



**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Cross Section

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



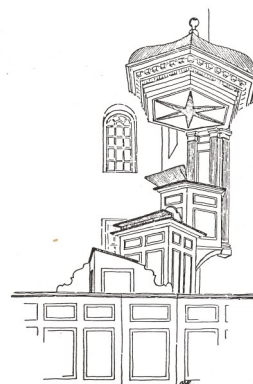
## Trunk-or-Treat



Aquia's Christian Education held the annual Trunk-or-Treat event on Oct. 26. See more photos of the fall fun on page 7.

### INSIDE:

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- Sts. Mary and Martha Guild
- Vestry Minutes/Treasurer's Note
- December Prayer List
- Christmas Flower order form





## 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

### **When December Disappoints — and Why It Can't**

Sometimes December disappoints us. We want to take in all the holiday hoopla and have a holly jolly Christmas, but we can't squeeze everything into our schedules. We want to attend all the parties and eat all the sweet treats, but then we couldn't squeeze in our clothes. We want to buy all the presents we 'owe' our relatives and friends and neighbors, but we simply can't squeeze any more money out of our wallets and purses. Throughout December, pressure squeezes us from every angle.

Sometimes December disappoints us in even deeper ways. We mourn those who have died this past year, and we miss their presence. We miss those who live too far away for a visit, or the at-long-last visit seems too short. With our short attention spans, we get distracted from focusing on the real significance of Christmas, and then we feel shortchanged spiritually. Throughout December, we run short on perspective and patience.

Sometimes December disappoints us at the depth and core of our existence. As the present year charges toward its end and the new year rushes to replace it, we might reflect on mistakes from the past—the things we did wrong, the good we failed to do, the missed opportunities—but might not get around to what should come after that reflection: namely, repentance. After all, it is always easier to moan in misery for what we have suffered than to acknowledge remorse over how we contributed to our own suffering and to the suffering of others, not to mention how hard it is to resolve that we must do better next time. You don't have to suffer from seasonal affective disorder to recognize how much about our lives and our world is truly disordered in ways that are contrary to what God expects from us—so much so

that many of us seem no longer to know about or to care about what God desires for us. That disheartening, dystopian disinterest renders us all the more depressed. And when we don't receive the presents we wanted or the good news we sought or the answers to our prayers as we coveted them, then we worry that we lived throughout December in vain.

Yet there can still be heard the message that never disappoints: "but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in." No matter how plagued by sin and other forms of disappointment we find this world, God still strives to bring chaos into order by inserting himself into this world—as an infant born in that little town of Bethlehem who grew in stature and in wisdom, who lived perfectly for imperfect people in an imperfect world, and who gave up his life in death on the cross and was raised back to life, never to die again.

For all the difficulty we face in the dark days of December, by its end there is always the light of Christ breaking forth, bursting through, and guiding us toward something better than before. This year's December begins with the first Sunday of Advent, as we anticipate the joy that shall eventually be ours at the end of time when our Lord returns to us. Until then, our yearly remembrance of God's incarnation in Jesus brings us hope for the future as nothing else can. During the extended season of Christmas, the new year offers a renewed opportunity to rely on God's grace to draw us closer to him and to each other.

That is why, ultimately, what we truly celebrate in December can never disappoint us.

*Jay Morris*



### The Second Coming of Christ

*"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command,  
with the voice of an archangel,  
and with the sound of the trumpet of God..."*

(I Thess. 4:16-17)

**D**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 how intentional you are about prayer. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done." During the Advent season, our eyes, hearts, and minds are focused on the coming kingdom. We are focused on the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout the centuries, the return of Christ has often been seen as a day that brings fear and anxiety. Many have thought of it as a day to avoid. But the Scriptures speak of his return differently. They teach us that Christ's return is good news!

In the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus tells us that there will be many concerning events leading up to his return. But he finishes this statement by saying: "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). When Christ returns, it is for our redemption. It is to draw us to himself. It is to make all things right and all things new. When he comes again, it is good news.

In First Thessalonians, Paul tells us the good news about Jesus' second coming: "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:16-17). When Christ comes on that great and last

day, it will be so that we can be with him forever. No longer will sin threaten us. On that day, sin and death, which have plagued us since the Fall (see Gen.3), will die. Satan will be dethroned. And all of those who are in Jesus will rise to new and everlasting life. When Christ comes again, it is good news.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews tells us more good news when he writes: "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (Heb. 9:27-28). When Christ returns, it is for our salvation. We who have seen how far the world has strayed from God, will be saved on account of Jesus Christ's death for our sins. We know that Christ Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (John 3:17). So when Christ comes again, that will be good news.

