



**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

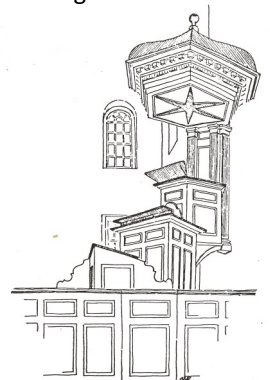
# Cross Section

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



## INSIDE:

- Since You Need Refreshment, Come and Get It
- Freedom
- ECW Awards Scholarship
- What You May Not Know about Sts. Mary & Martha Guild
- VBS Success!
- Vestry Highlights
- See What Chris Arey Discovered about Harry Truman & Aquia Church
- Notes From the Church Office
- Fall Fest Auction Action Has Begun!





## CROSS SECTION

### Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Richmond Hwy.  
Stafford, Va.

*Mailing address:*

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.  
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

### Since You Need Refreshment, Come and Get It

When we hear some version of the word ‘refresh,’ certain ideas come to mind. Upon learning that ‘refreshments will be served’ at an event, we want to enjoy light snacks there. After spending hours in the hot sun of summer (perhaps working in the yard or garden or going swimming), we want to drink something refreshing, like a glass of ice water or lemonade. When you need to refresh your memory, you want to recall some details that have slipped your mind. Whenever a supply of something important has become depleted, the supply needs to be refilled or revived, and we need a pick-me-up to get us back on track again.

Life is full of challenges that can leave us parched and thirsty—whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually—and not only in the summer heat, but at any point of the year and at any stage of life. No wonder Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you” (Matthew 11:28 / BCP 332). Jesus knew that occasionally each of us requires refreshment in body or mind or spirit, and so refreshment is what he offers.

Of course we shouldn’t think that Jesus is simply a snack or a treat, nor that Jesus is like “the pause that refreshes” (to borrow an old slogan from Coca-Cola). Instead, Jesus offers us what he offered the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well in John 4: he offers himself as the source and well-spring of eternal life. He invites us to join our lives with his life, and to take his life as the pattern for our lives, in ways that will lead to an abundance of real life.

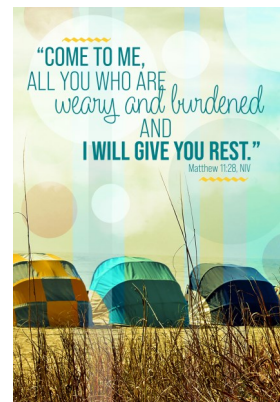
The Samaritan woman at the well had earned a bad reputation for herself as a lady of loose living, but her former recklessness did not stop Jesus from speaking with her in public; apparently he welcomed the chance to begin a conversation and a relationship with her. Jesus’ warmth toward her must have been quite refreshing to her. In fact, Jesus spoke bluntly with her about how she was wasting her life, but Jesus’ honesty did not stop their exchange; obviously she was willing to continue lis-

tening to him. Jesus’ candor toward her might have been surprisingly refreshing to her. When she returned to her village and told folks there that the Messiah had finally arrived, she kept telling them about the power and the truthfulness of Jesus, and presumably she began to live like a Christian. The woman’s conversion must have been completely refreshing to those around her.

Recall that the Samaritan woman came to the well at high noon in order to gather some water for herself, then Jesus requested some water from her. Here she is, hot and sweaty from the heat of the day—yet Jesus asked her for a drink. While he was physically thirsty, she was emotionally drained and spiritually dry. Even so, give her some credit: she came to the well in search of water, yet she left with something even better than what she desired.

Being involved with church is very much like this scene from John 4. We can easily regret some parts of our past, and too often we try to live with our tank spiritually empty. Jesus will always listen to us, he will always speak with us, he will always be truthful for us, and he will offer us not just temporary relief from being parched and thirsty, but enduring refreshment that leads to something even better than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). Yet it surely helps when we leave the house and seek that desperately needed refreshment.

*Jay Morris*



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### Freedom

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 live into the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Freedom is a gift. It's something that we celebrate each July 4 as we remember those who gave their lives to found this free and independent country of the United States. As the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., says, "Freedom is not free." With respect to our American society, that is indeed true. But with respect to Christ, it is not.

