

STL ACTS OF FAITH

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



O Lord our God, who has placed times and seasons under your own authority: We thank you for bringing us to the threshold of a new church program year. Bless our community of faith.

Grant our leaders wisdom, give strength to our ministries, and open our hearts to your word.

As we journey together through the seasons of your story, draw us closer to you and to one another. May this year be a time of grace, healing, and light in our world.

Amen.

Revive our Hearts online

A New Program Year at St. Luke's

There is a lot of new life and good energy at St. Luke's right now, and I am excited for all that is unfolding as we begin a new program year together.

On Sunday, September 13, we will have our Fall Kickoff and Ministry Fair in Johnson Hall following the 10:30 service. Everyone is invited to come, enjoy time together, and learn more about the many ministries that make St. Luke's such a vibrant and faithful community. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear about the work already happening in our parish and to sign up for areas of ministry that resonate with your gifts, interests, and sense of calling. We will also have ice cream sundaes, because good church gatherings should include ice cream whenever possible.



(cont from page 1)

This fall, we will also return to Adult Forum in Johnson Hall throughout the program year, creating space for learning, conversation, theological reflection, and formation. Our children's ministry continues to serve and support our families, helping our youngest members experience God's love and the life of the church in meaningful ways.

On the third Wednesday of each month, we will begin Stillpoint, a special healing Eucharist with contemplative music, followed by a catered Wednesday night dinner. My hope is that these evenings will become a steady rhythm of prayer, rest, community, and connection in the middle of the week.

We are also delighted that Bishop Sam has appointed Susan Keedy as the vicar of El Buen Pastor! We are excited to partner with Susan and with IBP as our parishes continue to share this campus, worship, serve, and bear witness to the love of Christ in Durham.

There is so much to be grateful for at St. Luke's. New ministries are taking shape, familiar ministries are continuing with faithfulness, and the Spirit is moving among us in beautiful ways. I hope you will join us on September 13 as we celebrate the beginning of this new season and discover together the many ways God is inviting us to serve, grow, and follow Jesus.

Grace and peace,
Greg

A Prayer for the Parish

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.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Weekly Morning Prayer begins • Thurs, Aug 27, 9 a.m.
(will occur weekly on Thursdays)

Chrismons Workshop • Wed, Sept 2, 1-4 p.m., Kramer Room
(occurs the 1st Wed of each month; contact Eileen Morgan)

Labor Day - Parish Office closed • Mon, Sept 7

Fall Kickoff and Ministries Fair! • Sun, Sept 13 after 10:30 service
Ministries Fair in Johnson Hall, refreshments included

Stillpoint (Eucharist w/healing) and Wednesday Night Dinner
Sept 23, 5:30 service, 6:00 dinner, Nave and Johnson Hall
(registration required, cost \$10 adults, children free, occurs monthly)

St. Luke's Choir Retreat • Sat, Sept 26, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Belize Mission Trip Report • Sun, Sept 27, 9:00 a.m., Kramer Room

Newcomers Lunch • Sun, Sept 27, 11:30 a.m., Johnson Hall

Arts at St. Luke's presents The Durham Savoyards • Sun, Sept 27, 4 p.m., Nave

Pumpkin Patch Opens • Sat, Oct 3
8 a.m. Pumpkin Delivery and Unloading, 1 p.m. Pumpkin Patch opens

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals • Sat, Oct 3, 1 p.m.

Looking ahead: Mark your calendars for **St. Luke's Sunday, Oct 18**, the Feast Day of St. Luke and the annual celebration of our parish. There will be one service at 10:30, so we can all worship together. Lunch will follow in Johnson Hall. More details to come!



Mark your calendars, St. Luke's family—right after the 10:30 service on September 13, head to Johnson Hall for a festive kickoff to our fall season!

