

Volume 12 | Spring 2023

REVISING HISTORY: THE ANNE RANDALL PROJECT



Matthew Tuttle, Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., reaches into the Anne Randall crypt. The Anne Randall exhibit is available for viewing until December 2023.

On January 23, 2023, the Smithsonian Institution and Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc. completed the exhumation of Anne Randall. Anne is one of several burials inside the "Old Brick Church." It was a mystery who Anne was to the Bridger Family until just a few years ago. Janet Ross, Bridger Family Genealogist, dug into Anne's history and found that she was married four times and had no children. Anne's second husband, Henry Pitt, was the Uncle of Hester Pitt Bridger. Hester was married to Colonel Joseph Bridger, chief patron of the Lower Parish church building construction now known as St. Luke's.



Randall and Colonel Joseph Bridger were moved from their White Marsh graves in October of 1894 and interred in the chancel of St. Luke's.

The first phase of the Searching for Colonel Joseph Bridger Project was completed in 2007 with the exhumation of Bridger's grave by the same team on the current project. The Smithsonian Institution supported the project as part

View from above of the ledger stone of Anne Randall with the inscription, "Here lyeth the Body of ANNE RANDALL who Departed this life the 23th July Anno Dom. 1696" alongside the opening created to access the crypt below.

Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, speaking to the special guests who attended

of a larger project named Written in Bone. However, less than 20 percent of Bridger's remains were found in this phase. The forensic analysis of those remains determined that Bridger died of lead poisoning, a common illness among wealthy people due to the prevalence of pewter and other lead wares.

Both Anne Randall and Colonel Joseph Bridger were buried at White Marsh Plantation during the late 17th century. Colonel Joseph Bridger died in 1686 and Anne Randall died a decade later. Anne The second phase began in 2018 when Alain Outlaw of Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., started a three-year-(Continued on page 2.)

Revising History: The Anne Randall Project (Continued from front page.)



Special guests gathered inside the "Old Brick Church" to watch the events of Anne Randall's exhumation unfold in real time.

long archaeological dig to

uncover Colonel Bridger's

Marsh

One of the goals was to

determine if any human

remains were still interred

on the property. Though

none of Bridger's remains

were found, several family

members were discovered

home.

White



Dr. Doug Owsley and Alain Outlaw peering into the opening of the Anne Randall crypt in the chancel of the church building.

in the plantation's cemetery. These remains were reinterred in a mausoleum at St. Luke's. This left the question still unanswered: Where were the other 80 percent of Bridger's remains? One theory was that some of his remains may have been mingled with those of Anne Randall.



A view of the crypt before the archaeology team removed what was left of the wooden box and Anne Randall's remains.



Bone fragments found during the exhumation, presumably

To answer this, the team at Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., along with the Smithsonian, under the direction of Dr. Doug Owsley, the head of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, has

begun the analysis of the remains. The Anne Randall Project has already determined that the remains underneath Anne's ledger stone do not contain any remains of Colonel Joseph Bridger. However, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum is excited to learn what the Smithsonian discovers about Anne Randall. The Smithsonian is working on a project that will include a future museum dedicated to the history of American Women. Anne's may just be one of many stories we learn from this initiative.



Fragments of the wooden box that was used to inter Anne Randall's remains in the chancel of St. Luke's in 1894.



Nails, possibly from Anne Randall's original coffin.

What will we learn beyond what we already know of a named woman of high status from the 17th century? The Anne Randall Project promises to reveal much about a woman who, up until recently, was largely unknown to us. This project is also the capstone of the larger *Written in Bone* project that included the analysis of Joseph Bridger. These are exciting times at St. Luke's as we get a clearer picture of our 17th century history.

Our thanks to the Bridger Family Association for their generosity in this project, to Dr. Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian, and Alain Outlaw of Archaeological and Cultural Solutions, Inc. for their expertise and devotion to revealing an important part of our history.



Anne Randall's. The lab analysis portion of the project will be completed over the next several months.



Dr. Doug Owsley and Jean Tomes peer into the opening of the Anne Randall crypt in 2023 (left), much like they did in 2007 (right) when Colonel Joseph Bridger's remains were exhumed from his adjacent crypt in the Chancel of the "Old Brick Church" building.

