



ST. LUKE'S

HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM

Volume 10 | Spring 2022

HISTORY FROM THE OLD BRICK CHURCH: THE POPULAR NEW PODCAST SERIES

By Rachel Popp, Former Education Coordinator

Few things are as inspiring and exciting as a new project for a museum team. When the idea for a podcast was posed to the Education Department in late 2020, the team quickly took the suggestion and ran with it. With the research completed and plans drawn up, the main hurdle slowing our momentum proved to be funding. Thus, the process of grant applications began. In late 2021, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum was thankfully awarded a grant by Virginia Humanities in support of our first foray into the realm of podcasts.

John Ericson and I were both nervous and excited when we conducted our first podcast interview on September 28, 2021. Author Tony Williams was a fantastic first guest (as many of the episodes were recorded out of order and based upon the availability of those being interviewed). After many months of interviews, audio editing, and other preparations, the first two episodes of our new podcast series, "History from the Old Brick Church," debuted on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. The remaining four episodes of season one dropped weekly with the last episode available as of Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Topics include the early American religious experience, how religion played a part in the American Revolution, and the continuing fight for Religious Freedom, just to name a few. After a brief podcast hiatus, the Education



Former St. Luke's Education Coordinator Rachel Popp and current Education Coordinator John Ericson recording the first episode for the History from the Old Brick Church podcast series from inside the historic church building.



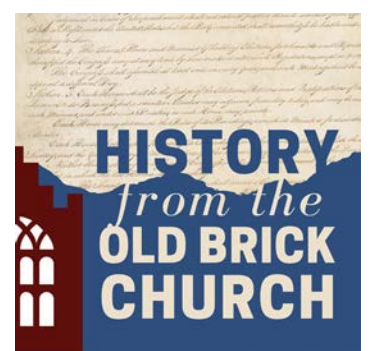
Education Coordinator John Ericson recording an episode of the History from the Old Brick Church Podcast.

Department released the next six episodes of the series on March 16, 2022.

The response to the podcast series has already been everything we could've hoped for. One of the main goals of the podcast series was to expand our audience reach and with downloads from 10 different countries and 109 cities (at the time of this article's creation), we are confident we are doing just that. At this time, we have surpassed 400 downloads with numbers growing every day.

We appreciate all of the support we've received in the creation of this project, especially the time invested by our wonderful podcast guests. Furthermore, the Education Department, under the direction of John Ericson as podcast host, is already hard at work on the next six podcast episodes.

How can you support our continued success? Check out our podcast! It is available on all major podcast streaming platforms including Google Podcasts, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Pandora. Please remember to subscribe, review, and rate to encourage others to give it a listen.



Virginia Humanities

Virginia Humanities connects people and ideas to explore the human experience and inspire cultural engagement. As the state humanities council, Virginia Humanities reaches millions in its estimated annual audience through festivals, grants, fellowships, digital initiatives, teacher institutes, radio programs, podcasts, apprenticeships, and school programs. Headquartered at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia Humanities works to serve Virginians in every corner of the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit VirginiaHumanities.org.

“BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES”

THE LADY BEHIND THEM

By Former Education Coordinator Rachel Popp

For the last several years, St. Luke’s has been actively working on the Ancient Cemetery through Cemetery Preservation Workshops as well as contracted monument repair. We have come a long way. Today, the majority of the historic monuments have been cleaned, repaired, and/or are being closely monitored for future preservation.



This year marks a change in the Cemetery Preservation Workshops as I hand over the reins of the Education Department to my mentor and friend, John Ericson. As such, I will be assisting with the next few Cemetery Preservation Workshops as I transition out of the role of Education Coordinator at St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum. My time at St. Luke’s will always be cherished.

This project has flourished since its creation in 2016 and it has been my pleasure to oversee it and watch it grow. I have been continually inspired by the dedicated and passionate volunteers who have assisted along the way, many of whom attend the workshops regularly to assist further. Volunteers, thank you for the amazing support you have given to me, the Ancient Cemetery, and St. Luke’s. Your time and energy are so valuable and we greatly appreciate all that you do for us.



