

## CONTACT US

### ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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#### CLERGY

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The Rev. Katie Wright, Associate Rector  
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#### OFFICES

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##### Holy Grounds

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##### Cafe Divine

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#### PROGRAM STAFF

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## *Newcomer's Guide*

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Getting Connected

## St. David's Episcopal Church

**Website:** [www.stdave.org](http://www.stdave.org)

**Looking Ahead:**

Our weekly publication includes details on upcoming events and programs. Pick one up at church on Sunday or view the PDF online each week. (See the Weekly Bulletin link on our home page.)

**Connecting:**

Stay updated on the classes and events happening each Sunday with our weekly electronic newsletter. Sign up by clicking “Newsletter Signup” at the top right corner of our homepage at [www.stdave.org](http://www.stdave.org).

**Facebook:**

Like us at [facebook.com/episcopalaustin](https://facebook.com/episcopalaustin). St. David's has an active Facebook page which includes recent pictures, reminders of upcoming events, and useful links. Check out our other Facebook pages: Bridge Builders, Café Divine, and Thursday Lunch to name a few.

**Twitter:**

Follow us: [@stdavidschurch](https://twitter.com/stdavidschurch)

**St. David's Episcopal Church Austin App:**

This free app allows you to easily access our podcasts, register for events, view upcoming classes and workshops, and make a pledge or gift payment. It also includes a Faith Resources section, which includes the Bible, Book of Common Prayer, and daily prayer offerings. Download links for Apply and Android devices are available at [www.stdave.org/apps](http://www.stdave.org/apps). You can also download it by searching “St. David's Episcopal Church Austin” in the Apple or Google Play stores.

**My St. David's:**

When you begin to participate at St. David's, it is beneficial to setup a login with “My St. David's” via our website. Here are some of the things you will be able to do online with your “My St. David's” account:

- Register and pay for events
- Join a small group
- Update your personal information
- Make contributions
- View your pledge balance

To sign up, visit our website at [www.stdave.org](http://www.stdave.org) and click on the “My St. David's” link at the top of the screen. At the login screen, click “get login”. All you need is an email address and your first and last name to join. If you need further instructions, please call the front desk at 512-610-3500, or email Peter Hahn at [peter.h@stdave.org](mailto:peter.h@stdave.org).

**Church Life:**

This app, also free, acts as more of a personal assistant containing a calendar, registration, and financial giving links, plus a great directory of people who attend St. David's.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Children in Worship**

While children are always welcome in all worship services, two Sunday services are especially family-friendly. The **9:10 a.m. Eucharist in Bethell Hall** is well-suited for young families and the joyful noise of children. The **9 a.m. Eucharist in the Historic Church** offers Children's Chapel for children ages 3 – 1st grade. Both worship spaces contain shelves with quiet, liturgically-appropriate activities to help children follow the service and stay engaged.

**Children's Formation**

St. David's offers two excellent curricula for children age 3 through 5th grade: *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* and *Weaving God's Promises*. Drop-off is between 10:15-10:25 a.m.; classes begin at 10:25 a.m. and end at 11:10 a.m. Registration forms must be completed for all students.

**Youth Forum**

All Middle and High School youth are welcome to gather together for fellowship and conversation Sunday mornings at 10:25am, in the Youth Room (170).

High School youth meet Sundays at 2:30 p.m. for Youth Group.

Middle School youth meet Wednesdays at 6 p.m for Youth Group.

Youth also participate in community outreach opportunities and take part in a yearly summer mission trip. For more information, email Jenny Campbell at [jenny.c@stdave.org](mailto:jenny.c@stdave.org).

**Child Care (1st floor)**

St. David's nursery provides a safe and nurturing environment for children. Child care is provided for those attending worship or church programs on:

- Sunday Mornings: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (2 mo. to 4 years)
- Wednesday Evenings: 6-9 p.m. (2 mo. to 12 years)
- Friday Mornings: 10 a.m.-noon (2 mo. to 12 years)
- Parents' Night Out: 1st Friday: 6-10p.m. (2 mo. to 12 years; reservation required.)

