



# ST. LUKE'S

## HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM

Volume 13 | Fall 2023

## IN SEARCH OF THE GLEBE

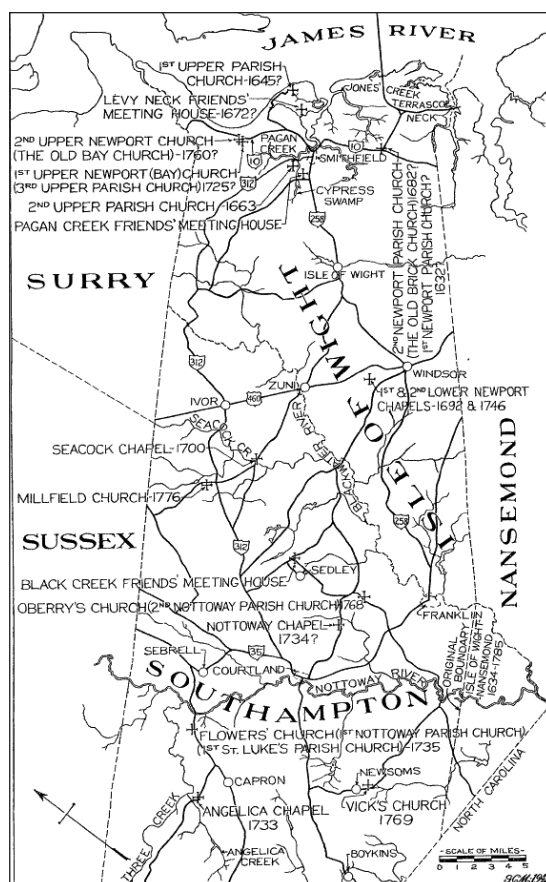


Museum Educator, Emily Haney works with Alain Outlaw, Principal Archaeologist with Archaeological & Cultural Solutions Inc. to help map the open excavation site.

### The 17<sup>th</sup> century

#### Newport Parish and Theories

In 1645, the first Newport Parish Anglican church building was erected near Day's Point and Warraskoyack Bay (today Burwell's Bay) on the former Bennett's Welcome plantation. This first church building was succeeded by the second church building having been erected at present-day Westside Elementary School in 1663. Due to changing population densities and growing wealth in the County, a new church building was desired at the headwaters of Jones Creek and south of the previous two locations and the Pagan River. The Parish vestry found a solution.



Map showing historic sites in Isle of Wight County, based on early deeds and land patents. Mason, George Carrington. "The Colonial Churches of Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties, Virginia." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 23, no. 1, 1943, pp. 41-63. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1920362>.

In 1683 Michael and Ann Fulgham sold their one acre of land to Newport Parish for the purpose of building a new parish church building — a brick church building. There was something unusual noted in this new deed. There was already

another structure standing on the parcel. It was cited as the "church house." In common parlance among 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglicans, a church house was a parsonage or glebe house, the primary residence granted usage to parish rectors as accommodations for himself, his family, indentured servants, and enslaved persons. Sometimes, indentured servants and enslaved persons resided in the houses of their masters during this period of time. Virginia glebes were the plantations owned by Anglican parishes for the purposes of providing rectors income since the parish seldom compensated rectors



Memorial marker for Michael Fulgham, located in St. Luke's Ancient Cemetery.

property with Ann's dowry and the glebe house had gone out of usage and sold to Ann's father — a typical means of parish vestries divesting themselves of no-longer-used glebe houses. Therefore, Ann may have had a say in the decision to sell this acre.

with remuneration directly. It was expected rectors would generate revenue for themselves through whatever means profitable and utilizing the glebe lands. Some researchers speculate that perhaps Michael acquired the

(Continued on page 2.)



Scientific Evidence?

In October 2019, a minor archaeological project located north of the dig site recovered domestic artifacts consistent with a European American Colonist residence that would have been nearby between 1661 and 1681. If this was the site of the glebe house as early as 1661, that would coincide with Reverend Bracewell who started his tenure at the first church building location and oversaw the construction of the second church building location. Although he never saw St. Luke’s, he may have lived in the glebe house nearby. This recent discovery coupled with the deed’s mention of a church house prompted our education department to consider an archaeological dig. When the St. Luke’s Board was presented with this hypothesis, they were enthusiastically supportive of the venture, but where do we dig? The southwest area adjacent to the western, main entrance to the church building was selected for exploration. This area had no marked graves and a few dead trees had been recently removed providing an opportunity to explore this previously unexplored part of the graveyard.

“When do we start?”

In early September 2023, St. Luke’s worked in concert with Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., Precision Services (excavators), and Joerres Tree Removal to gently and reverently uncover the soil and reveal what was there. Over the course of the week’s work, several graves were discovered along with previously unknown private utilities. There was a mixture of 16 adult and 3 subadult (children and adolescent) graves, almost all of which were interred with east-west orientation — save one. This one adult grave was oriented in an unusual manner facing northwest-southeast. Was this one grave disturbed, buried on purpose like this, or is there some other explanation? We may never know. In addition to these graves and utilities, there were a series of interesting features. To the extreme west side of the dig site, the research team discovered a line of fence posts about 8” x 8” in square



Alain Charles Outlaw, Principal Archaeologist with Archaeological & Cultural Solutions and St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum Advisory Council Member.



Alain Outlaw directs excavations within St. Luke’s ancient cemetery.

size. They must have held a considerable wooden wall at some time. Could this have been evidence of a palisade which enclosed the once church house and garden area prior to the 1686 church building’s construction? Although this project did not reveal evidence of the glebe house, it provided St. Luke’s with more knowledge than it had before of unmarked grave locations, utilities, and features while prompting more questions for future teams to help answer. We intend to place a memorial marker to these discovered graves and to record their locations for future generations. This project represents St. Luke’s continued commitment to appropriate stewardship and protection of this sanctified graveyard — The Ancient Cemetery.

What’s Next?

Armed with this final report, the St. Luke’s Board and Staff identified a unique opportunity for our cemetery clients. For as long as there remains availability, St. Luke’s will list for sale 30 gravesites in this now explored area. Schedule your appointment with Cemetery Sales & Services Manager Fred Hodges to learn more about pricing, availability, and locations. Contact Fred at (757) 357-3367 museum main phone or via email at [fhodges@stlukemuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukemuseum.org). Choose today your final resting place in view of Virginia’s Oldest Church Building and North America’s Oldest Anglican Church Building.

INTRODUCING MUSEUM EDUCATOR, EMILY HANEY



As a recent addition to St. Luke’s Historic Church and Museum, Emily Haney brings an archaeology background to her role as a Museum Educator. She achieved a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a minor in Archaeology from Bloomsburg University, PA and most recently a Master’s Degree in Anthropology from Brandeis University, MA. Emily has participated in archaeological digs in Guatemala for the past six years and is passionate about bridging historical material culture and the public in informative and meaningful ways.

At St. Luke’s, Emily plays a supporting and developmental role in educational programming. She has led a behind-the-scenes tour, shedding light on 17<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts. Additionally, Emily is working to reimagine archaeological simulation pits for St. Luke’s field trip programs. She is excited to continue to learn about museums and is eager to connect with the public about the rich history and heritage preserved at St. Luke’s Historic Church and Museum.



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



**Honoring Our Veterans**  
**Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 10am to 3pm**  
**Free Admission, in-person event.**

St. Luke's offers this special event to honor those who have served our Country. There will be reenactors, an opening ceremony with a keynote speaker, raising of the colors, and special tours available that highlight those interred in our cemetery that served in times of war. This event is free to all Veterans and their families. Tours of the Church are at the regular admission prices.



