



the art of living your faith

stlukesdurham.org

Report for Annual Parish Meeting

February 8, 2026

Johnson Hall

Agenda:

- Welcome and Prayer
- Thank retiring Vestry
- Thank retiring Wardens
- Commission Current Vestry and Wardens
- Treasurer's Report – Approved 2026 Budget
- Questions
- Closing Prayer

Rector's Report

The Rev. Greg Farrand

With the departure of our Interim Rector, the Rev. Susan Keedy, in mid-March 2025, I began my ministry as Rector of St. Luke's at the end of March. These past ten months have been full—marked by steady ministry, deepening relationships, and much to celebrate in the life of this parish.

Worship & Spiritual Life

- Regular Sunday worship at **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**
- **Prayers for healing** offered during Sunday services
- **Adult Formation** held each Sunday between services
- **Monthly Communion services at Croasdaile**
- **Blue Christmas Service** (Rev. Monnie Riggin)
- **Kaye Saunders** shifted to Parish Coordinator (3/4 time) and Associate Director of Music (1/4 time)
- Welcomed **Dr. David Arcus** as our Director of Music
- **Chrismons Tree** created and decorated by the Chrismons Team (Eileen Morgan)
- **Labyrinth Walks** offered regularly (Annette Medlin)
- **Blessing of the Animals** on the Feast of St. Francis, expanded and celebrated jointly with Iglesia El Buen Pastor, blessing over 45 animals
- **Handbells** (Kaye Saunders)

Partnership with Iglesia El Buen Pastor (IBP)

- Ongoing **Exploring with El Buen Pastor** gatherings
- Development of a **Memorandum of Understanding** to clarify partnership and space-sharing dynamics
- **Joint worship services** on Pentecost and Día de los Muertos, each followed by shared meals
- **Our two vestries gathered** for connection and fellowship facilitated by the Rev. Franklin Morales
- Provided **support and security** for IBP services
- Hosted a **Siembra ICE Watch Training**
- Continued growth in trust, collaboration, and shared ministry

Formation, Fellowship & Community Life

- **Meet the Rector dinners**
- **Supper Groups** continuing to meet (Mike Henry & Karen McDaniel)
- Fellowship events including **BBQ with Brothers** and **Wise Women Book Group**
- **Men's Fellowship** (Mark Karengin)
- **Women's Lunch Bunch** (Beth Bonner)
- **St. Luke's Feast Day** celebration with a luncheon (Donald Hamm)
 - Including art work by parishioners expressing how they express “the art of living your faith” (Joan Hodges)

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

- Church **Nursery relocated to Johnson Hall** and refurbished with new carpet (Joan Hodges)
- **Children's Chapel renovated** and formally blessed
- A team trained in the **Godly Play curriculum** (Kelley Lawton)
- Spaces renewed and dedicated for our future children and families

Outreach & Service

- Distribution of funds from the **Rector's Discretionary Fund** (Jan Freeman) and food pantry support (Kay Yarger)
- **Pumpkin Patch** supporting outreach and operations (Beth Bonner)
- **Spring Fling** supporting outreach (Joan Hodges)
- **Share Your Christmas** providing gifts for families in need (Bill & Carol Charping)
- **Share your Thanksgiving** (Jan Freeman)
- **Christmas Sale** benefiting outreach—another very successful year (Beth Bonner)
- A new **Pride & Diversity Team** established (Bob Buchanan)
 - Participation in **Durham Pride Month**, including flags and the Pride Parade
- **Distribution of Outreach Funds Team** (Joan Hodges)
- Ongoing outreach ministries:
 - Faith Team (Ted Triebel)
 - Duke Episcopal Center Group (Lera Williams & Mary Etta King)
 - Refugee Support (Babs & Jim Wise)
 - St. Luke's Stitchers (Grams Gutknecht)

