

ST. LUKE'S 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



St. Luke's Church

Anglican (Episcopal)

The Parish Church of the Mountains

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The Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Georgia

The Parish Church of the Mountains

2021 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

JANUARY 23, 2022

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint, teach me Lord, teach me Lord to wait

Opening Prayer The Rev. Victor Morgan

Approval of Minutes of the Sr. Warden, Dr, Al Cash
2021 Annual Meeting (Attached)

Current Vestry Members: Sr. Warden, Al Cash; Jr. Warden, Jim Noblett; Rosanne Johnston; William “Bill” Trotter; Neil McDonald; Lauren Burgreen; Bob Bradley and Jennifer Higdon

Election of Jr. Warden:
The nominee is: Jim Noblett

Review Reports of 2021 Parish Group Activities

Review 2022 Budget (Attached)

Rector’s Remarks The Rev. Victor H. Morgan

Closing Prayer The Rev. Victor H. Morgan

Adjournment

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

This recently past year has been one of starts and stops. It began with high hopes that two jabs of a newly created vaccine would banish Covid, and significant inroads were made throughout the first half of the year which indicated this was in fact taking place.

Masks came off, and most people resumed normal activities with a minimum amount of fear. Then came several variants and the return of uncertainty, but also a 'booster' and hope. At this present moment, an up-surge in infections has again put the world on guard. The seesaw continues to go up and down.

The bright spot in this turmoil is that the work of the Gospel has continued at St. Luke's. Jesus and His saving purposes have not ceased and continue to be sounded out Sunday by Sunday. Work in the community outside the church continues to go forward. **I**

The year 2021 has been one of education and the equipping of God's people. A tip of the Canterbury cap to St. Luke's Education Committee and the Women of St. Luke's for providing classes and studies throughout the past 12 months.

In Lent and Eastertide, "The Bible Course" captured the attention of many. This well-made course sponsored by the Bible Society in Great Britain provided a framework for understanding the biblical story. Instead of these stories from Genesis to Revelation being left like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle on a table, they were put together so the big picture could be seen.

During the same period, the Women of St. Luke provided for their members a study of Revelation, a book that has puzzled many over the course of Christian history. I was pleased to be invited to sit in on this study. Facilitators Teresa Wankel, Judy Brooten and Jodi Beauregard (I pray I am not forgetting anyone) did a magnificent job in 'unlocking the code'. Above all, those attending these sessions were reassured of God's hand in history and the future, final vindication of His people.

After a summer hiatus, classes returned in autumn. In the Michaelmas term, the focus shifted from the biblical story to discovering our place in that story. N.T. Wright's *Simply Christian* proved to be an invaluable guide.

Many thanks to Roger Johnson and Pat Dearing, Chairmen, for their wise and capable leadership. The education committee will be meeting in a few weeks to chart out a program of study for 2022. I hope St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans can be a part of the mix, as I have been itching for some time to bring its riches to members and friends of St. Luke's.

Education at St. Luke's, this past year, included not only resources for adults but also for children. As the year began, I had no intention of writing a book, but that came about as well. After God, I give the lion-share of credit for this book taking shape to Elin Thoresen. She was the impetus for putting together *A Faith of My Own: Preparing for Confirmation*, as the one on whom the material was first tried. The workbook is now on sale on Amazon, and orders are being received as far away as California.

Let me conclude my remarks on education by saying that the more we know, the more we can do. The goal is not head knowledge alone but gaining the tools and understanding that will enable us to live out the Gospel in the world and above all to be witnesses.

The West may well be entering a new dark age as Bible knowledge decreases, as God-centered worship is replaced by man-centered entertainment in many churches, as God is banished from public life, as education declines and is perverted, as hedonism and violence become the order of the day; yet all is not lost. With challenges and obstacles comes opportunities and additional graces. For such a time as this we have been brought into the Kingdom.

On another topic, one of the goals held up at the beginning of 2021 was bringing our audio and visual equipment up to par. This goal, thanks to St. Luke's IT genius and guru Jim Noblett and the generosity of many has been achieved.

On any given Sunday we have 50 or more viewers – some far away as Canada. The participation of these is greatly appreciated. We need to give them our best, and that is what have done and intend to continue to do.

Where do we want to go in 2022?

