



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

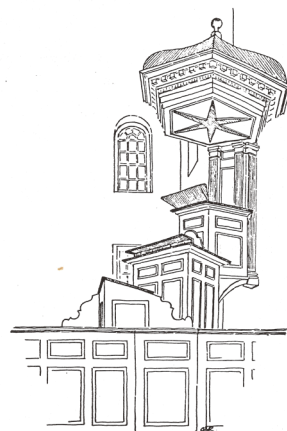
Cross Section

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



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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Richmond Hwy.
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

For a Change, Change Your Perspective on Lent

We generally think of Lent as a season for giving up something fun, which is often something of trivial importance (like chocolate or snacks) or some relatively minor offense (like cussing). Yet when the pleasure was already so momentary as to be fleeting, or when (quite apart from Lent) you already know that you need to cut carbs or lose weight, then there's probably no real sacrifice being made. After all, a sacrifice is supposed to be something that makes one holy. Does skipping dessert a few times during Lent really make one holy? Does changing a few vocabulary words for only forty days really make one holy?

What God wants from us is not a temporary show, but a heart that is truly sorry about its sinfulness and thus will change after repenting. Perhaps some folks need not so much to give up something small as to take on something big—such as attending church week after week, or becoming actively involved in a ministry group, or praying for people with whom you have deep disagreements. You could begin a habit that can significantly change your life for good and that can genuinely last long after Lent ends.

Lent is somewhat like spring house-cleaning: an opportunity for going through the closets, drawers, and other hidey-holes in order to clear out the clutter, take out the trash, and freshen up the scene. We all too easily accumulate junk, just as we effortlessly let the cares and preoccupations of this world build up and become obstacles that blind us from seeing life as God wants us to see it. And because we try to obscure our sins by hiding them from public view,

we need to engage in self-examination and explicitly call to mind our sins, in the hope that God will forgive them and remember them no more.

Alas, this annual exercise typically disappoints us because we know that that our lives—like our homes—will probably need to have this ritual repeated (and repeated repeatedly, if truth be told) before long-lasting benefit can occur. You can spend a weekend or a week cleaning house from top to bottom, but in a month or so the same old mess will likely reappear. The same is frequently true after Lent ends: the old bad habits resurface, and life returns to what passes for normalcy. So we should prepare ourselves to need Lenten transformation more than once—perhaps even to desire Lenten transformation often.

While a thorough house-cleaning takes time and trouble, to be sure, the reward is worth the effort. Yet it's practically impossible for one person to do everything necessary for maintaining a home on a daily basis, not to mention the extra work involved in a comprehensive clean-up. That is true for our domestic lives, just as for our spiritual lives: I cannot do the work alone. Self-examination and repentance—if they are to make any difference—will ultimately involve more than yourself. One's own self-scrutiny cannot remain confined to oneself because it moves one toward confession to God and to others; likewise, personal or individual repentance leads inexorably to group repentance by and among the community. Moreover, Lent will not produce enduring transformation unless God himself is leading the way in that work.

The upshot of these reflections: let this year's Lent be a time for real change. Focus not on what tiny victories I can achieve on my own, but on what aspects of our lives should be sacrificed fully and finally so that there will be room for God's grace to convert us into the people who live as God wants us to live.

Jay Morris



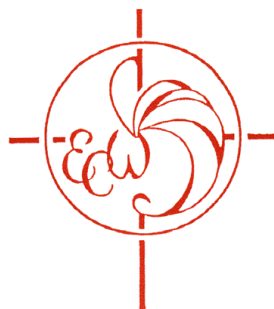
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

February is the month when we celebrate love, with the most important of kind of love being God's love for us. In the season of Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter excluding Sundays), we practice traditional rituals such as fasting. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year. So Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated worldwide on Feb. 13 this year.

In place of a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, the ECW will serve a pancake breakfast in the great hall on Sunday, Feb. 11. Immediately following the 7:30 a.m. worship service, we will serve a traditional pancake breakfast until 10:15 a.m. We hope you will bring your family and start your Lenten season with us.

One of my favorite Bible verses about God's love for us as shown throughout the Bible is this: "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We also learn the definition of love from the apostle Paul: it is patient, it is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). These lessons are centered around God's love during Lent.