**St. David's Day School (1st floor)**

We offer both traditional child development and Montessori curricula. Our mission is to provide children with loving and enriching programs that meet their needs at each developmental level. The Day School is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. For ages 15 months – Kindergarten.

**Children's and Youth Choirs**

Three Children's and Youth choirs (Kindergarten through 12th grade) perform on various Sundays and at special events throughout the school year. All three choirs perform a musical in the spring. The Children's Choirs rehearse from 6 - 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during the school year. Youth Choir rehearses on Sundays from 12:45-1:45 p.m.

**Contacts**

Day School: Jennifer Wheatley, [jennifer.w@stdave.org](mailto:jennifer.w@stdave.org)

Children's Formation: Amanda Wischkaemper, [amanda@stdave.org](mailto:amanda@stdave.org)

Youth Ministries: Jenny Campbell, [jenny.c@stdave.org](mailto:jenny.c@stdave.org)

Children's Choirs: Mary Ashton, [mary.a@stdave.org](mailto:mary.a@stdave.org)

## WHO WE ARE

St. David's Episcopal Church is a diverse worshipping community of believers unified in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to receive and share God's love, hope, joy, vitality, and vision as we serve others.

### A Brief History

St. David's maintains the oldest Episcopal Church building in continuous use west of the Mississippi. The cornerstone of St. David's building was laid on April 7, 1853, and the structure was completed in 1854. The parish was originally organized in 1848 as "Christ Church" and was reorganized in 1851 as the "Church of the Epiphany." The Epiphany congregation split over the slavery debate in 1856. Northern sympathizers withdrew, naming their new congregation Christ Church. Three years later, Christ Church was unable to finance a new church building and Church of the Epiphany was without a rector. Necessity forced a reunion of the two congregations. A new name was chosen, "St. David's," honoring Bishop Alexander Gregg who had come to Texas from St. David's Church, Cheraw, South Carolina, and in memory of St. David, the evangelistic Bishop of Wales in the 5th century.

Over the years the building has been enlarged as the congregation has grown. The most recent building expansion was completed in 2003. Today, St. David's is among the largest and most active Episcopal churches in the United States with more than 2,300 members.

### The Episcopal Church

St. David's is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and a member of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The Episcopal Church is the American province of the Anglican Communion, a world-wide body of over 70 million Christians who trace their origins to the Church of England. Episcopalians are thinking Christians who engage questions of faith with both seriousness and great joy. Often, The Episcopal Church is called a "bridge church" between Roman Catholicism and Protestant denominations. This is because much Episcopal theology is Protestant in nature, while much of Episcopal worship, spiritual practice, and church structure resembles Catholicism. As a result, individuals and families from a variety of backgrounds will find in the Episcopal Church a home that honors their own faith tradition while providing a new source of shared nourishment. Newcomers will find a diverse faith community that welcomes questions and discussion.

More information on these topics is available in St. David's bookstore, Holy Grounds, or online at:

#### The Episcopal Church

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org>

#### The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

<http://www.epicenter.org>

## WELCOME

Welcome to St. David's! Whether you're passing through or looking for a church home, we invite you to explore this community. We at St. David's are eager to welcome you and look forward to the opportunity to meet you. Please fill out a Guest Card, or give us a call or email to introduce yourself. And, check out these opportunities that are especially for Newcomers:

### Free Breakfast

If this is your first visit, please accept a free Sunday breakfast from Café Divine (3rd Floor in Sumners Hall). You can get your free gift card from the Visitor Information Table in the Lobby (2nd floor).

### Welcome Dinner

Monthly we host a free dinner for newcomers in Café Divine in Sumners Hall at 6 p.m. This is a casual opportunity to meet others, tour the Church facilities, and learn more about St. David's. For further details and to RSVP, please send an email to [newcomer@stdave.org](mailto:newcomer@stdave.org).

### Newcomer Classes

We offer this 3-week introductory series on the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church quarterly. The class meets on Sunday mornings, 10:25 – 11:10 a.m. For further details and to RSVP, please send an email to [newcomer@stdave.org](mailto:newcomer@stdave.org).

## WORSHIP

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8 a.m.	Holy Communion Rite I, without music, Historic Church
9 a.m.	Holy Communion with choir and organ, Historic Church
9:10 a.m.	Family Holy Communion with music, Bethell Hall
11:15 a.m.	Holy Communion with choir and organ, Historic Church
11:15 a.m.	Holy Communion, Bethell Hall
3 p.m.	Trinity Streets Ministry: Worship and Meal, Trinity Center
5 p.m.	Holy Communion with healing, Bethell Hall
8 p.m.	Choral Compline (ancient service of sung prayer), Historic Church

Child care is available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

#### Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

#### Holy Communion

Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, 11 a.m. (with healing)

Parking is available free of charge for guests and members when they are visiting the church. The entrance to the parking garage is located on Trinity Street between 7th and 8th Streets.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of St. David's, you may find these common questions and answers to be helpful to you:

**Q: What does it mean to be a member of St. David's?**

**A:** St. David's members are committed to helping carry out the Church's mission of restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. This work is carried out by all baptized persons in their work of ministry, which is to bear witness to Christ wherever they may be, and carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world. We ask members to take their place in worship regularly, and to remain faithful in working, praying, and making an annual pledge of financial giving for the benefit of the Kingdom of God.

**Q: I've never belonged to any church before. How do I become a Christian and a member of St. David's church?**

**A:** Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ. To become a member of any Episcopal Church, this is the first step. If you've never been baptized, we invite you to contact one of the clergy to learn about the sacrament of Baptism, and how to become baptized.

**Q: I've been baptized in a church other than St. David's. How do I become a member here?**

**A:** It's very simple! Inform one of the clergy that you wish to be made a member. You will be recorded as a member of St. David's parish, and welcomed to participate in all programs and ministries. If your membership is recorded in another Episcopal parish, we will request a letter of transfer be sent on your behalf.

## WHY ST. DAVID'S

There are many important factors to consider when choosing a church home: Denomination, worship traditions, friendliness, and community involvement, just to name a few. As you consider whether St. David's is the place for you, here are a few distinctive things to note:

- **The Episcopal Church:** The Episcopal Church is a diverse and welcoming Christian tradition with a rich history and a lively engagement of the modern context.
- **Outstanding Music:** From handbells to the Parish Choir to special concerts, St. David's has a tradition of excellence in music. The music enhances our worship and community, and provides opportunities for people to offer their talents for the glory of God.
- **Classical and Contemporary Worship Traditions:** Whether you are drawn to a traditional worship service in a stained-glass setting, or a more casual experience, St. David's has something to offer you in our many Sunday and week-day services.
- **Outreach Ministries:** St. David's is committed to serving the poor and helping those in need. The Next-to-New Resale Shop, which raises money for outreach, and Trinity Center, our ministry to the homeless in downtown Austin, are two of our largest community outreach programs. There are also many other ways for our members to be actively involved in service to the community.
- **Adult Christian Formation:** St. David's offers Sunday lectures as well as small groups that meet throughout the week for spiritual development and community building.
- **An Active Community:** St. David's is more than just Sundays! Throughout the week, there are numerous ways to be involved in education, fellowship, and ministry.
- **Friendly People:** The members of St. David's are eager to welcome you! No matter what your age or situation, there is a place for you here.

Here's what some of our members say about why they chose St. David's:

*"I feel I was led to St. David's in my efforts to find an accepting spiritual community, one in which you are encouraged to be your authentic self and to come and be comfortable. And, there are wonderful opportunities to participate in various journey groups and volunteer programs, that for me, help to bridge my church life with my personal and professional life, so that in the end, it's essentially one life, well-lived and well-focused. Come join us in saying yes to God!"*

*Sveta*

*"As a fairly recent resident of downtown, I was looking for a church home that brought me closer to Christ weekly, but that also drew others to Him. I found that at St. David's. The outreach through the Trinity Center is literally saving and changing lives. The congregation is younger than I anticipated and the feeling is very friendly, warm, and welcoming. In the fall, I attended a wonderful class series on the Episcopal Church and in December, I was confirmed before the congregation. I would invite anyone who has a love for Christ and the desire to see the world changed through His work to visit St. David's. Our table is open to anyone who seeks Christ."*

*Jesse*