



**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Cross Section

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

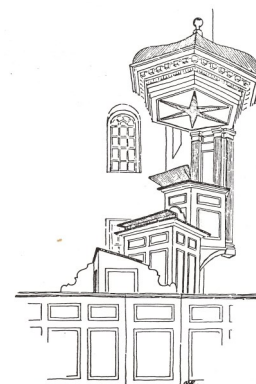


## FALL FEST 2024

October's Fall Fest was a success thanks to the many parishioners that dedicate their time and talent over weeks and months of planning. See more photos on page 6.

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## CROSS SECTION

### Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Richmond Hwy.  
Stafford, Va.

*Mailing address:*

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**Contact us:**

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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

### Preparing for the New Year

People often do not turn their attention to the start of a new year, which is filled with possibilities and opportunities, until perhaps the last week of December. That's when they finally begin to focus on getting themselves invited to a New Year's Eve party or on hosting one, or they scramble for reservations at their favorite restaurant, where they anticipate the new year with relatives and friends. But by that point, as the old year winds down, they sadly discover that it's too late and they end up being disappointed.

Like most organizations, a church cannot wait until after Christmas to begin planning for the new year. Certain events need to be set on the calendar in advance and advertised accordingly; candidates for election to the vestry need to be recruited and announced; a budget needs to be drafted, discussed, and approved. We dare not wait till New Year's Eve before setting these important tasks into motion.

Therefore, long before the current year's end and the new year's beginning, Aquia Church has already started making preparations for next year. Our parish's annual meeting—an essential occasion for taking stock of where we have gone recently and where we are heading next—will be held on the first Sunday of January, with breakfast provided by the vestry and available throughout the morning. The combined worship service that morning will be simple but joyful, the refreshments will enhance our fellowship, and our time together will be blessed. At our annual meeting, various leaders will assess some challenges and some successes within our ministries during 2024 and look ahead to our work in 2025, and we shall elect new members for the vestry. We'll also hear updates about our current year's finances, our pledge campaign for next year's budget, and the status of our mortgage on the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building. While the business session

proceeds in the great hall, special activities will be available downstairs for children and youth.

You have a crucial part to play in how this annual meeting goes and in how this upcoming year begins. The Lord might be calling you to serve on the vestry, which exercises leadership in our parish and provides stewardship for our property and finances. Also, you might be able to encourage someone else who would be an effective vestry member: you could hand that person a blue self-nomination form for that individual to complete—especially if he or she has experience with financial matters and with managing buildings and grounds. Your making a monetary pledge can help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help support our collaboration during the year ahead. Coupled with your commitment of time and talent to the promising, life-changing work that we undertake for God in our community, your increased engagement here can make a remarkable difference in your life and in the health of Aquia Church.

Considering all the possibilities and opportunities in our future, we should not delay the important tasks mentioned above. It's time to raise up solid leaders for the vestry, time to step up with financial pledges for next year, and time to commit ourselves vigorously to the good things we can do for God in 2025. This is not the time for being timid; instead, this is the time for devoting ourselves energetically and wholeheartedly to the mission and ministry God has given us.

So please mark your calendars for 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 5 in the new year (snow/ice date: one week later), then join us at our parish's annual meeting for 2025. It will be more important than any New Year's Eve party.

*Jay Morris*



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## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

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### The Election

Dear Family in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I thank our God for you, most especially for how even-tempered you are in dealing with others regarding controversial issues. Your self-restraint is most notable during this election season. I want to encourage you in that good behavior as election day is almost upon us. The political environment is getting more intense. The bad news gets the most airtime, and there is very little good news to go around.

Let me begin with an encouragement and charge: go vote. As an American citizen, it really is good and important to vote. Voting is a civic responsibility for Americans. As a Christian, it really is good and necessary to vote your conscience (as it is informed by God's word in Holy Scripture). To borrow a phrase from Martin Luther: as Christians, our conscience is held captive to the word of God. Therefore, as Luther also said, to go against conscience is neither right nor safe.