Top: Former Education Coordinator Rachel Popp cleaning the first tombstone that was addressed in the Ancient Cemetery in Fall of 2016, the monument belonging to Fannie Norsworthy Parker. Above: Rachel Popp demonstrates proper historic tombstone care and cleaning at a more recent Cemetery Preservation Workshop.

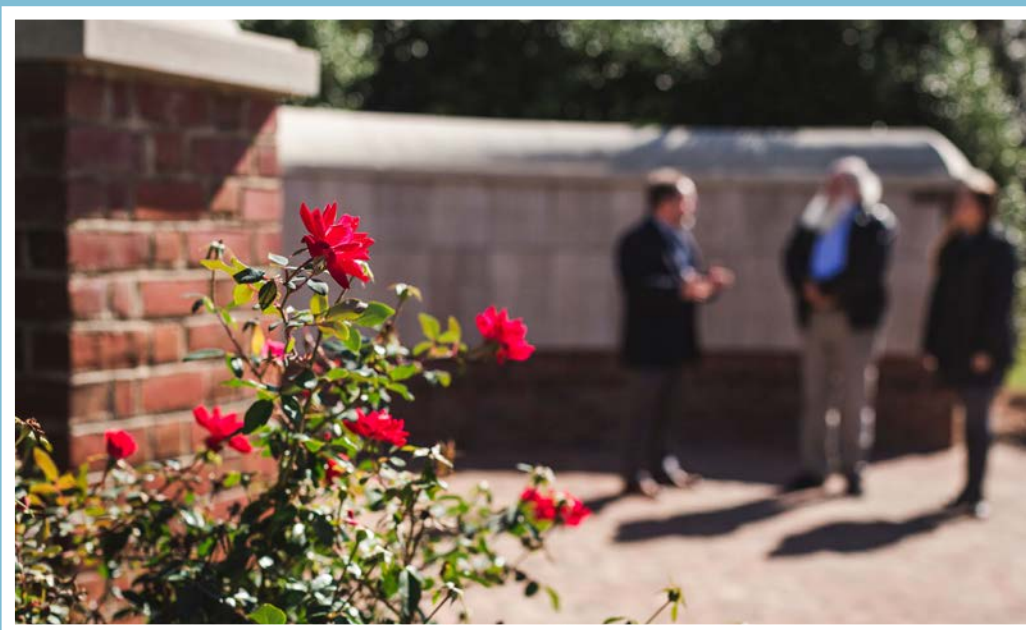
Despite this change, I hope to see familiar faces at the next few Cemetery Preservation Workshops. These workshops and their success are so important to me and I hope that they continue far into the future. They remain a key element in preserving the history of the cemeteries at St. Luke’s for future generations.

You can continue to support St. Luke’s in this endeavor by signing up for one (or more) of the upcoming Cemetery Preservation Workshops, already scheduled for April 23, June 18, July 23, and August 13. Please see the calendar for more details on how to RSVP, etc.

CREMATIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager

The St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum Fall 2021 Newsletter included an article about cremations, urn selection, and the options for cremated remains at St. Luke’s. Cremation, in particular, has become an increasingly popular burial option over the last several years. There are several advantages to choosing cremation.



Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, speaking with clients as beautiful roses bloom on the left side of the Columbarium located in St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery.

Simply stated, cremation is less expensive than casket burial. Funeral Homes charge less for cremation and there are several companies that only perform cremations, often creating even more cost savings. Cremation is also a more economical option at St. Luke’s. Cemetery spaces suited for casket burial

are more expensive than Columbarium Niches and spaces in the Urn Garden. Additionally, St. Luke’s allows for up to three [3] sets of cremated remains in each burial space.

Whether you choose cremation or a traditional casket burial, St. Luke’s is committed to serving our community and constituents with a variety of options and compassionate attention from our staff.

If you would like to discuss plans for your earthly remains, please contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, by calling the office at 757-357-3367 or via email at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



The Church of the Empire

Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 1 p.m.

\$15 per person, in-person event.

