



From the Desk of the Rector

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Independence Day Holiday weekend and are refreshed or will be refreshed as the summer months continue to roll along. The coming months will be buzzing with services and activities at the parish as we continue to live out our theme for 2025: "Reset to the New Normal."

RESET

A few months ago, I extended a personal invitation to each one of you to become more active in the life of the parish. For those who responded with "yes," you were assigned to a Commission or Committee in order that we could not only reset to a new normal, but also in the hope to involve everyone in the life of the parish. If your Commission or Committee has not met or needs help getting started, please reach out to me or one of the Wardens. In order for our parish to thrive, Everyone must do their part. Everyone must be a part of the solution. Everyone must be a team player. Everyone must embrace the vision. Come share your time, talent, and treasure with the parish and our Lord and Savior.

For those of you who have a desire to serve more deeply in the parish, but have not found your niche, please come see me. Whether it is serving at the altar, serving a lector, etc., there is a place for Everyone at St. Luke's.

RENEW

The Wardens and I are fervently working with the diocese in order to ensure that we are up to code with all aspects of Canon Law. In a few weeks, I will update you on changes regarding the diocesan Safe Church Policy and the Bishop's and Diocesan Chancellor's official stance on Political Activity and 501(c)(3) Status. You will also be kept abreast of upcoming changes in how the parish office will function: what the parish office is and more importantly, what it is not.

As part of my duties as Rector, I am canonically required to review and update the parish register once a year for accuracy in membership; both active, inactive, and for those who should be removed due to uniting with other churches. This includes reviewing the roll for inactive members. Active membership means just that: active physically and/or financially, unless precluded by illness or some other issue that keeps a person from participating in the life, worship, and sacraments of the Church. Simply put, inactive status at its bare minimum is anyone who has not received the sacrament of Holy Communion at least three times in a year. These numbers are important as they are asked for in the yearly parochial report, determine how much the parish pays to live stream services, and play a role in calculating the monetary assessment for the parish is for the upcoming year. If you have a question regarding your membership status or that of a family member, please come and see me.

From the Desk of the Rector continued

I will continue to check in on our sick in and homebound parishioners. Let me say a word about this. If you desire a visit from me or wish to receive the Sacraments, you or someone from your family should inform me immediately. This includes hospital visits, pending surgical procedures, etc. I cannot extend pastoral care to you if I am unaware that you are in need or it isn't communicated to me.

I wish to thank those of you who helped bring the choir deficit current. We are no longer in the red. Your generous contributions are always needed in order that the parish can render music to you and our visitors each Sunday. Please continue to support the Choir. Like a presenter said at the recent clergy conference that I attended, "No one leaves the parish humming the sermon."

Thank all of you for continuing to support the parish financially. No amount is too big or too small. Everyone should give what the Holy Spirit has put upon your heart to give, and more importantly, everyone should do their best to honor the pledge made during our Stewardship Campaign. Keeping your pledges current maintains homeostasis in the parish and will keep the parish financially in the black. If you are unsure where you are in your pledge, please contact the parish office and/or the Treasurer.

RENAISSANCE

I am pleased with the progress that we have accomplished as a parish in these past six months. There is still much work to do. As we prepare to return to our normal routines, let us not remain normal in our thinking. As was stated in last week's Gospel lesson from Luke: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." St. Luke's is full of potential and possibilities for renewal, regrowth, and rebirth; but more laborers are needed. I do not buy into the overly used adage that "The Church is dying." The Church is not dying; it is the spirit within the people and the commitment to Christ that is dying. Much is expected from St. Luke's, and we cannot afford to look back at what used to be and what we used to do. Traditions can still be maintained and honored while forging a path for the future, with God's help.

In Peace,

Fr. Raphiell+

July 10, 2025

The Fourth Wednesday after Pentecost

In this edition

- St. Luke's men honored
- Day of Pentecost
- Highlights from church picnic
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- July liturgical calendar & Servants of the Lord
- July parish calendar

Men honored by the Archives Committee during the month of June



Herman Hickman, Ronald Turner, and Rudolph Wise, MD

Day of Pentecost

Red was the color of the day



Highlights from the Church Picnic





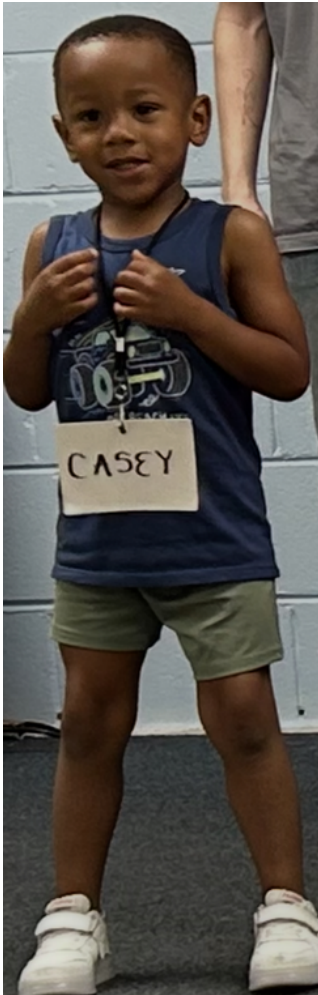
Fr. Raphiell participated in a week-long iconography workshop sponsored by Trinity Cathedral and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Fr+ was the recipient of the \$750 scholarship which covered the cost of the workshop.



Chorister **Elliott Brown** traveled to NY to sing at Wethersfield Estate and Gardens in Dutchess County, as a part of the Shared Voices Cohort in the Denyce Graves Foundation.



As a part of his continuing education **Fr. Raphiell** participated in the Marten Preaching Series on the campus of Notre Dame, in South Bend, IN. The theme of the conference was "Preaching the Paschal Mystery." Fr Raphiell, along with Fr. James Lyon, IV, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and others participate in the weeklong conference.



Casey Evans participated in Vacation Bible School with St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church. This was the first in what will become an initiative in collaboration with our neighboring churches.

Collin Murray-Boyles, grandson of parishioner **Carmen Murray**



Jun 25, 2025; Brooklyn, NY, USA; Collin Murray-Boyles stands with NBA commissioner Adam Silver after being selected as the ninth pick by the Toronto Raptors in the first round of the 2025 NBA Draft at Barclays Center. Mandatory Credit: Brad Penner-Imagn Images BRAD PENNER *Imagn Images*

For the first time in 20 years, a University of South Carolina basketball player was taken in the first round of the NBA Draft.

Lanier Lebby Alston, Hand Middle School named Teacher of the Year.



It was an honor receiving the Richland One's Superintendent Award!

<https://www.richlandone.org/school-board/watch-school-board-meeting-live>



July Liturgical Calendar & Servants for the Lord

July 6th - 10:00 am - Nave - The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: Father Raphiell

Epistle: Joni James

Prayers of the People: Father Raphiell

Chalice: Jaylen Caldwell

Ushers: Darnell Holmes

Oblation Bearers: Beverly & Ronald Turner

Acolytes: Jaylen Caldwell, Cory James, Herman Hickman

July 13 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: John Bowden

Epistle: Sheryl Belcher

Prayers of the People: Gloria Eaddy

Chalice: TBD

Ushers: Gloria Eaddy, Loretta Johnson, Daryl Hammond

Oblation Bearers: Beverly & Joseph Ray

Acolytes: TBD

July 20 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ante Communion Service - Officiant - Corliss Wise; Homilist - Reginald Reed

Old Testament Lesson: Cynthia Parker Reed

Epistle: Errol Porter

Prayers of the People: Cassandra Sims

Chalice: N/A

Ushers: Rachel Hall, James Kelley, Ronald Turner

Oblation Bearers: N/A

Acolytes: TBD

July 27 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Ante Communion Service - Officiant TBD; Homilist - Cynthia Parker Reed

Old Testament Lesson: Darnell Holmes

Epistle: Patricia Ancrum

Prayers of the People: Judy Battiste

Chalice: N/A

Ushers: Cynthia Goines, James Kelley, Ronald Turner

Oblation Bearers: N/A

Acolytes: Kennedy Johnson & Levi Johnson, Jr.

July Parish Calendar

Monday

7th - Parish Office Closed

14th, 21st, 28th - Rector's Day off

Tuesday

8th - Archives Committee - 10:30 - Archives Room - Griffin Hall

22nd - Buildings & Grounds - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Griffin Hall

Wednesday

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th - Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Hurley Music Room

30th - Endowment Committee - 12:30 pm - Griffin Hall

Thursday

3rd - Fresh Start - Closed for holiday

10th, 17th, 24th, 31st - Fresh Start Ministry - 9:00 am - 12:00 noon - The O'Neal Center

Friday

4th - Independence Day - Parish Office Closed

11th, 18th, 25th - Parish Office Closed; Rector's Sermon Prep/Spiritual Renewal Day

Saturday

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Parish Office Closed

12th - 2nd Saturday Feeding - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway

26th - 4th Saturday Feeding - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway

Sunday - See Liturgical Calendar

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1300 Pine Street/Columbia, South Carolina 29204
(803) 254-2327

St. Luke's Vestry

Class of 2025

Judy Battiste, Jr. Warden
Deadra Bowden
DeNell Hickman
Jean Indriago

Class of 2026

Yvonne Hall
Daryl Hammonds
Joni James
Errol Porter, Sr. Warden

Class of 2027

Robert Green
Angela Blalock
Joseph Ray
Rudolph Wise

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Patricia Ancrum, Clerk of the Vestry
Sheryl D. Belcher, Parish Secretary

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Karen Castelli, Website Administrator
Shauna Hicks, Newsletter Editor
Valerie Riley, Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry

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Patricia Cokley, Parish Treasurer
Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., Asst. Parish Treasurers
Sheryl D. Belcher, Assoc. Parish Treasurer

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www.facebook.com/stlukesolumbia YouTube: @Fr.Raphiell6290

“The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy.”

Louie Crew, author of 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian