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## 2025 Annual Meeting

### **Agenda:**

Welcome and Prayer

Thank retiring Vestry

Thank retiring Wardens

Commission Current Vestry and Wardens

Treasurer's Report – Approved 2025 Budget

Questions

Closing Prayer

## Rector's Report: The Rev. Susan S. Keedy

With the departure of the Rev. Rhonda Lee at the end of April, I began my ministry of Interim Rector of St. Luke's in June of 2024. The last six months of 2024 have been packed full of work and celebration at St. Luke's. Of course, the ongoing ministries and activities have continued:

- Regular worship at 8 and 10:30 am on Sundays
- Prayers for healing on Sunday mornings (Ask Wendy Cook for details)
- Adult Formation each Sunday between services

This year has featured the parables of Edward Hays in his book "The Ethiopian Tattoo Shop" and monthly discussions around topics of mental health with Jan Freeman. (Ask Jan Freeman or Susan Keedy for details)

- Regular community Labyrinth Walks on First Saturdays (Ask Jan Freeman or Ila Hurley for details)
- Monthly Communion Services at Croasdaile continued. (Ask Elaine Scagnelli for details)
- Supper groups continued to meet and enjoy fellowship with other St. Luke's members. (Ask Mike Henry for details)
- St. Luke's garden crew continued to care and enhance our property (Ask Daniel Emory for details)
- Distribution of funds from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to members of the Durham Community who are in need as well as food from our food pantry. (Ask our Almoner Jan Freeman for details)
- Pumpkin Patch which raises money for outreach and operating expenses. (Ask Beth Bonner for details)
- Spring Fling which raises money for outreach. (Ask Joan Hodges for details)
- Share your Christmas which distributes gifts to families in need from members of the Saint Luke's congregation. Thank you for your incredible generosity. (Ask Bill and Carol Charping for details)
- Blue Christmas Service (Ask Susan Keedy for details)
- The Chrismons Tree ornaments were made by the Chrismons committee and decorated a beautiful tree at Christmas. (Ask Eileen Morgan for details)
- Annual Stewardship Campaign (Ask Jim Brunnquell for details)
- Christmas Sale to benefit outreach (Ask Beth Bonner for details)
- Episcopalians United Against Racism (Cathy Rimer -Searles), The Faith Team (Ted Triebel), Duke Episcopal Center Group (Lera Williams and Mary Etta King), Maple Court (Robin Arcus), Refugee Support (Babs and Jim Wise), Needlework Committee (Grams Gutknecht) all continued their critical outreach in the Durham Community.
- Pastoral Care Committee (Beth Bonner) Evangelism/Communications (Alan Scheuler), Men's Fellowship (Mark Karengin), Women's Lunch Bunch (Beth Bonner) Reception Committee (Beth Bonner), Coffee Hour (Beth Bonner), Social Media (Marlys Ray), Website (Marlys Ray), Altar Guild (Nora Hammond), Choir and Handbells (Kaye Saunders), Newsletter (Babs Wise), Livestream (Wendy Cook), Ushers, Lectors, Intercessors, Counters, Crucifers, Acolytes and so many others continue to support worship and spiritual care and inreach at Saint Lukes.
- AND

We have started a few new traditions at St. Luke's aimed at being the church we want to be!

- The Arts at St. Luke's ministry has been resurrected beginning with an organ concert by David Arcus. (Ask Kaye Saunders for details)
- Work began on the Children's Chapel in Johnson Hall. (Ask Susan Keedy for details)

- The Church Nursery was cleaned and refurbished in the Gray Building. (Ask Joan Hodges for details)
- A Sunday School Curriculum was adopted and regular Sunday School Classes made available every Sunday. (Ask Kristi Duke for details)
- The Youth Room in the Gray Building was refurbished for shared use with LEAP faculty and a future Youth Group both having a place to meet. (Ask Susan Keedy and Megan McCurley for details)
- St. Luke's invested time and resources in several refurbishing projects at LEAP including new light fixtures and new flooring. (Ask Bill Gutknecht for details)
- Johnson Hall underwent a grand renewal including paint and new carpet. (Ask Joan Hodges for details.)
- The telephone system in the office was replaced. (Ask Alan Schueler for details.)
- The Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of Saint Francis was enlarged and expanded. (Ask Susan Keedy for names of committee members and for details)
- Potluck Suppers for Fellowship and the Work of the parish have added an opportunity for fun and cooperation/participation for the congregation as a whole.
- In June St. Luke's went "Back to the Chalice" putting Covid one more step into the past for our church.
- July was "Book of Common Prayer Month" in which we explored a different service each week.
- July was also the month in which we said a sad goodbye to our beloved Deacon Kate Wisz.
- Signage was upgraded and expanded to make our campus more easily navigable. (Ask Peter Taflan for details)
- Back to School Sunday was celebrated with a bilingual service. The families of all the LEAP students as well as faculty were invited. The service was followed by lunch.
- Durham Pride Month was observed with Pride Flags in front of the church.
- We welcomed Linda Sanyika as our new Duke Divinity School Intern.
- At the end of September Iglesia El Buen Pastor joined us in our space at St. Luke's, adding an additional service to our regular schedule as well as a calendar full of wonderful activities and outreach into the Spanish speaking community in Durham.
- St. Luke's Feast Day was observed with a beautiful luncheon.
- The Christmas Sale was a huge success.
- We finished the year with an amazingly beautiful Bilingual Christmas service that featured both Saint Luke's and El Buen Pastor clergy and choirs and congregations.

The search for a new permanent, full-time Rector has continued as we move forward in many new ways. The continuation with RenewalWorks has also been a focus this year which we hope will result in the spiritual growth of individuals within the parish and the congregation as a whole.

## **Message from the Outgoing Senior Warden, Bill Gutknecht**

It has been my privilege to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. 2024 was a year of calming and new beginnings, due in large part to Susan. And of course, we cannot forget June Santa, our Junior Warden for three years, who never stopped working to keep all our buildings and all their parts working. We are blessed to have two new great leaders for 2025, Joan Hodges as Senior Warden and Wendy Cook as Junior Warden. Let us give them our full support.

In 2024, we had so many good things happen like Spring Fling, Pumpkin Patch, Blessing of the Animals, Christmas sale, the David Arcus concert, and sharing space with El Buen Pastor. And then there was so much outreach including Share Your Christmas, the food pantry, donation of \$5,500 to nonprofits and similar organizations, and providing space for LEAP and the Johnson Service Corps. Finally, significant achievements were made in improving our infrastructure including installation of a new HVAC system in the nave, new outside signage, new flooring in the Gray Building, and new carpet in Johnson Hall. None of this would have happened without the great leadership and hard work of numerous members of our church.

2025 will be a year in which we continue to move forward, including, hopefully, welcoming a new rector. I hope that 2025 will be a year of spiritual growth inspired by RenewalWorks and a year of evangelism that will lead to growth and new strength for our St. Luke's. As I write this on January 19<sup>th</sup>, I'm very excited to say "welcome" to five people who have started to attend St. Luke's. It's my hope and prayer that these good people will become fully engaged members of our St. Luke's family.

