



**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 EARTH IS FULL OF THE  
**GOODNESS**  
OF THE LORD. PSALM 33:5, KJV

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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*  
**Kimberly Bamber**

*Parish Administrator*  
**Sue Selz**

*Bookkeeper*  
**Gloria Reyes**

*Nursery Supervisor*  
**Dawna Spaulding**

## FROM THE RECTOR

### What's Happening at Aquia This Summer?

For many people, summer offers a slower, less frenzied pace of life. Once the school year ends and the usual demands at work are reduced a bit, more folks can revitalize themselves with old-fashioned R&R. Yet for others summer is the season when life kicks into high gear and becomes especially busy. Many positions—think of lifeguards, lawncare workers, and employees in the leisure-and-travel industry—actually require more work during warmer weather, while some people might focus on certain hobbies like working in the yard or tackling home-improvement projects. As summer 2023 begins to wind down, your clergy can report that we have had a mix of these situations.

Father Rickenbaker is enjoying some family travel and vacation time this summer, just as my family has appreciated time away in the 'holy city' of Charleston and in the 'crescent city' of New Orleans. Like others attending summer school, I have undertaken summer enrichment through two courses (one on the English poetry and practical theology of George Herbert, the other on the apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians), and I have recently led a Bible study series on the Old Testament's Song of Songs for my very first deep dive into that curious text. During June and July, Father Rickenbaker conducted a new Morning Call series about the Bible's guidance for everyday life, exploring an array of topics that do not always receive adequate attention—including anxiety, depression, parenting, and creation care. Your clergy will not treat every summer day as an occasion for goofing off, but neither do we want to suffer 'all work and no play.' We are finding good avenues for refreshment and renewal, just as we hope you are doing yourself.

Like any farmer or gardener who plants seeds and later cultivates crops and eventually anticipates the harvest, this

summer your parish staff has taken on some seed-planting and crop-rotation. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Kimberly Bamber has recently embarked on her ministry as our director of Christian education, and she is eagerly embracing her new responsibilities. As you will likewise learn, Father Rickenbaker is making some substantial adjustments to the youth group's curriculum for their Sunday morning meetings, in ways that will start to take root this month. Meanwhile, I have been organizing our next Morning Call series about discipleship, beginning in mid-

August; this program will be available for most anyone but is aimed especially for those preparing to be confirmed, to be received into The Episcopal Church, or to reaffirm the promises made at their baptism. Even amidst the summer heat, your lay staff and clergy have continued to fulfill the duties that require their attention across the year.

Among other initiatives currently underway for this month: the return of our Sunday school ministry on August 13 (the first Sunday after Stafford County Public Schools begin their new year), our annual 'blessing with the backpacks' on that same day, plus plans for our seafood feast on the evening of Saturday, August 26 (with good food, good conversation, and live bluegrass music!). The ministry groups of Aquia's Pantry and Aquia's Table would welcome your involvement in the weeks ahead, as the number of our guests has swelled considerably over the summer; or perhaps some other form of lay ministry might interest you. Either one of your clergy would be happy to discuss some prospects that are available to you, whether on a short-term basis for this summer or perhaps over a longer period. With autumn almost around the corner, this summer might be an opportune time to ponder where God is prompting you to serve around Aquia Church.

*Jay Morris*



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### BibleProject Curriculum

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 supportive you are of our children and youth ministries. It is so important to support these young people as they grow in their life in Christ. Because of your support, I wanted to make you aware of what the youth group will be doing for the morning meeting this year.

Over the last few years, we have done some time taking a 30,000-foot look, in effect, at the Bible. We have done no more than an overview. This year, we are going to dig a little deeper. In order to do that, we will use some of the videos from an organization called BibleProject. The purpose of BibleProject is to show that the Bible is a story that points to Christ. As they say on their website, "From page one to the final word, we believe the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus. This diverse collection of ancient books overflows with wisdom for our modern world. As we let the biblical story speak for itself, we believe the message of Jesus will transform individuals and entire communities." This is an important method for conveying the Biblical truth, to be sure. "Many people," they say, "have misunderstood the Bible as a collection of inspirational quotes or a divine instruction manual dropped from Heaven. Most of us gravitate toward sections we enjoy while avoiding parts that are confusing or even disturbing." In teaching the Scriptures to the youth, we want to help dispel the idea that the Bible is "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth." Instead, we want the youth to learn the truth that the Bible is the story of the great rescue mission that God has enacted to save and restore the world.

So it's our desire that the youth begin to deepen their knowledge of the Bible past the basic overview that they have gotten so far. The videos from BibleProject will help to do that. Again, from BibleProject's website: "Our Bible resources help people experience the Bible in a way that is approachable, engaging, and transforma-

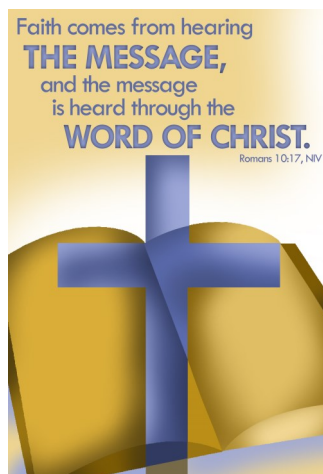
tive. We do this by showcasing the literary art of the Scriptures and tracing biblical themes from beginning to end. Rather than taking the stance of a specific tradition or denomination, we create materials to elevate the Bible for all people and draw our eyes to its unified message." We'll watch the videos together and the teachers will tailor the message to help them understand what each book of the Bible is trying to say. On top of the videos, we'll be adding in some more interactive opportunities like quizzing on the material (via the website called Kahoot!).

I am very much looking forward to this new Sunday school program year. We have some exciting things in store for the youth group in the morning meetings and the evening meetings as well. If your child is in the sixth grade through the twelfth grade, we would love to have them join us both on Sunday mornings as well as for our evening meetings held every other week.

If you would like to take a look at some of the videos from BibleProject, you can find them at their website: <https://bibleproject.com/>. Please take note also that we can always use more help and support with the Christian education program.

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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***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.***

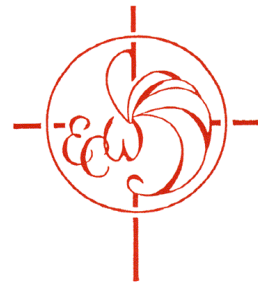
I wonder how many women have grown to know and admire Mary, Jesus' mother. We are introduced to Mary, daughter of Joachim and Anne, as she has been visited by the angel Gabriel. Gabriel announces that Mary has been chosen by God and that she would have a son, who would be the Messiah. What an experience it must have been to hear these words! Mary was chosen by God in part because she had great strength, believed in the scriptures, was obedient, and could be trusted.

Mary gave her service to God and to Jesus from his birth until his death. Her faith and service to God continued after Jesus was crucified until her death. Of all the descriptions associated with Mary, "courage" would be my pick. As women of The Episcopal Church, we can draw faith and courage from Mary's life and from prayer,

study, and joyful service. Plan to join us for many of our shared activities.

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

Fall transition brings joyful service as we work together to continue our annual tradition: our 66th Fall Fest. With many volunteers, we bring the day together for church and community to share in a day of fellowship, tradition, and fun. We hope you have your calendar marked for Oct. 7, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Plans are in the works to have our popular garden mart, filled once again with flowers, pumpkins, scarecrows, and favorite yard art. Maybe this is planned as your first stop!



Tom Kane, department chair, brings his talents, and surprises to make the garden mart a sure success.

Our flea market, also a favorite among so many, will be back this year. The clothing closet, jewelry, and books departments will begin accepting donations in September. Not to be missed are the crafts, the live auction, and the country store; these are just a few of the stops to be added to your day.

Come share our joy in service by participating, donating, or volunteering. You may reach me by e-mail at [bkwings\\_n\\_things@yahoo.com](mailto:bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com), or contact the church office for my phone number (voice and text).

***Briget Kane***

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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**Now let's shine Jesus' light. Yeah, yeah!**

**Shine his light, shine his light, /Shine his light for all the world to see.**

Vacation Bible School this summer taught the message to shine Jesus' light. And after a week of singing and dancing during VBS, the songs never leave your thoughts! The children love the music and lessons, the games and crafts, and making new friends during the week at Aquia Church.