I love American history. I'm especially fond of World War II history. It probably has something to do with the fact that my dad knows almost all there is to know about WWII German U-boats. This love of American history was instilled in me very early on. So it follows that I know just how hard-fought and hard-won American freedom is. I have countless family members throughout the centuries of American history who have fought in one branch of the military or another. My brother is currently serving in the U.S. Army. This freedom that we have as Americans came at the cost of the blood and sweat of many men and women. It deserves to be honored, to be sure.

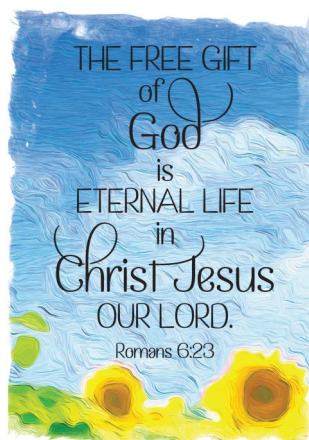
With all of that in mind, though, I have found concerning a recent, popular trend in American culture. An ad popped up on Facebook the other day that promoted a new patriotic Bible. The cover had an American flag on it. I found myself unsettled at that. It has nothing to do with shame around the flag or anything like that, rest assured. But it does have to do with the idea of a patriotic faith. I am an American. I am a Christian. I am not an American Christian. Let me explain. The intermingling of American identity with Christian identity tends to skew both. I am a Christian because I have faith in Jesus Christ and have been baptized, not because I was born in South Carolina. The latter fact makes me an American. God's grace is available to all, not just those in the United

States. There are myriad concerns that come into play with the intermingling of American identity and Christian identity. But one of the bigger ones I can see is the difference in the way those two identities view freedom.

In America, the freedom that we have was earned by the service of men and women. As Christians, the freedom we have was bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ, through no merit or work of our own. We contribute nothing to our salvation. It is the free gift of grace alone given to us by faith alone through the work of Jesus Christ alone. Yes, we have responsibilities as Christians. Yes, God desires things of us. But the freedom that we have in Christ was bought and paid for by Christ alone. That freedom is now for good works to be shared with our neighbors who are in need, keeping in mind the Great Commission that we have been given as disciples of Jesus.

I am proud to be an American. I am proud to be a child of God. I am proud of my brother and others who have fought for my freedom. I am thankful to God that my true freedom was purchased by Christ alone. 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 Bowie**

*Administration Committee*

**Bob Brandon**

*Junior Warden*

*Building & Grounds 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*

*Finance Committee*

**Lisa Schwartz**

*Administration Committee*

**Penny Stevens**

*Building & Grounds Committee*



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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

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It is with pleasure that the ECW announces our selection for the Anne E. Moncure scholarship. Congratulations, Brandon Spaulding! Many of our parish members are watching yet another youth begin the journey towards furthering his or her education.



The following is a question we ask each applicant for the scholarship:

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

Part of Brandon’s response follows:

My faith has played a very influential role in my life and as a result, there are many ways I wish to continue it as I graduate from high school and move forward in my life.

I believe that the most important aspects of our faith are our service, fellowship, and good deeds towards all. As a result, I wish to continue my service to the church as an acolyte and reading in services throughout this summer, as well as finishing my training to be a LEM, so I can further my service to the church. On top of this, I am also considering helping staff the 2023 Vacation Bible School at Aquia Episcopal Church this year.

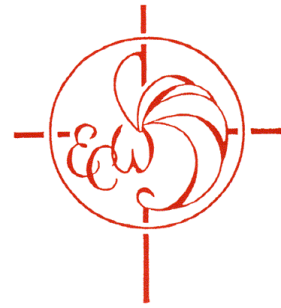
Once I move into the VCU campus in Richmond this fall, I plan on finding a local Episcopal

church to further my faith outside of Stafford and continue my service. I also plan to continue to show kindness, compassion, friendship, and fellowship to all those I come across in life, as Jesus had taught us to do. Finally, I wish to continue my service and good deeds to the community, country, and the world, through volunteering within the church, volunteering outside of the church, and through my professional career.

Overall, my calling to faith is through my service and good deeds towards others, which I plan to continue through my relationships with others, my professional career, and my actions, both within and through the church, as well as in the community, country, and the world as a whole.



