
STL ACTS OF FAITH

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



God of the desert,
as we follow Jesus into
the unknown,
may we recognise the
tempter when he
comes;
let it be your bread we
eat,
your world we serve and
you alone we worship.

New Zealand Book of Common Prayer p.573

Rector Greg's Meditation on Lent

Lent has too often been reduced to shame. To spiritual navel-gazing. To a season of religious self-criticism. But that is not the Gospel.

Lent begins not with failure, but with belovedness.

At the Jordan River, before Jesus preaches, heals, or suffers, he hears the voice of God:

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Before he proves anything. Before he performs. Before he sacrifices. Identity comes first.

And then the Spirit leads him into the wilderness.

[Rector's Letter cont. from page 1]



The wilderness is not punishment. It is liminal space—a threshold between what was and what will be. In those forty days, Jesus faces the distorted voices that question his identity: “If you are the Son of God...” The temptation is always about worth—about turning stones to bread, about spectacle, about power.

But the voice from the river is still echoing: You are my beloved.

Lent invites us into that same space of metanoia—not groveling, but a change of consciousness. A deeper seeing. The Greek word translated as “repent” is metanoia. A word that does not mean penitence but rather “enter the greater consciousness.” Open to a new way of seeing everything. A letting God’s truth soak into our bones. The wilderness strips away illusion. It exposes the ways we try to earn what has already been given.

Jesus walks out of the wilderness grounded, clear, and free—ready for public ministry because belovedness had become his center.

That is our invitation.

Not shame. Not obsession with our flaws. But following Jesus into the quiet where God names us again. Where false selves fall away. Where we remember who we are.

As we walk with Jesus through these forty days of Lent at St. Luke’s, we enter the wilderness not to punish ourselves, but to listen. To let the voice of God sink deeper. To move from hearing “You are my beloved” to living it.

And when Easter comes, may we emerge freer—not because we perfected ourselves, but because we allowed belovedness to take root.

That is Lent.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Chrismon Workshop

Wednesday, Mar 4, 1-4 p.m., Kramer Room

Arts at St. Luke's Presents

Storyteller and Folklorist Liz Z Pardue

Sunday, Mar 15, 4 p.m., Nave

St. Luke's Men's Lunch Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 17, 12-1:30 p.m., Kramer Room

St. Luke's Stitchers

Wednesday, Mar 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Kramer Room

Garden Ministry Work Day

Saturday, Mar 21, 8-10 a.m.

Labyrinth Walk

Saturday, Mar 21, 1 p.m.

Newcomer's Lunch

Sunday, Mar 22, 11:45 a.m., Johnson Hall

Palm Sunday. Sunday, Mar 29

8 a.m. Service

10:30 a.m. Combined St. Luke's/IBP

Procession and Service

Maundy Thursday Service

Apr 2, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3

12 p.m. Eucharist

6 p.m. The Women of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5

8 and 10:30 services

Brunch in Johnson Hall between services



presents award-winning NC storyteller
Liz Z Pardue



Sunday, March 15, 4pm

***A humor-filled hour of Carolina folklore
and personal stories of “growin’ up Southern!”***

St.Luke’s EpiscopalChurch/1737 HillandaleRd/Durham NC27705
www.stlukesdurham.org

www.lizzpardue.com

Register to attend here:
[Liz Z EventBrite](#)



(Registration Required)

***Free admission,
suggested \$10-20 donation
helps us present great events
like this!***



Senior Warden Reflections

James 1:17: "Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows."

The Vestry held our annual retreat on February 13th and 14th. We began with a joyful dinner gathering on Friday evening, during which we shared life experiences, laughter, and good food. On Saturday morning, we gathered at St. Luke's to work through several Vestry agenda items and spent significant time imagining our future with Iglesia El Buen Pastor.