Hospitality, Communication & Parish Care

- **Newcomer Team** welcoming dozens of visitors with bread, mugs, and connection opportunities
- **Pastoral Care Team** (Beth Bonner & Rev. Monnie Riggan)
- **Evangelism & Communications** (Alan Scheuler)
- **Reception Team, Coffee Hour, Ushers, Lectors, Intercessors, Counters, Crucifers, Acolytes**, and many others supporting worship and care
- **Social Media & Website** (Marlys Ray)
- **Livestream** (Wendy Cook)
- **Newsletter** (Babs Wise)
- **Altar Guild** (June Santa)

Facilities, Grounds & Administration

- Church exterior painted, including the iconic **red doors**
- **St. Luke's garden crew** continued to enhance the grounds (Daniel Emory)
- Two **Diocesan grants received**:
 - Renovation of the Gray Building for LEAP
 - LEAP playground improvements

Leadership & Governance

- Welcomed **The Rev. Monnie Riggan** as Deacon
- Concluded our time with **Linda Sanyika**, Duke Divinity School Intern
- **Annual Stewardship Campaign** completed very successfully (John Hodges-Copple & Hope Galunas)
- Successfully **migrated from ACS to Church Planning** (Kaye Saunders)
- **Jim Brunnquell** has graciously committed to remain serving as **Treasurer** through the summer of 2026 with the assistance of **Donald Hamm** as **Assistant Treasurer**

This past year has been full of faithful work, deepening relationships, and visible signs of God's movement among us. I remain deeply grateful for the dedication, creativity, and generosity of this parish, and I look forward to what continues to unfold at St. Luke's.

Deacon's Report

The Rev. Monnie Riggan, Deacon

My first Sunday at St. Luke's as your Deacon was May 18, 2025. Oh, Happy Day!

Some of our ministries had been adrift since the pandemic. When I came on board, Greg asked me to help support specific ministries. So, I've worked these past seven months getting all of our Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors licensed; ensuring we were in Diocesan compliance with the Safe Church training and certification; prepared written instructions for crucifers/acolytes, EMs and EVs, and for the altar guild. With Greg, we have provided refresher training for all of these ministries. We've introduced new processes in our worship service that have added special meaning; we've revitalized our pastoral care committee and organized visits and scheduled the Eucharist through our EVs. Most of those who are serving at the altar are now vesting which called for evaluating the albs, cinctures and crosses we had on hand. The albs have been washed and ironed, we have cinctures and we have crosses for all who vest. Should we need more vestments, we have an approved budget to do that.

Greg gave me the latitude to expand our Blue Christmas service to one of "comfort and hope", recognizing that there are many different losses that need to be acknowledged. We publicized the service widely and we had about 50 people join us. It was incredibly meaningful.

I offered morning prayer with Holy Communion from the reserved elements (with the blessing of Bp. Sam), on Christmas morning, David Arcus provided lovely and meaningful music and June Santa served as our Crucifer/Acolyte. It was a sweet, intimate service that I hope we will continue to offer as one of our traditions. I routinely support Greg in caring for our congregation offering pastoral care and Holy Eucharist, spreading the love of this community. I've also preached at special services and a few of our regular Sunday services. I love serving at the altar, and I love serving this beautiful community as your Deacon.

2025 Senior Warden's Report

Joan Hodges

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 305

Serving as Senior Warden for St. Luke's Episcopal Church—in this particular year, in this particular time—has been an honor. It has probably been one of my most valuable experiences, and I want to thank St. Lukers for walking through this past year with me and with the Vestry. So many good things happened last year, many significant things happened last year, many risky things, and some very challenging things also happened.

We followed the leadership of our 2023 Senior Warden, Jim Dawson, and took some very “big swings.” We followed 2024 Senior Warden Bill Gutknecht's leadership and allowed the Vestry to serve as our search committee. We interviewed two candidates in January—resolved to continue to interview multiple candidates until we found the right one. Through God's grace, however, we stopped at number two, we made a big swing, and we asked Greg Farrand to join us.

We sped around the church finishing the tasks given us to do by the energizer bunny also known as The Reverend Susan Keedy, and we send her off in style and with immense gratitude and thanks. We said hello to Greg with wonderful “Dinners with Greg,” with “BBQ With Brothers,” a book study with Andra West, Greg new wife, and with a glorious installation.

