



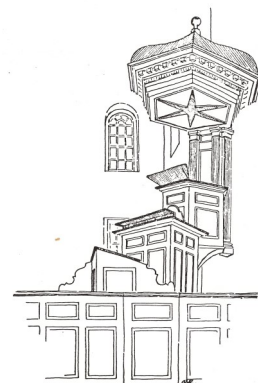
AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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

*I invite you, therefore,
in the name of the Church,
to the observance of a holy Lent,
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and repentance ...*

BCP, 265





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

How Can We Do What We're Supposed to Do?

The coronavirus pandemic hit our area a year ago, and still it persists. Since it began, lots of folks have gotten scared, and sick, and worse. Several parishioners have been afflicted with the virus, and every one of us has been affected adversely. People (Christians included) do not always accept change well, and the changes imposed upon us by the present situation have been particularly hard to handle here at church.

We probably wonder what in the world the apostle Paul was thinking when he urged us not simply to “rejoice always” but even to “give thanks in all circumstances” (First Thessalonians 5:16 & 18). Paul himself endured lots of suffering, to be sure, but he did not face this pandemic! Life was difficult enough on its own already before the pandemic arrived, now followed by the supposedly dreaded season of Lent. Yet it we are to rejoice in the midst of Lent and to give thanks while the pandemic rages on, then we might need to search for reasons for joy and gratitude.

With you I grieve that we cannot worship in our church building right now and cannot worship in person at church. For Christians, this is strange indeed, and I truly miss seeing you face to face. But I am thankful that we have available such technology for our worship broadcasts, presentations of church music, and discussions for adult formation to happen over Facebook Live and for Sunday school, youth group, casual conversations, and other meetings to take place over Zoom. These formats are not ideal, but surely they are better than nothing for keeping us connected. I am also thankful that with these electronic communications Aquia Church has been able to reach more people than ever before, sharing with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our encouragement for one another. After all, the Church exists in

part for the sake of others in the world—not only for ourselves! And I am thankful that there remains plenty more room for people of all ages to join in our available opportunities for worship and faith-formation.

With you I grieve that some ministry

groups have been unable to gather in person in order to conduct their usual operations. But I am thankful that other

ministry groups like Aquia’s Pantry and Aquia’s Table are successfully and tangibly sharing God’s love with others, and that parishioners are increasingly supporting these vital ministries for outreach. I am also thankful that some ministry groups like the prayer shawl ministry and the Sts. Mary and

Martha guild can continue some of their significant service from home. And I am thankful that our staff members and vestry members are finding ways to accomplish their tasks constructively and cheerfully.

With you I grieve that much of what we usually offer for fellowship and service to others in the Name of Jesus Christ has had to change, and with you I eagerly await the time when we can reconvene in person. But I am thankful for the phone calls, e-mails, and written notes that are sustaining many friendships at church. I am also thankful for the refreshing renewal that Lent brings. And I am thankful that so many good things are happening at Aquia Church through the prayers of so many faithful folks. After all, Lent invites us to pray more earnestly than before, and during this pandemic our prayers are certainly needed.

Paul’s answer to our current question—How can we “rejoice always” and “give thanks in all circumstances”?—is found in the one phrase located between the other two: “pray without ceasing” (First Thessalonians 5:17).

Jay Morris

With you I grieve ...



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Light From Light

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 interested you are in the church around the world. It is always wonderful to lift up in prayer our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are participating with us in God's mission of sharing the Good News of Christ crucified and resurrected. We have seen in recent years a growing hostility against the Gospel around the world. So, it is always good to be reminded of faithful Christians proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ in places around the world that do not receive much positive press. My friends Fr. Fritz "Val" Valdemar and his wife Carmel are doing just that.

I have known Fr. Val and Carmel my whole life. They have known my family since before I was born. They are Haitian-born missionaries in Haiti. Fr. Val is an Episcopal priest who has served a number of parishes all over Haiti in 40+ years of ministry. For quite some time, he has also helped young Haitian boys and girls to receive an education while his wife Carmel, a nurse, has run a nutrition program and established a clinic to help malnourished children in rural areas of Haiti. She also helps to educate parents about good nutrition for children. God has borne wonderful fruit through them in Haiti. Ever since I was a child, I remember having them stay with us at our house for some much-needed rest when they would come to the U.S. My home church partnered with them in ministry, sending financial support and people to help with construction projects and medical missions.