St. Luke's received Bishop portraits of Bob Johnson and Anne Hodges-Copple from the diocese to be displayed at St. Luke's. Greg shared that he has spoken with Connie Johnson and Anne to learn their preferences for where the portraits should be displayed. We discussed multiple options, reviewed potential spaces, and carefully considered input from Connie and Anne. We decided to hang the portraits together in the Kramer Room. The Kramer Room was recently reorganized and offers a lovely space to hang the portraits together.

Terrie Blalock asked us to consider renovating the outdoor chapel that Wes Blalock built as his Eagle Scout project years ago. A friend of the family has built a large cross to replace the old one and is willing to donate it and renovate the benches. We are so grateful for the offer and have decided to accept!

Greg then asked us to work in small groups, with questions he provided, to discuss what our shared future with IBP will look like. We all reflected on personal and parish emotions, concerns, gifts, and blessings. We thoughtfully considered what is important to St. Luke's and IBP, what we need to be successful in our shared future, and how we can ensure the parish stays informed and that all voices are heard and considered. We agreed that we need to collaborate effectively with IBP and be mindful of the needs of St. Luke's and IBP along the way.

As we shared each team's reflections on the questions Greg posed, we understood that our partnership with IBP is part of who we are now and reflects St. Luke's welcoming and loving character. As we move forward and hold joint Vestry meetings with IBP, including diocesan leadership, we will continue to seek input from parishioners and communicate plans as they develop.

As Greg points out, St. Luke's doesn't need to discern where God is calling us! I am so grateful for the love and spirit of St. Luke's.

Hope Galunas



Junior Warden's Corner

Steve Dedrick

Clogged sink drains in the Gray Building had to be cleared by LEAP staff to make the sinks usable.

The new double-door gate in the opening of the wall facing Hillandale Road, which surrounds the HVAC unit, was installed on February 17. The gate was crafted by Doug Marlowe and installed by Doug, Peter Taflan, Steve Dedrick, and Wayne Wagoner.

The Kramer Room bookshelf unit was moved to a different wall by Doug Marlowe, Bill Gutknecht, Wayne Wagoner, and Bill Callahan, creating more usable open wall space. A newly framed full-sized mirror was built and installed in the Kramer Room by Brian Gullett. Joan Hodges and Wendy Cook assisted with the bookshelf move, especially by packing and unpacking the books stored there, enabling the move.

The parking lot was cleared of snow by Clean Cuts, the lawn service that takes care of our lawn throughout the year, at no additional charge to St. Luke's. Our friends from IBP also assisted in clearing ice from the parking lot.

Bill Gutknecht installed new door sweeps on the four Narthex doors, the outside door in Greg's office, and the outside door to the Maginnes Chapel. Bill is also installing new shelving in the Kramer Room closet to store items that are currently on the floor.

Thanks to everyone who helps support the maintenance of our facilities!



Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a donation toward the Easter Lilies that will adorn the nave on Easter, please make your check payable to St. Luke's and mark it "Easter Lilies," along with a note indicating in whose honor or memory the gift is given. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office. You may also donate through St. Luke's PayPal, noting "Easter Lilies." The deadline is March 25.

Safe Church Training by Deacon Monnie

The Episcopal Diocese of NC requires many ministry positions and volunteers to complete Safe Church Training every three years.

All Safe Church Training is now done through online modules from [Praesidium Academy](#), or diocesan Zoom trainings. Both satisfy the diocesan Safe Church Training requirement for three years.

Those required to take this training are listed below:

- Clergy
- Church Staff and anyone elected to a governing body (VESTRY)
- Anyone who works with children or youth —
- Anyone who makes at-home or other visits on behalf of the church (e.g. Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Pastoral Care Committee members, Faith Team members)

For Diocesan Zoom Trainees:

- 1.Register for your preferred training.
- 2.You will receive an email with the Zoom link.
- 3.The training will start on time. Please log in a few minutes early and have your camera on. This is required to receive credit for the training.
- 4.The training will last for the entire two hours.

