



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

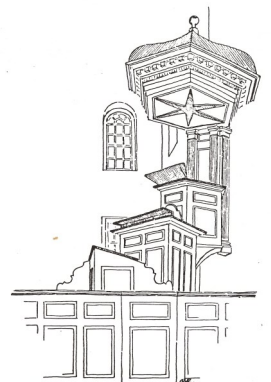
Cross Section

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



INSIDE:

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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

After Easter, Now What?

After Lent and Holy Week come to an end with our celebrations on Easter Sunday, sometimes I hear some version of this question: “now that Easter is over, what comes next?” That remark could be taken in at least a couple of ways.

A person asking that question might be wondering simply what is the next season or the next major holiday in the church calendar. A fulsome answer to that question could begin as follows: just because Easter Sunday is over does not entail that Easter itself is over, because we actually rejoice throughout the season of Easter, which is sometimes called ‘The Great Fifty Days of Easter.’ During this period (which runs from Easter Sunday through Ascension Day on the fortieth day after Easter until the Sunday of Pentecost, including both of those Sundays for a full fifty days), we continue to honor the fact that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and guided his return to heaven. That is part of the answer.

Someone asking the question “After Easter, now what?” might instead be seeking guidance about how we can prolong the joy of Easter beyond that Sunday into succeeding weeks, about how we can preserve our gladness after the Easter lilies have begun to wilt and the Easter treats have been consumed, and about how we can secure the impact and inspiration of Easter in our daily lives. In order to answer the question as posed with this emphasis, I suggest that we consider where we learn about Easter in the first place—in the Bible, and by extension in our worship—and take our cues from there.

After Jesus is raised back to life but before he ascends into heaven, he gives his disciples the Great Commission: go into all the world and make more disciples, baptizing them and teaching them everything that I have taught you, knowing that I will always be with you (Matthew 28:16-20). How the earliest Christians fulfilled this direction is recorded in such documents as the Acts of the Apostles, the letters of Paul and other leaders, and various other texts

outside the New Testament. Christians continued to gather each Sunday in honor of Jesus’ resurrection on the first day of the week. Their work was evangelistic, missionary, pastoral, moral, and oriented toward healing.

Across more than twenty centuries since that first Easter Sunday, we Christians have been conducting those same kinds of ministry. We still spread the Good News of what God has done in Jesus Christ, we still carry out the mission he has given us, we still care for our fellow Christians and for our neighbors, we still seek to amend our lives for good, and we still try to lift up broken hearts and heads and lives as we help with repairing the damage that life inevitably does to us all. In all this, we still imitate the good examples of Jesus and his first followers. We live this way because Jesus’ death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday have forever changed the entire course of history and because he has given us important work to do in his name. We do not have to guess haphazardly at what God expects or desires from us because he has already shown and explained these things to us.

What comes after the self-denial and self-sacrifice of Lent is renewed faith, restored hope, and repaired love—all with a refreshed vision of how things ought to be. In the glorious light of Easter, everything looks different because everything really *is* different. What a difference a day makes—what a difference Easter Sunday makes!

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Bible Study

Dear Family in Christ, Grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I thank our God for you, especially for how interested and energized you are for studying God's Word in Holy Scripture. During this Easter season, we are reminded again and again of just how important Holy Scripture is. It shows us clearly the truth of Christ's cross as his death for our sins and his resurrection for our justification (Rom. 4:25) and for our own resurrection as well (1 Cor. 15). Each week at Aquia, we offer Bible studies in order to dig more deeply into God's Word and to see his truth for us in those pages.

Fr. Jay and I have a joy and passion for teaching the Bible. It is near the top of the things that I personally enjoy about parish ministry. It is so meaningful for me when I see people understanding a particular text for the first time or falling more deeply in love with the Bible. Reading Scripture is at the heart of Christian practice. I want to encourage you both to read Scripture and to study it more deeply. There are a few ways to do that well.

The first thing I would say is: come to church. Hear the Word of God read and proclaimed. Receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, which is the edible Gospel of Jesus Christ broken and poured out for you.