**Choraliers Carol by Candlelight: A Journey Through Time**  
**Friday, December 1, 2023 at 7pm,**  
**Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 4pm and at 7pm**  
**Free Admission, in-person event. Registration Required.**

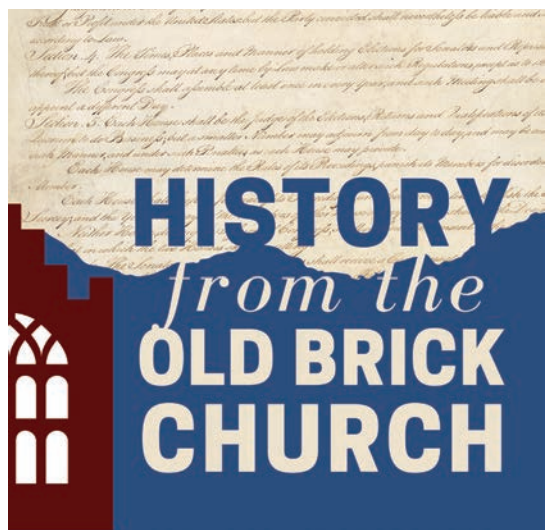
Smithfield High School's select Choraliers Ensemble presents a cappella carols for the Christmas season. This music spans from ancient times to the present, from old classics to new favorites. The Concerts have been underwritten by a generous grant from Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation.

<https://stlukesmuseum.org/events/choraliers-carol-by-candlelight-a-journey-through-time/>



**Religion and the American Revolution**  
**Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 1pm**  
**Registration required, in-person event, regular admission rates apply.**

Come and hear Education Coordinator John Ericson give a presentation on Religion and the American Revolution on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Tea Party! Religion was the grammar of the Revolution, as both sides of the conflict interpreted the events in theological terms.



## 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 19 episodes exploring topics like religious freedom, Bacon's Rebellion, and Indigenous people, there is sure to be something you can dive into!



### Stay Tuned! Cemetery Preservation Workshops will Start Back up in 2024!

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](http://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.

Visit [www.stlukesmuseum.org/cemetery-preservation-workshops](http://www.stlukesmuseum.org/cemetery-preservation-workshops) for more details.

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.



# CARING FOR THE CEMETERY

Our guests and clients regularly tell the staff that our campus is peaceful and serene. We agree. Time and the activities on our grounds contributes to the ambiance of our property. There seems to be a sacred aspect to the cemetery and the church building itself. We did not create this effect, but we continue to steward the property to perpetuate those positive feelings.

That stewardship is important and encompasses much of our time and energy. We have seen the result of a neglected and overgrown cemetery. Those sites do not convey our sense of beauty and peaceful serenity.

As the manager of our cemetery, I want to first commend our wonderful ground maintenance staff. This effort is directed by two dedicated groundskeepers. We are also indebted to outside vendors of grave excavators and monument companies that do wonderful work with burials and placement of markers. Several of these vendors volunteer additional time and energy to assist us with projects.

Ultimately, the stewardship of our campus is a collective responsibility. Twenty-five percent of sales contribute to our perpetual care fund. The interest from those assets assists in



*Statue of a family playing, located in St. Luke's Memorial Park. Statue donated by the Glasheen family.*

the financial expenses of the care of the grounds. Recently, a donor pledged a legacy gift to support the maintenance and expansion of our columbarium. She was inspired by our historic site and the beauty of our cemetery. She even purchased teak benches and dogwoods for the cemetery.

As the Sales & Services Manager, I regularly encourage people to make end-of-life-preparations. To that end, I always encourage purchases in our cemetery. However, I also want to encourage others to consider adopting a section of cemetery and helping fund improvements and on-going care and maintenance projects.

*If you are interested in learning more, contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, by phone at 757.357.3367 or via email at [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org).*



*Roses in bloom beside St. Luke's Columbarium wall niches for cremated remains.*

## ECO-FRIENDLY OR BUBBLE-GUM PINK?

The emerging trends for weddings in 2023 and 2024 are Eco-friendliness and a touch of Pink! Whether it is about saving a buck or saving the planet, one of the new wedding trends is sustainability. We at St. Luke's would like to think that we invented renewable, reusable, and recyclable. We have hosted weddings in six separate centuries [from the Seventeenth through the Twenty-first]. We have been used and reused.

