

Primary Parking at St. Luke's; limited parking at Sams House
suggested donation of \$5 includes shuttle service running continuously between the two venues

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

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

10:00 to 12:00 CEMETERY QUEST: Start your quest at the playground to win a prize! For ages 7 and up.

10:30 CEMETERY: Guided Tour **"Island History"**: Stories of locals who cleared the land, built our community, and launched us into space.

11:00 CHURCH: **"Harry and Harriette Moore; Activists and Educators - Their Story"**: Educators by profession, teaching in segregated public schools in Brevard, Harry and Harriette were also the first true civil rights activists of the modern civil rights era in the State of Florida.

11:30 CHAPEL: Pioneer Music

12:00 CHAPEL: **"St. Luke's Chapel: A Gem of Carpenter Gothic Architecture"**: Jonathan Rich will give a talk on how this unique style of architecture came to the Florida frontier of the 1800s.

12:30 – 1:30 CEMETERY STROLL: Hear from some of the inhabitants tell their story in this historic cemetery.

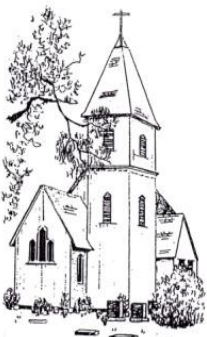
1:15 CHURCH: **"Notes on a Wet Cocktail Napkin"**: It began on October 31, 1948, when Bernard Fischer opened Bernard's Surf in Cocoa Beach. Rusty Fischer reveals the tales of Cocoa Beach from sleepy town to the host of astronauts, movie stars, and celebrity journalists.

2:00 CEMETERY: Guided Tour **"Founding Families"**: Early Merritt Island settlers who were also the founders of St. Luke's.

On-going Events:

- Self-guided tour of St. Luke's Historic Chapel & Cemetery
- Vendors and Exhibitors

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 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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Service animals only

Events at Sams House (10 am to 4 pm)

- 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 and others
- Local exhibitors from Brevard's natural lands and environmental organizations such as the Merritt Island Wildlife Association, Space Coast Audubon Society, Florida Native Plant Society, 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., Spiked Greens, Banana River Soapworks 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
- 1875 Sams Cabin family history, Native American artifacts and fossils on display
- Children's crafts and games – Corn Hole, Hay Dive, Steer Roping, and Tic Tac Toe
- Children's crafts and games such as Hay Dive, Steer Roping, Cornhusk Dolls, and Tic Tac Toe
- Local food trucks, lemonade, fruity dream whips and kettle corn!



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 1872, 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.