Next, come to Bible study at church. On Thursday mornings at 11:00, I lead a Bible study downstairs in the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building's conference room. Right now, we are making our way through the Gospel according to Mark (whose feast day, incidentally, is this month on April 25). We will begin a new series when that one finishes. If you can't make it to an in-person meeting, I want to encourage you to watch Fr. Jay's live video from his study on Wednesday evenings (7:00) or mine on Thursday mornings (11:00). This really is an important part of our life together as followers of Jesus.

Finally, consider reading Scripture devotionally at home. There are a number

of ways to do that. I am a big fan of "reader's editions" of the Bible. They come in different translations: The ESV Reader's Edition, NIV Reader's Edition, and the CSB Reader's Edition are a few that I have read and really enjoyed. Reader's editions of the Bible remove all of the verse numbers, subheadings, footnotes, and so forth. They read like a book (a novel concept, if you'll pardon the pun!). Study Bibles are also very helpful. Two that I recommend are the NIV Study Bible and the ESV Study Bible. They are good, basic study Bibles with helpful and insightful notes to help enliven the text of Scripture. Another really helpful way to dig into Scripture is through a daily reading plan. I highly recommend Old Testament scholar Chad Bird's reading plan and videos: <https://www.1517.org/oneyear>. He is very easy to understand, but his commentary is always so profound.

We learn about and understand who God is and what he has done for us in Christ Jesus through how he has revealed himself to us. The primary way that God has revealed himself and his love for us is in the person of Jesus. We learn about Jesus—about his life, death, resurrection, and ascension—from the inspired word of the Bible. Let me encourage you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it (BCP 184/236).

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

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



Renew, Refresh, Rejuvenate (Our Next 40 Days)

“A step back to step up” is my way to renew my faith. So often I travel the same path during the Lenten season. Not intentionally, I just don’t realize I am doing little to renew and strengthen my faith. This is a pattern I have been in for a couple of years. No other time strengthens or renews my faith and service for Christ more during the Christian year. My love and gratitude deepen and rejuvenate as Lent ends and we begin to follow Christ more and more faithfully. As Lent concludes and we begin the Easter season, we celebrate eternal life as seen through Jesus’s sacrifice for us on Good Friday and his resurrection from the dead for us on Easter Sunday.

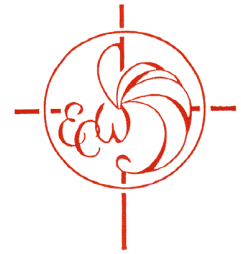
As we prepare to renew, women of Aquia have many opportunities to prepare with daily prayer, meditation, and spiritual reading. On your own, you may read from publications like the Forward Movement booklet (copies can be picked up in the historic church); you may also attend meetings of the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild and participate in Christian study with our sisters in Christ. Other opportunities are provided by the clergy.

The spring meeting of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia will be held on April 20, hosted by St Philip’s Episcopal Church in Richmond. We will also begin preparation for many events on our calendar for May. Our Heritage

Sunday luncheon will be held on May 19. We will have a sign-up sheet available, so stay tuned!

It’s not about joining the ECW, it is about sharing in our ministries—within our parish, locally, and worldwide. For more information, please contact me (bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com or find my phone number in the parish directory or through the church office).

Briget Kane
President



Sue, as you know, I have had a stroke and been in hospital for awhile. Home and trying to recoup and get well, but wish to send thanks to the members of Aquia and of course staff, for their prayers and good wishes. It is not easy for me to write, so wondered if you could relay a message to all and thanks to Father Jay for his hospital visit.

*Thanks so much,
Carolyn Stringer*



Dear Jay, the ECW Women's Ministry,

I want to thank everyone for a beautiful funeral service. Jay, your sermon described Bob to a "T." Thank you for officiating the entire day so efficiently and beautifully. Many folks commented on a great service. Thank you for making the day so memorable.

