



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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

The
Mighty One
has done
great things
for me—

HOLY

is
HIS NAME.

LUKE 1:49, NIV

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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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Office hours:

8 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Tuesday– Friday,

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

Sue Selz

Bookkeeper

Gloria Reyes

Nursery Supervisor

Dawna Spaulding

FROM THE RECTOR

Reaching Out for Outreach

From the first days of the Church even unto today, Christians have been known for their outreach to fellow believers and to other neighbors in need. Recall, for example, the last paragraph of Acts 2 and the last paragraph of Acts 4: the early Christians shared everything in common, such that none of them lacked anything necessary. The Church has been admired for its charitable work within the wider community, too—in founding and operating hospitals and schools, in providing relief from disaster and disease, in responding to various emergencies.

Aquia Church's outreach ministry is part and parcel of that genuine Christian concern for the well-being of others. We often donate food and clothing to others at the holidays, toys for children at Christmas, and materials for veterans as they recover from surgery or illness. During the pandemic, what we have done for community outreach through Aquia's Pantry and Aquia's Table has made a tangible difference for hundreds of people facing food insecurity. Earlier this year, we quickly raised several thousand dollars for relief in war-torn Ukraine. And in this month of August, as schools begin a new year, we continue our tradition of collecting notebooks, backpacks, pens and pencils, and other school supplies for disadvantaged students.

While Aquia Church is well-known in our area for supporting such worthy causes over the years, none of this occurred by accident. What we have done collectively as a parish echoes the thoughtful and deliberate efforts that many parishioners have undertaken individually with mending bikes for the homeless and the poor, lending a helping hand with home repairs for the elderly, and quietly offering assistance to neighbors in need. Plenty of good can be achieved one-on-one and personally; yet united together, we often can accomplish even more.

Our outreach ministry group takes the lead on organizing much of our labor in this field. Sometimes they maintain traditions that began years ago (think of

Christmas gifts through the department of social services and the Dove project in December), whereas other times their work responds to special situations and one-time needs. The obvious challenges of the pandemic have complicated some of our outreach ministry's past strategies, even when the necessity for their work has remained clear. Moreover, some of our long-time leaders in outreach are stepping back from their positions. For instance, Johanna Jones is relocating in order to live near her sister; and while we wish Johanna well in this new opportunity for her family, we shall miss the good cheer and wise experience she brings to this ministry.

The Lord might be using this moment as a prompt for you to consider offering leadership with our outreach ministry group. That does not mean that you would get saddled with all the pressure and responsibility for accomplishing everything alone—far from it! Folks here are generous with hands-on support, financial gifts, and committed hearts. Yet we would welcome having a couple of parishioners step up to take on new roles in leading the remarkable efforts that so many people here undertake out of love and concern for others in the Name of Jesus Christ. You probably have a gift for helping others, and you might have a passion for encouraging others to engage in this ministry. That willingness is the main thing required. So we are reaching out for outreach—for new, inspiring leadership in an old but fulfilling endeavor. If you have suggestions about what you can do to strengthen our outreach ministry team, or if you have questions about this life-changing ministry, I'll be very glad to speak with you, as will others involved in outreach.

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Join Us for Christian Education

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 think about and are concerned for the welfare and Christian education of our congregation, especially the youth. Raising children in the faith is *essential* for Christian parents. That education must be primarily at home. Every Christian parent has the responsibility of teaching their child the Christian faith. At that child's baptism, the parents and godparents were asked, "Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?" Their response was, "I will, with God's help" (BCP 302). This is a vow that is made before God, and it is a joy to teach our children about Jesus at home.

When your child comes to church, he or she will receive further education in the faith during Sunday school. Our Sunday school program year begins this month. There is a lot to look forward to. As the primary teacher for the middle and high school Sunday school group (a.k.a. youth group morning meeting), I want to share with you what we will be doing this year. During much of the last program year, the youth were hearing about the ancestors of the faith in the morning meetings. In the evening meetings, we often spent time memorizing the books of the Bible among other activities, some fun-oriented and others didactic. This year, the morning meeting will follow the curriculum from Sparkhouse Publishing called *Colaborate*. *Colaborate* is a curriculum that we have used before that systematically goes through the Bible to help the youth see the overarching narrative of God's work in the world. The semesters are roughly broken up as such: the Old Testament in the fall and the New Testament in the spring. This curriculum will supplement the work that Fr. Jay and I did with the youth in the evening meetings last year. It will also supplement the work that the morning meeting teachers did with the youth during the morning meetings last year.