Beginning this Sunday School year, I'm excited and grateful to have been offered the position of director of Christian education. I hope to continue the VBS energy into the new year on Sunday mornings for the preschool and elementary school children here.

My family and I have attended Aquia Church since 2015, I believe,

shortly after moving to Stafford. I have three children—ages 12, 9 and 5—and my youngest daughter was baptized at Aquia. I still cherish that day as full of joy and as one I will always remember. I have been an assistant or teacher at Aquia's Sunday School for multiple years now, ever since my oldest child was younger. We have had a wonderful director and numerous teachers that have taught my children over the years and put so much time and energy into Sunday mornings, VBS, and all the special events.

I look forward to Sunday School beginning again in August, as well as the seasonal events we offer throughout

the year. Trunk-or-Treat is one of my favorite evenings each fall when Aquia families come together to decorate and to enjoy the evening together.

As the new year begins, feel free to offer any ideas or suggestions you may have for Christian education, and we welcome anyone interested in assisting our dedicated team of Sunday School teachers regularly or occasionally.

The new registration will be available in August on the church website, <https://aquiachurch.org>.

Please invite friends or family with school-age children to Aquia on Sunday mornings to help shine Jesus' light!

***Kimberly Bamber***



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## STS. MARY & MARTHA GUILD

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### Worship, Service, and Fellowship

The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild would like to invite all the ladies of the parish to our August meetings on Thursdays, Aug. 3, 17, and 31. On Aug. 3 and 17, we will be meeting in the parish hall downstairs, where we will enjoy Morning Prayer at 9:30, share a chapter of our study book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, and then work together on a craft for the Fall Fest craft room. Aug. 31 will be a service day for our guild, during which we will do some organizing in the CFFB kitchen and storage room.

Some of the crafts that we are working on this summer include skinny wooden Santas (see the photo, right), snowmen ornaments, and, of course, several angel ornaments. You will also find some fun Fall decorations in our room! If you make a craft of any kind, we would greatly appreciate a donation to the craft room to supplement our offerings.

We still need lots of costume jewelry for our immensely 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. We also need gently used Christmas coffee mugs to put together packages of snowman soup. Please leave your gifts in the back pew of the church or on a table in the CFFB foyer. Be sure to leave a note so we know who to thank!

All ladies of the parish and their friends are welcome to join us. Working together, we make our crafts in simple steps, which make our meetings fun yet purposeful. For more information, ask Mary Jane Cole ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)) or Carolyn Hendrickson ([cvhendrickson35@gmail.com](mailto:cvhendrickson35@gmail.com)), co-chairs of the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild.

*Mary Jane Cole*



### SEAFOOD FEAST

#### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SEAFOOD FEAST

Evening of Saturday, August 26

Tickets \$40/adult

Live bluegrass music performed by the Reckless Brigade

Sponsored by Fellowship Events Ministry Group

*Stay tuned for more details coming soon in weekly e-mail announcements and in Sunday bulletin announcements*



## Fall Fest Live Auction: Saturday, October 7, at 11 a.m.

With just two months and one week to go until Fall Fest 2023, we can feel the excitement building! The auction committee has been out and about asking local merchants for donations, AND our fellow parishioners have been adding gifts as well.



FALL  
FESTIVAL

An important update:

**Timeshare at the Greensprings Vacation Resort in Williamsburg, Virginia**, offered by **Pat Quinn** for the week of Dec. 8 to 15, 2023. Come and see the Grand Illumination during your stay on Dec. 9 [Grand Illumination \(colonialwilliamsburg.org\)](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org)

### New This Month:

**The Essex Inn at Tappahannock:** One night stay and breakfast at this historic B&B inn [www.essexinnva.com](http://www.essexinnva.com)