The reason I am sharing this with you is because I wanted you to be aware of the work that God is doing in Haiti for the spread of the Gospel and the care of the people. Also, I wanted to let you know that there is a way available to us here in the States to help support the work that is being done there. There are very few international ministries for which I can give a

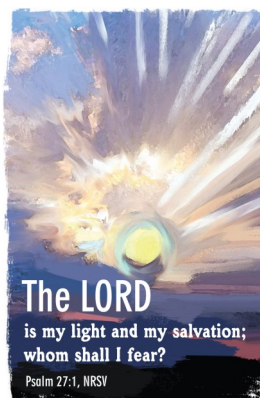
personal and full-throated endorsement, but this group is at the top of the list. I recently gave from my discretionary fund to the organization Light from Light (the American non-profit that supports Fr. Val and Carmel's ministry). With the money that you as a congregation gave to support the Assistant Rector's Discretionary Fund (ARDF), I was able to sponsor three children in the education program for the next year. That support will include books, transportation to school, food while they're there, school uniforms, and other forms of assistance.

If you're interested in learning more about Light from Light, Fr. Val and Carmel, and the good work that God is doing in Haiti, or if you want to support them financially, please feel free to e-mail me (rickenbaker@aquiachurch.org) or take a look at the website for Light from Light (<https://www.lightfromlight.me/>).

It is always good to support our brothers and sisters in Christ. Would you consider joining me in praying for Fr. Val and Carmel? The Lord continues to bear fruit through them for his kingdom. Please know also that I will continue to support them with the gracious gifts you give to the ARDF. This is one of many ways that your generosity has reached people in Jesus' name. Thank you!

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
Chairperson*

Michael Golasz

Building & Grounds Committee

Bill Hoffman

Senior Warden

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

Amid the continuing COVID pandemic, the members of Aquia's ECW continue to serve, and we are preparing and planning especially for serving sometime in the future when we can gather again—just as we used to gather just a short while ago.

My definition about serving has expanded over the years. At one time, during college, it meant simply 'to wait on people' or 'to serve people' in my job as a waitress. I focused very little on the lessons or activities learned from my church youth group or from other youth activities that focused on service. The boxes weren't being ticked as often, so to speak, and service seemed to take a back burner to other activities and everyday life.

I'm not sure when I realized what a large void was created in my life by offering so little service to others, so little service to my community, or so

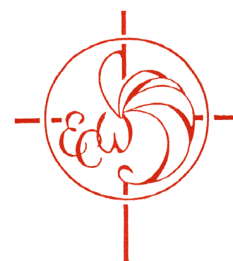
little service to God. It didn't come screaming back, but it certainly became apparent as a big part of me was missing and nothing material filled the void.

Lent reminds us with a nudge to set goals for ourselves, to help those in need, and to serve others. It reminds us about how Jesus served others and about the sacrifice he made for each of us. Lent is also a time of preparation. For some people, Lent gives us an opportunity to worship more and reflect and repent.

Here are some opportunities for you during Lent. Please let me know if you would like some additional information about them:

March 5: **World Day of Prayer**
(Contact Jeannie Palin, Ecumenical/
Social Justice Chair, Diocesan ECW)

March 6: **Lenten Quiet Day**
"From Many, One: Conversations
Across Difference," featuring the Very



Rev. Kim Coleman, Diocesan ECW
(registration required for this event)
March 8: **International Women's
Day—'Choose to Challenge':**

A challenged world is an alert world

Just to list a few of our partner ministries: Aquia's Care Team, Take Them a Meal, Fall Fest, and Aquia's Table. If one piques your interest and you would like to hear more about that group, please contact me (bkswings_nthings@yahoo.com or call the church office at 540-659-4007 for my phone number).