There are so many other places to look in the Scriptures to see that when Christ comes, it will be a joy-filled day. In the interim, may this Advent be one of repentance and faith for you. May this Christmas be one of hope for you, even when the world tries so desperately to rob us of our hope. Let this season of expectation and longing be one of prayer for the return of Jesus. For it is indeed good news. 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*



### AQUA 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*

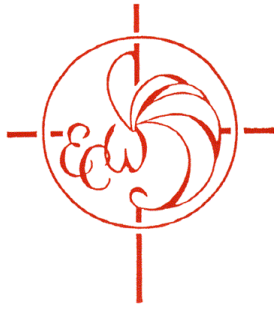
**Pat Quinn**  
*Administration Committee*

**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.

Aquia's Episcopal Church Women, which is a part of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia, invite our parish families to join us on Sunday, Dec. 15, for our ECW annual meeting and to honor our "Gift of Life" honorees. We will host a breakfast/brunch reception immediately following the 7:30 a.m. worship service. Following a short business meeting of the ECW, we will introduce the 2024 "Gift of Life" honorees. We hope you will join us in celebration. Their deeds do not go unnoticed as they share their time and talents through their many good works.

We are very grateful for the work and dedication of the ECW officers who are retiring from their respective positions. Their ministry and their guidance with the ECW will not stop as they take time for personal matters. We are excited to recognize the 2024 officers of the ECW board and the co-chairs of our Sts. Mary and Martha guild. As they share in the ECW's mission and ministry, all of these women create lifetime bonds of faith, service, and friendship. I hope you will join the ECW board in thanking them for their service.

Continued on page 6

*When we wake and discover  
our lives  
Are suddenly in a never-before  
time,  
A never-again-the-same time,  
Grant us courage, O God,  
in knowing  
That all times are yours,  
That you are ever before  
and after,  
That with you there  
is no "never."*

*(Prayers for Episcopal Women)*

## Worship Schedule for December and Beyond

### Sunday, Dec. 1 (First Sunday of Advent)

7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 4:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, Dec. 8 (Second Sunday of Advent)

7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
4:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols  
(not a communion service)

### Sunday, Dec. 15 (Third Sunday of Advent)

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:30 a.m. E.C.W. Christmas Reception  
in the great hall  
10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas  
Pageant with Holy  
Communion in the great hall  
4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, Dec. 22 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 4:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., & 10:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist (Christmas Eve)  
with Christmas music beginning  
30 minutes before each service

### Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, Dec. 29 (First Sunday after Christmas)

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and  
Carols with Holy Communion  
no afternoon/evening worship service

### Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 (First Sunday of the New Year)

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Parish-  
Wide Annual Meeting  
with Election of New Vestry Members  
in the great hall  
(in case of snow or ice, the annual  
meeting will be postponed one week)  
Sunday school activities throughout the  
morning for students in pre-K through  
12th grade  
4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist



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## AQUIA'S PANTRY

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Each week, Pantry volunteers combine your contributions with donations picked up from four supermarkets, four convenience stores, and the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank to give to 120 to 140 families. We are thankful for all these gifts and for our awesome volunteers. Aquia's Pantry requires 90 to 100 volunteer hours each week to make this happen. We are so very grateful to God for all these gifts of food and time and talent.

Our guests are thankful as well! In October we were asked by the food bank to hand out a brief questionnaire to see how well we were fulfilling our guests' needs. The last question asked: "How has this food pantry impacted your daily life or your family's well-being?" Nearly half of the guests wrote a note. Here are a few answers of the many that touched our hearts.

*"Before learning of this church we were having to skip multi meals each week. Thank you for all you do for this community!"*

*"I needed a food bank that I could go to after work hours. I need to work and can't afford to take off. This has helped 10-fold! Also, we only have 1 car for 3 families. It is nice I can pick up for all of us!"*

*"For me and my children it is very helpful. Thank you very much to all those who make it possible for us to obtain these foods. God bless you."*

*"It has brought needed joy and peace alongside simple words of encouragement the staff offers. This ministry goes beyond the vehicle of food distribution. The love is indeed felt. Blessings to you all!"*



Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Cole

Andrea and Barb are standing in the foyer of the CFFB surrounded by 420 bags of food (3 per family) that they (along with other members of the Pantry team) will distribute between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday except Christmas Day.

In 2024, the only Wednesday when Aquia's Pantry will be closed is Christmas Day, but we will be open on New Year's Day 2025. Thank you for helping make all this possible with your donations and help.