While the Roman Catholic Church had a large role in the lives of the people of Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries, only in England do we see the Church ruled by the Monarch. Learn how the role of the Anglican Church in Virginia was more about controlling behavior and keeping down rebellion than saving souls. Education Coordinator John Ericson will share his research about this unique marriage of church and state.



Civil Conversations

Thursdays, June 2, 2022, July 14, 2022, and August 4, 2022 at 4 p.m.

\$15 per person per event, in-person event. Food truck available after.

Our American system of government is based on some founding principles of natural rights, limited government and civic virtues. Author, Educator and Historian Tony Williams and St. Luke's Historic Church and Museum's Education Coordinator, John Ericson, will share in conversations about core values that Americans can unite around and work together to achieve that "more perfect union." Join us for these thought provoking conversations about our history and the connection between those principles and our current political discourse.



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

Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 11, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Regular Admission, in-person event.

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. The Locrian Consort will present a concert on 17th Century music at 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 10. Mark Summers will present a lecture at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 11 on Bacon's Rebellion.



Family-Friendly Twilight Cemetery Tour

Friday, October 21, 2022 at 6 p.m.

\$15 per person, children under 5 are free, in-person event, 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, October 21, 2022 at 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m.

\$25 per person, 21+ Adults Only, in-person event, snacks and hard cider tasting 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 four time slots available: 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m. The experience will take approximately 1 hour.



Honoring Our Veterans

Saturday, November 12, 2022 from 9:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.

Regular Admission, in-person event.

St. Luke's will celebrate the contributions of our veterans with music, special tours, and a time to give thanks for all those who have served our nation. Join us as we salute those who have protected our freedoms throughout our history.



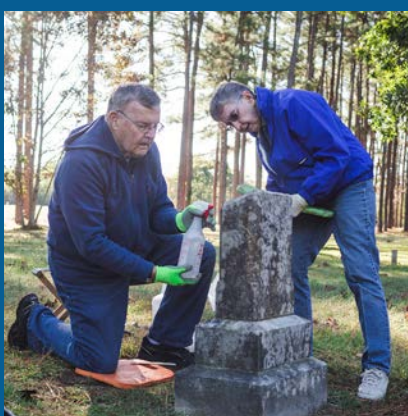
Choraliers Carol by Candlelight: A Journey Through Time

Friday, December 2, 2022 at 7 p.m.,

Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 4 p.m. and Saturday, December 3 at 7 p.m.

\$10 per person, in-person event.

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.



Cemetery Preservation Workshops

April 23	June 18	July 23	August 13
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Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free Workshop, RSVP Required

Our Cemetery Preservation Workshops not only provide our volunteers and local community with applicable knowledge of historic cemetery care but also supports the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke's by providing much needed and loving care of the oldest monuments in our cemeteries. The necessary tools for the workshop will be provided. An RSVP is required. Please visit our website and fill in the registration form to successfully reserve your spot: www.stlukesmuseum.org/preservation-form. Keep in mind that spots are limited and these workshops fill up quickly. These workshops may be subject to cancellation or change based on the pandemic guidelines and weather forecast.

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 John Ericson via email, jericson@stlukesmuseum.org, with questions regarding lectures and events.

THE BANNER WEATHERVANE: FEATURING THE COLLECTION

By Alain C. Outlaw, Principal Archaeologist, Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc.

St. Luke's staff recently found the flag-like Banner Weathervane in storage in a deteriorated condition. It required immediate attention, thus Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc. (ACS) of Williamsburg volunteered labor and conservation materials to ensure that this vital artifact is stable and ready for display when conditions permit. The ACS team combined skills and expertise to complete the conservation in December 2021.



ACS conservation team, left to right: Laboratory Supervisor Mary B. Clemons, Volunteer/Blacksmith Al Shriver, and Laboratory Assistant Matt Haley. Photo in ACS laboratory, at the beginning of the weathervane treatment.

Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In this case, there is no ambiguity regarding the intent of religious representation, as in this simplified, vernacular example, the devices are attached directly to the banner. A lower collar and three inverted petals are usually seen in secular versions of the heraldic fleur-de-lis, but they are absent here.