A knowledge of Scripture and the Christian faith is vital to every Christian, no matter their age. This month we continue our Morning Call survey of Anglicanism (titled "Anglicanism 101"). We will have Morning Call offerings throughout the year as well to encourage the adults in the congregation in their growth in the faith. We will also offer our Christian parenting group during the school year in order to give parents the opportunity to have fellowship with one another and to learn together. We will continue our third Tuesday of the month meeting of "What Would Jesus Brew?" (our young adult group) this year as well. There truly is Christian education for all ages here. And that means there's something for you.

During these days when the rise of the "nones" (meaning people favoring 'none-of-the-above' religion) is particularly prevalent, the importance of being well-formed in the faith and raising your children in the faith cannot be overstated. I urge, implore, and exhort you to participate in the life of the Church and to bring your children and grandchildren with you. This is the real priority that nothing else should supplant. I look forward to seeing you at some of these wonderful Christian education offerings, at some other exciting opportunities that our children and youth can enjoy in the upcoming days, and at church as well.

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

Charlie Bingay

*Senior Warden
Assistant Treasurer*

Dickie Boes

*Finance Committee Chairperson
Building & Grounds Committee*

Chris Bowie

Administration Committee

Bob Brandon

*Junior Warden
Building & Grounds Committee
Chairperson*

Michael Golasz

Building & Grounds Committee

Carolyn Hendrickson

Administration Committee

Sarah Kirby

Administration Committee

Anna Rall

*Register
Finance Committee*

Lisa Schwartz

Administration Committee

Penny Stevens

Building & Grounds Committee



A spiritual gift
is given to each
of us so we can
help each other.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

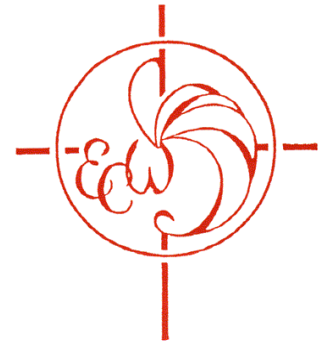


August has long been a month during which we begin the transition from summer to early fall, from summer activities to school activities. For many, it is the time to transition from personal commitments to service in your church and community. While during previous days in the year we have opportunities all around for joyful service, we seem to take greater notice and respond in greater numbers during this time.

For me, joyful service also comes with prayer. In asking God for direction, I also ask as I do the Lord's service that I would do it with love and compassion and that my heart would be filled with joy in his service. Other opportunities for prayer or offering prayers in our concern for others and community exist for us daily. As we

gather for more activities this fall, there is always an opportunity to educate ourselves and others in our faith. The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild's tradition of reading and studying gives the women of Aquia a platform for open discussions of our faith.

Fall transition brings joyful service as we work together to continue our annual tradition of Fall Fest, which will be our 65th this year. In sharing ideas among teams of volunteers, we bring together church and community to share in a day of fellowship, tradition, and fun. We hope you have your calendar marked to join us on Saturday, Oct. 1, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Plans are in the works to have our popular Garden Mart, filled with flowers, pumpkins, scarecrows, and favorite yard art. Maybe this is planned as your first stop! Penny Stevens, department chair, brings her talents and surprises, making the Garden Mart a sure success each year. Our Flea Market, also a favorite among so many, will be back this year. The Clothing Closet, Jewelry, and Books will begin accepting donations in September. Not to be missed are the Crafts, the Live Auction, and the Country Store, which are just a few of the stops to be added to your day.



Come share our joy in service and participate, donate, or volunteer with us. Simply e-mail me bkwing_nthings@yahoo.com or contact the church office for my phone number.



Also, **Homecoming Sunday on Sept. 11** is on the calendar! The ECW will host the luncheon reception in the great hall immediately following the end of 10:30 a.m. service. As the summer ends and we begin to settle in to welcome fall, we will once again enjoy the communion of Homecoming with fellowship, food, and joy.

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.



STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service, and Fellowship

The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild would like to invite all ladies of the parish to our August meetings on Thursdays, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. Meeting in the parish hall downstairs, we start with Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m., share a chapter of our study book, and then work happily together on a craft for the Fall Fest craft tables.