To make such engagement happen, we need to *invite, welcome, and connect*. And to this end, it's very important that we current parishioners participate to the fullest extent possible in the life of our church, starting with being together in worship on Sunday mornings. In my mind, worshiping together is all about the two greatest commandments, loving God and loving our neighbors.

And so, in 2025 let's join our hands and hearts to move our St. Luke's forward and make it what God is calling it to be.

## **Junior Warden Report for 2024**

### **Repairs/Replacements and Improvements**

During the past three years, the following major work has been completed:

- Nave lighting was replaced with LED lighting. 2022
- Johnson Hall overhead light ballasts were replaced. 2022
- Replaced the underground piping to the city main line on the back side of the Gray Building after a number of bathroom backups. 2022
- Worked with Erik Ramquist who resurrected our nave sound system. 2022
- Replaced the 4-ton HVAC on the North side of Johnson Hall. 2023
- Replaced the pump and tubing to the baptismal font. 2023
- Replaced the Kramer Room heat exchanger on the 2-ton HVAC. 2023
- Replaced the 10-ton nave HVAC. 2024
- Replaced the Gray Building hallway carpeting with Minoleum. 2024
- Painted Johnson Hall and added stained baseboards. 2024
- Replaced Johnson Hall carpet. 2024

### **Future Needs**

- Paint the exterior of the church and steeple. Last completed 2015. Chipping paint and wood replacement.
- Replace the 2-ton HVAC over the Kramer Room. Installed 2016.
- Repair or replace the flat roof over the Kramer Room. Seeing minor staining on the overhead tiles.
- Repave or repair the parking lots. Re-mark the parking space lines.
- Replace the bell clapper on the steeple bell. Crane will be needed to make this repair. I met with the company rep about this in 2023.
- Replace our current nave sound system. Installed 2006.
- Add a permanent livestream camera in the nave.
- Add a permanent sound system and projector in Johnson Hall.
- Replace all remaining carpeting in the Gray Building.
- Replace all Gray Building overhead lighting with LED lighting.
- Add gutter guards around the outside perimeter of the Gray Building to prevent constant buildup of pine needles in the gutters.
- Upgrade the outside parameter lighting of the Gray Building to LED dusk-to-dawn lighting.
- Replace the lighting around the outside perimeter of the church from a manual timer LED dusk-to-dawn lighting.
- Upgrade our security system.
- Monitor the north Johnson Hall roof (without solar panels).
- Replace the gate in front of the 10-ton HVAC.
- Expand the backside of Johnson Hall out to the parking lot for more space.

## **Summary**

It takes a team to keep our buildings in working order and our campus beautiful. I'd like to thank the following people:

The Rev. Susan Keedy, Bill Gutknecht, Steve Dedrick, Daniel Emory and the garden team, Randy Griffin, Donald Hamm, Wendy Cook, Joan Hodges, Beth Bonner, Doug Marlowe, Megan McCurley (LEAP), Peter Taflan, and Kaye Saunders.

It's been an interesting three years. I've learned about lighting, our sound system, roofing, solar panels, paints, carpeting, HVAC systems (2, 4 and 10-ton) and more than I wanted to know about plumbing and backups. I've gotten to know all the company contacts the church uses.

I have been honored to serve as Junior Warden the past three years as my father did before me and as the first father/daughter Junior Wardens in St. Luke's history.

May the Lord bless and guide St. Luke's.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. June Santa

**Treasurer's Report St. Luke's Church**  
**December 2024 Year End Recap**  
**James Brunnquell, Treasurer**

**Key Financial Highlights**

Considering all the changes in 2024, St. Luke's Church did remarkably well financially. Our deficit of \$5,052 was less than what was budgeted and was primarily due to \$37,622 spent on much needed improvements to Johnson Hall and the Gray Building. Pledge dollars for 2025 are in line with 2023, even though there are fewer pledges. Note our strong cash position of \$150,101 in unrestricted cash.

	Budget Line #	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Approved Budget
Pledges	4000	\$340,543	\$343,292	\$333,504	\$343,766
# of pledging Units		114	107	96	89
Regular Offerings	4004	18,005	20,819	39,700*	15,000
Plate	4006	13,739	15,022	12858	14,000
Diocesan Fair Share	5002	47,113	44,105	41,020	42,660
Outreach	5006/5008	9,000	7,000	10,500**	15,500**
Building Repairs	6206	1,927	3,972	37,622	4,000
Net Surplus (Deficit)		\$37,997	\$39,458	(\$5,052)	(\$37,766)

\*Without a one-time non-recurring donation, regular offerings not pledged would be \$14,700

\*\*Includes \$5,000 gift to Duke Divinity School in 2024 and 2025 to support our intern

**Capital Expenditures in 2024**

10 Ton HVAC in Nave	\$54,509
Heat Exchanger Kramer Room	3,325
Lock in Sprague roomdoor	1,467
Marmoleum in Gray Building	13,030
Carpet in Johnson Hall	<u>17,698</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,029</b>

Of the \$90,029, \$67,735 was withdrawn from the Latino Money Market Account and the remainder from our checking account at First Horizon (\$37,622 is shown an expense on line 6206 of the 2024 Income Statement). These cash withdrawals were substantially offset by a bequest we received from the estate of Leroy May in the amount of \$74,058.

**Cash and Short-Term Investments December 31, 2024**

<b>Unrestricted cash</b>	<b>\$150,101</b>
<b>Donor restricted</b>	<b>172,837</b>
<b>Vestry restricted</b>	<b>71,620</b>
<b>Total cash and short-term investments</b>	<b>\$394,558</b>

### **Total Cash and Short-Term Investments**

**December 31, 2023: \$403,788**

**December 31, 2024: \$394,558**

**Diocese of NC Roof Loan Balance @ 2%: \$35,300. We have no other debt.**

### **Major Financial Events in 2024**

1. Once again, we used Thomas, Judy, and Tucker, P.A. to audit selected accounting records and procedures, including deposits, disbursements, and payroll. There were no negative findings. Per the Diocese of NC guidelines, we will do a self-audit in 2025 to save \$5,400.
2. We surrendered the life insurance policy that was given to the church as a gift. The proceeds of \$37,389.83 were deposited into a new Capital Reserves checking account at First Horizon. This is a dedicated checking account for major capital expenditures instead of a “fund” in the past.
3. Upon the recommendation of the treasurer and the Finance Committee, we reviewed all the “funds” at St. Luke’s and with vestry approval, we reduced or combined many of them. The last time this was done was over ten years ago.
4. We outsourced our bookkeeping to BeMisional Finance in Durham in January 2024. We use bills.com to issue checks, Gusto as a payroll service, and DIVVY for corporate credit cards. Monthly, all bank accounts are reconciled, and all financial statements are prepared by BeMisional Finance.

As treasurer, I approve all check disbursements, payroll, credit card transactions, all autopay debits, and review all bank and investment accounts. Kaye Saunders, our Parish Coordinator, enters all pledge payments and donations into an ACS database.

### **Footnotes to December 31, 2024 Income Statement vs Budget**

1. Line 4004 includes a one-time donation of \$25,000. Without this donation, regular offerings not pledged would be \$14,700.
2. Lines 4112, 4118, and 4120 are from our Morgan Stanley Gov’t fund and Latino CCU account.
3. Line 4114 includes a \$39,000 surplus from 2023.
4. Line 5009 is a contribution to the Duke Divinity School related to our intern.
5. Line 5116 includes the annual St Luke’s luncheon.
6. Line 5300 was Rhonda’s salary through 8/31/24 per Diocesan guidelines.
7. Line 5510 is over budget as it includes missed payments in 2023.
8. Line 5636 is Deacon Kate’s mileage reimbursement.
9. Line 5702 is over budget due to color copying in early 2024.
10. Line 5706 is over budget due to a large one-time stationary expense.
11. Line 5708 includes coffee hour supplies.
12. Line 5802 is primarily \$7,200 to BeMisional Finance, our outsource partner.
13. Line 6002 is significantly under budget due to a more efficient HVAC in the nave.
14. Line 6202 is over budget due to a \$3,620 emergency repair to the sanitizer in the kitchen.
15. Line 6206 is primarily new marmoleum in the Gray Building and new carpet, paint, and moldings in Johnson Hall

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2024

	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
1000 First Horizon Checking - Main (6918)	52,463.40
1002 First Horizon Checking - Rector's Discretionary (6946)	2,769.47
1004 First Horizon Checking - Deacon's Discretionary (3768)	1,525.58
1006 First Horizon Checking - Capital Reserves (0301)	38,389.83
1010 First Horizon Savings (7968)	6,492.96
1012 LCCU Share Account	10.11
1014 LCCU Money Market Account	131,215.23
1020 Outstanding Checks (6918)	682.66
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 233,549.24</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1100 Common Trust Fund of Diocese of NC	17,665.83
1104 Morgan Stanley Mutual Fund	144,025.77
1200 Refundable Sales Tax	
1201 Refundable Sales Tax - Orange	29.42
<b>Total 1200 Refundable Sales Tax</b>	<b>\$ 29.42</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 161,721.02</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 395,270.26</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 395,270.26</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	823.46
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$ 823.46</b>
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
2100 Divvy Card	2,342.53
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>\$ 2,342.53</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2200 Prepaid Pledges	30,500.00
<b>2300 Payroll Liabilities</b>	
2304 Federal Taxes Payable	-3.86
2306 Retirement Contributions Payable	905.43
<b>Total 2300 Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 901.57</b>
2400 Roof Loan Principal	35,300.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 66,701.57</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 69,867.56</b>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 69,867.56</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>3000 Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>105,398.05</b>
<b>A. Designated Funds</b>	
<b>3111 Capital Reserves Fund</b>	38,389.83
<b>3114 Extraordinary Expense Fund</b>	18,826.47
<b>3122 Music and Arts Fund</b>	3,501.88
<b>3123 Roof Loan Fund</b>	12,751.28
<b>Total A. Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$ 73,469.46</b>
<b>B. Temporary Restricted Funds</b>	
<b>3131 Rector Discretionary Fund</b>	2,769.47
<b>3133 Memorials Fund</b>	22,190.02
<b>3134 Memorial Garden Fund</b>	7,717.56
<b>3135 Deacon Discretionary Fund</b>	1,525.58
<b>3137 Christian Formation</b>	7,610.33
<b>3138 Holy Cross School Scholarship Fund</b>	390.60
<b>3139 Major Outreach Fund</b>	1,367.67
<b>3140 Mission Trips Fund</b>	12,756.56
<b>3144 Continuing Education/Professional Development Fund</b>	8,078.39
<b>3148 Clergy &amp; Staff Gift Fund</b>	274.93
<b>3149 Other Organization Fund</b>	1,649.00
<b>3151 Flower Fund</b>	1,380.47
<b>3157 Holy Cross School Funding Fund</b>	1,461.55
<b>3158 Hutson Fund for Clergy Continuing Education Fund</b>	21,199.37
<b>3159 EUAR Fund</b>	14,431.20
<b>3160 Pumpkin Fundraiser Fund</b>	4,485.04
<b>3163 Technology Fund</b>	2,441.93
<b>3165 Good News Garden Fund</b>	68.84
<b>3166 Refugee Resettlement Coalition Fund</b>	9,964.59
<b>3167 Christmas Ornament Fund</b>	1,218.20
<b>3168 Share Your Christmas Fund</b>	294.33
<b>Total B. Temporary Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 123,275.63</b>
<b>C. Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	
<b>3192 Common Trust Fund</b>	16,394.32
<b>3194 Educational Scholarship Fund</b>	53,415.30
<b>Total C. Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 69,809.62</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-46,550.06</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 325,402.70</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 395,270.26</b>

St Luke's Budget Worksheet		APPROVED BUDGET Year 2025 Assumes \$343,736 in 89 pledging units		ACTUAL Year 2024 96 pledging units = \$335,686	ACTUAL Year 2023 107 pledging units = \$350,595.00	ACTUAL Year 2022 114 pledging units = \$339,384	ACTUAL Year 2021 135 pledging units = \$377,657
		Budget below based on 100% return on pledges	Budget Assumptions 2025	2024 Actual Rec'd 99% of pledged	2023 Actual Rec'd 98% of pledged	2022 Actual Rec'd 100% of pledged	2021 Actual Rec'd 94% of pledged
	Revenue		2025 Notes	YTD as of 12/31/24	YTD as of 12/31/23	YTD as of 12/31/22	YTD as of 12/31/21
4000	Pledged Contribs, Curr Year	\$343,736.00	Actual as of 1/14/25	\$333,504.06	\$343,292.32	\$340,543.34	\$354,803.77
4002	Pledged Contribs, Prior Years	0.00			0.00	1,300.00	16,060.00
4004	Regular Offerings, Unpledged	15,000.00	\$25,000 one time donation in 2024	39,700.43	20,819.67	18,005.17	10,050.00
4006	Plate Offering	14,000.00		12,858.14	15,022.27	13,738.63	11,360.32
4100	Grant Income	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4104	Flower Donations	4,600.00	46 weeks@ \$100/week	2,736.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
4106	Event Registrations	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4108	Building Use Fees	300.00	\$25.00/month from NA	100.00	0.00	0.00	320.00
4110	Revenue from LEAP	12,000.00	Per current contract	12,600.00	12,100.00	12,100.00	6,028.05
4112	Investment Income	12,000.00	Morgan Stanley and Latino CCU. Assume rates fall	17,974.07	846.00	865.00	845.00
New	Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser	5,000.00					
New	Christmas Ornament Sale	1,000.00					
New	Spring Fling Fundraiser	6,000.00					
New	Share Your Christmas	3,000.00					
4114	Trans from Child & Family	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Oper Worship	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Paid Singers	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Prof Develop	0.00			500.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Music & Arts	0.00			3,060.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Hutson Fdn for Clergy PD	0.00			1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4114	Trans from Special Gifts & Bequests: Youth, Child Ministry	0.00			0.00	4,530.00	12,963.90
4114	Trans from Sabbatical Reserve	0.00			0.00	0.00	1,700.00
4114	Trans from Programs & Activities	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Women at the Well	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Trans from Pumpkin Patch	0.00			5,252.00	4,000.00	0.00
4114	Transfers	0.00		9,986.85	575.00	60,131.70	0.00
4114	Trans from Technology Fund	0.00			1,000.00	0.00	0.00
4114	Carry Funds, prior year 2023	0.00		39,458.78	37,997.20	0.00	0.00



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		Budget below based on 100% return on pledges	Budget Assumptions 2025	2024 Actual Rec'd 99% of pledged	2023 Actual Rec'd 98% of pledged	2022 Actual Rec'd 100% of pledged	2021 Actual Rec'd 94% of pledged
	<b>Worship Expenses</b>						
5200	Altar Supplies	4,000.00	Per Altar Guild proposal	2,247.53	2,100.55	1,507.87	429.32
5202	Worship Expenses (Flowers)	4,600.00	46 weeks @ \$100/week	3,383.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
5204	Music Supplies	430.00	Per Kaye Saunderson's proposal	622.02	503.43	308.19	980.78
5206	Music Instrument Tuning/Upkeep	2,100.00		1,894.56	1,125.00	1,800.00	461.15
5208	Music Copyrights	425.00		375.70	250.00	300.00	139.00
5210	Music Vestments	760.00		446.84	910.00	0.00	0.00
5212	Music Org & Membership	295.00		0.00	230.00	154.00	341.00
	<b>Compensation + Related Costs</b>						
	<b>Rector-Susan or New Rector</b>						
5300	Rector Salary	92,936.45	3% increase	40279.71	57,601.50	0.00	61,000.00
5302	Rector Housing Allowance	0.00		20,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
5304	Rector Health	11,900.00	Assumes individual coverage. Family coverage is \$37,800	6,880.00	9,600.00	0.00	32,262.00
5306	Rector Dental	1,000.00	2025 rate \$84.00/mo.	656.00	756.00	0.00	2,760.00
5308	Rector Life	200.00		174.42	387.00	0.00	243.00
5310	Rector Pension (Church Pension Group)	16,728.56	18% of salary	11,348.19	16,004.76	-1,215.00	14,580.00
5312	Rector Prof Dev Exp	0.00	Use Hutson Fund of \$521,199.37 @ \$1,000/yr.	1,125.24	1,454.49	0.00	2,000.00
5314	Rector Non-Travel Expenses	500.00		510.02	380.98	0.00	268.00
5316	Rector Sabbatical	500.00	Contributed annually to new fund for this purpose	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,700.00
	<b>Interim Rector</b>						
5400	Interim Rector Salary	0.00		\$58,021.98	0.00	53,430.00	0.00
5402	Interim Rec Housing Allow.	0.00		\$0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00
5404	Interim Rector Health	0.00		\$0.00	0.00	9,600.00	0.00
5406	Interim Rector Dental	0.00		592.00	0.00	756.00	0.00
5408	Interim Rector Life	0.00		80.00	0.00	387.00	0.00
5410	Interim Rector Pension	0.00		\$0.00	0.00	15,017.40	0.00
5412	Interim Rector Professional Deve	0.00		\$0.00	0.00	1,231.03	0.00
5414	Interim Rector Non-Travel Exp	0.00		\$0.00	0.00	645.21	0.00

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		Budget below based on 100% return on pledges	Budget Assumptions 2025	2024 Actual Rec'd 99% of pledged	2023 Actual Rec'd 98% of pledged	2022 Actual Rec'd 100% of pledged	2021 Actual Rec'd 94% of pledged
	<b>Parish Coordinator</b>						
5500	Parish Coordinator - Salary	36,878.00	3% increase	26594.30	30,739.98	42,236.91	38,000.00
5502	Parish Coordinator - FICA	2,821.17	7.65%	2,644.20	2,407.43	3,231.12	2,907.00
5504	Parish Coordinator - Health	11,900.00	2025 rate \$987/mo.	8,862.33	10,611.03	2,375.07	2,202.23
5506	Parish Coordinator - Dental	1,000.00	2025 rate \$84.00/mo.	574.00	712.00	0.00	0.00
5508	Parish Coordinator - Life	200.00	(\$16.33 pr month)	146.97	155.18	87.40	113.24
5510	PC and Music Director Pension	2,950.00	4% Match. Underfunded in 2023	8150.48	2,255.00	4,040.55	3,800.00
	Parish Coordinator - LT Disability	0.00			0.00	430.00	315.00
	<b>Music Director</b>						
5600	Music Director Salary	36,878.00	3% increase	43,599.86	41,922.36	33,936.44	32,948.04
5602	Music Director-FICA	2,821.17	7.65%	2,725.65	3,207.12	2,596.14	2,520.53
5604	Music Director Prof Develop	1,200.00		1,350.00	247.67	0.00	0.00
	<b>Other Musicians' Compensation</b>						
5610	Other Musicians' Compensation	4,450.00	Per Kaye's proposal	10,500.00	2,557.90	1,530.00	0.00
5612	Other Music FICA	340.43	7.65%	680.87	0.00	117.05	0.00
5614	Supply Organists	250.00	Only 1 Sunday	500.00	525.00	0.00	0.00
New	<b>Organist</b>	13,350.00	Was \$10,000 in 2024, included in line 5610				
	Organist FICA	1,021.28	7.65%				
	<b>Other Worship + Care Staff</b>						
5620	Sunday AM + Nursery Attend	7,500	3% increase. Typically pd for 6 hours a week. Receives extra pay for Christmas, Easter, Shrove Tues, Annual Lunch, other events	6,240.00	6,100	4,949.60	4,820.40
5622	Asst Nursery Attendant	1,251	3% increase. Paid for 6 hours a month	1,315.86	1,217	1,104.51	1,080.00
5624	FICA for Part Time Staff	669.45	7.65%	578.02	559.71	463.14	451.38
5626	Supply Clergy	1,200.00	4 Sundays @ \$272 plus mileage	3,073.44	4,232.43	3,980.00	3,076.72
	<b>Children and Youth Minister</b>						
	Children/Youth Minister	0.00		\$0.00	0.00	4,167.00	12,000.00