St. Luke's wishes to gratefully recognize and appreciate the generous charitable support of the TowneBank Foundation, the Bridger Family Association, and scores of other donors who have remained dedicated to the pursuit and preservation of history in advancing the mission of St. Luke's. We wish to also recognize the valuable partnerships and services provided by Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., Hogg Funeral Home, The Smithsonian Institution, Isle of Wight County, Isle of Wight County Museum, Isle of Wight County Historical Society, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.



Funeral Home & Memorial Consultants

"A Virginia Tradition for over 160 years' www.hoggmemorials.com www.hoggfh.com 804-642-1524





CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS













Building the Brafferton

Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 1pm \$15 per person, in-person event. Advance registration required.

Dr. Buck Woodard will be presenting "Building the Brafferton," an archaeological project and subsequent gallery exhibit displayed at The College of William & Mary in 2016. The Brafferton was a school for Indigenous children on the campus of William & Mary from the founding of the College in 1693 until the Revolutionary War ended the funding for the Brafferton in 1777. The building on the campus for the Brafferton School was constructed in 1723.

Dr. Buck Woodard is a Cultural Anthropologist and Lecturer for American University who was the co-Curator of the "Building the Brafferton Exhibit" along with Dr. Danielle Moretti-Langholtz.

17th Century Isle of Wight County: A Living History Event Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 9:30am - 5pm Sunday, September 10, 2023 from 11am - 3pm 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 4pm on Saturday, September 9. Mark Summers will present a lecture at 1pm on Sunday, September 10 on Bacon's Rebellion.

Family-Friendly Twilight Cemetery Tour

Friday, October 20, 2023 at 6pm

\$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 6pm 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 tell no 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 20, 2023 at 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, and 10pm \$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 tell no 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: 7pm, 8 pm, 9 pm, and 10pm. The experience will take approximately one hour.

Honoring Our Veterans

Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 9:30am to 5pm 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 1, 2023 at 7pm

Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 4pm and at 7pm \$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

		June 17	\sim	Saturday Free Wor
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st Saturdays, from 11am to 1pm Free Workshops, RSVP Required

Our Cemetery Preservation Workshops not only provide our volunteers and local community with applicable knowledge of historic cemetery care but also support 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 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.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS LEAVE THE LEGACY OF SERVICE

All nonprofits benefit from community volunteer service. Some organizations exclusively operate through volunteer support while others rely more on staff. Over the years, St. Luke's has had a vast array of volunteer support. Recently, volunteers have conducted cemetery genealogical research, cemetery and monument and headstone preservation, special event logistical support, educational programming, and archival and collections project assistance.



Ray Blaum, pictured in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery, completed an inventory of all gravesites. He verified ownership and computerized information for approximately 6,000 lots and burial sites, including headstone information. This project took several years to complete.

Former intern, Haylee Lewis, assisted with organizing the 1950s - 1970s St. Luke's corporate records as part of the Out of the Ashes project. She is pictured here with the binders she completed. These volunteers brought

Again, we are asking for your support. St. Luke's has volunteer opportunities to match a variety of skills, interests, time, and capability levels. There are gardening and grounds beautification opportunities, administrative and archival projects, and collections support needs.

Contact Executive Director Todd Ballance to schedule a meeting to learn more about our volunteer opportunities via email at tballance@stlukesmuseum.org, or call him at (757) 407-8829.

their experience and passion to giving back to their community and helping advance the mission of St. Luke's. From 3-year-old toddlers 83-year-old retirees, to everyone has brought their eagerness to help preserve the site and its history and share it with audiences around the world.



In 2016, the Education Department began active cemetery preservation efforts in the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke's. Since then, we have had countless volunteers contribute their time cleaning historic tombstones during our Cemetery Preservation workshops. These workshops are held between the months of April and August every year.

A BEAUTIFUL SETTING FOR YOUR WEDDING

"Very impressive church. Great venue for weddings." "...a fantastic church, a beautiful historic place."

