




AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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

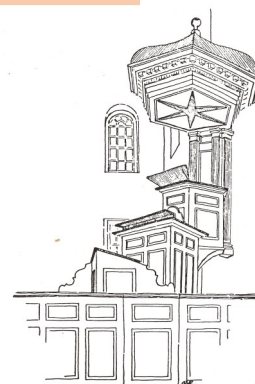


Give thanks
in all circumstances;
for this is the
will of God
in Christ Jesus
for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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Stafford, Va.

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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

A Month for Celebration

November begins about as well as any month could. November 1 is All Saints' Day, when we give thanks for the reality that among the saints of God are included not just those renowned people whom the Church has officially designated as saints but also *all* baptized Christians, who together constitute "the communion of saints" (as we affirm in the Apostles' Creed), regardless how great or how little their fame or their accomplishment. On the second day of November, in an extension of All Saints' Day, we remember the faithful departed, or "all souls." At Aquia Church as in some other places, we observe All Saints' Day on the first Sunday in November, and on that occasion we name in our prayers those who departed this life during the year prior.

Near the end of November, on the 28th, comes the feast day of Kamehameha IV and Emma, the royal couple who helped to bring Anglicanism to the Hawaiian islands and who personally set the tone for so much good work on behalf of Christianity there. In their humility, they helped to construct a hospital, schools, and a cathedral; they worked to bring the first Anglican missionaries and the first Anglican bishop to the region, and the king himself engaged in translating the Book of Common Prayer and many Anglican hymns into the Hawaiian language.

Within the rest of November are a bevy of days honoring some remarkable Anglicans like Richard Hooker (Nov. 3) and C. S. Lewis (Nov. 22—see Chris Arey's article on him later in this issue). Hooker and Lewis are acclaimed for their significant achievement in apologetics, which is a form of

theology that involves giving well-reasoned defenses and explanations of Christian beliefs and practices (apologetics does *not* mean

apologizing for mistakes). Other feast days recognize such bishops and leaders as William Temple (Nov. 6), who helped guide the Church of England through much of World War II, quite earlier missionaries and bishops on the European continent like Willibrord (Nov. 7) and Martin of Tours (Nov. 11), and distinguished preachers and evangelists like Charles Simeon (Nov. 12). On Nov. 14 we recall the consecration of Samuel Seabury as the first bishop in The Episcopal Church, despite the fact that he had been a British loyalist and a Redcoat chaplain during the American Revolution. The charitable benevolence of Margaret, an English princess who became the queen of Scotland and who worked tirelessly to found orphanages, schools, and hospitals and to raise the standards of living for others, is acclaimed on Nov. 16. (Seabury and Margaret represent important examples of genuine reconciliation lived out in everyday life.) Still other days in November are devoted to other saints even less well known and less widely remembered but no less worthy than those mentioned here.

We dare not forget that November also features Thanksgiving, that great day for consuming copious quantities of turkey, dressing, gravy, football, plus required rest and relaxation afterward. Nor should we forget that this quintessentially American holiday traces its roots to celebrations in colonial Virginia and Massachusetts that were expressions of gratitude to God for his provisions for the needs of his people. But unfortunately we risk forgetting that our contemporary and historical celebrations of Thanksgiving are grounded ultimately in the Holy Eucharist—from a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'—because we Christians are thankful for what God has always given so graciously: our lives, our opportunities for freedom and happiness and service, and our salvation. Let's be sure to remember that last one: salvation itself.

Surely November is a month for celebration.

Jay Morris

NOVEMBER



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Thankfulness

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

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 your willingness to show your thankfulness to our God for what he has done for us in Christ Jesus. There is no greater thing for which we can or should be thankful. Jesus Christ is the pinnacle, the greatest gift ever given to us.

My daughter Eleanor memorizes Bible verses as part of her schooling. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 came to mind as I was writing this newsletter article in October. That passage got me thinking about all the things for which I am thankful. There are indeed so many things to choose from! As such, I think it important and helpful for me to express my own thankfulness during this month of November.