**Framed Print of Aquia Church** by Capt. Mark Meredith, USN (retired), signed and numbered

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

**Antique Imperial Russian Brass Samovar** dating from the 1800s given by **David Stein**

**Slow Roasted Pork Butt** from the **Fall Fest Kitchen**

**Meadows Farm:** \$20 gift card

**Pets Plus:** TWO \$50 gift cards



The Essex Inn at Tappahannock

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

**Labrador and Butterfly Glass and Cast Aluminum Side Table** given anonymously

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

**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**

**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** on beautiful Aquia Creek 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** on Dec. 3, 2023, at 1 p.m. 4 tickets offered by **Marion Wall**

**University of Virginia Cavaliers vs. Georgia Tech** on

Nov. 4, 2023. 4 tickets, great seats plus parking pass offered by **Marion Wall**



Join Captain Dale Hendon on his houseboat for a lovely sunset cruise.

Please keep the momentum going by letting us know how you can help. Perhaps you could build a basket with a friend or members of your ministry group. Gift cards, antiques, and baby-sitting hours are always welcome additions to the auction. Talk to Mary Jane Cole ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)) or Shields Jones 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 poster at the church gate, and on Facebook by following "Fall Fest at Aquia Church."



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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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June 27, 2023

Dinner and Fellowship

### Business Session

*In Attendance:* Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Chris Arey, Treasurer; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden; Bob Brandon, Junior Warden; Christine Bowie, Michael Golasz, Carolyn Hendrickson, Sarah Kirby, Walt Peterson, Anna Rall, Penny Stevens

*Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer*

### Junior Warden's Report & Building & Grounds Matters

- The ECW has requested the installation of a new electrical outlet in the CFFB kitchen.
- We are awaiting an estimate for plaster work needed in church (mainly on the northeast side), along with potential solutions for modifying the roof to divert water that is seeping into the wall.
- The recent CFFB sprinkler inspection made a recommendation to change the height of a valve in the CFFB great hall.
  - ◇ This would probably include creating a larger panel in front of the valve.
- Caulking around the historic church needs to be replaced.
  - ◇ The estimate will be sent electronically for electronic vote by vestry.
- Exterior renovation update on 1960 parish house:
  - ◇ All windows have been replaced as authorized.
  - ◇ The idea for the unused outside doors on the lower level is to replace them with windows.
  - ◆ The B&G committee's recommendation is to replace two sets of double doors (one set downstairs and one set upstairs) at a cost of \$20K as a minimum step, with additional

steps available to be taken when funding is available

- \* The entire project would need vestry approval for an additional \$5K in budget in order to complete the door replacement project while leaving the replacement of additional doors for 2024.

- ◆ Vestry agreed to hold off on a decision about this matter until the midyear budget review is completed.

### Treasurer's Report

- As of June 25, we have received 49% of our anticipated pledge income for the year.
  - ◇ Same timeframe in 2022 had received 53% of pledge income.
- We reviewed income and expenses through May.

### Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **R-2023-04: Transfer Money from General Fund** (approved 5/23)
- **R-2023-05: Contract with Accounting Firm for AUP Audit** (approved 5/23)

The draft minutes were approved unanimously.

### New Business

- **R-2023-06: Election of Delegates and Alternate to Diocesan Annual Convention** (Rector)
  - ◇ Delegates would be Michael Golasz, Bill Hoffman, and Sarah Kirby, with Carolyn Hendrickson as first alternate. The resolution was approved unanimously.

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

#### Administration Committee

- No new update as committee did not need to meet in June.



### Vestry Highlights

- July meeting will be a review of 2023 goals and what has been completed.

#### Finance Committee

- The action authorized in R-2023-04 (allocating \$40,000.00 to an 8-month CD with an APY of 4.5% with Burke and Herbert Bank) was completed at the beginning of June.
- Our agreed-upon-procedures (AUP) audit is underway with a planned completion date of August 1, 2023.
  - ◇ Will provide further details in the July and August meetings.

### Rector's Report

- Successful week of Vacation Bible School (VBS).
  - ◇ Higher rate of participants than previous year.
- Kim Bamber to begin as director of Christian education in July.

### Senior Warden's Report

- There will be another newcomers luncheon in the fall (date TBD).
- Discussion about coordinating vestry efforts for parish picnic on July 16.