We don't like to toot our own horn, so we let reviews like these speak for themselves. Whether they come through Google or are spoken to our staff, we appreciate the feedback and positivity. St. Luke's continually works with couples drawn to the history and simple elegance of the church building. These couples join the long and growing list of people married in our church building over the last four centuries. As much as our identity is based on our past, we continue to adjust to our present situation, as evidenced by a recent wedding couple's review. They wrote:

"We loved working with St. Luke's and they made our day so special and beautiful! We had to book late, because our plans changed with COVID, and Fred made the process so easy for us!"





Prior to March 2020, most of our wedding clients spoke about the historic location, the beautiful church, the peaceful grounds, and the serenity of our setting. However, "flexible and accommodating" are the new phrases we've started to hear most often during the last three years.

St. Luke's endeavors to provide a perfect venue for each couple's most significant day. Another couple said:

"Thank you so much for letting us have our wedding ceremony at such a beautiful, historic church! Every time we pass St. Luke's, we will be able to remember where we exchanged our vows and became husband and wife! We will definitely be back on our anniversaries to come! We appreciate everything you have done to make our wedding ceremony so special."

What more could anyone dream of? An incredible historic venue, well maintained grounds, and accommodating staff are but a few of the amenities we offer. Book your own wedding, or tell friends and loved ones about us. Contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, by phone at 757-357-3367 or via email at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org. Top: Bridesmaids relaxing outside the entrance to the church building.

Above: Encore wedding couple celebrating with friends and family as they walk down the aisle inside St. Luke's Historic Church.

GIVE TODAY TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL FUND!

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 Steve Turner Shares His Excitement and Support to St. Luke's and Our Community



"I love the old brick church, but I have learned that there is so much more than just a building. St. Luke's is a community of people who are energized about the past, present and future of this historic national shrine. It's a story of history, religious freedom, national pride, architecture, archeology, genealogy, music, drama, diversity, information technology, photography, engineering, chemistry and more. There's something here for everyone, you just have to stop and look."

Steve Turner

TODD TALK: ST. LUKE'S: LOCAL PRIDE - NATIONAL SERVICE



St. Luke's has enjoyed a long L history of local attachment, L beginning in the 17th century, in continuing through the present o day. Scores of families have b had lifelong events take place a within the church building S walls and on the hallowed F grounds of this venerable a brick icon. Though the site p suffered from lack of regular to use and maintenance between fu the late 1830s and the 1880s, in

Likewise, because St. Luke's holds great importance as one of the oldest church buildings in America, and is a National Symbol of Religious



the new parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church and the new congregation of Benn's Methodist Church (both of whom trace lineages back to Newport Parish under the Anglican Church) had strong family connections and warm heritage ties to St. Luke's. First in the 1890s and again in the 1950s, these church families came together with locals and folks from all over the country to raise funds and restore the Old Brick Church. Only through local passion and support can St. Luke's remain a valuable asset to our community and an inseparable part of our cultural fabric.

d Freedom, it remains le a landmark worth te preserving. It deserves ar to be shared with en future generations. St.

Executive Director Todd Ballance discusses the history of the stained glass windows on the east wall inside the church building with a group of visitors.

future generations. St. Luke's continues to enjoy strong support in some ways more than ever before — from our local community and around the country. Our Board is growing, membership in the Tower Society is increasing, and the entire community we serve is expanding. From all of us at St. Luke's, thank you for your ongoing support — we are poised for a very strong 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

"BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES" ADOPT A GRAVESTONE PROJECT

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator

"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the law of the land and their loyalty to high ideals." — William E Gladstone, Prime Minister of Great Britain under Queen Victoria.

St. Luke's ancient cemetery is the oldest open cemetery in Virginia. The oldest gravestone dates to 1767, and is that of a merchant from Smithfield named



Post 1950s restoration photo from St. Luke's archives: A view of the Old Brick Church building from the Todd Plot in the Ancient Cemetery. The Todd family started the first ham curing business in Isle of Wight County.

James Eason. Time, the elements, and various degrees of care as ownership changed allowed for a lot of wear and tear. It



of of wear and tear. It is our goal to ensure that those who are interred at St. Luke's are remembered with dignity.