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	FICA, Children/Youth Minister	0.00		0.00	0.00	362.19	963.90
	Child/Youth Min Prof Dev Exp	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Related Expenses</b>							
5632	Deacon's Professional Develop	0.00		\$515.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
5634	Lay Staff Professional Develop	250.00	Kaye Saunders	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5636	Travel Expenses	1,000.00	Work auto mileage for Parish Coord & Rector	1964.43	2,189.00	392.99	464.24
	Church Expenses	0.00		0.00	0.00	44,370.00	0.00
<b>Office Operations</b>							
5700	Copier Lease	5,424.00	New rate in Dec 2022, \$452 per month, contract in force until 2028	4,694.91	5,424.00	4,382.81	4,824.38
5702	Copier Usage Charges	5,000.00	Less color in 2025	5,513.66	3,693.25	2,373.04	1,439.63
5704	Postage & Bulk Mailings	1,000.00		477.00	465.81	1,685.12	2,311.26
5706	Office Supplies	4,100.00		6,680.20	4,113.43	3,500.00	3,169.50
5708	Kitchen & Household Supplies	600.00		1,328.91	50.00	0.00	0.00
5710	Workers' Comp	592.00	Per Church Ins.	506.00	654.00	694.00	717.00
5712	Software & IT Support	8,000.00	See separate tab for all specific details	7,163.86	8,365.00	7,449.64	6,407.52
<b>Professional Services</b>							
5800	Audit Professional Services	0.00	Self audit in 2025	5,400.00	5,215.00	4,650.00	4,500.00
5802	Consultant Professional Services	8,400.00	BeMissional new 2025 monthly rate \$700	8,331.53	7,251.56	0.00	0.00
<b>Financial Support</b>							
5900	Bank Service Charges	100.00	Stop Payment Charges	33.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
5902	PayPal Service Charges	300.00	StL's is charged 2.9% + 30 cents for every on line transaction, non-profit rate	291.77	232.28	125.06	46.49
5904	Square Service Charges	0.00	Square proceeds are net of charges. 2.6% + 10 cents for every on line transaction	0.00	284.92	325.18	220.31
5916	Investment Account Fees			0.00			
5908	Life Insurance Premiums	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
5910	Fundraising Costs	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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5912	Loan Interest	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5914	Fund Transfers - Outgoing	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Vanco	0.00	No longer use ACS donation module	0.00	933.57	1,300.00	1,312.85
<b>Facilities Expenses Utilities</b>							
6000	Electric	4,000.00	Solar Panels, 2022	3,718.00	4,440.47	4,621.14	10,294.28
6002	Natural Gas	6,000.00	\$417/mo. until 6/1/25	2,490.00	10,911.00	7,994.00	3,892.00
6004	Water & Sanitary Sewer	6,000.00		6,318.09	4,689.22	3,430.34	2,766.85
6006	Storm Water Sewer Expense	5,000.00		3,300.50	5,158.90	4,399.72	4,119.30
6008	Internet & Telephone	3,420.00	New phone is \$115/mo. plus Spectrum @ \$170/mo.	4,403.71	4,444.16	4,328.11	4,246.14
<b>Periodic Costs</b>							
6100	Janitorial Services & Supplies	14,000.00	Cleaning Service or Sexton	12,516.00	12,280.62	10,367.32	10,702.41
6102	Property Insurance	22,500.00	\$21,561 from 8/1/24 to 8/1/25	20,359.00	18,097.50	16,575.00	15,669.50
6104	Scheduled Maintenance	6,000.00	See separate tab. HVAC maintenance, Fire Ext, AED, Security Alarm, etc.,	4,249.88	5,726.29	1,382.50	5,492.60
6106	Scheduled Lawn Service	9,500.00	Assume 5% increase	9,060.00	9,060.00	8,850.00	8,700.00
<b>Unscheduled Supplies, Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>							
6200	Small Tools & Supplies	250.00		346.63	35.24	408.30	345.81
6202	Bldg Maint & Reps	5,000.00		7,822.59	3,423.26	2,993.18	5,437.50
6204	Furn & Equipmt Repair & Maint	3,000.00		1,159.78	1,479.96	548.76	1,008.63
6206	Building Systs Repair & Maint	4,000.00		37,622.04	3,971.62	1,927.38	4,448.01
6208	Site Repair & Lawn Maint	1,500.00		1,246.17	2,192.42	9,901.63	1,413.62
6210	Technology Maintenance	1,000.00	To be supplemented as needed by the Technology Fund with a balance of \$2,442	1,046.74	495.53	0.00	0.00
<b>Capital Replacement</b>							
	Contribute to Capital Replacement	0.00	Use \$38,389.83 in Capital Reserves checking		0.00	0.00	0.00

<b>St Luke's Budget Worksheet</b>		<b>APPROVED BUDGET Year 2025 Assumes \$343,736 in 89 pledging units</b>		ACTUAL Year 2024 96 pledging units = \$335,686	ACTUAL Year 2023 107 pledging units = \$350,595.00	ACTUAL Year 2022 114 pledging units = \$339,384	ACTUAL Year 2021 135 pledging units = \$377,657
	Budget below based on 100% return on pledges		<b>Budget Assumptions 2025</b>	2024 Actual Rec'd 99% of pledged	2023 Actual Rec'd 98% of pledged	2022 Actual Rec'd 100% of pledged	2021 Actual Rec'd 94% of pledged
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>456,501.50</b>		<b>476,031.33</b>	<b>402,006.47</b>	<b>418,216.64</b>	<b>390,997.13</b>
	<b>Net Total (Revenue - Expenses)</b>	<b>-37,765.50</b>	<b>Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>-5,051.99</b>	<b>39,457.99</b>	<b>37,997.20</b>	<b>24,133.91</b>

## Music Ministry

The year 2024 brought healthy growth for St. Luke's music program in several areas. We have turned a big corner in recovery from our ministry's COVID-19 attendance decline, and the future looks bright.

### Adult Choir Ministry

After nearly two years of our choir consisting almost exclusively of women, our choral ranks have expanded to include five tenors and basses. This enables us to return to singing four-part (SATB) music, which is the large majority of what is in our choral library. In 2024, the choir sang at the 10:30 liturgy each week and rehearsed on Wednesday evenings from January-May and from September-December. In addition to Wednesday evening rehearsals, we had Monday afternoon sectional rehearsals for our sopranos and altos. On Christmas Eve, the choir participated in thirty minutes of music before the Christmas Eve service.

The choir ministry is a large lay commitment requiring attendance every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening during the choir season, a total of four hours each week, rain or shine. St. Luke's choristers are dedicated individuals who are devoted and deeply committed to music ministry.

### Handbell Ministry

Our handbell choir has eight members and rings a two-octave set of Schulmerich handbells. The group rehearses on Thursday afternoons from Fall through Spring and plays in Sunday services about every 3-4 weeks. They also participated in Christmas Eve music. Two of our members are Croasdaile residents who do not attend St. Luke's but want to be in the handbell choir. The bells require periodic maintenance and repairs, which is costly but needs to occur every 5 years or so and was done in 2024. Our two-octave set is sufficient for now, but we would like to work toward purchasing an additional octave of bells. A three-octave set allows for more musical options, a greater number of participants, and a richer, more colorful sound. We also have a small set of choir chimes which are used occasionally; these were given in memory of Camille Marlowe.

### Summer Music

During the summer, I offered two music sessions each week: one focusing on vocal technique and training, and the other using RSCM's *Voice for Life* curriculum to work on music reading/music theory. There were 6-8 participants each week. It was a great way to continue working on singing during the choir's off season of June, July, and August, and it was enthusiastically received.

On Sundays during the summer, we had small vocal ensembles, vocal and instrumental soloists, occasional choral anthems, and organ and piano music. One advantage of the summer is that choir members can sit in the congregation, not only to support the hymn singing, but also to have a season where they can simply worship without the weekly Sunday responsibility of music ministry.

### David Arcus

Perhaps the most significant and impactful change to St. Luke's music in 2024 was the appointment of David Arcus as Organist at the end of April. David had a long tenure at Duke University, including thirty years as organist at Duke Chapel. His career spans activity as a recitalist, conductor, composer, teacher, and clinician. A winner of improvisation and composition competitions, he holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and Yale School of Music. His compositions are published by Concordia, Hinshaw, and Wayne Leupold. His commercially released recording, *Organs of Duke Chapel*, is on the Gothic Label.

