



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

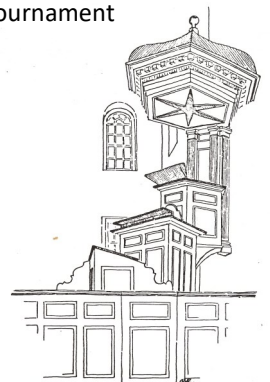
Cross Section

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

Christ is
Risen!
Christ is
Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!

INSIDE:

- Why We Believe in Jesus' Resurrection
- Grace & Gratitude In the Darkest Valley
- Spring ECW Meeting
- New Book Study for Sts. Mary & Martha Guild
- Worship Schedule for Holy Week & Easter Sunday
- "Stellar VBS" Planning Has Begun
- Vestry Highlights
- Origin of Sunday of the Passion
- Notes From the Church Office
- Aquia's Table & Golf Tournament





CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Richmond Hwy.
Stafford, Va.

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Stafford, VA 22555

Contact us:
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office@aquiachurch.org
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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

Why We Believe in Jesus' Resurrection

We should not be surprised that Jesus was raised from the dead. He told his followers that that would happen. With more confidence than any meteorologist ever offered a weather forecast and with more certainty than any bookie ever set odds for sports betting, Jesus assured his disciples that he would be put to death and yet would become alive again. That is why he was born in the first place: to be crucified and buried, then to be resurrected. So those who enjoy celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas should quite naturally want also to celebrate his resurrection from the grave at Easter.

While Jesus' resurrection is something that he himself predicted (as foretold centuries before in the Old Testament—much like his birth had also been foreseen) and thus should not startle us, the Easter event still catches us by surprise. Jesus' followers who told their friends that the Lord who was crucified and dead and buried on Good Friday was alive once again on Easter Sunday must have seemed crazy to those friends. Yet while skeptical readers of the New Testament assume that his disciples were imagining unreal and untrue things or were engaging in wishful thinking with all their reports of seeing the risen Christ, that assumption simply will not hold up to scrutiny. We know today that dead people ordinarily do not come back alive; yet people two thousand years ago likewise knew the same thing. So you cannot succeed in saying that the early Christians were superstitious and not to be trusted for hoping

against hope that Jesus had risen from the dead—even if it was an extraordinary event.

The most obvious, natural explanation for what the New Testament reports in all four Gospels and in the letters of Paul and the writings of others about Jesus' resurrection is this: quite obviously, if supernaturally, God raised Jesus back to life, and those who met the risen Jesus were giving eyewitness testimony to that fact. Finding his tomb empty would not suffice for our core Christian commitment; even in biblical times, thieves sometimes robbed graves. If Jesus' corpse had been stolen, then we would have nothing to celebrate. The empty tomb by itself explains nothing.

Yet put the empty tomb together with the Old Testament promises of resurrection and restoration to life, with Jesus' own prophecies about his coming alive again, and with testimony from so many witnesses that Jesus had been raised from the dead and remained alive still, and then we are left with the unavoidable conclusion that it really happened and that we have profound reason for hope for the future.

The apostle Paul rightly acknowledges that if Jesus were not raised from the dead (such that those who die in Christ ought not hope for their own resurrection), then we Christians should be pitied more than anyone else, because our faith and hope have been in vain—meaning: worthless and futile. But in fact Jesus was raised from the dead, with there being plenty of witnesses to that new reality. Jesus promised in turn to raise his faithful followers back to life as well, and we Christians live by that faith and die with that hope. The signs of new vitality that we see around us at Easter remind us about the old promises of new life that God gives us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Nothing about that is in vain, because it is worth everything to us who find in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection the new way to live at peace with the God who for some reason loves us.

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Christ and Calamity: Grace and Gratitude in the Darkest Valley

Dear Family in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! I thank our God for you, especially for how I have seen your faith strengthened over the years. I have witnessed this even during times of trial and tribulation, and I particularly thank God for that increase of faith. After three years of pandemic life, we have all had ample opportunities to experience those trials with loved ones and with ourselves. What is important for us as Christians to keep in mind is that such things do not last forever. They have an expiration date, as it were. For Christ has conquered sin and death by his cross and resurrection. No matter what comes, God has won our salvation for us. This is the Easter message and hope that we celebrate this season.