We also reckoned with the gift and the challenge of hosting Iglesia el Buen Pastor on our campus. This included more dinners to discern how St. Lukers felt about this. We created a special team tasked with creating a clear and concrete understanding of how to move forward with that relationship; and we moved quickly to support and protect our fellow Episcopalians in this unprecedented time of chaos.

I am proud of the work done by the Vestry in 2025. I am grateful for the questions, the concerns and the support conveyed by St Lukers. Thank you all. We have done good work.

2025 Junior Warden's Report

Wendy Cook

I had a very full year with typical maintenance and new issues to tackle. The Junior Warden's team of incredible helpers was essential to keeping our campus in great shape. Thanks to Steve Dedrick, Tom Barber, Bill Gutknecht, Ila Hurley, Peter Jacobi, Peter Kariher, Kelley Lawton, Peter Taflan, and Abundio and his team from Iglesia El Buen Pastor for being a great JW team!

Here are a few of the items accomplished in 2025:

- Bell ringing again!
- Painting the exterior of the steeple, church building, and Johnson Hall (to be finished early 2026)
- New contract for improved grounds maintenance
- Many light bulbs and batteries replaced and thermostat settings improved
- Beautiful closet built by Doug Marlowe in the Children's Chapel
- Godly Play moved to Children's Chapel
- Improved livestream!
- Much ice and snow clearing
- Made the parking lot available for a camp pickup/dropoff
- Welcomed IBP and their many talented parishioners
- Power-washed the church and sidewalks
- Font maintenance improve
- Improved air flow to the offices
- Doorknobs, closers, and lock maintenance improved
- Received a custom-built flower cross from IBP
- Received hassocks (kneelers) for the choir through the Memorial Fund
- Painted the wall behind the choir
- Removed a dangerously leaning tree between the buildings
- New water heater in Johnson Hall bathroom
- Evaluated fire safety on campus
- Repaired a roof leak
- Worked with LEAP on Grant improvements to the Gray Building
- Shared the campus with outside groups

Parish Coordinator's Report

Kaye Saunders

Now in my seventeenth year with St. Luke's, sixteen of which were as part-time Music Director and 2½ as part-time parish coordinator, I am delighted to serve in a full-time capacity with thirty hours as parish coordinator and ten hours as Associate Director of Music. It is a special joy and privilege to be in the trusted role of Parish Coordinator. Being a regular presence in the parish office allows for frequent communication with parishioners, vestry, and staff, and also presents many opportunities to represent St. Luke's in service to others outside our parish community.

The Parish Coordinator is the first point of welcome and administrative support for St. Luke's. Some of my duties include:

- Supporting stewardship and pledge tracking
- Monitoring newcomers, updating newcomers ministry, and maintaining records across parish databases
- Scheduling and assisting lay ministers as needed through Ministry Scheduler Pro
- Managing phone communications/voicemail and a robust stream of emails at *parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org*
- Maintaining church registries and vital statistics (transfers, confirmations, baptisms, etc.)
- Preparing weekly worship bulletins, E-news, and announcements
- Managing parish calendar, website updates, and parish mailings
- Serving as contact for vendors, ordering supplies, and managing databases
- Entering contributions, monitoring donations, preparing financial statements, and assisting the Parish Treasurer with other tasks including financial reporting, receipts/invoices, and payroll
- Collaborating with the Parish Almoner to assist with the Rector's Discretionary Fund, including frequent contact with people in the community requesting assistance or pantry items from St. Luke's. (Many thanks to Kay Yarger for overseeing our pantry ministry!)
- Other projects or seasonal needs as directed by the Rector or Parish Treasurer

Music Ministry

David Arcus, Director of Music

I am honored and humbled to have this opportunity to share the year in music at St. Luke's for the first time. This is a welcome return to directing parish music after having been away from it for three years. I have learned much already, and I continue to learn as I get to know St. Luke's and its community, its traditions, and its hopes for the future.