This is your chance to explore everything happening at St. Luke's—and there's a lot! Come browse tables, ask questions, and meet the people behind the ministries that help our parish thrive:

- Meals Ministries – nourishing neighbors and each other
- Worship Activities – altar guild, acolytes, Eucharistic Visitors
- Spring Fling – a big sale with something for everyone
- Labyrinth – a walking path for prayer and reflection
- Children's Ministries – nurturing our youngest disciples
- Newcomers – helping new faces feel at home
- Communications – telling St. Luke's story
- Music – sharing our voices, handbells, and special arts events
- Stitchers – crafting comfort, one stitch at a time
- Pumpkin Patch – a true fall celebration
- Pride & Diversity – everyone belongs at St. Luke's
- ...and so much more!

Whether you're looking to dive into something new, deepen a ministry you already love, or simply learn what your church family is up to, this is the place to be. Bring your questions, bring your curiosity, and be ready to **sign up** for something that speaks to your heart.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. – Roman 12:4-8

ARTS AT ST. LUKE'S PRESENTS

TRIPPING HITHER, TRIPPING THITHER!

A WHIMSICAL AFTERNOON WITH THE DURHAM SAVOYARDS

SUN, SEPT 27 • 4:00 PM • ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



A ROLICKING ROMP THROUGH GILBERT & SULLIVAN FAVORITES!

**Featuring delights from the upcoming IOLANTHE
and comic highlights from recent Savoyard productions.**

Donations to St. Luke's Music & Arts welcome



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**stlukesdurham.org 1737 Hillandale Rd
919 286 2273 • Durham NC 27705**



Senior Warden Corner

Hope Galunas

As we welcome the fall season, I invite you to engage—or re-engage—with St. Luke's in ways that are meaningful, joyful, and life-giving for you. Our fall calendar is filled with opportunities to connect, serve, learn, and have fun together.

We'll kick off the season on Sunday, September 13, with our Ministries Fair, wonderfully organized by Annette Medlin. There truly is something for everyone! Whether you would like to help on Sundays, participate in outreach, or lend your voice to our wonderful choir, you can find a ministry that speaks to your heart. These opportunities allow us to spend time with fellow parishioners and discover the joy of being part of our St. Luke's community.

September also brings the start of Stillpoint on September 23, with dinner offered after the service. On September 27, the Durham Savoyards will join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening of music and fellowship organized by our Arts Ministry.

October will be another busy and joyful month, with our Pumpkin Patch (see the related article), Blessing of the Animals, and St. Luke's Day celebrations.

And while we are just beginning to enjoy the fall, the Vestry is already looking ahead to 2027. Each year, we elect four new Vestry members to help support St. Luke's and Greg in the life and work of our parish. If you ask any current Vestry member, you'll likely hear what a joy it is to serve in this role. We work together on the business of the church, but there is plenty of laughter and fellowship along the way!

If serving on Vestry is a ministry that interests you, please let me know. I would love to talk with you about this opportunity.

Whatever your gifts, interests, or availability, there is a place for you at St. Luke's this fall!

Junior Warden's Corner

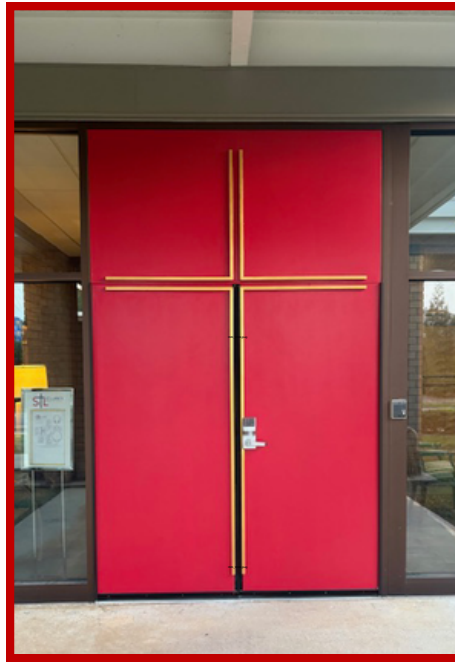
Steve Dedrick

The LEAP School playground renovations were completed, taking another step toward achieving certification as a licensed facility. More renovations are needed to the School building before licensure is possible.

Minor repairs continued at the church and Johnson Hall this month, and thanks to Bill Calahan for covering the Junior Warden responsibilities for me during my vacation week.



Our Red Doors: A Sign of Welcome and Sacred Space



You may have noticed our red doors as you enter the church.

This isn't just about aesthetics—it's a deeply rooted tradition in the Episcopal Church. For centuries, red church doors have signified sanctuary—a place of refuge, safety, and peace. In the Middle Ages, a red door meant that anyone seeking shelter inside could not be harmed. It was a visible sign that the space beyond was sacred.

Red also holds rich theological meaning. It represents the presence of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ poured out for the world. In other words, it quietly proclaims: *This is holy ground. You are welcome here. Grace lives here.*

Every time you enter the church, you're invited to embrace that legacy—and recommit to our parish being a place of refuge, renewal, and deep welcome for all who enter.

Greg+

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

Vestry Reflections by Carlton Brown

St. Luke's vestry meeting for July was held in Johnson Hall and opened with Kaye Saunders, Parish Coordinator introducing the advantages of St. Luke's adoption of the Church Planning Center software and app to the vestry. Planning Center is a modular church management software suite, built specifically for church administration and ministry needs. The administrative module to be used by the Parish Coordinator and others in leadership offers the following benefits:

- Parishioner database that stores household profiles and organizes ministry workflows such as pastoral care, event planning, and newcomer follow-up
- Giving/donations – flexible giving options including recurring donations via ACH, Apple Pay, or card, plus broad reporting with graphs, donation lifecycle tracking, and income forecasting.
- Centralized, conflict-free scheduling of events, rooms, and resources.
- Organizes small groups and ministry teams by managing communication, registrations, and leader resources in one place.
- Ease of use – a clean, simple layout that's easy for teams to pick up quickly.

"Church Center" is Planning Center's app that will be used by St. Luke's parishioners and will allow them to:

- Manage their personal/directory info, donate to St. Luke's in support of their pledge or other designated funds, track their giving, and view the church calendar
- Register (and, if applicable, pay) for events, submit prayer requests, keep up with small group or ministry team activities, view statements, and manage recurring donations
- Giving support includes debit/credit card, Apple Pay, or ACH bank transfer

The vestry approved Planning Center consultant-led onboarding and training sessions for church ministry leaders to equip us for getting the most out of Planning Center and Church Center (its companion app). Be on the lookout for introductions to Church Center from ministry leaders in the future!

We were also thrilled to hear that our former interim rector, the Rev. Susan Keedy, has been appointed by Diocesan Bishop Sam Rodman as Vicar-In-Charge of Iglesia El Buen Pastor for a two year term. Rev. Susan's bilingual skills and loving leadership will be an indispensable help to IBP as they move through a time of transition in both their vestry and leadership following the departure of Father Medina.

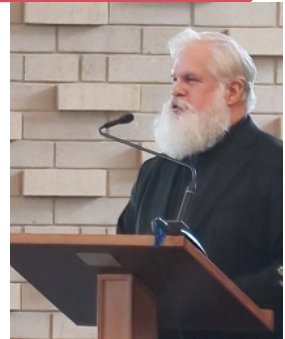
Planning for our fall events is underway, including the Every Member Canvass and the Pumpkin Patch. The vestry was very encouraged to hear that volunteers have already come forward to support these landmarks in St. Luke's church year. We also rejoiced to learn that a generous bequest to the church from the estate of a beloved chorister and parish member, Lorraine Haskell is pending in 2027.

We also heard a summary of recommendations for safety improvements to the church and campus from the ad hoc Security Team. The vestry approved investigating pricing and the eventual purchase of a Ring-style security camera system for the church doors to enhance security for church staff. We're also looking forward to a September evening demonstration of exterior lighting options to brighten darkened areas of our buildings and parking lots.

Deacon Monnie shared some of the works of the Pastoral Care Committee including the participation of two new members. We ended our meeting with the Lord's Prayer with joined hands and a feeling of blessing and hope for St. Luke's future.