I am thankful for you, my church family. You have been there with Rachel, our girls, and me through some tumultuous times over the last seven years. Whether it was bringing us food when Eleanor and Abigail were born or caring for us when I had that nasty bout with shingles in 2018, I have been humbled time and again to see how much you all love us. What a gift and blessing that has been!

I am thankful that I get to partner with you in ministry. Chiefly I am thankful that I have been entrusted with the Gospel ministry (and pleasure) of opening up the Scriptures every week to teach and preach the word of God. There is really nothing like it. Teaching and preaching are two of my favorite things about ministry. It is such a joy to hear you tell me that a sermon that I preached helped you to understand God's word better. I am thankful also for the times that I have received constructive criticism about my preaching and teaching. In addition, I am thankful for the outreach that you do each week feeding the hungry of Stafford County in Jesus' name.



It is a gift and blessing to this community, for sure.

I am thankful for the ways in which God is at work growing this church. We lost a number of people during COVID, either to moving away, to fearing the virus, or to getting out of the habit of going to church. I am thankful for all of the folks who were here every Sunday during that crazy time. Now that the pandemic is well behind us, I am so thankful that many folks who had stayed away have come back. We have many new people who have joined us as well! What a joy it is to be able to greet and welcome new people to this wonderful church we have. It is exciting to see how the Lord is at work to bring about life and growth at Aquia Church.

I am thankful for my health and the health of my family. Even though we have had some tough times over the last seven years, God has richly blessed us with life and health. We have had very little for which we can complain. May God continue to bless you and us in the days, weeks, months, and years to come.

God has been and always will be good to us all. I am thankful for that. 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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

As we officially welcomed fall a couple of weeks ago, I can't help but look around and notice summer fading faster now, with leaves dropping or changing colors and with temperatures dropping. This not an article about climate change; I will leave that topic to the experts. For me, each year around this time, following Fall Fest at Aquia, it is a manifestation of God's love in everything I see, smell, and touch. It is such a unique time, the colors of summer while on the wane fade only to be renewed in spring, just as we are renewed in our faith by many things, including talking with other Christians, joining a study group, and reading a suggested passage of the Bible or a good book.

I feel the seasonal change with the wind; the air has a different smell, and it is hard not to notice flowers taking on a different richness during this season. Thanksgiving begins our celebration of family and kickoff to the holidays. During this time we remember the many things for which we are grate-

ful, such as our church family, our friends, our time together, and the love God has for all of us. Fall races towards the Advent season, which begins this year on Sunday, Dec. 3.

A little note about our recently completed Fall Fest 66. The ECW's mission and ministry are supported financially by our largest fundraiser, Fall Fest. The work and support cannot be overstated, neither can the benefit to our church, our community, our diocese, and world from a joyful day spent amid our church family and our supporting community. One person who attended the live auction (and was a successful bidder there) said that she started attending as a child with her mother. Her calendar is marked for 2024!

God speaks to us through prayer—are you listening?

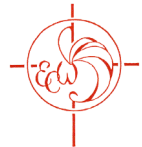
On the morning of Sunday, Dec. 18, we will hold our ECW's Annual Meet-



ing. We hope you will join us in the great hall as we conduct our short business session and honor our 2022 Book of Life honorees.

Briget Kane,
President

Episcopal Church Women's Prayer



Almighty God, we pray that you will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son Jesus. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen.

All women of Aquia are invited to share in the ministry of the ECW. The ECW of Aquia is a chapter of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

For the birth of Jesus did bring hope and joy to the world ...

It seems not long ago and a long time ago—all at the same time—when my little angel and my son the camel entered in front of the congregation during the Christmas pageant at Aquia Church in 2017. A couple of years later in 2019, they dressed in a blue wrap as Mary and a carried a crook as a shepherd.

Since that time, the tradition of the pageant had to be put on hold, and many of our Sunday School students have not had the opportunity to participate in one yet. As any proud parent watching their child, the pageant can be a wonderful photo opportunity, as well as a memory of being a part of the story of the birth of Jesus and the reason we celebrate Christmas.