St. Luke's thinks consciously about our impact on our surroundings. We have our challenges, but we endeavor to be good stewards of our building, property, and environment around us. We support and encourage couples to seek out vendors who are conscious of the mark we leave on the world. Either by the way we treat people or how we treat the world around us. St. Luke's is anything but a one-use wedding venue.

Pink? Why is pink making an impact in the wedding scene? One name says it all—Barbie. She has been many things in her storied career. She has always inspired and made people smile. Barbie's undeniable influence has left a mark on the world in many ways.

Apparently, pink is in style and wedding venues are now embracing the magic of pink decor. St. Luke's will be transformed by the color scheme of a toy, marketing empire, or even a role-model. While we are not going to paint our walls pink, we offer the flexibility for couples to rent lights that can transform our space with various colors.

*St. Luke's is happy to host your wedding whatever your theme. If you are interested in learning more, contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager, by phone at 757.357.3367 or via email at [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org).*



*Top: Sydney & Jake Hopple celebrating their vows. Photograph by Mallorie Danielle Photography.*

*Left: Sydney & Jake Hopple in a sweet and silly pose. Photograph by Mallorie Danielle Photography.*



# 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](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.*

### Board Member Susan F. Cooper Shares Her Commitment to Investing with Deep Family Roots



*"St. Luke's connects me to both our country's historical and religious past, as well as to family and personal history. I am drawn to the religious origins and the story of the site's historical and cultural evolution, which is shared through a variety of Educational programs by St. Luke's engaging and informative staff. Additionally, the site itself offers a sacred place for contemplation and connection to numerous members of my extended family who rest here in perpetual peace."*

*Susan F. Cooper*

## TODD TALK: THE TOWER SOCIETY



St. Luke's engages with a large and diverse community of 34,000 members from all over the world. They enjoy this newsletter, social media posts, podcasts, blogs, guided tours, gift shop, special events, concerts, private event rentals, and cemeteries. Thank you for being part of what makes the mission of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum possible and worth preserving and sharing with generations to come.

In America, we are undergoing the largest transfer of wealth ever. The "Baby Boomer" generation is passing on the largest accumulation of wealth to successive generations. What is important to baby boomers may not be important to younger generations. What do you support and why? History continues to be a highly debated and hot topic among all Americans. At St. Luke's, one thing is certain — we represent constancy and historic preservation. This 17<sup>th</sup> century church building, Virginia Treasure, and American Symbol of Religious Freedom, will only endure as our collective value to preserve our stories and American symbols continues to be part of our sense of patriotism and our Constitutional Republic. Making

a meaningful contribution to our Annual Fund or leaving an estate gift through planned giving helps keep this American institution viable for generations to come.

As a valuable member of our community, do you find St. Luke's worth preserving and sharing with future generations? Every purchase in the cemetery, gift shop, event ticket, site rental, or charitable donation supports our annual operations and preserves us well into the future. Donors who support us annually through a gift to our Annual Fund, and give cumulatively of at least \$1,000 per fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>) are recognized as Tower Society Members. In Fiscal Year 2023, 57% of our Annual Fund donors were members of this leadership circle. The Tower Society has continued to grow each year since its inception in 2018. Your gift goes immediately into supporting annual operational expenses. If you are a Tower Society member, "Thank you." If you would like to join the Tower Society and learn the different ways you can help through monthly giving, IRA Charitable Distributions, one time gifts, and in-kind gifts, please contact Todd Ballance.

*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)*



# “BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES” THE WINDOWS OF ST. LUKE’S

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator

The stained glass windows of St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum were installed during the first renovation of the church from 1885-1894. The Rev. David Barr, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Smithfield oversaw this renovation. The windows on either side of the nave were from a New York Company, while the east windows were said to have come from a German church and then through an English salvage yard.

Most of the dedications contained within the windows were to local families who contributed to the renovation, including donations from George Washington Custis Lee, the eldest son of Robert E. Lee and other Civil War veteran families. Among the notable dedications are those to historical luminaries such as Pocahontas, John Smith, John Rolfe, George Washington, and Sir Walter Raleigh.

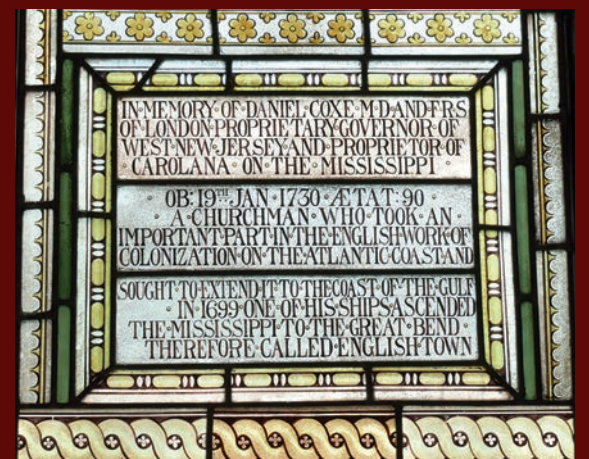
Some of the windows, however, remain less visible to our guests. High within the tower of the church, two windows pay tribute to the Wrenn Brothers. Carl Walter Wrenn, the Assistant Adjutant General to General Roger Pryor, was killed in action at the 2nd Battle of Manassas in September of 1862. His younger brother, Fenton Eley Wrenn was killed at Gettysburg during Pickett’s Charge on July 3, 1863. The brothers were the grandsons of Charles Wrenn after whom Wrenn’s Mill is named.



*View of St. Luke’s eastern facing windows. They are believed to have come from a church in Germany brought to an English salvage yard and installed within St. Luke’s during the 1890s.*

Other windows, located on the right hand side of the chancel are the only stained glass windows within the church that depict biblical scenes. They illustrate the parable of the sower and hold an unusual dedication to Dr. Daniel Coxe. Dr. Coxe, a physician and Colonial Governor of New Jersey, was a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He was described as a pious man who helped explore the Mississippi river region.

The windows contained within St. Luke’s Historic Church each tell a unique story. We welcome you to explore their stories as part of our daily guided tours. St. Luke’s is open for tours every Thursday through Saturday, with tours beginning at the top of each hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



*This stained glass window is located on the right hand side of the chancel within St. Luke’s church building. The window is dedicated to Dr. Daniel Coxe.*

## Stained Glass Window Preservation

The stained glass windows of St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum have a unique history and beauty. In order to maintain them, we need your help. Recent analysis from Stained Glass Studios suggested that, in order to preserve the windows, work would need to be done to clean, protect and repair them. Estimates received from three years ago suggest that such a project would be in excess of \$65,000. The windows were originally installed in the church building during its late 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration. They honor both local, state and national figures as well as local families who were a part of the Newport Parish’s life. Would you consider a donation to our capital improvement fund? Donations can be made online at <https://stlukesmuseum.org/capital-improvement-projects-the-heavy-lifting-of-preserving-history/>

Thank you for considering a gift to St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum!

Additionally, we invite you to visit us onsite and explore St. Luke’s rich history through one of our hourly guided tours. Tours are available from Thursday to Saturday each week, commencing at the top of every hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*These stained glass windows are located in the tower of St. Luke’s church. They show dedications of the Wrenn Brothers who were killed in military battles.*





# ST. LUKE’S MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE IS A MAJOR SUCCESS!

By William T. Hodsden, Previous Past President



William T. Hodsden, Previous Past President; Co-founder, Executive Vice President (retired), Director Emeritus, TowneBank; Executive Director, TowneBank Foundation; Board service: 2014-present.