The Episcopal Church Women's mission is to share the love of God by making



Christ known in the world through prayer, education, concern for others, and joyful service. "Do everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14), we are told in the Bible. We also hear this: "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1 John 4:12).

It is also important to remember to love and share God's love in our lives and our Christian activities and missions.

Some of our yearly activities include Heritage Sunday each May, the spring UTO ingathering, Homecoming in September, Fall Fest in October, the fall UTO ingathering, the annual meeting of the diocesan ECW, and the annual meeting of Aquia's ECW in December.

Our partner ministries include Fall Fest and Aquia's Table. If one of these piques your interest and you would like to learn more, please contact me. You may e-mail me at bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com, or ask the church office for my phone number.

Briget Kane

December 31, 2023

Dear Friends of Aquia Church,

Thank you so much for your wonderful letter and best wishes for my retirement. They mean so much to me. The fifteen plus years I've spent with you have been very special and an important part of my personal growth in the love of God.

*Your friend,
Doug McGinity*



AQUIA CHURCH VESTRY

Michael Ferrantino

Administration Committee

Brad Hammer

Junior Warden

*Chairperson, Building &
Grounds Committee*

Dale Hendon

Finance Committee

Carolyn Hendrickson

Administration Committee

Bill Hoffman

Senior Warden

Sarah Kirby

*Administration Committee
Building & Grounds Committee*

Walt Peterson

*Chairperson, Administration
Committee*

Pat Quinn

Administration Committee

Anna Rall

Register

Chairperson, Finance Committee

Penny Stevens

Building & Grounds Committee



The Woman at the Well

If the phrase ‘compare and contrast’ gives you flashbacks of high school English, then know that this literary challenge has existed for ages. In classical literature, *Plutarch’s Lives* may be the most well-known example. In the Bible, you find this literary technique everywhere. In such parables as the Good Samaritan, the Ten Foolish Virgins, and the Talents, among others, Jesus very pointedly uses this technique to drive home the lesson of his teaching.

In the Gospels, the authors also use this technique. In John’s Gospel, in chapter 3, we learn about Jesus’ after-dark encounter with Nicodemus, a wealthy and learned Jew, a Pharisee, and a member of the Sanhedrin, who seems favorably disposed towards Jesus. In response to Jesus’ teaching about new birth, Nicodemus seems perplexed if not skeptical. He asks, “How can a man be born when he is old? Surely, he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Nicodemus is puzzled about the prospect of new birth, postulating that one would need to enter the womb again. In chapter 4 of John’s Gospel, we read about Jesus’ noontime encounter with a Samaritan woman who, on the social scale, is a polar opposite to Nicodemus—a woman, a Samaritan, married multiple times, and perhaps a pariah in her own town. Where would this meeting with Jesus lead her, and us?

The history of Samaria is complex, as is the reason why its inhabitants were viewed with such enmity by the Jews. The city and region of Samaria lay south of Galilee and north of Judea. When the Israelites seized the land of Canaan, the land which became Samaria was given to the tribe of Ephraim and half of the tribe of Manasseh. After Solomon’s reign, when the nation of Israel divided, the northern ten tribes became the Kingdom of Israel and Samaria became part of the Northern Kingdom. During the reign of Omri, the sixth king of (northern) Israel, the capital of the Northern Kingdom was

moved from Tirzah to the newly built capital city, Samaria (1 Kings 16:24). Eventually, during the reign of the nineteenth king, Hoshea (2 Kings 17:5–8), in 722 B.C. the Assyrians conquered Samaria. The Assyrians carried many of the Israelites away and repopulated the land with inhabitants of Babylon and other eastern regions (2 Kings 17:24). Over time, these people intermarried with the remaining Israelites, becoming a people of mixed heritage—Samaritans. These Samaritans created their own brand of Judaism and built their own temple at Mount Gerizim. The Jews loathed them as unclean and rejected their legitimacy; Samaritans likewise despised the Jews.