Crafts that we are working on this summer include fabric soft-sculpture Christmas trees (see the photos accompanying this article), Santa ornaments,

and, of course, several angel ornaments. If you make a craft of any kind, we would greatly appreciate a donation to the craft tables that would supplement our offerings.

We still need lots of costume jewelry for our very popular jewelry table at Fall Fest. Please search through your jewelry box and consider passing along whatever you no longer wear. It just might be the perfect accessory for someone else.

All ladies of the parish and their friends are welcome to join us. Working together, we make our crafts in simple steps that make our meetings fun yet purposeful. For more information, ask the co-chairs of Sts. Mary and Martha Guild:

Mary Jane Cole
(maryjane@cfsw.biz)

Carolyn Hendrickson
(cvhendrickson35@gmail.com)



Our Christmas Tree Farm is growing! These beauties and more will be on the Fall Fest craft tables.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school will resume on Sunday, August 14, for children in preschool through 12th grades. Sunday school is available during the school year (following Stafford County Public Schools) from 9:30 a.m. till 10:15 a.m. Online registration will be available on the church website www.aquiachurch.org at the end of July and throughout the school year.

Save the date: our annual Trunk-or-Treat event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 29, beginning at 6 p.m. This event is open to everyone. Stay tuned for more details.

Kristen Morgan





Fall Fest Live Auction: Saturday, October 1, at 11:00 a.m.

With just two months to go until Fall Fest 2022, we can feel the excitement building! The ladies on the auction committee have been out and about asking local merchants to donate items, AND our fellow parishioners have been adding gifts as well. As of July 15, the list looks like this:

A Christmas Quilt handcrafted by **Patricia Springer**

Timeshare at the Historic Powhatan Resort in Williamsburg Virginia offered by **Pat Quinn**
Williamsburg, Virginia | Historic Powhatan Resort for the week of May 26-June 2, 2023.

A two-bedroom, two-bath, ground floor unit that sleeps up to six people, with kitchen and patio. Children's activities, miniature golf, tennis courts, and swimming pools are on the property.

Hiker's Hideaway Romantic Cabin, a two-night stay in Airbnb near Shenandoah National Park offered by **Caroline and Dale Hendon** <https://abnb.me/TVcWzjfOEgb>

Guided Fishing Trip offered by **Bill Hoffman**: Up to 8 hours of fishing on Aquia Creek with an experienced angler on his 21-foot bass boat that can take you to the best spots on Aquia Creek

Vintage Royal Dux Bohemia Trumpet Vase: A porcelain vase with hand-painted floral bouquet, made in the Czech Republic

Beatrice Butterfly, a Jellycat soft plush stuffed animal
El Gran Charro: \$40 gift card



**Hiker's Hideaway Romantic Cabin
near Shenandoah National Park**

The new gifts listed above are in addition to these donations we mentioned last month:

Made in Virginia Basket offered by **Briget and Tom Kane**

A fun basket of foods and beverages from across the Commonwealth

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**

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

Best of Britain Basket given by **Jean and Don Bittner**

Washington Commanders vs. New York Giants on Dec. 17,
4 tickets given by **Marion Wall**

Virginia Cavaliers vs. Pitt Panthers on Nov. 12, 4 tickets
given by **Marion Wall**

Vintage Lionel Electric Train Set given by **Jean and Don Bittner**

The Essex Inn at Tappahannock: One night stay and breakfast
at this historic B&B inn www.essexinnva.com



The Essex Inn at Tappahannock

Please keep the momentum going by letting us know how you can help. Can you build a basket with Beatrice Butterfly? Can you build a basket with a friend or your ministry group? Talk to Wendy Osborn or Mary Jane Cole (maryjane@cfsw.biz) about your suggestions and gifts. The earlier we learn about your offerings, the sooner we can advertise. Nothing is too small or too large! Watch for updates in the bulletin, on the gate poster and on Facebook by following "Fall Fest at Aquia Church."



AQUIA'S TABLE

For August the members of our Aquia's Table ministry group will prepare, package, and serve approximately 1,875 takeout meals. This August has 5 Wednesdays, and our prep cooks, cooks, bakers, and servers each week work to prepare and serve our community.

