



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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





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

Congratulations on Many Jobs Well Done!

Dennise LaBarre has worked at Aquia Church since 2002 and thus is our longest-serving employee. While it seems a bit strange to discuss the prospect of her retirement, that time is approaching.

Dennise serves as our parish administrator, in charge of operations in the office and around our campus. That position carries with it far more responsibilities than secretarial tasks. For a number of years now, her work has also included serving as our bookkeeper for financial records and transactions. She also helps to manage our property insurance, employee health insurance, pension matters, and various matters of communication. In all these matters, she brings a wealth of professional experience to bear.

Those who call or e-mail the church office are likely to make contact with Dennise first. She assists parishioners with their needs, visitors with their requests, and all sorts of other callers seeking information about our cemetery, our history, and so much more. In addition, Dennise often leads tours of the historic church building and provides support to guests who visit our campus. There is no telling how many bulletins she has prepared, folded, and stuffed over the years, how many times she has lent a helping hand by providing quick answers or exact information, how many phone calls she has answered, or how many situations she improved by offering reminders and wise counsel.

There have been countless opportunities for us to see the importance of Dennise's careful attention to detail, including her management of various records for maintenance and improvements in the historic church, documents for construction of the CFFB, and transitions in the ranks of clergy and lay employees. What is more, her talents and skills have helped the church office and the parish adapt to new technologies and changing circumstances over the years. I recall Dennise's thoughtful experiment some time ago with shifting her workweek so as to include Saturdays,

in case that change made the church office more easily accessible and more helpful to more people. I also remember her frequent willingness to arrive early and stay longer than expected in order to ensure that her tasks

were completed successfully or that she could provide adequate support for various occasions. Such flexibility can make a favorable difference in benefitting others.

Dennise has been planning for some time toward her eventual retirement, and now that time is arriving. She intends to step back from her current duties at the end of July 2021, and this will give her further opportunity to pursue her variety of interests. She has been thoughtful in preparing for a smooth transition with those who will pick up the responsibilities that she conducted so well for so long. Among them are Sue Selz, currently serving as our executive assistant and our other lay staff member working in the Fleurries, and a part-time bookkeeper who (upon successful application for the position) will assume many of the specialized tasks that Dennise had conducted in a similar capacity. If you know someone who might be qualified for this position, please encourage the person to contact me for a job description and for application right away (morris@aquiachurch.org or 540-659-4007).

Dennise is not the sort of person who desires to call attention to herself, but she certainly has earned more than our respect for accomplishing so much here over the years with aplomb. Our appreciation of Dennise LaBarre and our gratitude for the work she has genuinely transformed into a ministry shall endure.

Jay Morris



Thank You,
**DENNISE
LABARRE**



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Getting Back to Normal

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 filled with hope you have been during the time of the pandemic. When we began to worship inside again, I was overjoyed to see the number of you who came! How truly wonderful! To God be the glory! Over the next few months, we are going to be slowly easing back toward normal. Not every ministry group will work at the same pace. Not every event will immediately be back to pre-pandemic standards. But we are working to get back to the way things should be.

I wrote to you last month about going to church when on vacation. A few months ago, I wrote to you about coming back to church with us at Aquia. Now that we are inside again, that is all the more possible (and all the more comfortable too!). For those who are still uncomfortable, we have an entire section of the church (the south transept or 'wing') for those who want to wear masks and sit around others who are wearing masks as well. As we work back to normal, we have begun singing again in church. What a joy that has been! To quote words often attributed to St. Augustine: "He who sings prays twice." Not everything is back to normal yet, but we are making our way toward that goal. Fr. Jay and I are talking about what comes next. Stay tuned for more details.

The end of our Sunday school year was exciting as we were able to be back in the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building for the final two Sundays. It was a balm for my soul to be able to sit in the same room as our youth and talk about what they had been doing, and to avoid being on a computer screen for that conversation! We will be back in the building for the entire Sunday School year starting in the fall.

In June, we had a successful week of VBS at the church. It was a smaller group than normal, to be sure. But it was wonderful to have in-person VBS back. Many

thanks to our Director of Christian Education, Kristen Morgan, for faithfully heading that up as she does every year. It was wonderful to see Aquia's children together, learning about the Lord and enjoying themselves. That is a testimony to the hope that we have in God and of the reality that the pandemic is coming to a close.

Aquia's Table and Pantry have grown wonderfully during the pandemic, helping people in our area with food insecurity. For now, both of those vibrant ministries are continuing to serve the community in the same way that they have served throughout the whole pandemic. There have been some important and good conversations about what things will look like when the numbers of those in need head back toward where they were before the pandemic.

