

St Luke's Vestry

*Reset to the New Normal:
The Work Continues*

Class of 2026

Yvonne Hall
Beverly Turner, Jr. Warden
Joni James
Errol Porter, Sr. Warden

Class of 2027

Angela Blalock
Robert Green
Joseph Ray
Rudolph Wise

Class of 2028

Edwina Fields
Cynthia Goines
Herman Hickman
Cynthia Parker Reed

Clerk of the Vestry

Patricia Ancrum

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- Meet Patwin & Rev Cannon
- Birthday Wishes for March
- Staff Singers & Interim Organist
- Scenes from February
- Liturgical Calendar & Servants for the Lord
- Parish Calendar

Interested in publishing information in the newsletter? Submit all articles and photos (jpeg or other photo format) to shaunahicks24@gmail.com by the 20th of the month for the following month's publication.

Give Me a Clean Heart

From the Desk of the Rector

Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026, 13.02.2026

The following is the text of the Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026, on the theme: "Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion":

*Message of the Holy Father * Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through listening. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

From the Desk of the Rector continued

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”^[1]

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: “In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity.”^[2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.”^[3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since “austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic.”^[4]

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

From the Desk of the Rector continued***Together***

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

**From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
LEO PP. XIV**

^[1] Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* (4 October 2025), 9.

^[2] Augustine *The Usefulness of Fasting*, 1, 1.

^[3] Benedict XVI, *Catechesis* (9 March 2011).

^[4] Paul VI, *Catechesis* (8 February 1978).

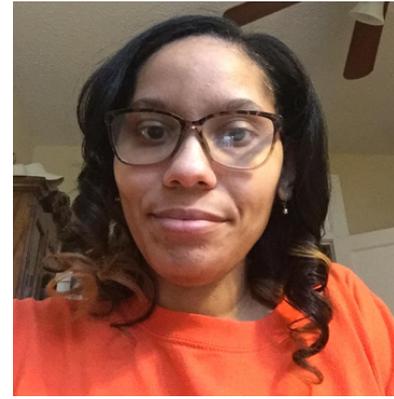
The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

Rector

March 1, 2026

St. Luke's Resident Artist - Milira Glenn

Milira is one of the 230 local artists selected to participate in the **8th Annual Cottonwood Art Crawl sponsored by Prisma Health on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 10 am to 4 pm.** With up to 7000 visitors, this free event is one of Columbia's largest neighborhood art festivals dedicated to promoting local artists, fostering community, and showcasing the historic Cottonwood neighborhood. In the event of rain, the makeup day for the event is Sunday, March 8th.



For the second year, Milira will exhibit anime digital paintings and have prints available for purchase. She will be located at the 2220 Marion Street location. *Come out for an enjoyable event and support Milira and other local artists., Your support is greatly appreciated. See you there!*

Thank you

Julia Meadow for your sixty yeears of service on the Altar Guild. You will be missed!



Welcome

Three new members to the **St. David's Ushers Guild of St. Luke's** – **Brian and Stephanie Baldwin**, and **Karen Castelli**.

Rector's Appointee - **Brian Baldwin to the Finance Committee**

Congratulations



Former Columbia councilman takes over SC State airwaves with jazz radio show. It's 'a big thrill.'

The "Jazz Man" Luther Battiste has spent years playing jazz on Columbia's airwaves. Now, he hosts JAZZ SETS every Saturday night on SC State's radio, WSSB.

pc Post and Courier /



Lanier Lebbly Alston from Hand Middle School, Richland School District I, Family and Consumer Sciences, named AAFCS National Teacher of the Year Merit Finalist

Congratulations

Beverly Turner, St. Luke's new Junior Warden



Beverly Turner will be installed as the new Junior Warden on March 1st. She comes to the position with many years of community service and leadership under her belt.

In January of this year, she was appointed to a leadership role in the National Association of University Women, Columbia, SC branch. She is also a charter, Life Member and Golden Soror in Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. Omega Gamma Omega (OGO) Chapter. Beverly is the new chaplain for this chapter. The OGO chapter provides service to all mankind in the greater Columbia area including Blythewood and Northeast Columbia. Beverly has been a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for 58 years, joining in 1968. Other AKA members at NAUW Columbia Branch includes Lorando Melton, President, Lillie James and Jackie Nelson, former President and Dorothy Walker.

Welcome Beverly to her new role. We look forward to her continued leadership and dedication to St Luke's Episcopal Church.