"Some of my fondest memories of being part of the children's ministry at Aquia are from the annual Christmas pageant, where our youngest members retold the story of the birth of Jesus through Scripture, costume, and song ... and props," said Kristen Morgan, former director of Christian education. "Children dressed as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise men, donkeys, and sheep always brought joy to the congregation."

While the pageant is not too long in length, it will still take a bit of effort to put together. A minimal time commitment would be needed from children, parents, and volunteers for a practice run, costume trials, and during the Sunday of the pageant. Aquia has such

a dedicated group of children and youth this year that could help spread the joy of the season to a Sunday morning church service before the holiday—tentatively Dec. 17 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

"There really is something magical about experiencing Advent and Christmas through our children," said Morgan. "I look forward to attending it this year."



*Christmas
Pageant*

Kimberly Bamber



STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service, and Fellowship

The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild would like to thank all the parishioners who stopped by our two rooms at Fall Fest 2023! We also wish to thank all who donated to both the jewelry and the craft rooms. A special thanks goes to the volunteers who pitched in at 2 p.m. to pack up and ready the Wirman Room and the parish hall for our renters (Christ Apostolic Church International) for their Sunday worship service. With such wonderful help, we were able to make the rooms shipshape in record time.

If you missed our craft tables at Fall Fest, be sure to see the lovely array of remaining Christmas items displayed on the ECW's Advent gift tables at the back of the great hall starting on Sunday, Nov. 19. Yes, our little shop of handmade ornaments, little wax angels, beautiful wreaths, Aquia Church note cards, and so much more will be opening a couple of weeks early to help you with your Christmas decorating and

shopping. Be sure to stop by any Sunday morning from Nov. 19 through Dec. 17 after either the 7:30 service or the 10:30 service. Included in our inventory are delightful "HomeSewn by Kimberley" tea towels, given to the Fall Fest craft room by a friend of Aquia Church. The themes include many holidays plus 'coffee,' 'fishing,'



"HomeSewn by Kimberley" Tea Towels

and 'hot peppers.' Sorry, there are no Christmas towels left.

In November, the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild will meet on the 2nd and the 16th. On Nov. 2, we will gather in the parish hall (lower level of the 1960 parish house); for the Nov. 16 meeting, we will be in the great hall of the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building, setting up the Advent gift tables. Our meetings start at 9:30 a.m. with Morning Prayer and end at noon with smiles and hugs.

All ladies of the parish and their friends are welcome to join us. Please join your sisters-in-Christ in a morning of worship, study, and fellowship. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild.

Mary Jane Cole

(maryjane@cfsw.biz)

Carolyn Hendrickson

(cvhendrickson35@gmail.com)

Fall Fest Live Auction "After Action"

A huge "thank you" goes to all parishioners and merchants who contributed to the 2023 Fall Fest live auction! This year, we offered 27 grouped or individual items for bidding. Twenty-one of these were built with gifts of time, talent, and donations from our own parish family. The merchants and business owners who contributed to the auction are listed below. Please remember them when you do your holiday shopping and thank them for donating to your church's major outreach fundraiser.

Mary Jane Cole, Auction Chair

Sponsors of the 2023 Fall Fest Auction

610 Car Wash
Alpine Chef
Aquia Harbour Golf Club
Augustine Golf Club
Buffalo Wild Wings
El Gran Charro
Essex Inn at Tappahannock
Flowers by Val
Forest Greens Golf Club

Gari Melchers Home and Studio
Gauntlet Golf Club
Jabberwocky Children's Books & Toys
Jewel Box
Marriot Fredericksburg Historic District
Meadows Farms
Olde Virginia Gourmet
Outback Steakhouse of Stafford
Pets Plus

Potomac Point Vineyard & Winery
Publix Super Market
Riverside Center for the Performing Arts
Robiolina Italian Cuisine
Sake Thai and Sushi Bar
Sunset Cruises of Stafford
Wawa
Wegmans
Zibibbo 73 Italian Restaurant