David's musical contribution to St. Luke's is substantial and has taken our music ministry to a new level of excellence and, indeed, renown. It is a joy and privilege to have him in our midst, both as an organist and as a devoted parishioner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaye Saunders

## **Parish Almoner's Ministry**

This past year your gifts have allowed St Luke's to be more generous than ever before: approximately \$24,000 was directly distributed to the 10 to 12 families we assist throughout the year. The gifts are primarily in the form of gift cards used by the recipients in whatever way was best for them at the time. As noted in past updates, funds are often used for food, prescription medicine, and transportation to work and to medical appointments. In addition, gifts have been made for socks and gloves for the ministry at St Joseph's, and to LEAP activities. The RDF is able at times to help with utilities and with rent, although due to the needed amounts and the restrictions that govern the RDF account, we have had to suspend rental assistance for the time being. This year the offer of a turkey and related dry goods products for Thanksgiving was accepted by 10 families and distributed to nine; the "unclaimed" turkey was given to a family for Christmas. Again, thanks to your generosity, only half the number of turkeys were purchased through the RDF; the other five were contributed by five individuals. And throughout the year, our dry goods pantry remains available to anyone who asks. Please speak to me or to Susan at any time with questions or suggestions. This generous ministry is possible because of the many who have contributed financially, in kind, and in person. And thank you for giving me the privilege of being St. Luke's Almoner.

Jan Sweet Freeman

## **Newcomers Ministry**

This year, the Newcomers Ministry is pleased to notice that more newcomers are beginning to appear after Covid restrictions have relaxed. We are grateful for those that are visiting us and are looking forward to even more to appear as the year goes on.

Rector Keedy suggested an update for follow-up after identifying and greeting a Newcomer. She suggested that whoever meets the Newcomer and gets a name and description, write it on a piece of paper and give it to her or the parish office even if the Newcomer does not request a name tag or consent to have a photo taken. Based on information provided in the note, Rector Keedy will write a welcome note to the Newcomer to encourage that person to attend again. We hope thus to encourage more attendance by Newcomers. I encourage all Newcomers Ministry members to let Rector Keedy know about any Newcomers who are encountered.

Newcomers continue to show occasional reluctance to share name, address, or have a photo taken. We will respect that and look forward to a time when the Newcomers will be more comfortable sharing information with St. Luke's.

Parish Coordinator Kaye Saunders and I are working on a parish spreadsheet that will include identified Newcomers. We hope this will help us track newcomers and improve our contact with them.

We are pleased to see the improvement in signage on the St. Luke's property. The signs publicize our inclusive community and the many activities we host. The signs encourage our neighbors to share events with us. We thank the many volunteers who are creating the signs.

We are pleased to have El Buen Pastor share space with us as they recover from their building loss. It has been a delight to occasionally share language and music with them. We will continue to recruit members to the Newcomers Ministry as needed to replace those who choose other ways to serve St. Luke's.

Submitted by Carol Kokesh, chair of Newcomers Ministry

## **Altar Guild**

We are the four groups that prepare the church for communion and change the church's hangings throughout the church's seasons. We decorate the church for the high holidays of Easter and Christmas. I know you expect the Easter lilies and the Poinsettia to fill the nave on those holidays.

Nora Hammond asked to step down in December as leader and June Santa is the new leader. The leader updates us on what the priest expects in the coming services. LaRue Dedrick purchased the wine, host, candles, linens, flowers for Easter and Christmas, and the cleaning supplies we needed. The healing chapel and the care of candles that we light as we pray for the souls of loved ones are tasks that fall within the Altar Guild.

If you would like to join the Altar Guild contact J. Santa. June and the members will welcome you and you will be assigned a group to work within.

Nora Hammond

## **Evangelism/Communications Ministry**

### **Events and Activities Photography**

Photographs and/or videos were taken at almost all events and activities including Christmas and Easter services, yard workdays, LEAP student graduation, Pumpkin Patch, Blessing of the Animals, Spring Fling, adult classes, St. Luke's hikers, and groups like the Men's Lunch Group and St. Luke's Stitchers. Bill Gutknecht is the principal photographer; other photographers are Mark Buchanan, Alan Schueler, June Santa, Grams Gutknecht, Robin Arcus, and John Willard. The photographs were provided to Grams Gutknecht for archiving in the St. Luke's Google Photo Repository.

### **Publicity**

Major events publicized this past year include the Spring Fling Yard Sale, the Pumpkin Patch, Blessing of the Animals, the Arts concert featuring David Arcus, and the Preowned Christmas Decorations sale. Initial announcements of the events in the Sunday bulletins and the church newsletter were prepared and submitted to Kaye Saunders for publication by the event leaders.

Other publicity for the Spring Fling and Pumpkin Patch included placement of street signs (by Tom McIntosh and Bill Gutknecht). Anna Lawson painted large advertising signs to be placed in the event sign frame at the entrance way to St. Luke's. Flyers were prepared and posted at St. Luke's, in several businesses in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street area, in the south, north, and downtown Durham libraries, the Duke Student Union, and the Duke Music Building.

Finally, advertising blurbs were prepared and submitted to public announcement sites on WRAL, WTVD, Craigslist, Durham Clergy Convocation, Garage Sale Finder (Fling and Christmas Decorations), INDY Week, and Nextdoor. These blurbs were placed on neighborhood servers and/or their Nextdoor site by various members of St. Luke's.

Reported by Bill Gutknecht, Marlys Ray

### **Website and Social Media**

#### **Website**

Marlys Ray manages the St. Luke's web site at <https://stlukesdurham.org/> The site had no major revisions. It was updated as timely as possible regarding event promotions, educational offerings, staff changes, seasonal happenings, and any informational needs of the rector and vestry.

A new role of Web Assistant was created to assist Marlys with some regular maintenance tasks on the site. We are grateful that Cindy Henry agreed to be the Web Assistant.

The site experienced its heaviest traffic in March, August, September, and October. Other than direct site visits, most visitors are referred by search engines (i.e. Google). About 10% of referrals come from other sources; the majority of those are from Facebook.

The site's Coming Events page is used to provide information about non worship activities such as fundraisers like Spring Fling and the Pumpkin Patch. In 2024 that page received approximately 1,500 views (an increase of 35% over 2023).

The weekly announcements are posted to the site and that page received a little over 500 views in 2024, which was a decrease of about 33% from the previous year.

Each month the Acts of Faith newsletter is posted to the Recent Newsletters page which received a little over 300 views in 2024, 20% more than in 2023.

Each week, the sermon audio is posted on the site. Sermons given in 2024 were accessed 202 times.

#### Social media: Facebook and Instagram

The main role of social media for St. Luke's at this time is the presentation of each week's worship service via live streaming through Facebook. The service streaming is conducted by a separate, dedicated team; Mark Karengin is the member of this committee who also serves on the streaming team. Mark also takes the Facebook video recordings of the services and posts them on YouTube.