The year 2026 brought about significant changes in St. Luke's music ministry. Foremost was that Kaye Saunders and I exchanged positions. Back in April 2024, I was invited onto the St. Luke's staff as Organist and worked under Kaye's direction. During the summer of 2025, the staff explored the possibility of a change that would allow Kaye's work at St. Luke's to grow to fulltime status, while making the way for me to assume more responsibilities in the music ministry. This exploration resulted in Kaye's increased hours to full time as Parish Coordinator while maintaining involvement in the music ministry as Associate Director. I then became a part-time Music Director, coordinating all aspects of music at St. Luke's as choir director, organist/pianist, liturgical music planner and overseer.

Over the past year, the Choir under both Kaye's and my leadership saw new members join, while other singers retired or moved away. Together we tended to each other's various pastoral needs, attained individual achievements in the Voice for Life program, participated in solo and small ensemble opportunities, introduced new choir anthems, and premiered new music. A key development was interaction with the choir of Iglesia el Buen Pastor (IBP) at Eucharist on Pentecost and All Saints Sundays, and welcoming the director of the IBP

choir, Orestes Reyes Alvarez, to sing with the St. Luke's Choir. This interaction enlivened our collective pastoral role and gently brought us even farther from our comfort zones, but with beautiful results in the process. We continued our work with guest musicians at occasional services throughout the year, with the result that our Christmas Eve service showcased a small ensemble consisting of flute, violin, viola, and cello. This was in addition to contributions from the Handbell Choir, under Kaye's direction.

My association with the Handbell Choir continued to grow, including directing some rehearsals and even leading the ensemble at a Eucharist while also ringing. This allowed me to appreciate even more the leadership and work that Kaye has offered the ensemble since its re-inception during the pandemic shutdown. One of the group's aims has been to appeal to prospective, new ringers to help "swell the ranks," and one success story has been Sally Hodges-Copple filling in for the first time many, many years after having rung as a Parish youth!

As St. Luke's continues to grow again, one goal in the music ministry is to re-start the junior choristers' choir, with the aim of bringing its activities back to pre-pandemic levels. We cannot say enough about how extremely significant this is for today's young disciples, in that it engages them with Parish life, especially worship, and brings affirmations of self-worth and accomplishment. This will be possible with a provision for extra hours in support of the professional work of its leadership, as well as an unflagging involvement by numerous volunteers – parents and others – to ensure a safe and well-run environment. We all hope that this development is around the corner.

I wrote in one of my first newsletter articles that there is nothing I have that has not been given to me. Beginning with my first conversations with Kaye in the Spring of 2024, I have had the keen awareness that everything I am able to do at St. Luke's is through others' generosity of time, resources, and support. I hope this is only the beginning!

With heart and voice, David

Associate Director of Music Ministry

Kaye Saunders

My music responsibilities include:

- being a part of weekly staff gatherings including worship debriefing and considering other musical offerings for St. Luke's
- directing the St. Luke's Handbell Choir in weekly rehearsals and regular Sunday services
- leading weekly sectional (supplemental) rehearsals for St. Luke's choir members
- serving as Chair of the *Arts at St. Luke's* ministry
- creating and distributing rehearsal tracks to St. Luke's choir members

St. Luke's Handbell Choir

Our handbell choir has eight members and rings a two-octave set of Schulmerich bells which were given to St. Luke's in the 1990s. The group rehearses weekly on Thursday afternoons from September through May and plays regularly on Sundays during those months. As our handbell program continues to grow in skill and numbers, we hope there will be interest in purchasing a third octave of bells. This would result in a richer, more colorful sound and allow for wider musical choices.

Arts at St. Luke's

Our *Arts at St. Luke's* ministry 2025-26 season opened in September with an organ recital by David Arcus followed by a festive reception. This was the kickoff of a four-event season which include a performance by folklorist and storyteller Liz Pardue (March 15), An Afternoon with Jay Sidebotham (April 26), and *May Musicale* (May 17) featuring myself, David Arcus, and other St. Luke's musicians and guests. We are excited to nurture and grow this ministry, including increasing diversity in our offerings, as outreach to the community and a fine use of the St. Luke's nave and campus.

Altar Guild Ministry

The Altar Guild works behind the scenes and is a vital ministry assisting the clergy with worship services. Our primary responsibility is preparing the nave for the Eucharist for the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services.

The Altar Guild is also responsible for washing and ironing the linens, ordering supplies, polishing and cleaning all of our altar ware. We prepare for weddings, baptisms, funerals, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter and special services. This included the installation of Greg as our Rector and joint Pentecost and All Saints day services with Iglesia El Buen Pastor.

We have four teams of men and women who volunteer their time and talent to serve on Altar Guild.

I am grateful for our dedicated members during a year of adapting to changes to Altar Guild and coordinating schedules with El Buen Pastor. Our members are:

Team 1

Debbie Carter
LaRue Dedrick, Team Leader
Hetty Kaiserlik
Martha Lassiter
Lera Williams

Team 2

Bill Callahan
Valleri Callahan
Kay Gresham, Team Leader
Cindy Henry, Interim Team Leader
Ila Hurley
June Santa

Team 3

Grams Gutknecht
Joanne Hooker, Team Leader
Liz Lonesdale
Mary Jane Moore
Jean Willard
John Willard

Team 4

Beth Bonner
Nora Hammond, Team Leader
Kelley Lawton

I also want to thank LaRue Dedrick for ordering our Altar Guild supplies, Greg our Rector and Monnie, our Deacon for their support and collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,
E. June Santa, Altar Guild Chair

Parish Almoner's Ministry

On review of gifts made directly to individuals, or to vendors such as Duke Energy or Verizon on behalf of individuals, the Rector's Discretionary Fund distributed over \$30,000 in 2026. We helped one family get a used car and keep it on the road, as well as helping make rental payments after having to move to another location at nearly twice the rent. We helped another St Luke neighbor secure an independent living situation by assisting with a deposit and first month rent. Rental assistance, car repairs, and utilities are the primary requests we receive and respond to each month. When possible, we assist by providing bags of groceries from our pantry and gift cards that can be used like cash. And only the contributions made by our amazing and ever-generous parishioners make this possible. Thank you from the bottom of many, many hearts.

Jan Sweet Freeman
Parish Almoner

Newcomers Ministry

St. Luke's mission statement is, "Nurtured in Jesus, we welcome radically, serve gratefully, and love abundantly". In reflection of this statement, the purpose of the Newcomers Ministry is to welcome all people of all kinds into the life of St. Luke's Episcopal church. We want Newcomers to know that they are valued for who they are. We want to give them opportunities to be loved by others and to love and serve others within and outside of the walls of our dear church.

There are a number of activities that are included in welcoming a Newcomer to St. Luke's. The first is to identify Newcomers in church, and to intentionally and warmly greet them. They are invited to come to the coffee hour and are gently asked if they would like to fill out a visitor's card. During Sunday service, Greg always extends an invitation to fill out a visitor's card and offers to take Newcomers to lunch or coffee.

When a visitor submits a visitor's card and requests a nametag, Parish Coordinator, Kaye Saunders, sends them an email of welcome and offers ways to be a part of our church. For each Newcomer, she does the following:

Newcomer Checklist for Parish Coordinator

- Makes a Nametag
- Enters visitor card info into Newcomer Spreadsheet
- Sends info to Greg, Monnie, and Bill G
- Sends a "Welcome to St. Luke's" email to Newcomer:
 - Confirms contact info
 - Asks permission to add them as recipient of weekly ENews
 - Asks if they want to be added to online directory? Direct to Alan Schueler.
 - Asks if they are interested in transferring in? Where can we send transfer request?
- Adds name to MailChimp (if permission is provided)
- Refers them to ministry group heads if they indicate interest in a lay ministry
- Offers to add them to a lay ministry in "Ministry Scheduler Pro"

Greg takes Newcomers to lunch or coffee when they are willing. Once notice is received from Kaye that a Newcomer has expressed a real interest in St. Luke's, the Newcomer Ministry does several things.