I would like to see us look for ways to reach out -- not just those in faraway places – but to people in our own backyard. All around us are people, with more moving in all the time. How do we reach them? I invite you to pray and give earnest attention to this question. I further encourage you to share with me and other members of our team here at St. Luke's any thoughts and suggestions you may come up with.

People are wired for God. Wherever they come from, whatever their race or socio-economic status, whatever their past, they need something more than food, clothing, shelter and entertainment. St. Augustine of Hippo perhaps said it best: “Thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee.”

You and I have what they require. Our calling from God is to bring to them the light, hope and healing that we have received ... to pass it on. As the parish church, we are not a members-only club, we are here for everyone. “Parish” refers to a geographical area serviced by a church. Our parish is outside those double red doors. So, let’s think big and act boldly to be who we are.

Allow me to close by thanking all who have worked so tirelessly in 2021. Much has been achieved, but much remains to be done. “Come, labor on!”

VERGER’S REPORT:

W. A. “TONY” MCCONNELL

Greetings from the Verger

My goodness, have we not been on one heck of a roller coaster ride over the last year or so...The Covid pandemic has had all of us making major changes to our lives in an effort to remain healthy and functioning. Unfortunately, some of us have been stricken more than others and have seen far too many of our family members, friends and neighbors become serious victims of this terrible scourge.

Rough waters, too be sure but even as we acknowledge the past, we must look up and forward with prayerful confidence that our faith in Christ will carry us through and give us the strength, discernment and courage to face any challenges that may lay ahead.

An excellent way to continue life's journey in a positive and productive way is to get involved in the life of St. Luke's. An organization such as ours can only remain vital when we, the congregation, keep it going with our time, talents and treasure. ALL of us can do SOMETHING. There are so many functions that need constant or casual, frequent or occasional attention that there is something for everyone. Ranging from altar service to sending notes of care and concern, there are many ways that each of us can contribute in some way.

Here are a few ideas:

1. Choir – We need ‘em all
2. Usher Service – Greet Folks and keep your eyes and ears open.
3. Acolyte--Assist the clergy present the Sacred Liturgy.
4. Lay Reader/Lector—Know how to read? You're in.
5. St. Luke's Men's Group—Helping to fix stuff
6. Women of St. Luke's— Doing whatever needs to be done and raising money
7. Outreach Committee- Taking care of each other and our neighbors
8. Education Committee-Helping to spread the Good News
9. Vestry -Interested in serving on the board?
10. Security Committee- Helping to keep us all safe.
11. Communications – Helping to keep us all connected: Phone, notes, cards, etc.

And it goes without saying, that St. Luke's will always need the continued financial support of its friends and family.

Anything else? Oh yes, lots. Do you have a special skill or interest? I'm quite sure the rector and vestry would welcome your ideas, input and participation.

Please bring it up in your next conversation with the Lord. No doubt He will lead you in the right direction.

Peace and Blessings in His Holy Name,
Deacon Tony McConnell Verger

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

AL CASH

Calendar Year 2021

- 2021 was an outstanding year for St. Luke's, even as the COVID pandemic ravaged our country. Our accomplishments as a Church and as a member of the community are many – thanks to the dedication and loyalty of each and every member of our Parish Church of the Mountains.