The weathervane preservation project was undertaken in memory of my son, Andrew Bridger Outlaw (1985-2003), a

The St. Luke's weathervane appears to date to the colonial period and perhaps to the church's formative years. Its rectangular form and five fleur-de-lis design closely resemble vanes at London's Southwark Cathedral, located on the south side of the River Thames. There, the current (1818) weathervane is based upon an earlier (1689) version. In addition, the style mirrors banners on medieval castles. It fits well with the Artisan Mannerism architectural elements at St. Luke's Church.

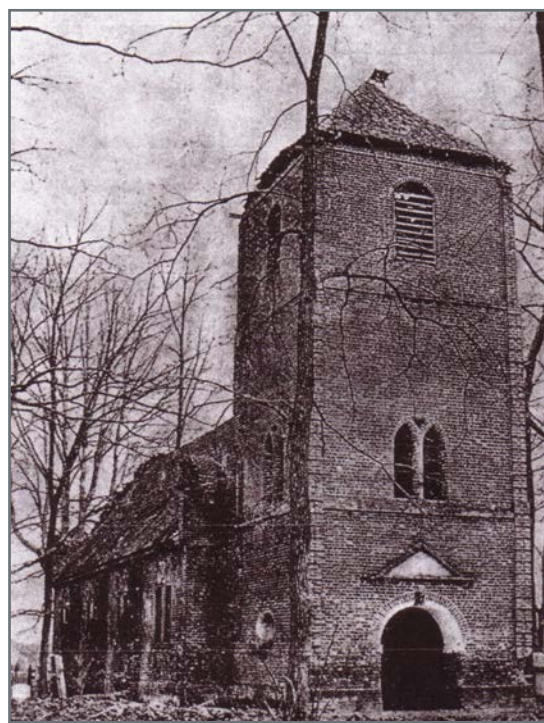


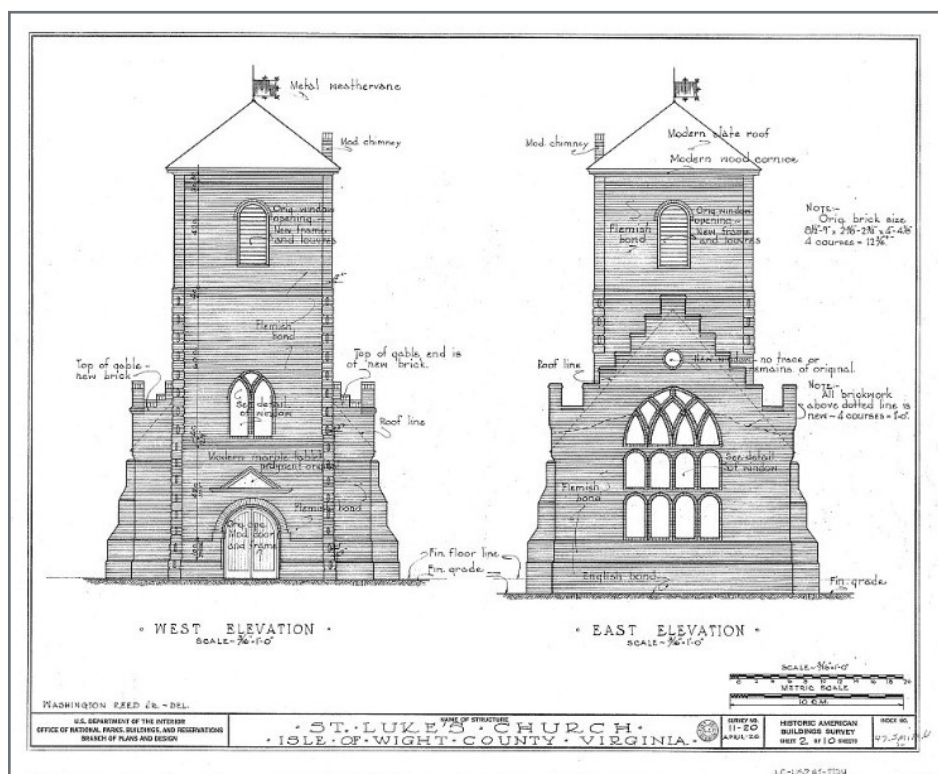
Photo published in 1884. Note damaged weathervane on top of tower.

