



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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

*I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant
between Me and the earth. Genesis 9:13*

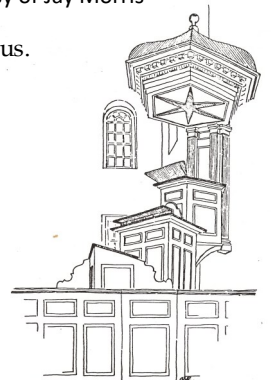


Photo courtesy of Jay Morris

Above the parched land of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, this rainbow reminds us of God's love for us.

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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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Stafford, Va.

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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 #3

When I wrote in June with the first update on my sabbatical, I mentioned some things about the two-week-long course I took on Paul’s letter to the Romans and about the week-long seminar I took on Augustine’s battle against the Pelagians during a theological controversy from the fifth century. Then in July I provided more details about the summer classes I took in Bible—not only on Romans, but also on Mark’s Gospel, on the Book of Revelation, and on the influence that Genesis has exerted over subsequent narratives in the Old Testament. In this third and final installment, I want to report on other aspects of the sabbatical that might interest you.

The summer study that stretched me the most—in good ways—was my participation in a seminar focused on autobiographies written by African-American Christians. Several of these books were written by people who had been born into slavery, while others represented the lives of more recent authors. Among the texts that had the biggest impact on me were the volumes by Ida B. Wells and Howard Thurman, plus the first autobiography of several that Frederick Douglass wrote. Our faculty included specialists in liturgy, psychology, church music, and social work, and the participants came from an array of academic and professional backgrounds; accordingly, this multidisciplinary mix made for many fascinating conversations. This program was sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary in Michigan.

As an integral part of this seminar, our group visited several historical landmarks, such as the burial place of Sojourner Truth, the remarkable Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and a church in Detroit where Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcom X were featured speakers.

(Interestingly enough, very few places can claim to have hosted speeches by *both* of those leaders.) We also took a comprehensive tour of Idlewild, a nationally prominent resort for Black families and Black entertainers during decades when they were unwelcomed elsewhere (recall *The Negro Travelers’ Green Book*, which was the basis for a 2018 film with a similar title), with some discussion about the challenges that Idlewild has faced since the mid-1960s (when civil rights legislation and changing social mores disrupted this place and others like it). In addition, we attended a discussion about *Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom*, a documentary tracing the historical development and cultural significance of the newest federal holiday. That session was led by the film’s author, Pastor Rasool Berry, and his film was produced through Our Daily Bread, an organization that produces booklets for daily devotions (among other media) and whose operational headquarters I had toured on my last visit to Grand Rapids.

As much as I enjoyed the intellectual and spiritual work involved in these academic and pastoral courses, I freely admit that this sabbatical was far from ‘all work, no play.’ I enjoyed a memorable vacation (together with my daughter) across Hawaii, a state that we had never visited previously. Much of our time was spent on the beautiful island of Kauai, renowned for its lush and tranquil gardens, and later on the ‘big island’ with its volcanoes.

(Commenting on one area overwhelmed by dark desiccation from lava flows, Elizabeth observed that all she could see was “death”!) We ended our vacation on Oahu—home to Pearl Harbor, Waikiki, Iolani Palace, the Bishop Museum of Hawaii’s natural and cultural history, and other sites. I had hoped to visit Maui in order to see how that island is recovering from the wildfires that destroyed most of Lahaina in

Continued on page 6



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Looking Back (and Forward)

The Father is drawing people to Jesus in this place (John 6:44).

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 I was able to see you in action this summer while Fr. Morris was on sabbatical. I am so very thankful for the help that you gave in making this summer as smooth as was possible for me and my family as I was at the helm. I'd like to look back at what happened this summer, so we can see how God was at work. I'd also like to look to the future so that we can see how we might move forward.

This summer, we had a number of tragedies, to be sure. I was visiting hospitals and homes quite a bit. There was indeed a lot of sadness. But we also got to share in many joy-filled moments. As the summer kicked off, I had the opportunity to do some teaching during Morning Call about what I learned on my sabbatical regarding church growth and vitality. For six weeks, we talked about that very topic in Morning Call. The capstone of the series was our Bring-a-friend-to-church Sunday on July 28. We had at least 20 new people attend with us that Sunday. And we had 9 children come up for the children's sermon! What a joy that was to see! The food truck after church from Kool Zone Grille was a great success (especially the funnel cakes). We had around 50-60 folks stay for that. Many thanks to Charlie Bingay and others who helped to set up and clean up for that event.