God is faithful and good. This pandemic has been awful. We have lost family, members of Aquia, and friends. But God is still faithful and good. For he promises us neither ease of life nor health and wholeness on this side of the resurrection. On the other side of the resurrection, however, there is no death, but only life eternal.

Things are getting back to normal. Come and see how God is working at Aquia Church! 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

Michael Golasz

Building & Grounds Committee

Bill Hoffman

*Senior Warden
Acting Administration
Committee Chairperson*

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

With pen, pencil, and magic marker, I have marked Oct. 2 on the calendar as saved for Fall Fest 2021. July is traditionally kickoff month! The ECW begins preparation for the following year immediately following the end of Fall Fest and prepares throughout most of the year. In 2020 we didn't have the opportunity since that year's Fall Fest was cancelled due to the pandemic. We have, however, started making up for lost time. To make the 64th Annual Fall Fest a success, we have been gathering goods, checking services, working on blueprints of the layout for the different departments on our campus (for changes that might be needed), and sharing ideas as we move forward to October.

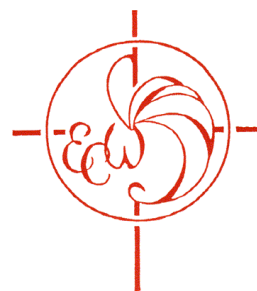
With the constraints of COVID, we have changed many of our means of communicating and will continue to use Zoom in the planning of Fall Fest. Our ECW ministry in general has also changed to meet the requirements of social distancing, wearing of face masks, and so forth. Beginning in July our ministry and guild will meet again via Zoom and in person. We will work to bring our treasures and handmade

items to Fall Fest with unique and creative gifts available in our Craft Room and Country Store. Plans for the Flea Market, Treasures, Jewelry, Kitchen, and Man Cave -- to name a few departments -- will be back by demand. We hope our department chairs will return with their ideas to make a successful event. Please contact me at: bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com with any questions or if you want to volunteer in a department, if you have items to be picked up, or if you can lend a hand to set up or break down!

Also, it is with pleasure that I announce the ECW's selection for the 2021 Anne E. Moncure Scholarship. Congratulations, Christopher (Kit) Stoltz! The following is a question we ask each applicant, and I have included Christopher's answer below:

How I will carry my faith forward as I graduate from high school?

As I have gotten older I have realized that my connection with God has deepened a lot since I was first baptized. This has pushed me to consider what my relationship with God will look like in the future. After careful consideration, I decided this to be my future plan



for my relationship with God. I will continue attending church on Sundays as long as I am able, and my tithing will also continue. The rest of my church work will depend on what exactly my future churches will offer. I plan on continuing doing as much work at the church as I can.

As we continue to open our church, attend public events, and return to more of what our daily lives used to be, may our prayers continue, and our work be guided by God's hand.

We invite you to join the ECW, sharing in the activities and ministries of our parish, local communities, Diocesan ministries, and worldwide needs. Please contact me with any questions: bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com.

Briget Kane
ECW President

STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

Sts. Mary and Mary Guild is happily anticipating returning to our in-person meetings later this month! We plan to meet in the parish hall downstairs for the first time in 16 months on Thursday, July 15, at 9:30 a.m. All the ladies of the parish are invited join us for Morning Prayer and fellowship as we start anew.

As we prepare for Fall Fest 2021, here is another sneak preview of what our ladies have been doing at home during the quiet times of the pandemic. The lovely ornament pictured at the

end of this article is the spiritual inspiration of Joan Nebel. This unique hand-painted work-of-art will be available in the Craft Room on Oct. 2.

Speaking of Fall Fest: Sts. Mary and Martha Guild needs donations of costume jewelry for the very popular jewelry table in our room. Plus, if you are a crafter, we would greatly appreciate your unique contribution to the room to round out our inventory.

Please consider joining us as we return to gathering in person. We would be delighted to share with you a

refreshing moment of Morning Prayer and Christian fellowship. For further information, contact Mary Jane Cole maryjane@cfs.w.biz or Carolyn Hendrickson cvhendrickson35@gmail.com.

Mary Jane Cole





Fall Fest Auction Action



The date has been set: **Fall Fest 2021** will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 2!** Thanks to members of our parish family, the list of items that we will be offering at the auction is starting to grow, and we are indeed grateful.

To date we have:

Hiker's Hideaway Romantic Cabin, a two day stay in their Airbnb near the Shenandoah

National Park, offered by **Caroline and Dale Hendon** <https://abnb.me/TVcWzjfOEgb>

Made in Virginia Basket offered by **Briget and Tom Kane**: A fun basket of foods and beverages from across the Commonwealth

Guided Fishing Trip offered by our Senior Warden Bill Hoffman: An awesome eight-hour fishing trip on the Potomac River in his boat. Bill's motto is: "No Fish Left Behind."

A Scrumptious Dinner Party for 8 Guests prepared and served at his home offered by **Father Jay Morris**

Beautiful Food & Wine Basket from **Potomac Point Winery** offered by **Cindi and Skip Causey**

Dinner for Four at Potomac Point Winery offered by **Cindi and Skip Causey**

What a fabulous start on our 2021 Auction! A huge thank-you to all these folks who have already stepped forward with their gifts of time and treasures and talents.

Our work has just begun as we seek to build the auction to forty-plus items or groupings that will appeal to the broad interests of our bidders. Do you have an item you could give or a talent to teach or a service to offer? We rely heavily on the imagination and generosity of our fellow parishioners to make the auction a success. We are hoping for gifts such as antiques, novelties (remember the drum set and those electric guitars?), sporting event tickets, childcare hours, or theme baskets that you put together with your friends or ministry. We are ready for your suggestions!

Would you be able to join our team of solicitors who, with a letter of introduction in hand from our clergy, approach local merchants for contributions? We could certainly use your help!

Any leads, offers of help, or creative ideas will be gratefully received.

Mary Jane Cole
maryjane@cfsw.biz



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Sunday school program is on summer break, but will resume in-person meetings on Sunday, Aug. 22, for students in preschool through twelfth grade. Registration is available on the church website: www.AquiaChurch.org. If you have questions about Sunday school or would like to help with our program during the upcoming year, please contact Kristen Morgan (<mailto:christianed@aquiachurch.org>).

Kristen Morgan



Annual Meeting Date Set



The vestry has decided to schedule the annual meeting for our parish, including the election of new vestry members, for the morning of Sun-

day, August 22 (which is also the date for the new Sunday school year). The starting time will probably be 9 a.m., and the meeting will certainly be held in the great hall. More details for the meeting will be announced soon.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Contribute

Perhaps you have heard that the vestry has authorized the start of a new matching challenge campaign to reduce the debt on our construction loan for the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building as follows: *all contributions toward the new building received March 17—September 30, 2021, will be applied directly against the principal on the construction loan, and all those contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.00*, thanks to a grant being made anonymously. So any contribution you make by the end of September will help us pay down our debt and will be matched up to one hundred grand! Please mark “CFFB” on

the memo line of your check or on the envelope of your contribution.

Perhaps you have not yet heard about our progress thus far. Toward the end of June, we have raised approximately \$69,000 toward this new challenge, but the deadline for this matching opportunity is approaching more swiftly than in years past (which usually had a deadline of New Year's Eve—but not this year!). Only three months remain now in the period for this matching challenge. So please consider how your contribution of any size can help to move us closer toward our goal and reduce our debt more rapidly than expected.

**NEW
BUILDING** 
Matching Challenge



Here's Our Schedule; Come Join Us!

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, JULY 4

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist indoors

7:30 a.m. Virtual/Electronic Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Morning Call in the great hall

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music indoors

4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist indoors

This schedule will be reassessed during the summer.



WORSHIP TIMES

The Sunday 7:30 a.m. indoor worship service will resume on Sunday, July 4, with the fellowship breakfast returning at a later date.

The Sunday 7:30 a.m. virtual/electronic worship service over Facebook Live will continue to be offered for the time being.

Also returning on Sunday, July 4 (9:30—10:15 a.m.) is Morning Call, our Sunday morning forum for adult formation and discussion, held in the great hall between our morning worship services. On July 4, we shall check in with each other about regathering. On July 11, we shall play “Stump the Priest!” where you may ask the clergy anything on your mind. From July 18 through Aug. 15, Father Rickenbaker will lead a Morning Call series on the Apostles’ Creed.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

May 18, 2021 (via Zoom)

No Dinner and Fellowship

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

Business Session

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

Treasurer's Report:

Most items stable with little change
Non-operating expenses down

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Accepted as drafted and approved by the vestry

Old Business:

- **R-2021-11: Sale of Burial Rights to Felicia Waller Parlier** (approved 4/20)
- **R-2021-12: Appointment of Audit Committee to Review 2020 Financials** (approved 4/20)
- **R-2021-13: Good Friday Offering** (approved 4/20)
- **R-2021-14: Additional Umbrella Liability Insurance Coverage** (approved 4/20)
- **Approval of Linda Burghart and Doug McGinty as Non-Vestry Members of Finance Committee** (approved 4/20)
- **Parochial Report on 2020** (approved 4/20)
- **CFFB Matching Challenge for 2021**

New Business:

- **R-2021-15:** Increases in Hourly Rates for Nursery Workers; Submitted by Administration Committee

tee and endorsed by the Finance Committee. Result of the Commonwealth of Virginia change in minimum wage. Resolution would change the teenage wage rate from \$7.25/hour to \$9.50/hour and the adult wage rate from \$11.22/hour to \$13.50/hour, effective immediately. Resolution was approved unanimously.

- **R-2021-16:** Replace Rectory Windows; Submitted by the Building and Grounds Committee and endorsed by the Finance Committee. Four windows would be replaced by company previously used. These are the final four windows to be replaced in the Rectory. All existing wooden window frames and the French door frame will be wrapped in aluminum. \$1800 from Rectory maintenance line in budget with \$800 from Rectory Maintenance Fund. Approved unanimously.
- **R-2021-17:** Replace Audio System in Historic Church; Submitted by the Building and Grounds Committee and endorsed by the Finance Committee. All the existing audio system would be replaced, except for some existing microphones; this includes all cabling, brackets, wires, testing, and initial training. Three new JBL speakers would be installed in the singing pew; surface mount speakers and poles may be used. A power amplifier would be installed, as well as a wireless microphone which would be advantageous to use from the center crossing. Potomac Sound, LLC, in Monrovia, Maryland, would be the contractor completing the work at the cost of \$3,333.00, with 50% deposit specified in the bid. Approved unanimously.

Reports from Committees

Administration Committee

Regarding bookkeeper duties, the time frame of duties can vary widely, depending upon the financial activity of

the week. Approximately 7 hours per week are needed to accomplish those duties. Additionally, some duties

performed by the parish administrator may be added. An outline of basic tasks for the bookkeeper as a working document is being completed by Dennise LaBarre and parish administrator Sue Selz.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience. The rate of compensation is approximately \$18.00/hour during a probationary period, to be finalized after the 90-day probationary period. Draft #1 of the bookkeeper's duties for 2021 as a starting point for the formal job description for the position of parish bookkeeper was endorsed by the Administration and Finance Committees and endorsed unanimously.

Carrol Fredrick has resigned as chairperson of the Administration Committee due to health reasons. Bill Hoffman has volunteered to assume the role and duties in an acting capacity.

Building and Grounds Committee: report sent electronically.

Finance Committee: its work is reflected in the resolutions adopted above.

Wardens' Report:

Junior Warden had no new information beyond B&G committee report. Senior Warden asked for discussion regarding a date for Aquia Church's annual meeting.

Rector's Report:

The Bishop Suffragan of Virginia has cleared all Episcopal churches for indoor worship as of 5/28/2021. Masks are not mandated but can be used; communion in one kind—wafer only—will be used. Vestry suggested that a section of the historic church could be designated as a mask-only section. 7:30 a.m.



Vestry Highlights



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Funerals: *"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let the light perpetual shine upon them."*

Connie King 1952-2021

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 all those who are deployed in the service of our country.

FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is Nov. 7, 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.



Aquia Church Prayer List

July 2021

Kevin Beezhold, Rhett Blythe and Family, Debbie Byers, Donny Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Linda Raisovich-Parsons, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, O.D. Taylor, David & Lois Thabet, John & Pam Tompkins, Gayle Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber, Jaxson Wiser, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



IN OUR
Prayers



How to reach us:



www.aquiachurch.org

office@aquiachurch.org

(540) 659-4007

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

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service will be kept a virtual service for the time being, with 10:30 a.m. service inside the church with music and singing and with 4 p.m. service inside the church without singing. Full clergy report filed electronically. **Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment:**

It has been suggested to form a task group in June to study racial injustice, equity, and healing from injustice with the intent to generate a response to the church and community. Volunteers among vestry members sought before considering non-vestry members from parish at large. Closing prayer: Fr. James Rickenbaker

Upcoming Dates:

6/15/2021: Vestry meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.

7/20/2021: Vestry meeting (possibly face-to-face), 7 p.m.