Ledger stone of the Rev. Alexander Norris 1800-1839

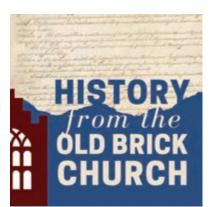
keeping with this ethic, In we are launching the "Adopt Gravestone" а project. In coordination with our Cemetery Workshops, Preservation St. Luke's has contracted with Tamara Conde, President of Historic Gravestone Services, to repair the damaged gravestones. Some of the repairs will cost hundreds, and others, thousands of dollars.

We would like to ask for your help in repairing some of these stones so that those interred can

be remembered for generations to come. We will be posting pictures of some of the stones that can use some tender loving care and give you all the information we have on the lives of those who are laid to rest.

For more information on this important project, contact John Ericson, Education Coordinator at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum, by phone at 757-357-3357, or email at jericson@stlukesmuseum.org. To participate in our Cemetery Preservation Workshops on April 22, May 20, June 17, and August 19, please register online: https://stlukesmuseum.org/preservation-form

HISTORY FROM THE OLD BRICK CHURCH SUMMER SERIES



This Summer we are launching a Summer Series on the History of the Anglican Church in Virginia. This will be an informal gathering around lunch. Bring your own lunch; cookies and drinks will be provided. This three-part series is a free program but registration Part II: The Struggle for an American Episcopal Church Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at noon.

The Established Church of England was a source of much ire that contributed to the American Revolution. With the end of the War, Anglicans in Virginia and elsewhere had to reinvent themselves for a new American context. Come and hear about the struggles of the early Protestant Episcopal Church in America.



is required! We will meet in the boardroom of the Administration Building at St. Luke's. See our website for more information.

Part I: The Parish System in Colonial Virginia Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at noon.

The Colonial Church was an arm of the British Crown. Its goal was to promote and extend the empire. In Virginia there were very few clergy but an elaborate system of Churchwardens, Questmen, and Sidesmen whose powers went far beyond our understanding of church. Come and hear how this system affected Colonists, Enslaved, and Indigenous People in Virginia Colony.



English colonists set up a cross at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607 Part III: The History of Newport Parish Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at noon.

The first parish system in what later became known as Isle of Wight County was known as the Warrosquoyake Parish. It was later divided into an Upper and Lower Parish and finally united as the Newport Parish. Come and hear about the local history of the Anglican/ Episcopal Church in Isle of Wight and the Old Brick Church. Contemporary portrait of Bishop James Madison



Old Smithfield Church, Virginia. Illustration from text by William Meade, Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia, 2 vols.

A ROYAL REBEL By John Ericson, Education Coordinator

Anne Killigrew James II (1633-1701), 1685, oil on canvas, State

Entrance, Hillsborough Castle, England.

The "Old Brick Church," better known today as St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum, is the oldest church building in Virginia. Our physical evidence suggests the completion of the building occurred in 1685. That year was a tumultuous year in England's history. Charles II died on February 6, 1685, and his brother James ascended to the throne as James II. What made this transition particularly difficult was that King James was openly Roman Catholic, owing to his time of exile in France during the Interregnum. James' Catholicism was kept secret for much of Charles II's reign, but in 1679 James' religious leanings became public.

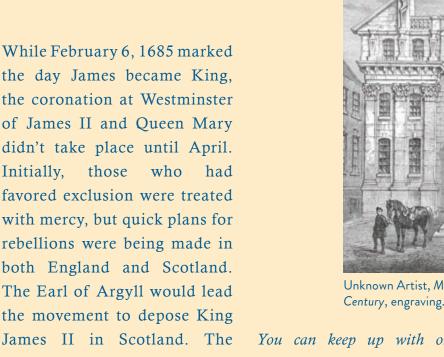
Thus began what became known as the Exclusion Crisis. Members of Parliament sought to exclude James

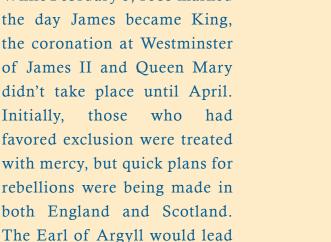
from succession to the throne. One of the proposed alternatives was the illegitimate son of Charles II, James Scott, first Duke of Monmouth. The crisis was temporarily averted when Charles dismissed Parliament to quiet the attempts at altering the succession.

