



From the Desk of the Rector

Last month we were fortunate to hear two Stewardship messages given by persons from outside of the Church; Dr. Baron Davis, and Mr. Chris Rey, J.D., President of Barber-Scotia College in Concord, NC. Dr. Davis spoke on "Faith without Work." President Rey used our Vestry Theme and wove it into telling of his own story, the resurrection of Barber-Scotia College, and challenged us to look at Stewardship through a different lens.

He began his talk by reading II Corinthians 9:6-8 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"

The following are excerpts from his presentation. I've listened to his presentation at least four times over the week.

He said...

The New Normal requires New Resets: When the work resets; God reveals. He challenged us to reset our Stewardship, to tithe/give even when it doesn't make sense on paper, and to give God your first; not your last. We were reminded to trust. Stewardship is not about giving what you have left over.

Using the example of the Widow's Mite, found in Luke 21:1-4, he stated the Stewardship should be viewed similarly. "And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."

Stewardship should not be measured by the size of the gift, but by the size of the sacrifice. It is not about what is in your hand, but what is in your heart. We should practice faithful giving, for if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly.

Lastly, we were encouraged to reset our vision, trust, and joy. Resetting our vision requires not giving just to maintain; but giving to expand. We should plant seed for ministries not yet imagined. We should dream bigger.

Resetting our trust requires not giving out of fear, but giving out of faith. Resetting our joy requires us to not give grudgingly, but to give with cheerfulness. Giving should not be perceived as a task; giving should be experienced as a part of worship. Every offering should be seen as a "Thank you, God." God has not changed. He will provide.

As mentioned earlier, his presentation has remained with me all week. Whether you heard it in person or watched it on your television or computer, hopefully something that you heard resonated with you; awakened something anew in you and your thoughts on Stewardship.

The service ended with the singing of two hymns which we as parishioners and a body should keep close to our hearts: "Revive Us Again," and "All my Hope on God Is Founded."

I will end my reflection with his words that you read earlier: "Giving is not about the size of the gift, but the size of the sacrifice." God sacrificed his Son for our salvation. Can't we sacrifice so that God's house can be maintained, new dreams imagined, and visions made clearer. We can if we change our hearts.

In Peace,

Fr. Raphiell+
All Saints' Day, 2025

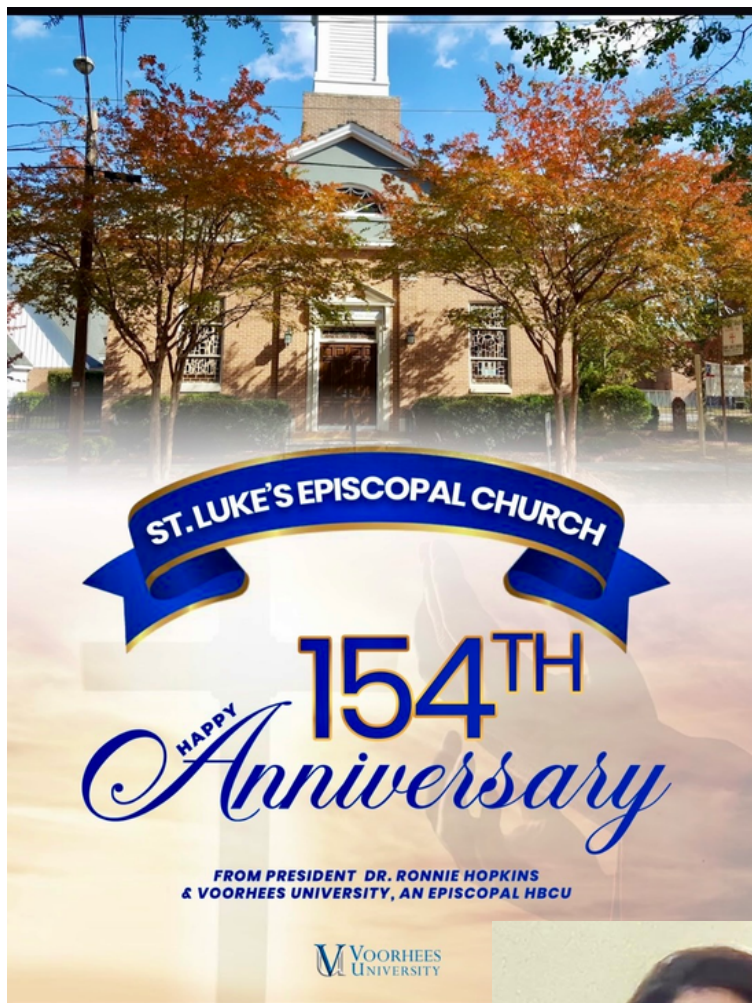
- Congratulations to Elliott Brown!
 - St. Luke's 154th Anniversary
 - Highlights from the Month of October
 - Liturgical Calendar & Servants for the Lord
 - September Parish Calendar
-

