



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

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



Final Foursome

The 14th Annual Bob Jones Memorial Golf Tournament was held on May 19 at Augustine Golf Club in Stafford, Va.

Support from all the players, sponsors and donors benefits Aquia's Table.

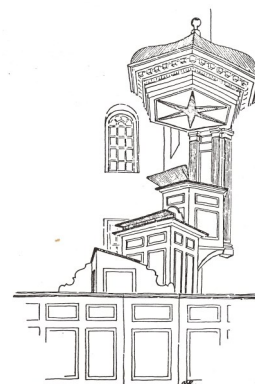
See more photos on page 7.

Photos courtesy of Dina Stanford



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CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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Rector
The Rev. Jay Morris

Assistant Rector
The Rev. James Rickenbaker

Treasurer
Chris Arey

Assistant Treasurer
Charlie Bingay

Music Director
Trystan Bennett

Dir. Christian Education
Kimberly Bamber

Parish Administrator
Sue Selz

Bookkeeper
Gloria Reyes

Nursery Supervisor
Dawna Spaulding

FROM THE RECTOR

Celebrations in June

Each month the Calendar of the Church is filled with feast days and special occasions that deserve our attention, and that is certainly true this June.

The first three days of June honor some Christians who suffered death as martyrs for their faith, ranging from Justin in second-century Rome and others in second-century Lyons (now in France) to Ugandans in nineteenth-century Africa. Various dates recognize an array of bishops, theologians, missionaries, and other Christian leaders across continents and centuries. Traditionally, Christians such as these are honored on the dates of their death, to the extent that such dates are known.

Four prominent heroes in the New Testament are also honored during this month. The feast of Barnabas is June 11, the feast for the Nativity of John the Baptist is June 24, and the feast honoring the great apostles Peter and Paul is June 30 this year (ordinarily their feast date is June 29, but feast days honoring mere mortals are transferred to the next available date when they land on a Sunday, since Sundays are always first and foremost celebrations of Jesus' resurrection). Perhaps this month you might explore the place that each of these heroes has in the history of our faith, searching in the New Testament for what can be learned about their devotion to God and the substance of their ministry.

This June, we have an exceptional blessing as two of the seven principal feasts of the Church—the Day of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, theoretically on a par with Christmas and Easter—happen to land in June. The Christian observance of Pentecost falls each year on the fiftieth day after Easter, in recognition of the day when the Holy Spirit of God came down from Heaven in visible, palpable form that empowered the apostles and other Christians to continue Jesus' ministry in his

physical absence from the earth after his bodily ascension. One week after Pentecost, we also acknowledge the importance that our faith places upon the Holy Trinity by devoting an entire day to the celebration of this triune reality. The Trinity is admittedly something of a mystery, simply by virtue of its profound depth, and yet annually we are invited to recommit ourselves to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in whose Name and into whose life we have been baptized.

With a bit of unusual timing, we begin the month by celebrating the great heritage of our faith on Heritage Sunday. Aquia Church was not named the way many churches are named for some Christian leader (such as an apostle or martyr) or a Christian motif (such as the Trinity or the Good Shepherd), so we do not have an official way to celebrate a patronal feast that honors the religious patron or figure for whom we were named. We do, however, cherish the centuries of Christian heritage that continue to guide our worship and devotions, we seek deliberately to preserve the best of our past as we anticipate our future, and we attempt to maintain the kind of fellowship and service to others that has distinguished Christians across continents and centuries. On June 1 of this year, Heritage Sunday will be an important occasion for seeing and celebrating the best of Aquia Church and what we have accomplished together by the grace of God, even as we begin to discern how we are being led into the next phase of our ministry together. As always, the delightful punctuation-mark on Heritage Sunday will be the luncheon that our ECW will hold at noon, to which feast everyone is invited.

This June will surely be a month for celebrating so much for which we should be truly thankful.

Jay Morris

FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Keeping the Faith While on Vacation

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 the ways you live into the faith even in times of vacation. That is important because summer is here. For many of us, that means time away—whether it's a trip with family, a few days at the beach, or enjoying a slower rhythm at home. These breaks are a gift from God. They offer rest, space to breathe, and moments to reconnect with those we love. As beautiful and important as these times of rest are, it just so happens that as our routines shift, our spiritual habits can slip. When we head out of town, our church attendance may taper off, our prayer times may shrink, and Scripture reading may be forgotten. Vacation is for giving rest to our bodies—church is for giving rest to our souls.

So how do we stay rooted in faith while away from our usual patterns? Here are a few simple but meaningful ways: 1) Worship wherever you are, 2) Keep a rhythm of prayer, 3) Model faith for your family, and 4) Stay connected to your church family.

First, I want to encourage you to worship wherever you are. If you're traveling, take time to attend a local church. There will be churches wherever you go. Do some research and find one that will teach God's Word and administer the sacraments. Experiencing worship in a different setting can remind us of the Church's beauty and breadth—and the unity we share in Christ. If worship in person isn't possible, join Aquia's livestream on Sunday mornings.

Second, I want to encourage you to keep a rhythm of prayer. The quieter pace of summer can actually be a wonderful

opportunity to deepen your prayer life. You can use the Book of Common Prayer for Morning or Evening Prayer (you can join us weekdays at 8:00 a.m. on Facebook Live) or simply read a psalm and pray from the heart. Even five or ten minutes in Scripture each day will anchor you in God's Word and promises.

Third, I want to encourage you to model faith for your family. If you're traveling with your children or grandchildren, vacation can also be an important time for spiritual formation. Some ways to do this are to pray together before meals, talk about God's blessings during the day, or attend a Sunday service as a family. Kids will remember what they see and hear us do. Help model for them that God doesn't go "off duty" when school lets out.

Finally, I want to encourage you to stay connected to your Aquia Church family. Even while you're away, you remain a part of the Body of Christ. Pray for this parish, check in with friends, or send a note to someone you haven't seen in a while. Just because you're out of town doesn't mean that your spiritual life gets paused.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). True rest is found not just in getting away, but in drawing closer to the Lord and his church. So wherever summer takes you, continue to live into your faith. Stay rooted in the Word, stay nourished, and let this season become a time of spiritual renewal. 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

Rick Bryant

Finance Committee

Chris Dearing

Finance Committee

Michael Ferrantino

Administration Committee

Brad Hammer

*Junior Warden
Chairperson, Buildings &
Grounds Committee*

Dale Hendon

*Chairperson,
Finance Committee*

Bill Hoffman

Senior Warden

Joe Howard

*Register
Finance Committee*

Carol Korth

*Buildings & Grounds
Committee*

Walt Peterson

*Chairperson,
Administration Committee*

Pat Quinn

Administration Committee



Grounds Cleanup

A group of Aquia Church parishioners work to cut down and remove a large tree near the church office.

Photos courtesy of Mary Jane Cole



A Cappadocian Father

In 2023, The Episcopal Church numbered 6,754 churches. As you might guess, there is only one Aquia Church. Also, there is only one Episcopal church named for St. Basil (in Tahlequah, Oklahoma). This solitary name—only one St. Basil’s Episcopal Church—does not do justice to the significance of one of the most important Cappadocian Fathers, whose impact in the Church resonates today.

Basil the Great was born in the year 329 in Caesarea, the capital of the province of Cappadocia (in modern-day Turkey), to a prosperous family Christian family. His education prepared him to follow his father as a lawyer, but during his studies he became friends with the future St. Gregory of Nazianzus. Inspired by his devout sister Macrina, he abandoned his plans for a secular career and began a monastic community on his family’s estate in nearby

Pontus. It was there that he began his friendship with Gregory of Nazianzus. After touring monasteries in Egypt, in 360 he helped Cappadocian bishops at a synod in Constantinople.

Although the Council of Nicaea in 325 had condemned Arianism as heresy, that heresy continued to roil the church. He was ordained as a deacon in 362 and as a presbyter in 365. The Arian heresy divided Christians in Cappadocia, so with Gregory of Nazianzus he spoke against it; and in a rhetorical contest, he prevailed over their opponents. In 370 he became the bishop of Caesarea and the metropolitan of the entire province of Cappadocia. He clashed with the Emperor Valens, who was viewed as supporting Arianism when the emperor travelled through Caesarea in 371. In 372 Valens divided Cappadocia into two provinces, and the conflict escalated into rival factions. Basil re-

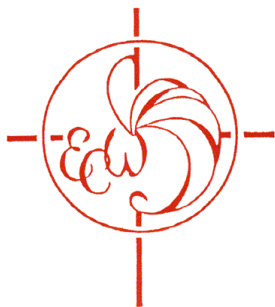
sponded by placing his supporters at key churches on the border of the two provinces. Valens attempted to banish Basil but was never successful. In a small gesture of reconciliation, Valens attended a service when Basil celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Theophany (Epiphany); the emperor was so impressed by Basil’s ministry on this occasion that he donated to Basil some land for the building of a large hospital, a poor house, and a hospice complex outside the gates of Caesarea.

Basil suffered from poor health, perhaps from his ascetic personal habits. He died in 379, before the controversies fueled by Arianism ended. His contribution to our understanding of the Trinity is an important legacy. His homilies, commentaries, and letters continue to influence the Church today. Some

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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.

Anne E. Moncure (1895-1984) began her teaching career in 1921 at what is now the office of the Stafford County School Board. Her first class of students contained 65 children, ranging from the age of 6 to teenagers. Over the years, Miss Moncure was a teacher, an administrator, and the superintendent of elementary education. This latter position included schools in both Stafford and King George counties.

As a superintendent, Miss Moncure gathered a collection of books and carried them to schools in a large

station wagon, as there were no school libraries. Children were able to borrow the books from the collection, return them, and exchange them for other books the next time she came by.

She retired in 1960, and Anne E. Moncure Elementary School was named in her honor. The cottage that houses our administrative offices, the Fleurries, was formed from portions of Miss Moncure's home, and it was moved to the site of our church campus in order to preserve its history.

It is regarding this history that ECW yearly offers a scholarship to a graduating high school senior who attends Aquia Church. The Anne E. Moncure Scholarship has long been an ECW tradition. Aquia's ECW celebrates our graduating seniors! Please stay tuned in June as we announce the recipient of the Anne E. Moncure Scholarship. It is another reason to celebrate our heritage and traditions at Aquia Episcopal Church.

*In Christ,
Carol Korth*

FALL FEST

Fall Fest Auction Action

Great news! Preparations for Fall Fest 2025 are under way. The date is set for Saturday, October 4, and yes, there will be a live auction at 11:00 a.m. in the great hall! Shields Jones, our award-winning professional auctioneer and fellow Aquia Church parishioner, has put us on his calendar. Shields always makes the auction a fun event that is not to be missed.

What else will we need for a successful auction? We need your gifts and ideas! We rely heavily on the imagination and generosity of our fellow parishioners to help build the auction. In 2024, we offered 32 grouped or individual items for bidding. Twenty-five of these were gifts of time, talent, and do-



nations from our own parish family. Do you have a talent to teach or a service to offer? Do you have an antique in your attic, a drum set in your basement, or an extra week of time-share? Perhaps you could donate a pair of Caps or Commanders game tickets. A gift card to your favorite restaurant would be awesome. How about offering an evening

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

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

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

*Mary Jane Cole
maryjane@cfsw.biz*



AQUIA'S PANTRY

Aquia's Pantry is built on gratitude and trust. We are thankful for all the donations we receive each month, and for all the volunteer hours so freely given to pick up, assemble, and pass out the donations. Our trust is in God and His support as He continuously provides what we need to help our neighbors each and every week. During March and April, we helped an average of 130 families weekly, with a peak of 153 families during the last week of April.

Although we have no idea what the future holds, we do believe that God will continue to provide, in great part through gifts such as these:

- From the gifts of two donors, we were able to provide a box of cereal for each family one week in May.
- One parish family donated 288 cans of vegetables, which will sustain us for two weeks.
- An extended parish family sent us 40 cans of soups, tuna, and tomato sauce.
- One parish family dropped off 70 grocery bags.
- Another extended parish family sent us 176 grocery bags.
- One parish family gave us 140 packages of pasta and 140 cans of pasta sauce.
- Another donor gives a monthly monetary gift which covers the bill for the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank.



Here are 140 cans of pasta sauce and 140 bags of pasta ready to be added to the bags of shelf-stable foods for the Pantry on May 14. We used every bit of these and more for the 144 families that came for food that evening.

- Target donated 971 pounds of Easter candy.
- Starbucks in Target is now giving us breakfast sandwiches and pastries.
- SERVE continues to supply us with enough eggs to give a half-dozen to each family weekly.
- Every week, boxes of cereal, jars of peanut butter, and bunches of grocery bags and egg cartons are quietly left in the great hall.

We are so very grateful for all these gifts.

Summer vacations amongst the volunteers are looming large, especially during the period from mid-June

through all of July. If you have any hours to spare on a Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or a Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., we would deeply appreciate your help. Join us as we attempt to be the hands and feet of Our Lord in Stafford County.

Food requests for the Pantry this month include boxes of pasta and cereal, jars of peanut butter, and cans of vegetables, as well as egg cartons and brown-paper grocery bags. To learn more, please reach out to Barb Bingay, Ron Korth, or Mary Jane Cole (maryjane@cfsw.biz), or stop by the great hall any Wednesday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Mary Jane Cole



VBS 2025 at Aquia Church

June 16-20, 2025

At Egypt, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. God's Word comes alive as families enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and games!



GOLF TOURNAMENT



STS. MARY AND MARTHA GUILD

June at Aquia Episcopal Church

As the days grow longer and summer approaches, we have a vibrant month of worship, fellowship, and faith formation ahead of us. Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate our heritage and the birth of the Church at Pentecost, and as we strengthen the faith of our youngest congregants at VBS and Youth Sunday—all in the faithful service of our Lord!

Heritage Sunday • June 1

We kick off June by honoring our past and looking forward to our future. On Heritage Sunday, June 1, we celebrate the rich heritage that we enjoy here. Immediately following the service, we hosts a festive luncheon for everyone, and we especially welcome members of the Peyton Society of Virginia for their annual return. We hope you all participate and thoroughly enjoy the reception that follows the service. It's one of the ways Aquia Church offers Christian fellowship.

Sts. Mary & Martha Guild

• First and Third Thursdays

Summer is a busy time for our dedicated crafters! The Sts. Mary and Martha Guild is already planning for our annual

Fall Fest, and you're warmly invited to join in. We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall downstairs. Whether you're a seasoned hand at crafting or just curious about what we do, come share in fellowship and help us make this year's Fall Fest our best yet!

Pentecost • June 8

Wear red as we celebrate Pentecost—the day God poured out the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples and, to many, it marks the “birthday” of the Church. We'll reflect on our calling to share the Good News, empowered by wisdom and authority from above. Let this vibrant Sunday remind us that we, too, are charged with carrying Christ's message into the world.

Vacation Bible School • June 16–20

Calling all children! From Monday, June 16, through Friday, June 20, our halls will be filled with songs, stories, crafts, and games during Vacation Bible School. Whether your child is just beginning to explore faith or is already a Sunday School veteran, VBS is a joyful, hands-on way to grow in understanding of God's love.

Youth Sunday

• June 29

On the last Sunday of the month, our young people take center stage. During the 10:30 a.m. service on

June 29, children

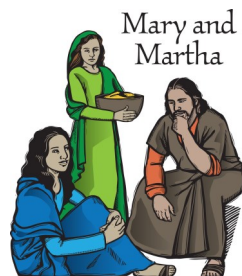
and youth are invited to gather at the center crossing for a sermon crafted just for them—and for all of us to learn alongside them. Come encourage our youngsters as they develop the beginnings of their Christian discipleship that will hopefully become an integral part of their adult personality and existence.

We look forward to worshipping, serving, and celebrating together this June. If you have any questions about the Sts. Mary and Martha Guild, please reach out to Carolyn Hendrickson (docnpch@gmail.com) or Kathie League (kleague6412@gmail.com).

May God bless our summer gatherings!

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hendrickson (co-chairman)



FATHER,

Continued from page 4

three hundred of his letters are extant. Notably, he wrote about money and possessions, stating:

The bread you store belongs to the hungry. The clothes you accumulate belong to the naked. The shoes that you have in your closet are for the barefoot. The money you bury deep into the ground to keep it safe, belongs to the poor. You were unfair to as many people as you could have helped and you did not.

He is one of the most influential figures in the development of the monastic traditions of Christianity. He is regarded as the father of Eastern monasticism, and historians acknowledge that his contributions extend also to the Western Church, largely due to his influence on Saint Benedict of Nursia. Widely revered throughout the Orthodox Church, the Episcopal Church recognizes Basil the bishop and theologian on June 14. The contemporary collect for that day is:

Almighty God, who has revealed to your church your eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give us grace that, like your bishop Basil of Caesarea, we may continue steadfastly in the confession of this faith and remain constant in our worship of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; ever one God, for ever and ever. Amen. [Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022]

Chris Arey





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