Landing in early June from Holland, Monmouth would lead an untrained and ill-equipped force into the South of England, moving northward from there. King James II was alerted to the plot even before Monmouth landed and the Rebellion was hastily defeated with Monmouth being captured at the Battle of Sedgemoor on July 8. Parliament passed a bill of attainder in June that had already condemned the Duke. He was brutally executed on July 15; the execution required several blows from the executioner's ax.

Back in Virginia, George Brent became the acting Attorney General in 1686 and became the only known Roman Catholic member of the House of Burgesses. His career was cut short when the Glorious Revolution removed King James II from

office and a wave of anti-Catholic policies reemerged in both England and in the American Colonies.





Henri Gascar, James Scott, Duke of Monmouth on horseback, 1672, oil on canvas, Great Hall, Boughton House, England.

the coronation at Westminster of James II and Queen Mary didn't take place until April. Initially, those who had favored exclusion were treated with mercy, but quick plans for rebellions were being made in both England and Scotland. The Earl of Argyll would lead the movement to depose King James II in Scotland. The King's nephew, John Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth, would lead the rebellion in England.



Unknown Artist, Monmouth House, Soho Square in the 17th

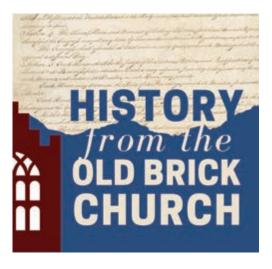
You can keep up with our educational content on our website, www.stlukesmuseum.org, under the Learn tab. We appreciate your support of all of our educational content and hope that it gives you a deeper understanding of our early American religious history.

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.





Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

Tagua Nut, known as "vegetable ivory," is a sustainable and eco-friendly substitute for elephant ivory. These nuts are harvested from the rainforest floors of South America. The seed is carved by artisans in Ecuador, then transformed into figurines, ornaments, and jewelry.

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





14477 Benn's Church Boulevard Smithfield, VA 23430 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Norfolk, VA Permit #287



Rev. David Barr was a rector of Christ Episcopal Church. Barr's handwritten ledger details donations for the

The Barr Ledger

1885 – 1895 renovation of St. Luke's, specifically contributions recorded in the year 1886. The first listed donation is from the Church of the Messiah for \$1, approximately \$31 today. The ledger was found in the basement of Christ Episcopal Church in 1999 and was cataloged in 2003.

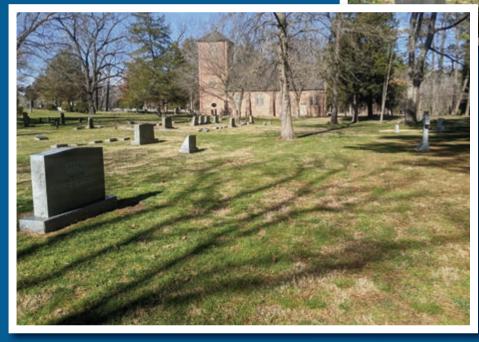
Museum tours and gift shop are available Thursday through Saturday, 9:30am-5pm. Administrative offices open during normal business hours by appointment only. Cemetery and grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Learn more at www.stlukesmuseum.org, email us at contact@stlukesmuseum.org, or call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

LIMITED AVAILABILITY IN THE ANCIENT CEMETERY!

In 2015, St. Luke's offered 68 burial spaces for sale, just to the south of the church building. There are fewer than 10 spaces available for immediate sale. If you have thought about purchasing a space close to the church building, now is the time to act!

Contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, by phone at 757-357-3367 or by email at fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org.





A view of the "Old Brick Church" as seen through the 2015 Ancient Cemetery section of St. Luke's Cemeteries.



Above: View overlooking the Ancient Cemetery as seen from the Old Brick Church. Top Center: Prospective clients wander through the Ancient Cemetery section of St. Luke's Cemeteries.