



# ST. LUKE'S

## HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM

Volume 11 | Fall 2022

## WHY DOES ST. LUKE'S MATTER?

By Todd Ballance, Executive Director

Historic preservation in America began in the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, but truly the movement escalated in the 1870s around the American Centennial celebrations on the continent. Surviving historic structures were identified and assessed as to their historical value (if they helped with the American story) and condition prior to restoration campaigns. It was between the 1880s and 1890s when St. Luke's had its first national restoration campaign. Its value as explained in an 1886 article in Harper's Weekly newspaper was the nation's oldest Protestant brick church building. Isle of Wight locals and their descendants, who had family ties to the former Anglican "Old Brick Church" of Newport Parish, were successful in garnering national support to preserve the structure from ruin. When completed, the restoration campaign repaired the church building and provided a new

interior complete with new wooden, 19<sup>th</sup> century furnishings. Then again in the 1950s the church building required massive restoration after decades of neglect. It was in 1953 when Historic St. Luke's Restoration was established to undertake that massive project. Once completed, the church building was restored to a closer resemblance of its original 17<sup>th</sup> century appearance. Since 1957, the church building has been preserved through ongoing, annual efforts, and periodic major capital campaigns to address scheduled replacement and repair issues. Today the nonprofit continues to preserve the 43-acre campus, the historic church building, its artifacts and collections, and provide illuminating and engaging educational programming as a continued national symbol of religious freedom and separation of church and state. St. Luke's has meant a lot of things to a lot of people



Above: Mr. Quincy Gilliam inspecting one of the buttresses on the south side of the Old Brick Church, circa 1957. Below left: Interior of the Old Brick Church facing eastward before the 1890s restoration. Below right: Exterior of St. Luke's facing eastward prior to the 1890s restoration.



over the centuries. A symbol of theocracy, community, family, life and death, celebration, and oppression. Today, it remains an important part of the early Virginia and American architectural landscape serving stakeholders from all fifty states and countries from all over the world. The question begs, "Why?"

Do we study and preserve history to simply entertain, provoke, educate, inform, or inspire? As public historians and historic preservationists, we protect and utilize the stage of historic places and structures to tell the important stories of America. Some of those stories are very local and personal in nature while other stories are more generalized, broad, and far-reaching. Both types of stories make us the individuals and the nation we are today. We hope to emotionally engage everyone through storytelling and the power of place and in

doing so find pieces of ourselves in our historic places and structures.

On Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 2 p.m., St. Luke's and the Isle of Wight County Historical Society are co-hosting a special on-site presentation by the author of "Why Old Places Matter", Thompson M. Mayes. As described by the publisher Rowman & Littlefield, "The book explores these deep attachments people have with old places – the feelings of belonging, continuity, stability, identity and memory, as well as the more traditional reasons that old places have been deemed by society to be important, such as history, national identity, and architecture.

(Continued on page 2.)



Why does St. Luke’s Matter? (Continued from front page.)

Thompson McCord Mayes, vice president and senior counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has spent his professional career preserving old places. In 2013, Tom was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize in Historic Preservation by the American Academy in Rome, and subsequently spent a six-month residency in Rome as a Fellow of the Academy. The

*‘Why Old Places Matter: How Historic Places Affect Our Identity and Well-Being’ by Thompson M. Mayes.*



essays that are collected in this publication came about as a result of that experience. They were previously published in 2014 and 2015 as a series on the National Trust’s Preservation Leadership Forum Blog, <http://blog.preservationleadershipforum.org>.

Stay tuned for more information on how to register online at [stlukemuseum.org](http://stlukemuseum.org) to reserve your free admission seats to attend this limited-seating engagement. Reservations are only available online and in advance of the day of performance.