Congratulations choirister Elliott Brown



St. Luke's Episcopal Church 154th Anniversary

Page 4



Thankful for the mutual relationship between St. Luke's and Voorhees University, one of two Episcopal sponsored HBCUs left in the United States



Guest Speaker Dr. Naida Rutherford, the first woman, the first medical professional, and the first African American to hold the title of Coroner in the 178 year history of the office in Richland County.

Highlights from the month of October



The first black woman to graduate from the University of South Carolina, Dr. Henrie Monteith Treadwell. Others in attendance were Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph Wise, Dr. Eddie Glenn and Ms. Cynthia Parker Reed



D9 Representation of Stewardship Sunday II



President Rey and members of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc with Fr. Raphiell

November Liturgical Calendar & Servants for the Lord

November 2 - 10:00 am - Nave - All Saints' Sunday w/the Reading of the Necrology, Tables of Remembrance, and Asperges with - The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: Joni James

Epistle: Christine Counts-Davis

Prayers of the People: Fr. Raphiell

Chalice: Paulette Parker-Smith

Oblation Bearers: Ja'Vell Bynoe, Joni James

Ushers: Rudolph Wise, Beverly Ray, Joseph Ray

Acolytes: Jaylen Caldwell, Quintin and Valencia Hammonds, DeNell and Herman Hickman, Cory James

November 9 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: TBD

Epistle: TBD

Prayers of the People: Gloria Eaddy

Chalice: Sheryl Belcher

Oblation Bearers: Gwendolyn Meadows, Corliss Wise

Ushers: Gloria Eaddy, Darnell Holmes, Ronald Turner

Acolytes: Isabella Bracy, Jaylen Caldwell, Herman Hickman, Cynallyhia Indriago, Cory James

November 16 - 10:00 am - Nave - The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: Patricia Ancrumm

Epistle: Errol Porter

Prayers of the People: Karen Castelli

Chalice: Marie Martin

Oblation Bearers: Gloria Eaddy, Cassandra Sims

Ushers: Rachel Hall, Darnell Holmes, Rudolph Wise

Acolytes: Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman, Herman Hickman

November 23rd - 10:00 am - Nave - The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King - The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: Deadra Bowden

Epistle: Paulette Parker-Smith

Prayers of the People: Stephanie Baldwin

Chalice: Corliss Wise

Oblation Bearers: Luther and Judy Battiste

Ushers: Loretta Johnson, Venesia Johnson, James Kelley

Acolytes: Isabella Bracy, Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman, Cynallyhia Indriago, Cory James

November 26th - 6:00 pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service - The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Old Testament Lesson: TBD

Epistle: TBD

Prayers of the People: Fr. Raphiell+

Chalice: Fr. Raphiell+

Oblation Bearers: Rudolph Wise, Jr.

Ushers: TBD

Acolytes: TBD

November 30th - 10:00 am - Nave - The First Sunday of Advent - The Holy Eucharist Rite I

Old Testament Lesson: TBD

Epistle: TBD

Prayers of the People: TBD

Chalice: TBD

Oblation Bearers: Cynthia Goines, Audrey Smith

Ushers: Beverly Ray, Joseph Ray, Daryl Hammonds

Acolytes: TBD

Monday

3rd - Rector teaching class on "The Reformation" at SCSU - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon - SC State University
- Historic Waverly Community Association Meeting - 6:00 - 7:15 pm - Bishop Memorial AME Church
10th, 17th, 24th - Rector's Day off