We celebrated the start of the Sunday school program year with a fun Sundaes Sunday ice cream social on August 18 following the 10:30 service. It was wonderful to see the Great Hall filled with

families enjoying ice cream and fellowship. We had 40-50 people stay for the event. Many thanks to Christine Hammer and others who got the ice cream, set up for the social, and cleaned up afterwards.

We had our annual seafood feast on Saturday, August 24 from 4-7pm. It was a great success! We had 61 people buy tickets. The food was great (or so this vegan was told)! It was all hands on deck that night. It was a lot of fun. Many thanks go to Anette and Craig Evans, Dina Stanford, Briget Kane, and so many others for that amazing get together.

Our church has grown this summer. We have seen many new faces and a number of them have stayed. I have started to enact some of the things I learned from the churches that I interviewed and I have seen them bear fruit already. I have loved watching you welcome new people on Sundays, sitting with them and helping them through the service. It's exciting!

You may have noticed that I have been using the first person quite a bit here. But let me be clear. God is the one who has caused the growth at Aquia this summer. God is at work in this place. The Father is drawing people to Jesus in this place (John 6:44). As we look to the future, I'd like for us to continue to trust that as we plant the seeds of the Word, God will make sure they are watered, and he will make sure they grow in his own time.

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*

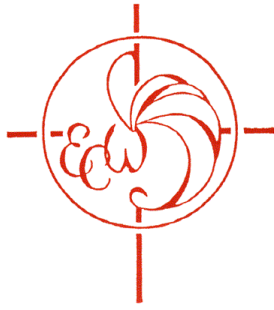
Walt Peterson
*Chairperson, Administration
Committee*

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.

As the summer comes to a close the traditions of Homecoming on September 8 include members and friends of Aquia coming “home” to worship, share memories and share a meal buffet style following the 10:30 a.m. service. Along with some traditional dishes: sweet tea, lemon tarts, fried chicken, and salads, you are invited to bring a “covered” dish to share. We will have some ideas and recipes for dishes for you, and/or to help with set-up and breakdown. This time of visitation, communion, and renewal is indeed a celebration of Aquia!

Throughout September we will be working on several commitments:
October 5 – 67th Fall Fest
October 12 – Aquia ECW will host the Fall meeting of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia and the UTO Fall Ingathering. The keynote speaker will be The Rt. Rev Gayle E Harris.

We are excited to host this event which will begin at 8:30-9:30 a.m. with a meet and greet before the day’s events begin. We will adjourn following Eucharist in the church between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Registrations will be sent to our region members to join us.

I have sent this message before, as our busy summer closes, perhaps some reuniting in different ways. With a little tweaking we can work to add or change our busy calendars which in turn changes our lives. It can be with an additional prayer, calling a sister in Christ with joy in your heart, sending a card “just to say hello” reflecting on God’s graces over a cup of tea or coffee. In all these acts

67 YEARS—Our annual Fall Fest fundraiser event. Many hands and labors of love have come together to bring an event on October 5 from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

you continue to make known the power of God’s love in your life and in the lives of those around you.

67 YEARS—Our annual Fall Fest fundraiser event. Many hands and labors of love have come together to bring an event on October 5 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Our venues include the Country Store, Crafts, Treasures, Garden Mart and many more. Breakfast is served from the kitchen starting at 7:30 for the volunteers and public; and our event begins at 8 a.m.

We try to take notes at the close of each Fall Fest including Fall Fest 66. Add those to the tried and true from the past as part of our planning for this year. We continue to take care with current health and safety compliances. PJ the Clown is back and will entertain our children and adults, the Auction as always in Shields Jones capable hands and will start 11 a.m. in the Great Hall. Our “hand rubbed pork” will be available in sandwiches, 1 pound to go packages and whole butt can be pre-ordered. So much to see, do and be a part of, a sign-up poster will be available each week beginning September 4.

Questions? Watch our Facebook page and share. Department Chairs have many great ideas and we will continue to help you with gift ideas and great food. The Flea Market is back home in the lower hall of the Parish Hall with clothing. The Book Nook will be on the upper level with Crafts and Jewelry. The Man Cave near the storage unit along the sidewalk always has a plethora of goodies for everyone, not just the guys. Check all the other departments out along the sidewalk, such as the Garden Mart. Look for the Great Hall to have: Country Store, Treasures, ECW Table, Vestry Sales and the Kitchen. Seating is always available in the Great Hall for the Auction! We have reserved a place for you.

Pick-up a trifold, or contact me at bkwings_n_things@yahoo.com or text 540-905-9342. We are accepting donations from everyone for the different departments. Our storage unit will arrive on campus September 18 and will be in the same area as last year, near the exit.