This reality is what Harold Senkbeil points to in his outstanding book *Christ and Calamity: Grace and Gratitude in the Darkest Valley*. Pastor Senkbeil wrote this little book for the purpose of helping people who are in a time of need. Whether they are grieving the death of a loved one, their own imminent death, chronic illness, or something else, he helps to ground them in the word of God in Holy Scripture. This book is drenched with the healing balm of the Gospel, the Good News that you have been saved by grace alone through faith alone. This does not mean that you will never experience hardship. It just means that your hardship has an end date.

Pastor Senkbeil draws on images of Christ from Scripture that help to shore us up when we are in need. Christ is your faithfulness (2 Tim. 2:13), your advocate (1 Jn. 2:1-2), your joy (Jn. 15:11). These are just a few of the many images that Pastor Senkbeil uses to convey the central message of the book: God is faithful to the promise he made you in baptism. He will never let you go, no matter what. We are assured of this when we behold the risen Jesus with the eyes of faith.

To be honest, I recommended this book to several parishioners even before I read it. (Everything else I have read by Pastor Senkbeil is fantastic, so I did so

unashamedly.) Now that I have read it, it tops my list of recommended books to anyone who might be going through tough times. Even if things are going well right now, they won't always be. It can help to be reminded at any time of the faithfulness of God and of the fact that Christ is there for you. One of my favorite quotations from the book does just that: "One of the things people fear most about death is the prospect of dying alone. But if you are a Christian, know this: Christ Jesus, who bore your sin and carried your sorrows in his own body into death and buried them in his tomb, now lives forever in risen glory. Because he died and was raised again, he has removed the sting of death and brought life and immortality to light for all the faithful. On the day you die, I guarantee you won't be alone in that day and hour. Jesus will be there to guide you through the perils of death and the grave into the bright courts of heaven's glory, where he already lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever."

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all during this Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

*In Christ,
Fr. James*



AQUIA CHURCH VESTRY

Chris Bowie

Administration Committee

Michael Golasz

Building & Grounds Committee

Dale Hendon

Finance Committee

Carolyn Hendrickson

Administration Committee

Bill Hoffman

Senior Warden

Sarah Kirby

Administration Committee

Walt Peterson

Administration Committee

Anna Rall

Register

Chairperson, Finance Committee

Lisa Schwartz

Administration Committee

Penny Stevens

Building & Grounds Committee



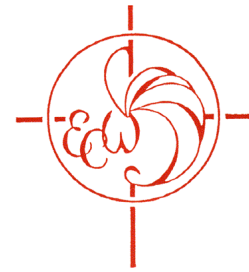
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

I hope you will read in the weekly bulletin the announcement for the Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering (UTO) to be held on Sunday, May 14. At the 1889 Triennial Meeting in New York, the Women's Auxiliary of The Episcopal Church (a predecessor organization for the ECW) instituted the United Offering for the support of specific mission projects and individual missionaries. The United Offering eventually became known as the United Thank Offering (UTO) for collecting the prayers and grateful offerings of the women of The Episcopal Church in thanksgiving for the many blessings of this life. Today, your offerings support the missions and missionary work, scholarships, building loans, and overseas development of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia for the mission of the whole church.

On Saturday, May 20, the annual Spring Meeting of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia will be held nearby at Christ Church, Spotsylvania. Details about registering for this Spring Meeting and other information about the event will follow soon.

On the next day, Sunday, May 21, we celebrate Aquia's annual Heritage Sunday. This event brings members of the Peyton family back to celebrate, worship, and share Aquia's history with us. We will all enjoy a luncheon hosted by the ECW immediately following the end of the 10:30 morning worship service. We hope you will be able to join us for this event and this meal!

We are excited to announce that we are continuing the tradition of the Aquia ECW's Anne E. Moncure Scholarship. The application process for sen-



iors graduating from high school begins in May, with May 31 as the final day for applications to be received in the church office. Applications can be picked up at the office.

We are also preparing for many events on our calendar in 2023. It's not about joining the ECW, it is about sharing in our ministries: parish, local, and worldwide. If you are interested in learning more or offering to help, please e-mail me at bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com or contact the church office for my phone number (which is also listed in the parish directory).

