



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Original Art Drawn and Copyrighted by Irene Stone 2012

## PARISH PROFILE OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH 2021



St. Luke's Outdoor Pole Banner

### A Prayer for St. Luke's Church:

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family of St. Luke's. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Bestow upon us wisdom, understanding, grace, patience, and a genuine discernment during these days of transition and change. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, deepen our love and concern for one another, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer "For the Parish", BCP, 817)

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PARISH PROFILE of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 273  
DOOLEY at BROAD STREETS

HAWKINSVILLE, GEORGIA 31036

YEAR FOUNDED: 1870

DATE of CONSECRATION: December 31, 1916

**D.Min., Bishop, Diocese of Georgia:** The Right Reverend Frank Logue

**Music Director/Organist:** Davis Badaszewski

**The Vestry:** David Johnson, Senior Warden

Carole Martin, Junior Warden

Bob Krueger

Gill McEver

Martin Kehayes

Mary Wells

Susan Reid

WEEKLY SERVICES: Sunday, 10 a.m., Holy Communion  
Wednesday, 6 p.m. Holy Communion and Healing





St. Luke's Newly Renovated Church Campus 2011

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to glorify God, to love, serve and support each other in Christ throughout the community.

### HISTORY OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH:

The town of Hawkinsville, established on the banks of the Ocmulgee River in 1836, immediately became a hub for Methodists and Baptists. The first known Episcopalian in the area, Mrs. Letitia Golding, came to the fledgling town with her husband in January, 1862. Soon after her arrival, Mrs. Golding wrote Rev. H. K. Rees, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Macon, 50 miles to the north, informing him that there was a small group of people in Hawkinsville desiring to form an Episcopal church. She invited him to come and hold services. Fr. Rees accepted, with services being held in the Methodist church.

In September, 1869, Judge John Henry and his wife Civility moved their family to Hawkinsville. Episcopal services were being held regularly in a small frame building on Commerce Street known as Wimberly Hall. A Sunday school was organized with Judge Henry as a teacher.

Eventually, a building fund was established, and Judge Henry selected the lot where St. Luke's now stands at the corner of Dooley and Broad Streets. St. Luke's Church was chartered and the original wood frame building, 24 x 50 feet, was erected in 1871. The original structure is perhaps most evident in the rough timbers of the high vaulted ceiling, the nave, and in the floors that still bear scorch marks from the first stove that heated the building. St. Luke's was planned along the traditional cruciform design which embodies much symbolism.

The Chancel, Vesting Room, and Sacristy were added in 1884. This structure stands today within the brick veneer which was added in 1916. That same year the Steeple was converted into the present Bell Tower.

The red entrance doors mark St. Luke's as a place of refuge, and they are never locked. St. Luke's is the only Church in Hawkinsville that does not lock its front doors. St. Luke's Church is the oldest building in Pulaski County that has seen continuous use.

Throughout its 138 year history, St. Luke's has been a mission church of the Diocese of Georgia, existing solely at the discretion of the Bishop...meaning that the Bishop could have chosen to close it down at any time.

In 1965, the congregation experienced economic growth and constructed the adjoining Parish House and a cloistered walkway was constructed to connect the Church with the Parish House.

But most of the church's years were spent with temporary newly ordained priests or about-to-leave priests assigned by the Bishop using St. Luke's as a starting point or finishing point with not a lot of thought to really building a vitally alive parish. Mainly the church saw a few deeply committed Christians seeking to maintain a liturgically based church presence amidst great struggle and discouragement.

Christmas Eve, 1995, St. Luke's moved under the capable leadership of Fr. Tom Arledge. Originally called to be the interim priest, Fr. Arledge had shepherded St. Luke's in a period of uncertainty. It is due to his efforts that St. Luke's managed to continue regular services on Sundays and Wednesdays. At the time, Fr. Arledge was also serving Christ Church, Cordele, on Sundays. The service hour at St. Luke's was shifted from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. to accommodate the needs of both churches.

In 2001, when St. Luke's registered 62 active communicants with total revenues of \$49,031, some thought the end of this brave little congregation might be near. But instead, a miraculous point of rebirth transpired. Bishop Henry I. Louttit Jr. of the Diocese of Georgia approached the congregation with the idea of St. Luke's becoming an experiment in church growth.

If St. Luke's congregation would agree to bring all energies to the table to grow the membership, St. Luke's would receive an anonymous \$500,000 grant for a three-year period which would enable St. Luke's to launch a nation-wide search for a full-time priest and a full-time Minister of Children & Youth, both being committed to building a broader-based congregation in a rural community setting.

