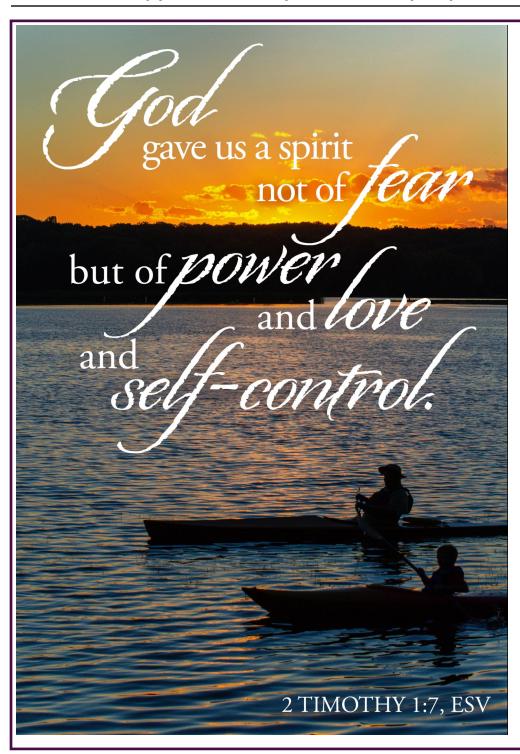


Cross Section

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



INSIDE:

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- Notes from the Church Office
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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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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

Sabbatical Update #1

By the time you read this column, my sabbatical will already be underway. I am now in the midst of a two-week-long seminar on the apostle Paul's epistle to the Christians in Rome that is being led by one of my favorite commentators on the New Testament, Douglas J. Moo. Devoting three hours a day to lectures and discussion about this crucial letter, on top of my own study and preparation for each class session, is certainly helpful and refreshing—even when I thought that I was fairly familiar with the text and its background.

The reading for the other courses of this sabbatical is actually beginning to pile up. My second seminar this summer will deal with the historical controversy between St. Augustine of Hippo in north Africa (present-day Algeria) and Pelagius and his followers. Their debate about original sin, human freedom, grace, and related topics has been influential historically and yet very contemporary. Pelagius seems to have thought that the biggest obstacle to personal happiness is a lack of self-esteem or a lack of fulfillment in human nature (that's how we today would describe part of his position), and he believed that that situation is closely related to how we understand the relationship between ourselves and God—what God expects of us mere mortals, whether we can desire by our own power the same things that God desires for us, and so forth. A lot of what Pelagius and Augustine thought about these matters follows from how they read Paul's letter to the Romans (especially



June 2024

Romans ch. 7) and other passages in the New Testament in different ways. So without my deliberately planning this well in advance, it turns out that these first two courses dovetail most conveniently with each other.

I mention these details about coursework and readings not in order to dazzle you with big ideas and impressive concepts, but instead so that you might appreciate some ways in which my labor during this sabbatical can be helpful to our parish for our ministry together. Some of the benefit might be obvious: for instance, the better I understand what Paul is doing in Romans, the better I can preach and teach about Romans. I also want to indicate that some of the problems that theologians have faced in the history of the Church remain as challenges for us in the twenty-first century, such that better grasping their work and their proposed solutions could help our own efforts in our own era. When I am asked questions about free will, I have to consider not only the popular opinions of today but also what Paul wrote in the first century and what Augustine wrote in the fifth century.

I intend to keep you all informed about this sabbatical as it progresses, because we are taking this journey together. After all, you are making it possible for me to take a break from my ordinary routines in order to engage in some extraordinary explorations, and you will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the growth that should be achieved. While I plan for some of this summer to include family travel and personal rest, part of the point for this period is to undertake some study that involves hard work and to learn from experts in the field in ways that will strengthen my ministry once the sabbatical is concluded. The intellectual endeavor for this sabbatical is front-loaded for the months of June and July, and that's quite alright.

Across the next few editions of this newsletter, I'll share more about what I'm doing, just as I'll offer more information and perspective in person upon my return. Meanwhile, as the song goes: "See you in September."

Jay Morris

FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Summer Reading

ear 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 diligence in learning more about our common faith. We learn about the faith that we hold primarily by reading the Holy Scriptures. There are some writers who can help Christians without specialized degrees in Bible to understand well and deeply the message of the Scriptures. As summer is now underway, I want to encourage you in reading the Bible. But I also want to give you a few options for reading that give good, solid theological perspective on the Bible and the Christian life.

The first such book recommendation is On the Grace of God by Justin Holcomb. Dr. Holcomb is a well-renowned theologian. He was recently consecrated bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. In this short book of 128 pages, Bishop Holcomb explains with clarity about what it means when we talk about "the grace of God." Grace is God's favorable disposition toward us for which we did nothing to earn. God's grace is at the heart of the story of our salvation. It's what sets Christianity apart from other religions. It is the Good News for us. The best part is that God's grace is not just for unbelievers; it's for believers as well. God's grace is his unstoppable, uncompromising love for sinners like you and me. This little book is very accessible for readers of varying levels of biblical knowledge.

A second recommendation for your summer reading is *Why I Trust the Bible* by William Mounce. Dr. Mounce is a brilliant scholar of the New Testament. In this recent book, he addresses some of the big questions and concerns that we hear voiced in our society about the Bible. Do you have questions about the Bible, such as the following: How can we trust the gospels since they were written so long after Jesus lived? Aren't the biblical manuscripts we have just copies of copies that are so corrupted they don't represent what the original authors wrote? Dr. Mounce addresses

these and other questions in detail. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to be more familiar with the background and trustworthiness of the Bible that we proclaim contains "all things necessary to salvation" (Article VI of the Thirty-Nine Articles).

A final recommendation is in a similar vein to the second: Seven Things I Wish Christians Knew About the Bible by Anglican priest and biblical scholar Michael Bird. In this book, Dr. Bird addresses some of the same concerns as Dr. Mounce's book mentioned above. Dr. Bird takes his book in a slightly different direction. He tries to help his readers to read the Bible well. He goes into what the Bible is and what we mean when we say it is "inspired" by God. On top of that, he sets out to show that the Bible is a true and accurate accounting, rooted in history, of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He shows that Christ is at the very center of the Bible. If you find yourself wondering how to get started reading the Bible, I highly recommend this book.

Whatever you read this summer, I want to encourage you to dig into the Scriptures. The three books that I have mentioned above will certainly help you in that endeavor! Let me know how I can help you too. 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

Loisann's Hope House

regarding local outreach supported financially by the ECW, this article will highlight Loisann's Hope House. The following information was obtained from their website (https:// loisannshopehouse.org).

Their vision is "No Family Homeless." Their mission is "to break the cycle of homelessness one family at a time." Loisann's Hope House is the Fredericksburg region's oldest and largest family shelter for the homeless. This organization supports four core programs to mitigate homelessness: emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, homelessness helpline, and FredPrevent.

Loisann's Hope House is named after Loisann Silver Chacon (1950-2011), a "compassionate, kind social worker" in Fredericksburg). This organization opened their first home in 1987, and they now have five houses providing shelter to 19 families. Loisann's Hope House partners with the Thurman Brisben Center, Empowerhouse, Micah Ministries, the Rappahannock United Way, and the George Washington Regional Commission.

Emergency Shelter: Their emergency shelter program is focused on providing permanent solutions—housing, jobs, transportation, and childcare needs, with an emphasis on employment and increased income—so that people can break the cycle of homelessness and become stable within the community. Their 95% success rate is a result of the strong foundation and the organization's well-respected intensive case management program.

Rapid Rehousing: this program aims to help people exit homelessness and stabilize in housing as quickly and efficiently as possible. It provides housing search services, short-term financial assistance (e.g., help paying rent and moving costs), and case management services. Rapid Rehousing offers short-

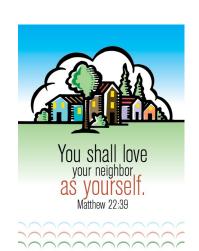
ontinuing with our series of articles term crisis response intervention intended to minimize a household's time spent homeless.

> Homelessness Helpline: The Homelessness Helpline is a coordinated intake process through which people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness can access the housing crisis response system in a streamlined way. Loisann's Hope House leads the coordinated intake process for the Fredericksburg region, including the counties of Caroline, King George, Stafford, and Spotsylvania and the city of Fredericksburg. The Homelessness Helpline is accessible twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

> FredPrevent: The FredPrevent program prevents households from becoming homeless by connecting those at risk of homelessness to various community supports and, when necessary, providing financial support for security deposits, rent, and utilities. Case management is offered to individuals seeking assistance and is not dependent on financial assistance qualifications.

I encourage you to look at their website for details of these ministries and to read their 2023 Impact Report.

> Dennise LaBarre ECW Treasurer





STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service, and Fellowship

S ts. Mary and Martha had a busy May, so I'm eager to turn the page of my calendar to June, and then I noticed that Fall Fest is getting closer. We are studying our inventory. We have to increase our production of certain favorites, including sock monkeys, displays of Santa Claus caught in the chimney, and wooden angels or stars (I'll show you pictures when we get closer to Fall Fest).

If you want to help in this endeavor of preparing for Fall Fest: as you do your spring cleaning or fall cleaning, or as you refresh and re-organize your house, garage, or rooms, please put aside gently used costume jewelry or treasured items, along with items for the flea market. Then donate these goods to Aquia Episcopal Church.

In the meantime, please come to the parish picnic—where newcomers will be our special guests—on Sunday, June 2, after the 10:30 service. This fellowship opportunity is thoughtfully orga-

nized and prepared by the Vestry. It's a yearly event that everyone enjoys.

That's the easy element of "Worship, Service, Fellowship"—which is our Sts. Mary and Martha motto.

While Father Jay is on a threemonth sabbatical, we'll be in the capable hands of Father James, our assistant rector, who is back from his own recent sabbatical. We all wish Father Jay a fruitful, educational, pleasurable experience, and we hope he will come back to us refreshed and ready to handle us yet again.

If you would like to attend our meetings on the 1st and 3rd and 5th Thursdays, or if you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Hendrickson (docnpch@gmail.com) or Kathie League (kleague6412@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Hendrickson, Co-chairman



Fall Fest Auction Action

Great news! Preparations are now underway for Fall Fest 2024. The date is set: Saturday, October 5, and yes, there will be a live auction! Shields Jones, award-winning professional auctioneer and Aquia Church parishioner, has us on his calendar.

What else do we need for a successful auction? We need your gifts and ideas! We rely heavily on the imagination and generosity of our fellow parishioners to build the auction. Do you have a talent to teach or a service to offer? Do you have an antique in your attic, a drum set in your basement, or an extra week of your time-share? Perhaps you could donate a pair of tickets to a Caps or Commanders game. A gift card to your favorite restaurant would be awe-some. How about offering an evening of baby-sitting, or an afternoon of raking

and bagging leaves? Could you build a gift basket with a friend or your ministry group, or contribute an item to a theme basket such as The Gardener's Basket or Pamper Her? If so, please let us know.

We also have an urgent need for help with soliciting local merchants. With a letter of introduction in hand from our clergy, would you be willing to ask restaurants and shops for contributions? We could certainly use your help!

How can you help? Let us know! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Mary Jane Cole (maryjane@cfsw.biz)





Vestry Highlights

April 23, 2024

Dinner and Fellowship

Business Session (7 p.m.)

Attending: Fr. Jay Morris, Rector; Fr. James Rickenbaker, Assistant Rector; Bill Hoffman, Sr. Warden; Brad Hammer, Jr. Warden; Chris Arey, Treasurer; Michael Ferrantino, Carolyn Hendrickson, Pat Quinn, Walt Peterson, Penny Stevens, Dale Hendon, Anna Rall.

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Treasurer's Report

- Report provided will have corrections and be republished
- In May will provide a table of the three current CDs with their amount and start/end dates
- \$50,000 payment towards additional principal was paid from the General Fund, instead of the United Bank Money Market (MM)
 Fund
 - ♦ Reimbursed the GF with \$50K from the United Bank MM Fund

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Approved unanimously by vestry
- R-2024-08: Authorization of Short -Term Certificate of Deposit (approved unanimously 3/26)
- R-2024-09: Repairs in Historic Church (approved unanimously as amended 3/26)
- Discussion about Starting-Times for Worship Services

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Continuing Business

- Sabbatical for the Rector
 - ♦ Vestry endorses

New Business

- [R-2024-10: Cemetery Mowing Contract (approved unanimously by electronic vote 3/19)]
- R-2024-11: Funding for Rector's Sabbatical (Finance Committee)
 - ♦ Approved unanimously by vestry
- R-2024-12: Delegates and Alternate to Diocesan Annual Convention and to Fredericksburg Regional Council (Rector)
 - ♦ Approved unanimously by vestry
 - Michael Golasz, Carolyn Hendrickson, and Bill Hoffman as delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention
 - ♦ Sarah Kirby as alternate
 - Carolyn Hendrickson as delegate to the Fredericksburg Regional Council
- Parish Picnic
 - ♦ Proposed date is 6/2/24
 - Idea to include newcomer luncheon as a part of the picnic
 - ♦ Hosted by vestry
- Plans toward a Capital Campaign for Eliminating the Construction Loan Debt and Other Matters
 - Dale Hendon has outlined a proposal for a capital campaign with the goal of raising funds for capital improvements (new roof, HVAC, etc.) and not solely focused on paying off the CFFB mortgage
 - With potential to expand ministries, capital campaign does not have to focus on infrastructure
- Matching Challenge for CFFB mortgage will be formally

announced to run January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Reports from Committees, Wardens, and Rector

Buildings and Grounds

• 2024 painting project Administration

 Rental of CFFB has been updated to a flat rental fee vs. an hourly rate

Finance

- Treasurer given approval to invest \$25K (no more than 50%) from accounts into CDs
 - ♦ Will report to Vestry when these investments are made
- Beginning in May, treasurer's report will include a table of open CDs

Upcoming Dates

- 4/29: Presentation from Sheriff's Department about emergency situations at church (5:30 p.m.)
- 5/9: Ascension Day worship service (7 p.m.)
- 5/19: Heritage Sunday at Aquia Church (luncheon following the end of the 10:30 a.m. worship service
- 5/20: Aquia's Table Golf Tournament (9 a.m. shotgun start)
- 5/28: Next vestry meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)
- 6/10-14: Vacation Bible School (9 a.m.—noon)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

Respectfully submitted, Anna Rall Register



D-Day: June 6, 1944

The invasion of Normandy on D-Day was codenamed Operation Neptune, and it began Operation Overlord, the campaign in Normandy. The landings involved over 156,000 allied soldiers and a naval force of over 195,000 personnel. It is not a stretch to believe that many of those men making final checks of their weapons, loading aboard aircraft and gliders, and getting into landing craft and aboard ships at sea would have paused and prayed to the Lord God that they would survive this momentous day. In fact, General Eisenhower, supreme allied commander, concluded his message to the invasion force by stating, "And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

On the day prior, June 5, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed the nation about the fall of Rome to the United States and our allies. But even though he knew that D -Day operations were underway, he did not mention them.

President Roosevelt was raised in The Episcopal Church. His faith was strongly influenced by his time at the Groton School, a private school for boys that was founded by an Episcopal priest, the Rev. Endicott Peabody, in 1884; he served as headmaster until 1940. Peabody made Groton a center for promoting the Social Gospel, which was a strain of Protestant theology advocating that the kingdom of God required social as well as individual salvation and seeking the improvement of society through the application of the biblical principles of charity and justice. (For more on the Social Gospel, confer with Fr. James Rickenbaker.)

