



**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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PENTECOST





## CROSS SECTION

### Aquia Episcopal Church

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Stafford, Va.

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www.aquiachurch.org

**Office hours:**  
8 a.m.– 4 p.m.  
Tuesday– Friday

*Rector*

**The Rev. Jay Morris**

*Assistant Rector*

**The Rev. James Rickenbaker**

*Treasurer*

**Chris Arey**

*Assistant Treasurer*

**Charlie Bingay**

*Music Director*

**Trystan Bennett**

*Dir. Christian Education*

**Kimberly Bamber**

*Parish Administrator*

**Sue Selz**

*Bookkeeper*

**Gloria Reyes**

*Nursery Supervisor*

**Dawna Spaulding**

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Rector's Sabbatical This Summer

The vestry and I have recently agreed that I shall take a three-month sabbatical this summer. During June, July, and August, I shall have a break from the usual demands of ordained ministry. I mentioned the prospect of such a sabbatical in the December 2023 issue of this newsletter, so the matter might not surprise you.

The concept of a sabbatical is rooted in the first two chapters of Genesis. Just as God rested on the seventh day following six days of creation, so we are to enjoy rest on the sabbath. Similarly, members of the clergy and certain other professionals increasingly are finding it helpful to take a deliberate pause from their routine duties in order to become free for accomplishing something important, such as full-bodied refreshment and work toward special projects. Clergy are never quite 'off duty' without such a break that can suitably come roughly after every seven years.

Part of what I intend for this summer is exploring some avenues of research that are new to me. I have been accepted into a professional/pastoral seminar for reading the autobiographies of four prominent African-American Christians (Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, and Howard Thurman) where the team of five faculty includes experts in worship, church music, psychology, pastoral care and religion in society and public life. I shall also take two graduate courses in Bible: one about the literary and theological influence that the Book of Genesis has on the rest of the Old Testament, the other about the Book of Revelation with a focus on its Old Testament roots—from one end of the Bible to the other and back again. In addition, I expect to participate in a couple of online programs for clergy continuing education; not traveling for them will keep the expenses more manageable.

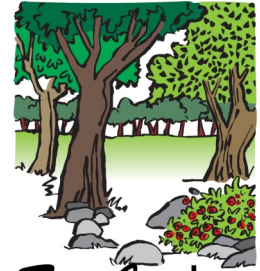
Furthermore, I have some personal-recreational projects that will help to keep me refreshed and better prepared for the next season of my ministry. There are some films and books that I want to pursue for fun, and I want to take some classes

that will enhance my cooking skills (our parish will surely benefit from that!). I hope to undertake some reading and research about Aquia's history. I shall also reserve some time for family, because I am not always able to be present for my mother and my daughter due to my obligations at nights and on weekends for meetings, special events, and clergy travel. We plan to do some memorable sightseeing over this summer, in ways that can be invigorating.

Our parish provides an amount of money each year that accumulates in a reserve fund for sabbaticals, so that our operating budget will not take an unexpected hit. I do not anticipate needing to hire any supply clergy for this period unless Father James Rickenbaker becomes suddenly or seriously ill and I am utterly unavailable to pinch-hit for him. In my absence, the parish remains in very capable and experienced hands with our clergy, our talented staff, and lay leaders within the vestry and other ministry groups.

I want to assure everyone that while I am neither burned out nor overwhelmed by my present work—indeed, I am very excited about opportunities we have ahead in our ministry together—a sabbatical can be an important safeguard to deter against burn-out and depression from the grinding wear-and-tear of ordained ministry, especially given the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Just as we all need a good vacation and a complete break from our routines every so often, I am confident that our parish, my family, and I will benefit from the realignment and revitalization that this clergy sabbatical can bring. I am deeply grateful to the vestry and to you all for this extraordinary opportunity.

*Jay Morris*



*Fr. Jay's*  
**SABBATICAL**



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

### The 1662 BCP International Edition

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 important our Anglican heritage is to you. Anglican identity has become a fraught concept in recent years. But Aquia Church has clarity on what 'Anglican' means. Aquia is one of few places left in The Episcopal Church where there is clarity about Anglican identity.