Facebook is also used to create posts and events corresponding to St. Luke's events such as Spring Fling and Pumpkin Patch, and special services in seasons such as Advent/Christmas and Lent/Holy Week. Marlys Ray took the information provided by the event leaders, prepared announcements, and uploaded them to Facebook events and posts and Instagram posts and placed them on St. Luke's website pages and links.

These posts receive extremely variable levels of attention due to the way Facebook's algorithms work. If the posts aren't shared by those who see them first, they aren't shown to many people in their feeds, even people (including our own parishioners) who have deliberately followed our page.

When time allows, upcoming events are promoted on Instagram, and photos from these events are shared. St. Luke's Instagram account is @saintlukesdurham.

Reported by Marlys Ray

#### **Campus Signage and Mapping, Printing**

##### New Campus Signs

The old signs, which had deteriorated, were replaced with new signs. In addition, some new signs were added to the campus. All of the signposts on the campus were repainted black.

The cost to produce the signs was covered under the church's Maintenance Budget. There was no cost for the installation of the signs and the painting of the signposts, because all of this labor was donated by E/C Committee members.

##### Update Campus Map

Because of reassignments of spaces, the map had to be updated. The digital file resides with the Parish Coordinator to print inserts for the pedestal signs and special events. The updated map has also been placed on the St. Luke's website. No cost was incurred to update the map, provide a file for the PC and to place it on the website. The labor was donated by an E/C Committee member.

### Events Sign Inserts (Panels)

Recently, two (2) large and two (2) small Coroplast Inserts had to be ordered, because we had run out of inserts (panels) to be painted for upcoming events. The cost for the two (2) large and two (2) small panels was \$113.88. The four (4) inserts (panels) were donated by a member of the E/C Committee. Earlier in the year, two (2) large and two (2) small Coroplast inserts had to be ordered, because we had run out of inserts to be painted for upcoming events. The cost of these four (4) panels was \$45.00. They were donated by a member of the E/C Committee.

### Printing

1,500 corporate letterheads were printed at a cost of \$426.42. 500 corporate business cards were printed for Kaye Saunders at a cost of \$149.56. And, 250 corporate business cards were printed for Susan Keedy at a cost of \$114.85. All of these costs were paid for by the E/C Committee's Budget. In all cases, corporate means St. Luke's.

### Trifold Brochure (Take-One/Handout)

It has been edited and updated (text, photos and design) by two members of the E/C Committee and Susan and it is ready to be printed. Kaye has the file and has done a (Beta) print run. Glossy, heavy paper stock has been donated by a member of the E/C Committee and, according to the bizhub rep, the glossy, heavy paper stock will run through our bizhub printer at a specific setting. However, the glossy paper stock is too heavy to be folded by our bizhub printer, so it will have to be hand folded. Susan has volunteered to fold the Trifold Brochures.

Reported by Peter Taflan

### **Other Activities**

Committee members contributed to the discussions and decisions about several changes to the parish technical infrastructure and capabilities. These included acquisition of a new VOIP phone system with significantly more useful features and a working voicemail capability, improvements to the networking infrastructure, and evaluation of a new online parish directory and initial implementation of it. Various ongoing accounts for IT services and software were also monitored in conjunction with the parish coordinator.

### **Healing Ministry**

The lay healing team consists of four people: Wendy Cook, Kristi Duke, Mark Karengin, and Bob Buchanan. We offer laying on hands right after communion at the late service on Sundays. Our prayers to God are for you or your intercessions. If you feel called to explore ministry with us, please contact Wendy or the office. Our training follows the International Order of St. Luke the Physician.

### **RenewalWorks**

Phase II of RenewalWorks involved asking various ministry groups within St. Luke's to consider survey questions personally and as it pertains to that ministry, as appropriate. Before filling out the form, we asked groups to begin with prayer, a Bible verse, and sharing of personal Spiritual Life Journeys. Many groups did this exercise and reported how they see their group activities as meaningful ministry to St. Luke's and the wider community. Some also saw how the ministry benefitted them personally. We encourage all ministries to continue the practice of beginning their time together with prayer and especially with Scripture, since RenewalWorks found that ministries are strengthened by rooting themselves in Bible verses.

## **Livestream Ministry**

Livestream broadcasts and recordings are made of the 10:30am Sunday services each week on the St. Luke's Facebook page. We also broadcast and recorded at least one each wedding and funeral. Some recordings are then transferred to our YouTube channel. We have four current operators: Wendy Cook, Bill Gutknecht, Mark Karengin, and Steve Dedrick. Our team is researching a more permanent camera system to improve the broadcast quality and versatility.

## **DERC (Durham Episcopal Resettlement Coalition)**

In 2024, DERC (Durham Episcopal Resettlement Coalition) provided transportation, nourishment and warm welcomes for 143 United Nations and US government-vetted and -approved refugees arriving in the Triangle from 13 troubled homelands, among them Syria, the Central African Republic, Sudan and Afghanistan.

The future prospects for refugees seeking new homes in America is uncertain at best. DERC, though, is ready to carry on our Christian mission in whatever ways we can, in cooperation with faith-based relief nonprofits.

DERC, formed in response to the Afghan crisis of 2021, consists of volunteers from four Durham congregations: St. Luke's, St. Joseph's, St. Titus's and St. Stephens. St. Luke's parishioners on the DERC team include Beth Bonner, Bob King, Debbie Stonehouse, Lera Williams, Babs and Jim Wise. New volunteers are always welcome. To find out more, contact Babs (babswise@gmail.com) or Jim (wise207w@gmail.com) Wise.

## **St. Luke's Faith Team**

St. Luke's Faith Team (FT) had a terrific year.

### *Part I.*

The forward progress and momentum of our Partner William (as documented in last year's FT annual report) continued into 2024. William found a new job with a carwash company where he has earned increasing respect from management and assumed increasing responsibilities. William continues to work hard and seems positively integrated into the community. Trust, friendship, and affection between William and other FT members have continued to strengthen. By summertime, it was apparent that the time had come for William to "graduate" from the FT. We took William out for a celebratory "graduation" lunch, marking William's change in status from 'Partner' to 'friend.' We've since continued to stay in touch, as friends. William has thanked us for the positive effect the FT has had on his life, and - important to note - we've also acknowledged how our friendships with William have made us better, too!

### *Part II.*

All five FT members from last year enthusiastically recommitted to finding and supporting a new Partner. Working with the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, we were matched up with new Partner Joshua, who had previously expressed great interest in a FT. When we first met (this past October), Joshua was already working hard at one of the Durham Dog House establishments. Our offer of non-judgmental friendship seems to have been just what Joshua was hoping for. In our early meetings, we all shared and listened, with good results. At one point, Joshua told us, "I'm in a new season of life; I'm trying to analyze things and find balance." Action soon followed: specifically, Joshua took the initiative in looking for a job that offered him a better future. Amazingly, within a short time, Joshua had applied, interviewed, and was hired by a local company, Happy Dirt (an organic produce grower and distributor). Joshua has since indicated that he's loving the company's mission, work culture, and especially his new job. At the same time, Joshua kept his old job at the Dog House, on a part-time basis. Due to his present heavy workload, we've temporarily suspended meetings (at Joshua's request), choosing instead to stay in touch by phone/text, till Joshua catches his breath - and, all the while, feeling good supporting Joshua as he spreads his wings, working hard to forge a meaningful path in his new life.