Date: March 22, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Venue: [Zoom](#)
[REGISTER](#)

Date: May 17, 2026
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Venue: [Zoom](#)
[REGISTER](#)

Date: March 30, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Venue: [Zoom](#)
[REGISTER](#)

Date: May 18, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Venue: [Zoom](#)
[REGISTER](#)

Date: April 30, 2026
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Venue: [Zoom](#)
[REGISTER](#)

Date: May 21, 2026
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Venue: [Zoom](#)
[REGISTER](#)

If you have questions or need to take the training online, please reach out to me at deacon@stlukesdurham.org.

Holy Week Services:



Palm Sunday, March 29:
St. Luke's/IBP Combined Service, 10:30 a.m.
(shh.. there are rumors of a live donkey)

Maundy Thursday, April 2: 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3:
12 p.m. Service
6 p.m. Women of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5
Services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m
Brunch between the services



The Women of the Cross, Good Friday, April 3, 2026, 6 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Join us for this powerful version of the Stations of the Cross—each station describing a Biblical woman's relationship with Jesus. This quiet, meditative liturgy brings to life the man we call Jesus and the women who knew him.

St. Luke's, 1737 Hillandale, Durham, North Carolina 27705
(corner of Hillandale and I-85)
stlukesdurham.org/919-286-2273



2025 Spring Fling Volunteers

NEW DATE for Spring Fling

St. Luke's major fundraiser in which we give 100% of our proceeds to Durham nonprofits will be on **April 18**.

Mark your calendars for these dates:

- Drop Off Week—Sunday, April 12, 9a.m.to NOON on Thursday, April 16)
- Friday Fling—Friday, April 17, 2026 (4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
- Spring Fling—Saturday, April 18, 2026 (7 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Start cleaning out your kitchen, your closets, your drawers, your cabinets! Let someone else who needs these treasures buy and use them. Start with a box in your home where you collect those wonderful knickknacks, odds and ends, beloved household items that you no longer need; give thanks for them, then store in your box until April. Second, if you see appropriate items on your neighborhood list serves that are free, grab them for us! This includes small furniture that you (or someone) could easily fit in your car. Save it for us!

We sell home goods, kitchen goods, linens, craft and office supplies, toys, games and frames, jewelry and luggage, yard equipment, sports equipment, small furniture, technology. (See St. Luke's website for more details and exceptions. We do not sell clothing of any kind.) We also sell amazing **PLANTS!!**

Please note: all donated items must be clean, only gently used, and working. If you are donating linens, please package with twine (or tape), and attach note regarding size and details.

Email us if you have any questions: Joan Hodges, jehodges@me.com and Debbie Carter, klink509@gmail.com.



Connecting at St. Luke's

Learn about groups you may want to join



Newcomer's Lunch

If you are new (or not so new) to St. Luke's, please be our guest at a Newcomer's Lunch to be held on **Sunday, March 22nd, at 11:45 a.m.** in Johnson Hall. This will be a great opportunity to meet others new to St. Luke's, meet some of our church leaders, and learn about St. Luke's history. You will also have an opportunity to have your photo taken for St. Luke's photo directory.

Please inform Parish Coordinator Kaye Saunders by March 18th if you plan to attend.



St. Luke's Hikers

Eight of your fellow parishioners hiked a trail at Blackwood Farm Park on February 14th. The hike included seeing historical farm buildings and visiting a slave cemetery. Our next hike will be at 10:00 a.m. on March 14th on a trail yet to be selected. If you have a favorite trail, please let Karen Gray or Bill Gutknecht know. If you love the outdoors and want to get to know your fellow parishioners better, please join us on March 14th for a trail to be announced soon.

Photos for St. Luke's Photo Directory

Many thanks to the 44 of you who came forward to have your photo taken for St. Luke's photo directory. This directory provides an excellent way for us to put faces and names together while also serving as a source of email addresses and phone numbers. If you wish to have the directory set up on your phone or other electronic device, contact Alan Schueler. Please watch for announcements for our next scheduled photo sessions.



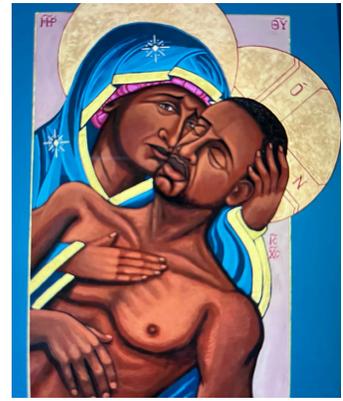
Mulching at St. Luke's

On Saturday, February 21st, about 10 members of St. Luke's, 12 members of El Buen Pastor, and two staff workers from St. Luke's lawn service company, Clean Cuts, spread 80 cubic yards of mulch around our church campus. The original plan was to spread 60 cubic yards. However, the supplier delivered 80 cubic yards. This amount of mulch allowed the work crew led by Daniel Emory to mulch the needed areas across the entire campus in a single effort. Please take a moment to see the many different areas that are mulched, including the campus entry way, the south and north sides of the church, the landscaped area between the church building and Johnson Hall, the back sides of Johnson Hall, the entry way to the playground, and along the exit driveway. This huge effort by a wonderful two-church team has certainly enhanced the appearance of St. Luke's campus. Special thanks to Daniel and all who worked on this task.



Our new HVAC Gate has been installed!

It took four men an hour and a half to install the extremely heavy gates. Doug Marlowee and Peter Taflan spearheaded the project. Doug sourced the company, which fabricated the metal gate/s and then painted the gate/s to match the church. Finally, he purchased the Trex and installed it. We are so grateful for the time and talents of our parishioners.



The Icon Corner

Mimi Games

During February, I attended a program presented by noted contemporary iconographer, Kelly Lattimore. Lattimore recognizes numerous people of color who have and will always serve as channels of God's love and deserve recognition as saints. Here are three Lattimore icons that relate to our current world and extend Black History recognition into March.

Lattimore recognizes Durham's Dr. Pauli Murray as one of God's saints. Murray survived a tragic childhood and went on to excel academically, despite gender and racial prejudice. S/he continually fought for equality. S/he is portrayed administering the Eucharist as the Episcopal priest s/he became.

Martin Luther King will always be a major figure in American Civil Rights. Lattimore portrays King as he would have been documented on a police ID when he was imprisoned in the Birmingham jail. This view is frontal, but Lattimore also painted King in a standard prison profile pose, complete with a halo. Dr. King never shrank from the leadership he was given.

The third icon is of George Floyd, the man killed by police in Minneapolis. Reportedly, as Floyd was being killed, his last utterance was "Mama." Lattimore draws an artistic parallel to Christ's crucifixion and Christ's love for his own mother from the cross. The rendering is strictly orthodox with Latin identification lettering in the halos of both figures. The figures replicate Michelangelo's sculptural figures of Mary and Jesus in the Pietà. The black mother and son can be seen as accepting their sacrifice in order to save others.



Father Medina and Greg imposed ashes on 29 persons during “Ashes To Go”

Special Services This Month



Our Bishop-in-Residence Anne Hodges-Copple confirmed, received or affirmed 13 parishioners on Sunday, February

15!



The Green Team's March Report



Thoughts for the Month

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."
Genesis 9:13

"I feel that there is a lack of seriousness. Perhaps world leaders do not realize the urgency of the situation. We have a lot of ideas, but as someone said, ideas without funding are mere hallucinations." Imran Khan

March Green Tips

The Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter published over 100 ways to save the planet. The March tips (64-68) are listed below. These tips are an effective way to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to a healthier planet.

- 64. Ride a bicycle instead of driving whenever possible.
- 65. Buy organic, locally-grown vegetables whenever possible.
- 66. Wash clothes using cold or warm (not hot) water and wash full loads.
- 67. Operate the dishwasher only when it's full, or hand-wash dishes without keeping the faucet running.
- 68. Recycle and try to avoid items with plastic packaging.