At the heart of Anglican Christianity is the conviction that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, by the work of Christ alone, to the glory of God alone, and that Scripture alone is the final authority for the Christian faith. These convictions are clearly represented in the Reformation *sola* statements: *sola Scriptura*, *sola gratia*, *sola fide*, *solus Christus*, and *soli Deo gloria*. Building on that Christian foundation, we find that there are things called *formularies* that define the particularity of Anglican identity. There are four: The 1662 Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the 39 Articles, the Books of Homilies, and the Ordinal (the service for ordination used to be separate from the BCP). These each are essential to how we understand ourselves to be Anglicans/Episcopalians.

The 39 Articles are in the back of the 1979 BCP that we use today. They are short statements of belief (not essays or opinion pieces that we might label as 'articles' today) that confess the central

teachings of the Christian faith and Anglican theology. They are not on the same level as Scripture itself, but they are how we

have come to understand the message of Scripture. I encourage you to read them beginning on page 867 in the 1979 BCP.

The Books of Homilies are sermons that used to be read in Anglican churches where clergy were not licensed to preach (yes, not all clergy used to be licensed to preach). These homilies preach God's law, God's Gospel of grace, and God's exhortation to right living. These were official sermons that were to be preached in every Anglican church when they were initially written in the mid-1500s. Hardly any clergy know them anymore; even fewer use them.

Then we get to the BCP and the Ordinal. The edition of the BCP that is formative for Anglican theology is the 1662. We typically use this edition for Communion on Heritage Sunday each May. The theology of the 1662 BCP is grounded in Scripture and in the 39 Articles. It is how we pray as Anglicans. The Ordinal is formative for the clergy, who vow at their ordination that they believe Scripture to contain all things necessary for salvation (*sola Scriptura* again). The 1662 BCP is rarely used today in The Episcopal Church, in part because it assumes a monarchical government. But recently two Anglicans known for their scholarship on the 1662 BCP, Drew Keane and Samuel Bray, have produced an international edition of the 1662 BCP that changes things like the prayers for the king in order to make this BCP easier for everyday use for Anglicans around the world, even if they do not in England. It is a wonderful resource that I highly recommend for your daily use.

The word 'Anglican' means something. Anglicanism is not a liturgical clean slate onto which we can impose a different theology. It is a theology that is grounded in the Reformation *sola* statements, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the 39 Articles, the Books of Homilies, and the Ordinal. 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*



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Cliché: “A labor of love”  
(see 1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Often when talking, I use clichés to express my thoughts. I also use clichés when I write a note or letter to family and friends. I haven’t ever given much thought to where they originated or where I might have read one. I think we might have discussed clichés in general in an English class many, many years ago. I put little importance on them, so I don’t think I realized clichés of comfort and love could sometimes be traced to the Bible. Somehow without an intentional reason I noted a certain cliché and began using it in my dialogue, spoken or written.

To my surprise, many of the familiar clichés I use are found in the Bible or have their origin in the Bible. I admit I can’t recite word for word many Bible verses; on the other hand, I found recently I use many clichés from several passages in the Bible. This gives me more reasons to select different passages to study and read that I might not have chosen to study.

I would like to think those which are written in verses in the Bible don’t become trite. I hope they are remembered and used often.

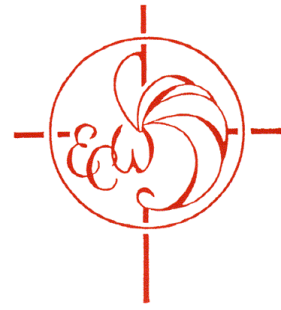


Several of the clichés I use might be your clichés, too: “the apple of His eye” (Psalms 17:8), “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), “clear as crystal” (Revelation 21:11), “red sky at night / sailor’s delight,

and red sky at the morning / sailor’s warning” (see Matthew 16:2-3).

I am excited to talk about a new contribution to the monthly newsletter. Dennise LaBarre, Aquia ECW treasurer, will be sharing a monthly article about ministries and missions the ECW supports. I know you will find her articles informative and helpful. Please see her first article on page 8 of this newsletter.

Also, I hope you will join Carolyn Hendrickson and Kathie League, co-



chairs of the Sts. Mary and Martha guild, and other women of Aquia for prayers, crafting, study time, and service on the first and third Thursdays monthly (with the fifth Thursday being a service day).

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](mailto:bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com) or access my phone number in the parish directory or through the church office).