Although, we may talk a little about Fall Fest throughout the year prior to July, our tradition is that July is kick-off month! As we close the books each year, we make notes and plans to bring the best forward to the following year. Our traditional venues will be back, with many department chairs eager to help make the **66th Annual Fall Fest 2023** a success. The ECW will begin making announcements asking for your donations of treasures, country store items, flea market finds, books, gently used clothing, and man



cave items. Our man cave organizers will be responsible for the storage units, bringing their talents and able-bodied personnel to handle large pieces of furniture and related items. Beginning in July, our ECW ministry and the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild will be busy preparing handmade items and collecting unique, creative gifts for our crafts department and our country store.

Please contact me (by email at [bkwings\\_n\\_things@yahoo.com](mailto:bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com) or contact the church office for my phone number) if you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer in a department, have items to be picked up, can lend a hand to set up, or can help break down! Mark your calendar for October 7, when Fall Fest will turn 66! Let’s celebrate with Fall Fest!

***Briget Kane  
President***





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## STS. MARY AND MARTHA

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### Worship, Service, and Fellowship

**Did you know:**  
The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild is a vibrant chapter of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) at Aquia Church. Our ladies gather on the first, third and fifth Thursday most months of the year, and then every Thursday in September as we get ready for Fall Fest.

**Did you know:**

Our meetings are held in the parish hall downstairs and begin with Morning Prayer at 9:30 led by a member of our clergy. Morning Prayer is followed by a simple book study and discussion. After the study (and yummy snack), we work together on a craft. These creations are sold in the craft room at our annual Fall Fest on the first Saturday in October

(our biggest service project of the year) and at the ECW Advent Gift table during December.

**Did you know:**

The guild also does other service projects for the parish during the year as needs arise.

Most importantly, we are sisters-in-Christ who pray together, laugh together, and enjoy Christ-centered fellowship. We welcome all the ladies of the parish and their friends to join us this month on July 6 and 20 as we continue our study of *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. Please join us as we grow together in Christ's love. For more information, please contact us:



**Mary Jane Cole**  
([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)) and  
**Carolyn Hendrickson**  
([cvhendrickson35@gmail.com](mailto:cvhendrickson35@gmail.com))  
**Co-chairs of the**  
**Sts. Mary and Martha Guild**

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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On June 12-16 we had a fantastic week at "Stellar VBS," where we shined Jesus' light! In addition to singing and moving to great music, listening to exciting Bible stories, playing fun games, eating delicious snacks, and making cool crafts, campers collected boxes of cereal for the Aquia's Pantry ministry. Kids and volunteers had a blast! Thank you to everyone who made it possible: Kim Bamber, Hadley Bamber, Chris Bowie, Sarah Kirby, Kara Morgan, the Reverends James and Rachel Rickenbaker, Brandon Spaulding, Dawna Spaulding, Ciara Stoltz, Jennifer Stoltz, and Tristan Stoltz.

**Kristen Morgan**



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

May 23, 2023

**Business Session (starting at 7:00 p.m.)**

Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector; Chris Arey, Treasurer; 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

- April pledged income came in higher than forecasted
- Aquia's Table income was updated for income from golf tournament
- Reviewed remaining income and expense line items
- Diocesan pledge will be sent soon

### Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Approved by Vestry as submitted

### New Business

- **R-2023-04: Transfer Money from General Fund (Finance Committee)**
  - ◇ Request to amend resolution to include specific asset line #1007 as to where the funds are being transferred from
  - ◇ Vestry approved with above amendment

- **R-2023-05: Contract with Accounting Firm for AUP Audit (Finance Committee)**
  - ◇ Will amend from "Agreed Upon Principles" to "Agreed Upon Procedures"
  - ◇ Vestry approved with above amendment
- Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 16 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service

### Reports from Committees, Senior Warden, and Rector

#### Senior Warden Report

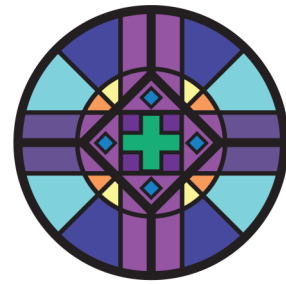
- June 2 – Need to move some tables from great hall in CFFB to make room for an event that is taking place on June 3 (Chris Arey can assist on Friday evening to remove tables.)
- Newcomers luncheon on Sunday, June 4 (Vestry will assist with set-up and food.)