In addition, the food at the reception was awesome and beautifully displayed. The variety was exceptional. I so appreciate the love that was put into creating such an artistic display. Thank you Mary Jane, Carol Korth, and many others who helped make this such a special day. It's something I will never forget. Thank you all for a beautiful send off for Bob Stevens.

*Much love and gratitude,
Sonia Stevens*



STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service, and Fellowship

Spring is here bringing with it new life. Earth is full of life with blooming bulbs, shrubs, and trees as well as the greening of the grass. We just celebrated the new life promised to us in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Easter Sunday. What a glorious time of year! Women of the parish, are you looking for a new opportunity for fellowship and service?

Do you enjoy crafts? Would you like to deepen your faith in book study and prayer? If so, please consider joining us for a meeting of the Guild.

Our April meetings will be held on April 4 and 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of the 1960 parish house. We need your help in making crafts for Fall Fest, which is our major undertaking of the year. Also, we welcome any new craft

ideas you have. If you have any questions, reach out to Carolyn Hendrickson at donpch@gmail.com or Kathie League at kleague6412@gmail.com. Hope you can join us!

Kathie League

The Harrowing of Hell

“Christ is risen! The Lord is Risen indeed”—so we greet each other on Easter Morning. Our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, the most consequential event in human history, culminates Holy Week. Our journey from the excitement and anticipation of Palm Sunday, through the pathos of Maundy Thursday, and the grueling brutality and wrenching injustice of Good Friday leaves us drained. We seem to pause on Saturday, then rejoice in the news of the empty tomb on Sunday.

Holy Saturday is distinctive. It is a day when the Eucharist is not celebrated. In some churches, the Great Vigil of Easter begins sometime after sundown on Saturday. For us at Aquia, Holy Saturday finds the sanctuary, having been stripped on Maundy Thursday, restored and adorned for Easter Sunday. Easter lilies are placed in windows and around the altar, the Easter hangings are arranged, brass is polished, and our church is spruced up.

The Gospels are largely silent about events on the first Holy Saturday. The Jewish sabbath began on Friday at sundown. Only in Matthew 27 do we read about concerns about the security of the tomb. According to Matthew, the chief priests and Pharisees were concerned about the prospect of Jesus’ followers spirited his body from the tomb. They feared that his followers would claim he was resurrected, as he foretold he would be. So Pilate approved their

request and a guard was set, albeit some twelve hours after Jesus’ burial. The only other Gospel account about Saturday, after sundown and the end of the Sabbath, was the activity of Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome in purchasing spices with which to anoint the body of Jesus. This is reported in Mark 16:1.

In the *Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*, we find an accounting of this period in between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Both the Apostles’ Creed and the Athanasian Creed declare that Christ “descended into hell” (“to the dead” in modern language for the Apostles’ Creed). ‘Harrow’ is derived from an Old English word *hergian* meaning “to harry or ravage.” The “harrowing of hell” evolved into the medieval description of Christ’s descent to the dead—not only his descent, but also his victory over Satan and his freeing those imprisoned in hell, including Adam and Eve and the righteous saints of the Old Testament.

Christ’s descent to hell or the place of the dead after his death on the cross is mentioned or suggested by several New Testament sources. Among others, these include:

Matthew 12:40—“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.”

Acts 2:24—“But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.”

Ephesians 4:9—“In saying ‘he ascended,’ what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?”

Colossians 1:18—“He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.”

1 Peter 4:6—“For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.”

In English mystery plays and in art during the Middle Ages, Christ was depicted as conquering Satan, and then breaking hell’s gates and victoriously leading Adam and Eve, the prophets, and the patriarchs out of that realm. The gates of hell cannot withstand Christ’s power. This also shows the fulfillment of the theme of Christ as the second Adam who reverses the tragedy of Adam’s fall. In song we echo these themes, particularly with Hymn 208—“The strife is o’er, the battle done”—written in Latin in the late 17th century, and translated in 1861 by the English hymnwriter Francis Pott.