A New Season for St. Luke's Choir and Handbell Choir

David Arcus



Friends, we are at the time of year when our musical groups are resuming activities for the coming program year. If you have given even a little bit of thought to singing or ringing at St. Luke's, you've come to the right place.

St. Luke's Choir is your Parish choir. About twenty in number, they sing for most of the services from September through May, including Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We have a varied repertoire, pulled from different traditions, and we have a lot of fun learning new pieces or arrangements of well-known hymns and spiritual songs under David Arcus's direction. Many of us have sung in previous choirs, but others are experiencing choral singing for the first time. We enjoy a wide range of voice types. Music reading ability is helpful but not a necessity. We rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7 PM until 8:30 PM in the Nave (main worship area). Our first rehearsal is August 26. Contact David Arcus at davidallenarcus@gmail.com for answers to all of your questions.

The Handbell Choir continues the tradition of ringing at St. Luke's that began in the 1980s. Kaye Saunders, Parish Coordinator and Associate Music Director, leads this group. While the membership stands at 8, we are always looking for people with previous experience to help out in a pinch whenever anyone needs to be away unexpectedly. We also invite people who are new to ringing but have a sufficient musical background and reading ability. If you have any questions about the Handbell choir, please contact Kaye at parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org.

Let us be ready y'all to raise a joyful noise this Fall!





The Durham Savoyards in Concert

“Tripping Hither, Tripping Thither”

We are delighted to welcome the Durham Savoyards as they open the **Arts at St. Luke's 2026-27 series** at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on **September 27 at 4 PM**.

The Durham Savoyards have been part of the Triangle's cultural life since 1963, sharing the joyful and witty musical comedies of Gilbert and Sullivan. Named for London's historic Savoy Theatre, the group began with a blend of Duke University academics and local residents who came together to celebrate these classic operettas. For more than sixty years, they have presented one Gilbert & Sullivan operetta each spring at the Carolina Theatre in Durham and offered concerts throughout the year for community organizations, churches, and special events.

Their program for St. Luke's, “**Tripping Hither, Tripping Thither**,” features selections from next year's production, *Iolanthe* (March 19-21, 2027), along with highlights from several of their more recent shows. The Savoyards are excited to share with us the timeless joys, clever humor, and sparkling music of Gilbert and Sullivan.

All are warmly invited to attend. The concert is free, with \$10-\$20 suggested donations to the St. Luke's Music and Arts Fund.



September Wedding Anniversaries

Sept 2: Daniel & Venicia Emory

Sept 4: Ted & Cara Triebel

Sept 16: Bill & Carol Freund

Please Note: This is a new feature for the newsletter, but in developing it, Kaye noted that we are missing many anniversaries in our data, and some are incorrect. Would you please [email her](#) with your special date?

Almoner's Report



Our parish pantry (food on left and personal items on the right)

It's important to hear how parish contributions directly impact the lives of those we assist. Most recently, the Rector's Discretionary Fund has helped a neighbor, dependent on home oxygen service, have their electricity restored—virtually life-saving in this heat; enabled a final deposit for another to move into much-needed subsidized housing; and, lastly, kept a neighbor who is in bankruptcy from foreclosure on her home. Kay Yarger continues to keep our pantry in order, and Kaye Saunders distributes groceries when neighbors make requests.

Of note, Monnie has asked me to assist her with her Deacon's Discretionary Fund, so this is a gentle reminder that contributions can also be made to her fund.

Thank you, as always, for your gifts and for entrusting me with distributing them.

Jan Sweet Freeman
Almoner



St. Luke's participated in Iglesia El Buen Pastor's Saturday morning food distribution on August 1 and 8. About 150 boxes were filled with fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen meats and casseroles, and fresh bread, rolls, cakes, and cookies for distribution to about 100 families. Twenty to twenty-five IBP workers and other volunteers divided the foodstuffs into boxes for loading into vehicles. This is an impressive and ongoing effort by IBP to reach out to the community twice each month.

Brian Gullett



From Jim Brunquell Treasurer: Self-Audit of 2025

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Karen Gray (Chair), Steve Dedrick, and Kathryn Daily, the self-audit of 2025 was completed, approved by the Finance Committee and the Vestry, and submitted to the Diocese of NC on 7/28/26, ahead of the 9/1/26 deadline. It was a clean audit, with one adverse finding: we need to take an inventory of the contents of all three of our buildings. It was suggested that this be done via a narrated video.

The Diocese of NC allows a self-audit using its 25-page questionnaire for churches with revenues of less than \$500,000.

Thanks so much to Karen, Steve, and Kathryn.

Annual Pledge Drive News

This fall, we will begin our Annual Pledge Campaign with four weeks focused on sharing the heart, vision, and ministry of St. Luke's—and looking together toward where God may be calling us next.

As part of the campaign, we will also hold two parish-wide gatherings where everyone will have an opportunity to share hopes, ideas, and priorities for our future. Where should we invest our resources? What ministries do we want to strengthen or begin? How can our financial life reflect both the needs of St. Luke's and our commitment to the Kingdom of God?

So begin thinking now about your hopes and dreams for St. Luke's—and about your pledge to support our shared ministry in 2027. This is more than a fundraising campaign. It is an opportunity to listen to one another, dream together, and help shape the next chapter of our life as a parish.

More details coming soon!



Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service.



March 2026 Newcomer Luncheon

New to St. Luke's?

Then you are invited to attend
the Newcomer Lunch!

If you started attending St. Luke's in the last year or so but have not had a chance to attend a Newcomer Lunch, then by all means join us on Sunday, September 27th at 11:45 for a delicious lunch and an opportunity to learn more about St. Luke's.

There will be short presentations on a variety of topics such as the history of St. Luke's, opportunities in music, avenues of communication, service opportunities, a vision for our future from Rev. Greg, and an opportunity to take a tour of the campus. This event provides a great opportunity for you to get to know other Newcomers, to meet some of the leaders of St. Luke's, and perhaps identify a ministry close to your heart that offers you the opportunity to serve your fellow parishioners and the greater world.

Please let Parish Coordinator, Kaye Saunders, or Bill Gutknecht (billfg42@outlook.com) know your decision about the lunch by September 23rd. If you plan to attend, please let us know if you have any food restrictions. We hope to see you at the Newcomer Lunch.

What is "Church Center"?

I've been hearing a lot lately about "Church Center"
for St. Luke's? What exactly is it? And why should
St. Luke's use it?

We are in the early stages of rolling out new technology to improve connectivity and information sharing within the parish. Imagine if you had something in the palm of your hand that could tell you how much you had donated this year, or help you sign up for events and keep track of what you had signed up for? All without calling Kaye. The plan is for this to become a reality in the next few months.

Church Center is a fun, easy-to-use app and web portal built just for you—our church family! It puts everything you need to stay connected right at your fingertips: sign up for an upcoming event, find a small group, or send a quick message to a fellow member, all in one place.

If tech makes you a little nervous, take a deep breath: Church Center is safe, secure, and hassle-free. Navigating it feels as simple as scrolling through your favorite photo app—clear buttons, friendly layouts, and no complicated menus to get lost in.

You don't need to be a computer whiz to use it. Just open the app or website, tap what you need, and you're set. At its core, Church Center isn't about staring at another screen—it's a simple, helpful tool designed to make keeping up with our church community easier and more joyful than ever.

Stillpoint & Wednesday Night Suppers

This fall, we are beginning a new Wednesday evening offering at St. Luke's called Stillpoint. Stillpoint will be a simple, quiet Eucharist with healing prayer and contemplative music in the Nave from 5:30-6:00 PM on September 23, October 21, November 18, and December 16. In the middle of busy weeks, full calendars, and all the noise of life, this will be a chance to pause, breathe, receive communion, and be reminded that God's presence is already here. The service will be gentle and reflective, with space for prayer, stillness, and healing.

At 6:00 PM, everyone is invited to stay for Wednesday Night Supper. Dinner will be catered, and all are welcome. The cost is \$10 for adults and free for children.

You are welcome simply to come and enjoy dinner, conversation, and time with others in the parish. For those who would like, there will also be table discussion groups. Bob Buchanan will host a Spanish-speaking table for those who want to learn and practice Spanish, and the Rev. Chris Redmon will host a table for theological exploration and Bible study.

Our hope is that these Wednesday evenings will become a meaningful rhythm of prayer, community, food, and formation. Come for the service, come for supper, or come for both. However you enter in, we hope you will find this to be a place of rest, connection, and grace in the middle of the week.



September Birthdays

- 13 Jean Olich
- 15 Regina Kronmiller
- 19 Pike Hege
- 20 Mark Karengin
- 24 Denise DeCarlo-Yantz
- 25 Bill Mahony
- 25 Janet Martin Pilkington



Did you know?

Centering Prayer on Tuesday Mornings

Every Tuesday morning from 9:00–9:30 AM, we gather in the Nave for Centering Prayer, a simple practice of silence, stillness, and openness to the presence of God.

Centering Prayer is rooted in the ancient contemplative tradition of the Church, especially the wisdom of the Desert Mothers and Fathers, medieval mystics, and texts like *The Cloud of Unknowing*. In the twentieth century, Trappist monks Thomas Keating, William Meninger, and Basil Pennington helped recover and teach this practice in a form accessible to modern Christians. Their hope was not to introduce something new, but to help Christians rediscover the deep tradition of silent prayer that has always been part of our faith.

The practice itself is very simple. We sit in silence, gently open ourselves to God, and choose a sacred word as a symbol of our intention to consent to God's presence and action within us. When thoughts, distractions, worries, or plans arise, as they always do, we do not fight them or judge ourselves. We simply return gently to the sacred word and let go again.

Centering Prayer is not about having a mystical experience or perfectly clearing the mind. It is about making space. Space to be still. Space to release our grip. Space to allow God's love to work in us beneath words, beneath performance, beneath all the ways we try to manage our lives and even our faith.

In a world filled with noise, urgency, and constant distraction, this quiet half hour can become a gift. It is one small way of learning to trust that God is already present and that we do not have to strive our way into grace.

All are welcome. No experience is necessary. Just come as you are, sit with us in the quiet, and allow yourself to rest in God.

“That’s why prayer matters—not as magic, like rubbing a rabbit’s foot. Prayer matters because when God is brought into the equation of life, something changes. Another possibility emerges.”

— Michael B. Curry, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*

Know a deserving Non-Profit that needs assistance?

Apply for a St. Luke's Outreach Grant

The Outreach Grants Committee makes an annual recommendation to the Vestry regarding grant awards to non-profit organizations in the local community. Proceeds from the Spring Fling, Christmas Sale, and a percentage of the Pumpkin Patch sales comprise the balance of the Outreach Fund.

The current balance in the fund is over \$12,000. The Outreach Grants committee will solicit suggestions for organizations to be considered for grant funding until October 15, 2026. If you have an organization you would like to suggest for funding, please contact Debbie Stonehouse (debrastonehouse7@gmail.com) with the organization's name and the reason for consideration. The committee will make recommendations to the Vestry for final approval later this year.



October 3:

**8 am Unloading
pumpkins**

**1 pm Blessing of the
Animals &**

**Opening of the Pumpkin
Patch**

Please make plans to be on the grounds for as much of the day as you can.

We need all hands on deck to unload the truck, set up the patch and in the afternoon, to help us welcome the wider community to our campus,
Everyone can do something to make the day a success!





Pride Festival & Parade

The annual Durham Pride festival and parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Duke's east campus from 12 Noon until 2:00 p.m. **(You will still have time to help unload pumpkins and then take your pet to be blessed afterward!)** This is a wonderful time to share our commitment to the fact that God loves everyone and show our support for the LGBTQ+ community. Please save the date and start thinking of how you want to be involved in this event.

There will be a Pride Eucharist hosted by Saint Joseph's, which is on the parade route, that evening at 6 pm. If you would like to be involved in the eucharist, there will be two planning meetings, one in late august and the other closer to the event. Please contact Lachlan Hassman, deacon at Saint Joseph's, who is spearheading the occasion.

We also hope to have a good group of Saint Luke's folks to walk in the parade and perhaps have a booth at the festival. If you would like to be involved in other Pride supportive activities either as an individual or as a church, please feel free to contact Bob Buchanan, Greg, or any member of the vestry with your ideas in order to coordinate with others. You can contact Bob at Bob.Buchanan@stlukesdurham.org.



St. Luke's Pilgrimage Planning Update

We are excited to share an update on pilgrimage opportunities at St. Luke's. Our first local pilgrimage will be to St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Durham on Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 AM. St. Barbara has a stunning nave filled with icons covering the ceilings and walls. Their priest will give us a tour and help us understand the richness, beauty, and theology of these icons. After our time at the church, we will gather for lunch at a local Greek restaurant. More details will be coming soon.

We have also been researching options for an international pilgrimage. Based on the strong interest in Scotland and Iona, we began exploring that possibility first. Unfortunately, housing on Iona is very limited and often booked more than a year in advance, so we are now considering Scotland and Iona as possibilities for 2028.

In the meantime, we are exploring a pilgrimage to Greece, following Paul's journey and visiting some of the places that shaped the life of the early church. This would give us a chance to walk through Scripture in a new way, learning more about Paul's ministry, the communities he helped form, and the world in which the early Christian movement began to spread. More details will be shared as plans develop.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm around pilgrimage at St. Luke's and look forward to the ways these journeys, both local and international, can deepen our faith, expand our understanding, and help us keep following Jesus together.



Interior of St. Barbara Church, Durham



Map of Paul's Journeys



PECAN SALE 2026



Orders will be taken in OCTOBER

~Payment at the time of orders

(Cash, check, Venmo, Square)

~A large selection ... plain, honey glazed,

milk chocolate, roasted & salted,

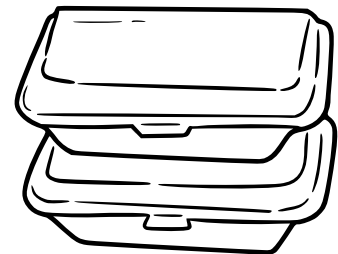
white chocolate, hot honey glazed, snack mix, & more!

Delivery before Thanksgiving.

Start your gift and baking lists now to be ready for the holidays!

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Styrofoam Recycling ?



Did you know there is a special case in which Styrofoam can be recycled? While clean Styrofoam food containers and packing peanuts (not the biodegradable ones) are not accepted at our municipal recycling centers, there is a place where they can be recycled into usable housing material. The Styrofoam collection sites are in Elon and Greensboro, so we need a volunteer to deliver our collection from St. Luke's to Greensboro or Elon regularly, depending on how quickly our collection grows. Are you interested in being that courier? The delivery can be made on a day and at a time convenient for you, and this would be an important ministry!

Once we have a volunteer courier, we will start collecting clean Styrofoam at church. Please contact the office or Wendy Cook for details.



The Green Team's Report



Thoughts for the Month

"When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times." – Matthew 16: 2-3

Summer **Green** Tips

Lacie from Teach Go Green has created 23 tips for an eco-friendly summer.

TIP 3 DON'T IDLE

Letting your car idle isn't great for the environment. According to the US Department of Energy, idling reduces your vehicle's fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does. (Argonne National Laboratory)

TIP 4 VISIT THE FARMER'S MARKET

You hear the phrase "buy local" often. What does it even mean? Put simply, buying local food supports farmers in your area and reduces the number of miles your food travels. So often our food (especially our fruits and vegetables!) is traveling hundreds of miles to get to our grocery store. In order to make sure these fruits and vegetables last, preservatives are often added to help keep the items "fresh". When your food doesn't have to travel as far, chemicals don't have to be added for preservation. In addition, visiting the farmer's market gives you the opportunity to buy what is in season. There is a difference in quality when you purchase food in season versus not.

Upcoming Green Event

TRIANGLE VEGFEST 2026

Durham Central Park /501 Foster St. Durham, NC 27701/September 13 | 12PM-5PM

Triangle Vegfest returns to the heart of Durham at beautiful Durham Central Park for an unforgettable afternoon of plant-based food, wellness, fitness, and community connection. Once again presented by Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge.

This outdoor festival brings together top vegan food vendors, local makers, eco-friendly brands, and health-focused businesses from across North Carolina and beyond. Enjoy delicious eats, refreshing drinks, live fitness demos, interactive wellness experiences, and family-friendly fun – all in one vibrant space.

Whether you're fully plant-based, veg-curious, or just looking for a fun way to spend your Sunday, Triangle Vegfest offers something for everyone. Hosted by Vegfest Expos and presented by Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge, this annual celebration highlights sustainability, health, and compassionate living in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

St. Luke's Solar Savings

St. Luke's solar savings for June 2026 were \$925.61. For 2026, the savings so far were \$4,306.79. Since installation, the total savings were \$35,992.24,



Announcing our 2026-27 season!

Sunday, September 27

Durham Savoyards

The Triangle's celebrated Gilbert & Sullivan troupe opens the season with an afternoon of lively G & S operetta selections.

Sunday, March 7

David Arcus Organ Recital

St. Luke's Music Director and renowned organist David Arcus presents a fine program showcasing the expressive range of the church's 3-manual pipe organ.

Sunday, April 11

An Afternoon with Jay Sidebotham

Beloved artist and author Jay Sidebotham offers a reflective and engaging program blending art, humor, and spiritual insight.

Sunday, May 16

Elizabeth June in Concert

Singer, writer, and actor Elizabeth June closes the season with an intimate concert of music rooted in hope, authenticity, and fun.

All events are at 4 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

stlukesdurham.org • 1737 Hillandale Rd
919 286 2273 • Durham NC 27705



July 30, 2026

A thank you for our donations to Venezuela

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KAYE SAUNDERS
1737 HILLANDALE RD
DURHAM NC 27705-3045



Dear Kaye:

Thank you for your generous \$161.56 gift to Episcopal Relief & Development, which we received on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

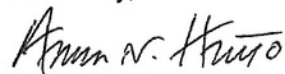
Today, millions of people who are part of our global community continue to face tremendous challenges from hunger, preventable illnesses, economic insecurity, regional conflicts and increasingly severe and frequent disasters. At a time when relief and development work is in jeopardy, your gift sustains our ability to reach so many people.

We continue to promote early childhood development, reduce violence against women and girls, build climate resilience and respond to disasters. Our partners continue to mobilize over 4 million people in their communities to overcome local challenges with courage, determination, and remarkable creativity.

We are currently addressing the damage left by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, keeping in daily contact with our local partners as they check in with congregations and communities. As more details come into focus, Episcopal Relief & Development is poised to deliver critical, sustained support throughout the evolving recovery process.

All of us at Episcopal Relief & Development are so grateful to have you as our partner. Together, we are making a profound difference for millions of people. Looking ahead, there is much more to accomplish. With your help, we know we can achieve lasting change and move closer to the transformed world and abundant life that God envisions for us all.

Faithfully,



Anna Hutto
Chief External Relations Officer, Executive Office

Your gift has been applied to the following Program Area(s) and/or Gifts for Life catalog item(s):

International Disaster Relief

Episcopal Relief & Development is an independent 501(c)(3) organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. No goods or services were provided to you by Episcopal Relief & Development in exchange for your donation.

815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

O: 855.312.4325
F: 212.687.5302

info@episcopalrelief.org
www.episcopalrelief.org

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

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.

For Children

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

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.

Flowers for Worship

We are deeply grateful that a florist from Iglesia El Buen Pastor ([Floralily Flower Shop](#)) has graciously offered to provide flowers for our weekly worship service at no cost. This is a generous gift to our shared life and worship.

We will continue to invite parishioners to give flowers in honor or memory of loved ones. On those Sundays, we will provide a special additional bouquet in recognition of that dedication.

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.

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
The Rev. Chris Redmon, Deacon in Residence
Chris Reed, Intern

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
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Address Service Requested
The art of living your faith