*Briget Kane  
President*

### ANNE E. MONCURE SCHOLARSHIP:



Anne E. Moncure Scholarship

*We are excited to announce in May that the tradition of Aquia ECW’s Anne E. Moncure Scholarship continues. The application process for graduating seniors begins on May 1, with the final day for applications to be received in the church office by May 31. An application is available on page 7 of this newsletter, or may be picked up at the church office on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.*



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## STS. MARY AND MARTHA

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### Worship, Service, and Fellowship

I was recently on a nighttime flight, and I was fortunate enough to witness God's majesty when I saw the multitude of stars and lights below. It was breathtaking! On several occasions my attention was riveted on it for a long time! I was seeing his beautiful creation from a new perspective. I felt a little closer to God. It consciously reminded me of His presence as we go about our daily activities, and of His ability to communicate with each one of us.

As the month of May approaches and Fall Fest is on our horizon, we are creating our crafts to sell at Fall Fest and our Advent Table. Our works help to support our budget and help to compensate and satisfy the budget of Gods'



local sanctuary at Aquia Episcopal Church.

We are also readying ourselves for Heritage Sunday, volunteering time and service including delicious items to prepare and bring to the great hall.

If you would like to join us in crafting, studying His word, worship,

and most importantly, fellowship, join with us for our meetings, on the first and third, and if there's a fifth, Thursday in the month, at 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carolyn Hendrickson, [docnpch@gmail.com](mailto:docnpch@gmail.com) (co-chairman), or Kathie League, [kleague6412@gmail.com](mailto:kleague6412@gmail.com) (co-chairman).

If anyone in this parish or a family member needs prayer due to sickness or circumstance, please let Carolyn Hendrickson know. You will be added to our prayer list.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Hendrickson  
(Co-Chairman)*

### What's New with Weekday Bible Studies?

As our Wednesday evening series for April on the New Testament letters of Jude and II Peter has now concluded, we are about to start something fresh for May. A brand-new evening series on the Pastoral Epistles (I-II Timothy and Titus) will run throughout the Wednesdays in May, starting electronically over Facebook Live at 7 p.m. Father Jay Morris will lead this series. When it ends, he will have led an evening Bible study on every book in the New Testament during his ministry at Aquia Church, with some books (such as the Gospel according to John, Paul's letter to the Romans, and the Book of Revelation) being covered more than once in an evening program and with some books being covered occasionally in a morning series as well.

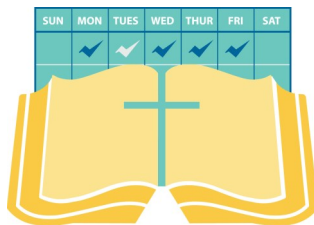
During May, Father James Rickenbaker's Thursday morning group will

continue its current series on the Gospel of Mark (starting at 11 a.m. in person in the CFFB downstairs conference room and simultaneously over Facebook Live). When this series on Mark concludes, he expects to shift his regular Bible study gatherings to Thursday evenings in person and online, starting at 7 p.m., in the hope that this timeframe might be attractive to a number of parishioners, including those who can drive during the long daylight hours of

summer and those who have missed in-person programs in the recent past. Stay tuned for more details.

The broadcasts of these Bible study sessions are available online at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch). Even if you do not have a Facebook account, you can still access the broadcasts simply by clicking on the given occasion. Also, you do not have to watch the event live; the videos are stored there for your viewing at any time. Simply scroll down to find the broadcast for which you are looking (each one is labeled), then begin to play the recording.

*Jay Morris*



**Weekday  
Bible Studies**



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## What Exactly Does the ECW Do?

**E**CW (Episcopal Church Women) is a ministry of Aquia Church whose members have multi-faceted talents that enable many tasks to be performed to benefit the parish and beyond. As stated in the 2024 budget, the “Ministry Objectives are to support our church, local, diocesan, and worldwide needs.” Until I was recently elected treasurer of the ECW, I didn’t really know all the various diocesan and worldwide organizations that are supported by Aquia Church’s ECW. I suggested articles be written for the newsletter to highlight the various ministries and organizations supported by the ECW. Other members thought it was a good idea, and this is the first of those articles.

To “Support Our Church,” financial support is given to the clergy discretionary funds, Christian Education, Vacation Bible School, the youth group, and a donation to pay down the construction loan. The ECW also buys the *Forward Day by Day* booklets that are available to be picked up from the table at the back of the church.