# “BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES”

## A BROKEN STONE REVEALS A FASCINATING STORY

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator

Underneath a broken stone to the east side of St. Luke’s Cemetery, lies the remains of Dr. Robert and Otelia Voinard Butler. Dr. Butler served as the Adjutant General of the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812. Dr. Butler served as the VA State Treasurer. Butler and his wife Otelia had a daughter, also named Otelia Voinard, who married William “Little Billy” Mahone, a railroad executive and later General in the Confederate States of America. Mahone’s story gets more interesting after the war. He returned to the railroad industry working for the Virginia and Tennessee, Southside and N&P railroads, eventually becoming President of all three. It is said that many of the towns along the railroad line were named by his wife Otelia from the novels of Sir Walter Scott that she was fond of, hence names like Windsor, Waverly and Wakefield. Mahone also took on a political career serving as a Senator from Virginia from 1881 to 1887. But it was his leadership in the “Readjusters” that gained



*The grave of Dr. Robert Butler, Adjutant General, War of 1812 for the State of Virginia. Located in the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum.*

him some notoriety amongst his fellow Virginians. The Readjusters came to prominence during the “Debt Controversy” concerning the \$34 million state debt accrued during the Civil War. The party was a diverse one that included freed African Americans, poor whites and both Democrats and Republicans. In the 1885-1894 restoration of the “Old Brick Church,” now St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum, Otelia Voinard Butler, along with some of her friends, made a donation of \$500 that was recorded in Rev. David Barr’s ledger, a sum that would be worth more than \$14,000 in today’s dollar value. While Robert and Otelia Voinard Butler are laid to rest here at St. Luke’s, Mahone and his wife Otelia are buried in the cemetery at Blandford Church in Petersburg.

# TUNE IN TO THE ST. LUKE’S PODCAST!

**Remember to listen to “History from the Old Brick Church,” available on all major podcasting platforms. With 12 episodes exploring topics like religious freedom, Bacon’s Rebellion, and Indigenous people, there is sure to be something you can dive into!**

*This podcast was supported by a grant from Virginia Humanities. Virginia Humanities connects people and ideas to explore the human experience and inspire cultural engagement. To learn more, visit [VirginiaHumanities.org](http://VirginiaHumanities.org).*





# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



## 17<sup>th</sup> Century Isle of Wight County: A Living History Event

**Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 11, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Regular Admission, in-person event.**

Join us at St. Luke's for a 17<sup>th</sup>-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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Why Old Places Matter

**Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2 p.m.**

**Free admission, in-person event. Advance registration required.**

Join us as we talk with author Thompson M. Mayes about his book "Why Old Places Matter." Presentation in cooperation with the Isle of Wight County Historical Society.



## 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

We are so grateful for our dedicated Volunteers who help us to preserve the memorials to those interred here in the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke's. We held workshops in May, June, July and August. 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. We will be having workshops again in the Spring of 2023. Please keep up with our events schedule on our website: [stlukesmuseum.org](http://stlukesmuseum.org), under the "Attend" tab.

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](http://www.stlukesmuseum.org).

Please contact Education Coordinator John Ericson via email, [jericson@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:jericson@stlukesmuseum.org), with questions regarding lectures and events.



# RELIGION AND THE INTERREGNUM

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator

The period of 1649-1660 in England is known as the Interregnum. A time where Lord Oliver Cromwell ruled as Lord Protector of the Realm. King Charles I had been executed and the English Civil War finally came to an end. Religiously it was a period of great upheaval. It was the era of Diggers, Seekers, Muggletonians, Grindletonians, Ranters and Brownists, just to name a few. Cromwell was generally a tolerant man when it came to issues of religion. The English Civil War was prompted, among other things, by a rigid system where religious thought and practice were dictated by the Monarch. However, some holdovers of the Established Church continued. A tax known as the tithe was still in effect and laws were put in place to keep competing religious factions from moving towards violence. George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, met with Cromwell to try to alter some of those religious restrictions, including a law preventing Quakers from interrupting the worship services of the Church of England. Many Quakers fled England for the North American Colonies to have a greater share of religious freedom.

