

# Historic ST. LUKE'S

2018 Annual Report to Investors

*Virginia's Oldest Church*

## ST. LUKE'S CELEBRATES RECORD YEAR



Historic St. Luke's Restoration ended its most recent fiscal year, FY18 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018), on a high note. FY18 proved to be the most mission-fulfilling year in recent history as St. Luke's continued to "preserve, protect, and promote this historic church landmark and its collections, documents, history, graveyard, and surroundings."

Nearly 6,000 guests from throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries visited, often participating in St. Luke's many programs. In FY18, Historic St. Luke's hosted eight lectures, six special events, and two donor celebrations, all of which were designed to promote the site as a modern symbol of religious freedom. Many of these educational programs attracted capacity audiences. Furthermore, Outreach Coordinator John Ericson was a popular featured speaker throughout the year, promoting and representing Historic St. Luke's by lecturing to civic organizations, libraries, and other groups interested in Local and Virginia History.

In an effort to learn more about St. Luke's own history, Historic St. Luke's Restoration completed the first full year of a three-year archaeological research project at Whitemarsh, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century home of Colonel Joseph Bridger. Bridger is believed to have been the principal benefactor during the construction of the church building. This project continues to benefit Historic St. Luke's as new ties are forged with the Bridger Family Association, a coalition of Colonel Joseph Bridger's descendants. St. Luke's hopes the archaeology will uncover lost history worth preserving and protecting for future generations.

Volunteers of all ages collectively logged 7,629 hours during FY18. The number of volunteers reached 112 before the end of the fiscal year with these talented individuals assisting in multiple projects from cemetery research to archive preservation. Volunteers' early investigations of fire-damaged corporate files from the 1950s revealed important insights into St. Luke's 20<sup>th</sup>-century history. More than 1,000 volunteer hours were expended on cemetery research alone, verifying ownership and digitizing information on thousands of graves.

The cemeteries at Historic St. Luke's are extensive, and many programs revolve around the preservation and promotion of these unique resting places. Five Cemetery Preservation Workshops were conducted during FY18 in the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke's with volunteers painstakingly caring for tombstones dating as far back as 1767. These workshops were continually oversubscribed. With the intention of further promoting Historic St. Luke's, Education Coordinator Rachel Popp began conducting these workshops at other historic sites as well, offering the workshop as an outreach option that continues to grow in popularity.

During FY18, Memorial Park Cemetery and Historic St. Luke's Restoration legally merged. This merger resulted in substantial savings, greater investment returns, and additional resources for cemetery landscaping and maintenance. Furthermore, cemetery sales exceeded projections as newly hired Sales Manager Fred Hodges pushed new forms of cemetery promotion.

*Continued on next page.*



# NEW BEGINNINGS: A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

St. Luke's beginnings are traced to the efforts of Colonel Joseph Bridger, who is credited with funding construction of the original church building in the 17th century. Another beginning occurred in the 1890s when the church was saved after being ravaged by years of neglect. The most significant beginning in the 20th century occurred when Historic St. Luke's Restoration was created in 1954 for the purposes of preserving, promoting, and interpreting the historic site. Henry Mason Day, first president of Historic St. Luke's Restoration, led a national campaign to restore the iconic building closer to its 17th-century appearance and to raise funds for its ongoing preservation and maintenance. These efforts resulted in St. Luke's designation as a National Shrine and a National Historic Landmark, and placement on the National Register of Historic Places.



Dave Hare, President

I believe historians will look back on this past year as another of St. Luke's important new beginnings – a time when our Board and Staff focused concurrently on historic preservation, current relevance, and long-term financial viability. In FY18, total gifts and commitments to our \$1.6 million multi-year major gifts initiative surpassed the halfway mark. We won and matched a major preservation grant

from The Cabell Foundation. We made great preservation strides and repaired and strengthened our physical plant, including roads, ponds, dams, walls, fences and cemeteries. The merger of our two corporate entities, Historic St. Luke's Restoration and St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery, produced highly positive outcomes.



Pictured are many of the people involved in the 1950s Restoration of Historic St. Luke's Church and the creation of Historic St. Luke's Restoration. From left to right: Garnett Day, J.W. Myer, (?), Elizabeth Jordan, J.C. Harrington, Henry Mason Day, Dr. Vanderpool, A.L. Commings, R.I. Powell, J.S. Martin, and Worth Bailey.

We chartered the Tower Society and significantly increased our Annual Fund dollars and donors. A new branding exercise refocused our attention on St. Luke's public presentation. We expanded our program offerings, conducted archaeological research to reveal our early history, and hosted numerous special events, including a wonderful gathering with the Bridger Family. We formed new academic and professional partnerships, made new friends, welcomed thousands of guests, and engaged more people in our mission to preserve, protect, and promote our historic site and its surroundings.

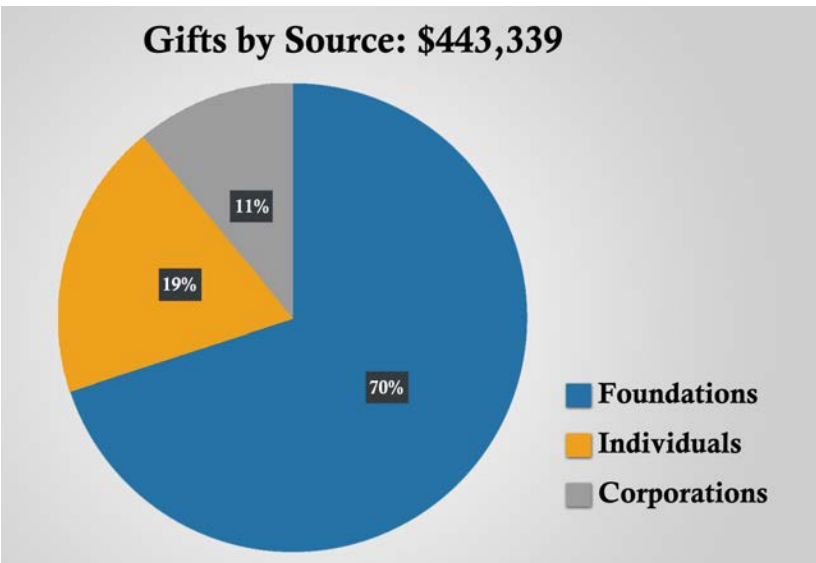
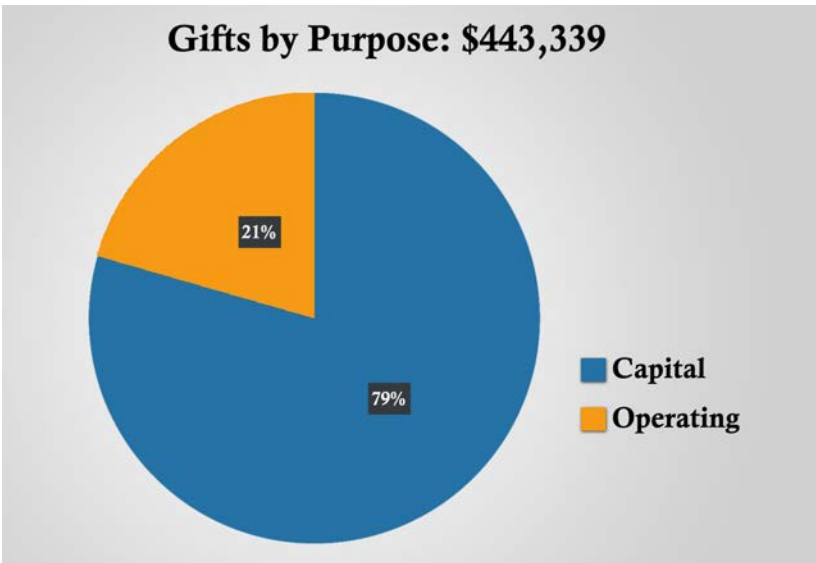
On behalf of my fellow Board Members, I thank all who have helped to make this past year an exceptional new beginning for Historic St. Luke's. We are on a wonderful journey to the future, made all the more exciting by the generosity and enthusiasm of our volunteers, visitors, and donors.

*Continued from front page.*

St. Luke's was also the site of 15 weddings and numerous private events over the year. The Wedding Scrapbook Project was launched during FY18 and began to reengage couples who have celebrated their nuptials at Historic St. Luke's. The response to this new project was very positive with many engaging and unique stories and photographs sent in to St. Luke's staff and Project Volunteer Betty Delk.

Development initiatives also proved fruitful during FY18. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, charitable gift income to Historic St. Luke's totaled \$443,339, representing an 83 percent increase over the previous year's totals. The Tower Society, created to recognize the most generous donors to Historic St. Luke's Annual Fund, enrolled 36 new Charter Members and produced a 26 percent increase in support for current operations. A \$100,000 challenge grant from The Cabell Foundation enabled St. Luke's completion of numerous preservation projects on the 40-acre site, including extensive road, pond, and dam repairs. St. Luke's also extended the brick wall along Benn's Church Boulevard. to improve security and visual continuity.

"It was a banner year," said Executive Director Todd Ballance, who commended Historic St. Luke's Board and Staff for their leadership and hard work. "We are excited to have so much good news to report, and we're enormously grateful to those who have invested so generously in our mission," stated Ballance. St. Luke's looks forward to even bigger and better things in FY19 as the Staff and Board continue to preserve, protect, and promote their piece of American History.



Copies of Historic St. Luke's Restoration's IRS Form 990 and financial reports are available by request. Contact Executive Director Todd Ballance at 757-357-3367 or [tballance@historicstlukes.org](mailto:tballance@historicstlukes.org).



# MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY MERGER PROVES POSITIVE FOR ST. LUKE’S

*William T. “Bill” Hodsdon, President-Elect*

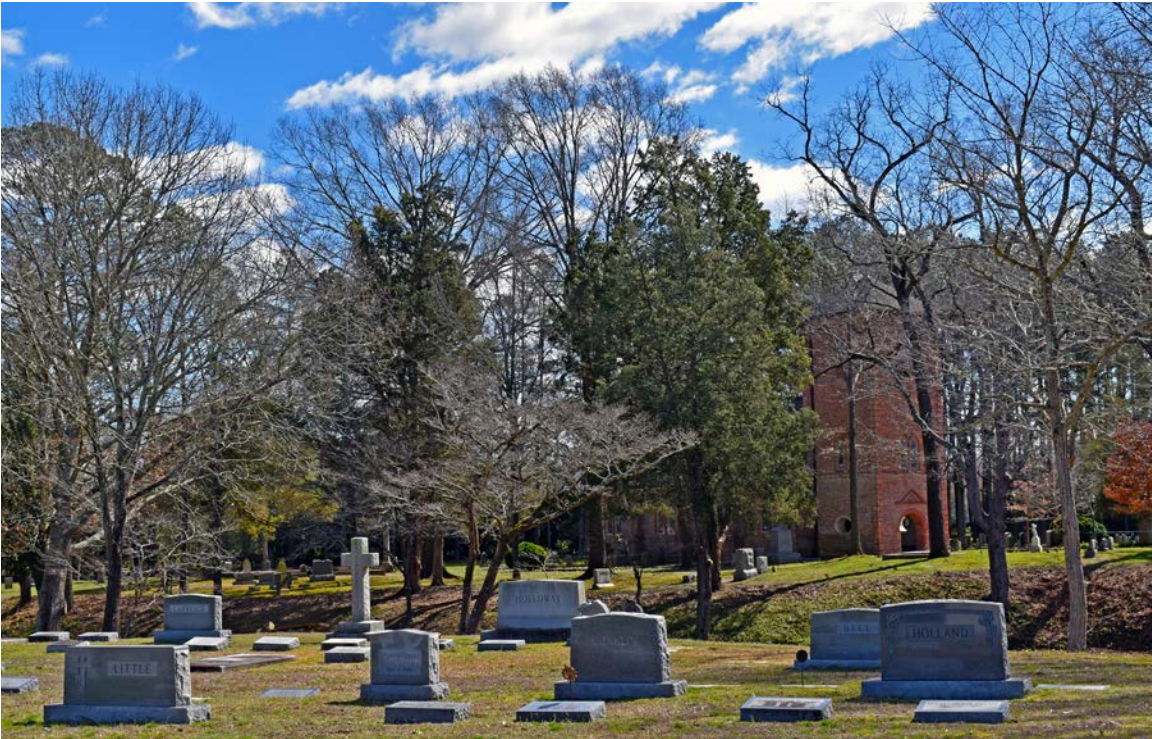
In 1976, the Board of Historic St. Luke’s Restoration formed a separate corporation and purchased the cemetery just north of, and contiguous to, the ancient cemetery that surrounds the “Old Brick Church.” This cemetery was called St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery. Over the ensuing 40+ years, modest burial site sales, rising maintenance costs, and less than stellar returns from a fund set up to provide perpetual care for the grounds left Memorial Park in a precarious financial position.

In 2016, the Board of Historic St. Luke’s began exploring alternatives that would shore up Memorial Park’s financial situation and perhaps create some benefit for Historic St. Luke’s as well. After considerable research it was decided that, since Historic St. Luke’s was already providing continuous care and maintenance for Memorial Park and also had a staff that could adequately provide sales support for both cemeteries, merging the two entities would be the most efficient way to solve Memorial Park’s issues. The only obstacle: what to do with the underperforming perpetual care fund?

In November 2016, the Isle of Wight County Circuit Court agreed with Memorial Park’s position that the trust fund, originally set up in the 1950s, was no longer performing the way it was intended and thus was terminated. This resolution cleared the way for the two 501(c)3 non-profit corporations to merge at their mutual year-ends of June 30, 2017.

Historic St. Luke’s Restoration just completed its first full year as the survivor corporation to the merger and the results have all been extremely positive. Having one set of books to manage, one payroll to prepare, one set of monthly financial reports to produce -- and the list goes on -- has saved substantial money and time. The new Perpetual Care Fund that was established with the proceeds from the previous fund has been producing far greater returns than its predecessor fund and is growing steadily. This bodes extremely well for Historic St. Luke’s Restoration into whose care our collective cemeteries now rest.

As to burial site sales, “We sold more lots this past year in our Memorial Park section than in any previous year,” stated Fred Hodges, Sales



*View of Historic St. Luke’s from St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery.*

Manager at St. Luke’s. “We invite anyone interested in making plans for the future to visit or call us,” continued Hodges. Fred Hodges also points out that, “While we now have a substantial number of burial sites available in our Memorial Park section, there are only 40 burial sites still available in our ‘Ancient Cemetery.’ These very rare lots are directly adjacent to St. Luke’s, the Oldest Church in Virginia.”

To say the merger between St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery and Historic St. Luke’s Restoration has been positive may be something of an understatement. If Historic St. Luke’s plans to be around another 350 years, and it does, you occasionally need to get outside of the box and try something new. The Board at St. Luke’s did just that.



*For more information about cemeteries and burials at Historic St. Luke’s, contact Fred Hodges at 757-357-3367 or [fhodges@historicstlukes.org](mailto:fhodges@historicstlukes.org).*

## \$100,000 CABELL GRANT FUNDS PRESERVATION INITIATIVES

In May 2018, Historic St. Luke’s Restoration celebrated receipt of a \$100,000 check from The Cabell Foundation for support of capital



*Dana Dickens, Vice President*

improvements and preservation of St. Luke’s grounds and property. The Cabell Foundation’s award required that St. Luke’s raise another \$100,000 in new gifts and commitments. The successful challenge garnered 16 new gifts and eight increased commitments from donors who had already given to this project. With \$200,000 in new gifts and

commitments for preservation, Historic St. Luke’s was able to address more items on its sizeable capital improvements agenda.

“This important grant propelled us to new levels of donor engagement and generosity,” said Board Vice President Dana Dickens, who chairs St. Luke’s Development Committee. “The Cabell challenge inspired increased giving, greater interest, awareness, and enthusiasm for our preservation mission. We’re honored to have won The Cabell Foundation’s trust and confidence,” stated Dickens.

St. Luke’s preservation work is ongoing. Historic St. Luke’s Restoration has reconstructed the “Ancient Indian Trail” roadway, dredged the site’s ancient ponds, rebuilt its dams and added new culverts, and landscaped the roadway and ponds with site-appropriate plants to add

*Continued on page 7.*



# FY18 ANNUAL FUND GIFTS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS

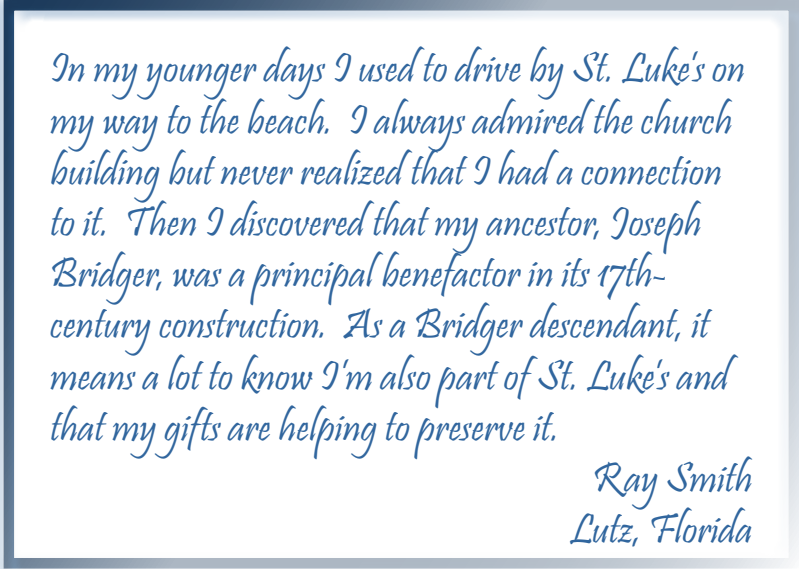
## TOWER SOCIETY CHARTER MEMBERS

*Historic St. Luke’s gratefully acknowledges the support of Charter Members of the Tower Society, whose generous gifts to the Annual Fund generated a 26 percent increase in charitable support for current operations in 2017-2018.*

### **Old Brick Church**

*(\$5,000 or more)*

Nannie Gary Blackwell Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Clay, Jr.  
Hon. and Mrs. Robert B. Edwards  
Howard W. and Katherine L. Gwaltney Foundation  
Ms. Barbara Lindley  
Mr. Ray Smith  
Vanguard Charitable



### **Chancel Circle**

*(\$2,500 or more)*

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia  
Ms. Priscilla Lyerly Guthrie  
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil W. Gwaltney, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hodsden  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight C. Schaubach  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Willis

### **Altar Guild**

*(\$500 or more)*

Les and Wanda Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley R. Holland  
Mrs. Reed B. Lawson  
Southern Shores Lawn and Landscape, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Spady  
The Woman’s Club of Smithfield, Inc.

### **Brick & Mortar Assembly**

*(\$250 or more)*

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Austin  
Mrs. Sallie Belle Benedetti  
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Mr. James E. Bridges  
Mr. Robert M. Butler, Jr.  
William and Victoria Clanton  
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Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith IV  
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard F. Jamison

### **Newport Parish**

*(\$1,000 or more)*

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Mr. Michael Bakwin  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd J. Ballance  
Carolyn and Richard Barry  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Broadwater  
Andrea and Bobby Clontz  
The Hon. and Mrs. Rodham T. Delk, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Dana Dickens III  
Mr. and Mrs. James Everett III  
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Hampton Roads Events  
Dave Hare and Mary Mitchell  
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Mr. and Mrs. Isaac N. Jones, III  
Ms. Mary Jo Jordan and Dr. William Bandy  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. LaBoone  
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Ms. Johanne C. Pryor  
Charles H. and Lynn K. Rose  
Smithfield Foundation  
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Mr. Gary and Dr. Gayle Terwilliger  
TowneBank



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Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Norsworthy, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Ross  
Smithfield Foods, Inc.  
Smithfield Rotary Chapter 5831  
Mr. and Mrs. Evan Zasoski

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Mr. Larry Wilson Smith  
Smithfield Christian Council  
Smithfield VA Events  
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Fred and Marlene Stanton  
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Steve and Shirley Tacker  
Rev. and Mrs. William Taylor  
Mr. and Mrs. Merdith B. Temple  
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Mr. Willis C. Watts  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. White, Jr.  
Ms. Cathy S. Whitley  
Joyce and Bill Wooldridge  
Ms. Sarah Barlow Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne P. Wright

*You know you've picked a special place for your wedding ceremony when guests linger afterwards to study the architecture and history of the space. Throughout my life I've attended family funerals and weddings at St. Luke's, accepting it as part of the local landscape. Seeing it through the eyes of our out-of-town guests made me realize that St. Luke's is a national treasure.*

*Elizabeth Hazelwood O'Hare  
Richmond, Virginia*

# HISTORIC ST. LUKE’S ALSO GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTE GIFTS:

*In honor of*

Russell and Cami Brooks  
Elizabeth Jamerson and Joseph O’Hare  
Jean Tomes

*In memory of*

Ann Davis Austin  
Ruth Panil Owen Bond  
The Bridger Family  
Virginia and Warren Carr  
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Duff  
Wayne Duncan, Sr.  
Richard Rohrlack  
Quinton Goodwin  
James S. Groves  
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil W. Gwaltney, Sr.  
John W. Knight and Constance Norsworthy Knight  
Harold C. Lawrence

David Lindholm  
William R. and Emma Norsworthy  
Leonard A. Nowin and Elaine A. Nowin  
Mary and Ted Pleva  
Dennis K. Ramey  
Evelyn Bateman Ransdell  
Martha Richards  
Ruth Hard Rives  
Richard A. Rohrlack  
Forrest Scott  
Mary Bridgers Wilkinson

## FY18 GIFTS FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES

*Historic St. Luke’s gratefully acknowledges those donors whose generous gifts in 2017-2018 supported the institution’s capital improvements initiatives, church preservation, and historic collections.*

*Foundations*

Abbitt Family Foundation  
Beazley Foundation  
Birdsong Foundation  
The Cabell Foundation  
Camp Foundation  
Nancy Sayles Day Foundation  
Mary Morton Parsons Foundation  
Pruden Foundation  
The William H., John G., and  
Emma Scott Foundation  
TowneBank Foundation

*Corporations and Organizations*

Joerres Tree Works, LLC  
Smithfield VA Events  
St. Luke’s Village, LLC  
Suffolk Materials, LLC

*Individuals*

Mr. Michael Bakwin  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bolling  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Bolling  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Broadwater  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Dana Dickens III  
Mr. E. Henry Doggett III  
Hon. and Mrs. Robert B. Edwards  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Edwards  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fortier  
Rev. Connie Gilman  
Dave Hare and Mary Mitchell  
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hodsden  
Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Julien, Jr.  
The Estate of Ervin W. Jolly  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Knapp  
Mr. William E. Laine, Jr.  
Mr. R. Scott Morgan  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pitt  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight C. Schaubach  
Mr. Lawrence Smith, Sr.  
Mr. Gary and Dr. Gayle Terwilliger  
Ms. Judy Hare Winslow

*The Beazley Foundation is always pleased to support the continuing and accomplished efforts of the Board of Historic St. Luke's Church to maintain this treasured legacy of our forebears. The remarkable condition of the physical structure, together with the scholarly research and related archeological discoveries, bespeak the very best in historic preservation.*

*Richard Bray, President  
Beazley Foundation, Inc.  
Portsmouth, Virginia*



# KUDOS TO HISTORIC ST. LUKE’S CORPORATE PARTNERS

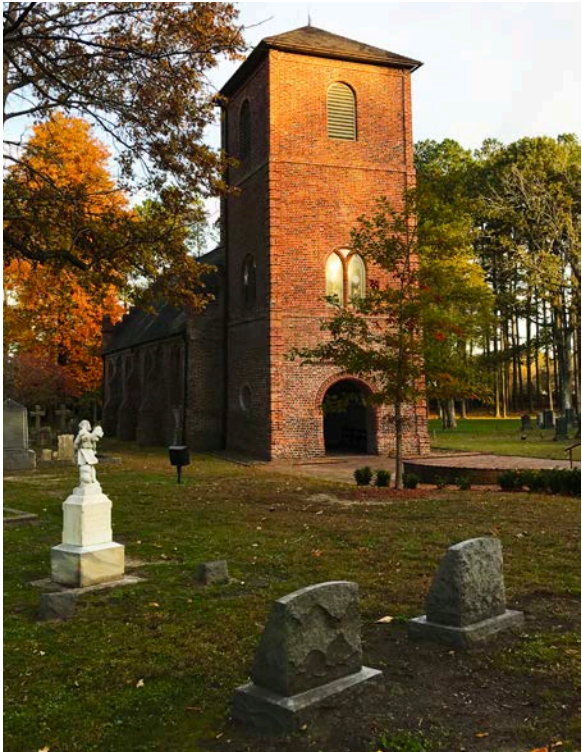
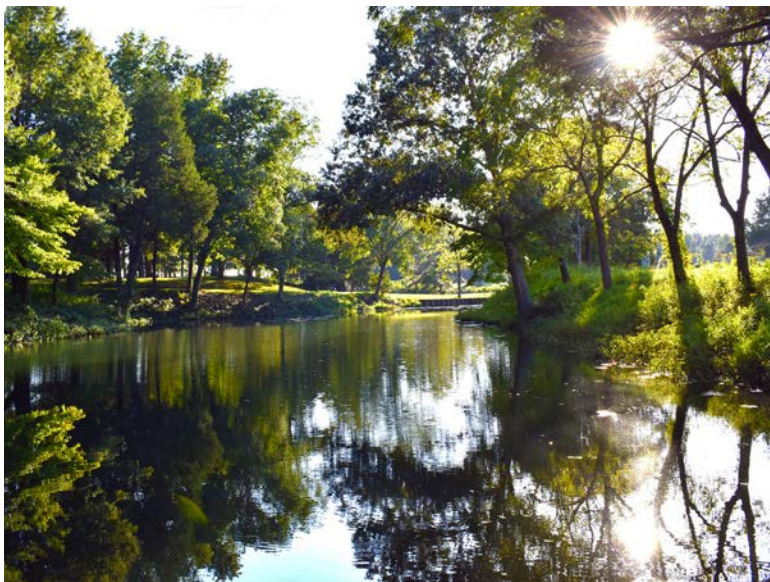
In Spring 2018, Southern Shores Lawn and Landscape, LLC planted trees and shrubbery and provided landscaping services in Memorial Park. Owner Kevin Rudy not only added beauty to the site. He also made a generous contribution to St. Luke’s.

Lisa and JJ Murray, owners of Hampton Roads Events, are frequent service providers for Historic St. Luke’s special events. Their connections with St. Luke’s grew from service to support, and they became Charter Members of the Tower Society.

Green Environments, LLC and owner Jefferson Grant addressed environmental conditions, humidity issues, and temperature controls in the Welcome Center resulting in improved air quality for staff, visitors, and collections storage. In addition, St. Luke’s welcomed a generous Tower Society gift from Jefferson Grant.

When St. Luke’s required the removal of several large hardwood trees to accommodate Whitmarsh archaeological excavations, Chuck Joerres of Joerres Tree Works, LLC came to the rescue. A history buff, Joerres also made a generous gift to support the Whitmarsh project.

Historic St. Luke’s is happy to recognize its corporate partners who not only provide excellent services but who financially support the Restoration’s preservation and education missions.



*Clockwise from top left: view of the Welcome Center from the Ancient Cemetery, St. Luke’s Memorial Park Columbarium, View of Historic St. Luke’s Church from the Ancient Cemetery, and view of the ponds between the Ancient Cemetery and St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery.*

*Continued from page 3.*

to the aesthetic beauty of the property and prevent erosion. In FY18, new wooden fencing was constructed around St. Luke’s southeastern border, enclosing a new parcel purchased to provide security for the site. New metal fencing was added in front of the Welcome Center to assist visitors in finding the correct way to enter the property. The brick entrance wall at the front of the property, left incomplete for nearly 20 years, was finally completed in early 2018.

A future item on the Board’s capital agenda, says Dickens, is St. Luke’s aging Welcome Center. The 1950s building was originally

intended to serve as the caretaker’s residence. Now in its 60th year, the facility has reached capacity service as it accommodates Historic St. Luke’s Restoration’s expanded educational programs and special events, provides administrative and tour services, houses St. Luke’s historic collections, and serves as the site’s gift shop. The building also welcomes Historic St. Luke’s thousands of annual visitors. “We will continue to seek major financial support of St. Luke’s ongoing capital needs,” said Dickens, “In order to preserve St. Luke’s past, we have to provide for its future.”

## FY18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith IV, Chairman  
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William T. Hodsden, President-Elect  
Hon. E. Dana Dickens III, Vice President  
Lawrence Pitt, Treasurer  
Stephie G. Broadwater  
Betty Dubinsky  
Hon. Robert B. Edwards  
Trey Gwaltney  
Jane G. Schaubach  
Elma Bridgers White  
Joanne R. Willis  
Judy Hare Winslow

## FY18 STAFF

Todd Ballance, Executive Director  
Kymberly Cardullo, Administrative Assistant  
Leslie Dunaway, Museum Interpreter  
John Ericson, Outreach Coordinator  
and Museum Interpreter  
Maggie Furey-Moore, Museum Interpreter  
Randy Goodwin, Senior Grounds Technician  
Fred Hodges, Sales Manager  
Jerry Johnson, Grounds Technician  
Gloria LaBoone, Gift Shop Assistant Manager  
and Museum Interpreter  
Nicole Lichty, Museum Interpreter  
Collin Norman, Assistant Director  
Rachel Popp, Education Coordinator  
David “Dee” Scott, Museum Interpreter



**Congratulations and best wishes to the 15 happy couples whose marriages were celebrated this past year at Virginia's Oldest Church!**

*James Lawrence and Ashley Wroton  
Ian Commons and Victoria Wood  
Codey Long and Angelica Gaynon  
Dana Meyer and Stephanie Wallace  
Joseph O'Hare and Elizabeth Jamerson  
Kenneth Filiaggi and Mackenzie Swan  
Chris Lowe and Anna Hanshaw  
Alexander Willets and Kelsey West*

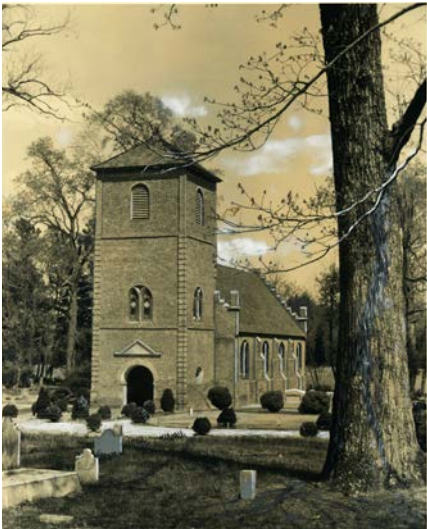
*Aaron Miller and Kimberly Boone  
Joshua Vance and Andrea Vance  
Jeremy Swanhaus and Eryn Schmidt  
Britt Smith and Chris Fullman  
Cody Reitz and Dana Fite  
Larry Chase and Mona Ross  
Jonathan Berry and Tiffany Vegter*



Photo Credit: Maria Grace Photography

*Historic* **ST. LUKE'S**  
*Virginia's Oldest Church*

14477 Benn's Church Boulevard  
Smithfield, VA 23430



Dr. René Breguet, St. Luke's Church. c. 1950-60, black and white photographic print, 20.32 x 25.4cm, from the collection at Historic St. Luke's (Accession number: SL2008.005.192).  
Original photograph was taken with Dr. Breguet's Zeiss Ikon camera and a print was gifted to Historic St. Luke's Restoration. In order to produce a halftone image suitable for newspaper printing, additional enhancements were added directly to the photograph at a later date.

Visit us Monday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm, between February 1 and December 31. Tours are on the hour. Learn more at [www.historicstlukes.org](http://www.historicstlukes.org), email us at [contact@historicstlukes.org](mailto:contact@historicstlukes.org), or call 757-357-3367.