Chris Arey



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Vestry Highlights

March 26, 2024 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector; Bill Hoffman, Sr. Warden; Brad Hammer, Jr. Warden; Chris Arey, Treasurer; Carolyn Hendrickson; Pat Quinn; Walt Peterson; Sarah Kirby; Dale Hendon.

Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

Expenses and income are hovering around normal. The January rectory HVAC replacement was taken initially from the general fund; subsequently, in order to reimburse the general fund, Chris Arey submitted a request to the TOTF to release some holdings from our Capital Improvement Fund invested with them.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **R-2024-06: Authorization of Short-Term Certificate of Deposit** (approved 2/27)
- **R-2024-07: Investment Policy** (approved 2/27)
- **Discussion about Starting-Times for Worship Services**
- **Organization of Vestry Committees: Meeting Schedule, Members, Goals, etc.**

The minutes from the February Vestry meeting were approved unanimously.

Continuing Business

- **Discussion about Starting-Times for Worship Services**

Since the last Vestry meeting, Fr. Jay has spoken with two separate Sunday 7:30 a.m. services to ask them about the possibility of changing the time to 7:45 or 8:00. The results of the two Sundays are overwhelmingly in support of keeping the service time at 7:30, roughly 85% of the respondents. There were fewer than five people whose

comments reflected their interest in changing the time.

- **Possible Sabbatical for the Rector**

Fr. James took his sabbatical in January and February with an eye toward the possibility of Fr. Jay taking a sabbatical this summer. Fr. Jay does not have a particular timeframe in mind. He would like to have that discussion at the April Vestry meeting. He plans to have a sabbatical proposal prepared for that Vestry meeting.

New Business

- **R-2024-08: Authorization of Short-Term Certificate of Deposit** (Finance Committee)

The resolution would authorize Chris Arey as treasurer to research investment options at all of our current banks to see what the best rates for investment are. The resolution was approved unanimously.

- **R-2024-09: Repairs in Historic Church** (B&G Committee)

Habalis Construction has sent us a bid to fix the roof of the historic church so that the water coming off the roof will no longer damage the bricks on the exterior and the plaster on the interior, and to replaster and repaint the interior walls as needed. Habalis plans to fix all of the issues for around \$9,000. Fr. Jay proposed an amendment that the expenses would be capped at \$12,000 and that the junior warden would be empowered to use his discretion for any extra expenses. The amendment reads, "With a maximum expense of \$12,000 at the junior warden's discretion." The vestry approved the bid unanimously as amended.

Reports from Committees, Wardens, and Rector

There was not an Administration Committee meeting in March.

The Finance committee did meet. They discussed some investment ideas, some of which are referenced in R-2024-08.

From the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Bill Hoffman mentioned the three big projects on the horizon: 1) the flooring in the rectory, 2) repairs to the Fleurries siding and painting, and 3) the construction of a ramp to the 1960 parish house for loading and unloading food into the Aquia's Pantry storage rooms.

Fr. Jay reminded the Vestry that we will have the sunrise service on Easter Sunday outside. That will require Vestry help to set out 80-100 folding chairs in advance.

Upcoming Dates

3/31: Easter Sunday (worship services at 6:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 4 p.m.)
4/23: Next vestry meeting (7 p.m. in person, with meal starting at 6 p.m.)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

*Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. James R. Rickenbaker
Acting Register*



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Burials: *“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them”* (BCP 486/502):
Harry Thomas Dowell, 10-8-1935 to 3-10-2024.

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

April 2024

Susan Anderson, Russell Boes, Chris Bowie, Laura Chichester, Richard Chichester, Jacquelyn Cotter, Paula Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Barney Gannon, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Gloria Reyes, Rebecca Schaffer, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Dennis Springer, Stevens Family, Carolyn Stringer, John & Pam Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



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<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.





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Post Office Box 275
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Get Ready to Dive Into Vacation Bible School!



SCUBA VBS: Dive into friendship with God!

JUNE 10-14, 2024

Registration available online at www.aquiachurch.org

Looking for volunteers to make this a memorable week.

For more information, contact Aquia Church director of Christian Education Kimberly Bamber (christianed@aquiachurch.org)