In Virginia, the dominant religious preference was still



Ranters were a Dissenter Group that believed God dwells in all living things. The image above is an illustration from “Magnificent Titles, Ranters and Hell Breaking Loose” (England, 1650).



George Fox, Founder of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Image c.1835 Apr.4, from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA.



Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Realm pictured in a 1656 portrait painting by Samuel Cooper.

that of Anglicanism (The Church of England) and troops had to be sent to ensure compliance with the new government in England. In 1652 Governor Berkeley was driven from power and Virginia had a new Quaker leader in Governor Richard Bennett. Life for Bennett was difficult, as most of his religious allies had long fled from the Colony and he lasted only until 1655. While Cromwell’s government was a largely Puritan one, Virginia continued to be an Anglican stronghold. In Isle of Wight County, a significant Quaker population existed even into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the first English landowner, in what was then Warrosquoyake Shire, was a Brownist (Predecessors of the Baptists). This chaotic time in England and Virginia history will be the focus for a series of blogs this Fall, coinciding with our 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Isle of Wight Living History event. You can keep up with our educational content on our website, [www.stlukesmuseum.org](http://www.stlukesmuseum.org), under the Learn tab. We appreciate your support of all of our educational content and hope that it gives you a deeper understanding of our early American religious history.

## A GIFT FROM THE BRAFFERTON EXHIBIT



Education Coordinator, John Ericson and Dr. Buck Woodard pictured next to the Illuminated Panels, gifted to St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum from the Brafferton Exhibit.

England (John Smith’s natal church). St. Luke’s is very excited to receive these panels to help us in sharing the history of Indigenous Peoples in Colonial Virginia.

Dr. Buck Woodard is a Professorial Lecturer at American University in the Department of Anthropology. Dr. Woodward worked on the “Building the Brafferton” research and exhibit that showcased the history of the school founded in 1723 for Native American students on the campus of the College of William & Mary. The exhibition examined the history of the Brafferton within the wider trans-Atlantic networks of trade, politics of church and state, and Great Britain’s colonial enterprise in North America. The exhibit featured illuminated panels that are based on the stained glass at St. Helena’s Church in Willoughby,



Selected images from St. Helena’s stained glass windows, 1985, St. Helena’s Church of England, Willoughby, England. ©Building the Brafferton, The Founding, Funding and Legacy of America’s Indian School. Danielle Morett-Langhotz and Buck Woodard.



# 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](http://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

**Matt Abbitt Shares**

**His Excitement and Support  
to St. Luke's and Our Community**



"St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum helped shape one of our nation's earliest religious freedoms - our separation of church and state. Today, we must continue educating all generations, young and old, by accurately teaching this history along with other lessons from Virginia's oldest brick church. This is why I am passionate about supporting the Annual Fund and becoming a member of the *Tower Society*."

***Matt Abbitt***

## TODD TALK: OUR FAMILIES MAKE US WHO WE ARE



It has been said that we can choose our friends but not our families. At St. Luke's there has been a lot of truth in that saying but also something special and unique. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century during the period when Virginians were subjects of the British Monarchy, there were times when landowners could choose in what parish to live and accordingly in which parish church building they would

attend services. If you were a parishioner who did not own property or could not exercise such freedom of choice, you were subjected to attending the church building closest to you, typically within a 3 to 5 mile radius of your residence. Throughout this period and over the course of their lives most Virginians did not venture beyond 7 miles from their place of birth. Since the dawn of the American Republic, citizens have been able to exercise an increasingly greater degree of freedom than in previous centuries. Choosing where, how, and if we pursue matters of faith and to which faith communities we belong is

more diverse and free than ever before. Sometimes we call these faith communities our families. Like all families they are complex with diverse personalities, challenges, and moments of celebration. In the end, they can be sources of pride and shared beliefs and values. Although St. Luke's was built during a period of American history when few people were able to exercise freedom of conscience or religion, St. Luke's did have a community or a "family" that evolved over time. Today, our family continues to evolve and diversify while simultaneously exploring, connecting, and recognizing more of the families and their histories associated with Newport Parish and St. Luke's. Our family is diverse and has many reasons and occasions to celebrate. If you and your family would like to become part of our St. Luke's community or reconnect with St. Luke's through sharing your family histories, together we can continue celebrating our unique American stories and how our families make us who we are today. Contact me to discuss how you and your family can become part of the St. Luke's community.

