



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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



Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!

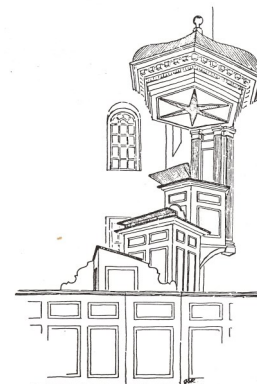
Psalm 98:7



Above photos: Aquia Church Vacation Bible School

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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Richmond Hwy.
Stafford, Va.

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 275
Stafford, VA 22555

Contact us:

(540) 659-4007
office@aquiachurch.org
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

Sabbatical Update #2

One-third of my sabbatical is being devoted to coursework in biblical studies as I seek to be nourished by God's holy Word and to understand it better. What follows is a glimpse of this work that should prove obviously helpful to my preaching and teaching for years to come.

First I took a two-week-long online course on St. Paul's letter to the Romans through Regent College in Vancouver, Canada, with Dr. Douglas Moo. He has written multiple commentaries on Romans and other New Testament books, he has co-authored a well-received introductory textbook about the New Testament, and in 2021 he published the magisterial *Theology of Paul and His Letters: The Gift of the New Realm in Christ*, which is perhaps the best comprehensive presentation of Paul's writings of which I know. Moo is a longtime leader among the team that is working to revise the New International Version of the Bible, and many of his presentations in this seminar focused on the challenging issues of biblical translation for this century. Basically no topic was left unexamined in his careful, patient, and detailed exploration about this important epistle.

In mid-June I studied for a week at Trinity Anglican Seminary, just north of Pittsburgh. There I took a course on the Revelation to John (also called "The Apocalypse") with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand, who is not only a New Testament scholar but also a retired bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion—a Canadian by birth who has also served in the United States, Kenya, and the Horn of Africa (where parts of Ethiopia have reached 140 degrees in recent summers!)—whose wide-ranging career has made him an expert in missions and global Anglicanism. This was my third time for studying with him, and both his lectures and the discussions afterward were

fruitful. Two class sessions in particular—one dealing with the messages to the seven churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 2–3), the other dealing with various interpretations of Hell in the book's closing chapters—were really stunning.

In early July I studied at Nashotah House (an Anglican seminary near Milwaukee) in a week-long seminar about selected narratives of plot and character in the Book of Genesis that became literary and theological patterns for subsequent passages in the Old Testament (such as Judges 19, II Samuel 11–12, I Kings 17–18, and other texts like Ruth, Esther, and Chronicles). My instructor was the Rev. Dr. Travis Bott, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Nashotah House and chairperson of their faculty. It was a particular privilege to have a seat in the choir of St. Mary's Chapel at Nashotah House, where generations of clergy and other Christian leaders (including Father W. B. Dexter, who was Mary Jane Cole's father) have been trained and formed, and to spend time with the array of classmates from various backgrounds. I enjoyed similar opportunities at Trinity Anglican Seminary as well.

Most recently I participated in an online course (again through Regent College, Vancouver) dealing with Christology and discipleship in the Gospel according to Mark, as led by Dr. Elizabeth Shively of Truett Seminary at Baylor University. Christology explores who Jesus Christ is, and discipleship covers what he expects from his followers. Despite the brevity of Mark's Gospel—or precisely because of its brevity—this book is not always easy to figure out. Yet this course has offered some tools, techniques, and tips that have clarified its message for me.

Next month I shall report on additional studies, independent reading, travels, and other developments from this sabbatical, for which I remain grateful to you all.

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Alpha Youth and Morning Meeting '24/'25

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 as you have an eye toward the future of the church of Jesus Christ in general and Aquia Church in particular. The youth are not just the future of Aquia Church. They are the present as well. As such, I hope that you will encourage your youth in grades 6-12 to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for Alpha Youth. It will run for the first semester of this Sunday school program year. Alpha is a program originally put together by Holy Trinity, Brompton (an Anglican parish in the Church of England). Alpha is intended to be an in-road into the Christian faith for people of all ages. It's also proven to serve as something that can deepen the faith of people who are already Christian. Alpha Youth intends to do just that, but for middle and high school aged kids.

The stated purpose of Alpha Youth can be found on their website: "Alpha Youth exists to equip the church to help rising generations discover and develop a relationship with Jesus. We do this by providing culture-curating products & resources, transformative experiences, and curious conversations." This is precisely what your clergy would like to see cultivated in the youth of Aquia Church. Alpha is centered around five, key principles: Pray, Listen, Empower Young People, Rely on the Holy Spirit, and Prioritize Hospitality. The program covers broad topics like "Life: Is This It?" It also covers important topics like "Jesus: Who Is He?" and "Cross: Why Did Jesus Die?" The identity of Jesus and the importance of his saving death are essentials of the Christian faith. But the program also touches on other incredibly important things as well: "Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?" Alpha Youth is about as complete a package as you can get for teaching youth the Christian faith.