Jesus’ travels between Galilee and Jerusalem took him across Samaria. In John 4, he comes to a town called Sychar, near Jacob’s well, at the sixth hour of the day. Jacob’s well is not specifically identified in the Old Testament, though Jacob’s related purchase of land near Shechem is recorded in Genesis 33:18-20. At this well, standing by himself at noon, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman, which was a most improbable social interaction. In the ensuing discussion, the woman upbraids Jesus for asking for a drink of water, reminding him that their peoples do not interact. Jesus speaks of ‘living water’ with which one will never thirst again. He proceeds to tell her about her life: Jesus describes her five prior husbands, her current partner, and (as she announces) “everything I ever did.” Jesus declares to her that he is the Messiah, and eventually we learn that the woman’s testimony about Jesus convinced many of her fellow Samaritans to believe in Jesus. With Jesus remaining in the area for two days, many more people came to believe in him.

In later centuries within eastern Christian hagiography, this anonymous woman was believed to have been baptized by the disciples and given the name Photini, in Greek, meaning ‘luminous’ or ‘enlightened one.’ A narrative about her evangelism and zeal to



spread the gospel grew. An Orthodox interpretation of her multiple marriages considered the possibility of divorce (a practice which was sanctioned by the Pentateuch but which Jesus condemned), or Levirate marriages (in which the brother of a deceased man is obligated to marry his brother’s widow), or widowhood, and less of presumed promiscuity. The non-biblical narrative of her later life—probably contrived in the 11th or 12th century—has her travelling with her family of five sisters and two sons to Carthage, where she had a vision of Jesus calling her to evangelize people in Rome. Eventually she came to the attention of Emperor Nero. She confronted Nero; and after converting Nero’s daughter Domnina (who is unknown to classical sources), her family endured torture and confinement. Eventually, Photini was martyred by being thrown down a dry well. The irony is palpable.

This is the collect on the feast honoring Photini (February 26): “O Almighty God, whose most blessed Son revealed to the Samaritan woman that He is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the World: Grant us to drink of the well that springs up to everlasting life, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Chris Arey



STS. MARY AND MARTHA GUILD

Worship, Service, and Fellowship

Start out the new year with a new activity. Join us at the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild meeting on Thursdays at 9:30. Meet and make new friends. You can help us with our crafts for Fall Fest and the Advent gift table. See, it's a win/win situation! A few of us are "craft challenged," so you won't even stick out in that instance, even if you are "all thumbs".

We start out with Morning Prayer, led by our clergy, a brief business meeting, and snack and conversation, then we read a chapter from our current book (which is currently *Having A Mary Heart, in a Martha World*) and discuss it. Finally, we wrap it up with creating a craft. Laughter and conversation occur while we 'diligently' work.

Plan to join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month. If there is a fifth Thursday in that month, we have a service meeting. You'll find out the agenda for that at a business meeting earlier that month. Come at 9:30 for this ministry, and spend the morning with fellow sisters-in-Christ. It will be a rewarding endeavor.

If anyone ascribes to the axiom, "unless it is documented, it didn't happen" (I know the medical world definitely does), let us note that Mary Jane Cole is stepping down as a co-chairperson of the Sts. Mary and Martha guild. She is assuming the administration of Aquia's Pantry, so her involvement with other ministries has to be adjusted (after all, she is human!).



Kathie League will be joining me (Carolyn Hendrickson) as co-chairperson, and we will attempt to assume Mary Jane's role, but we can't touch her superlative dedication.

Any questions? Simply ask me (Carolyn Hendrickson, docpch@gmail.com) or Kathie League (kleague6412@gmail.com).

*Faithfully submitted,
Carolyn Hendrickson*

TREASURER'S NOTE

End-of-year contribution statements for 2023 are available from the church office, in case you have not already picked up yours at church. Any discrepancies between your records and ours should be referred to parish administrator Sue Selz (office@aquiachurch.org or 540-659-4007) for resolution.

For 2023 in-kind donations which have not previously been identified, parishioners are asked to provide the receipts to the church office as soon as possible. In the event that in-kind receipts are not received by the office before end-of-year statements are produced, the Treasurer will provide a separate statement for these in-kind donations.