On June 30, 2023, Historic St. Luke’s completed its Major Gifts Initiative that began in 2016. With nearly \$1,406,000 raised during the capital campaign, St. Luke’s was able to complete four major projects on our campus including permanent improvements to our ‘Ancient Roadway’ fronting the church; adding period appropriate stockade fencing on our eastern and southern boundaries; completed our beautiful brick wall that faces Benn’s Church Blvd.; and added iron fencing around our gift shop/ administration building to improve pedestrian traffic. We also purchased a piece of land that protects our southern boundary from further encroachment; removed a derelict boiler and tanks from the north side of the church; purchased some great new road signage; and, of course, conducted an amazing archaeological dig at Colonel Joseph Bridger’s manor home, which yielded literally thousands of artifacts and a huge amount of historical data that we hope to one day share with the public in a new museum. All of this happened because of you, our generous and loyal stakeholders. *We thank you!*

## ST. LUKE’S HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF THE MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### \$50,000 +

- Abbitt Family Foundation
- Beazley Foundation
- Cabell Foundation
- Farmers Bank
- Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
- TowneBank Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$49,999

- Birdsong Charitable Foundation
- Marietta McNeil Morgan & et.al. Trust
- William T. & Barbara Hodsden
- Wm. H., John G., Emma Scott Foundation
- Roller-Bottimore Foundation
- Michael Bakwin
- Richard Bridges

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

- The Pruden Foundation
- Ruth Camp Campbell Foundation
- E. Dana Dickens
- Henry Doggett
- John and Anne Edwards
- Bridger Eglin
- Richard and Nancy Fortier
- Charles and Lynn Rose
- Ray Smith
- Gary and Gayle Terwilliger

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

- Joerres Tree Works, LLC
- St. Luke’s Village, LLC (Lewis McMurrin)
- Andrew Bolling
- David Hare
- L A and Sarah Julian
- Richard Knapp
- Scott Morgan
- Lawrence Smith
- Wayne and Joanne Willis
- Judith Winslow

### \$100 - \$999

- Gwaltney Properties One and Two (Trey Gwaltney)
- The Heritage Lady
- Suffolk Materials (Richard Turner)
- Jon Bolling



Southwest view of St. Luke’s Old Brick Church Building.



# Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

## 17<sup>th</sup> Century Reproduction Onion Wine Bottles

Reproductions of 17<sup>th</sup> Century wine bottles are now available at the Old Brick Gift Shop. These bottles have an enlarged bottom that looks a little like an onion, hence the name. The available bottles are reproductions of ones found during the White Marsh archaeological dig. We offer them with the Joseph Bridger seal and the Hester Bridger seal. These are perfect collector items for history buffs, especially the St. Luke's history buff.



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



**Silver Flagon**  
In the Christian tradition, a flagon is a ceremonial vessel used for holding and pouring wine during communion. Communion or the symbolic partaking of bread and wine in commemoration of the last supper of Jesus Christ, remains a crucial ritual within the Christian faith. In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Virginia parishes observed communion three to four times annually; today's frequency varies by denomination. This flagon, one of two at St. Luke's, represents this tradition.

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.

# COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION PROGRAMS

St. Luke's is offering our regional partners free museum admission for our daily guided tours. Anyone holding a library card from the Blackwater Library is offered free admission. We also partner with the Isle of Wight County Tourism Office on their FAM Tours and we have a reciprocal agreement with members of the Peninsula Museum Forum. The Blue Star program offers free admission to the Military and their guests. During the Summer our newest partnership is with the Dioceses of Virginia and Southern Virginia in offering free group tours for 10 or more to any Congregation within these two Dioceses. We believe that this is a great way to offer our appreciation for our many partners in our area. Tours are available Thursdays through Saturdays. The first tour starts at 10 AM and the last tour is at 4 PM. Thanks to all those who are our good partners in and around Hampton Roads.



Top Right: Guests on a tour with John Ericson, Education Coordinator.

Right: Deborah Duncan and Kathy Mountjoy with Isle of Wight tourism and the FAM tour van in front of the Old Brick Gift Shop.