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 26, 2023, via Zoom

Business Session

Attendance: Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector; Charlie Bingay, Assistant Treasurer; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden; Christine Bowie, Dale Hendon, Carolyn Hendrickson, Sarah Kirby, Walt Peterson, Anna Rall, Lisa Schwartz, Penny Stevens

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

- Update provided by Assistant Treasurer Charlie Bingay
- Double payment of mortgage will be corrected
- Reviewed incomes/expenses and statement of activity
- Father Jay – Trustees of the Funds Update
 - ◇ Recently conducted annual external audit and found a third case of fraud going back to December 2022 (the other two have already been discussed and handled)
 - ◇ Expect churches to provide contribution from return on their investments to cover the loss in this case as in previous two cases

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **R-2023-10: Door Replacement Project in Parish House**

- **Matching Challenge Opportunity for CFFB**
- **Options for Stained-Glass Artwork in Great Hall as Fall Fest Live Auction Item**
- **Seating Restrictions in Historic Church (facemasks from COVID-19 pandemic)**
- **Vestry Nut/Candy Sales at Fall Fest and Afterward**

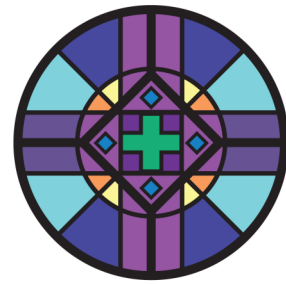
Approved unanimously by vestry on 9/26/23

New Business

- **R-2023-11: Adjustments to the 2023 Budget**
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
- **R-2023-12: Sale of Burial Rights to Carol & Ron Korth**
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
- **R-2023-13: Sale of Burial Rights to Anna & Drew Rall**
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
- **R-2023-14: Sale of Burial Rights to Brenda & Carrol Frederick**
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
- **Annual Pledge Campaign**
- **Fall Fest 2023**
 - ◇ Saturday, Oct. 7 (8 a.m.–2 p.m.)

Reports from Committees, Senior Warden, and Rector

- Administration Committee
 - ◇ Church will absorb fees from using Square at Fall Fest, as the cost of doing business



Vestry Highlights

- Finance Committee
 - ◇ Discussed Trustees of the Funds additional fraud account previously discussed during vestry meeting
- Building and Grounds Committee
 - ◇ Updates provided via e-mail
 - ◇ Fall cleanup will be held Saturday, Nov. 18 (8 a.m.–2 p.m.)

Upcoming Dates

10/7 Fall Fest (8 a.m.–2 p.m.)
10/22 Confirmation with Bishop Dabney Smith (10:30 a.m. worship service; followed by reception and then meeting with bishop and vestry)
10/24 Vestry meeting (7 p.m. in person, dinner available starting at 6:15 p.m.)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Rall
Register

C. S. Lewis, continued from p. 7

Observed describes his bereavement in such a painful and personal fashion that he published it under a pseudonym to protect his privacy. Ironically, many friends recommended the book to Lewis as a method for dealing with his own

grief. After his death, his authorship was made public.

The collect for Lewis's feast day is: "O God of searing truth and surpassing beauty, we give you thanks for Clive Staples Lewis, whose sanctified imagination lit fires of faith in young and old alike.

Surprise us also with your joy and draw us into that new and abundant life which is ours in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen." (*Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2022).

Chris Arey



C. S. Lewis

For many older Americans, the date Nov. 22, 1963, is burned into their memories. Indeed, many people (including myself) can tell you exactly where they were on the day President Kennedy was assassinated. The enormity of this event eclipsed the death of another man, whose legacy and contributions to the faith have only increased with time. Clive Staples Lewis, better known as C.S. Lewis—author, poet, scholar, and lay Anglican apologist is recognized annually by the Church on the anniversary of his death, Nov. 22.