### Upcoming Dates

7/16 Parish picnic  
7/25 Vestry meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)

### Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Anna Rall*  
*Register*





## Faith's Review and Expectation: Amazing Grace

### I. CHRONICLES.

#### HYMN XLI.

*Faith's review and expectation.*  
Chap. xvii. 16, 17.

- 1 **A** Mazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
That fav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears reliev'd;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believ'd!
- 3 Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.
- 4 The LORD has promis'd good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.
- 5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease;  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.
- 6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But GOD, who call'd me here below,  
Will be for ever mine.

August 4 is the birthday of John Newton, notorious slaver, Anglican cleric, hymn writer, and advocate for abolition. Born in 1725 in Wapping, London, England, his contributions to Christianity echo down to our own time. His life has been captured in biography and film, and the redemptive power of his story inspired many. To many his signature contribution was writing the hymn now known as "Amazing Grace," perhaps the most popular hymn in our canon. Exploring the background of "Amazing Grace" reveals some illuminating insights of Newton's life and times and the rich texture of his story.

Son of a shipmaster, Newton first went to sea at the age of 11. By 1742, he had been to sea six times. In 1743 he was pressed into the Royal Navy; when serving aboard the HMS *Harwich*, he experienced hardship and transferred to a slave ship, the *Pegasus*. In 1745 he was abandoned by that ship's crew in west Africa and was enslaved among the Africans. Early in 1748 he was rescued and sailed home to England. During that voyage on March 21, while enduring a terrible storm, Newton had a conversion experience. This near-catastrophe led to a spiritual awakening that changed his life. However, the change was not immediate, as he remained in the slave trade until 1753, when his health deteriorated and he had to give up his seagoing life. Feeling a call to ordained ministry, in 1757 he applied for ordination in the Anglican church, but it was seven years before he was finally accepted. In 1764 he was ordained a deacon, then priest, and became the curate at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Olney, Buckinghamshire. He served at Olney until 1780.

At Olney, in 1767, he became friends with William Cowper, a gentleman and ex-libertine who had recently found his faith and who was recuperating from a nervous disorder. The two men collaborated on hymn composition, and in 1779 they published *Olney Hymns*. There were 348 hymns in the original release, including "Faith's Review and Expectation," now known as "Amazing

Grace." This hymn was inspired by a sermon that Newton gave on Jan. 1, 1773, based on I Chronicles 17: 16-17. His sermon notes, which are on file at Lambeth Palace, state:

We had not so much a desire of deliverance. Instead of desiring the Lord's help, we breathed a spirit of defiance against him. His mercy came to us not only undeserved but undesired. Yea few [of] us but resisted his calls, and when he knocked at the door of our hearts endeavoured to shut him out till he overcame us by the power of his grace.

At Olney, the hymns probably were chanted, as they were published without accompanying music.

Among the hymns, "Faith's Review and Expectation" was not among the hymns republished in other periodicals and hymnals, appearing only once in a hymnal published in 1780. However, between 1789 and 1799, four variations of Newton's hymn were published in America in Baptist, Dutch Reformed, and Congregationalist hymn collections. By 1830 Presbyterians and Methodists also included Newton's verses in their hymnals. This coincided with the Second Great Awakening, a spiritual revival among Protestants which reverberated across America from 1790 to 1840.

This phenomenon, paired with increase of congregational singing and the use of shape notes across the American frontier, gave rise to music to accompany traditional hymnody. Though

*Continued on next page ...*

8 NEW BRITAIN. C. M. Baptist Harmony, p. 123.

1 Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound) That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved: How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.

6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine; But God, who call'd me here below, Will be for ever mine.





## Sermon on the Mount Illuminates Window in CFFB

Since its opening in 2015, Aquia Church's Christian Formation and Fellowship Building has become the heart of many church activities. It is a gathering place, a giving place, a learning place, a sharing place. It is where many ministries flourish and many memories begin. On Sunday, July 16, 2023, Aquia Church dedicated a beautiful stained-glass art piece in a south-facing window of the building, adding new inspiration to a very special place.