Briget Kane
ECW President



FALL FEST AUCTION UPDATE

Fall Fest Live Auction—

October 5 at 11 a.m.

Our list has grown!

A huge “Thank You” goes to all the parishioners and merchants who have contributed so generously to the Auction! Below is a list of gifts that have been added since the last newsletter article was submitted on July 15. As you can see, we have received more fabulous donations! If you would like a copy of the complete list, check out the poster hung on the church gate each Sunday in September or contact Mary Jane Cole. (maryjane@cfsw.biz)

From Restaurants:

- Amy’s Café: \$75 gift certificate
- Basilico New York Deli (North Stafford location): \$50 gift card
- El Gran Charro: \$50 gift card
- The Alpine Chef Restaurant: \$30 gift certificate
- Zibibbo 73 Trattoria: \$25 gift card
- Kobe Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar: \$25 gift card
- Sake Sushi and Thai Restaurant: \$25 gift certificate

For Golf Enthusiasts:

- Forest Greens Golf Club: Four-some of Complimentary Greens Fees (weekdays and after 1 PM weekends and holidays)
- Augustine Golf Club: 4 green fees plus cart (expire 12-31-24)

A Romantic Getaway:

- A night at The Essex Inn Bed and Breakfast in Tappahannock, VA plus \$50 gift certificate to their 1710 Tavern

For your To-Do List:

- Publix Super Market: \$100 gift card
- Wegmans: \$100 gift card
- 610 Car Wash: TWO books of 5 Deluxe Wash tickets
- Giant: \$50 gift card

For Fishing Enthusiasts:

- Guided Fishing Trip offered by Bill Hoffman: Up to 8 hours of fishing with an experienced angler on his 21- foot bass boat that will take you to the best spots on Aquia Creek
- Kids’ Fishing Trip offered by Bill Hoffman: 4-hour fishing trip on Aquia Creek for 1 child & 2 adults OR 2 children & 1 adult (age 8 and above)

Unique:

- A handsome Howard Miller Grandfather Clock given by Patricia Springer
- American Flag Cornhole Set
- Delicious Slow-Roasted Pork Butt given by the Fall Fest Kitchen
- A Delightful Collection of Dessert Wines given by the Bittners and the Bingays
- A Gift of Live Theatre: Riverside Center for the Performing Arts: 2 tickets for dinner and mainstage theatre performance given by Wendy and Mark Osborn
- A fun and relaxing Sunset Cruise for Four on beautiful Aquia Creek with Captain Dale Hendon, owner of Sunset Cruises of Stafford

Great Getaways:

- December 6 to 11: stay at the Oceanaire Hilton Vacation Club in a two-bedroom ocean-front suite that sleeps a maximum of six. The Virginia Beach boardwalk has a drivable Christmas light show during this time. The club has an indoor pool as well as hot tub and fitness center. Offered by Pat Quinn.
- December 6 -10: stay at the Historic Powhattan Resort in Williamsburg in a two-bedroom ground floor unit. This stay will be concurrent with the Illumination event that takes place in historic Williamsburg. An indoor pool, hot tub and fitness rooms are available for guests, and a restaurant and coffee shop are on the premises. Sleep 6 maximum. Offered by Pat Quinn.

Beautiful Handsewn Quilts:

- A lovely twin size Fall Quilt handsewn by Patricia Springer
- A Handsome Quilt in rich Fall Colors: Pattern name: Tea Time stitched by Cheri Cuff

Many of these items will be grouped together into single bid items. Do you have something to offer: perhaps an antique or a better White Elephant item, sporting event tickets, or an evening of childcare? Could you donate a few music lessons, cooking lessons, a gift card for your favorite restaurant, or a few hours of leaf raking? Just let Mary Jane Cole maryjane@cfsw.biz or our auctioneer Shields Jones know what you can contribute.

Help us spread the news! Tell your friends and neighbors about our great list! Follow our group “Fall Fest at Aquia Church” on Facebook, and “Like” and “Share” our posts.



FROM THE RECTOR continued

August 2023; but because that particular area remains off-limits to nearly everyone except construction crews, we chose not to visit that island. Even so, we enjoyed breathtaking sights, wonderful weather, scrumptious food, and the calmer pace of life that one finds throughout Hawaii.