Now that we have gotten that out of the way, it is important to address the problem at hand. I have grown weary—as I am sure you have—with the rhetoric and anger in our political atmosphere this season. I have grown particularly tired of the partisan politics of many Episcopal clergy on social media. This kind of environment leaves no one happy and makes everyone self-righteous. It also makes everyone miss the most important point that we all need to hear every, single day. That's why you may be asking yourself: Where is the good news this November? Onto what can I grab hold in this tumult? Or in the plaintive words of St. Paul, "Who can save me from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:24). Our answer must be the same as Paul's: "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Rom. 7:25).

*"Thanks be to God,  
who delivers me through  
Jesus Christ our Lord!"*

This is the Good News for you this November: God is in control. Jesus Christ, our Savior, came and died for you and for your sins. No political candidate can boast that. No party platform can redeem you. No ballot you cast can raise you to everlasting life. There is salvation in no other name than the name of Jesus! We share a common plight with all humanity. All stand condemned before Almighty God: "No one is righteous, no, not one" (Ps. 14:3; 53:3; Rom. 3:10-12). Yet the Gospel is that God loves you so much that he sent his Son to die for you, even while you were dead in your sins (Rom. 5:8). That means that everyone is someone for whom Christ died and whom Christ loves deeply.

It's ironic that November 5 falls in the first week of a month typically dedicated to giving thanks. Amidst the divisions and the animus, give thanks to God this month for his saving work for you (and those with whom you disagree) in Christ Jesus. Give thanks that God has taken care of the root cause of our disunity and brokenness by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. That doesn't mean that you abandon your convictions (unless they aren't informed by God's word in Scripture). Instead, thankfulness during this time will lead to a little more humility, a little more love for your neighbor, a little more sharing of the Gospel, and, ultimately, eyes focused on what truly matters: Jesus Christ died for you.

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*

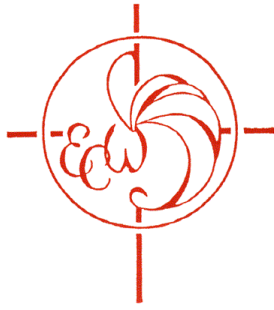
**Walt Peterson**  
*Chairperson, Administration  
Committee*

**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.

We closed October 2024 by taking a deep breath and feeling gratitude for the many blessings we received. Early in the month, we tackled Fall Fest, which once again was a success after weeks and months of planning and preparation. It was a day for supporting the ECW and other ministries of our church.

On October 12, we hosted the 134th annual meeting of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Virginia and the 135th ingathering of the United Thank Offering. On that day we welcomed visitors from many regions in our Virginia. We also welcomed the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris (assistant bishop of our diocese), Ericka Masias (president of the diocesan ECW) and other members of the diocesan ECW Board. Following a busy morning that included a continental breakfast and lunch, we adjourned to the historic church for the worship service with UTO Ingathering and the Holy Eucharist.

To me, November sometimes seems to be a transitional month. We are leaving the fall colors behind; there are fewer hours of daylight now. We begin our transition on November 1 with All Saints' Day, with prayers and feasts and gatherings. As we move through November with family and friends, some of us may celebrate several of these not-so-common days: Sadie Hawkins Day, Will Rogers Day, Veterans Day, National Button Day, and St. Andrew's Day. With family and friends, we "work our way to Thanks-



giving, a day of family, feasts, and opportunities for giving thanks.

On the morning of December 15 from 9:30-10:15 a.m., Aquia's ECW will hold our annual meeting, and everyone is invited to attend. We hope you will join us in the great hall for this occasion at which we will recognize our Book of Life honorees.

It is during November and December when we look back over our year. We remember the things we did, including giving our time and talents as Christians and gaining spiritual enrichment through reading, studying, and worship.

