don't stringently celebrate these feast days that are still on the church calendar, at least not with the same rigor that we did in former times. Some of this—in particular feast days associated with the many saints of the early Church—was dismissed as part of the Reformation. Nonetheless, throughout much of history the church calendar provided the rhythm of the seasons and life itself.

One of the most prominent feast days is Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple. It celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple 33 days after his circumcision (which was performed seven days after his birth). Annually, this feast day falls on Feb. 2. This coincided with the ritual purification of women after the birth of a child. So in the Roman Catholic Church this feast is also observed as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As told in Luke 2: 22-40, the ceremony was observed in accordance with the instructions in Leviticus 12. We are familiar with the words of the Nunc Dimittis (the Song of Simeon), which captures the words of Simeon, as he beholds Jesus in the Temple:

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;*

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people,*

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

(BCP 51-52 & 66, after Luke 2:29-32)



In some churches, candles brought forth from the congregation are blessed, as Christ has been hailed in Luke's Gospel as "a light to lighten the Gentiles" and in John's Gospel, where Christ identifies himself as the Light of the world (John 8:12). In the 4th century, the Church in Jerusalem celebrated this feast day, and sermons by early church fathers such as Gregory of Nyssa and John Chrysostom attest to its observance. So, though the winter is long, let us not curse the darkness, but light a candle.

Christopher M. Arey



**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.**

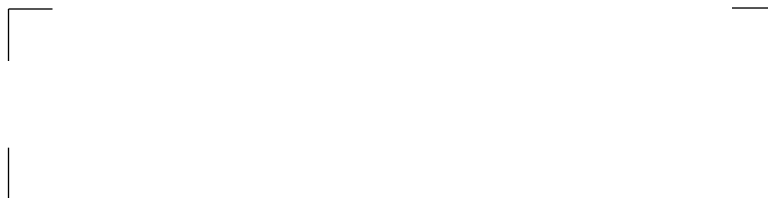




AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Pancakes Are Still A Shrove Tuesday Tradition at Aquia Church! Feb. 16, 2021

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE ORDER

Shrove
Tuesday



NAME _____

Pick-Up Between 5:30—7 p.m.

CONTACT # _____

What time will you pick up? _____

Beverage choice: Juice or Water

of Juice _____

of Water _____

of Fruit Salad _____

Pancakes:

of Orders

Meat: (Bacon or Sausage)

Buttermilk: _____

of Bacon _____

Gluten Free: _____

of Sausage _____

Vegan: _____

Adults: \$7 each Child (under 10): \$5 each

TOTAL: _____

Deadline to Place Order: Monday, February 15

E-mail Order: bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com

Call/Text Order: 540-905-9342

Give order to church office (via mail slot in door). Write "Pancake Dinner" on envelope or on check's memo line.

COVID-19
Compliant

Our current Wednesday evening Bible study on the Book of Psalms is guided considerably by the notion that reading this collection of Old Testament texts is not quite the same kind of reading that one needs to do for understanding other parts of the Bible. Many other portions of Scripture involve a narrative quality at length—telling the life-story of a person, a family, or an entire nation (such as one finds in much of the Old Testament law and history, in some of the Old Testament prophets, in the Gospels of the New Testament, and in the Acts of the Apostles), whereas that narrative quality is rather diminished overall in Psalms. Some individual psalms bear a tone or create a mood of exuberant joy and deep trust in the Lord—often in an attempt to offer Him praise or thanksgiving or to solicit his help—whereas other selections seem to be bleak, dour, harsh, or despairing. Quite obviously the psalms have emerged from a variety of situations: some in the face of adversity or struggle, others in the effort to maintain memories, some cultivated for worship at the Temple in Jerusalem whereas others almost reflect a resignation to defeat or a desire for revenge. That wide array of circumstances, occasions, and emotions contributes to the complexity one finds in trying to make sense of the Book of Psalms. Finally, after one engages in the effort to dissect the individual parts of the book—to understand this particular psalm in its setting, then that one, and so on—one ends up wondering whether there is any underlying unity for the entire collection that helps them all cohere as a whole. In my experience, a multi-pronged approach is needed for discerning what is going on in the psalms, individually and collectively, and some aids toward that approach are recommended here.

Perhaps the best single book I have found for trying to figure out the Book of Psalms is a recently revised textbook by C. Hassell Bullock, *Encountering the Book of Psalms: A Literary and Theological Introduction, 2nd ed.* (Baker Academic, 2018). This book is divided into three large sections, the first of which (at around 70 pages) provides a straightforward introduction to fundamental matters of understanding the psalms. In this section all sorts of topics are covered, including authorship of the psalms, their superscriptions (the remarks written above most of the psalms), principles of Hebrew poetry, connections between the texts and their musical accompaniment with instruments and voice, and several special groups of psalms, such as those associated with Korah, Asaph, or ascents up Mount Zion. The second section (roughly 35 pages) deals with the theological themes addressed in the psalms and with the role of the psalms in the history of ancient Israel and the Church. History buffs will be fascinated by the discussion about how the psalms were used during worship in the Temple, in local synagogues, in the Qumran community that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls, and as a source of revelation in the early Church, and about how certain psalms cast an eye of scrutiny backwards upon Israel's past and forward to its future. The third and final section of the book—over half its length, around 125 pages—carefully illustrates the spectrum of literary genres by which psalms may be sorted and classified according to type, including praise, lament, thanksgiving, trust, royal psalms, psalms about the kingship of the Lord, wisdom, law (or teaching or instruction), and psalms of imprecation (curses upon one's enemies). There is a helpful glossary of key words that are boldfaced in the main text, so that you can conveniently look up terms with which you might not be familiar. Bullock's style is clear and not technical; it does a good job of explaining matters that are technical but that might not be obvious to a novice studying the psalms. I became familiar with this textbook's first edition around a decade ago and have used this second edition in a course I recently took on the psalms for clergy continuing education, and I found once again how helpful Bullock's volume really is. What this book will *not* do for the reader—simply by virtue of its stated intention—is explain the content of each psalm in sequence (Psalm 1's meaning and details, the same for Psalm 2, then for Psalm 3, and so forth). Bullock has a separate, two-volume commentary in the Teach the Text Commentary series (Baker Academic, 2015 and 2017), that I assume would be likewise effective, but I have not read it yet.

A one-volume, psalm-by-psalm commentary that I have indeed enjoyed reading—partly for its keen insight and partly for its “lucid brevity” (which John Calvin highly esteemed for such resources)—is the volume *Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary* by Tremper Longman III in the Tyndale Old Testament Commentary series (Inter-Varsity Press/IVP Academic, 2014). After a 30-page broad introduction, Longman provides around 425 pages of discussion about the likely context of each psalm, details about its content, an explanation of its meaning, and where possible its connection to the New Testament and its special significance for Christians. A related book that (to my reckoning) has the most remarkable set of footnotes about the Hebrew text of the psalms is *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary* by Robert Alter (W. W. Norton, 2007). Alter himself is Jewish and is well-known for his literary sensitivity in his scholarly work with Hebrew-language works across centuries, and his translation of the entire Hebrew Bible (W. W. Norton, 2018) is highly acclaimed. Alter's translation of the psalms is not always smooth or neat, by his own admission; but I find his comments about how to render the nuances of Hebrew vocabulary and syntax often enlightening for understanding the power of the psalms in their original language, which can in turn shape our appreciation of them for our lives today.