Briget Kane

STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service, and Fellowship

The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild has some ambitious plans for the next few months. We are off to a great start as we prepare for Fall Fest 2023, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7. Although this may sound far away, it will



be here before we know it! We have some new crafts like the cute snowman ornaments as seen in the picture below, and we will be replenishing our stock of old favorites as well. Planning and stocking both the craft room and jewelry room for Fall Fest is the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild's largest service project of the year.

This month we will start reading a new book, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, written by Joanna Weaver. Needless to say, the title intrigues us, and we are very ready to begin this new study. Won't you join us? The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild invites all ladies of our parish and their friends to our meetings. In April we will meet on the 6th and 20th in the parish hall downstairs in the 1960 par-

ish house. We begin at 9:30 with Morning Prayer and end at noon, usually with laughter and hugs.

Please feel free to reach out to us with new craft ideas or requests to bring back earlier crafts or to obtain a copy on our last study book, *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. For more information, please contact Mary Jane Cole (maryjane@cfsw.biz) or Carolyn Hendrickson (cvhendrickson35@gmail.com).

Mary Jane Cole





PALM SUNDAY (APRIL 2) Regular Schedule: 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 4:00 p.m., with Christian formation classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m., plus a broadcast of Morning Prayer at 7:30 a.m. over Facebook Live

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY IN HOLY WEEK (APRIL 3-6): Broadcasts of Morning Prayer at 8 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. over Facebook Live

MAUNDY THURSDAY (APRIL 6): Worship Service at 7 p.m. with Foot-washing, Holy Communion, and Stripping of the Altar, followed by the Geth-semane Watch Prayer Vigil in the great hall from the end of the Maundy Thursday service till the start of the noon service on Good Friday

GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 7): Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion at noon and 7 p.m., plus a broadcast at noon

HOLY SATURDAY (APRIL 8): Liturgy of the Day at 8:30 a.m., especially for groups preparing the church for Easter

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 9): Special Schedule:

6:30 a.m. sunrise service in the cemetery with music

9 a.m. in the historic church with music

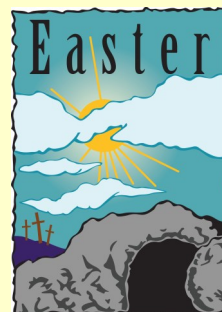
10:15 a.m. children's Easter egg hunt in the cemetery

No Sunday School or Morning Call today

11 a.m. in the historic church with music

4 p.m. in the historic church

Plus, a broadcast of Morning Prayer at 7:30 a.m. over Facebook Live



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are getting ready for this summer's Vacation Bible School. We are excited to invite all children in preschool (age 3+) through fifth grades to "Stellar VBS" on June 12-16, from 9 a.m.– noon. We will take a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light into the world. Registration is available on the church website: simply click on the VBS icon. If you have questions about this summer's VBS or would like to volunteer, please contact Kristen Morgan: christianed@aquiachurch.org.

Our regular Sunday school program will wrap up at the end of May (following the Stafford County Public Schools schedule) and resume in mid-August. Sunday school registration is available throughout the school year on the church website www.AquiaChurch.org.

Kristen Morgan



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

February 28, 2023

Business Session

Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rick-
enbaker, Assistant Rector; Stephen
Pecot, Seminarian; Chris Arey, Treas-
urer; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden;
Christine Bowie, Michael Golasz, Dale
Hendon, Carolyn Hendrickson, Sarah
Kirby, Walt Peterson, Anna Rall, Lisa
Schwartz, Penny Stevens

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

- Reviewed Income and Expenses for month of January
 - ◊ Moncure Robinson trust fund received annual payout from Poplar Vale trust
 - ◊ A significant donation was made to Aquia Heritage Fund
- Reviewed Statement of Activity and TOTF report

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Election of Vestry Officers (Bill Hoffman elected senior warden, Bob Brandon continues temporarily as junior warden, Anna Rall continues as register, Chris Arey continues as treasurer, and Charlie Bingay continues as assistant treasurer) *Approved by Vestry on 2/28/23*

New Business

- **R-2023-01 Removal of Two Walnut Trees from Cemetery** (Cemetery Committee) *Approved by Vestry on 2/28/23*
- **R-2023-02 Replacement of Parish House Windows** (B&G Committee) *Approved by Vestry on 2/28/23*
- **R-2023-03 Fleurries Landscaping Project** (PLACE Team) *Approved by Vestry on 2/28/23*