That is why November and December are such important months, by the nature of what both months asks of each of us: to give, to listen, and to learn that through faith we receive God's grace.

*Blessings for Thanksgiving,  
Briget Kane  
President, Aquia ECW*

### Episcopal Church Women's Prayer

*Almighty God,  
we pray that you will bless  
our work in mission  
and ministry in the world.  
Help us to pray fervently,  
labor diligently and give  
liberally to make known  
the power of your love given  
through your son Jesus.  
Let us not forget the lessons  
from the past nor fear  
the challenges of the future.  
Anoint us with your grace  
and shine in our hearts  
as we reflect your light  
throughout the world.  
Amen.*

All women of Aquia are invited to share in the ministry of the ECW. The Aquia ECW is a chapter of the ECW in the Diocese of Virginia.

That is why November and December are such important months, by the nature of what both months asks of each of us: to give, to listen, and to learn that through faith we receive God's grace.

*Blessings for Thanksgiving,  
Briget Kane  
President, Aquia ECW*



## FIELD TRIP



On Monday, Oct. 14, a group of parishioners and friends of Aquia Church took a bus trip to tour the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The event was organized by our fellowship events task group. We look forward to holding more fun events and tours in the future. Interested in participating with this group, or have an idea for a future event? Simply contact one of the clergy.

## AQUIA'S PANTRY

Aquia's Pantry has had a remarkably busy fall, distributing groceries to an average of 135 families each week. Thanks to the generosity of some local grocery stores, we have been able to offer bread and desserts, fresh vegetables, and about 4 pounds of frozen meat or fish to each family. In addition, parishioners are now supplying boxes of cereal and canned goods because the foodbank's shelves are all but bare. We are incredibly grateful for the donations that we have received from church members, both gifts in kind and monetary donations.

The items most needed include tomato or pasta sauce, canned beans, canned vegetables, peanut butter, and brown paper grocery bags. If we were required to purchase all the bags we use each month, the cost would be over \$300—or \$4,000 per year.

**The Giant food store on  
Worth Avenue will donate  
\$1.00 to Aquia's Pantry for each  
\$2.75 Community Bag sold  
during the month of November.**

Please consider adding a few extra boxes of cereal or cans of vegetables to your grocery cart this month in order to enable this outreach ministry to be as helpful as possible to our neighbors in need. Also, the Giant food store on Worth Avenue will donate \$1.00 to Aquia's Pantry for each \$2.75 Community Bag sold during the month of November. If you shop at Giant and need any reusable bags, please consider purchasing one in November while Aquia's

Pantry is the recipient of the Giant Food Community Bag Nonprofit Partner Program.

To learn more about Aquia's Pantry, stop by the great hall any Wednesday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. You can witness the delivery and weighing of food from the grocery stores in the morning, the filling of bags in the afternoon, and the filling of trunks starting at 6:00 p.m. You can even participate! Yes, we still need additional volunteers on Tuesday mornings and at any time on Wednesdays. Please consider giving a gift of time to help our neighbors who come up the hill for assistance. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Ron Korth, Barb Bingay, or Mary Jane Cole ([maryjane@cfsw.biz](mailto:maryjane@cfsw.biz)).

*Mary Jane Cole*



# FALL FEST 2024



## After Action

A huge “thank you” goes to all parishioners and merchants who contributed to the 2024 Fall Fest auction! This year, we offered 32 grouped or individual items for bidding. Twenty-five of these were gifts of time, talent, and other donations from our own parish family.

The merchants and business owners who contributed to the auction are listed below. Please remember them when you do your holiday shopping and thank them for donating to your church’s major outreach fund raiser.

I would also like to thank our awesome auctioneer Shields Jones, Wendy Osborn (who helped immeasurably with the soliciting this year), Maria Britton (who served as our own “Vanna White”), and Joy Jones who is the auction’s essential professional support staff. Thanks to their combined efforts, we had one of the best auctions yet!

*Mary Jane Cole, Auction Chair*

## Sponsors of the 2024 Fall Fest Auction

610 Car Wash

Alpine Chef

Amy’s Café

Auto Zone at Embry Mills

Aquia Harbour Golf Club

Augustine Golf Club

Basilico New York Deli of North Stafford

Brock’s Riverside Grill

El Gran Charro

Essex Inn at Tappahannock

Forest Greens Golf Club

Gari Melchers Home and Studio

Jabberwocky Children’s Books & Toys

Kobe Japanese Steak House

Lady Legacy

Marriot Fredericksburg Historic District

Meadows Farms

Olde Virginia Gourmet

Outback Steakhouse of Stafford

Pets Plus

Potomac Point Vineyard & Winery

Publix Super Market

Robiolina Italian Cuisine

Sake Thai and Sushi Bar

Sammy T’s

Stafford County

Sunset Cruises of Stafford

Tea Tyme

The Card Cellar

Wegmans

Zibibbo 73 Italian Restaurant



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## St. Herman of Alaska

In 1966, the comedy *The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming* hit American movie theaters. Featuring the grounding of a Russian submarine near a quaint Massachusetts village, at the height of the Cold War, the movie offered some entertaining relief for those accustomed to worrying about the prospect of nuclear war. Actually, the Russians had already been here in America, and much earlier. Looking back to the story of Alaska, we find a distinct Russian imprint on the culture and history of Alaska. Prior to the purchase of Alaska in 1867, then criticized as “Seward’s Folly” (so named after William Seward, the Secretary of State who negotiated the American purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million, or 2¢ per acre), Alaska was part of the Russian Empire.

Vitus Bering and Aleksei Chirikov discovered Alaska on behalf of the Russian Empire in 1741. This expedition began a concentrated effort to find and harvest fur—sea otter pelts, initially. For the next fifty years, Russian frontiersmen explored and hunted in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, mixing with the native population through marriage. Soon, the Russians established a trading company and requested that a priest be sent to attend to the natives. Empress Catherine the Great elected to send an

entire mission to Alaska. So in September 1794, a group of 10 monks, including one named Herman, arrived in Kodiak. He was 38 and had been sent from the Valaam monastery, which is located in northeast Russia, near modern Finland.

In Kodiak, the monks observed maltreatment of the natives and widespread alcoholism among the Russians operating the trading company, and these monks became a defender of the natives. Overcoming this hostile environment, the monks baptized more than 7,000 natives in the Kodiak region and set about building a church and monastery. Herman was assigned to serve in the bakery and acted as the mission’s steward. Over time, the monks became the protectors of the natives, and Herman was renowned for his zeal in defending them from the excessive demands of the fur traders.

In 1807 Herman, though not ordained a priest, became the head of the mission. The local population loved and respected him, and he had established good relations with fur traders. He led the mission school, where he taught religious subjects and reading and writing. However, sometime after 1811, desiring to pursue the solitary life, he retired from the mission and moved to Spruce Island, located about a mile

from Kodiak. His isolated life would not last long; many natives moved to Spruce Island in order to be near him, as he was greatly admired and respected. He died there on November 15, 1837.

In 1970, Herman was canonized by both the Orthodox Church of America (OCA) and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. Clifton Chapel, a 19th century chapel in the Widewater area of Stafford and formerly a part of Aquia Episcopal Church, is now owned by an OCA church that is named for St. Herman of Alaska. In 2022, Herman was officially added to the Episcopal Church’s liturgical calendar with a feast day on November 15. The collect for this day is:

*Almighty God, who raised up your servant Herman to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Alaska: Illuminate our hearts, that we also in our own generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

[Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022, page 511]

Chris Arey

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### RETIRING OUR MORTGAGE DEBT:

Aquia Church has received a commitment for a new matching challenge to help us retire the mortgage debt for the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building. Every donation received for the new building throughout this calendar year will be matched dollar-for-

dollar up to \$100,000.00, so that we can continue to pay off the mortgage ahead of schedule, with reduced interest payments and reduced overall expense.

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

Please make sure that your gift is clearly marked with something like “new building” on the memo line of your check or on the envelope.

**As of Oct. 22, the amount received toward this matching challenge is \$51,667.12. Can you make a gift that will help us reach our goal?**

**Every donation matters.**



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## VESTRY

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### Vestry Meeting (via Zoom) Minutes

1 October 2024 (rescheduled from  
24 September 2024)

**Business Session (starting at 7 p.m.)**

**Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**Attendance:** Fr. Jay Morris; Bill Hoffman, Senior Warden; Chris Arey, Treasurer; Michael Ferrantino, Carolyn Hendrickson, Sarah Kirby, Walt Peterson, Penny Stevens, Anna Rall

**Treasurer's Report**

- Reviewed CD renewals
- CFFB matching challenge is falling short of goal
- Reviewed accounts with Trustees of the Funds

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

- **R-2024-14: Adjustments to the 2024 Operating Budget** (approved 8/27)
- **R-2024-15: Buy-Back of Burial Rights from Howard Bray** (approved 8/27)
- [R-2024-16: *Authorization for Expenses to Install Drive-On Paver Lane to Parish House, approved unanimously by electronic vote conducted 2-6 September 2024*]
- Approved unanimously

**New Business**

- **R-2024-17: Sale of Burial Rights to Rick Bryant** (Rector for Cemetery Superintendent)
  - Approved unanimously

- **R-2024-18: Appointment of Audit Committee to Review 2023 Financials** (Finance Committee)

- Committee is reminded that Dennise LaBarre will not be involved in the audit of the ECW accounts as she is the Treasurer of the ECW

- Approved unanimously

**Continuing Business**

- **Vestry Nut/Candy Sales at Fall Fest**

Dale Hendon will pick up supplies on 10/3/24

- **Vestry Brick Sales at Fall Fest**

Ready to print certificates

Have 20 bricks available for sale now but can prepare more as needed

Price is \$10/brick

- **Diocesan Annual Convention**

November 7-9 in Fredericksburg

Our delegates are Carolyn Hendrickson, Bill Hoffman, and Michael Golasz; our alternate is Sarah Kirby; both of our clergy will attend as well

- **Annual Pledge Campaign**

Will have dates for campaign mailing and due dates by next vestry meeting

Will include notes on how to contribute to endowment funds

Vestry members will be giving testimony throughout the campaign

- **Vestry Election at 2025 Annual Meeting**

First Sunday of 2025 (1/5/25)

Will need to elect at least four 3-year term members

Need to elect a full slate of candidates and ask for vestry members to start chatting with potential candidates

**Reports from Committees, Wardens, and Clergy**

Administration Committee:

- No new updates

Finance Committee:

- No new updates apart from treasurer report updates and Resolution 18

B&G Committee:

- Paver project is underway
- Grounds are being cleaned up for Fall Fest
- Fall cleanup is tentatively scheduled for November 23

Clergy Report:

- Will be forwarded in the coming days
- Father Jay is grateful for the opportunities for study and personal connections throughout his sabbatical

**Upcoming Dates**

**10/5: Fall Fest** (8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.)

**10/12: Aquia hosts Fall Meeting of Diocesan Episcopal Church Women**

**10/14: Field Trip to Museum of the Bible** (fellowship events task group)

**October Vestry meeting: 10/22** (with meal available starting at 6:00 p.m. and business session starting at 7:00 p.m.)

- Planned for 10/22

**November Vestry meeting: 11/26** (unless different date needed)

- In person and meal provided

**December Vestry meeting: 12/17** (NOTE: third Tuesday, not fourth)

- Will be a zoom meeting

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









**AQUIA**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church  
Post Office Box 275  
Stafford, VA  
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