After much discussion and a multitude of prayers, the communicants of St. Luke's accepted the Bishop's amazing challenge as the mission church engaged genuinely to make a push to transform St. Luke's from a mission to a parish.

On August 1, 2002, Fr. Gary Abbott arrived as the priest and on December 27, 2003, Maggie Roush Bloodworth arrived as the Minister of Children & Youth.

The Grant ended on December 31, 2006 and in a major step of faith, since January 1, 2007, St. Luke's has operated entirely with local money, continuing to engage the services of a full-time priest and a full-time Minister of Children & Youth. In 2008, St. Luke's registered 128 active communicants with total revenues of \$182,310.

On April 30, 2008, the Vestry of St. Luke's formally requested of Bishop Henry Louttit that we be granted parish status. On June 5, 2008, Bishop Louttit informed St. Luke's that he was recommending that we be granted parish status. On November 14, 2008, the Diocesan Council voted unanimously to recommend that St. Luke's be granted parish status.

On February 6, 2009, the 187<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Georgia in Albany voted to accept the recommendation of the Bishop and Diocesan Council. St. Luke's experienced a year of probation, and at the 188<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Georgia in Savannah in 2010 a second successful vote was taken, making the transition from mission to parish complete.

On March 2, 2010 The Right Reverend Scott Anson Benhase, Bishop, Diocese of Georgia, led a Service of Worship in Celebration of Parish Status and A New Ministry in the Diocese of Georgia. Local dignitaries, government officials, clergy and many St. Luke's parishioners from days past all celebrated at a reception across the street at The Columns.

In the summer of 2010, construction experts and engineers from Georgia Tech inspected the entire building. They informed the Vestry at St. Luke's that the century old foundation could crumble at any time and that the Gothic bell could crash down on whoever was pulling the rope. The sound of St. Luke's Gothic bell was silenced due to decay and age of the bell tower rafters.

In the fall of 2010 a building campaign was undertaken and almost immediately the 139-year-old building had a facelift. The rafters, foundation, electrical, plumbing, heat and air conditioning, lighting, masonry work and carpets were updated, repaired or replaced. This restoration gave new life to the St. Luke's Church building and it was said that we would get another century out of the building.

At the January 2014 Vestry meeting, Fr. Gary Abbott announced his pending retirement. The Vestry contracted with the Holy Cow Consulting Group to conduct a vital signs assessment with their church assessment tool survey. With the results in hand, the Vestry set into place the process to begin the search for their next priest. After 12 and a half years as St. Luke's priest Fr. Abbott retired January 31, 2015.

In April of 2015, with the help of the office of the Dioceses of Georgia we were able to identify Father Aaron Brewer as our next Priest. He began his tenure as Rector at St. Luke's on June 1, 2015.



## ATTENDANCE, MEMBERSHIP & WORSHIP

St. Luke's has 94 baptized communicants in good standing (91 in 2019, 94 in 2018, 129 in 2017, and 125 in 2010) and 50 inactive members. We continue to have a number of people active in our worship and programming who are not officially members.

Our average Sunday Worship attendance is 30. Like other churches, the pandemic has heavily hurt our ASA. The last time our average Sunday attendance was below 50 was in 2003 when it was 44.

## Rector's Report

During Reverend Aaron Brewer's tenure, St. Luke's experienced an expansion in ministry events and opportunities, as well as the sustaining of prior trademark events close to the heart.

Some of the programs, ministries, and services enjoyed since 2015 include but are not limited to:

**The Burning of the Greens on Epiphany.** Reverend Brewer invited members and the community to take part in the symbolic burning of Christmas greens on the church grounds in combination with a brief service.

Fat Tuesday has long been heralded at St. Luke's with the annual, community-wide **Pancake Supper**. During Reverend Brewer's stay, crowds topped one hundred. The event serves as symbolic of the season, outreach to the community, and a fundraiser. Each year, St. Luke's selects a local need to receive a percentage of the Pancake Supper's earnings.

**The Lenten Season is marked with a seasonal study.** During Reverend Brewer's time, participants read and studied a book pertaining to Lent, and moved from home to home on Sunday evenings for fellowship and discussion.

St. Luke's **Walking Groups** have been active for three years at Taylor Memorial Hospital's walking track. The brainchild of Father Brewer and serving as outreach, walking group times are posted at the track, and the community is invited to join in this Lenten commitment emphasis.