Happy Birthday wishes to

- 4 - Justin Hickman
- 12 - Beverly Turner
- 13 - Herman Hickman
- 15 - Stephanie Baldwin
- 30 - Vickie Williams

Meet new member - Patwin Lawrence



Patwin Lawrence, son of the late CSM (Ret.) Samuel Lawrence Jr. and Margaret Barnes Suber, is a native of Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina. As an army brat, he grew up in several US states and in Germany. He has long held a deep love for history and historic preservation. Patwin holds a B.A. in History from the College of Charleston, where he was the recipient of the Charleston Cultural and Scientific Fund grant for his genealogical and historical research into Charleston's antebellum free African American community. An amateur genealogist for over thirty years, he has traced his family lineage back to the early 1720s and is currently writing a book, *Seeds of Palmetto & Pine*, which explores his South Carolina roots in the Midlands and throughout the Lowcountry.

Patwin Lawrence is also a seasoned financial operations and process improvement professional with nearly two decades of experience spanning community banking, healthcare, retail, and finance environments. He has worked for Target Corporation, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America; served as Senior Operations Manager for Optus Bank (formerly the historic Victory Savings Bank); and currently works in healthcare operations at Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina.

In community service, Patwin was a co-founder and former Director of TORCH Community, a major Twin Cities young professional nonprofit organization; a gubernatorial appointee to the Minnesota State Council on Black Minnesotans, where he served three of his four-year term as board chair; and a member of the Minneapolis Urban League's Board of Directors. More recently, he served as a co-chair of Charlotte's Mint Museum Coined in the South Biennial Art Show from 2021 to 2025 and as a member of the museum's Contemporary Collections Board.

Patwin has been an Episcopalian since his confirmation at St. Philip's Church in Charleston in 1995. He has served as a Sunday school teacher, adult education lead, lay reader, and lay Eucharistic minister. In his leisure time, Patwin enjoys golfing, tennis, reading, attending events, and sharing good food, drinks, and conversation with friends and family. He resides here in northeast Columbia and enjoys a grateful to call this parish home.

Community



Fresh Start Ministry News

Submitted by Valerie Riley

Meet Fresh Start Newest Board Member

Last month you were introduced to the newest member of the Fresh Start Ministry, Rev Cannon. He is currently volunteering at Fresh Start on Thursdays, providing prayers and a listening spirit to those in need. If you see Rev. Cannon, please introduce yourself and welcome him to the ministry.



Meet the staff singers

Staff singers on the St. Luke's choir are contracted to sing in the choir for the academic year, September 2025 through May 2026. Featured below from left to right: **Samuel "Sammy" Oconce**, a senior Music Education major at US of C. He loves choral singing, music theory, and playing board games with friends. Next semester he will be student teaching and later hopes to teach either elementary or middle school music. **Madeline Rose Macry** is a junior Vocal Performance Major at US of C. She is a part of the Opera at the university, as well as musical theater. **Anne Mozeleski** is a senior Psychology major with a minor in music at US of C. She loves singing, painting, sewing, crocheting, and any other area she gets the opportunity to try. She hopes to continue her education with a PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology. **Choral Scholar - Kaiyah Robinson** is a senior Biology major with a pre-health concentration at Allen University, where she serves as President of the Concert Choir. She is committed to service, leadership, and encouraging others through music and community involvement. After graduation, Kaiyah plans to pursue a career in healthcare and cancer research, combining compassion, science, and her desire to help others.



Welcome our interim supply organist - Ezra Blackwell



Ezra Blackwell is a recent graduate of Hillsdale College where he studied organ with Dr. Derek Stauff and sang in the Choral Scholars program led by Dr. Timothy McDonnell. In high school he studied in First Presbyterian's Organ Scholar program and was a member of the Youth Chorus.



March 1 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Second Sunday in Lent - The Holy Eucharist: Rite I with the Great Litany Installation of Beverly Turner to the Vestry

Old Testament Lesson: Brian Baldwin

Epistle: Joni James

Prayers of the People: DeNell Hickman

Chalice: Marie Martin

Oblation Bearers: Valencia & Daryl Hammonds

Ushers: Judy Battiste, Darnell Holmes, Maxima Holmes

Acolytes: Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman

Supply Organist: Ezra Blackwell

March 8 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Third Sunday in Lent - The Holy Eucharist Rite I

12:00 noon - Parish Hall - Fr. Lyon, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd will meet to discuss Fr. Raphiell's Sabbatical

Old Testament Lesson: Beverly Turner

Epistle: Christine Counts-Davis

Prayers of the People: Karen Castelli

Chalice: Sheryl Belcher

Oblation Bearers: Maxima & Darnell Holmes

Ushers: Gloria Eaddy, Rachel Hall, Darnell Holmees

Acolytes: Jaylen Caldwell, Valencia Hammonds

Supply Organist: Ezra Blackwell

March 15 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Laetare Sunday & Mothering Sunday - The Holy Eucharist: Rite I

Old Testament Lesson: Valencia Hammonds

Epistle: Errol Porter

Prayers of the People: Rachel Hall

Chalice: Cynallyhia Indriago

Oblation Bearers: Stephanie Baldwin

Ushers: Daryl Hammonds, Loretta Johnson, Venesia Johnson

Acolytes: Isabella Bracy, DeNell Hickman, Cynallyhia Indriago

Supply Organist: Ezra Blackwell

March 22 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Fifth Sunday in Lent - The Holy Eucharist Rite I

Old Testament Lesson: Beverly Ray

Epistle: DeNell Hickman

Prayers of the People: Corliss Wise

Chalice: Paulette Parker-Smith

Oblation Bearers: Judy & Luther Battiste

Ushers: James Kelley, Beverly & Joseph Ray

Acolytes: Jaylen Caldwell

Supply Organist: Ezra Blackwell

March 29 - 9:45 am - The O'Neal Center - The Liturgy of the Palms

10:00 -Nave - The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday - The Holy Eucharist Rite I

Old Testament Lesson: Kennedy Johnson

Epistle: Cory James

Prayers of the People: Isabella Bracy

Chalice: Jaylen Caldwell

Oblation Bearers: Deadra & Stephen Baldwin

Ushers: Darnell Holmes, Ronald Turner, Rudolph Wise

Acolytes: Isabella Bracy, Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman, Cynallyhia Indriago, Cori James, Kennedy Johnson

Supply Organist: Ezra Blackwell

Monday

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd - Rector's day off

2nd - Historic Waverly Community Meeting - 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm - Bishop's Memorial AME Church, 2221 Washington St.

23rd - Lenten Tea Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Griffin Hall

Tuesday

3rd - Wardens Meeting with Rector - 5:30 pm - Griffin Hall

10th - Archives Committee. - 10:30 am - 1:00 pm - Archives Room
- Finance Committee - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Griffin Hall

17th - Vestry Meeting - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Griffin Hall

24th - Buildings and Grounds - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Griffin Hall

31st - Clergy Renewal of Vows and Chrism Mass - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Trinity Cathedral

Wednesday

4th - Adult Formation with Morning Prayer Rite I - Leader: Cynthia Parker Reed - 10:30 am - Griffin Hall. (Morning Prayer 10:30 am, Adult Formation 11:00 am - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Chancel

18th - Quilters and Crafters - 10:30 am - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall

25th - Quilters & Crafters - 10:30 am - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall

Thursday

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Fresh Start Ministry - 9:00 am - 12:00 noon - The O'Neal Center

5th - First Thursday Lunch & Learn - 12:00 noon - 12:45 pm - Griffin Hall

19th - Bylaws Committee - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Friday

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Parish Office Closed; Rector's Spirituality Day. - Sermon Prep/Spiritual Direction Day

Saturday

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Parish Office Closed

14th - 2nd Saturday Feeding - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway

21st - Acolyte Instruction/Refresher (Interested persons are also invited to attend) - 10:30 am - Griffin Hall

Daughters of the King - 3:00 pm - Griffin Hall

28th - 4th Saturday Feeding - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway

Sunday - See Liturgical Calendar

1st, 8th, 15th - Confirmation Class - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall

1st & 15th - Memorial Garden Committee Meeting - 12:45 pm - Griffin Hall

15th - **LAST DAY TO PLACE ORDERS FOR EASTER LILLIES**

TBD - **Leading the Daily Office and Lay Eucharistic Minister Training**

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

The Reverend C. Raphiell Ashford, Rector

Sheryl D. Belcher, Parish Secretary

~

Karen Castelli, Website Administrator

Shauna Hicks, Newsletter Editor

Valerie Riley, Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry

~

Patricia Cokley, Parish Treasurer

Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., Asst. Parish
Treasurers

Sheryl D. Belcher, Assoc. Parish Treasurer

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“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