The first is to send a note of welcome from the Ministry. This is followed by an offer to bring a Welcome Bag to the Newcomer(s) home that contains a brief letter of welcome, a summary of St. Luke's history, a description of our Labyrinth, a list of St. Luke's upcoming Art's events, a catalog of ministries, St. Luke's mug(s), and perhaps most importantly, a loaf of fresh-baked bread. St. Luke's wonderful beadmakers are Terrie Blalock, Dale

Games, Julie Hege, Martha Lassiter, and Babs Wise. The members of the ministry who have visited Newcomers at their homes have thoroughly enjoyed sharing histories and stories with the Newcomers. **At the time of preparing this report, 32 welcome bags have been given to 40 Newcomers**

In 2025, the Newcomer Ministry held two Newcomer's luncheons. These luncheons, which were held after church services, included a wonderful lunch followed by brief presentations that covered topics like ministry opportunities, Greg's vision for the future of St. Luke's, and a campus tour. The increase in the number of Newcomers is making it necessary to have three Newcomers luncheons in 2026.

The Newcomer Ministry would be very happy to have new members. If you have any interest in participating in this ministry, please speak with any member of the current Ministry (see below).

The members of the Newcomers Ministry are delighted with the number of Newcomers at our church. But it's not numbers that count. Rather, more members mean a stronger and more vibrant church community, a church where people have greater opportunities to care for others and to be cared for, a place where strength in numbers allows for more meaningful outreach to the Durham community and beyond. To all you Newcomers, we are very happy and grateful that you have chosen St. Luke's as your church home.

Newcomer Ministers:

Greg Farrand
Bill Gutknecht
Frances Hite
Carol Kokesh
Tom McIntosh
Lera Williams
Babs Wise

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, Ann Riley, and John Willard. The photographs were provided to Grams Gutknecht for archiving in the St. Luke's Google Photo Repository. In 2025, 42 Repository Albums were either created or updated with photos.

Publicity

Major events publicized this past year include the Spring Fling Yard Sale, the Pumpkin Patch, Blessing of the Animals, the Arts concerts, and the Preowned Christmas Decorations sale. Event leaders submitted information to Kaye Saunders for publication in the Sunday bulletins and eNews and to Babs Wise for publication in St. Luke's monthly newsletter. Marlys Ray used the information provided by the event leaders to create posts and events on Facebook and Instagram, and content for the church's Coming Events page on the website.

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 9th Street area, and 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, Nextdoor, and many more. 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, Lynn Godfrey

Website and Social Media

Website

Marlys Ray manages the St. Luke's web site at <https://stlukesdurham.org/> The site had no major revisions. With the help of Website Assistant Cindy Henry, the site was updated timely regarding event promotions, educational offerings, staff changes, seasonal happenings, and any informational needs of the rector and vestry. The site received an increase in visits of about 35 % over the previous year. Other than direct site visits, most visitors are referred by search engines (i.e. Google). After the home page, the most visited pages are Coming Events, Sunday Morning Worship, Clergy and Staff, and Parish Calendar. Visits are split almost evenly between desktop and mobile devices.

When good quality recordings are available from streaming the worship services on YouTube, the sermon audio is extracted from those recordings by Mark Karengin and posted on the website. They are listed on the Past Sermons page, which received 224 visits, about the same as the previous year.

Social media: Facebook and Instagram

(During 2025, live streaming of worship services was migrated from the parish's Facebook page to the parish YouTube channel. Live streaming is handled by a separate team.)

One of our uses of Facebook is to share posts 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. Basic event information provided by event leaders is used to create these posts and is used on Instagram as well. St. Luke's Instagram account is @saintlukesdurham.

Marlys Ray and Rector Greg each also occasionally create memes with a spiritual theme for Facebook and Instagram. Others who are interested in being a part of this specific effort are welcome to reach out. We have seen increased Facebook traffic with Rector Greg's arrival.

Reported by Marlys Ray

Design/Printing-Production

Corporate Signature/Logo, Prepared/Produced Comprehensive Files for All Applications
Trifold, Updated (Bill G. & I)
Business Cards (Father Medina & Greg)
Stationery Second Sheets
Note Cards and Note Pads
Pride T-Shirts and Pride Banners (Two)
Black History Month Banner
Coffee Mugs
Campus Directional (Wayfinding) Signs (Bill G. & I)
Campus Map, Updated

Miscellaneous

Sign Boards, Sprague Room (Updated them.)

Spring Fling, Games & Frames

Memorial Plaques, Sourced (Negotiated \$110.00 savings for each.)

Power Washed Bricks, HVAC Gate (Bill G. & I)

HVAC Gate, New (Doug M. & I)

Painted Blue Walls (Craig G. & I)

St. Luke's Day Celebration, Provided Red Roses for all of the Table Centerpieces

Ministry Fair AAR (After Action Report), Wrote and Collected Results

Jay Sidebotham's 2026 Arts Event, Conceived and in the process of Planning in conjunction with *Arts at St. Luke's* Ministry

Note: Additional Church Enhancement Projects include setup and cleanup for almost all events, washed church windows, fixed door hinges in Johnson Hall for the table and chair storage cabinets, tightened bolts on both of the attic pull-down stairs in Johnson Hall.

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 additional equipment for livestreaming with significantly more useful features and a switchover to YouTube for streaming and later viewing. Administration of the new online parish directory continued, and new photos of parishioners were taken as requested.

Newcomers were added to the directory as soon as they have been verified. Various ongoing accounts for IT services and software were also monitored in conjunction with the parish coordinator.

Christian Formation: Children's Sunday School and Ministry

Susan Keedy, our interim rector encouraged St Luke's to be ready for children when they come. She provided ready-made Sunday-by-Sunday lesson plans for children. Several of us volunteered to offer these in the hope of receiving children. Our adult efforts were rewarded by our own learning as we prepared to offer these lessons. However, in numbers of children, we had fewer than five during those months.

This initial volunteer group for Children's ministry has since dissolved with the hope for St Luke's to re-visit a new model for Children's ministry under Greg's leadership.

Submitted by Kristi Duke and Robin Arcus

Memorial Fund

When money is given in memory of, or in honor of, a member of St. Luke's, the money goes into the Memorial Fund. The Memorials Committee works with the family and with chairs of other St. Luke's groups to find appropriate ways to use the funds. The request to spend the funds then goes to the vestry for final approval.

The steeple and bells and the stained glass in the sanctuary ceiling as well as all of the communion sets, all of the altar hangings, the pulpit, the prayer altars, the vestments, and most of the sanctuary chairs are memorial gifts. The baptismal shell, the outside benches, the outside fountain, and the lettering on our buildings are all memorials.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Johnson

Share Your Christmas

St. Luke's Share Your Christmas focused on 4 groups in 2025: families identified by St. Luke's parishioners or clergy, selected children attending LEAP, folks staying at Ronald McDonald House of Durham, and the Durham County Animal Shelter (APS).

This year, St. Lukers contributed many Christmas gifts/gift cards, plus close to \$3,000 in cash donations that were used to purchase additional presents and gift cards. Altogether, we distributed 155 presents/gift cards to 95 neighbors. In addition, we brought approximately 25 presents to the Durham County Animal Shelter.

Thanks to everyone who helped our neighbors so generously this Christmas, both with financial resources and with time spent shopping, wrapping and delivering presents!

Carol Charping

Faith Team

Our Faith Team welcomed Nathan (Nate) as our new Partner this past August. Nate (age 40) had been incarcerated for a total of 12 years. He's now fully committed to successfully making his reentry journey into the local community. He's capable and determined.

Nate and members of our FT have connected well, sharing stories, insights, and ourselves, enroute to building mutual trust. Nate has had a couple jobs, but regrettably his knees have not held up for long periods of "job-standing," and he's currently not working (is seeing a doctor). With money lacking for his forthcoming rent, he was fortunate to recently be the recipient of a one-time payment for a month's rent from St. Luke's Rector Discretionary Fund. This will allow him time to sort out medical and disability needs.

Per policy limits of our mission, the FT looks forward to supporting Nate with friendship and other (non-monetary) ways, as he continues his reintegration process.

Ted Triebel

Green Team

The Green Team's primary responsibility for 2025 was to keep the church informed. This was accomplished by monthly contributions to the newsletter. These contributions provided biblical verses and quotations related to climate. In addition, practical staying green tips and monthly nature-related events were included. The solar savings for the month, year, and since the solar system's inception are communicated.

Anne Burgess

Duke Episcopal Center Dinner Ministry

The students at the Duke Episcopal Center meet each Sunday evening for a formal Eucharistic service led by chaplain Sam Laurent and a visiting priest. The service is followed by a buffet dinner provided by the Episcopal parishes in Durham. The attendance varies from 4 to 10 students plus clergy and parish visitors.

St. Luke's has supported this ministry for many years. A committee of volunteers provide menu items for a meal twice each semester. Several members set up, serve and clean up the meals, and worship and eat with the students.

Mary Etta King

St. Luke's Stitchers (formerly St. Luke's Needlework Ministry)

Members are:

Jeanne Alton
Gail Capon
Carol Freund
Grams Gutknecht
Lisa McCutcheon-Gutknecht
Brenda Hamm
Elaine Penny
Janelle Stroschein
Cheri Wilson
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 ten members. Two members are unable to attend meetings and do their work entirely at home. Average monthly attendance is four.

We participated in the Ministries Fair. Several people showed interest, and five signed up to be on our email list.

St. Luke's budgeted \$250 for us, and we had one \$50 donation to buy yarn and supplies. We spent \$215.68 on yarn.

In 2025, Rev. Greg blessed and we gave our items as follows:

9 hats and 2 scarves to St. Joseph's, Durham.
12 hats and 3 scarves to Urban Ministries of Durham,
24 hats, 5 scarves, 4 items of infant/toddler clothes and 5 blankets to "Note in the Pocket",
26 chemo caps to the Duke Blood Cancer Center,
afghans for graduates Peter Nielsen, Elijah Emory, Samantha Medina, and Samyra Medina,
a knitted Prayer Shawl for Joyce Boucheron, wife of Bill Mahoney.

Respectfully submitted,
Grams Gutknecht

Chrismon Ministry/Workshop

Meeting time: First Wednesday each Month 1pm – 4pm Location: Kramer Room

Three or four St Lukers regularly attended the workshop this year. We enjoyed researching ideas for new symbols that will add more reminders of the ministry of Jesus and give support to our faith journeys.

As we meet we also support one another as we share the joys and sorrows of our lives while we work with our hands to create new Chrismons.

Eileen Morgan
Coordinator of the Chrismon Ministry/Workshop

Description of Chrismons and how we have used them at St. Lukes:

Chrismons (CHRIST + MONogram) are symbols that proclaim the Name, the Life, and the saving Acts of Jesus Christ. Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold for His majesty and glory.

Christmas display:

Traditionally Chrismons are displayed at Christmas on an evergreen tree, but they can be used at any time of the year to highlight aspects of Jesus' life and the faith journey we share with Christians over many centuries.

Easter display:

For Easter we have hung them on bare branches to remind us of the “old rugged cross” on which Jesus died. The Chrismons chosen for Easter remind us that death was not the last word—Christ rose from the grave and now reigns in glory as Lord and King of all.

Ushers for Funerals

Anyone interested in being an usher for funerals at St Luke's should contact Randy Griffin at 919-452-7078. We will train you to usher at Funeral Services.

Contact us:
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1737 Hillandale Road Durham, NC 27705
phone 919-286-2273

website: www.stlukesdurham.org info@stlukesdurham.org

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rector@stlukesdurham.org

The Rev. Monnie Riggan, Deacon

deacon@stlukesdurham.org

David Arcus, Director of Music

davidallenarcus@gmail.com

Kaye Saunders, Parish Coordinator/Assoc. Dir. of Music

parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org

Treasurer Jim Brunnquell: jbrunnquellctp1956@gmail.com

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

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