Tuesday

4th - Board of Examining Chaplains Meeting - 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Trinity Cathedral
11th - Veterans Day - **Parish Office Closed**
- Finance Committee (TBD) - 3:00 - 4:00 pm
18th - Vestry Meeting - 6:00 - 7:30 pm - Griffin Hall
25th - Buildings and Grounds - 5:30 - 6:30 pm - Griffin Hall

Wednesday

5th - Adult Formation with Morning Prayer: Rite II; Presenter: Julia Meadows - 10:30 am - 12 noon - Griffin Hall
5th, 12th, 19th, Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Chancel
12th - Altar Guild - Time TBD

Thursday

6th, 13th, 20th - Fresh Start Ministry - 9:00 am - 12:00 noon - The O'Neal Center - **27th CLOSED**
6th - First Thursday Advocacy Lunch & Learn - SC 2026 HIV Prevention and Care Plan - 12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm - Griffin Hall. (Lunch provided)
- Deanery 1 - Clergy Bible Study/Check-in with Bishop - St. Martin's in the Fields Episcopal Church - 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Board of Examining Chaplains Meeting - Trinity Cathedral - 1:00 pm
- Clergy Group - 2:00 - 4:00 pm
20th - Columbia Operatic Laboratory - TBD

Friday

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Parish Office Closed; Rector's Sermon Prep/Spiritual Direction Day
7th - Columbia Operatic Laboratory - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Nave
14th - 103rd Diocesan Convention - The Episcopal Church of the Advent, Spartanburg, SC - 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
21st - Columbia Operatic Laboratory Anniversary Concert - 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Nave

Saturday

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th - **Parish Office Closed**
1st - **All Saints Day**
- St. Luke's Bazaar - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - The O'Neal Center
- Memorial Garden Decoration for All Saints' Sunday - 9:15 am - 10:15 am, Memorial Garden
8th - Allen University Parade - Rector Participates - 10:00 am
- 2nd Saturday Feeding - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway
15th - 103rd Diocesan Convention - continues - 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Columbia Operatic Laboratory - 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Nave
22nd - 4th Saturday Feeding - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway

Sunday - See Liturgical Calendar

9th - **The Blessing of the Pledge Cards**
- **The Installation of New Daughters of the King Daughters**
16th - **Annual Parish Meeting - 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Griffin Hall**
- Evensong - Officiant: Fr Raphiell+ - 4:00. - 5:00 pm - Trinity Cathedral
26th - Memorial Garden Committee - 11:45 am - Griffin Hall

FIRST THURSDAY ADVOCACY LUNCH & LEARN

FREE!

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us in-person or virtually for a Community Conversation in partnership with SC HIV Planning Council (HPC). Help shape SC's 2026 HIV Prevention & Care Plan. This will be a Community Listening Session facilitated by HPC Consultant Trish Wampler centering the voices of communities affected by HIV to identify needs, barriers, and service gaps—including STIs and hepatitis. Your input will guide SC's 5-year plan submitted to CDC & HRSA for funding!

6 November 2025

12:00pm-2:00pm:
In-person lunch and program
12:30pm-1:30pm:
Program-See Zoom option below

In-Person Location

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1300 Pine St. (at Lady St.)
Columbia, SC 29204

RSVP to David Alexander at
David.alexander@ahf.org
(803) 397-9723

Virtual Zoom Option



Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8029605058>



10th Anniversary Concert

Friday, November 21st, 2025

7:00 PM • St. Luke's Episcopal Church



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



@COLUMBIAOPERATICLABORATORY

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE/14RDEUIVAAI/](https://www.facebook.com/SHARE/14RDEUIVAAI/)

FRESH START MINISTRY'S



2nd Annual Holiday Gala

Saturday, December 6, 2025

5 pm – 8 pm

**Still Hopes Retirement Center
1 Still Hopes Drive, West Columbia, SC**

RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION

~ DINNER ~

PROGRAM

Tickets: Visit Our Website
www.stlukescolasc.org or use the QR Code



\$75 until Nov 25th \$100 until Dec 5th

For more information call (803) 319-7981

Attire: Semi-Formal

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

Angela Blalock
Robert Green
Joseph Ray
Rudolph Wise

~

Patricia Ancrum, Clerk of the Vestry
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

stlukesolumbia@gmail.com (Email) <http://www.stlukescolasc.org> (Website)
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