#### Junior Warden Report

- Written report provided by Bob Brandon
- Phase 1 landscaping project along the Fleurries is complete
- Phase 2 to begin in fall 2023

#### Finance Committee Update

- Provided update from TOTF on updated processes/procedures in light of the December 2022 cybersecurity fraud that occurred involving two other churches



## Vestry Highlights

### Administration Committee

- Working to review our Website and confirm all information is accurate
- Kristen Morgan to step down as Director of Christian Education after Vacation Bible School 2023 at end of June
  - ◇ Kim Bamber has provided interest in becoming Director of Christian Education
  - ◇ Vestry supports Administration Committee recommendation of approving selection of Kim Bamber

### Upcoming Dates

6/4 Newcomer luncheon (noon)  
6/12-16 Vacation Bible School (9 a.m. – noon)  
6/27 Vestry meeting (7 p.m. in person, with dinner available starting at 6:15 p.m.)  
7/25 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.**



## The Truman Connection

Aquia Episcopal Church is often characterized as “Historic Aquia Church,” and for several good reasons. In addition to our significant architecture, there is the legacy of our colonial forebearers.

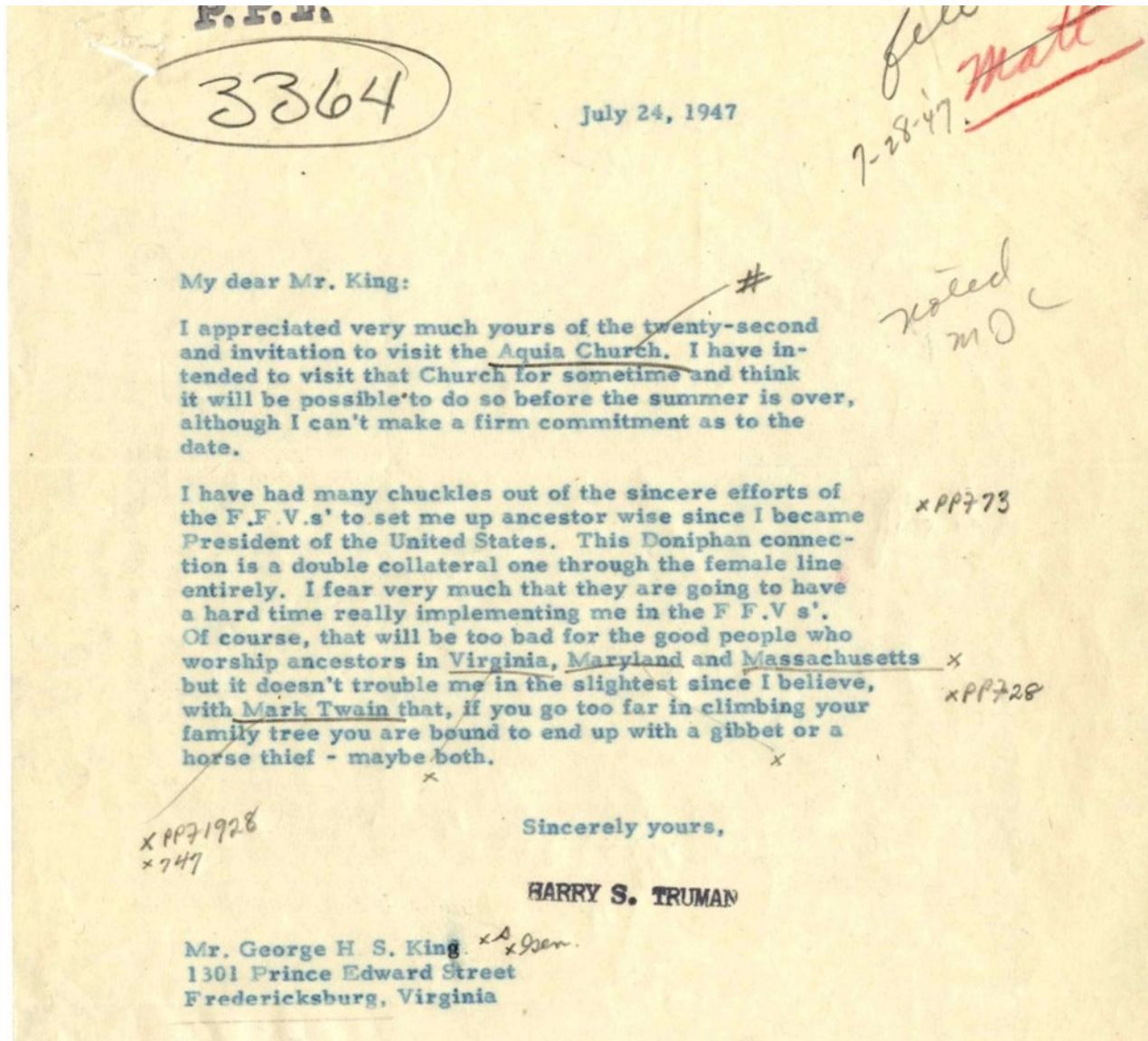
On the plaque mounted on the balcony, we can still read the names of the members of the Vestry of 1757, the year when the church building was finally finished. Among the names is that

Mott Doniphan, who was a great-great-great-great grandfather of President Harry S Truman. The letter below is a response from President Truman to George King, a Fredericksburg genealogist who corresponded with Truman’s cousin, Ethel Nolan. Nolan, a favorite cousin of Harry Truman, was very interested in the family’s roots.

The pleasant tenor of Truman’s response gives way to a very candid

opinion about one’s ancestors. Truman did not share his cousin’s interest, and, alas, never did visit Aquia Church. This letter was discovered during a search of documents in the Truman Library.

*Chris Arey*



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## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

Dean Bryan Moran

**Burials:** *“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them”* (BCP 486/502):

Linda Grace Ballard, 1944—2023

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

*New Babies:* Please call the church office after the birth or adoption of a child, so that a red rose can be placed on the altar in thanksgiving.

*Those being deployed:* Please call the church office before your deployment, so that we can offer special prayers at a worship service prior to your departure. Also, we would like to put your name 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. 5, 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.

### MATCHING CHALLENGE GRANT

Aquia Church has received a commitment for a new matching challenge to help us retire the debt on the construction loan for the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building. Every donation received for the CFFB between 1 Jan. 1, 2023, and Oct. 31, 2023, —New Year’s Day to Halloween—will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.00, so that we can continue to pay off the construction loan ahead of schedule, with reduced interest payments and reduced overall expense. So this opportunity includes gifts already made earlier this year, plus gifts that will be received between now and the end of October. Please consider what kind of contribution you can make toward this matching challenge opportunity, and let’s make it a success!



### **Contact Us:**

[www.aquiachurch.org](http://www.aquiachurch.org)

[office@aquiachurch.org](mailto:office@aquiachurch.org)

**(540) 659-4007**

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

### **Aquia Church Prayer List**

**July 2023**

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





## Fall Fest Auction Action

The date has been set: **Fall Fest 2023** will be held on **Saturday, October 7!** Thanks to the great response to last month's newsletter plea, members of our parish family have already begun offering items for the auction. We are indeed grateful.

To date we have from our fellow parishioners:

**Labrador and Butterfly Glass and Cast Aluminum Side Table** (see photo)  
given anonymously

**A Scrumptious Dinner Party for 8 Guests** prepared and served at his home  
offered by **the Reverend 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**

**Timeshare for One Week** offered by **Pat Quinn**. Specifics to follow.

**Hiker's Hideaway Romantic Cabin**, a two-night stay in Airbnb near the Shenandoah National Park, offered by **Caroline and Dale Hendon**

**Sunset Cruise for 4:** A three hour cruise beginning in the headwaters of Aquia Creek, floating through the Potomac River, down toward the Chesapeake Bay to catch a beautiful view of the sunset in Captain Dale's 26 ft. pontoon houseboat offered by **Caroline and Dale Hendon**

**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

**Kids' Fishing Trip** offered by **Bill Hoffman**: 4-hour fishing trip on Aquia Creek  
for 1 child & 2 adults OR 2 children & 1 adult (age 8 and above)

**Washington Commanders vs. Miami Dolphins** on Dec. 3, 2023, at 1 p.m. , **4 tickets**  
offered by **Marion Wall**

**University of Virginia Cavaliers vs. Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets** on Nov. 4, 2023. **4 tickets, great seats plus parking pass**, offered by **Marion Wall**

**What a fabulous start to our 2023 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, however, has just begun as we seek to build the auction to thirty-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, an evening of childcare, 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](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)





**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## **JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PICNIC!**

**AQUIA CHURCH**



**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023**

**AFTER THE 10:30 A.M.  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Vestry will provide meats  
and beverages**

**Picnickers are invited to bring  
side dishes and desserts**