Upcoming Green Event

Tea Planting Workshop

620 NC HWY 54 W, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Sunday, March 23, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Learn the basics of planting and caring for your tea garden and participate in planting at Camellia Forest. This hands-on workshop covers choosing plants, site preparation and planting, and care in the early years. We'll also cover planting tea from seeds, including a take-home project to grow your own!

St. Luke's Solar Savings

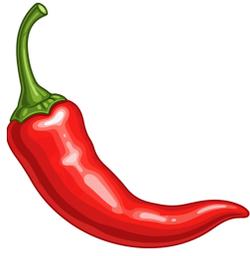
St. Luke's solar savings for January 2026 were \$356.84. Since installation, the system's total savings are \$32,042.29.



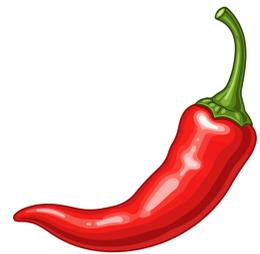
Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage, to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



2026 Chili Luncheon!



Márch*

Birthdays!



- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Bill Wall | 10 | Mike Henry |
| 2 | Kay Gresham | 11 | Hetty Kaiserlik |
| 2 | Valleri Callahan | 11 | Rob Yankes |
| 3 | Bill Callahan | 18 | Chad Lemons |
| 3 | Anne Thornton | 21 | Marie Levchak |
| 4 | Paul Stirrup | 22 | Mary Lauer |
| 7 | Ginny Atwell | 25 | Meghan Beck |
| 9 | Cindy Henry | 31 | John Carr |

Prayer Concerns

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"For Those We Love" BCP 831

Please pray for:

- Lorraine Haskell, recovering slowly from serious health issues.
- Marie Levchak, recovering from a broken wrist.
- Anne Thornton, recovering from surgery after a recent fall.
- Bobbie Hendrix, recovering well from a recent fall.
- friend of choir member Jenny Davenport, Mark Garlick, who has lost his job.
- healing for Kurt Yantz, husband of newcomer Denise DeCarlo.
- Hedwig Metzen, newcomer and mother of Stephanie Metzen, recovering from major spinal surgery. Pray that this procedure will relieve her of chronic pain.
- Wilbur and Barbara Longmire.
- Patricia Ayers, sister of LaRue Dedrick, who is suffering from uterine cancer.
- Jimmy, son of Lera Williams, in his serious health struggles.
- Joseph and his parents, Christina and Clayton. Joe has been battling brain cancer since he was six, and is now in hospice care.
- Jim and Vicki Fuller's son, Jaime, in his ongoing struggle with heart-related issues.
- Safety and protection for our neighbors who are feeling threatened and afraid.
- Our St. Luke's friends from the community in their continuing struggles for food security, decent housing, reliable transportation, sufficient employment, medical care, and dignity for themselves and their families. Many are not able to pay their heating bills.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your Holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Diocese:

Join the Beloved Community on Circle

The Diocese of North Carolina has created an online community as an offering to all the diocesan faithful.

The Beloved Community of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina is built on Circle, a community platform created specifically for building spaces where those with similar interests can gather and grow.

The intent of the diocesan Beloved Community is to give every Episcopalian across the Diocese of North Carolina a place to connect, build relationships, work, learn, share resources and more.

[VISIT THE BELOVED COMMUNITY ON CIRCLE](#)

“There is so much good work happening across the diocese,” said Bishop Sam Rodman, bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. “We’ve also seen an ever-increasing desire among parishioners and church leaders for opportunities to connect with each other, whether to collaborate on work, to make new friends, to share resources or simply for fellowship. This new online community is an answer to that desire and an invitation for all of us to come together as one diocesan body.”

Though its format may look familiar to those who have spent time on social media, there are notable differences. Circle does not use algorithms, which means the platform does not decide what a person does and does not see. If something is posted in a space of which a member is a part, it will be in that member’s feed. Circle also does not allow ads, which means users’ data is not gathered for profit-generating uses. In fact, Circle gathers only the data needed for members to be part of a given space.