Committee meetings to remain virtual for the month of June

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





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*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.*



July 2021 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

More books have been written about Jesus than about any other figure in history, and understandably so. Some of them are good—in varying degrees and for varying purposes—while others are not. But there is no guarantee that *yet another* book about Jesus will be particularly worthwhile reading or will make a lasting contribution. Unless, perhaps, the author of that book is N. T. Wright, the former bishop of Durham in the Church of England and one of the world's foremost authorities on Jesus, the Gospels, and the New Testament in general—and a rather good writer, too, in something of the spirit of a C. S. Lewis for the twenty-first century. So I took notice when Wright published *Simply Jesus: A New Version of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters* (HarperCollins 2011; HarperOne paperback, 2018).

Wright's book falls into three parts, following an introduction in which he lays out some of the principles guiding the formation of this work in which he builds on his academic research and argumentation about Jesus without repeating its details and in which he builds on his pastoral and homiletical interests about Jesus without lapsing into a sentimentally clouded portrait of him. In Part One (chapters 1-5), Wright addresses some common notions about Jesus and clears away the worst of them. Taking an initial cue from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* (which famously poses to Jesus a crucial question to himself: "who [...] do you think you are?"), Wright calls our attention to the need for clarity about understanding Jesus from his own perspective and on his own terms, rather than from our own assumptions or expectations. This requires acknowledging, among other things, that Jesus was not quite the specific sort of king, messiah, or revolution-leading figure for whom so many people of his own day were hoping. Wright also frames this investigation under the three headings mentioned in the subtitle of this book. Before taking us too far down the path of getting clear about Jesus' mission and ministry, Wright takes up some challenges to understanding those matters that have persisted for a few centuries, and not only recent decades: an unwarranted, unhealthy skepticism about the past (especially concerning religious matters in general and religious writings in particular) and an unyielding, uncritical conservatism from the other direction: both approaches have difficulty making good sense of history, but their excesses can be corrected in ways that Wright recommends. He then shows us how to understand some clashes of culture—between the Jewish and Greco-Roman conflicts of Jesus' day that set the historical scene within which he lived and worked, and between their ancient and our postmodern worldviews of how the world operates—that are relevant to grasping Jesus' place within the broader framework about God, human nature, society, and so forth. Wright also explains in helpful ways some competing concepts about kingship, royal power, and messianic prophecies, laying out differences between the biblical foundations for these issues and the popular (mis)conceptions about them, both then and now.

In Part Two (chapters 6-14), Wright begins his positive, forward-looking presentation about Jesus' life, career, and achievement. Wright first reviews how Jesus' eventual arrival was foretold in Scripture and what his arrival would do for the world: re-enact the Exodus of Old Testament times, though on a much grander scale, and re-assert the central claim of Scripture that God is in charge of everything and everyone, whether we realize that fact or like it. Next comes some discussion about how Jesus worked to help us celebrate God's goodness, to heal so much of what had gone wrong with the world, and to initiate a new emphasis on forgiveness from sin in its varied manifestations. Wright also provides insights into some of the people around Jesus—such as his cousin, John the Baptist, and John's antagonist Herod Antipas (not to be mistaken for his father, Herod 'the Great,' from the time of Jesus' birth, who is discussed later on)—who are integral players in this dramatic story. Chapter 8 features an illuminating account of how to fathom Jesus' doctrine as conveyed in the form of parables, and this section serves as an excellent set-up for chapter 9's discussion about the 'kingdom of God,' which is a signature theme throughout Jesus' preaching and teaching. Additional chapters explain Jesus' connection to the Temple at the heart of Jewish worship in Jerusalem, the growing tensions between the Jesus movement and the power-structures of the religious authorities of Judaea and the Roman administration there, and what Jesus set out to do in order to transform the world of space, time, and matter—the ordinary physical world as we know it. Chapters 12-14 are the pinnacle of the book and deserve to be read patiently and thoroughly, dealing as they do with the Old Testament antecedents for why Jesus came to earth in order to die as he did, and then how the New Testament depicts his resurrection from the dead as his triumph over every form of evil against which he had fought before and during his crucifixion. Part Three comprises only one chapter (the fifteenth, final one), but it makes a remarkable point: now that Jesus is no longer physically present on the earthly scene, the continuation of his ministry and the spread of his Gospel and the fleshing-out of his vision have been entrusted to his followers—to real people including you and me—whose discipleship requires care and attention but which can continue to transform the world. Altogether, Wright's *Simply Jesus* is perhaps the single-best volume I can offer to long-time church members and likewise to people inquiring about Jesus who share a desire to understand him better and who seek to learn from him. I commend it to you heartily.