

Volume 9 | Fall 2021

EXPLORE HISTORY ON A GUIDED TOUR OF ST. LUKE'S

As Fall begins to grace us with its lovely weather and the uncomfortable humidity of the Summer cools into Autumn days, the crisp Education Department at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum continues to pick up steam as it heads further and further into its busy season. "What all does the Education Department do?" is a question we receive often and while the full answer is long-winded, one of the top items on that list are the wonderful guided tours. Currently running on a Thursday through Saturday

By Rachel Popp, Education Coordinator



Education Coordinator Rachel Popp presents the state the church building was in prior to the 1890s Renovation and notes important details in the photographs for visitors on a guided tour.

schedule of hourly tours beginning at 10 a.m. and ending with the 4 p.m. tour each day, these detailed tours are undeniably important and an integral part of our operations.

are the guided Why tours so important? The Education Department has always been the main steward in the fulfillment of the organization's mission "preserve, protect, to and promote this historic church landmark and its collections, documents. history, graveyard, and surroundings." As such, the guided tours provide ample opportunities to further our commitment to the mission, especially when it comes to preserving, protecting, and promoting the fascinating history of our



not only our organization, but also the real people behind the dayto-day operations. Why? We recognized that the staff, in many ways, are the faces and voices of St. Luke's and part of gaining a deeper understanding of, and connection with, our museum might be getting to know the people behind the Facebook posts, emails, freshly cut grass, guided tours, etc. For many of you, our dedicated Museum Interpreters were the first faces and voices of St. Luke's that you experienced as they took you on a 45-minute journey through the history of the "Old Brick Church."

17th century church building. Furthermore, these tours allow us to communicate with our stakeholders and visitors in a more personable and one-on-one fashion, making connections and often inspiring new volunteerism and giving.

In one of the first in-house issues of this newsletter, specifically the Spring 2019 edition, the staff worked collaboratively to introduce ourselves with the intention of providing our readers with a better understanding of

Museum Interpreter Maggie Furey-Moore gestures towards the Rood Screen, explaining its significance to guests on a guided tour of the historic church building.



Outreach Coordinator and Museum Interpreter, John Ericson, explores architectural history with visitors as they begin their guided tour of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum. (Continued on page 2.)

Explore History On a Guided Tour of St. Luke's (Continued from front page.)

From the creation of the Anglican Church ultimately caused by King Henry VIII's denied request for a divorce, to the weathervane that the Education Department is currently having stabilized, our Museum Interpreters work hard to present an informative and in-depth look at a history and organization they so devotedly support and protect. This commitment is palpable and is likely why I still vividly remember my first tour of St. Luke's, six years later. That tour changed my life, inspiring me to change direction towards a job in the field of Museums/ Public History upon graduation.

While I can't promise that your guided tour of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum will be as life-changing for you as it was for me, I do encourage all of you, our stakeholders, to visit and experience these tours for yourselves. Come immerse yourself in the history of this 17th century site and get to know the faces and voices of the Museum Interpreters who educate and inspire over a thousand visitors each year. We thank you all for your interest and support and look forward to your visit!



Museum Interpreter Gloria LaBoone introduces visitors to the history of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum as she begins her guided tour on the brick pathway leading to the church building. She graciously answers questions and shares a timeline of the site's history, covering over 400 years of vibrant American history.

CHECK OUT OUR REVIEWS ON TRIP ADVISOR!



ST. LUKE'S HAS THE STORIES TO TELL WE JUST NEED HELP! By Emily Ruble, Development Coordinator

One of the goals of the Education Department at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum is to educate people about the history of the early American religious experience, beginning with the founding principles of religious freedom, and how this history informs civic responsibilities in the 21st century. Museum Interpreters, along with Education Coordinator Rachel Popp, are passionate about keeping these important conversations going and work diligently to bring history to life for our visitors. They turn that passion into worldclass tours that cover a wide range of subjects including religious freedom, separation of church and state, local and Virginia history, architectural history, cemetery preservation, and more. This institution was here and took part in many of the biggest American cultural and political events that have happened in history and it is our job as history lovers and Americans to educate future generations. Interested in supporting our vital work of historical education? While all the donations we receive are significant, giving to support our educational mission ensures our visitors continue to receive the passionate, well-informed, and enjoyable Daily Guided Tours our stakeholders love so much.

If the mission of Daily Guided Tours speaks to you, please fill out the attached remittance envelope and mail it back to us or donate online at stlukesmuseum.org/donate. Make sure to note that your gift should be used to support Daily Guided Tours!

For more information on supporting Daily Guided Tours or other Educational initiatives, please contact Emily Ruble at development@ stlukesmuseum.org or Rachel Popp at rpopp@stlukesmuseum.org.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS









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

Saturday, September 11, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admittance is \$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.

Family-Friendly Twilight Cemetery Tour

Friday, Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. \$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 \$15 per person and children under the age of 5 tour for free. 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.

Dead men don't tell tales, but their tombstones do! St. Luke's has been the site of burials since the 1600s. Enjoy the stories of local saints and sinners on a guided tour through the Ancient Cemetery.

Adults Only Twilight Cemetery Tours

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021 at 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m. \$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.

Dead men don't tell tales, but their tombstones do! St. Luke's has been the site of burials since the 1600s. 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.

Choraliers Carol by Candlelight: A Journey Through Time Friday, December 3 at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 4 at 4 p.m. Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m. \$10 per person, advance ticket purchase encouraged.

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.

For ticketed events, advance 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.

INTRODUCING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Board of Directors is extremely proud to announce the formation of the first Advisory Council. Members of this newly-formed council are from the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Art History, Business, Corporate Law, Estate Planning, Investment Management, Museum Studies, and Philanthropy. They will provide advice and guidance to the Board and Officers in fulfilling our Mission to, "Preserve, protect, and promote this historic landmark and its collections, documents, history, graveyards, and surroundings." The incredibly talented Advisory Council Members being introduced below will play a vital role in the successful implementation of improvements and the continued stability of our organization.



Roger S. Guernsey, AIA

Mr. Guernsey, a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture, retired from Guernsey Tingle Architects of Williamsburg, a company he co-founded, after 17 years of growing the successful firm to more than 15 professional architects, designers and support staff.

Specializing in energy efficiency, Mr. Guernsey is an award-winning architect with his designs having been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens' Home Plan Ideas, Building Ideas* magazine, *Inform* magazine and on HGTV's Earth Day programming. A prolific author, Mr. Guernsey has had his designs and concepts regarding architecture published nationally and throughout Hampton Roads. Mr. Guernsey continues to work in the industry from home.



William H. Hargrove III, AIA

A Portsmouth native, Mr. Hargrove has been recognized, both locally and nationally, for many of his designs and is known for his unique attention to detail. As co-founder of HBA Architecture and Interior Design, headquartered in Virginia Beach, he led the firm's growth and success to today's

45-man firm practicing in several states and abroad. He is presently semi-retired and serves as Chairman Emeritus at HBA. Mr. Hargrove has served on numerous boards and commissions throughout Hampton Roads. He continues to serve on several boards including serving as a director on the TowneBank board. Mr. Hargrove is very familiar with St. Luke's and Whitemarsh. He has visited both sites on several occasions to offer advice and suggestions on site development, master planning and future building locations.



James Henderson, Ph.D.

Over 30 years of working in engineering and technology for General Electric and Emerson Electric, Dr. Henderson has also served as a college board member in the capacities of Board Vice-President, and Chairman of Governance, Business Affairs and Endowment Committees. Dr. Henderson continues to be active in

local civic groups in the Smithfield and Isle of Wight areas.



Susan Kern, Ph.D.

As Executive Director of William & Mary's Historic Campus, Dr. Kern is charged with the preservation and interpretation of the university's most historic buildings – the Wren, the Brafferton and the President's House – and with research, writing and teaching about the early history of the

college. A visiting associate professor of history, Dr. Kern specializes in material culture of the American South and public history with a focus on architectural history and historical archaeology. A prolific scholar and author, Dr. Kern was nominated by the Yale University Press for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in history for her award-winning book *The Jeffersons at Shadwell*.



Carl Lounsbury, Ph.D.

Adjunct Associate Professor at William & Mary, Dr. Lounsbury was a member of the Architectural Research Department at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation beginning in 1982 with responsibilities for long term research projects including public buildings, 17th and 18th century theaters,

17th century rowhouses, churches and meeting houses. Dr. Lounsbury consults in design for museums, historical societies and state agencies, with recent designs including a 17th century church for Jamestown Settlement; report on rowhouses for Jamestown Rediscovery; courtroom fittings for Prince William County, Virginia; and other investigations for the NC Historic Society and the Historic Charleston Foundation. Dr. Lounsbury has taught at the University of Mary Washington, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Virginia, and the College of William & Mary.



Alain Charles Outlaw

As Principal Archaeologist with Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., President of the Wheatland Foundation, Inc., and Adjunct Professor in the History Department at Christopher Newport University, Alain C. Outlaw has directed multiple projects since 2007 at St. Luke's Church and at Whitemarsh, the Joseph



Merry Abbitt Outlaw

In her role of Senior Curator at Jamestown Rediscovery, Merry A. Outlaw is at the center of new discoveries at Jamestown Island. She continues to advise the archaeological project at Whitemarsh which she helped establish. In her past role as Curator of Collections at the Virginia Research

Center for Archaeology, she created the State Study Collection, a library of prehistoric and historic period artifacts found statewide.

Bridger plantation. A professional archaeologist for nearly 50 years, he has worked in state government (Commissioner of Archaeology/ State Archaeologist for the Commonwealth of Virginia), the Private Sector, and Academia. Among his publications is <u>Governor's Land: Archaeology of Early Seventeenth Century Settlements</u> (1990 University Press of Virginia).

(Continued on page 5.)



Douglas W. Owsley, Ph.D.

Division Head for Biological Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., Dr. Owsley is considered one of the foremost forensic anthropologists at work today. He has identified remains from news-making crime scenes, mass

disasters, and war zones. Doug also conducts extensive research on historic and prehistoric populations from North America, including the remains of 17th century colonists, Civil War soldiers, and ancient Americans – such as the nearly 9,000-year-old Kennewick Man.



Christine N. Piersall

Christine Nguyen Piersall is chair of the Private Client & Fiduciary Services Practice at Williams Mullen. She focuses her practice primarily on estate tax planning, estate and trust taxation and administration. Christine has experience with conservator and guardianship matters, family limited

partnerships and business succession planning. She also represents clients in commercial banking and real estate matters.

TODD TALK: IT TAKES A VILLAGE



It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. Likewise, St. Luke's relies on you, our valued stakeholders, to help us grow and thrive.

Recently, on July 1st, 2021, we began our new fiscal year (FY2022). We concluded FY2021 on June 30th with 85% of you reinvesting in our

Annual Fund which directly supports our mission of protecting, preserving, and promoting our National Historic Landmark and 43-acre campus. To give you some perspective, the previous year (FY2020) we had 71% of you reinvest in St. Luke's. Most arts and culture nonprofits nationally report a range of 45%–50% donor retention. Therefore, you truly demonstrated your passion for St. Luke's and for that, we are truly grateful. Now, as we move through our new fiscal year, we will again rely on your investments as we seek both new philanthropic foundations for operational grants,

and individuals for personal Annual Fund investments and Planned Giving estate gift pledges.

The "village" of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum spans more than 40,000 stakeholders from across North America and the United Kingdom. I hope we get to see you at an upcoming educational event, donor celebration, or seasonal concert so that we may personally thank you in person for your continued support. Together, we will shine even brighter as we emerge from COVID-19 and continue the important work of illuminating early American History and the evolution of our American Religious Freedom.

Museum Interpreter Gloria LaBoone and visitors on the pathway to St. Luke's Historic Church.



GIVE TODAY TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL FUND!

Today, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum remains an important symbol to people all over the country. This symbolism inspires us in everything we do to preserve, promote, and protect this National Historic Landmark and National Patriotic Shrine. donor, you will begin to receive quarterly updates throughout the year detailing what St. Luke's is doing and how we are using your monetary support to drive our mission of preservation, promotion, and protection. Donors also receive monthly emails with updates on upcoming events and blog posts.

In the very recent past, our team of volunteers, event and lecture attendees, donors, and cemetery clients have increased in numbers. Many of these people enjoy the opportunities St. Luke's has to offer. We rely heavily on Annual Fund support in order to accomplish our preservation and education initiative goals such as educational blogs, an upcoming podcast series, and the ongoing Out of the Ashes Project. By supporting the Annual Fund, you allow us to use your donation in the area of greatest need. To donate, you can fill out the attached remittance envelope and mail it back to us or donate online at stlukesmuseum.org/donate. You can also view the many giving options available, such as monthly sustained giving, donor advised funds, or stock transfers, on our website at stlukesmuseum.org.

The Development Department works hard to ensure that your donations support the most critical parts of our mission. As a

Give today to support our Annual Fund!

TOWER SOCIETY GIVING LEVELS

Old Brick Church Council: \$5,000 + Chancel Circle: \$2,500 - \$4,999 Newport Parish: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Please contact Todd Ballance, Executive Director, for more information.

10 TIPS FOR OUTDOOR WEDDINGS

Our team has helped many couples plan successful celebrations outside. Here are 10 things to consider for a smooth wedding day:

1. Rent a tent. If the weather is rainy, you will need the coverage. If the weather is sunny, it's a shady respite. St. Luke's has an outdoor power supply to accommodate lighting, music, etc.





2. Add a dance floor. You and your guests will appreciate a smooth surface on which to cut a rug!

- **3.** Provide umbrellas. If rain is forecasted, prepare by purchasing matching umbrellas not only for your wedding party, but for each usher!
 - 4. Climate control. Electric fans will keep air moving under the tent. (Handheld fans also make a great favor.) In cooler weather, outdoor heaters will ensure your guests stay comfortable.
- 5. Invest in decor. While St. Luke's church building and grounds provide an elegant backdrop for your wedding, a tent is a blank canvas. Make sure that flowers, linens, chairs, and lighting within the tent set the mood of your wedding celebration.



8. Bring furniture outside. Get creative! Furniture doesn't need to be limited to just dining tables under the tent-What about a bench swing or a cozy lounge area?





- 6. Prepare your guests. Include a message on the invitation that encourages people to wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate attire.
 - 7. Use a microphone. Sound needs to carry farther in an outdoor venue-make sure your DJ or band has a wireless microphone for guests to make toasts.



9. Hire a food truck. Food trucks can easily serve large groups outdoors. Hire servers, or guests can serve themselves from the pickup window!

10. Dress for the weather. A summer wedding means lightweight fabrics, no vests/ neckties, and sweatproof makeup. A cool-weather celebration warrants shawls, capes, and scarves for couples who want to stay warm.

An outdoor wedding leaves plenty of room for a couple to show off their style. Create a space that uses the beauty of nature to enhance a theme and creates opportunities to make a statement. Call the Sales & Services Manager at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum to take a tour and reserve your wedding date! (757) 357-3367

"BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES" FIVE YEARS LATER

By Education Coordinator Rachel Popp

It has officially been five years since the Education Department began active cemetery preservation efforts in the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke's. As many of our Cemetery Preservation Workshop volunteers will remember, this is an important milestone as the suggested frequency of historic tombstone cleaning is only once every 5 to 10 years. Please take a moment to look over the photos I've included to reminisce with me and celebrate how far we have come since the first workshop in 2016. Thank you to the donors, volunteers, and other St. Luke's stakeholders who continue to make the dedicated care of our historic tombstones possible!



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CREMATION AND URNS

If you choose to be cremated, you may not realize that you have several options when it comes to interring your remains. When you receive cremains, as they are called, they will be contained in a plastic bag inside a plastic box.



St. Luke's Columbarium located in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery.

If the deceased has planned thoroughly, an urn may have already been selected. If not, it is up to the family or executor to choose a permanent container.

St. Luke's Columbarium

Our columbarium is a brick wall intended for the storage of cinerary urns. The cost of the urn, as well as the creation of a plaque, is included in the cost of the columbarium niche. Only our specific cinerary urns may be interred here.

Urn Garden

In our Memorial Park, there's a special area for burial urns. Here, loved ones' urns are interred underground, similar to a burial plot. A headstone may be placed on the plot in remembrance.

If cremation is right for you, St. Luke's can help you determine the

Choosing an Urn

When choosing an urn, it's important to know where the cremains will ultimately be stored. If the urn will be kept indoors, a variety of materials will suffice – decorative metal, wood, ceramic, or glass are all suitable.

But if there is a possibility that the urn will be buried, it is important to know that only some urns are appropriate for burial. Since plastic and some metals may collapse over time, a sinkhole could result at the site of burial. St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum cemetery requires that burial urns be made of cultured stone or rust-resistant metals. Otherwise, you need to purchase an Urn Vault to encase your urn before burial. best choice for you or your loved one. We look forward to being a compassionate guide throughout the process.



A family walks through the Urn Garden in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery.

Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

St. Luke's is proud to feature one of our bestselling lines: Wavertree and London Luxury Soaps from Australian Natural Soap. These long-lasting moisturizing bars produce a creamy lather due to the specialized soap-making process, which relies upon Italian Milling Machines to remove excess moisture and air from each bar. Go ahead, pamper yourself – the lather, fragrance, and feel creates the relaxing atmosphere of a spa in your home.



Call or email Fred Hodges for more information at 757-357-3367 or fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org.



14477 Benn's Church Boulevard Smithfield, VA 23430



A photo of the historic weathervane from the St. Luke's Collection at the Christopher Newport University Archaeological Lab where it is getting some much needed TLC. Thank you to the CNU Lab and Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc. for making this project possible. The weathervane will be stabilized and further researched before its return to the St. Luke's Collection

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.

LEAVE A LEGACY AT ST. LUKE'S! By Emily Ruble, Development Coordinator

Following the 1950s Restoration of the church building, many donors and board members wanted to help ensure the continued preservation of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum. Since

then, St. Luke's has received a number of estate gifts in varied forms that have helped to grow its investments. These investments continue to support annual operations in the form of an endowment.



commitments allow us to further our mission of preservation, promotion, and protection, and ensure the legacy for future generations. Including Historic St. Luke's Restoration in your

> estate plans is an appreciated gift of eternal support and preservation of our iconic National Symbol of Religious Freedom.

> There are two ways you can provide for St. Luke's in your will: an outright bequest of cash or securities, or a residual bequest. A residual bequest differs from an outright bequest in that it provides St. Luke's with the "residue" or the balance remaining, of your estate after other, specific bequests are satisfied.

More recently, a newer generation of stakeholders have approached St. Luke's in sharing their desires to entrust the organization with estate gifts. These gifts have a long-lasting legacy and help ensure this institution, its campus, cemeteries, artifacts, and buildings will endure for generations.

Legacy Funds, or planned giving, provide for the future of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum. These The first St. Luke's Board of Directors was established in 1953 with the creation of Historic St. Luke's Restoration, our non-profit organization. Pictured are several members of this original board whose influence on St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum has been far-reaching not only because of their tireless work on the 1950s Restoration of the church building, but also because of the legacy of giving they left behind for future generations. Many members of their families remain stakeholders of St. Luke's through giving, voluntarism, board participation, private event rentals, and much more. Talk with Executive Director Todd Ballance today to explore how to help St. Luke's for generations to come. You can reach him at tballance@stlukesmuseum.org.