FDR, who described himself as "a Christian and a Democrat," was deeply affected by this theology, and observers have seen its influence in the basis of the New Deal. On D-Day, FDR addressed the nation not with a speech, but with a prayer. His radio address on that occasion is below.

Chris Arev

My fellow Americans: Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the [English] Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings.
Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls

will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them—help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the con-

tributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee, Faith in our sons, Faith in each other, Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Transferred in: "And the Lord added to their number day by day" (Acts 2:47):

Lou Husser, St. Paul's Parish, Washington, D.C.

Baptisms: "sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever" (BCP 308): Jackson Howard Floyd.

Burials: "Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them" (BCP 486/502): Dennis E. Springer.



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 Nov. 3, 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 June 2024

Russell Boes, Laura Chichester, Richard Chichester, Paula Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Gloria Reyes, Rebecca Schaffer, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Patricia Springer, Carolyn Stringer, Tom Tremper, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



How to reach us:



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

https://www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch



We, as Aguia 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.

Aquia Church in the Summer

he summer has finally arrived with L its warmer weather, longer periods of daylight, and changes in our routines. Most students can take a break from learning in school, even if they might start learning in new ways with summer jobs like mowing yards and lifeguarding. Some individuals and families take time over the summer for traveling on vacation or reuniting with friends and relatives. My own household eagerly anticipates these same opportunities as yours might—especially since my daughter recently graduated from high school and is preparing for the next chapter in her life.

At Aquia Church, we find the same kind of mix happening right now: some things slow down just as other things are gearing up. In worship, the choir at our 10:30 service usually enjoys a summer break while our director of music and organist, Trystan Bennett, gets his files organized and makes plans for the upcoming program year; meanwhile he still shares his talent with us and helps to lead our worship through music. In Christian formation, our Sunday school



classes go on hiatus, but our Vacation Bible School ministry takes a summer week and makes the Bible come alive for children who are

members here and children who are visitors. Our director of Christian education, Kim Bamber, can find a place for you at VBS. Even if I will not lead a Bible study again until September, Father James Rickenbaker is continuing his Thursday morning series on the Gospel of Mark, after which he'll shift his gathering to Thursday evenings, when many people should be available to attend. In fellowship, we are actually

launching the summer by holding our parish picnic on the first Sunday in June, in



ways that will unite parishioners with the newcomers who will be our special guests. Additional fellowship events will be held over the summer, too, so stay tuned for more announcements.

In service to others, the arrival of summer creates opportunities for folks to pitch in around our property. Given the size of our campus, our mowing brigade and our buildings and grounds committee could always use some help in sprucing up our green spaces and our cemetery, tending weeds, and keeping our property looking sharp. Perhaps you could make some new friends as you join a friend who already serves with Aquia's Pantry or Aquia's Table. Those in the flower guild and the altar guild would be more than happy to introduce you to their labors of love and to show you how their lives and the worship we cherish are enhanced by their ministry. The men's breakfast group and the women of the Sts. Mary and Martha guild still meet in June, July, and August, and they always have extra plates and extra chairs for guests and visitors.

As some leaders and members of ministry groups find themselves away for vacation or relocating to new homes over the summer, there will inevitably be some empty spaces at our gatherings and some tasks that still need to be completed. None of the labor has to be unduly arduous or back-breaking, and the friendships formed with fellow Christians as you serve the Lord and his people can be uplifting and long-lasting. Aquia Church certainly does not shut down over the summer, nor do the needs of your faith dissipate in the summer heat! Amidst your summer plans for relaxation and recreation, I hope you'll also make time for your faith at church—not only by continuing to worship in person on Sundays or by returning to our campus after you've been absent, but also by seeing for yourself what goes on here the other six days of the week, even during the summer.

Jay Morris





Aquia Episcopal Church Post Office Box 275 Stafford, VA 22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