Parishioner Ellen Brandon thought this place where so many people gathered needed a little something—perhaps a little color—especially in the great hall. As a stained-glass artist, Ellen envisioned radiant biblical scenes in the large crescent-shaped windows. During the 2022 Fall Fest live auction, Ellen offered to create a Christian-themed leaded glass piece designed to fill one of the windows. When the bidding opened, auctioneer Shields Jones tracked numerous bidders through a lively competition. The winning bid came from Wendy and Mark Osborn, who have attended Aquia Church for 36 years. “Both of us saw the opportunity to begin a spiritually rewarding project after talking with Ellen Brandon, the stained-glass artist,” wrote Wendy Osborn in an email, adding, “We feel blessed to have kickstarted a project that we hope will continue to grow.” The design depicts Jesus’ Sermon on



**Given by Mark and Wendy Osborn, and created by Ellen Brandon, this Sermon on the Mount stained-glass window was dedicated on July 16, 2023.**

*See additional photos on page 11.*

the Mount, which Ellen hopes will become the first of a series. The Osborns dedicated the art to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for their Aquia Church family.

The winning bidder had a choice of four designs. The Osborns chose Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Wendy and Mark wrote, “[The scene] illustrates the Sermon on the Mount, the longest sermon in the New Testament. Jesus requested that we as followers should hold a much higher standard of conduct, love, and selflessness. We feel these standards are met, in part, weekly during Aquia’s Table Ministry.” The great hall is where Aquia’s Table and Aquia’s Pantry prepare meals and grocery items

for distribution each Wednesday in a clear and loving manifestation of Jesus’s teachings.

The window is 80x40 inches and has more than 300 pieces of glass. It portrays Jesus standing on a hill, addressing a crowd of people, with a glorious blue sky surrounding him. Ellen said the design was created by Stessy Jones, owner of Bluebird Glass Studio in Falmouth, which company also helped with the installation. Ellen’s vision is to offer another scene at this year’s Fall Fest live auction and add a little more color—and inspiration—to the great hall of the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building.

**Mary D. Karcher**

*... Continued from previous page.*

“Amazing Grace” had been paired with other music, eventually the tune we know as *New Britain* emerged as the dominant and preferred tune. The acclaimed pairing of *New Britain* with Newton’s “Amazing Grace” occurred in William Walker’s *Southern Harmony and Musical Companion*, published in 1835. Using shape notes, it is arranged in three parts, with the melody in the middle part. Walker’s collection

included all six stanzas of Newton’s text (See illustration on page 8.)

In our *Hymnal 1982*, the fifth and final verse is one not composed by Newton. This verse was first recorded by Harriet Beecher Stowe, in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, in 1852, after it had been part of an oral tradition among African Americans:

When we’d be there ten thousand  
years, bright shining as the sun,/

we’ve no less days, to sing Gods’  
praise, than when we’d first begun.

Sung and recorded by artists including Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Judy Collins, Rod Stewart, and many others, the power and appeal of “Amazing Grace” remains preeminent.

**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):

Tye Wayne Butler

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

Ann Cook “Cookie” Howard, 1943—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.



### How to reach us:

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

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

(540) 659-4007

[www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch)



### Aquia Church Prayer List

August 2023



Rhett Blythe and family, Debbie Byers, Baby Calahan, Laura Chichester, Paula Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Michael Golasz, 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





# Summer ACTIVITIES



The Hendons, Stanfords, and Rickenbaker families prepare hotdogs at the “Summer Cook-out at the Firepit” event on July 25, 2023. The fun continued with s’mores and games.



Dickie Boes and Bob Brandon dodge raindrops at the grill during the annual parish picnic on July 16, 2023.



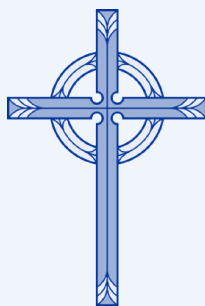
(Left) Fr. Morris and Fr. Rickenbaker lead the dedication of the stained-glass window during the Parish Picnic in the Great Hall. They are joined by artist Ellen Brandon (center) and donors Wendy and Mark Osborn. (Right) Bluebird Glass Studio members install the Sermon on the Mount window. (All Summer Activities photos were taken by Michael Golasz)





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.**