- Of note is our Strategic Plan which requires an annual review and update. A committee was formed and has revised the Plan's language to reflect the completion of several previous directives and to add new goals established this year. The updated Plan now appears on our website.
- Our website remains dynamic – with frequent updates of photos, columns, sermons, events and much more. We encourage you to visit the site frequently for those updates, as well as special announcements and the Church activities calendar. As a reminder, the Members' page password is John316.
- Our annual church events were quite successful – they include:
 - The WSL had a super busy – and quite successful year with their yard Sale, Fall Fest, Christmas bazaar, and several other projects. Many thanks to Theresa Wankel and her outstanding ladies for their amazing work.
 - The SLMG continues their parishioner assistance projects in a momentous year of outreach. They had a tremendously successful “Things that Guys Like” garage sale, organized and hosted by Neil McDonald. Many thanks to you, Sir, and to your talented group of men.
 - We had a wonderful string of excellent Teaching Tuesday's classes, and anticipate a great new curriculum scheduled for this year. All with thanks to the Education Committee and all of our instructors.
- This year, the Vestry accepted the resignation of Roger Johnson. Through the Vestry nomination protocol, Jennifer Higden was selected as Roger's replacement.
- In other Vestry changes, Jr. Warden Jim Noblett's term expires in January 2022. Jim has offered to stay in the position of Jr. Warden, notwithstanding that the Vestry will accept other nominations from the congregation at large.
- We acknowledge and salute our secretary this past year – the wonderfully pleasant and capable Kathryn Noblett. Thank you, Kathryn, for all the splendid work you do. Also, we have a new Treasurer - Mr. D.J. Fulton, who is in his 2nd month of duties, and already contributing sound advice on a number of issues already. We are thrilled to have you aboard, D.J. We cannot close that chapter without a word about our past Treasurer, Mr. Bob Morgan. Bob kept a close eye on every budget line item and made several improvements in the reporting forms. He also led us to some investments that we've never been able to do in years past. Thank you, Bob.
- As 2022 unfolds there will be much work, and continued planning in furtherance of our Lord's work, and specifically for St. Luke's. Let us remember these words from Jeremiah – Chapter 29, Verse 11;

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:

JIM NOBLETT

After a very trying year in 2020, January 2021 was greeted with optimism since the Covid Pandemic showed signs of dissipating and life was getting back to near normal. St. Luke’s was back to worshipping God in our church building as well as continuing parking lot and internet services.

As activity increased, there were needs to make repairs and upgrades to our facilities. We completed the following projects with the very much appreciated help of the St. Luke’s Men’s Group (SLMG):

- Spring Parish wide cleanup for Easter (even though the Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled for another year).
- Several light fixtures in the kitchen and Thomason Hall were replaced with LED fixtures or bulbs. This is an ongoing project, which will replace bulbs and fixtures as the old ones fail.
- We ordered and replaced the main church sign with a new and updated one made of a composite material that should last indefinitely.
- Desperately needed repairs to our Pavilion were accomplished with the invaluable help of the SLMG and several of our friends from Holy Cross in Tennessee. The Pavilion is now in great shape.

The audio mixer/amplifier was quickly failing and was replaced with a new digital mixer with vastly increased capabilities. The SLMG also fabricated and installed a new work surface in the audio/visual cubicle for the new equipment which was larger than the old mixer.

To increase safety and visibility for events after nightfall, we installed a set of pathway lights down the driveway of the church.

In addition, outside contractors did the following projects:

- The carpet in the Narthex which had separated from the transitions between the tile and carpet was repaired.
- Repairing the degraded wood frames of several of our beautiful stained-glass windows.
- Installing monitored smoke detectors in the main church building and basement as well as the Parish House. We have many irreplaceable objects and records in both buildings and this new system will allow us to find out in a timely fashion if we have a problem in either place.

The church carpet was cleaned by two of our ladies, Jennifer Higdon and Kathryn Noblett. It looks great.

2021 was a momentous year for St. Luke’s, thanks be to God. Our facilities are in good shape, although we will need to replace the roof of the Parish House in the near future. I want to thank all the Clergy and Parishioners for all their support and patience during the year, it is immensely helpful to me.

In His Service
Jim Noblett

Women of St Luke's Annual Report for 2021

**“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:14-16 New King James Version (NKJV)**

The Women of St Luke's are highly active in the life here at St Luke's Church and in the extended community. We serve on the Altar Guild and as ushers, Acolytes, Lay Readers and Vestry members. We are members of Fellowship and Outreach, Education and Memorial Garden committees. Several of our group also volunteer at the local Food Pantry and are involved at Feed Fannin and with Toys for Tots.

This year we planned and participated in fund raising events including our annual Yard Sale and our annual Christmas Bazaar. Both were remarkable successes.

Yard Sale: \$3246.53

Christmas Bazaar: \$8637.51

Proceeds from these events fund our outreach programs. For 2021 these included Fannin County Family Connection, Feed Fannin, Good Samaritan Fund, Her Hope Pregnancy Center in Blue Ridge, Immanuel Church, Safe Choice Pregnancy Center in Ellijay, Snack-in-a-Backpack, Sunny D Children's Theater Camp and the Women's Enrichment Center in Blairsville. Proceeds from these events are also set aside in our Benevolence Fund which is used to assist St Luke's parishioners and the extended community as needs arise.

In addition to the above, we hosted our annual Wine and Cheese/Toys for Tots social which garnered a box full of toys as well as financial donations for Toys for Tots. In early December, members of the WSL gathered at the church and assembled gift bags which were delivered to the North Court apartment residents. We ended 2021 with the WSL Ladies Christmas luncheon hosted by Judy Brooten and Jodi Beauregard. It was an afternoon of food, fun and frivolity and will hopefully become an annual event.

Our winter Bible study provides a respite from the busyness of the holiday season and is a wonderful way to begin the new year. Last year we dove into the book of Revelation. What a wonderful, eye-opening study it was. I think all participants would agree we ended that study with a much better understanding of and appreciation for the last book of the Bible. Our thanks to Judy Brooten

and Jodi Beauregard for facilitating the sessions. This year's Bible study will be on Prayer.

We invite all women to join this active and vibrant group in our mission to serve Christ, our Church, and our community. The WSL meets every other month on the second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Yellow Room and via Zoom.

Thanks be to God for His continuing blessings.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Wankel, President , WSL

ALTAR GUILD REPORT:

TERESA WANKEL

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining, and caring for the sacred vessels and altar linens and serving the clergy and parish.

The Rector, Victor Morgan, is the head of the St Luke's Altar Guild, which functions under his guidance and direction. Altar Guild members should be congregants confirmed in the Anglican Church and should view their service as a sacred duty.

Members of the St Luke's Altar Guild are:

Jean Allen
Priscilla Cashman
Teresa Wankel
Patsy Williams
Meredith Yacavone

A special thank you to Anna Bradley, Priscilla Cashman, and Jennifer Higdon for supplying and arranging greenery for the altar during Lent and Advent.

We gladly welcome anyone who would like to serve in this ministry. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Altar Guild, please contact anyone of the members listed above.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Wankel

ST. LUKE'S MEN'S GROUP 2021 ANNUAL SUMMARY

OFFICERS: Neil McDonald is Chairman and Bob Morgan served as Secretary/Treasurer through November. Currently, Deacon Tony McConnell is our secretary, and Bob Bradley is Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP: All men who attend St. Luke's services are considered as members and are cordially invited *to attend our monthly meetings and all other activities.*

- There are no dues and no specific skills are required to participate—just join us.
- Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month—(Posted on St. Luke's website calendar).

OUR PURPOSE: We engender Christian fellowship among men, as we respond to Christ's call to love and serve others in need by sharing our knowledge, talents, and abilities.

OUR MISSION: We respond to many requests that are within our capabilities to assist. We assist parishioners or others in the community who lack resources to perform minor repairs or maintenance for themselves, and we occasionally perform maintenance and repairs for St. Luke's that would otherwise require payment to vendors.

Despite the 2021 COVID-19 pandemic and variants, SLMG met these assistance objectives:

- Monthly deliveries for *Feed Fannin* food bank to *thirty families* at North Court Apartments
- Assisted a terminally ill parishioner under hospice care and his family with needs
- Distributed food for the summer "snack-in-a-backpack" program
- Repaired a lengthy storm eroded driveway for a temporarily disabled parishioner and his wife
- Packed six shipping pods of household possessions for a widowed parishioner's move to Canada
- Transported possessions from a rental to a cost-free storage unit for a parishioner
- Removed a stack of large logs from a parishioner's yard
- Cut, split, and stacked firewood for Fannin County Family Connection's clients to use
- Purchased and delivered a replacement hot water heater for an elderly widow in financial need

Service and Fellowship for the church and the parish:

- Donated \$1000 to Christ Church Cathedral to assist with costly AC and Heating system repairs
- March 27th Spring Cleaning—churchyard landscape/clean-up/ downspout repairs
- June 23 to 25 held an *overnight and day camp* men’s fellowship event on Parish House grounds
- We repaired/replaced dry rotted wood and roofing shingles needed on the Parish House pavilion
- Donated \$225 to fund drilling of freshwater wells in Kenya, Africa
- We sponsored the annual St. Luke’s Parish-wide picnic at Horseshoe Bend Park in October
- SLMG raised \$1468 during the joint annual St. Luke’s Yard Sale with the Women of St. Luke’s,
- We replaced our outdated *St. Luke’s Anglican Church* sign with a new sign in front of the church
- We modified an area in the sanctuary to house new audio-visual electronics and sound equipment
- In December, we assisted the WSL with the annual Christmas Bazaar set-up activities

CONCLUSION: *Thanks be to God!* We end the year with over \$3898 in our treasury to fund future outreach initiatives. The Lord has blessed us mightily to accomplish much in His name.