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.*

STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

As we start the month of March, two weeks into Lent, the ladies of the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild remain faithful to the discipline that they began one year ago, that of praying "together" at the same time every Thursday morning from their homes. We pray not only for fellow guild members, but also for our parish family, friends far and wide (including folks in England and Ugan-

da), and for our nation. If you are in need of prayers, please let us know by e-mail. We would be glad to include you or your friends and family in our intercessions every Thursday morning.

Also, if you would like to update your mask wardrobe, we have a lovely selection of masks sewn by Penny Stevens. These three-layer masks are 100% cotton with a nonwoven interface as filter and a nose clip as recommended by the CDC. They are available for \$5.00 each.

If you would like to purchase one of these colorful masks, just send us an e-mail letting us know your choice and we will get the mask to you!



Mary Jane Cole
maryjane@cfsb.biz and
Carolyn Hendrickson
cvhendrickson35@gmail.com
Co-Chairs,
Sts. Mary and Martha Guild



AQUIA'S TABLE

With the month of March almost here, perhaps soon we will be able to enjoy a bit more sunshine and a bit more warmth each day. Meanwhile, 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 of funds and in-kind items will run through the end of 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?

<https://onrealm.org/AquiaEpiscopalC/-/give/now>



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



The Annunciation and “Hail Mary”

The Annunciation is the feast commemorating the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she would be the mother of God’s Son, Jesus, and commemorating Mary’s assent in faith to God’s invitation (Luke 1:26-38). Celebrated on the church calendar as The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary, it is observed on March 25, nine months to the day before Christmas. This feast has a long and treasured history in the Church, and aspects of it have filtered into many other aspects of Western culture.

Starting in the 6th century, March 25 marked the start of the New Year, as Catholic theology taught that a new Age of Grace began with the incarnation of Jesus Christ. In 626, at the Council of Toledo, it was recognized as a feast day. In England, from 1155 to 1752, when the Gregorian Calendar was followed, the start of the New Year was officially moved to Jan. 1. It was in England that the term Lady Day, formerly “Lady’s Day” (signifying the Virgin Mary as “Our Lady”), became synonymously widespread with the Feast of the Annunciation.

Luke’s Gospel narrates this event. It is familiar to most of us, as these verses in Luke’s Gospel form the Gospel lesson for the Fourth Sunday in Advent in the Year B schedule. At that time of year, we often sing hymn 265, wherein each verse ends with “most highly favored lady, Gloria!” The passage in Luke begins with the angel Gabriel’s salutation, which in the original Greek (χαίρε, chaíre) means ‘rejoice’ or ‘be glad.’ The Greek, when translated into Latin for the Vulgate Bible, became ‘ave’ (or ‘hail’ in English)—as in “Ave Maria.” The terms are interchangeable, though the modern ear may want to detect a nuanced distinction. The opening words “Hail Mary” begat the origin of the oft-recited prayer of the same name. The prayer itself and the use of the “Hail Mary,” often depicted in popular culture and frequently



invoked by Roman Catholics (typically in a set of three), evolved over time.

There is evidence that sometime during the 11th century the prayer was used in monastic orders as veneration of the Virgin Mary grew in significance. Use of some of the language found in Luke’s Gospel is also found in several versions of the prayer. In the 13th century, St. Anthony of Padua endorsed the daily practice of reciting the prayer three times. In 1495, a work by the reforming Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola (who was later hanged and burned as a heretic) published the prayer: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

In 1568, Pope Pius V adopted the Latin version of the formula above in the Roman Breviary. It is incorporated into the Rosary and is the basis of the Angelus prayer. Since the time of the English Reformation, the Anglican tradition has often discontinued the invocation of Mary as an intercessory intermediary. Some Anglo-Catholic Anglican churches, however, still observe the Roman Catholic traditions.