We recently added extra volunteers to work with our team to help in the kitchen as our regulars take vacations, help with family, and so forth. We still need additional bakers for desserts alongside additional kitchen volunteers. If you have some time on Tuesdays or Wednesdays or if want to bake once a month, let's talk.

Our Annual Golf Tournament in May was a success and continues to be an important fundraiser for our ministry. We have been very fortunate to continue to have the support of local community organizations, Panera Bread, SERVE, and members of our parish in sustaining the quality of our meals.

September is National Hunger Awareness Month and Hunger Action Month—a month where people all over America stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. It's a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis and dedicate ourselves

to a solution. Aquia's Table continues to take action and dedicate our ministry to help end hunger.

Briget Kane
Aquia's Table Core Group



July 1, 2022

Greetings All!

Thank you for the thoughtful card [prayer letter] that you sent my mother during her recent hospital stay. She is growing stronger each day and was encouraged by your prayers. Being thought of meant so much to her. Thanks!

Weedon Cloe
[son of Peggy Cloe]



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

June 28, 2022, via Zoom

Present were: Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector; Treasurer, Chris Arey; Senior Warden, Charlie Bingay; Junior Warden, Bob Brandon; Sarah Kirby, Carrol Frederick, Dickie Boes, Carolyn Hendrickson, Penny Stevens, Anna Rall, Lisa Schwartz, Christine Bowie

Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

- Money Market Fund has \$221,108.89 as of May 31, 2022
 - ◇ Equivalent to 19 months of mortgage payments
 - ◇ Includes contributions to current matching fund campaign for CFFB
- Building Maintenance for Parish Hall listed is for the roof replacement that occurred in May 2022
- Reviewed statement of activity
 - ◇ Expect to have to adjust budget for fuel expenses, flower costs, and water expenses (leak has been corrected)
- Year-to-date investment funds are down due to financial markets
- Vestry will need to decide how much of the matching fund campaign will go straight towards paying principal or towards monthly mortgage payments

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **R-2022-07: Inscription of CFFB Cornerstone** (approved 5/23)



- **R-2022-08: Appointment of Audit Committee to Review 2021 Financials** (approved 5/23)

New Business

- **R-2022-09: Appointment of Nancy Hoffman to Audit Committee to Review 2021 Financials** (Dickie Boes and Rector) *approved by vestry*
 - ◇ Previous experience within Aquia aligns with being able to assist with the finance audit
- **R-2022-10: Establishment and Initial Funding of Aquia Church Heritage Endowment Fund** (finance committee) *approved by vestry*
 - ◇ Capital Improvement Fund, Fleurries Fund, Cemetery Fund, etc., are all examples of current endowment funds
 - ◇ Funds donated to Aquia in memory of a deceased person would go to the Aquia Church Heritage Endowment Fund
 - ◇ Use of this fund would not be restricted to specific use or building and could be used to the general support of the church
 - ◆ Example: Cemetery Endowment Fund can only be used for cemetery use/maintenance
 - ◇ Funds contributed and used from endowment funds are calculated separately from plate and pledge contributions
- **Appointment of Vestry Co-Chair of Fall Fest 2022**
 - ◇ Reach out to former vestry co-chair Bill Hoffman if interested, but need more details on commitment
 - ◇ Help with coordination of the tents, events, parking, etc.

Reports from Committees

Administration Committee:

Defibrillator training will be July 9,



Vestry Highlights

2022, for the equipment to be installed in the CFFB

Finance Committee:

- No other comments outside of the written report submitted

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

- A/C unit that feeds the great hall was replaced
- Gutter work estimate will be reviewed at July meeting with hopes of presenting to vestry in July

Reports from Wardens

Senior Warden Comments

- Thank you to Aquia's Table and Aquia's Pantry for the work put in to support our community and the record numbers we've been seeing

Report from Rector

- Paperwork for the sale of Clifton Chapel has been complete by our trustees
 - ◇ Small details still required, such as removing a piece of stained glass/artwork

Upcoming Dates

- 7/26 Vestry meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)
- 8/23 Vestry meeting (7 p.m. *perhaps* via Zoom, *perhaps* in person)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Rall
Register



More Information from Anglicanism 101: The General Convention and the Lambeth Conference

Since June your clergy have been leading a series for Morning Call (our Sunday morning forum for adult formation and discussion, 9:30–10:15 a.m. in the great hall) that is addressing an array of topics central to Anglicanism, a tradition of worship and church polity that began in England and subsequently spread across the globe. A particular reason for offering a program on this theme at this time is the convergence of two important events this summer: the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (the largest branch of Anglicanism in the United States), which was held in Baltimore, Maryland, during July 8–11, and the 15th Lambeth Conference of bishops throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, which is running from July 26 through August 8 in and around Canterbury, England.



