



ST. LUKE'S

HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM

Volume 7 | Fall 2020

OVERCOMING THE ODDS: NAVIGATING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

Since March 14, when St. Luke's closed its doors due to COVID-19, our community of donors has stepped up to support us more than we could have hoped. As a result, we exceeded our FY2020 Annual Fund goal for the first time in many years and increased giving by 24% from FY2019. Despite the loss of significant earned revenues, these donations have continued funding our mission as we pursue marketing initiatives, preservation activities, and the creation of online educational content.

The Education Department at St. Luke's has been busy working digitally to actively provide new content via our website, stlukesmuseum.org. While closed, Education Staff have researched and written a plethora of blogs including a series which featured past epidemics throughout American History. The highlighted epidemics included the 1721 smallpox epidemic that ultimately began the normalization of inoculation, the potentially devastating role smallpox played in the American Revolution, and the 1950 polio epidemic that mysteriously struck Wythe County, VA. Following the end of this series, the Education Department has continued to create new blogs, most recently sharing a blog entitled, "A Religious Revolution: American Independence and the Birth of the Protestant Episcopal Church."

Diligent research of the veterans buried in our cemeteries continues as an ongoing project we have dubbed the "Honoring Our Veterans Project." This project correlates with a newly created annual event that will feature the research we have completed on our veterans and honors their sacrifices. This event, *A Day of Remembrance: Honoring Our Veterans*, has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 14 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will be free and open to the public. Please assist our Education Staff and wonderful volunteers

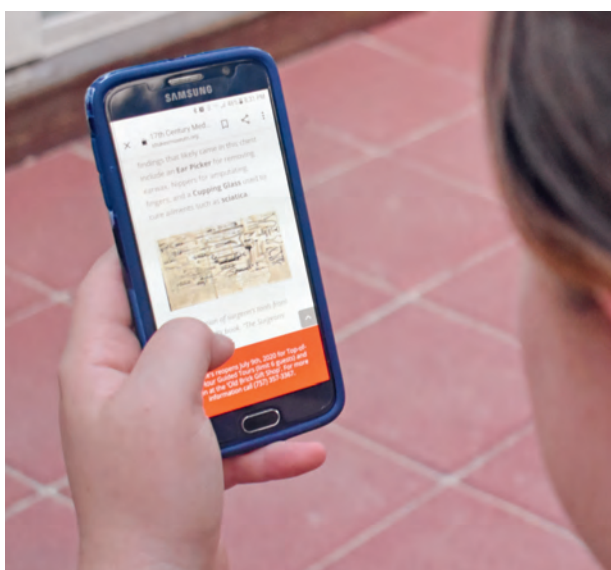


St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum staff found creative places to work while the office was closed. Education Coordinator Rachel Popp enjoyed a sunny day on the grounds of St. Luke's while reviewing a guest blog by Carson Hudson.

with their research by sharing information about the veterans buried here. More information on this project and how to contact us can be found on Page 4.

Grounds visitors will notice some changes as preservation initiatives continue around our site. Trees identified as concerning to the safety of our cemetery monuments have been removed and many improvement projects continue on the back part of our property. We encourage you to visit our grounds and enjoy newly installed picnic tables and the butterfly population we hope to attract with pollinator plants.

We are humbled by your generosity and financial leadership. We would like to particularly thank the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) for their generous grant of \$7,500 grant to support revenue loss and Farmer's Bank for awarding us an emergency \$60,000 loan from the CARE Act's Payroll Protection Program. Remarkably, we were able to preserve 100% of payroll throughout this period while our team remotely worked from home. Without the tireless dedication and hard work of our staff, we would not have been able to reopen to the public on July 9th or continued to fulfill our mission while closed to the public. From all of us, thank you to our supporters and donors for continuing to believe in St. Luke's.



Read our blogs on-the-go with our mobile friendly website!



Funding has been provided by Virginia Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan of 2020. For more information, please visit www.VirginiaHumanities.org

TODD TALK: EXPLORING PARTNERSHIPS



In our Spring 2020 newsletter, I announced that this would be a year of partnerships. Although a lot has transpired since then, St. Luke's remains engaged to fulfill that promise. We can only succeed with your partnership. Together, we are stronger and capable of greatness!



Boy Scouts touring grounds and cemeteries with Executive Director Todd Ballance.



Volunteers Brent and Nicole Boy Scout Troop 30 from Greenville, NC enjoying a well-earned meal with Mr. Sketo.

As many in our country question what it means to be a citizen, what National symbols to preserve, and what our history will look like, St. Luke's remains at the forefront preserving the American identity of our 43-acre campus. Regardless of what happens in the future, the inalienable rights of Freedom of Speech and the Separation of Church and State shall never be infringed upon. This is what St. Luke's embodies as a reminder of the previous state religion and why our Republic founded these fundamental freedoms. I am proud of where we are and where we are going at St. Luke's. We have a bright future.

Since March 14, we have continued conservation efforts to develop a more enjoyable visitation experience. Clayton Sketo, an Eagle Scout Candidate and St. Luke's Volunteer, with the assistance of Troop 30 from Greenville, NC, donated and installed trash bins and eight picnic tables for our new park. These new tables can accommodate up to 64 people and are located near the church building for prime enjoyment of our serene landscape.



Eagle Scout Candidate Clayton Sketo showcasing his complete project and commemorative plaque.

Massey secured a charitable gift from Monarch Watch of 128 milkweed plants which, along with other pollinators, are now planted around our ½ mile wooded walking trail. These plants will encourage and support butterflies and bees living or migrating through our area. Over the next few years, these plants will multiply providing an evocative backdrop for photos and visits. More information on this project can be found on page 7.

John Simpson of John Simpson Construction (Surry, VA) has volunteered many hours of his time towards improving the grounds at St. Luke's. He has spent considerable time working in both the cemeteries and the new 23-acre conservation area and park.

I invite you to visit and return often to enjoy our grounds, historical architecture, and the manicured cemeteries you already love. If you are interested in donating or volunteering your services, please contact me directly. Only with your partnership can we thrive through these challenging times and shine a beacon of hope for our Nation's future.

Todd Ballance, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum's Executive Director, welcomes conversations about St. Luke's past, present, and future. He can be reached at 757-357-3367. Email: tballance@stlukesmuseum.org

OLD BRICK GIFT SHOP REOPENS!

The Old Brick Gift Shop reopened to the public on July 9th with a modified operating schedule -- Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9:30 am until 5 pm. Please bring your mask to shop in-person or contact the Sales & Services Manager at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org for assistance with your purchase.

Old Brick Gift Shop Feature Item

At the Old Brick Gift Shop, we are proud to offer Fair Trade Merchandise. Through Fair Trade, artisans in impoverished areas of the world sell their products via a short supply chain to ensure the craftsmen make a living wage. For the fall season, we would like to highlight our unique Banana Fiber Nativities. These nativities are produced in Kenya and intricately handmade with banana fibers. Each nativity comes in a wicker box for storage or display. Come visit us to purchase yours today or contact Fred Hodges, at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org for more information!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



17th Century Isle of Wight County: A Living History Event

Saturday, September 12, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 13, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Admittance is the price of General Admission (<\$8).

Join us at St. Luke's for a 17th-century living history weekend at Virginia's Oldest Church. There will be period vendors, demonstrations, and more available. Reenactors will also be present throughout the day. Living Historians, Sutlers, etc. who are interested in participating, please email Education Coordinator Rachel Popp at rpopp@stlukesmuseum.org for more information.

Witchcraft in Colonial Virginia: 1626 – 1730

Saturday, October 3, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. or Saturday, October 3, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Speaker: Carson Hudson

Tickets \$15 per person.

The witchcraft mania that swept through Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, while significant, has tended to overshadow the historical records of the persecutions of alleged witches in other colonies. Colonial Virginians shared a common belief in the supernatural and the existence of witches with their northern neighbors, and throughout the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, they conducted several witchcraft inquiries.

Join with historian Carson Hudson as he explores the often-misunderstood subject of witchcraft persecution in early Virginia. His offers insights into the beliefs, occurrences, and legal proceedings regarding witchcraft in early Colonial Virginia, separating historical fact from historical fiction. Beware! It's not exactly as Monty Python depicts it!



Family-Friendly Twilight Cemetery Tour

Friday, Oct. 16, 6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tickets \$15 per person, advance ticket purchase encouraged, snacks and warm beverages provided.

This is a kid-friendly and family-friendly version of our Twilight Cemetery Tours scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday evening. Tickets are not required for children under the age of 5. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Snacks and warm beverages will be provided. Plan to enjoy the complimentary craft table with your kids. Enjoy the stories of local saints and sinners on a guided tour through the Ancient Cemetery. The experience will take approximately 30 minutes.



Adults Only Twilight Cemetery Tours 2020

Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 at 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m.

Tickets \$25 per person, advance ticket purchase encouraged, snacks provided.

A hard cider tasting featuring Sly Clyde Ciderworks will be included in the experience. Guests must be 21 years of age or older to participate. IDs will be checked at the door and anyone without an ID or who is younger than 21 years old will not be admitted. Enjoy the stories of local saints and sinners on a guided tour through the Ancient Cemetery. There will be 4 time slots available: 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m. The experience will take approximately 1 hour.



A Day of Remembrance: Honoring Our Veterans

Saturday, November 14, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free Event, Open to the Public.

This November, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum will be honoring the veterans buried in our cemeteries during a day-long event. Join us for tours throughout the day featuring the biographies of some of those who fought for our Country. Explore military history from the War of 1812 to more modern conflicts. There will be many different activities and displays available throughout the day including a kid's activity table, live music, and delicious food from Jessie Lou's Food Truck. Join us as we remember and honor those who served!



Choraliers Carol by Candlelight: A Journey Through Time

Friday, December 4, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tickets \$10 per person.

Smithfield High School's select Choraliers Ensemble presents a cappella carols for the Christmas season. This music spans from ancient times to the present, from old classics to new favorites. Three time slots will be available.

For ticketed events, advanced ticket purchase is encouraged as spots are typically limited.

For ticket information and purchase, please check out these events on our website at www.stlukesmuseum.org.

Please contact Education Coordinator Rachel Popp via email, rpopp@stlukesmuseum.org, with questions regarding lectures and events.

“BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES”

A Letter to the Loved Ones of the Many Veterans Buried in our Cemeteries

To the friends, family, descendants, and other loved ones of the many veterans buried in our cemeteries at St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum,

We need your help. Over the years, as St. Luke’s has expanded and grown, our research and projects have continued to improve and expand as well. As a staff (often with the help of our wonderful volunteers), we strive daily to learn more about the history of our site. But that history is incomplete without the stories of the people who have loved, supported, and cherished this “Old Brick Church” over the past 300+ years. In our endeavors to learn more about the people who made St. Luke’s the beautiful museum that it is today, we have created projects such as the Wedding Scrapbook Project, which began in early 2018 as a program designed to actively collect the stories, photos, etc. of those married at St. Luke’s throughout its long history. This year, we are hoping to broaden our understanding of the important people tied to the history of St. Luke’s by researching the many veterans buried in our cemeteries, some of whom served as far in our nation’s past as the War of 1812.

This project is a huge undertaking and has many facets. When planning this endeavor, we asked ourselves: How can we use this research to its fullest potential? Firstly, all of the information collected will be thoroughly recorded in our archives and records. This is important as these records could assist many in the future with research of our historic site, genealogical research, etc. By creating detailed and organized records of our findings, we are expanding our knowledge base in the hopes of assisting future researchers, descendants, historians, and so many others.



Veteran gravesite in St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery.

We will also be featuring this research in an upcoming event, “A Day of Remembrance: Honoring Our Veterans.” Much like the title suggests, we would like to use our research to feature and honor the many veterans who chose St. Luke’s as their final resting place. This event will be free and open to the general public on Saturday, November 14, 2020 and we invite our community to join us in recognizing these brave men and women.

Please assist us with our research by sharing your stories, photos, portraits, etc. regarding your beloved veteran(s). We want to know who these veterans were as people, far beyond the basic information included on their memorial monuments. We want to save the memory of who they were for future generations. We want to recognize their sacrifices, their bravery, and their unique personalities. Please take the time to follow the link below to a fillable form where you can share stories and any other information you are willing to provide. We hope you will take the time to share with us who your veteran was and look forward to reading your stories and anecdotes. Please take the time to visit our website at stlukemuseum.org/honoring-our-veterans-project/ to learn more about this ongoing project and use the fillable form to share your stories.

Sincerely,

Rachel Popp

Education Coordinator, St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

“This is the first time I have had a chance to write you for over 2 weeks. We have been too busy to do anything except duck bullets. Now doubt [sic] you have seen in the papers what has been going on over here for the last 10 days or more and is still going on and I hope we will continue to keep up the good work and put a end to this horrible war. I wish I could tell you about it. I have seen things I will never forget if I live to be a thousand years old...”

Pvt. Lunsford Jordan in a letter to his sister on October 4, 1918.



Photo of Pvt. Lunsford Jordan, photo courtesy of Jordan Sellers.

As part of the research for the Honoring Our Veterans Project, the Education Department began featuring their findings in a series called the *St. Luke’s Veteran Spotlight* on our website, stlukemuseum.org. We hope to inspire the community to share their anecdotes and information with us as we publicize and share what we have collected scouring obituaries, biographies, newspaper articles, and other records. For example, an avid family historian who has shared wonderful history with St. Luke’s in the past, responded to a social media post regarding Pvt. Lunsford Jordan with a link to digitized versions of the letters Pvt. Jordan wrote home to his family during WWI. Jordan served as an ambulance driver in the 317th Infantry of the U.S. Army. Serving in the medial corps, he was part of the first American units to go to France to serve in the trenches. The major battles he participated in include the battle of Saint Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Learn more about Lunford Jordan and our other veterans by checking out our veteran spotlights at stlukemuseum.org/veteran-spotlight/.

THE CEMETERIES AT ST. LUKE'S IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to take hold of the Commonwealth, St. Luke's suspended public tours and many private events. Despite these closures, cemetery preservation and management have continued as essential operations. To keep our clients and staff safe, we are observing state guidelines and encourage all visitors to do the same.



View of the Ancient Cemetery.

Sales in St. Luke's Memorial Park and the Ancient Cemetery continue. Our sales approach has sometimes been adjusted for our new circumstances. However, we still meet with clients who want to explore the cemetery options available in person. Appointments are always encouraged to ensure that a qualified staff member is available to assist throughout the purchase process. While in person sales continue to be most common, we can [and have] worked with clients who cannot physically come to St. Luke's or who wish to have a "touchless" sales process. We can provide pictures and maps of available plots, paperwork can

be completed remotely, and payment can be processed over the phone.

During shutdown and all phases of reopening, Virginia has set limits on the number of people who can gather indoors and outdoors. St. Luke's staff continue to work closely with the funeral homes to encourage compliance with these standards, including encouraging social distancing and the wearing of masks. We care about the health and safety of our guests and

clients, the service personnel [such as funeral directors], and our staff. Please help us in our endeavors to keep everyone safe.

Contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org or call the office at 757-357-3367 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

FACILITATING SAFE PRIVATE EVENT RENTALS DESPITE COVID-19

Private Event Rentals may not be an essential operation at St. Luke's, but they are certainly in high demand. This year has produced many interruptions and adjustments for our clients and procedures. We work hard to facilitate memorable experiences at St. Luke's: whether for a family reunion, wedding, baptism, academic award ceremony, or funeral. We certainly do not want anyone to risk their health and safety for the sake of these experiences.

In order to meet governmental mandates and guidelines, St. Luke's has made some changes. We are following recommendations of the United States Center for Disease Control and the reopening guidelines set by the Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, we have reduced the acceptable capacity for the church building. Hand sanitizer dispensers are now available at the Welcome Center and at the ancient church building. Guests and staff are required to wear masks. Staff continue to clean more frequently and request that guests practice proper social distancing.

St. Luke's has been fortunate with very few Private Event cancellations. We will continue to assist our clients in making safe decisions regarding guest counts and scheduling or rescheduling dates. In fact, we were able to provide a beautiful location for a couple who got married in early July after their initial wedding venue cancelled.

We are working diligently to keep St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum safe for everyone. If you would like more information about Private Event Rentals at St. Luke's, please contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org or call 757-357-3367.



A young couple exchanges vows inside the church building.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

St. Luke's is fortunate to have a large community of supportive families. One of these families, James and Conway "Connie" Henderson, recently shared a special moment with us. Our Spring 2019 newsletter featured Mrs. Henderson as part of the Wedding Scrapbook Project. The Hendersons reached out to me, wishing to share their 50th Anniversary, and it is my pleasure to share that with all of you.

During a June visit, Jim and Connie also shared with me their intention to join the Tower Society and leave an estate gift. When I asked Jim and Connie what inspired them to join the Tower Society, they replied:

"Between 1887 and 1963, the Yeoman-Batten family enjoyed farming and making memories on the estate north of St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery (SLMPC). In 1887, George Wesley Batten, Connie's Great grandfather, with wood selected from the farm, built the house formerly located north of SLMPC. Benjamin Yeoman, Connie's Grandfather (10 Oct. 1881 - 2 May 1977), is buried in SLMPC. Mary Elizabeth Batten, Connie's Grandmother, is buried in the Ancient Cemetery, between the church building and the Welcome Center. During holiday services, Connie's mother played the organ at St. Luke's. In June 1970, we were married in the church building. We are pleased to support St. Luke's with our gifts and bequests with the hope that others will do the same."

The Hendersons have a deep connection to St. Luke's. They, like many other families, have already joined the Tower Society and have made plans to leave estate gifts to St. Luke's. We are humbled by their generosity. Statements of support and demonstrated financial leadership inspire all of our staff members, board members, and volunteers to keep doing the important work of preserving, promoting, and protecting our 43-acre historic campus. I invite you and your family to join my family, the Henderson Family, and many others in supporting St. Luke's. From all of us at St. Luke's, we thank you and your family for being part of our community and helping us continue to care for the church building, cemeteries, and grounds.

Sincerely,

Todd, Nicole, Isolde, and Eowyn Ballance

Old Brick Church Council Members, Tower Society since FY2020. First donated in 1994 during Richard Austin's 1630's Organ Restoration Campaign.

Contact Todd Ballance directly at (757) 407-8829 or via email at tballance@stlukesmuseum.org to learn more about joining the Tower Society and/or leaving a bequest to St. Luke's.



Todd Ballance, Executive Director, stands with Jim and Connie Henderson in front of St. Luke's Historic Church

WHITEMARSH: THE SEARCH FOR CLUES CONTINUES

by Alain Outlaw

In spite of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the search for evidence of Joseph Bridger's world continues unabated in the field and laboratory with new health protocols in place. It takes an experienced combined team of archaeologists and curators to first identify and record horizontal artifact-bearing layers of a site, top to bottom, and then to preserve, catalog, and reconstruct objects, bottom up, to give them meaning. The grand detective story proceeds with few documentary answers to the "who, what, when, where, how, and why" questions raised by the evidence.

Field Supervisor Matt Tuttle is always the first to directly confront evidence in the field by "reading the dirt" and recording important "context," or layers in which the artifacts are recovered systematically, as the site is deconstructed. A glass Bridger armorial bottle seal was recently discovered at the site. This is the first Bridger seal recorded vertically and horizontally in a soil layer thus far and was found inside the oldest dwelling at Whitemarsh, the original "heart" of the site.



ACS Field Supervisor Matt Tuttle "reading dirt." Note: undisturbed layers (on left); intrusive excavation (center, under rule); and original brick wall in place (on right).



Lecture in Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc. laboratory at Christopher Newport University during the Bridger Family Association annual gathering in July 2019 when a group of over 70 Bridger descendants visited for updates. Unfortunately, the annual gathering scheduled for 2020 had to be postponed.



ACS Laboratory Supervisor Mary Clemons mending a ceramic vessel.

This important find is being carefully conserved by Laboratory Supervisor Mary Clemons at our Christopher Newport University facility. Following washing, cataloguing, and conservation, objects are then mended when possible to restore the forms of glass and ceramic vessels.

Occasionally, small artifact clues reveal unexpected insights. For example, I had noticed a small irregularity in the Hester Bridger glass wine bottle seal. While the back-to-back "H" and "B" overlapping in the monogram were obvious, there was a clear "rat tail" trailing off the right center side of the "B." Closer examination revealed that the extra feature is actually the lower part of a "P" for Pitt, deliberately sharing its upper part with the top of the letter "B." Thus, Hester Pitt Bridger had her own bottle seal, cleverly labeled with her incorporated maiden-name-initial. It was already most unusual for a lady to own such a marked object, but it was this twist that made this prized beverage container very special, indeed.



Glass bottle seal from the Ferguson Collection bearing shield with three crabs from the Bridger family coat-of-arms.



Hester Pitt Bridger monogrammed seal with enhanced color overlap (orange) of "B" and "P."

SUPPORTING POLLINATORS AT ST. LUKE'S



Nicole Massey

When I first learned about the back acreage and how St. Luke's was brainstorming ideas for it, I immediately thought of a pollinator habitat. I've been raising Monarch Butterflies for a few years now and the opportunity to leave something beautiful for others to enjoy and help out our pollinator friends was very exciting! In the chaos of the Covid-19 pandemic, our plans got postponed. I thought we'd have to wait till next year to even start planning. Then I received a notice from MonarchWatch.org that we had been selected to receive a grant of free milkweed plants!

My name is Nicole Massey and my husband and I live in Portsmouth, Virginia. We first visited St. Luke's a few years ago during the October Twilight Cemetery Tours and were immediately taken by the passion and energy of the staff and volunteers. The next year, we volunteered during the Twilight Cemetery Tours and later assisted with the Colonial Christmas Concerts. We've been regularly volunteering ever since.



Common milkweed in bloom. They come in varied forms and can look surprisingly different. There are several types native to Virginia.



Almost done! Nicole Massey holds the last of the milkweeds ready to be planted. A total of 128 plants were planted by volunteers in two days.

Monarch Watch is a wonderful nonprofit organization that promotes education and conservation of Monarch Butterflies. They are the go-to resource for all things related to Monarchs and a personal favorite organization of mine. Pollinators are a vital part of our planet's ecosystem and directly affect our food chain but they are in trouble. Pollinators include butterflies, moths, bees, bats and even some birds. Monarch Watch has

created a tagging system to collect data on the yearly, continent-spanning Monarch migration. They also run a federal database of registered Monarch Waystations - habitats that provide everything Monarchs need from host plants to nectar plants. Milkweed is the only host plant Monarch caterpillars can eat. St. Luke's was awarded 128 common milkweed plants.



Top: Main site near the ponds before planting. Above: View off one of the wooded trails.

If anyone is interested in helping with this project, there are a few things you can do. Please fill out a volunteer form with your interest at stlukesmuseum.org and keep an eye on St. Luke's social media presence for updates. Until then, donations are always greatly appreciated and will be put to good use! The list of needed items is unending and ranges from tools and equipment to plants and seeds.



Volunteer getting her hands dirty planting milkweeds off one of the wooded trails.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

-Audrey Hepburn, actress, 1929-1993



Left: Milkweed at the time of planting. Right: Seedling established after one week. Our seedlings started out around 4 inches but they can grow to over 5 feet tall! They will die back each year and return in the summer. Milkweed needs to be handled with care as the milky sap is caustic and toxic to many animals. This toxicity gives the Monarch butterflies their main defense against predators.

Please visit stlukesmuseum.org for ways to donate to this project or to St. Luke's in general.

Visit monarchwatch.org for more information about their mission.



A Salute to St. Luke's Veterans

On Armed Forces Day, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum staff in partnership with Smithfield's American Legion Post 49 and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars, honored those who served by placing flags on those veteran's who are laid to rest in St. Luke's cemeteries. Volunteers placed flags on over 800 graves of those who served our nation's military and who are interred at St. Luke's, with some graves dating back to the late 1700s.

From left: Herb De Groft and Albert Burckard from the Smithfield Veterans of Foreign Wars were two of the many volunteers who participated in placing flags in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery.



14477 Benn's Church Boulevard
Smithfield, VA 23430



The Geneva Bible, first published in 1560, was produced by English Protestants during the reign of Queen Mary while Geneva was under the influence of Reformer John Calvin. The notes in the margins were considered anti-Monarchical by the English Crown which led to the commission of a new version by King James I.

St. Luke's thanks Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Willis for the donation of this beautiful reproduction Geneva Bible made by James Moore.

Schedule has been adjusted due to COVID-19. For more information about operating hours, please visit our website, www.stlukesmuseum.org, email us at contact@stlukesmuseum.org, or call 757-357-3367.

WELCOME BACK! BRING YOUR MASK AND LOVE OF HISTORY ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE OLD BRICK CHURCH

On Thursday, July 9, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum reopened to the public for the first time in almost four months. While we are excited to welcome our visitors back, there are new policies and procedures that we would like to make the public aware of. These new operations are intended to keep our staff and guests safe as the Covid-19 pandemic continues.



John Ericson, Outreach Coordinator and Museum Interpreter, giving a tour to guests.

though we do ask that these guests continue to practice appropriate social distancing. To assist with safe social distancing, we are also limiting the number of visitors allowed in the Gift Shop and on tour at one time to six people. Guests will also notice that numerous hand sanitizer stations are now conveniently located around our campus.



For the foreseeable future, all staff, clients, and visitors using the St. Luke's facilities or participating in a guided tour will be required to wear masks. This rule does not extend to grounds visitors who are not entering any of St. Luke's buildings,

St. Luke's has provided several hand sanitizing stations throughout the campus for your safety and convenience.

We are excited to welcome people back but want to do so in a responsible manner. Please take these new procedures seriously and partner with us to keep you and our staff safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you (and your cool masks) sometime soon!

St. Luke's Welcome Center and Gift Shop is now open, with new policies and procedures to keep you safe while you visit.