With Super Bowl LV safely in the history books, you may wonder how the ‘Hail Mary’ became the descriptor of a last-second desperation forward pass in football. The story starts with a 1922

football game between Notre Dame and Georgia Tech. At this game, the Notre Dame players said Hail Mary prayers together before scoring each of the touchdowns en route to winning the game 13–3. On Nov. 2, 1935, Notre Dame beat Ohio State on a 19-yard game winning pass with 32 seconds left in the game. Notre Dame’s head coach, Elmer Layden—who had played in the 1922 win over Georgia Tech—called it a “Hail Mary” play. It entered the NFL lexicon in 1975, when the Cowboys’ Roger Staubach threw a touchdown to Drew Pearson to beat the Minnesota Vikings. About the pass, Staubach remarked, “I closed my eyes and said a Hail Mary.” Today’s version looks more like jump ball in the end zone, with the quarterback desperately hoping for divine intervention. The journey of Gabriel’s words into the NFL seems improbable at best.

Christopher M. Arey



Calling Prospective Vestry Members!

Aquia Church is blessed with an abundance of talent, experience, and wisdom among our members. One ministry group where these qualities blend well together is the vestry: lay people serving alongside the clergy for overall leadership here. We usually select new vestry members at our annual meeting in January; but things are different this year, with the pandemic prompting a delay for this year's annual meeting. When a more opportune time arrives, we trust that a group of women and men will offer themselves for this ministry.

The requirements for vestry service are fairly simple: 16 years old minimum when the term begins, be confirmed or be involved in preparing for confirmation, and be faithful in contributing financially and effectively to the health of this parish. Many of you are already qualified in those ways; otherwise, there is no special qualification—no Bible study exam, no lengthy application process, no credentials to present! If the Lord calls you to this ministry, then He will have you ready.

Every vestry member here serves on one of three committees: finance, administration, and buildings and grounds (B&G). If you enjoy yardwork or can make repairs around your residence, then you might serve with the B&G committee. The administration committee handles insurance, contracts, personnel, and communications. Matters about money, budgets, financial

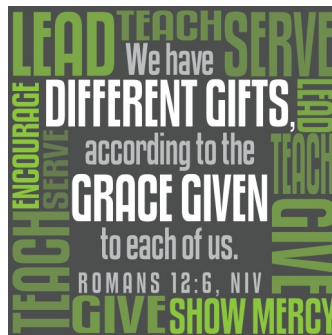
procedures, and investments fall under the purview of the finance committee. Undoubtedly you have some expertise and perspective in at least one of these areas, so you could lend a helping hand for the vestry's work—either as a full-fledged vestry member or as a parishioner supporting a committee.

While people sometimes think they are not qualified or ready to serve on the vestry, I ask you to consider how you could assist even if you have reservations. For instance, take the finance committee, where most of its members have never worked as bookkeepers, stockbrokers, or CFOs at a Fortune 500 company. Nearly every adult at Aquia helps to manage the income and expenses of your household, and every member can ask questions where inquiring minds want to know: "What's this budget line for?" or "Is that really a wise approach?" or "How should we set priorities for our spending?" I value those vestry members who ask honest questions and don't already have all the answers, because I am in the same boat

with them in many instances, and their careful attention can benefit everyone. Some people cannot write a contract or fix a leaky toilet, but someone on the vestry or someone assisting the vestry can. Whether as a homemaker or currently employed person or retiree, your life-experience and your faith can make a good difference.

Whenever we can hold our annual meeting for 2021, we hope to endorse four adults to begin three-year terms on the vestry and one teenager to begin a one-year term. Having a mixture of perspectives within a vestry can be very helpful, with some who are relatively new to Aquia but who are committed to its success, others who are long-timers here, and others somewhere in-between. The full vestry meets once a month, as does each committee. That is not an overwhelming obligation, but you may find this ministry very rewarding because you will see what good things happen when the people of God work together. Ask one of the wardens (Bill Hoffman and Ron Korth) or me about the kind of work involved and about the joys that vestry members can experience. Or let us know if you can assist a vestry committee but wish to wait awhile before offering to serve on the vestry.

Jay Morris



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.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

January 19, 2021, Meeting via Zoom

[italicized remarks inside brackets reflect developments after this meeting]

Business Session

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

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

Treasurer's Report:

- \$409,000 pledges for 2020
- Income/Expenses: matching grant attained and achieved and no new matching grant to replace it yet
- Treasurer's report reflects changes to some line items to show income or expenditures
- Possible discussion (virtually) after Sunday worship to discuss the church's financial condition, simply to provide parishioners the chance to discuss church finances

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

- Regular vestry meeting minutes from 12/15/2020: approved unanimously
- Special vestry meeting minutes from 1/5/2021 (regarding proposed bylaws):
 - Question raised as to content of minutes for this meeting; after thorough review of the proposed changes to the bylaws, the changes were agreed upon but not to be circulated beyond vestry until the changes have been incorporated in print and reviewed carefully. Once the final changes to bylaws have been distributed to and reviewed by all vestry members, a

final polished copy will be published

- Minutes were approved unanimously

Old Business:

- **R-2020-13:** Sale of Burial Rights to Heather Joy Lynch (approved 12/15)
- **R-2020-14:** Designation of Rector's Housing Allowance (approved 12/15)
- **R-2020-15:** Designation of Assistant Rector's Housing Allowance (approved 12/15)
- **R-2020-16:** Sale of Burial Rights to Dale Montgomery (approved 12/15)
- **R-2020-17:** Adjustments to 2020 Budget (approved 12/15)
- **R-2020-18:** Approval for Budget for 2021 (not submitted; replaced by R-2021-01)
- **R-2020-19:** Retaining Funds for Outreach (approved 12/15)
- Revised Bylaws (approved 1/5/2021)

New Business

- **R-2021-01: Approval of Budget for 2021 (Rector)**
 - Adoption of General Fund Budget for 2021: discussion of draft budget from Finance Committee, which held a thorough analysis of the budget
 - Expenses authorized by budget are not to be exceeded without consent by vestry, and ministries will be assisted by vestry to partake in fundraising
 - Vestry action will be used to maintain a balanced budget as required from financial institution holding the construction loan on the CFFB
 - Approved unanimously by vestry
- **R-2021-02: Adjustments to 2021 Budget (Rector)** Assistant Rector Compensation



Vestry Highlights

- Administration and Finance Committee input was sought
- Since the December meeting, which set the budget, we have received additional funds of \$11,000 in pledges to be incorporated into the budget
- Notification by diocese after the December vestry meeting that the Rev. James Rickenbaker's compensation as Assistant Rector was below recommended diocesan minimum for a member of the clergy with between 3 and 7 years of service, affecting in turn SECA, pension, and any other dependent benefits; life and disability insurance might also be affected
- Matter brought to the attention of the Administration Committee, which recommended increasing compensation to cover the difference between current salary and the suggested diocesan minimum salary, with this action endorsed by the Finance Committee
- Difference can be covered by the increased pledges and will still support a balanced budget
- Would become effective February 2021
- Approved unanimously
- **R-2021-03: Purchase of Tractor (Wardens)**
 - Front loader tractor with some equipment: 2014 John Deere for \$14,000.00
 - Existing equipment is limited for hauling landscaping material or installing landscaping material; maintenance of cemetery plots which need additional dirt and leveling



- Can sell our tractor for perhaps \$4,500.00 and offset the remainder by use of cemetery funds
- Cost/benefit analysis would specify the need for the purchase
- Resolution tabled for a later date after additional information and facts are gathered *[this resolution was subsequently approved by electronic vote on 1/31/2021]*

- **2021 Year for Vestry:** terms of office, election of new members, goals, retreat, etc.
 - 4 new adult members should be voted in during the next annual meeting, plus youth representative if possible
 - Due to the pandemic, all members of the vestry will need to serve until the delayed annual meeting that will be held no earlier than the first Sunday in March
 - Voting for vestry members by use of any virtual platform has drawbacks; paper ballots could be used alongside an electronic meeting; voting in a “chat” feature of a virtual platform has drawbacks.
 - Voting would be better situated during an annual meeting where parishioners could vote in person when it is appropriate to be outside, or inside a campus building for even greater comfort
 - Voting and planning meetings could be held in February, with any vestry actions planned for the February vestry meeting
 - Any retreat could be planned for a time that will include new vestry members but current vestry members could attend a special meeting (possibly in February) to discuss vestry affairs that normally would be discussed during a vestry retreat: tentative date for a special Vestry meeting is Tuesday, 2/2/2021 *[this meeting for a mutual ministry review between the vestry and the Rector was held as scheduled, without any necessity for taking formal minutes at it]*