To learn more about Aquia's Pantry in person, stop by the great hall any Wednesday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. If you have questions or suggestions, please reach out Barb Bingay, Ron Korth, or Mary Jane Cole ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)).



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## STS. MARY AND MARTHA GUILD

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The harvesting of pumpkins and the picking of apples are rites signifying to us that we are in the season of fall and that winter is right behind it.

We have had a successful Fall Fest. Our church has hosted the annual meeting of the diocesan ECW in October. We also took a church bus field trip this October to the Museum of the Bible—our church's first field trip since COVID. At the end of the month, we had "Trunk or Treat" for all the little goblins who are young at heart. Then in December, the fiscal pursuits take place. The ECW will also host a breakfast feast with our local ECW's annual meeting. In addition, we will celebrate those who have demonstrated their time and talents for the church. These individuals will be presented with "the Gift of Life Award." Finally, we are preparing for Advent, which starts on December 1 this year.

We are awaiting the coming of our Lord at Advent. It is a time for intro-

spection and self-examination. What if the Lord were to come this year? Would you be ready? I know that I personally will have a lot of introspection and work still to do, and God's grace will help my journey.

Separating the spiritual aspect from the marketing topic, we in the Sts. Mary and Martha guild are putting together all kinds of items for Advent and Christmas at our Advent gift tables—the very items everyone needs or wants for Advent, Christmas, or cooking for the holidays. Stop by our Advent shop during December and do your last-minute gift shopping. Pick up items for your seasonal needs. We'll provide a couple of short descriptions of some interesting items in the worship service bulletin on December 1 and later at mid-Advent. We are conveniently open right after the 7:30 worship service and right after the 10:30 worship service for a couple of hours. This opportunity will present itself throughout in December. Please make use of it.

If you have been a member of the Sts. Mary and Martha guild in the past, we'd really like you to include us again in your plans. If you haven't been a member, or if you are new to the church, please join us at the first and third Thursdays of each month. If the month has a fifth Thursday, then it will be a service day. So come to one of the meetings that month, and we will give you the details. Better yet, if you have any questions, e-mail Carolyn Hendrickson (docnpch@gmail.com) or Kathie League (kleague6412@gmail.com), co-chairs of our guild.

We are praying that you will have several gatherings with family and friends so that you and your kids can make memories that will last for their whole life.

HAPPY, HOLY, MERRY  
CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Hendrickson (co-chairman)*

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ECW, from page 4

In summarizing our 2024 year: the ministry and mission of the ECW continued to support our community through making donations and through partnering with other parish ministries in service. An important part of the ECW ministry is bringing our parish family and friends together in fellowship, prayer, and good works in Christ's name. The success of this year's Fall Fest, even with the threat of rain that day, can be credited to the weeks and planning and work by our parish. It serves as the ECW's largest fundraising event each year. The 67th annual Fall Fest is already on the books for October 4, 2025. The ECW will be able to continue supporting our ministry on the local, diocesan, and worldwide levels

next year partially because of the success of Fall Fest each year.

One week after Fall Fest 2024, Aquia's ECW hosted the 134th Annual Meeting and the 135th UTO Ingathering of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia. The event was well attended by many ladies from the diocese. Our keynote speaker, The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, spoke on the theme "A Child of God, A Woman of Faith, A Warrior of Christ." Following the activities of the day, including a well-attended luncheon, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated in the historic church building. It is always a pleasure to host the ECW of the diocese. We had so much support from the women of Aquia—along with support from our rector and assistant rector—which made the day such an enjoyable event.

We invite all women to share in our mission and ministry and to enjoy the fellowship within the ECW. I can be contacted by e-mail (bkwings\_n\_things@yahoo.com), and my phone number is in the parish directory. In sharing your time and talents, we are all enriched.

The Sts. Mary and Martha guild meets on the first and third Thursdays monthly for study and reflection. Sts. Mary and Martha time is also divided between service to our parish and service to our community. On the fifth Thursday of a month, our service projects encompass the needs of our campus. There is always much to do and to share as we unite in the service of our Lord by doing good works.

*Briget Kane  
ECW President*





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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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### Fall Fun weekend

Numerous festive and spooky vehicles lined the parking lot for Aquia's annual Trunk-or-Treat event on Oct. 26. Aquia's children enjoyed filling their bags with candy and watching a movie outside. Thank you to all the creative trunk decorators and technical movie experts for helping to make the evening entertaining. The seasonal weekend continued with pumpkin decorating and a fall scavenger hunt after the 10:30 a.m. service on Oct. 27.



Photos courtesy of Kimberly Bamber



### Vestry Meeting

### Minutes

**22 October 2024**

Dinner Available (starting at 6:15 p.m.)

Business Session (starting at 7:00 p.m.)

**Attendance:** Fr. Jay Morris; Fr. James Rickenbaker; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden; Charlie Bingay, Assistant Treasurer; Michael Ferrantino, Brad Hammer, Carolyn Hendrickson, Walt Peterson, Patricia Quinn, Anna Rall, Penny Stevens

#### Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

#### Treasurer's Report

- Presented by Charlie Bingay, Assistant Treasurer
- Reviewed Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report

#### Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **R-2024-17:** Sale of Burial Rights to Rick Bryant (approved 10/1)
- **R-2024-18:** Appointment of Audit Committee to Review 2023 Financials (approved 10/1)
- Minutes approved unanimously

#### New Business

- **R-2024-19:** Additional Appointments to Audit Committee to Review 2023 Financials (Finance Committee)
  - Approved unanimously
- **R-2024-20:** Transfer Money from the General Fund Reserve to the General Fund (Rector for the Treasurer)
  - Approved unanimously

#### Continuing Business

- **Vestry Nut/Candy Sales**
  - \$1,600 in sales so far with a few items remaining for sale

#### • Vestry Brick Sales at Fall Fest

- 8 bricks sold

#### • Annual Pledge Campaign

- Vestry members will sign up to speak during services on importance of pledging

#### • Vestry Election at 2025 Annual Meeting

- 4 for 3-year term
- 3 for 2-year term
- 1 for 1 year term

#### Reports from Committees, Wardens, and Clergy

##### Administration Committee:

- Met and reviewed annual goals
- Request to add an AED battery to B&G maintenance plan

##### Finance Committee:

- Nothing additional to add out side of Treasurer's Report

##### Buildings and Grounds Committee:

- Installation of pavers lane at 1960 parish house is complete

##### Senior and Junior Warden Updates:

- Reviewing B&G budget for 2025

#### Upcoming Dates

- **November Vestry meeting: 11/26 (in person, with meal beforehand)**
- **Grounds Cleanup: 11/23 (backup date: 11/30)**
- **Thanksgiving (Eve) worship service: 11/27 (7:00 p.m.)**
- **December Vestry meeting: 12/17 (NOTE: third Tuesday, not fourth) (via Zoom)**

#### Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment

### Treasurer's Note

**M**onetary contributions intended for 2024 must be received by the church by 31 December 2024 or be postmarked by 31 December 2024. Contributions such as checks which are dated in 2024 but which are received after 31 December 2024 or postmarked after 31 December 2024 will be counted towards 2025. Electronic contributions must be made by the end of 31 December 2024 to count towards 2024.

After 31 December 2024, for in-kind donations made during this year which have not previously been identified, parishioners are asked to provide the receipts to the office as soon as possible. In the event that in-kind receipts are not received by the church office before end-of-year statements are produced, the Treasurer will provide a separate statement for these in-kind donations.

End-of-year contribution statements for 2024 will be available at church in mid-January 2025. Any discrepancies should be referred to Sue Selz, our parish administrator, for resolution.

In the new year, if you are requesting a reimbursement for an in-kind contribution, please consider holding your request until you reach the amount of \$25.00. Each of our security-enhanced checks costs nearly a dollar, and postage for mailing each check continues to increase, so we are trying to minimize the cost of producing checks for small dollar amounts. If this is not feasible for you, then we will process your check per your request.

*Chris Arey*

*Treasurer*





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## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

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

Richard A. Bryant, Eagledale Baptist Church,  
Indianapolis, IN.

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

Merita Bradner, 1955-2024;

Terry Galen, 1955-2024.

### 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 January 12, 2025. If you would like to arrange for yourself or someone in your family to be baptized, please contact the church office (540-659-4007) so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

### Aquia Church Prayer List

December 2024

Boes Family, Richard Chichester,  
Jill Crawford, Paula Davis, Edmond Family,  
Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Mary Hall,  
Tim Lacey, Lori, Anne Luehrs, Ken Luehrs,  
Pat Moncure, Nina, Paul, Rebecca Poole,  
Gloria Reyes, Rebecca Schaffer,  
Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, Carolyn Stringer,  
Tom Tremper, Dave Van Metre,  
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.





**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER FORM



Enclosed is my donation for Christmas and Epiphany altar flowers, wreaths, and garland. I understand that I am giving my donation toward the overall preparation of the church for Christmas.

I would like my gift to the Christmas Altar to be:

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to take a poinsettia home after December 25th.

(Circle One) YES NO

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Please enclose a check for \$20.00 made out to:*

*Aquia Episcopal Church*

*and on the memo line: "Christmas Flowers"*

*DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 17th*