direct descendant of Joseph Bridger I, the major seventeenth century benefactor of the church. He was baptized at the St. Luke's font on June 2, 1985. Andrew loved flags, making the preservation of this iconic decorative banner, which once graced the highest point of the church building, a fitting memorial to his short, well-lived life. Characterized by wide-ranging community service, his accomplishments were celebrated and recorded in Virginia General Assembly Senate Joint Resolution No.151 in 2004.



Weathervane after conservation, as seen from the ground when working (based upon mounting tube wear pattern). Note holes/dents caused by bullets. Scale in tenths of feet.

Decorative fleurs-de-lis with beveled edges were carefully cut with a cold chisel. These were skillfully thinned and their bases feathered into the plate; thus, their thickness is the same as the vane. The three-petal design of the fleur-de-lis is often associated with the Christian doctrine of the



Historic American Buildings Survey of St. Luke's Church in 1936. Note weathervane restored to vertical position.



Detail of reverse of weathervane, showing a corner fleur-de-lis.

TODD TALK: CHANGE REPRESENTS OPPORTUNITY



Former Education Coordinator Rachel Popp leaves behind a strong legacy of incredible contributions to St. Luke's. Her passion, education, and professionalism helped to drive positive results and greater community engagement than St. Luke's witnessed for a long time prior. Her departure and John Ericson's promotion to that role brings with it change and opportunity. John will

build on what he and Rachel did together and add to that. You may ask, "What does the Education Department do at St. Luke's and why?" It is easy for folks to think that our team just gives tours of the church building, but in fact, there is so much more that our Education Department does to fulfill our mission.

As the landscape of heritage tourism evolves, so must how we deliver our messages, stories, and content to our current and emerging audiences. John and our team have identified, similar to many other historic sites and house museums, that maximizing the potential of the Internet in storytelling is crucial to our future success in achieving increased community impact. St. Luke's intends to create and promote more content through monthly blogs, episodic podcasts, multi-media vlogs, and Zoom-based programming targeting Internet audiences. We will always welcome guests to visit our 43-acre campus, historic cemeteries, and church building to enjoy Museum Educator-led guided tours and special events. We also hope that, as more people engage online, they will make a point to visit us in person when in Coastal Virginia.

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

GIVE TODAY TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL FUND!

By Emily Ruble, Development Coordinator

We rely heavily on Annual Fund support in order to accomplish our preservation and education initiative goals such as blog production, podcast series development, and the presentation of educational events. By supporting the Annual Fund, you allow us to use your donation in the area of greatest need.

The Tower Society is our financial leadership circle, made up of donors who give \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. Members of the Tower Society fulfill an important role in providing vital funds for the day-to-day operations at St. Luke's. This group makes up over half of our Annual Fund donations, making the most significant impact with their support.

To donate, please fill out the attached remittance envelope and mail it back to us, or donate online at stlukesmuseum.org/donate. This webpage also details the many giving options available, such as monthly sustained giving, donor advised funds, and stock transfers.

The Development Department works hard to ensure that your donations support the most critical parts of our operations. As a donor, you will receive quarterly updates detailing what St. Luke's is doing and how we are using your financial support to drive our mission of preservation, promotion, and protection. Donors also receive monthly emails with updates on upcoming events, blog posts, and more.

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.

New Board Member and Volunteer Robert Clay III Shares His Excitement, Support, and Service to St. Luke's and Our Community



"As an area native, history major, and Veteran, I'm excited about St. Luke's Historic Church, Virginia's oldest surviving church building. St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum *is* living history. Those, including Veterans, interred in our cemetery are a direct link between our history and us. Exploring this link between the two is thrilling. We *must* preserve, promote, and protect St. Luke's, its history, and surroundings. I'm passionate about, and dedicated to, this mission. I'm honored to invest my time and money; serving on the board and contributing financially at the Tower Society level. Come explore *your link* to St. Luke's at stlukesmuseum.org. When you're ready, come visit us in person and learn about the exciting plans in progress for our Veterans' programs."

Robert Clay, III

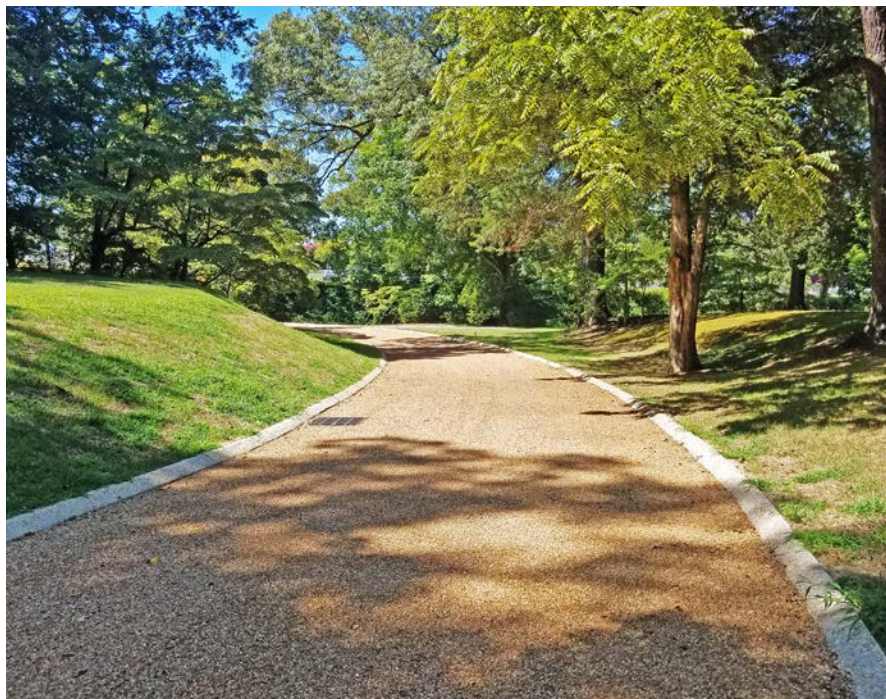
MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE UPDATE

By William Hodsdon, Board President



Eastward view of St. Luke's historic church building from a nearby pond, 2018.

On May 11, 2016, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum made its first deposit into its Major Gifts Initiative capital campaign account and we were off to the races. Between then and now, St. Luke's has completed nearly \$1,000,000 worth of improvements to our grounds and facilities, and conducted an archaeological investigation costing over \$400,000 on the site of the late 17th-century home of the principal benefactor of St. Luke's, Colonel Joseph Bridger. To say that we are elated about the results would be an understatement.



Looking north down the repaired and improved old Route 10 (county-abandoned in 1957) located west of the 17th century church building.

Anyone previously familiar with our campus will note the beautiful copper-topped stockade fencing that now surrounds the southeastern border of our property; the recently-completed brick wall that fronts our property; and the extensive iron fencing



Overhead view of partially excavated 1650s house site located at Whitemarsh Plantation, 17th century home of Colonel Joseph Bridger, chief patron of St. Luke's Historic Church.

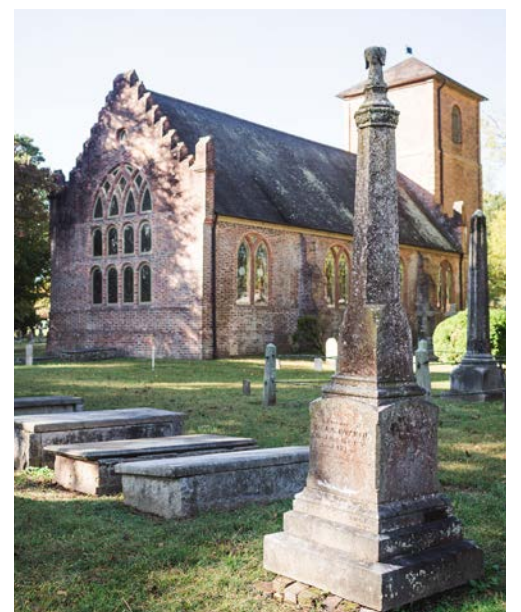
designed to direct pedestrian traffic and secure the Ancient Cemetery. Take a walk down our repaved and enhanced ancient "Indian Trail" which passes through our ponds where extensive work was done to protect the stability of the road surface and the safety and natural beauty of the ponds.

The archaeological project conducted at Whitemarsh Plantation, the previous home of Joseph Bridger and his family, has yielded tens of thousands of recovered artifacts; revealed the size, configuration and

composition of Bridger's huge manor home; and allowed the discovery, recovery and reinterment of twenty-five members of the Bridger family to a place of honor within St. Luke's Ancient Cemetery.

As we move closer to wrapping up the campaign, we look forward to celebrating its conclusion in our next newsletter this fall and thanking all of the wonderful supporters who made it possible. We may even give you a sneak peek at what we are planning for the future!

View of the east side of St. Luke's Historic Church, the oldest surviving church building in Virginia.



A NEW LOOK TO OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

On January 31, 2022, John Ericson accepted the Education Coordinator position formerly held by Rachel Popp. John has been a member of the St. Luke's staff since 2013, previously acting as a Museum Educator and as the Outreach Coordinator. He hopes to expand on the amazing work that the Education Department has accomplished over the past six years. This year, the Education Department is excited to build on existing programs, as well as introduce new ventures such as "Civil Conversations" with author Tony Williams. These events focus on our nation's founding principles and virtues that can unify us as a Community. Tony is a Senior Fellow at the Bill of Rights Institute and the author of many books concerning our nation's founding.

The Education Department is also excited to welcome two new staff members who bring a wealth of talents and experience to the team. Thomas Fosdick is a graduate of Christopher Newport University with a Degree in American Studies and Political Science and a minor in Leadership Studies. He has been a volunteer and intern with the Mariners' Museum



Thomas Fosdick, Museum Educator

and Park's Library Department since January of 2021 and is a member of the Archaeological Society of Virginia. Thomas is a key contributor to the new podcast series as he created the intro and outro, and continues to be actively involved in the editing process. He is also developing a series of videos to highlight our area's history and our site's collections.

Also joining the team is Danielle Jackson. Danielle is a Field Archaeologist turned Museum Educator. She previously worked for Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc. under Alain Outlaw and Matthew Tuttle, since graduating from Christopher Newport University in 2018. While working for Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc. Danielle was involved with the dig at Whitemarsh during "The Search for Joseph Bridger." Danielle Jackson and Thomas Fosdick join a team of experienced Museum Educators which includes Gloria LaBoone and Leslie Dunaway. As a team, the Education Department looks forward to presenting the 5-star guided tours and impressive programming that St. Luke's has become known for.



Danielle Jackson, Museum Educator

BEYOND ARTIFACTS: EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator

In 2019, St. Luke's began a unique partnership with Isle of Wight County Public Schools with the creation of our "Beyond Artifacts" program. We invited 4th grade classes to visit our site and learn about local history and archeology with captivating, hands-on activities. The field trip was designed with three separate but related activities that include study of the architecture of St. Luke's church building with a focus on what the architectural style can tell us about the time period, a hands-on archaeology simulation where students learn the basic practices of archaeologists, and a visit to a local archaeological dig site to speak with real archaeologists.



Students participating in the Beyond Artifacts field trip. This program teaches students about archaeology, Colonial Virginia, and 17th century architecture.

We were very lucky to have received grants for this program from local organizations such as The Howard W. & Katherine L. Gwaltney Foundation. Lucy Clay, head of the Foundation, was very passionate about the "Beyond Artifacts" program, stating:



St. Luke's Museum Educator, Maggie Furey-Moore, teaches students about Flemish bond during the Beyond Artifacts field trip for Isle of Wight County students.