SAFETY-SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT: NEIL MCDONALD

2021 St. Luke’s Safety/Security Committee Annual Report

St. Luke’s Safety/Security Committee scope and purpose are described in the *St. Luke’s Strategic Plan* which is accessible on St. Luke’s website, members section. Previously, a few parish members informally performed that role.

Current committee members are: Neil McDonald (Chairman), Fr. Ron Wikander, Deacon Tony McConnell, Dr. Al Cash (Sr. Warden), Jim Noblett (Junior Warden), Pat Dearing, Bob Bradley and Ms. Rosanne Johnston (RN) who maintains our first aid kits, the Blood Pressure monitor, and AED certification/compliance.

During 2021, St. Luke’s has continued modified worship in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering exterior worship in our outdoor pavilion, and via FM radio broadcasts to those worshipping in their automobiles. Our services are video recorded for online broadcast via Facebook and YOUTUBE for remote worshipping.

We have made PPE (personal protective equipment) available at the narthex entrance.

Our Vestry has approved safety/security related expenditures this year. We recently installed a system of fire/smoke alarms that are continuously monitored under monthly contract.

Also, this year we purchased a second, more technically advanced AED unit that is retained with other first aid equipment in the rear of the sanctuary. Our original AED will be mounted downstairs in Thomason Hall with the additional first aid kit.

Formerly, during times of darkness no illumination existed along the driveway walking path between the parking areas and the sanctuary entrance. This condition has been addressed by newly installed ground level lighting to *safely illuminate* that path.

Our video recording camera and tripod were mounted at the front of the sanctuary powered by extension cords that posed a “tripping hazard.” Most recently, this system has been upgraded and is now conducted remotely from the rear of the sanctuary—eliminating the former “tripping hazard.”

St. Luke’s liability insurer is *Church Mutual Insurance Company*. Two weeks ago, we mailed a package enumerated every safety/security related measure that we have incorporated at St. Luke’s. We requested that Church Mutual consider reducing our insurance premium costs. At this time, we are awaiting their response.

Our committee members are concerned about *all matters* affecting safety and security at St. Luke’s—but cannot do it alone. God has given each of us the wonderful *gift of discernment* to guard ourselves from all forms of potential harm. We ask each parishioner to notify St. Luke’s Safety/Security Committee members of any unsafe conditions that come to your attention.

Thanks be to God for blessing us with this, another safe and secure year at St. Luke’s! But we must remain aware that the *potential for violent or disruptive events to occur at our church has not gone away.*

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT: AL CASH Calendar Year 2021

The Communications Committee provides an on-going stream of publications and contacts with parish members and the community. Its purpose is to assist the Rector in sharing God’s word at every level available.

This past year the committee continues to refine the church’s website to provide a more dynamic tool for the parishioners and for the community as a whole. Feedback continues to be positive, with frequent offerings of photographs and articles.

Pew sheets are printed and distributed weekly, as well as uploaded to our website and available to print.

As a reminder, there is a pew sheet titled “New to St. Luke’s” which offers newcomers a welcome message and a synopsis of the morning liturgy. These are updated and/or replaced as needed.

The committee continues to reach out to local newspapers and to Chambers of Commerce on a regular basis to provide information about our services, events, and commitments.

Fr. Morgan remains faithful to his weekly column, publishing our Lord’s message, offering insights and explanations of the Gospels and Prayer Book.

AC

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

D. J. FULTON

Stewardship Presentation Outline

- Definition
 - You own nothing:
 - Anything you have you are holding in trust for your Creator
 - He has told you Biblically how to handle what you are holding
- Old Testament on the Origin of the Tithe
 - **Genesis 14:19-20.** Abram is successful in battle. Going home he meets Most High priest Melchizedek who blesses him, crediting God for Abram’s victory.
 - **Genesis 28:20-22.** Jacob has a dream in which he meets God face to face. The dream was so powerful that when he awoke he pledged he vowed ‘of all You give me I will surely give a tenth to You’
 - **Leviticus 27:30-34.** The Lord gives the entire Tithing paradigm to Moses in Chapter 27, and it is summarized here. Can you find the 20% penalty for late or insufficient tithing?