For “Local Outreach,” financial support includes covering expenses for receptions following burials, administrative expenses, supplies, crafts for the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild, the Anne E. Moncure Scholarship for graduating seniors, MICAH, Hope House and Camp, the Moss Free Clinic, S.E.R.V.E., and RCDV-EMPOWER.

For the “Diocese and Worldwide Needs,” financial support is given to the following: Diocesan ECW Administrative Fund, Book of Life/Remembrance Scholarship Fund, Diocesan Altar Guild, Diocesan ECW Fund for Special Appeals, VIVA VOCE, Communion Alms, Church Periodical Club, Diocesan Fund for Global Ministry, Our Lit-

tle Roses Home for Girls (Honduras), Boys Home (Covington, Virginia), Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services, St. Andrews School, Diocesan Addiction and Recovery Team, Ministry to Native Americans, Grace Inside chaplain service, Rural Family Development, Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, and the Diocese of Kigezi in Uganda.

Our sources of funds include income from Fall Fest, receptions, and donations. A big “thank you” to every one of you in the parish who support us.

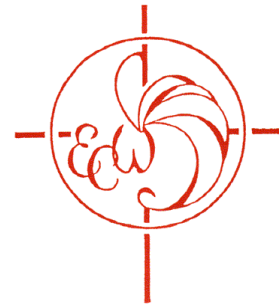
As I think you are familiar with everything in the “Support Our Church,” I’ll highlight a different ministry each month giving a short description beginning with “Local Outreach” and MICAH.

MICAH: Their core network consists of nine different congregations from six different denominations. “Doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God, as things the Lord requires of us (Micah 6:8), became the foundational values for forming the collaborative effort that the churches would eventually call Micah Ecumenical Ministries” (from their website).

I was familiar with the MICAH hospitality center and cold weather shelter but was not aware of the scope of MICAH. From their website I learned they consist of five ministries: a hospitality center, the Respite program, a cold weather shelter, housing assistance, and the Step Forward program.

The following offers short descriptions of those ministries I copied from their website. For more information, their website is:

<https://micahfredericksburg.org>



**Hospitality Center**—The hospitality center is a basic needs hub for people sleeping on the street. They can visit the center for a bagged lunch, shower, mail, clothing, and connections to community resources.

**Respite**—Micah’s residential recovery program, a.k.a. Respite House, focuses on those sick enough to need family, hospice, or home health care, but well enough that they could be discharged to their home, if they had one.

**Cold Weather Shelter**—A temperature-based overnight shelter for people who would otherwise be outside in freezing weather.

**Housing**—Program Goal: To reduce the length of time households experience homelessness.

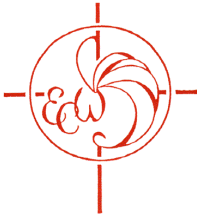
**Step Forward**—Our homeless neighbors experience a variety of cultural, educational, economic, and situational barriers that keep them from re-entering the workforce by traditional means. Many desire meaningful work but require community support and creative approaches in order to transition successfully into the workforce, or to seek solutions and support in obtaining income through government benefits.

*Dennise LaBarre*

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*The ECW “Ministry Objectives are to support our church, local, diocesan, and worldwide needs.”*





**ECW ANNE E. MONCURE  
2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

(Applicant must be an enrolled member of Aquia Episcopal Church)

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE/EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list on a separate page your participation in the following areas during the past 4 years:**

- Church ministries/activities
- School activities/honors
- Community Involvement/Services

**Do you have any paid work experience? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please list.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What was your grade-point average at the end of your Junior year? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What is your current grade-point average? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do you know where you are going to school next year? \_\_\_\_\_**

**If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, where have you been accepted?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you applied for any other scholarships? \_\_\_\_\_ If "Yes," please list them and their monetary value:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a separate piece of paper with your essay of less than 500 words, addressing the following:**

**"How will I carry my faith forward as I graduate from high school."**

**Please list three references and attach 2 letters of recommendation, one from a teacher and the other from an employer or adult leader from a school or community service group in which you have been involved and who is not related to you.**

***All materials should be submitted to the Church office or emailed to [office@aquiachurch.org](mailto:office@aquiachurch.org) by Friday, May 31, 2024, Attention: Briget Kane, ECW.***



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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### *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

There were no surprises from the Treasurer to report. Expenses and income are hovering around normal. The January rectory HVAC replacement was taken from the general fund. Chris Arey submitted a request to the TOTF to release \$10,500.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund invested with them in order to reimburse the general fund for the HVAC replacement.