*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](mailto:tballance@stlukesmuseum.org)*



# HONORING OUR VETERANS

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator and Bob Clay, Board Member

The First World War ended on November 11, 1918. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For years the country remembered this momentous event in our history with what was called “Armistice Day.” In 1954, at the urging of many Veterans groups, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day.

While we at St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum value all those whom we are privileged to provide care for in our cemeteries, we will hold a special event to Honor Our Veterans on Saturday, November 12, 2022. On that day, beginning at 9:30 a.m., St. Luke’s will celebrate the contributions of our Veterans and recognize their service and that of their families. We will have an honor guard and raising of the flag ceremony, special music from the Smithfield High School



Herb De Groot and Al 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.

Choraliers, a keynote address, breakout sessions, a lecture on the Battle of Craney Island and special tours that teach about many of our Veterans who are interred at St. Luke’s. This event will be free to all Veterans and their families, and there will be food trucks available throughout the day. Come and help us show our appreciation for all those who have so proudly served our country. We want to hear the stories of our service people and their families and to share some of the history of people who have served to protect our freedom.

For more information you may contact us at 757-357-3367 or email our Education Coordinator, John Ericson at [jericson@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:jericson@stlukesmuseum.org).

# HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE AND THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

By Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager

St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum is pleased to announce that our Military Appreciation Discount will continue. We offer all active duty service personnel and veterans a 10% discount off the current price of all of our burial spaces and columbarium niches.

We are aware that our cemetery is the final resting place for approximately four hundred veterans who have served our country in war and peace. We are humbled to care for their memorials in perpetuity. We take that responsibility of perpetual care seriously and desire to demonstrate that commitment to our active duty military and veterans.

When America’s men and women volunteer to serve



American Flags adorn markers of deceased veterans in St. Luke’s Ancient Cemetery.



our military, they leave home to “see the world.” However, when that service is completed, any community would love to have their sons and daughters return home. In other cases, Coastal Virginia becomes a new home to many who have served. Either way, St. Luke’s would be honored to ensure that those who serve are remembered in their community, surrounded by their neighbors and loved ones. We invite everyone to *Become Part of History* at St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum.

For more information, contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, by calling the St. Luke’s office at (757) 357-3367 or by email at [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org)

Sales & Services Manager showing potential clients available lots in St. Luke’s Memorial Park Cemetery.



# A LASTING MUSICAL IMPACT

By Connie Henderson, Board Member

Sitting quietly inside the “Old Brick Church,” it is easy to imagine voices raised in worshipful songs or an organ’s swelling tones. Though not built to acoustic specifications, voices, and especially music, take on a special resonance in this sanctuary.

It is certain that since St. Luke’s first services, music has been central. But music associated with the church goes beyond its place as an essential part of the liturgy. Congregational participation in hymn singing also flourished, though favored settings and wording have evolved—and been fought over—for centuries.

Special services Easter Sunrise, Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols by candlelight, brought together worshipers and music lovers from various denominations or no denomination. For years, these events were organized by Evelyn Laine Yeoman, choir director and organist at neighboring Benn’s Methodist Church. Those choir members today still remember the musical challenges and the satisfaction of listening to the reel-to-reel recording after the services.