Ongoing Business

Vestry Committees and Goals (including goals for each committee plus goals for vestry as a whole) The goals of Buildings and Grounds Committee will be formatted to mirror the format of the goals of the Administration and Finance Committees

Reports from Committees and Rector

- Continued discussion on how to welcome and engage newcomers
- Discussed a 2023 Vestry goal of engaging parishioners for returning to in-person worship services and fellowship
- All non-vestry members who were recommended for serving on the Administration, B&G, and Finance committees were approved



Vestry Highlights

- March 25 will be spring cemetery and grounds cleanup

Upcoming Dates

- 3/25 Lenten Quiet Day (8 a.m.–noon)
- 3/25 Stephen Pecot's ordination to the diaconate (Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Alabama, 2 p.m.)
- 3/28 Vestry meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Rall, register



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.



Precedents & Ponderings: The Sunday of the Passion—Palm Sunday

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer provides the Liturgy of the Palms for our worship on the Sunday of the Passion. Some of its elements have become familiar to us. We may enter church carrying palm branches. When the Passion Gospel according to Luke is read, we the congregation reply, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” We stand at the mention of Golgotha. Yet prior Anglican and Episcopalian prayer books were not always so instructive, and in fact they have contained material that we would find peculiar. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer—in use when Aquia Church was founded—contained a part addressing services held at sea, perhaps due to the importance of maritime commerce and the Royal Navy. Likewise, it contained texts honoring the martyrdom of King Charles I, the restoration of his son King Charles II, and the anniversary of the suppression of Gunpowder Treason (Guy Fawkes Day)—but there was no specific order of service for Palm Sunday. Perhaps there was a format that was unwritten. But if so, from where did this liturgical practice originate?

The earliest evidence of a pattern for the celebration of Palm Sunday is found in the writings of a late 4th century pilgrim whose name is Egeria (in Latin, Aetheria or Etheria), and her writings only came to light in the late 19th century. She wrote a long letter, the *Peregrinatio* or *Itinerarium Egeriae*, to a group of women, describing her travels and observations in the eastern Mediterranean and the Holy Land between A.D. 381 and 384. Most scholars believe she came from the western part of the Roman Empire—possibly from Galicia—in what is now northwestern Spain. Given the considerable length of her journey, she may have been a nun or a noble woman, perhaps someone affiliated with the imperial family. In 1884, a scholar in Tuscany researching an 11th century document, the Codex Aretinus, which had been written at the

monastery at Monte Cassino (famous for its destruction by Allied forces in WWII), found the middle section of Egeria’s letter, which previously had been missing. The scholar did not think the text’s author was Egeria, but in 1903 another scholar connected the newly discovered section with a 7th century letter written by a Galician monk who wrote about Egeria. This connection, though disputed by some, has established Egeria as the writer of the itinerary.

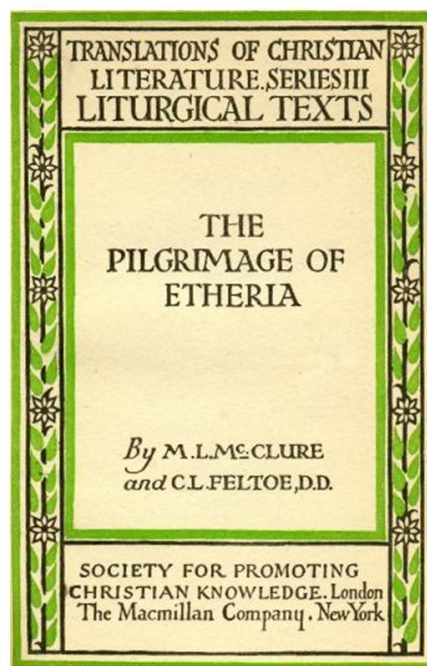
The letter, a travelogue of her pilgrimage to the eastern Mediterranean and the Holy Land, describes many sites of significance to Christians. She visited Mt. Sinai, the tomb of Job, Mt. Nebo, Haran, sites on the Sea of Galilee, and many others. She spent three years in Jerusalem, and during her stay she made detailed observations about the liturgical practices during Holy Week. Among her comments about the start of Holy Week, she notes the following about Palm Sunday: “And as the eleventh hour approaches, the passage from the Gospel is read, where the children, carrying branches and palms, met the Lord, saying; ‘Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,’ and the bishop immediately rises, and all the people with him, and they all go on foot from the top of the Mount of Olives, all the people going before him with hymns and antiphons, answering one to another: ‘Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.’ And all the children in the neighborhood, even those who are too young to walk, are carried by their parents on their shoulders, all of them bearing branches, some of palms and some of olives, and thus the bishop is escorted in the same manner as the Lord was of old.”