#### 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 draft 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 a.m. The results of the two Sundays are overwhelmingly in support of keeping the service time at 7:30 a.m. (roughly 85% of the respondents). There were fewer than five people interested 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 propose having 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)

Habilis 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. Habilis 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 \$12,000.00 at the junior warden's discretion." The vestry approved the resolution 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.

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 parish hall for Aquia's Pantry purposes.

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.

#### 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





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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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Thank you to everyone at Aquia for making the Easter Egg Hunt egg-ceptional! Baskets and smiles were overflowing at the egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all who gave filled eggs with candy and treats, as well as those who helped hide the eggs around the grounds that morning.

I also want to say thank you for the donations to Christian Education from the Lenten cross. Contributions will help support Sunday school activities throughout the year and the upcoming Vacation Bible School.



“Scuba VBS” for ages 3 through fifth grade will “take kids on an amazing undersea adventure where they’ll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.” Aquia’s VBS will be held June 10-14 from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is now open on the Aquia Church website. We look forward to a fun-filled week!

*Kimberly Bamber*

### Fundraising with Flowers

Despite the famous slogan that “April showers bring May flowers,” the work to upgrade and beautify your spring garden really starts in the fall, when you plant your spring flowering bulbs and plants. Aquia Church is now a participant in the fundraising program sponsored by Brent and Becky’s—a premier family-owned-and-operated horticultural business based in Gloucester, Virginia. Simply put, go to this link: <https://brentandbeckysbulbs.com/bloomin-bucks/>, select Aquia Episcopal Church from the drop-down menu, follow the instructions, and

Aquia Church will receive a donation equal to 25% of your purchase.

The Project to Landscape the Aquia Church Environment (PLACE) group consists of a small team of parishioners intent on glorifying God by upgrading and beautifying our campus. Work to date has focused on the area around the church office, the Fleurries, and the entrance to our graveyard. In 2024, the PLACE team intends to install a couple of mass plantings of daffodils on our campus. In case you want to help this effort by purchasing daffodil bulbs in the “Bloomin’ Bucks” program

described above (whether as part of a purchase for your own yard or as a separate purchase), there are 4 types of daffodil bulbs we will need. These bulbs are (1) Barnewyn—item #01-0148, (2) Ice Follies—item #01-0218, (3) Jet-fire—item #01-0607, and (4) Sweetness—item #01-0720. You will receive in-kind donation credit as appropriate; please provide your receipt to the church office.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Chris Arey ([chris.arey@gmail.com](mailto:chris.arey@gmail.com)) or Penny Stevens ([annette.stevens@comcast.net](mailto:annette.stevens@comcast.net)).

*Chris Arey*



### Retiring Our Mortgage

Aquia Church has received a commitment for a new matching challenge to help us retire the mortgage debt for the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building. Every donation received for the new building throughout this calendar year will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.00, so that we can

continue to pay off the mortgage ahead of schedule, with reduced interest payments and reduced overall expense.

This challenge is retroactive to January 1, 2024, so that any donation for this purpose made earlier this year can be counted toward the match alongside any contribution made after this announce-

ment. In order to ensure that your tax-deductible donation is credited properly, please make sure that your gift is clearly marked with “new building” on the memo line of your check or on the envelope.



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## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

Scott King, 11-30-1960 to 1-13-2022

Kenneth Lempka, 11-9-1936 to 4-2-2024

**Weddings:** Marc Wisdom and Julia Rodriguez, April 20, 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 dates for a baptism are May 19 and 26, 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.

## Aquia Church Prayer List

May 2024

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



### How to reach us:



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

[office@aquiachurch.org](mailto: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.



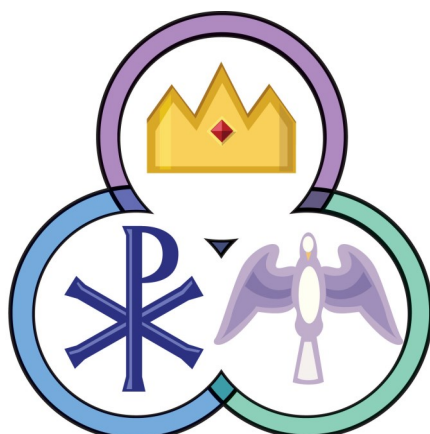
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## Saint Athanasius

The Book of Common Prayer is 1,001 pages long. Not many of us have examined every page, much less read those pages. There is a small section of the BCP which contains ‘Historical Documents of the Church.’ Among the documents contained in this section is the *Quicumque vult*, or the Creed of Saint Athanasius—something that may have escaped your attention. Yet this creed is an important legacy, one which affirms the truth of the Trinity and which triumphed over one of the most insidious heresies to have afflicted the early church.

Athanasius was born sometime between 293 and 298 to a Christian family in Alexandria, Egypt. Alexandria was the most prominent commercial and social city in the Roman empire, linking east and west, and reflecting the ethnic, philosophical, and religious diversity of the empire. Well-educated, Athanasius grew up during the last Great Persecution by the tetrarchy of emperors. This persecution, particularly severe in the east, stripped Christians of legal protections and demanded observance of traditional pagan religious practices.

In 311, the Bishop of Alexandria was martyred by the Emperor Diocletian; the bishop’s successor, Alexander, became the new Bishop of Alexandria. In turn, Athanasius became secretary to the new bishop, and eventually became a deacon. In 319 Arius, a priest in Alexandria, was confronted by Bishop Alexander for advocating a Christology which identified Christ as the divine Son of God, but claimed that Christ was made, not begotten. This view was not an uncommon perspective among Christians in Alexandria at the time. Alexander rebuked Arius and eventually excommunicated him. After Arius mustered support from other bishops, the issue became the central matter for the First Council of Nicaea. This Council affirmed that the Son was of



## THREE IN ONE

one substance with the Father, and Arianism was denounced as heresy.

Although this issue had been decided, the beliefs of the emperor would also matter since the church and the Empire had become welded together. What occurred was a protracted struggle in which Athanasius would be a major actor. The problem was not finally decided until 381, when the First Council of Constantinople affirmed the decision made at Nicaea in 325. The creed we recite in church is actually the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. Despite this finality and the death of Arius in about 336, Arianism would persist in some areas of the western church (in Gothic tribes in particular) up until the 6th century.

Athanasius succeeded Alexander as Bishop in 328 and over the next 48 years served as such, though his episcopate (his ministry as bishop) was interrupted five times by exile. Athanasius spent over 17 years in five exiles ordered by four different emperors. Two emperors actively supported Arianism, and one of them—Julian—attempted to restore traditional pagan worship. Additionally, there were six other incidents in which Athanasius fled Alexandria in order to escape people seeking to kill him. Antagonism among clergy was common and often violent. During his first years as bishop, Athanasius visited

the churches of his territory, which at that time included all of Egypt and Libya.

As Bishop of Alexandria, Athanasius promulgated an annual letter confirming the date of Easter and other moveable feasts. In his 39th letter, written in 367, Athanasius identified 27 specific books of the New Testament as canon, and some claim that Athanasius is the first person to identify the same 27 books of the New Testament are in use today.

Athanasius, however, is nowadays not believed to be the author of the Creed of St. Athanasius that is found in the back of the Book of Common Prayer. This creed affirms the Trinitarian doctrine and Christology. This creed, while consistent with the life’s work of Athanasius, is now considered to date from the late 5th or early 6th century. A 1940 discovery of a lost work by Vincent of Lérins (in southern Gaul) found it to be very similar to much of the language of the Athanasian Creed. This has led scholars to conclude that the creed was probably written by Vincent or his students, instead of by Athanasius himself. The oldest surviving manuscript of the creed dates from the late 8th century.

Saint Athanasius is honored by the church on May 2. The contemporary collect for this day is:

O Lord, who established your servant Athanasius, through wisdom, in your truth: Grant that we, perceiving the humanity and divinity of your Son Jesus Christ, may follow in his footsteps and ascend the way to eternal life, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

[*Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022, page 215*]

*Chris Arey*





**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## **Come To Our Church Picnic!**

**Sunday, June 2**

*Following the 10:30 a.m. Service*

**In the great hall**

*With a few tables outside, weather permitting.*

*Vestry likely to provide meats and beverages;*

*Parishioners to bring side dishes*

*and desserts.*

*More details to come!*