For 2024, if you are requesting reimbursement for an in-kind contribution, please consider holding your request until you reach the amount of \$25.00. Our new security-enhanced checks cost \$0.88 each, and postage for each check is now \$0.66, so we are

trying to minimize the cost of producing checks for small dollar amounts. We make this suggestion for the sake of good stewardship. If this is not feasible for you, we will process your check per your request.

You may check your financial contribution statement online at your convenience through our Realm electronic service, once you have established your account there. That way, you can stay up-to-date with your pledge and ensure proper crediting of your gifts. Simply download the "Realm Connect" app, follow the prompts, and then ask Sue Selz in the church office for an invitation to start using Realm. Alternatively, she can look up your information for you or provide a printed copy of your statement.

In addition, you may donate to Aquia Church through Realm. When making contributions through electronic giving, when you can absorb the nominal transaction cost. That is very



helpful so that the church will receive the full amount of your intended contribution. *Please note to use the correct category of contribution:* if you submitted a pledge card and make a donation online, then please use that category. If you did not submit a pledge card, then please use the non-pledged category—just as important and helpful. Be mindful that you can make an electronic contribution and apportion your gifts between multiple purposes, e.g., pledge, flowers, outreach, etc.

Chris Arey



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Time to Catch Up: Please note that there are two months of Vestry Highlights included this month due to the early publication of our single issue covering December and January.

In attendance: Rector Fr. Jay Morris,
November 28, 2023

Assistant Rector Fr. James Rickenbaker, Treasurer Chris Arey, Walt Peterson, Carolyn Hendrickson, Penny Stevens, Michael Golasz, Sarah Kirby, Dale Hendon, and Chris Bowie.

Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

Chris Arey walked the vestry through the Treasurer's Report. October saw a return to regular giving. Nothing else major to report.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Report on External Audit (approved 10/24)

Michael Golasz's name was added to the attendees. The minutes were passed unanimously as amended.

Continuing Business

- **Annual Pledge Campaign** (\$261,868.00 from 52 pledging units for General Fund; \$86,200.00 from 22 pledging units for Heritage Endowment Fund)

The number of pledging units and the total amount pledged is a bit low for where we are at the moment. There is plenty of time left in the 2023 calendar year for people to turn in pledge cards. A reminder will be sent out soon to those who have not yet pledged this year, but have pledged in the recent past.

- **Clergy Sabbaticals**

Fr. James presented his proposal for his sabbatical during January and February

2024. The vestry accepted his proposal unanimously.

- **2024 Parish Annual Meeting and Election of New Vestry Members**

Fr. Jay mentioned that, as of yet, we have not received many nomination forms for vestry. He encouraged the vestry to think about eligible parishioners who would work well on the vestry and to consider prayerfully inviting those people to nominate themselves.

New Business

The new business item for this meeting was the draft budget. There were a few changes mentioned that will be sent to the Finance Committee for possible addition in the next draft.

Reports from Committees, Wardens, and Rector

Administration Committee:

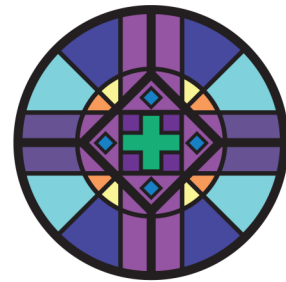
Fr. Jay reported on the Administration Committee meeting. Their primary business was to take up the question of a cost-of-living adjustment for the staff. They put forward a 4% COLA, something which the Finance Committee was already considering. They met and dealt with the goals completed and still in progress for the year. The inventory was completed. The Administration Committee started to look at whether or not to continue to serve as a polling place for elections for Stafford County.

Finance Committee:

In the absence of Anna Rall, chair of the Finance Committee, Fr. Jay reported on the Finance Committee. Their primary business was the draft budget.

Building & Grounds Committee:

Fr. Jay was not able to give much of an update from the B&G Committee. The only update that could be mentioned



Vestry Highlights

was that the grounds cleanup on Nov. 17 was a great success.

Upcoming Dates

- 12/19/23 Vestry meeting NOTE: Third Tuesday instead of fourth (location and time TBD)

The vestry decided that their December meeting will be held at Fr. Jay's house, with dinner to be available starting around 5:30/5:45 p.m.