I had some fun in other ways as well. After my study week at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin, I spent a bit of time in and around Madison, where I visited one of my favorite cheese shops and took a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous home, Taliesin. In Grand Rapids I twice explored an important religious-goods store for both new books and used books, and (just like at the cheese shop) I certainly did not leave empty-handed. Back home my mother and I enjoyed a most pleasant day catching up with my aunt and uncle at their home in Leesburg, and I helped my daughter prepare for the start of her first semester of college. I have also had some good exchanges this summer with church friends who have moved away from this area. Moreover, I watched a lot of television and movies—including several episodes that I had not yet seen from favorite series, plenty of action from the Olympic Games, and more movies all at once than ever before. And I was blessed with a lot of naps and deep sleep.

Toward the end of my sabbatical, much of my reading focused on the Old Testament roots of our New Testament faith, and this personal study dovetailed nicely with the biblical courses I took this summer—all of which paid careful attention to their Old Testament sources. In addition, some of my independent learning involved reading Dante's *Divine Comedy*. When I used to teach philosophy at the University of Virginia, I worked through his *Inferno* in a course on virtues and vices and I



Idlewild, Michigan, became famous as our country's largest African-American resort. It catered to Black travelers and entertainers who were not welcomed elsewhere during decades of racial segregation.



This is a cutaway model of a first-century simple peasant home in the Holy Land, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey and on display at Trinity Anglican Seminary in Ambridge, Pa., where Father Morris spent a week this summer.

worked through his *Purgatorio* in a course on philosophy and literature. Now over twenty-five years later, I wanted to see how the *Comedy* ended by finally getting to his *Paradiso*.

Presumably you have gathered from these updates that this sabbatical was filled with a tremendous amount of work, travel, personal reflection, and R&R—all refreshing, invigorating, and preparing me for our next season of ministry together. My body has rested, my mind has been renewed, my heart has been lifted up, and my soul has been restored. One of the best developments from this sabbatical, as desired: disentangling myself temporarily from the formidable responsibilities of ordained ministry in order to declutter the landscape of my head and then return to my vocation with better clarity, fresh perspective, and new insights.

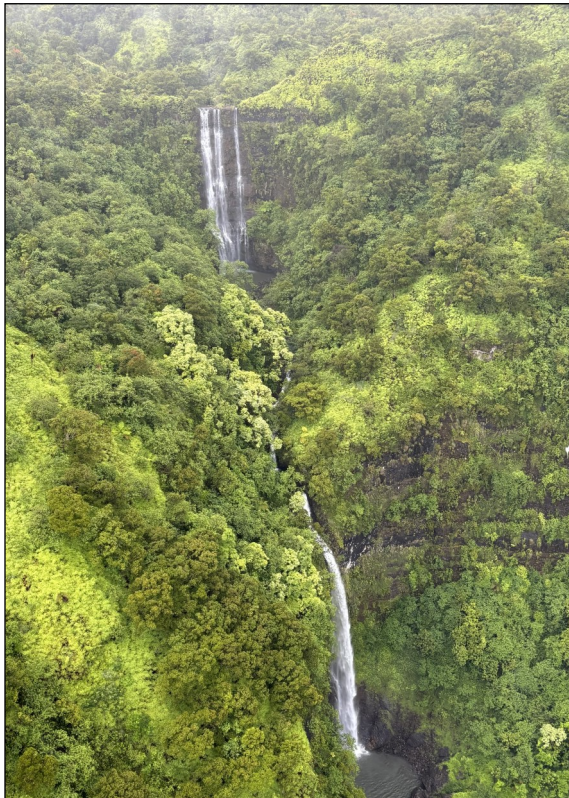
I expect to share a few more details from my work formally at Morning Call

on Sunday, Sept. 1, and informally during the same time on our Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 8. I remain grateful to Father Rickenbaker for his faithful leadership in my absence, and I likewise appreciate the good work of our staff, our vestry, and our various ministry groups as they have continued to conduct their ministry effectively during this summer. I thank you all for the important, generous gift of this sabbatical. Now that I have put away my suitcase for a while, I look forward to rejoining you for every good opportunity that lies ahead. While I have kept you in my prayers (just as I have experienced the benefits of your own prayers for me) throughout this period, you have surely been missed, and I can't wait to see you again. As absence makes the heart grow fonder, you may be assured of my very, very great fondness for you all.

Jay Morris



FROM THE RECTOR continued

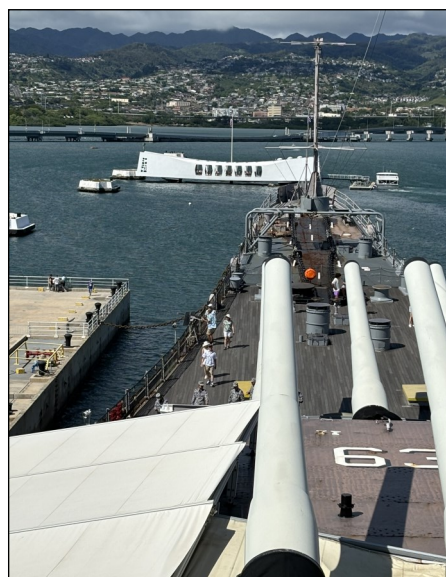


Photos courtesy of Jay Morris

Sometimes the best way to see waterfalls in Hawaii is from a helicopter.



Old Glory (left) flies above the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial as seen from within the memorial. From beginning to end: The U.S.S. Arizona Memorial as seen from the deck of the U.S.S. Missouri.



These Moreton Bay fig trees (below) and Tahitian screwpine trees (above) are part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden sites on Kauai.



The Light of the World

At our Christmas Eve service, near the end of our celebration, the lights in the church are dimmed, tapers are lit, and as the congregation lights the candles of each other, we utter the words, 'He is the Light of the World,' lighting the candles of others. These words are taken from John 8:12 – ***'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'*** Inspired by this verse, William Holman Hunt painted this vision. Holman Hunt was a noted pre-Raphaelite English artist who painted three versions of the famous painting. One is at St. Paul's Cathedral, one at Keble College, Oxford, and one at Manchester City Art Gallery. St. Paul's Cathedral offers a brief explanation of the layers of meaning found in this image.

The Light of the World is steeped in metaphor.

There are actually two lights shown in the picture – the lantern, which is the light of conscience and the light around the head of Christ, the light of salvation. The door represents the human soul: its lack of handle, the rusty nails and its hinges overgrown with ivy are intended to show that it has never been opened – and the figure of Christ is asking for permission to enter.

The morning star appears near Christ – the dawn of a new day – and the autumn weeds and fallen fruit, representing the autumn of life. On the frame of the painting at St. Paul's the writing beneath the picture is taken from Revelation 3:16 ***'Behold! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me.'***

The orchard of apple trees is intended to evoke several biblical references. The tree of knowledge in the garden of Eden was – according to legend – an apple tree, and in some Christian traditions the wood of that tree was miraculously saved to construct the cross on which Christ was crucified. The fallen apples could symbolize the fall of man, original sin, and sometimes in Italian art can refer to redemption. Neil McGregor, Director of the British Museum, has noted that in the painting Christ not only knocks at the door; he is himself the door.

A link that shows the artwork can be found here, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Light_of_the_World_\(painting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Light_of_the_World_(painting)).

Chris Arey

STS. MARY AND MARTHA GUILD

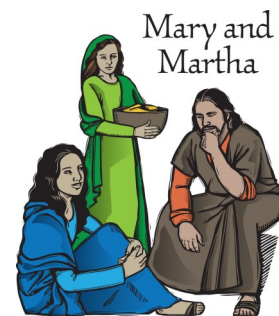
Worship, Service, and Fellowship

The countdown for Fall Fest is on. We women of the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild, are busy finishing up crafts that will be on sale at Fall Fest. Be sure and check out our Craft room and Jewelry room. This is a great way to make an early dent in your Christmas shopping list.

Right now, we are working diligently, to make sure we have many different crafts. Before October 5 we will price each piece, get them in our inventory and they will be ready for Fall Fest. These items will adorn our homes for the fall holidays, Halloween and Thanksgiving, as well as Christmas. Fall Fest also includes: baked goods, our Auction, Man Cave items, books, flea market fare, treasures to

decorate your homes and jewelry (treasures and custom). They will be presented for your perusal and purchase. These are just a few of the goodies we have to offer. Come and patronize our event, both Aquia Church members and community members.

At our recent "Bring-a-Friend to Church" Youth Sunday/Children's Sermon, several young children excitedly interacted with Father James, during the delivery of the sermon, at the center crossings of the sanctuary. It was joyous for us adults to experience, too. I tried to envision how vital our church might become in our community. May we soon be able to offer activities for young families, so that Aquia Church can be more inclusive and inviting, as we develop into a more vital Church community.



If you want a Biblical reference, regarding this aspiration, for this religious newsletter, simply think of the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hendrickson (co-chair)



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Transferred in: “*And the Lord added to their number day by day...*” Acts 2:47

Lilchy Huffman transferred from St. George’s Episcopal Church.

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 (540-659-4007) so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

Aquia Church Prayer List September 2024

Greg Bradford, Russell Boes,
Richard Chichester, Paula Davis,
Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Michael Golasz,
Lori, Ken Luehrs, Pat Moncure,
Rebecca Poole, Gloria Reyes, Crystal Schaffer,
Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, 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.





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