The Episcopal Church has the General Convention for its main legislative body. Usually meeting every three years, General Convention comprises two separate groups: the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. Whenever General Convention meets, each diocese in The Episcopal Church may send a deputation of up to four lay deputies and up to four clergy deputies, along with alternates in each order. When a majority of lay deputies and a majority of clergy deputies from a given diocese agree to vote for some proposed legislation, then that diocesan deputation's vote is recorded in favor of the proposal; but whenever the majority of lay deputies and the majority of clergy deputies from a given diocese do not agree to vote for the proposed legislation, then that diocesan deputation's vote is recorded against the proposal. Voting on legislation within the House of Bishops usually requires a simple

majority of those voting. In order to enact legislation, both houses of General Convention must concur (just like the House of Representatives and the Senate in Congress).

Due to COVID-19, General Convention was delayed from 2021 till 2022 and its duration was reduced to four days (less than half of its originally planned length) in order to try to keep bishops and deputies safe during the pandemic. With a schedule curtailed to only essential business, this General Convention passed a budget that will serve The Episcopal Church until the next General Convention (to be held in July 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky), conducted a number of elections (including a new president for the House of Deputies: Julia Ayala Harris, a first-generation Mexican-American layperson from Oklahoma), and endorsed several pieces of legislation—though far fewer resolutions than the number usually considered at General Convention. Not much of this General Convention's output will likely be described as controversial.

The Lambeth Conference, by contrast, is not a legislative body. It is instead a gathering of bishops in the Anglican Communion convened at the discretion and invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is the most senior bishop in the Church of England and the closest thing that Anglicanism has to a pope—though with far less prestige and power than that Roman Catholic position has. The first Lambeth Conference (so called for meeting at Lambeth Palace, which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's London residence) was held in 1867 in response to international calls for conversation about various practical matters, only diocesan bishops were invited, and not all of them attended. Subsequently the

Archbishop of Canterbury has called for a similar conference to be held roughly every ten years, with suffragan bishops and the wives and husbands of most bishops gradually receiving invitations as well.

While Lambeth Conferences always have plenty of discussions and debates combined with worship, prayer, and study, this year's conference was intended to have less controversy than usual. The bishops were going to be invited to endorse 'calls' to the whole Church that express the general opinion within the Anglican Communion, rather than casting formal votes about resolutions that could spark division. But the procedures proposed for these calls have changed more than once, along with the suggested wording of these calls, and so the matters remain in flux. Two prominent indications at this Lambeth Conference of ongoing strife within the Anglican Communion: some bishops representing the Global South have refrained from receiving the Holy Eucharist alongside bishops from the United States, Canada, and other national provinces that have endorsed same-sex relationships, and some bishops from several countries have refused to attend Lambeth altogether over the same issue.

Our Morning Call series will continue to explore these topics, as will other forums in our future. Meanwhile, one source for clear reporting about both events is *The Living Church* (<https://livingchurch.org>), and comprehensive information about this year's General Convention and this year's Lambeth Conference is available from their respective official websites: <https://www.generalconvention.org> and <https://www.lambethconference.org>

Jay Morris



of



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

Kristen Liberty Barrett Alfriend, 1976-2022
Col. Louis "Randy" Rodenberg, 1935-2022

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

New Babies: Thanksgiving for the birth of a child will be offered as part of a worship service and 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 the birth of a child, 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. 6, 2022. 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

August 2022

Nicole Bingay, Jean Bittner, Rhett Blythe and Family, Debbie Byers, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Lori Hendon, Rachael Hofford, Ken Luehrs, Lori, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Carolyn Stringer, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Gayle Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Jen Wassmer, Arlene Weagraff, Patrick Weber, Walt & Elizabeth Yager, Marion Yantsios.



How to reach us:



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office@aquiachurch.org
(540) 659-4007

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



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.