[St. Luke's FT: Beth Bonner, Hetty Kaiserlik, Bill Mahony, Debbie Stonehouse, Ted Triebel]

## Arts at St. Luke's

Our *Arts at St. Luke's* ministry, begun in 2017 but paused due to the pandemic, celebrated its return to St. Luke's in September with an organ recital by David Arcus followed by a festive reception. This was the kickoff of a grand four-event season (the remaining three events will occur in 2025) which include a concert of Appalachian music with Elizabeth LaPrelle and the Family Band, Choral Evensong for the Last Sunday of Epiphany (with the combined choirs of St. Luke's and St. Philip's), and a concert with the Choral Society of Durham Chamber Choir. We are excited to nurture and grow this ministry, including greater diversity in our offerings, as outreach to the community and a fine use of the St. Luke's nave and campus.

## St. Luke's Outreach Grants

The Outreach Grants Committee (Debbie Stonehouse, Bob Buchanan, and Joan Hodges) recommended and the vestry approved using the Outreach Funds of \$5,500 to fund the following ten programs:

**Latino Education Advancement Project (LEAP)**—Megan McCurley, the Executive Director of LEAP, requested funds to support a food program at Nuestra Escuelita (LEAP's preschool program). This food program will enable LEAP to provide nutritious snacks four days a week to 48 students. The total program costs LEAP between \$3000 to \$4000. \$750

**Communities in Partnership (CIP)**—CIP is a Black woman led “community accountable organization that addresses the social determinants of health through programs addressing food sovereignty, entrepreneurship and workforce development, affordable housing, and leadership development.” Eileen Morgan has requested funds on behalf of CIP, an organization supported by Episcopalians United Against Racism, in the past. \$500

**Senior PharmAssist**—Steve Dedrick, a former board member of Senior PharmAssist has recommended funding this Durham nonprofit that provides valuable assistance to Durham seniors in choosing appropriate Medicare options, managing medication needs, and tailoring health education and more. \$500

**Durham Habitat for Humanity**—As recommended by Jean and John Willard, Durham Habitat's mission is “Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.” Habitat is currently partnering with two local home builders building two homes in Durham County in one week, reinstituting the annual Home Builders Blitz, which has been on pause since 2019. \$500

**Durham Episcopal Resettlement Coalition**—To date, DERC has served 58 immigrant families, welcoming (at all hours) 284 people to the Triangle, primarily in Durham. Currently, DERC has 13 volunteers from four congregations, 6 of whom are from St. Luke's. \$750

**Student Action with Farmworkers**—SAF has worked with over 1000 students who have helped over 100,000 farmworkers and their families access health, legal, and education resources. They also provide scholarships to students from farmworker families. Andrea Kells is an active fundraiser and volunteer for SAF. \$250

**Note in the Pocket**—This nonprofit is well-established clothing distribution program in Raleigh and has recently expanded to Durham. Peter Jacobi believes this is an excellent program that focuses on clothing insecurity of school children and their families. Note in the Pocket believes there may be 17,000 children in Durham who could benefit from this program. \$500

**Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham**—In addition to two other programs, the RCND, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, provides management and support for some 23 Faith Teams in 19 local interfaith churches. St. Luke's Faith Team has five active church members. Each faith team has a Partner recently released from prison

and returned “home” to Durham. RCND works with the Durham County Justice Center to ensure programs comport with the county’s ongoing efforts to support returning ex-felons. Faith Team Partners who complete 12-16 months with a faith team have a 10-12% recidivism rate after three years. Durham County recidivism rate is 51% after 3 years. \$750

**Urban Ministries of Durham**—This nonprofit works in Durham to end homelessness and fight poverty by offering food, shelter, and a future to neighbors in need. They specifically provide emergency shelter for men, women, and families housing-focused case management and workforce development. They also have a community kitchen providing three free meals a day all year long, a food pantry, and clothing closet. \$500

**Durham Literacy Center**—Since 1985, DLC has provided free instruction and tutoring to over 18,000 adults and out-of-school youth. DLC remains the leading independent adult literacy provider in Durham County. DLC also works with DERC to provide literacy education to DERC participants. Debbie Stonehouse has been a long-time volunteer at DLC. \$500

The funding of these ten programs for a total of \$5,500 leaves a reserve of \$2,364.95 for emergency use and seed money for 2025.

**Motion:** The Vestry accepts the Outreach Grants Committee’s recommendations to fund the above ten organizations in the individual amounts listed above for a total amount of \$5,500 and to reserve the remainder for emergency use or seed money in 2025 as determined by the Vestry.

### **Spring Fling!**

Last year, Spring Fling enabled St. Luke’s to do many things: We supported families who needed quality but inexpensive household items, we enjoyed each other’s company tremendously, and we made over \$6000, all donated to Durham nonprofits. Win, win, win. Serve. Serve. Serve.

So let’s do it again: This time, Saturday, May 3. Drop off begins Sunday, April 27. Clean your closets! Get your friends to clean theirs! It’s important that we have lots to sell. If you would like to volunteer, please see Joan Hodges or Debbie Carter!

### ***Share Your Christmas Ministry***

St. Luke’s Share Your Christmas focused on 4 groups in 2024: families identified by St. Luke’s parishioners or clergy, LEAP participants, residents of Ronald McDonald House of Durham and the Durham County Animal Shelter (APS),

In total, St. Lukers contributed many gifts/gift cards and more than \$3,000 in donations that were used to purchase additional requested items—approximately 150 presents/gift cards in all. These were distributed to 85 neighbors. In addition, more than 25 gifts were donated to the Durham County Animal Shelter.

Thanks to everyone who helped our neighbors so generously this Christmas!

## **St. Luke's Stitchers**

Members are:

Jeanne Alton  
Kathy Barnes  
Gail Capon  
Carol Freund  
Grams Gutknecht  
Lisa McCutcheon-Gutknecht  
Elaine Penny  
Janelle Stroschein  
Babs Wise

Members worked on their knitting or crochet projects at home. We met on the third Wednesday of the month in the Kramer Room from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm to share our creations and enjoy fellowship.

Currently there are nine members. Three members are unable to attend meetings and do their work entirely at home. Average monthly attendance is four.

In 2024 we donated hats and scarves to St. Joseph's, Durham; hats, scarves, and items of children's clothing to Urban Ministries of Durham; and chemo caps to the Duke Blood Cancer Center. We knitted a Carolina Blue scarf for high school graduate, Kendall Babb, who started UNC-Chapel Hill in August.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grams Gutknecht

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**The Rev. Susan Keedy, Interim Rector**

rector@stlukesdurham.org, (786)525-4789

**Kaye Saunders, Parish Coordinator/Music Director**

parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org

**Linda Sanyika, Intern**

linda.sanyika@duke.edu

**Treasurer Jim Brunnquell: jbrunnquellctp1956@gmail.com**

**Vestry Clerk Jim Wise: jim.wise@stlukesdurham.org**

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