Update on Annual Pledge Campaign for 2021: 85 adult pledges (of which at least 8 are new) plus 5 pledges from children/youth for \$401,691.92

Reports from Committees

No additional reports

Reports from Junior Warden and Senior Warden

Junior Warden Ron Korth:

- New light pole installed at entrance driveway to church
- Kit Stoltz Eagle Scout project successfully installed a new fence behind the CFFB to provide greater security for children playing behind the CFFB
- Concrete pad scheduled to be poured outside of the parish house to discourage water damage underneath; new HVAC heat pump scheduled to be installed for parish house

Senior Warden Bill Hoffman

No additional information to add

Report from Rector

- What kind of matching challenge grant would the vestry like to consider for some point in time during 2021? To be considered if possible during the special vestry meeting on 2/2/2021 *[discussion was deferred until the regular vestry meeting for February]*

Upcoming Dates and Information

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: The Rev. James Rickenbaker

- Bill Hoffman’s successful shoulder surgery
- Carrol Frederick’s family out of COVID recovery successfully, and daughter Stacy’s cancer in check now
- Aquia’s Pantry: many local grocery stores adding donations and pickups



have increased: 108,405 lbs. of food distributed to 7,014 people by Aquia’s Pantry volunteers, thanks be to God and thanks to Michael Golasz for his energy and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Korth

Register, Aquia Episcopal Church



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

François “Frank” Henri Parlier, 1926-2021; Robin Stimmel Singh, 1952-2021; (the Rev.) Ronald “Robbie” Robinson, 1938-2021.

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 request a date for a baptism, please contact the church office (540-659-4007) so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

PRAYERS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

Derek and Emily (Selz) Wiser

Aquia Church Prayer List, March 2021



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

How to reach us:



www.aquiachurch.org
office@aquiachurch.org
(540) 659-4007

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





A Note about Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Holy Week this year runs from March 28 (Palm Sunday) through April 3 (Holy Saturday), and so Easter Sunday falls on April 4. At this point we do not know whether we can gather in person at church outdoors or indoors in order to worship together on those days. Right now, alas, we probably should not bet the ranch on being together in person outdoors, much less indoors. But we are monitoring the guidelines from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Diocese of Virginia in order to see what might be permitted for these holy days.

If we cannot gather in person, then we can certainly worship together electronically and worship individually through our devotions, “by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (BCP 265), and with our prayers. Broadcasts over Facebook Live will be available throughout this period.

If we can gather in person, then we shall announce that news through Facebook, on our website (www.aquiachurch.org), and in the weekly e-mails. If you want to receive the weekly news and updates via e-mail, simply notify Sue Selz in the church office (sue.selz@aquiachurch.org).

In any event, the Good News remains—Jesus Christ has died for us and He is risen—and not even the pandemic can diminish our joy over that. How we express our joy might be different this year, but neither this Good News nor our joy about it changes. How we can share this Good News and our joy with others, even when the pandemic extends, is something that we shall discuss more during the upcoming season of Easter. So stay tuned for more.

Jay Morris





Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



In everything
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

Would you please let Father Morris know some reasons for which you are thankful to God? E-mail or call him at the church office (morris@aquiachurch.org or 540-659-4007), and in the next issue we'll share anonymously, of course) some reasons for gratitude within our church.



Don't Forget!
Daylight Savings Time
begins on
Sunday, March 14

Most of my Wednesday evening series for Bible study over the past year—on Deuteronomy, Elijah, Ezekiel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and presently the Book of Psalms—have dealt with the Old Testament. There are a variety of reasons for that fact, starting with the general neglect of the Old Testament within Christian communities. That situation prompted me to wonder why the Old Testament so often gets short shrift in churches. Obviously, Christians rely heavily on the New Testament and need to do so; yet that need should not delude us into thinking that Christians should rely *exclusively* on the New Testament. The deeper I go in Bible study, the more I realize how little the New Testament makes any sense at all without the Old Testament as its bedrock, its main ground, and its topsoil. (Consider for starters how the New Testament depends utterly upon the Old Testament for explaining the death and resurrection of Jesus.) Many New Testament scholars whose work I admire have stressed that point for years, such as N. T. Wright, Richard Bauckham, and Richard Hays. They join a number of Christian scholars of the Old Testament in making the same claim. Among them is Brent Strawn, who has published a couple of intriguing books related to this very point. He is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church who taught at Emory for nearly two decades before moving to Duke Divinity School two years ago.

Strawn's most recent book, *Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament* (Westminster John Knox, 2021), has kept me laughing and learning since it was released around a month ago. As Strawn acknowledges, his Top Ten Mistruths about the Old Testament might be better described as 'lies *someone such as my Sunday school teacher* told me,' but that would not have been nearly so provocative a title for this book that lasts slightly longer than 100 pages. I presented his Mistruth #6 ("David Wrote the Psalms [and Other Unhelpful Historical Assertions]) early on in my current series on the psalms, even before I began reading this book. A quick read of Psalm 137 by itself would expose that fact quite obviously. Mistruth #4 ("The Old Testament God is Mean ... *Really* Mean") is something against which I have been preaching and teaching throughout my time at Aquia. Have you ever read Jesus' parable of the division between sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46 or ever read most of the Book of Revelation (both of which are New Testament texts!), and then compared them with the healing balm of Psalm 23 from the Old Testament? Among the other inadequate notions that Strawn confronts head-on in this book are the assumptions that the Old Testament is nothing but dusty and antiquated history that no longer matters spiritually or otherwise to us postmodern people (a situation that C. S. Lewis somewhere describes rightly as "chronological snobbery"), that the Old Testament is utterly irrelevant because Jesus's teachings and achievements two thousand years ago and other New Testament realities have rendered the Old obsolete (a heresy that can be labeled supersessionism and that Jesus himself rejected—see Matthew 5:17), that the Old Testament God is exceedingly and irredeemably violent (as though the Old Testament God and the New Testament God had nothing whatsoever to do with each other). Fortunately and wisely, Strawn does not simply gripe about the fact that many well-intended people (even Bible-believing folks) have misunderstood subtleties and nuances in the writings of the Old Testament that can be so difficult for us, admittedly, because of the cultural distance between their circumstances and ours. Rather, Strawn draws out how the understandable misunderstandings can happen, what the more favorable interpretation is, and why that better approach puts matters into more helpful perspective for us. His style in this book is straightforward, easily accessible, at times winsome, and always sufficiently plain with its extensive quotations from the Old Testament and even from the New Testament as needed. Furthermore, he ends each of his ten main chapters with a clarifying restatement of what readers should have gained from that portion, along with a few questions for follow-up discussion that would be valuable for personal reflection or even for group discussion of the sort we might be able to use here at Aquia Church. Please let me know if such group discussion might be helpful for you or for us together.

Another recent book by Strawn is longer and more wide-ranging, but no less fruitful: *The Old Testament is Dying: A Diagnosis and Recommended Treatment* (Baker Academic, 2017). Likening today's illiteracy about the Old Testament to a patient with a disease that has settled in over time but can still be treated effectively—or better yet: likening our situation to a once-prominent language like Latin that has fallen into disuse (much like Hebrew itself) but could be revived through renewed and sustained interest—Strawn helps to account for why regular reading of and reliance upon the Old Testament has fallen out of favor in the Christian West (as it did with Christian heretics like Marcion in the second century and with his successors over the past couple of centuries) and how this condition could be reversed. One also finds some suggestions about why it needs to be reversed: many in Nazi Germany heard and accepted the Old Testament, Strawn observed, but what difference did that make for their faith, their ethics, and their lives? That cautionary point alone ought to arouse us from our apathy toward the Old Testament. If you read into the final third of this book, filled as it is with Strawn's prescriptions for the treatment plan toward our spiritual health regarding the Old Testament, then you'll appreciate even better than before why my first Bible study series in 2020 covered the Book of Deuteronomy: as an opportunity to begin learning a second (biblical) language. Strawn could be precisely what the doctor ordered for us.