A Martyr for Our Time: Jonathan Myrick Daniels

The murder of George Floyd in May, 2020, reignited a diverse national movement to redress persistent social inequity and injustice in America. This movement took many forms, from large demonstrations and protest marches to corporate, academic, and government introspection about long-held policies and practices that allegedly fostered systemic racism. The Diocese of Virginia also undertook to examine its legacy in the cold light of history and to consider reparations to African-Americans in the Commonwealth. Looking back, the efforts of The Episcopal Church to redress inequality and injustice during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s in America gains new meaning. In particular, the story of Jonathan Myrick Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian who is honored by the church annually on Aug. 14, is worth recalling.

Daniels hailed from Keene, New Hampshire, yet chose to enter the Virginia Military Institute, from which he graduated as the class valedictorian in 1961. After graduation, though accepted to Harvard for graduate school, he felt called to ordained ministry and entered the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1963. As a seminarian, in March 1965, he was moved by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call for action in the civil rights movement, and travelled to Selma, Alabama, to work for voting rights. Daniels returned briefly to Cambridge in order to obtain approval to work for voting rights during the remainder of the semester in Alabama. While there, he stayed with a local African-American family, the Wests, and came face to face with opposition from the local Episcopal Church, St. Paul's, which resisted his efforts to bring the Wests to church with him. After returning to school for exams, he returned to Alabama in July and continued his work, which saw the passage of the Voting Rights Act on Aug. 2, 1965, thereby providing federal

oversight for large swaths of the South that had effectively disenfranchised African-Americans since Reconstruction.

On Aug. 14, 1965, he joined with 28 others in Fort Deposit, Alabama, protesting local practices of whites-only stores. All the protestors were arrested and taken to a jail in nearby Haynesville, where most were not allowed bail and were confined in an unsanitary and un-airconditioned facility until Aug. 20.

Daniels is one of only two American martyrs commemorated by a monument at Canterbury Cathedral in England; the other is Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1991, The Episcopal Church recognized Daniels as a martyr and marked Aug. 14 as the day of remembrance.

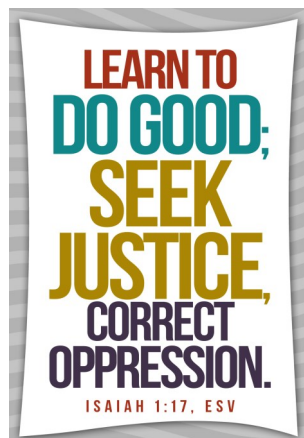
On that day, the prisoners were released without transport back to Fort Deposit. Waiting for transportation, Daniels with three others—a white Catholic priest and two black female activists—walked to buy a cold soft drink at nearby Varnner's Cash Store, one of the few local places to serve non-whites. However, barring the entrance was an unpaid special deputy, Tom L. Coleman, who was armed with a shotgun and a pistol. Coleman threatened the group and lev-

eled his gun at seventeen-year-old Ruby Sales. Daniels pushed Sales down and took the brunt of the shotgun blast. He was killed instantly at age 26. Though Coleman was indicted for manslaughter, he was acquitted by an all-white jury and lived till he was 86 years old.

John 15:13 states, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Daniels's actions saved the life of Ruby Sales, who went on to attend Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the successor institution to the seminary Daniels had attended. She worked as a human rights advocate and founded Spirit House, a non-profit organization and inner-city mission dedicated to Daniels. Annually, the Diocese of Alabama conducts a pilgrimage from the county courthouse to the jail and to the site of the store where Daniels was murdered. This year, the pilgrimage will occur on Aug. 13 and is the 25th such event. Daniels is one of only two American martyrs commemorated by a monument at Canterbury Cathedral in England; the other is Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1991, The Episcopal Church recognized Daniels as a martyr and marked Aug. 14 as the day of remembrance. The traditional-language collect for that day is:

O God of justice and compassion, who didst put down the proud and the mighty from their place, and dost lift up the poor and the afflicted: We give thee thanks for thy faithful witness Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who, in the midst of injustice and violence, risked and gave his life for another; and we pray that we, following his example, may make no peace with oppression; through Jesus Christ the just one, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Chris Arey





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2022 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