Each year, Palm Sunday kicks off an active **Holy Week**. The procession of palms is a reverent part of the Palm Sunday service. Daily services acknowledging the significance of Holy Week are held including Imposition of Ashes and Maundy Thursday Last Supper. In the past, St. Luke's has been host to a community Good Friday service which continued throughout Reverend Brewer's tenure. The event is anticipated and well-attended among other churches in Hawkinsville. St. Luke's hosts a luncheon immediately following, hosting 75-100 people each year.

**Peaches to Beaches** is an annual, multi-county yard sale along Highway 341. St. Luke's has been a substantial participant since the event's induction. Situated on the corner, center of downtown, on Highway 341, St. Luke's serves as a landing place for new and returning yard sale enthusiasts. Food and wares are sold. Profit aids the church budget significantly. Members volunteer enthusiastically each year. The church is open for prayer and tours.

Reverend Brewer engaged himself in the **community** by serving as Chamber of Commerce President and Rotary President. As such, he encouraged additional involvement by the church in local events. St. Luke's joined annual Harness Festival activities, having a presence at the event, and brought home a first-place prize in a recipe contest.

St. Luke's participates in and serves as host for the community wide **Fifth Sunday** interfaith worship services.

A long-running event continued by Reverend Brewer is the annual **Blessing of the Crops**. St. Luke's created and now spearheads this breakfast and prayer service held during spring in recognition of the county's heavy dependence on agriculture. It is attended by more than 100 locals.

Reverend Brewer initiated a new worship and outreach opportunity known as **Gospel on the Green**. Taking place on award-winning, local Southern Hills Plantation Golf Club each Sunday in June-August, golfers, residents, families, St. Luke's members, and locals participate in an early morning brief worship service before tee off.

During Reverend Brewer's time, St. Luke's undertook a service and ministry program of providing **Summer Lunches** to children age 1-18 during summer break from school. More than 1,000 lunches were served in a six-week period with the help of Rev. Brewer and volunteer church members.

St. Luke's has long been integral in providing **back-to-school supplies** to the local school system. This is a ministry coordinated by school officials and church members. In addition to collecting supplies, St. Luke's includes Blessing of the Backpacks on the Sunday prior to students and teachers returning to school each year.

Each year in October, St. Luke's hosts **Blessing of the Animals** open to the community for their pets. The event has grown in scope over the years to include pet costume contests, drawings, and music on the church grounds.

An **Advent study** has been included each year of Reverend Brewer's stay, and in years prior. A book and/or movie and lesson is selected for Wednesday evening discussions with a meal provided by the church during the season.

Ministries within the church include an 8 member **Altar Guild** and an 8 member **Flower Guild**.

A new ministry recently added is a mentoring young children program called **Path to Shine**. This is led by Deacon Strickland of St. Luke's.

Unfortunately, due to Covid, most of these events were not allowed to take place in 2020. We did offer 57 online services throughout the year. Our Covid risk levels are low enough now that we have started back in person, inside church with Supply Priest.

## 2021 MUSIC AND LITURGY AT ST. LUKE'S:

St. Luke's has a history of a strong musical tradition, deeply rooted in the hymnody found in the Hymnal 1982. Its hymns and service music form the backbone of the music that can be heard weekly at St. Luke's.

The weekly Rite II setting of the ordinary is S-280 for the Gloria and S-130 for the Sanctus. These pieces of service music have been heard at St. Luke's since the introduction of the Hymnal 1982. More recently, the congregation has begun to branch out, and on feast days sings S-278 for the Gloria and S-128 for the Sanctus.

During Advent and Lent, St. Luke's uses Rite I for the service of Holy Eucharist. For Advent, the church sings S-91 for the Kyrie and S-114 for the Sanctus. For Lent, the church sings S-90 for the Kyrie, S-113 for the Sanctus, and S-157 for the Agnus Dei.

Prior to this interim period, the congregation sang the Pascha Nostrum to either S-152 or S-154 for all times except Lent. During Lent, the Pascha Nostrum was sung to S-153. Upon the calling of a new Rector, the wish is to return to singing the Pascha Nostrum.

The congregation has sung the Great Litany on the First Sunday of Lent, however, last year was their first time doing so. The Trisagion has been occasionally substituted for the Kyrie in Lent, and is sung to S-102. The congregation also has experience in Psalmody, having chanted the Psalms to simplified Anglican chant. However, this is also not being done at this time.