Elsewhere in her journal, Egeria recounts in detail the observance of each day of Holy Week, which included veneration of the part of the Holy Cross, which Helena (mother of Constantine the Great) claimed to have

discovered during her pilgrimage to Jerusalem in A.D. 324.

The tradition of re-enacting Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem stretches back centuries, and we today—like Christians of old—greet Jesus, our Savior and our King.

Chris Arey



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH



New Babies: Please call the church office after a 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 want to put you on our prayer list for all those in the service of our country who are deployed.



FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is April 16, 2023. 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.



How to reach us:



www.aquiachurch.org

office@aquiachurch.org

(540) 659-4007

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

Aquia Church Prayer List — April 2023



Jim Baird, Rhett Blythe and Family, Debbie Byers, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Lori, Lori Hendon, Ken Luehrs, Buzzy Moncure, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Ray Parsons, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Dennis Springer, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Bryce Vinson, Jen Wassmer, Patrick Weber, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



AQUIA'S TABLE

As the second quarter of the year begins, our ministry group is once again experiencing a growth spurt. We are averaging over 360 meals prepared and served weekly. Our Tuesday prep team is invaluable, allowing our Wednesday team to work fewer hours to finish our meals and to plate them. Our prep team completes many tasks which go unseen by others.

The dinner begins with placing food orders, getting the food and other supplies delivered or picked up, then gathering and counting and stacking the items to be ready for use on Wednesday. On that day, our cooks work to use all the items prepared on Tuesdays and then finish and plate the meals, so that our servers can hand them out to our guests. Our bakers' desserts are listed last on the menu. The baking team is lead by Cheri Cuff, who is a member of the core team, and they continue to coordinate desserts for our weekly meals

and special desserts for our holiday meals.

Our ministry is looking for a few extra hands who might be able to help once a month to meet a delivery truck, bake some desserts, or help in the final cleanup. If this opportunity sounds interesting, please contact me (Briget Kane, bkswings_n_things@yahoo.com).

Our 2023 Annual Bob Jones Memorial Golf Tournament is on the calendar for May 5, with a festive "Cinco de Mayo" theme. This event is the main fundraiser event of the year for Aquia's Table, and the tournament supports our ministry's mission. If you don't play golf, we have many things you can help with for the success of our event. Our silent auction will gladly receive donations, and bidding for items in the auction will be available through lunch on that day. Currently we are accepting registrations for teams of golfers and for individual players. We are also accept-

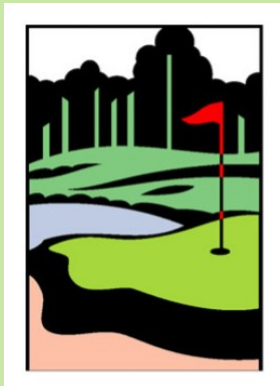


ing various sorts of sponsorships as indicated in this newsletter, ranging from sponsorship of a hole to sponsorship at the Hall of Fame level. Mark your calendars! If you don't play golf, come have lunch with the winners and all the runners-up. Come enjoy the company of our parish family and friends of Aquia. More information about lunch and the 50/50 raffle will be available soon.

Briget Kane

Come Tee Off With Us As a Sponsor or As a Golfer on Friday, May 5!

Playing with a Purpose: So No One Goes Hungry



Sponsorship Opportunities

Hole Sponsor	\$100
Silver Level Sponsor	\$500
Gold Level Sponsor	\$1000
Platinum Level Sponsor	\$1500*
Hall of Fame Sponsor	\$5000**

*Includes foursome of golfers during this tournament

**Includes recognition at all future tournaments

Through the help of volunteers and patrons alike, Aquia's Table has successfully provided free meals and support to all who come to our campus every Wednesday night.

We look to continue our positive impact in the community with your help.

Aquia's Table is an outreach ministry of Aquia Episcopal Church.





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