In his column for the *Cross Section* last month, Father James Rickenbaker reported on some summer reading that he was undertaking for a variety of purposes—some academic, some pastoral, some personal and light-hearted. Both of your clergy typically engage in that same sort of reading from one source or another on a regular basis—partly as a matter of professional growth and vocational development, and partly as a matter of general interest or leisure. Like Father Rickenbaker, I have spent some time this summer in study for clergy continuing education, and one seminar that I recently completed might be quite relevant for your own contemplation, too. The topic for that program was “The Bowed Head: How Preachers Deal with Grief.” As a pastor, I deal frequently with grief in others: at the death of relatives, at the loss of health or other capacity (e.g., bodily injury, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease), at the loss of status (e.g., divorce or disappointment at work), at the loss of friendships after misunderstandings or feuds. I have also experienced grief within myself, not so much as a priest but as a human being: at the death of my father and other relatives and friends, upon speaking or hearing hurtful words, after unfilled dreams or unrealized expectations. For any of us as Christians, there is also the grief that comes from rightly mourning the sins of which we are guilty, from knowing the pain caused by sinfulness in our world, and from seeing division within the Church. Jesus’ teaching in the Beatitudes that Christians who mourn will be blessed by being comforted (Matthew 5:4) is certainly important consolation. For one way or another, as long as Life itself remains an equal-opportunity abuser, our experience of grief and our potential for suffering grief will bind everyone together. On future occasions, I shall surely have more to say about all of these matters, especially about the place of grief in our emotional lives. But for now, I want to commend to your attention a couple of resources about illness and death that I explored with fellow pastors in this seminar on grief that might be useful to you as well.

C. S. Lewis’s book *A Grief Observed* (HarperOne, 2009 and other editions) is one of his more remarkable pieces for how profoundly moving it is. After decades of being a bachelor, this British professor befriended a divorced American mother and poet who had converted from Judaism to atheism then to Christianity, and soon he married her—first in a civil ceremony for the sake of aiding her immigration status, later in a religious ceremony at her hospital bedside after her diagnosis with incurable cancer. Lewis and his wife were very happy together for four very short years—see the play or the films of *Shadowlands* for more details about them—and yet her death prompted a number of obvious concerns and outright doubts to fester, in such a way as to lead to considerable mental and emotional wrestling about God and faith. *A Grief Observed* is not a polished essay, but rather a set of jottings in Lewis’s personal journal where he allowed himself to be most vulnerable; they were written at different moments of reflection and anguish that were so startling even to Lewis himself that he first published it under a pseudonym, so that readers who had become attached to his acclaimed work as an author of Christian fiction and apologetics would not find their faith shaken in any way by what this book offers occasionally. Only some years after Lewis’s death was this book ever published with attribution to him. At less than one hundred pages with ample margins, it is a work to be read slowly, without rushing, so that its depth can sink in adequately.

Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I’ve Loved (Random House, 2019) by Kate Bowler understandably advanced to the *New York Times* best-seller list. This young adult has thus far lived a life that is enviable in so many ways: married her high-school sweetheart, raised a delightful son, earned academic degrees from prestigious institutions like Yale Divinity School and Duke University, quickly established herself as a prominent scholar of American religious history, makes well-publicized presentations with aplomb in ways that display her charming personality—and then out of the blue came her 2015 diagnosis of incurable Stage IV colon cancer at age 35 that seemed to threaten everything she had achieved. Despite a strong Christian faith, she began to ask all the obvious questions—she has those factors in common with C. S. Lewis—and she sometimes received answers that were unsettling. While I don’t think that Bowler’s life-story is unique, part of what makes her situation so poignant is that a lot of her research and teaching had been devoted to engagement with the so-called ‘prosperity theology’ or ‘health-and-wealth gospel’ often associated with televangelists like Joel Osteen (roughly explained: work hard enough and believe in God enough, and you’ll be blessed with good health, good finances, good family, and so forth), yet the medical diagnosis she received (together with multiple surgeries and extensive immunotherapy and other treatments) helped her realize the likely shallowness of some of her own, previously unquestioned beliefs along that line. Her health crisis triggered a careful reconsideration of several key assumptions she had made in life, while also encouraging her gratitude for daily blessings she continues to enjoy—nowadays some seven years after the original diagnosis. Along the way, she develops some insights about the limitations that many well-intended responses to grief can have for Christians (hence the title of her book), and much of that practical advice is well worth our heeding instead of the banal platitudes that are sometimes shared with those grieving.