The choir currently has five extremely dedicated members who arrive before the service to learn the hymns and service music for the day. They do not sing regular anthems, however, they are capable of singing unison anthems with preparation.

The church celebrates the following major days on the liturgical calendar: The Nativity of Our Lord (two identical services, 5 P.M. and 11 P.M.), The Epiphany (transferred to Sunday), Sunday of the Transfiguration, Ash Wednesday (6 P.M. choral service), Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (6 P.M. choral service), Good Friday (12 P.M. choral service), Easter Sunday, Ascension (transferred to Sunday), Whitsunday, Trinity Sunday, Feast of St. Luke (transferred to Sunday), All Saints (transferred to Sunday), and Christ the King. On these days, it is tradition for the church to hire outside musicians to present special music. These musicians typically are either string players or vocalists. Incense is used on

occasion and is typically reserved for the late Christmas Eve service and Easter.

St. Luke's has a mixed track record with evening events. Evensong has been offered on occasion, and is always well received. However, the attendance is low. The church has offered both Advent Lessons and Carols as well as Christmas Lessons and Carols, and the latter was extremely well received both by St. Luke's and the wider community. These services have been offered both in the morning and in the evening. The church has also begun to host concerts for the wider community, bringing in artists from Mercer University's, Townsend School of Music. The inaugural concert for this series was extremely well received, and the church was filled to capacity.

The greatest musical change that has occurred at St. Luke's during the previous Rector's tenure, was the purchase of a brand new Allen Digital Organ. This instrument was personally voiced by the current Director of Music and Organist to reflect the tonal qualities necessary for music in the Anglican choral tradition.

Music and the Anglican liturgy is the backbone of worship at St. Luke's, and serves as a unifying force in bringing all our hearts and voices together in praise of God

## 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT ANNUAL BUDGET

### ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL BUDGET 2021

#### Altar and Sacristy

Supplies	\$	800.00
Vestments	\$	400.00
Other	\$	100.00
Flowers	\$	1,200.00

#### Diocesan Expenses

Pledge	\$	18,074.00
Bishop's Annual Visit	\$	300.00
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	\$	100.00
Annual Convention	\$	500.00
Other Diocesan Exp		

#### Missions

Anglican Digest	\$	100.00
Episcopal Youth and Children's Services	\$	150.00
University of the South	\$	150.00
Souper Bowl Offering for Hunger (Designated)		
Advertising	\$	1200.00
Chamber of Commerce	\$	150.00
Prison Outreach		
Others (Designated)	\$	200.00
Pancake supper		

#### Maintenance and General Operations

General Maintenance/repairs	\$	4,000.00
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#### Site Development

Insurance	\$	3,500.00
Utilities	\$	7,000.00
Kitchen/cleaning supplies	\$	850.00
Lawn Care	\$	4,440.00



Office			
	Telephone/Internet	\$	1,300.00
	Office Supplies	\$	1,000.00
	PO box & general postage	\$	500.00
	Sunday Bulletins	\$	300.00
Religious Education			
	Children/Youth	\$	2,000.00
	General Instruction/ Congregational Life	\$	2,000.00
	Vacation Bible School	\$	500.00
	Workshops/seminars/continuing Ed	\$	700.00
	Lenten Study	\$	100.00
	Music	\$	125.00
Salaries and Benefits			
	Priest		***
	Stipend	\$	28,326.03
	Travel Expenses	\$	300.00
	Housing Allowance	\$	21,600.00
	Retirement	\$	9,500.00
	Health Insurance	\$	5,318.00
	Social Security Differential	\$	3,700.00
	Priest's misc. ministry expenses	\$	1,000.00
	Priest Supply	\$	1,000.00
	Minister of Children & Youth		
	Youth travel expenses		
	Organist/Music Director	\$	9,000.00
	Organist supply	\$	1,000.00
	Janitor/Housekeeper	\$	5,000.00
	Nursery Attendant		
		\$	141,983.03

\*\*\* Priest benefits are subject to change with our transition.

AERIAL VIEW CURRENT CAMPUS



## ST. LUKE'S TODAY:

On July 16, 2019 Father Aaron Brewer announced to the Vestry he had been called to another church. We immediately created a search committee and began taking steps to search for a priest.



Bishop Frank Logue



Bishop Scott Benhase

The Right Reverend Frank Logue, Bishop, Diocese of Georgia and The Previous Bishop Scott Benhase, were concerned about St. Luke's losing energy by utilizing a variety of supply priests during the transition period and preferred to have an ordained person in place in a canonically authoritative role. We were most fortunate to have the Reverend Judith Keith from Thomasville serve as our Priest in charge from September 2019 through December of 2020. Unfortunately, due to health issues she was unable to continue in this role.