In recent years, St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum has arranged for musical performances outside of worship. Coming up on the calendar are two events that harken to both the church’s earliest history

*Locrian Consort pictured in front of the church building with their 17<sup>th</sup> century musical instruments.*



*View of the inside of the church building from the main entrance.*

These and other performances continue to draw listeners to experience St. Luke’s in a special way.

and more recent observances. On September 10, 2022 the Locrian Consort will perform 17<sup>th</sup> century music that would sound familiar to St. Luke’s colonial members. A candlelight program of carols returns December 2, 2022, led by the Smithfield High School Choraliers a cappella ensemble.



*2021 Smithfield High School Choraliers in front of the East Windows of the Church Building.*

## THE EVELYN LAINE YEOMAN MEMORIAL FUND

The newly established Evelyn Laine Yeoman Memorial Fund provides generous support to cover the costs associated with musical programs at St. Luke’s, including their planning, promotion, and execution; and the maintenance and repairs of the church building’s 1992 Walker Organ.

*If you would also like to support St. Luke’s with a restricted gift, please contact Todd Ballance or Emily Ruble.*

*The 1992 Walker Organ (pictured right) is used frequently for St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum’s musical programming.*



## HIDDEN GEM: THE YET UNCOVERED WEDDING VENUE

You have heard the phrase, “Hidden in plain sight.” We believe that phrase embodies our site. Couples have exchanged vows here for centuries. Thousands of commuters pass daily. Still, a few hundred feet from modern civilization stands a timeless treasure, an incredible location to celebrate a wedding.

*For more rental information, contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager at St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum by phone at 757.357.3357 or email at [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org).*



*Left: A young couple exchanges vows inside the church building during a small ceremony. Above: Newly wed couple beams as they exit the alcove of the tower of the church building after their wedding ceremony. Right: The bride and groom exchange a passionate kiss in front of friends and family outside the church building.*





# Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

Books are an important part of the merchandise we offer in our Gift Shop. Whether it is local history, “Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia” by Helen Haverty King or “Witchcraft in Colonial Virginia” by Carson Hudson, St. Luke’s offers evocative, enlightening, and even entertaining books for many historical interests. We especially encourage you to consider one of the titles by Tony Williams, who is a Senior Teaching Fellow at the Bill of Rights Institute. Come visit the Old Brick Gift Shop to engage deeply in history.

Call or email Fred Hodges for more information at 757-357-3367 or [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org).



14477 Benn’s Church Boulevard  
Smithfield, VA 23430



The Hill/Hodsden Bible is a 1629 Authorized Version with Book of Common Prayer (1559 edition). It was in use during the early years of the Lower Parish, later Newport Parish. A handwritten inscription suggests that it was in the possession of Thomas Hill in 1728. Hill was appointed as Newport Parish Vestry Clerk on June 2 of that same year. The 1720 signature is from the Newport Parish Vestry Clerk.

Museum tours and gift shop are available Thursday through Saturday, 9:30-5 pm. Administrative offices open during normal business hours by appointment only. Cemetery and grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Learn more at [www.stlukesmuseum.org](http://www.stlukesmuseum.org), email us at [contact@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:contact@stlukesmuseum.org), or call 757-357-3367.

## THE BRIDGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION VISITS AGAIN!

On May 17, we were honored to have welcomed the Bridger Family Association as they laid to rest the remains of 23 individuals found during the archeological dig at nearby Whitmarsh Plantation. Whitmarsh was the homestead of their ancestor, Colonel Joseph Bridger, who was the main benefactor of St. Luke’s church building. The Bridger Family Association and its members continue to support St. Luke’s in a myriad of ways and we are always happy when they come for a visit!



St. Luke’s Board President and Bridger Family Association Treasurer Bill Hodgsden carrying the Hill/Hodsden Bible during the service.

Above: Rev. Leslie Ferguson of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Chuckatuck, VA conducted the memorial service.  
Top Right: Bridger Family Member Mrs. Lynn Rose next to the Bridger Family memorial crypt that is located behind the church building.  
Bottom Right: All members of the Bridger Family Association in attendance posed for a photo after the service.