Old Testament on the Effect of Tithing Proverbs 3:9-10. ‘Honor the Lord with your possessions, and the first fruit of all your increase; So, your barns

You will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.’ **Malachi 3:8-10.** The Prophet first quotes the Lord chastising the people for not tithing and then quotes the Lord asking the people to test him in this matter. **8** ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say in what way have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me. Even this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and our out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.’

New Testament on Tithing and the Effect of Giving

Luke 6:38. Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be put into your bosom. For the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Luke 11:42. A quote from Jesus here ‘But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Woe to you Pharisees!.....’ (See Matthew 23:23 for a similar statement from Jesus).

Billy Graham has a relevant and wise contribution to this conversation – “We have found in our home that God’s blessing upon the nine tenths, when we tithe, helps it go further than ten tenths without His Blessings.”

Emphasize all the way through that while we need to tithe to support God’s work here on earth we really need to tithe for our own good. This is the way that God has set forth for us to order our lives (10% to Him off the top) and the effect on our own health and welfare will be salutary.

As to New Testament vs Old Testament here emphasize that the Bible is a seamless garment – Jesus came to fulfill the Law, not to overturn it. Just following the Law is not enough Example – A man of my acquaintance named Rev Carroll authored a book about the Ten Commandments. In that book he noted that there are three levels of adherence to the Ten Commandments (the Law) – and they can be found in The Decalogue in the 1928 BCP.

The first level is simple adherence. The second level is ‘inclining our hearts to keep this law’ and the third level is ‘writing all these laws in our hearts.’ If you write the tithe into your heart you will tithe and you will be healthier.

Go on to personal experience in this matter after Billy Graham.

MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT:

PAT MCCONNELL

Memorial Garden Report

In the past year, there has been seven burials in the Memorial Gardens and two burials in the cemetery. The past three years has been very active with 22 burials in the Memorial Garden and four burials in the cemetery. We currently have 75 burials, 26 remembrance plaques and 29 prepaid burials in the Memorial Garden. In the cemetery, we have 14 burials and six prepaid burials in the cemetery.

The burial areas encompass a substantial portion of the yard behind the church. It is one of many features that make St. Luke an incredibly unique, attractive and historic addition to the city of Blue Ridge. There are few churches that have their own burial area and ours has the additional component of having a private family cemetery surrounded by a stone wall erected 120 years ago.

This large area, the cemetery, Memorial Garden, and stone wall cemetery, places a financial and labor burden on the committee, which the members are most pleased to undertake. It is with pride that we can report that all expenses for this area were funded by subscriptions and fund-raising efforts. In the past three years, the funds have been used to purchase another granite slab and base for additional names in the Memorial Garden. A successful fund-raising effort was initiated for funds to repair and restore the stone wall.

If anyone is interested in burial information for this area, please contact Pat McConnell at 706-632-8443 or jeremcconnellbr@yahoo.com.

CONCERT COMMITTEE REPORT:

VICTOR H. MORGAN

St. Luke's Concert Committee is tasked with selecting and overseeing community concerts (providing receptions when indicated) at St. Luke's throughout the year. The committee is further tasked with seeking funding and monitoring expenses.

The committee's mission is **to enrich the life of the Parish Church of St. Luke and the broader North Georgia community through the promotion of music to the glory of God.**

Current members of the committee include the Rev. Victor H. Morgan, A.D. Frazier, Carlos Martel, Lissa Knight, Kathryn Noblett, Diana Burden and Tim and Jennifer Higdon. Victor Morgan and Carlos Martel serve as co-chairs.

Four events were held in 2021 including: a piano concert by Robert Henry; a concert featuring students and faculty from Young Harris College, the dedication of the Claire Wofford Frazier Memorial Organ performed by Randy Romig (along with a trumpet player and soloist) and a delightful and inspiring Christmas concert featuring Lissa Knight. In addition to concerts, a fundraising dinner was held.

As of January 2022, the Concert Committee funds stand at \$12,244.00, up from \$9,696.00 a year ago.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Victor H. Morgan



"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." **Hebrews 10:24-25**