- 01/07/2024 (9 a.m.): Worship service with Parish Annual Meeting and election of new vestry members (backup date in case of snow/ice: 01/14/2024)
- 1/13/2024 (9 a.m.–3:00 p.m.): Tentative date and time for vestry retreat (backup date in case of snow/ice for Annual Meeting or vestry retreat: 01/20/2024)
- 1/23/2024 (7 p.m.): First regular vestry meeting of 2024

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. James Rickenbaker
Acting Register



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dec. 19, 2023

Attendees: 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, Penny Stevens

Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

- Expect 2023 pledged income to fall short of pledged amount
- Goal for matching challenge for CFFB construction loan was met and exceeded, and the funds of the match have been received

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **Clergy Sabbatical for the Assistant Rector**

Approved unanimously

New Business

- **R-2023-15: Designation of Parsonage Allowance for the Rector** (Finance Committee)
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
- **R-2023-16: Designation of Parsonage Allowance for the Assistant Rector** (Finance Committee)
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
- **R-2023-17: Adjustments to 2023 Budget** (Finance Committee)
 - ◇ Approved unanimously
 - ◇ Father James mentioned his travel expenses will go over budget but the overage will be less than 10%, so budget adjustment will not be needed
- **R-2023-18: Adoption of 2024 Budget** (Finance Committee)
 - ◇ Amendment – #6298 should be reduced to \$1,500 instead of \$1,700 (because \$1,500 is the amount of obligation)

- ◇ Draft budget as amended is approved unanimously
- **[R-2024-01: Appointment of Michael Ferrantino to the Vestry]**
 - ◇ *Approved unanimously by electronic vote on 01/13/2024*
- **[R-2024-02: Replacement of HVAC System at Rectory]**
 - ◇ *Approved unanimously by electronic vote on 01/13/2024*
- **[R-2024-03: Appointment of Patricia Quinn to the Vestry]**
 - ◇ *Approved unanimously by electronic vote on 01/18/2024*

Continuing Business

- Annual Pledge Campaign (as of 12/19: \$309,078.00 from 66 pledges for general fund, plus \$100,590.00 from 24 pledges for Heritage Endowment Fund)
- 2024 Parish Annual Meeting and Election of New Vestry Members
 - ◇ *[Approved one nominee, Brad Hammer, which leaves three adult vacancies for this class of vestry members]*
 - ◇ *[Vestry can appoint individuals for one-year terms outside of nominees]*

Reports from Committees, Wardens, and Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

- Will send a proposal for repairs to cracks in the ceiling of the great hall in the CFFB

Finance Committee:

- December meeting items were covered under resolutions and budget

Administration Committee:

- Conducted a review of completed goals and unfinished goals for 2023
- Reviewed janitorial services request for an increase in cost

- Christ Apostolic Church International no longer wishes to continue their monthly rental of the 1960 parish house

Upcoming Dates

- 12/24/23: Advent IV worship service at 10:30 a.m.
- 12/24/23: Christmas Eve worship services at 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 10 p.m., with Christmas music 30 minutes before each service
- 01/7/2024 (9 a.m.): Worship service with Parish Annual Meeting and election of new vestry members (backup date in case of snow/ice: 01/14/2024)
- 01/13/2024 (9 a.m.–3 p.m.): Tentative date and time for vestry retreat (backup date in case of snow/ice for Annual Meeting or vestry retreat: 01/20/2024)
- 01/23/2024 (7 p.m.): First regular vestry meeting of 2024

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Rall
Register



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Transferred in: *“And the Lord added to their number day by day”* (Acts 2:47):
Bradley Hammer

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

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

Those being deployed: Please call the church office so that we can offer special prayers at a service prior to your departure. Also, we would like to put you on our prayer list for all those who are deployed in the service of our country.

FUTURE BAPTISMS



The next scheduled date for a baptism is April 7, 2024. 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.

PRAYERS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

Brett and Sarah (Selz) Moran

Aquia Church Prayer List

February 2024

Janet Arey, Joseph Bigini, Rhett Blythe and Family, Russell Boes, Debbie Byers, Laura Chichester, Richard Chichester, Paula Davis, Wayne Eastham, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Lori, Lori Hendon, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Jackie Soos, Dennis Springer, Nicole Sundby, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Warner Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Bryce Vinson, Jen Wassmer, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



How to reach us:

www.aquiachurch.org
office@aquiachurch.org
(540) 659-4007

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



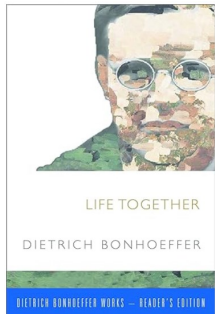
We, as Aquia Church, joyfully respond to the grace, love and fellowship
of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit at work in our midst
by celebrating His presence, sharing His abundance,
and proclaiming His word throughout the world.



2024 Lenten Dinner-and-Discussion Series

One of my favorite traditions here is the dinner-and-discussion series that we offer each Lent (and occasionally at other times, too). The idea is simple: each week we gather in the CFFB's great hall for a shared meal and for shared conversation about a book that will be spiritually helpful for our Lenten journey.

This year our book is *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Reader's Edition: Fortress Press, 2015). Bonhoeffer



was a twentieth-century German Lutheran theologian and pastor who led a remarkable life. He traveled widely—not only visiting such places as Rome and north Africa, but also complet-

ing a year's worth of ministry in Spain, a year's worth of study in the United States, over a year's worth of ministry in England, and a second trip to America—before returning to Germany in the years leading up to World War II. During the Third Reich, Bonhoeffer helped to lead a movement called the Confessing Church that opposed Hitler's approach to state-controlled Christianity. To that end, Bonhoeffer supported a network that trained pastors, and he worked closely with a seminary that the Gestapo closed for being subversive.

Bonhoeffer was later involved in a plot to assassinate Hitler and was eventually hanged to death at a concentration camp for his part in that conspiracy.

While Bonhoeffer is perhaps best known for his writings on Christian discipleship (representing some of the best theological reflection on that topic), he deserves to be recognized also for his views on the nature of the Church and on Christian community. Much of his perspective on these matters appears in his book *Life Together*, which he wrote less than five years before being arrested and executed. Bonhoeffer's inspiration for this little volume was the need that Christians have to be faithful to Jesus, even when confronted with great personal adversities of the very sort that he himself and his fellow pastors were facing.

Life Together covers a variety of topics that are valuable for understanding what God wants Christians to do with their lives and who God expects us to become. Bonhoeffer provides perspective on the kind of reality that the Church is, and what that entails for how Christians should spend their days laboring individually in some cases but also working together with fellow believers in other situations. He also addresses what genuine Christian service looks like and how it should be sustained by specific devotional practices.

On the Thursdays from February 15 through March 21, you are invited to



join us for a simple but sufficient Lenten meal featuring soups and salads, with attention to the needs of vegetarians, vegans, and those on a gluten-free diet. The meal will be available starting at 6:00 p.m., and our discussion about the book and its significance for our lives will end around 8:00 p.m. The clergy will guide the conversation each week, with opportunities for parishioners to present their own views and with plenty of space for folks to listen and consider the material without having to speak up.

Part of our hope for this series is that that this gathering for food and fellowship will become an occasion that we welcome week after week as we build up the community of Christians at Aquia Church. Part of our adventure will be discerning where this series will lead us next, or what new doors it will open. In order to reserve your copy of the book (unless you prefer to purchase a Kindle version for yourself) and in order to reserve your seat for the meal, simply sign up for the series at the back of the church, or let me know directly that you will attend.

Jay Morris

Dennis and Patricia give grateful thanks for all the lovely prayers, cards, and support for us and our families for the recent death of our grandson, Peter Thomas. God is there through each of you!

Pat & Dennis Springer





Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ash Wednesday—February 14



Aquia Church will offer the Holy Eucharist, with the imposition of ashes available, on **Ash Wednesday at noon and 7 p.m.**

Please note: People driving to the evening service should plan to park in the large parking lot between the 1960 parish house, the Fleur-ries office building, and the historic church (instead of parking in front of the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building and instead of entering the cemetery driveway), so as not to interfere with traffic for Aquia's Table/Aquia's Pantry around the same time.

For those who cannot attend in person, there will be an Ash Wednesday broadcast starting at noon over our Facebook page www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch.