

Primary Parking at St. Luke's; limited parking at Sams House (suggested donation of \$2)

Free shuttle service running continuously between the two venues

Service animals only

Events at St. Luke's (10 am to 4 pm)

Perrine Hall: Lunch includes a variety of homemade chilis (traditional, white and vegetarian), grilled hotdogs and loaded baked potatoes.

10:15 CEMETERY: Guided Tour "Military & Space" Highlighting veterans from the Civil War to Viet Nam, and a few of the people behind the scenes of the Space Program.

11:00 CHURCH "Life on the Indian River Lagoon" "Life on the Indian River Lagoon" Dixie Crossroads proprietor and environmental activist Laurilee Thompson will talk about growing up as a 4th generation Floridian in Brevard County's seafood industry over the past six decades.

11:30 CEMETERY: Guided Tour "Founding Families" Early Merritt Island settlers who were also the founders of St Luke's

12:00 to 12:15 CHURCH "Community together in Prayer"

12:15 CHAPEL: "St. Luke's Chapel: A Gem of Carpenter Gothic Architecture" Jonathan Rich, author of *Spires in the Sun: The Carpenter Gothic Episcopal Churches of Florida*, will give a talk on how this unique style of architecture came to the Florida frontier of the 1800s. Signed copies of the book will be available for sale.

1:00 CHAPEL: Pioneer Music

1:30 CHURCH: "AIS, Indigenous People of Merritt Island" Before pioneers, the Indigenous people called "AIS, lived on Merritt Island. Learn more about the original settlers from David McDonald.

2:00 CEMETERY: Guided Tour "Thru the Ages" A glimpse of Brevard History from the life stories of locals spanning the decades

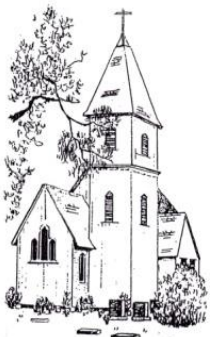
On-going Events: Self Guided Tours of St. Luke's Historic Chapel and Cemetery

Exhibitors include: Moore Memorial Museum & Park, Brevard Zoo Aquarium, Brevard Genealogical Society, American Space Museum, Central Brevard Sharing Center, Animal Safehouse Program

Vendors include: Recycled Tire Art, Glory Bells Designs, Coastal Lost Treasures, Author Jay Heavner, Zabs, Banana River Soapworks

In the 1870's the LaRoche, Porcher, and Sams families settled in Courtenay, Merritt Island. The families had moved to the area from South Carolina after losing their wealth as a result of the Civil War. They founded a congregation as they met in their homes for worship and fellowship. In 1886 the Episcopal Diocese of Florida (founded in 1838) formally recognized St. Luke's Mission. In 1886 Mrs. Lucy A Boardman of Connecticut offered Bishop John Freeman Young money to build a series of churches on the central Atlantic Coast. Due to careful stewardship of that money, it allowed an extra church - St. Luke's - to be constructed in 1888 on land sold by Maj. J.H. Tiffin to the Diocese of Florida for \$5. This building was an example of the "pure" form of the carpenter gothic architecture, which has been described as the most American of church styles.

Since the arrival of the first pioneers St. Luke's has been a place where Christians gather to worship God, support one another, and reach out to the community and the wider world in loving service.



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- Florida living history demonstrations and educational exhibits that include archaeology and anthropology, historic reenactors, encampments and artifacts on display
- Live music throughout the day by Celery City String Band, Chris Kahl, Pine Trio, and Boylston Fish
- A Pioneer "parade" throughout the grounds at 11 am, led by drum and fife, of those dressed in historic attire
- Local exhibitors from Brevard's historical societies, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, and others
- Local exhibitors from Brevard's natural lands and environmental organizations such as, Space Coast Audubon Society, Florida Native Plant Society, Marine Resources Council, Brevard Backyard Beekeepers, and others
- Vintage, crafts and farmer's market vendors such as the Spade and Trowel Garden Club, Wake and Bake Bread Co., and others (also local honey, Florida native plants etc.)
- Pine Island guided nature trail hikes throughout the day courtesy of the Florida Trail Association and Brevard's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
- 1888 Sams House tours with rarely seen antiques on display
- Pine Island Preservation Society tent with vintage pins, doilies, finger puppets, hiking sticks, nature-themed t-shirts, note cards, postcards, gifts for sale and raffle items including a local fruit basket
- Children's crafts and games – Hay Dive, Steer Roping, Cornhusk Dolls, "Cow" Milking and Tic Tac Toe
- Heidi's Miniature Goat Petting Farm until 1 pm
- Local food trucks and kettle corn!

Events at Sams House (10 am to 4 pm)



John Hanahan Sams came to Brevard County from South Carolina in 1875, bringing with him his wife Sarah, five children, older sister Catherine and older brother William. Taking advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862, the family originally settled in Eau Gallie. When the orange trees they planted failed to bear fruit, the family moved to North Merritt Island. As part of the move, the Sams cabin was floated up the Indian River Lagoon and reconstructed onsite in 1878. The oldest standing home in Brevard County, the cabin now serves as a museum and visitor's center. A larger, two-

story home was built onsite in 1888. This house now serves as staff offices and bunk housing for visiting service groups.

Mr. Sams ran a successful orange grove and served as the first Superintendent of the Brevard County Public School System. He was instrumental in the founding and construction of St. Luke's Episcopal Church as well as the first schools in the area. John Sams died in 1924. His descendants lived on the property until 1996. The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the St. John's River Water Management District purchased the property. The EEL Program is responsible for management of the site.

This and other events are sponsored in part by the Pine Island Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) organization promoting conservation, awareness and appreciation of the Pine Island Conservation Area. We welcome new members.

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