The Diocese of North Carolina is leading a 12-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land September 27 – October 8, 2026.

[View & Download: 2026 Holy Land Pilgrimage Information – Diocese of North Carolina](#)

[Watch the informational session](#)



2026 Pancake Dinner

Our Shrove Tuesday dinner of pancakes and King Cake was a huge success! We raised over \$900 for Deacon Monnie's Discretionary fund, and sang our last alleluias. All agreed that the food was amazing, and the fellowship even better.

Your editor is thinking, though, that they might have been having too much fun in the kitchen!



St. Luke's Email-What's in it for you?

Our email list lets you stay up to date on parish news and fellowship events (weekly announcements email), stay aware of difficult times facing your fellow parishioners (weekly e-prayers email), and know when the latest issue of our monthly newsletter, **Acts of Faith**, is published. But, to paraphrase a saying, you have to be on it to get it! Make sure the Parish Coordinator (parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org) has your email address, or subscribe automatically by going to <https://www.stlukesdurham.org/> and scrolling down to "Connect with us".

St. Luke's Calendar

Our calendar is up to date on our website: <https://stlukesdurham.org/parish-calendar/>. Weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other special services are scheduled by the rector. The Parish Coordinator, Kaye Saunders, can help you arrange meetings or other events.

Online Church Directory

To find contact information for other parishioners in St. Luke's online parish directory, you must activate your account using your email address on file with the parish. Don't know what that is? Need instructions for activating your account? Contact directory@stlukesdurham.org

St. Luke's Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9-3
(Closed Tuesdays 10-11:15)

Rector Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9-5
Thursdays available by phone.
Other times by appointment.

Stewardship at St. Luke's

As a reminder, you can give to St. Luke's Church in several ways:

- Cash or Check (drop in the plate or mail to the office)
- Use PayPal with a debit/credit card via St. Luke's website
- Push payments from your bank or credit union to the Church, just like bill-pay payments for your regular bills
- Initiate a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA if you are 70 1/2 or older.

In the Episcopal Church, we ask our members to make a pledge, which is an estimate of giving in the coming year. It represents your commitment to God's work in this place. To make a pledge, please email our Parish Coordinator, Kaye Saunders at parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org.

Submission of materials for the newsletter:

The deadline for submitting materials for the newsletter is the 20th of each month. Please email your materials to Babs Wise: babswise@gmail.com.

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please sign up on the flowers calendar on the wall in the south narthex just outside the parish office. The florist has increased the cost of Sunday flowers. The cost is \$150.

For Children

Our Nursery is open in Johnson Hall Sunday mornings 9-11:30 for infants through three year olds. Older children through elementary school are invited to join in Godly Play, beginning at 10:15 also in Johnson Hall. Please ask an usher if you need directions or assistance.

Contact us: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1737 Hillandale Road Durham, NC 27705 phone 919-286-2273
www.stlukesdurham.org

The Rev. Gregory Farrand, Rector
The Rev. Monnie Rigglin, Deacon
Kaye Saunders, Parish Coordinator & Assoc. Director of Music
David Arcus, Director of Music & Organist

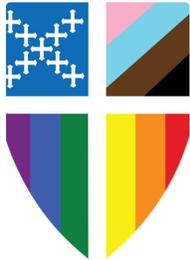
Treasurer Jim Brunnquell
Vestry Clerk: Jim Wise

Vestry

Class of 2026
Bob Buchanan
Wendy Cook,
Hope Galunas, Senior Warden
Pike Hege

Class of 2027
Carlton Brown
Kelley Lawton
Debbie Stonehouse
Peter Taflan

Class of 2028
Steve Dedrick, Junior Warden
Daniel Emory
Brian Gullett
Martha Lassiter



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1737 Hillandale Road
Durham, NC 27705
Address Service Requested
The art of living your faith