As we search for our next priest, it is an exciting and celebratory time for St. Luke's. We are a caring, loving, united, and open congregation. We offer a liturgical expression of worship and a meaningful expression of ministry locally and to the ends of the earth.





*Hawkinsville*  
COME HOME

## HAWKINSVILLE AND PULASKI COUNTY

Hawkinsville, with a population of 5,558 is located in Pulaski County which has a population of 11,542. Hawkinsville is a 20 minute drive from the north-south corridor of Interstate 75 and the east-west corridor of Interstate 16, as well as a 2 hour drive from Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and 2 and 1/2 hours from the port of Savannah. Hawkinsville is 30 minutes from one of our country's largest military operations, Robins Air Force Base. Home of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, the 78th Air Base Wing, and more than 60 other units the base makes up a vital part of the Air Force war fighting team.

Long known as the hub city because of its location in the center of major crossroads and on the Ocmulgee River, it is also known as the "Harness Racing Capital of Georgia". Hawkinsville's affair with harness racing began in 1894. Since that time, several world champions have been trained on the Hawkinsville tracks. The Georgia red clay and mild climate make an excellent combination for conditioning young horses. For almost forty years, Pulaski County has celebrated its enduring bond to harness racing with the Annual Harness Horse Festival. The festival prides itself on an outstanding facility, community spirit, and fantastic entertainment.



Hawkinsville has an expansive, powerful, 100% fiber optic network. It enables upload and download speeds 200 times faster than the current national average, and 10 times faster than the FCC's National Broadband Plan, a full decade ahead of FCC's planned broadband implementation schedule for rural America.

There are plenty of activities to keep you entertained in your free time in Hawkinsville. With the Ocmulgee River running right through the center of town, and two publicly owned boat landings to accompany it, there are boating, fishing, and kayaking opportunities galore. Additionally, the 15,000 acre Ocmulgee Wildlife Management Area gives ample hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, and small game, as well as camping and hiking options. Golfers can rejoice in the award winning Southern Hills Golf Club. A unique course for the area with its rolling terrain and risk-reward fairways, Southern Hills is a full 18-hole course with all the amenities. It is sure to be a Saturday well spent. The Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Recreation Department maintains 4 lighted baseball fields, 1 lighted softball field, 1 lighted football/soccer field, and a gymnasium, guaranteeing the active child in your life ample opportunity for multiple sports to participate in. If the Fine Arts are more your speed, Hawkinsville is home to the 1907-vintage Opera House, one of three buildings in town listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Opera House is still in use today, housing concerts, local plays and events regularly throughout the year.





There are several local restaurants in Hawkinsville that exist as points of pride. From country cookin' Sunday buffets to barbecue to diner food, Hawkinsville has something for everyone. Grab a burger and fries or the best breakfast for miles with Miss Paula at The Grill downtown. You can also find delicious salads, sandwiches, and out of this world baked goods at The Rustic Bistro. Sunday buffets are a staple of tradition at The Steakhouse and Tom and Sandy's Horseshoe, where fried chicken and all the fixings reign supreme. Other fantastic local restaurants of note include Jo's Pizza with their famous cheese sticks, La Cabaña Mexican restaurant, and Georgia Bob's barbecue. The crowning jewel of Hawkinsville food is M&T Meats. People come from all over the state and beyond just to stock up on quality cuts of meat and seafood from this incredibly successful butcher shop. Their quality and selection rival any large grocery store you'll find. You won't go hungry here.





Hawkinsville is home to the 56-bed Taylor Regional Hospital, recognized as a top rural care facility in the state. DNV and TJC accredited, Pulaski County is privileged to have such a high-quality hospital in a rural setting. We also have a strong public school that places an emphasis on technology. Further technological emphasis will be placed when the high school, middle school, and elementary school are consolidated into one new building. When construction is completed in the coming years, Pulaski County will be left with a state of the art facility for its school system.



Come home to Hawkinsville! The benefits of small town living are innumerable. From easy community involvement to the low cost of living, Hawkinsville is a warm and welcoming town that is home to good people. Children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren return to Hawkinsville to settle down. Many multigenerational families call this town home and are proud to do so. Southern charm and hospitality are at the forefront of our community, and we would love to welcome you home to Hawkinsville.