The story of Lewis' life journey has been told in biographies and film (as late as 2021, *The Reluctant Convert*) and at the eponymous C. S. Lewis Institute. His literary contributions to Christianity have influenced millions of people and have helped shaped the understanding of our faith. He was born in 1898 in Belfast, Ireland. His father was a solicitor, his mother was university educated, and with his older brother Warren, grew up in a very literary household, where he was known as 'Jack.' He attended boarding schools and prepared to enter Oxford, but service in France during World War I delayed his studies. At Oxford he excelled, graduating in 1922. In 1925 he became a fellow and tutor at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he stayed until 1954. From 1954 to 1963 he was professor of medieval and Renaissance English at the University of Cambridge.

Though raised in the Church of Ireland, he became disillusioned with his faith, and as a teenager became an atheist. His atheism was amplified by his service during the First World War. In 1918, the 19-year-old second lieutenant, mired in the dystopian horror of trench warfare on the western front, was serving with the Somerset Light Infantry. In April of that year, he was wounded by artillery, and eventually medically evacuated back to England. Though he regained some of his appreciation for life, he did not abandon his atheism until he completed his studies

and joined the faculty at Oxford, and engaged with other academics who weaned him away from atheism to belief in God in 1929 and eventually to Christianity in September 1931. In his book *Surprised by Joy*, he wrote this about his return to God:

"You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen [College, Oxford], night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929. I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."

Central to his return to the faith was his relationship with J.R.R. Tolkien, a veteran of the Battle of the Somme and devout Catholic, whom Lewis first met in 1926. Lewis joined Tolkien and other Oxford academics, and others (including his older brother Warren, and Tolkien's son Christopher) in informal literary discussions, and became one of the 'Inklings,' a group whose members encouraged literary pursuits.

Lewis wrote poetry from an early age, and eventually published 30 books. As his renown increased during World War II, he spoke on the BBC about faith. From 1941 to 1943, he broadcast from London while the periodic air raids occurred. Later, these broadcasts were anthologized into his book, *Mere Christianity*. In 1942 he wrote *The Screwtape Letters*, a Christian apologetic epistolary novel which he dedicated to J.R.R. Tolkien and which remains popular today. (Aquia Church explored *The Screwtape Letters* as a Lenten study book a few years ago.)

Intrigued with fantasy literature from an early age, between 1949 and 1954 he wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia*, a series of seven novels. The novels take place in Narnia, a fantasy world



C. S. Lewis

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of magic, mythical beasts and talking animals. It recalls the adventures of several children who play pivotal roles in the unfolding history of the Narnian world. Early in World War II, Lewis took in three evacuated children, and explored the idea of a book based on the experiences of children. Lewis stated that he did not intentionally craft the stories as allegorically Christian. In an essay in 1956, he wrote: "This is all pure moonshine. I couldn't write in that way. It all began with images; a faun carrying an umbrella, a queen on a sledge, a magnificent lion. At first there wasn't anything Christian about them; that element pushed itself in of its own accord." He took the name Narnia from Narni, a town in Italy whose Latin name (Narnia), appealed to him. Narni is in Umbria, halfway between Rome and Assisi. *The Chronicles of Narnia* has been in publication continuously since 1950, has sold more than 120 million copies, and has been translated into 47 languages. It has been adapted for stage, radio, film and television and is considered one of the classic works in children's literature.

Lewis married late in life. At age 57, in 1956 he married Joy Davidman Gresham, an American divorcee, in a civil ceremony, and their marriage was blessed a year later in the church. She was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died in July 1960. Lewis's book *A Grief*

Continued on page 6 ...



Ordination of The Reverend Stephen Pecot



MANDI SINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

The newly ordained priest, The Reverend Stephen Pecot, leads the congregation in the exchange of the peace.



JAY MORRIS

The Reverend Stephen Pecot and his wife, Travis Pecot.



MANDI SINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Consecration of the Priest, when the bishop (center, wearing a mitre) and other priests lay hands on the person being ordained.



MANDI SINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Reverend Jay Morris and The Reverend Stephen Pecot.

On the warm afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 7, Father Jay Morris represented Aquia Church at the priestly ordination of our former seminarian, Stephen Pecot. The worship service took place with a packed crowd at the historic Trinity Episcopal Church in Apalachicola, Florida, where Stephen is the clergy in charge; it was the first ordination held there in

some sixty years (with at least one person attending both of those ordinations!). The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, led the service. Stephen and his wife, Travis, report that they are very happy to live in that area and to serve that congregation. Stephen was very grateful to receive the huge greeting card that so

many parishioners from Aquia Church signed, and that card now occupies a prominent place in his office. An audio-video recording of the ordination is available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQuyHm6dHIs>

Jay Morris



Fun at Aquia's 66th Fall Fest



2023



ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID & MARY KARCHER



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Confirmation: Sean Gould, Oct. 22, 2023

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows: Sarah Kirby and Pat Quinn, Oct. 22, 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 want 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.

Aquia Church Prayer List

November 2023

Rhett Blythe and family, Debbie Byers, Laura Chichester, Richard Chichester, Paula Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Brenda Frederick, Jeanette Lempka, Lori, Lori Hendon, Ken Luehrs, the Meinhardt family, Pam, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Dennis Springer, Nicole Sundby, Barbara Taylor and family, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Warner Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Bryce Vinson, Jen Wassmer, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



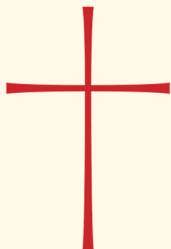
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office@aquiachurch.org

<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.**



Landscaping Project: An Update

Earlier in 2023 the Vestry approved the creation of a task group to focus on enhancing and beautifying our church grounds. The Project to Landscape the Aquia Church Environment (PLACE) task group—comprising Jeanelle Wells, Penny and Bob Stevens, Carol Korth, Sheryl Colliver, Christine Hammer, and Chris Arey—took on this challenge.

If you are observant, you will see the fruits of their labor around the Fleurries and main entrance to the cemetery. Though we initially met with some landscape designers, we were thrilled when Jeanelle appeared among us as a parishioner who is a professional landscape architect. The Vestry approved a plan devised by Jeanelle. With the expertise of Penny Stevens (our certified master gardener and purchasing agent) and her husband Bob (who is a wizard with his earth-moving machinery), the task group has largely finished

the first phase of the plan: beautification around the Fleurries. The plantings will take a couple of years to grow to their intended size. We will be planting some annuals to provide some color over the late fall and winter.

The PLACE task group intends to seek reauthorization in 2024 and plans to improve landscaping around other

church buildings, exempting our 1757 church for the meantime. If you have ideas or an interest in joining this effort, please contact the church office (office@aquiachurch.org), and insert 'Landscaping' in the subject line of your e-mail message.

Chris Arey



Flower Guild News

After a number of years of involvement and leadership with the flower guild, Sheryl Colliver has decided to step back from this ministry group and focus on other areas of service. In turn, Margaret Hedger has graciously accepted appointment as the new head of the flower guild. We are

grateful to both of these parishioners for their faithful, joyful ministry with the flower guild. If you are interested in working with the talented folks who arrange the floral displays that adorn our sanctuary, or if you want more information about this ministry group, please contact Margaret Hedger.



Grounds Clean-up



Our fall grounds cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, Nov. 18 (8 a.m.–noon)**. The Building and Grounds Committee invites all hands to help with the tasks of leaf removal, garden cleaning, and fall trimming to get our grounds ready for the holiday season. Please bring blowers, rakes, shears, and similar tools, along with gloves if you have them. In case of rain, we will shift to the next Saturday, Nov. 25.





Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

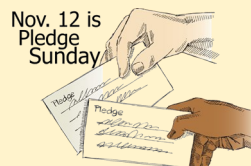


November Reminders



Be on time for church!
Set your clocks BACK an hour by 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5

Please submit your financial pledge cards at any worship service on Sunday, Nov. 12, or return it to the church office by that date.



Our annual Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m., with music chosen especially for the occasion. At this worship service, we shall lift up all the index cards that parishioners have submitted with notes of gratitude to God for particular blessings in their lives. Blank index cards are available at the tall table at the back of the church.