The youth are not just the future
of Aquia Church.
They are the present as well.

This program contains both videos and conversations over a period of 10 weeks. We will likely have to be a little flexible with the timing, as the mornings are tight. But we are excited to offer this program for the youth of Aquia. There will be plenty of Sundays for us to get all of the material in. There is also a Saturday event near the end of the program, should people be willing to join in. I'll make sure that all of the information is sent out well in advance so that people can prepare.

As for the rest of the youth group morning meetings during this 2024-2025 program year, I will plan to do an instructed Eucharist for the youth over a series of Sunday mornings, so that they can see and learn why we do what we do in church. After that, in the remainder of the spring semester, we will cover some hard topics in the Christian faith.

We truly hope that your youth will join us for morning and evening meetings this year, not to mention for church. There is a lot of wonderful stuff going on at Aquia. We have seen quite a bit of excitement this summer with some fun events for the church and lots of visitors. There is life in this place. We look forward to falling deeper into relationship with Jesus in this calendar year to come. Come join us. 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

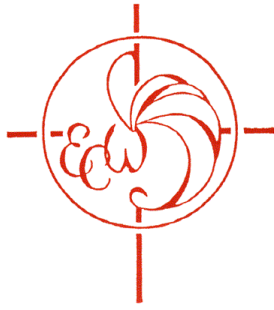
Sarah Kirby
*Administration Committee
Building & Grounds Committee*

Walt Peterson
*Chairperson, Administration
Committee*

Pat Quinn
Administration Committee

Anna Rall
*Register
Chairperson, Finance Committee*

Penny Stevens
Building & Grounds Committee



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Mission Statement:

The Episcopal Church Women of Aquia Church, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, wish to know Christ and make him known through prayer, education, concern for others and joyful service.

It is mid-July, as I sit here to begin sharing the ECW message for August. The weather is stifling, and rain is promised. Hoping, as the rain refreshes and rejuvenates the earth, we are renewed by our prayers, faith, and service.

We celebrate joyful service as we work together to begin our plans for Homecoming in September, Fall Fest #67 and the Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting in October, and Advent and our Chapter Annual Meeting in December. More news will follow about all the upcoming events. Each of us can share our mission in who we are during all these events and every day of the year.

For the short term, we will be holding zoom meetings for Fall Fest in late July or early August.

Come share our joy in service and participate, donate or volunteer. Contact me (Briget) at bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com or via text, 540 905-9342.

Homecoming Sunday on September 8th is on the calendar! The ECW will host the reception in the Great Hall immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. As the summer ends and we begin to settle in to welcome fall, we will once again enjoy the communion of Homecoming with fellowship, food, and joy.

Empowerhouse

Continuing with our series of articles regarding local outreach supported financially by the ECW, this article will highlight Empowerhouse. Some of you may know this organization as RCDV-Empower. However, RCDV-Empower (Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence) changed its name to Empowerhouse, Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence. The following information was obtained from the Empowerhouse website – www.empowerhouseva.org.

Although they have changed their name, their Mission Statement remains the same. “Empowerhouse empowers survivors and their children to believe in themselves and build new lives filled with dignity, respect, safety, and hope. We give victims the time, space, and tools to heal their hearts, restore their connections, rebuild their lives, and renew their spirits.” They believe their new name and logo “...better convey our mission and services. We are expanding our efforts to support survivors and their children and to help our community prevent domestic violence. As a result of the change, survivors of violence will connect with our name more easily than before; the community will understand our work better than before; and we will be more successful than before in our work as the community gains a greater understanding of what we do and that we are here to help!”

Empowerhouse is a non-profit organization 501(C)3 Virginia accredited domestic violence program serving Fredericksburg, Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. “We continue to have many helping and educational programs offered throughout the community including our secret shelter, a 24-hour hotline (540-373-9373), victim advocacy, children’s services, support groups for victims, teens and children, Spanish language and culturally relevant services, transition in-place housing assistance, court advocacy, accompaniment to court and healthcare visits, teen dating violence prevention, as well as batterer intervention programs.”

Empowerhouse has a long history of service to the community. They were incorporated in 1978, opened The Haven, a shelter for battered women and their children in 1979, opened a New Haven (improved shelter) in 1988, opened a public office in Fredericksburg in 1996, began a new program and partnership to serve the Latino community with bilingual, bicultural services and community coordination in 2005 and in 2010 began a new transitional housing program.

As always, I encourage you to visit their website for further information.

Dennise LaBarre



William Wilberforce

In 2022, the Episcopal Church approved an updated calendar for Lesser Feasts and Fasts. Included in this new calendar is the celebration of significant persons in the history of the faith. Many, if not most are bishops, priests, martyrs and mystics. Only infrequently are others from secular callings included, in some cases called “social reformers.” One of those was a politician, indeed a prominent 18th century politician of the British parliament. William Wilberforce, a contemporary of William Pitt and John Newton, in the face of massive structural opposition, struck a blow for faith and for humanity in a way that resonates today.

Wilberforce was born in Hull, in Yorkshire, as the son of a wealthy merchant. After his father died when he was 9, he went to live with an aunt and uncle in London, and there was exposed to evangelical Christianity. His mother opposed this influence and brought him home, and eventually in his teenage years, enjoying wealth and privilege, he turned away from his evangelical leanings. Upon entering St. John’s College, Cambridge, when he was 17, wealthy and popular, he embraced a very active social life, and met and became friends with William Pitt, a future Prime Minister. He eventually took up politics and became a Member of Parliament from Yorkshire at the age of 24. In 1784 he toured Europe with friends, and when he returned to England, he experienced a spiritual conversion. Though outwardly he remained genial and friendly, inwardly he rued his former sinfulness, and he committed himself to live a more holy and purposeful life.

At this time, within the upper classes, outward religious enthusiasm was scorned. Wilberforce sought counsel with Rev. John Newton, rector of St. Mary’s Woolworth and author of *Amazing Grace*, for how to deal with his situation. Encouraged to remain active in politics, Wilberforce engaged with other leaders interested in humanitarian issues and in curbing the Atlantic slave trade, which England dominated. In 1787 Wilberforce began what would be a twenty-year campaign to abolish slavery. Initially opposed by many in power, he eventually maneuvered legislation through the Parliament which, in 1807, was finally passed.

The 1807 statute did not, however, change the legal position of persons enslaved before its enactment. In 1821, he resumed his fight for abolition and the immediate emancipation of all slaves. In 1823 he helped or-

ganize and became a vice president of the Anti-Slavery Society. Turning parliamentary leadership of the abolition movement to a colleague he retired from the House of Commons in 1825. On July 26, 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act was passed by the Commons (it became law the following month). Three days later Wilberforce died, and is buried at Westminster Abbey.

In an unanticipated irony, Wilberforce during his time at St. John’s College, Cambridge, met and befriended Edward Christian, the older brother of Fletcher Christian, leader of the mutiny on the *Bounty*. Wilberforce wrote a sympathetic letter to Edward Christian after the news of the mutiny became public. *HMS Bounty* had been sent to the South Pacific to retrieve the breadfruit plant for planting and use in the British colonies in the West Indies. It was viewed as a cheaper source of food for the thousands of Africans enslaved there on sugar plantations.

Wilberforce, was also an advocate for the humane treatment of animals, and helped found the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He is memorialized also in the name of Wilberforce University, the nation’s oldest private, historically black University owned and operated by African Americans, incorporated in 1863, located in Wilberforce, Ohio.

William Wilberforce is remembered by the church on July 30. The collect for that day is:

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, kindle in your Church the never-failing gift of love; that, following the example of your servant William Wilberforce, we may have grace to defend the poor, and maintain the cause of those who have no helper; for the sake of him who gave his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Mary Karcher, our former newsletter editor, generously gave her time, expertise and care to the review of my articles, and all submissions, and the design of our newsletter. She made everything I ever wrote better. She was a friend, and a lady of deep faith, and I sorely miss her.

Submitted by Chris Arey



FALL FEST AUCTION UPDATE

The date has been set: **Fall Fest 2024** will be held on **Saturday, October 5th**. The live Auction is at 11 a.m. Since June, our parish family has offered many wonderful gifts for the Auction! From our fellow parishioners we have received:

Quilt Display Case and replica of a Civil War quilt in the Northern Lights pattern given anonymously

Made in Virginia Basket
offered by **Briget and Tom Kane**

A Scrumptious Dinner Party—A Tour of Italy--for 8 Guests prepared and served at his home
offered by the **Reverend Jay Morris**

A Beautiful Food & Wine Basket from Potomac Point Winery
offered by **Cindi and Skip Causey**

Fire Pit Dinner for Four at Potomac Point Winery
offered by **Cindi and Skip Causey**

Timeshare for One Week
offered by **Pat Quinn**. Specifics to follow.

A Tour of Washington National Cathedral
personally guided by the **Reverend Jay Morris**
plus lunch or dinner

The Best of Britain Basket
offered by **Jean and Don Bittner**

Washington Commanders vs. Tennessee Titans
on December 1, 2024, **4 tickets**
offered by **Marion Wall**

University of Virginia Cavaliers vs. Southern Methodist University on November 23, 2024.
4 tickets, great seats, offered by **Marion Wall**

A handsomely framed **Sketch of Aquia Church**
by **Gary Duquette** given anonymously

A fun and relaxing **Sunset Cruise for Four** on beautiful Aquia Creek
with **Captain Dale Hendon**, owner of **Sunset Cruises of Stafford**

Hiker's Hideaway Romantic Cabin, a two-night stay in Airbnb near the Shenandoah National Park
offered by **Caroline and Dale Hendon**

Beautiful Stained-Glass Panel of Birds of the Commonwealth
handcrafted by **Ellen Brandon**



Above: Tour of the Washington National Cathedral guided by our Rector



Left: Quilt Display Case and replica of a Civil War quilt

What a fabulous start to our 2024 Auction! A huge thank-you to all these folks who have stepped forward with their gifts of time, treasures, and talents.

Our work, however, has just begun as we seek to build the auction to offer thirty-plus items or groupings that will appeal to the broad interests of our bidders. Do you have an item you could give, a talent to teach, or a service to offer? We rely heavily on the imagination and generosity of our fellow parishioners to make the Auction a success. We are hoping for gifts such as antiques, gift cards to your favorite restaurant, curiosities (remember the [Imperial Russian Brass Samovar?](#)), sporting event tickets, an evening of childcare, or theme baskets that you put together with your friends or ministry group. We are ready for your suggestions!

We also need people to join our team of solicitors. With a letter of introduction in hand from our clergy, you can approach local merchants for the contributions that make up a large part of our auction offerings. We could really use your help! Any leads, offers of help, creative ideas or GIFTS will be gratefully received.

Mary Jane Cole
maryjane@cfsw.biz



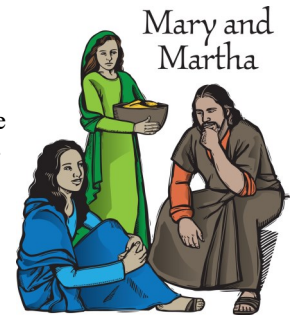
STS. MARY AND MARTHA GUILD

As August begins, we, at Sts. Mary and Martha Guild are busy trying to finish our crafts for Fall Fest. It has become our “raison d’etre,” (reason for being) at Aquia Church. Of course, we do other things to fulfill our motto: *Worship, Service, Fellowship*. But crafting and quality have become the category for which we are known. Come see for yourselves. Come to Fall Fest on October 5, 2024.

If the summer’s heat waves are keeping you indoors in the A.C. and you are re-organizing rooms, closets, or drawers, please donate your cast-offs. Whether the submission be for our costume jewelry, fine treasures, flea market items, books, or items for our Man Cave, we’ll have the “pods” out come September. If you need pickup, that too can be arranged. Contact Mary Jane Cole, maryjanedexter-cole@gmail.com or Briget Kane, bkings_n_things@yahoo.com. All members of Aquia Church, please get involved in Fall Fest. You’re deputized! Support the church. Come to Fall Fest, and enjoy the day.

At the beginning of July we had a Graduation Sunday. Elizabeth Morris and Tristan Stoltz are our high school graduates. They both received the ECW’s Anne E. Moncure Scholarship Award. Their accomplishments are laudable, and their goals impressive. Give them encouragement for their

future endeavors when you see them around. They will both be starting out at Germanna Community College. At the end of July, we had a promising Bring-a-friend-to-church Sunday. It was a Youth Sunday, as well. We will have another Youth Sunday at church, on August 18, as well as the start of the Sunday School program year. So far, we’ve had good attendance at church this summer. God is at work at Aquia Church. Seeds are being planted for the Kingdom. What an opportunity to provide a vital, friendly spiritual home to new people.



The above paragraph fits right into Jesus’s parable of Mary and Martha. We work to provide hospitality and welcome, while working around other necessary endeavors. This is an important part of the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild and we can offer this to the glory of God here at Aquia Episcopal Church.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hendrickson, co-chair of the
Sts. Mary and Martha Guild*



Vestry Highlights

Planning our Response

The Aquia Church Vestry is “hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.” So, we have devised a course of action in the event of an active shooter situation in the historic church.