Unfortunately, our time with these local students had to be postponed due to the challenges associated with the pandemic. After careful consideration, we are excited to resume our "Beyond Artifacts" program this year. Our Education Team continues to evaluate this program and looks forward to implementing some new ideas.

If you would like to schedule a field trip or group tour at St. Luke's, please contact Education Coordinator John Ericson at jericson@stlukesmuseum.org.

"[The Foundation's] mission is to encourage interest in the arts and all aspects of area history and culture. Providing an opportunity to experience art and culture through education, particularly at a young age, can have lasting and meaningful impacts when curated in innovative ways outside of the classroom. When done well, it connects all of us together and nurtures the heart and soul of individuals."

Unfortunately, our time with these



An Isle of Wight County student poses with findings from our simulated archaeological dig during the Beyond Artifacts field trip.

Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

The Old Brick Gift Shop is proud to feature a pen and ink image of St. Luke's Historic Church by artist Michael Martin. Michael is a fine artist from Bruington, Virginia. He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of the Arts. The print is a handsome depiction of our church building and consistently attracts the attention of our patrons.

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



14477 Benn's Church Boulevard
Smithfield, VA 23430



Pictured is a piece of lead window came, originally found at Whitmarsh Plantation, the late 17th-century home of Colonel Joseph Bridger. The date reads 1678, identifying a possible completion date for the house constructed there.

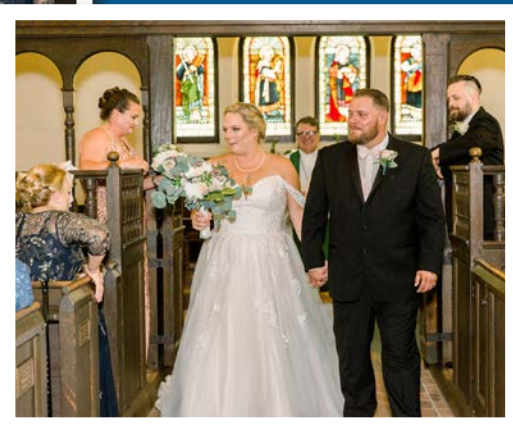
Schedule has been adjusted due to COVID-19. For more information about operating hours, please visit our website, www.stlukesmuseum.org, email us at contact@stlukesmuseum.org, or call 757-357-3367.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

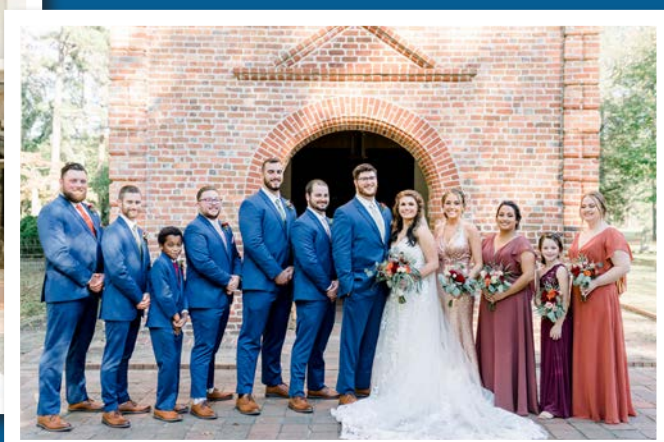
Congratulations to the couples who have celebrated their weddings at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum since the Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020. These couples have struggled through incredible logistic nightmares. They have endured lock-downs, venue shut-downs, attendance restrictions, mask mandates, rescheduling, and other roadblocks. However, they have persevered to stand by each other and have committed their lives to each other. *On behalf of the staff at St. Luke's, THANK YOU! We wish you many years of joy!*



Left: Alexandria being escorted down the aisle of St. Luke's Church. Below: Alexandria & Stephen holding hands as husband and wife. Photos by Erika Mills Photography.



Top: Grace & Tyler with their wedding party in front of the St. Luke's tower. Right: Grace & Tyler, the happy couple, with the Old Brick Church in the background. Photos by Catherine Leigh Photography.



Far left: Sydney & Jake with their parents. Left: Sydney & Jake with their wedding party. Photos by Mallorie Danielle Photography.