Preparing for an Incident: Put 274-637 in your phone contact list. If needed, text “*Stafford + Active Shooter.*” This will send a message that allows the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office to

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

determine your location and respond immediately. Calling 911 would be dangerous if an active shooter were present, but texting is possible, especially if you set up your phone before an incident. Note that people in the back of the church might be able to text the Sheriff’s Office quickly if someone is obviously armed and dangerous.

Greeters: If someone is new and acting strangely, a greeter should follow and sit behind him/her. That way, the greeter could silently convey to the clergy that there may be a problem.

After the Incident: Parishioners should call 911 if it is still necessary. Medical or first aid personnel, and scouts should remain in the church until EMS has arrived to tend to any victims. All who

are ambulatory should exit by any of the three church doors. Our Vestry members will lead small groups to our **rally and recovery site** which is the great hall (Christian Formation and Education Building). For safety, stay off the driveway pavement so law enforcement vehicles and ambulances can arrive.

Note: NO ONE SHOULD LEAVE UNTIL THE POLICE TELL US IT IS SAFE.

The clergy and the vestry thank you for your anticipated contribution and cooperation.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Hendrickson (Vestry)
docnpch@gmail.com*



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms: ... sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever"

Douglas James Thoreson.

Funerals: "Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let the light perpetual shine upon them."

Dennis Springer, (1939-2024); Lou Husser, (1946-2024), Mary Karcher, (1956-2024).

NEWCOMERS/VISITORS

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Hebrews 13:2.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

AT AQUIA CHURCH

New Babies: Please call the church office (540-659-4007) 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 (540-659-4007) so that we can offer special prayers at a service prior to your departure. Also, we want to put you on our prayer list for all those in the service of our country who are deployed.

FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is November 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

August 2024

Greg Bradford, Russell Boes, Laura Chichester, Richard Chichester, Paula Davis, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Michael Golasz, Husser Family, Karcher Family, Sarah Kirby, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure, Susan Parody, Rebecca Poole, Gloria Reyes, Rebecca Schaffer, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Springer Family, 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 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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Scuba Vacation Bible School was held at Aquia Church earlier this summer in June. Children, as well as youth and adult volunteers, enjoyed a week of singing, dancing, playing games, Bible study, making crafts and more, all while diving into a friendship with God!

God is a friend who's real.

God is a friend who loves.

God is a friend you can trust.

God is a friend forever.

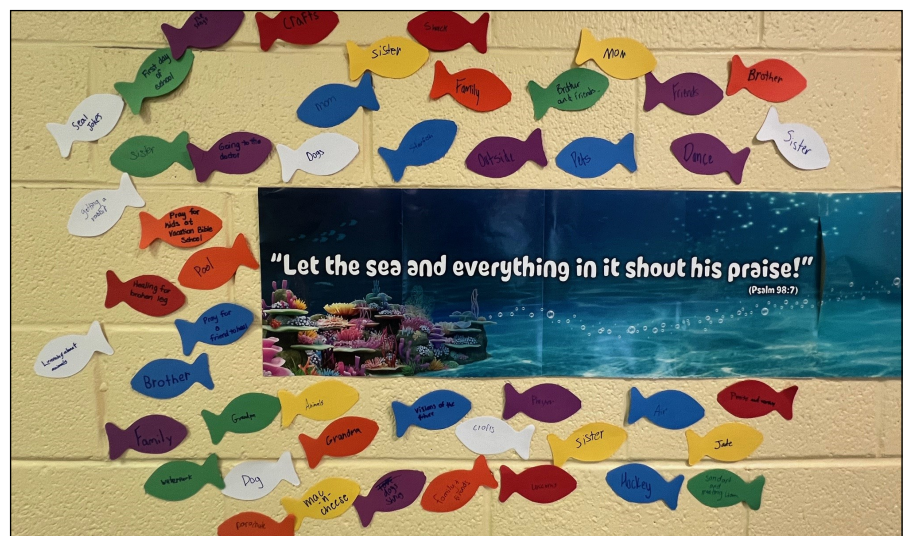
God is a friend for everyone.

Sunday School at Aquia will begin this month on Sunday, August 18 at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School registration is available on the church website, and is open for children ages pre-K to 5th grade. Youth Group members in grades 6-12 can also register on the same link.

All are welcome to join us for our Sundae Sunday celebration! Come make an ice cream sundae after the 10:30 a.m. service to celebrate the first day back to Sunday School!

For more information on Sunday School or Christian Education, please email christianed@aquiachurch.org.

Kimberly Bamber





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

