



ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Celebrating Connections



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell, Rector
The Rev. Angela Cortiñas, Associate Rector
The Rev. Chad McCall, Associate Priest and
Chief of Staff

The Rev. Kristin Braun, Curate
The Rev. Dr. Carol Petty, Assisting Priest

VESTRY

Ann Jenkins, Senior Warden
Jennifer Scariano, Junior Warden

Merrell Anne Shearer, Treasurer
Jim Norman, Clerk

2024

Ann Jenkins
Phillip Owen
Alison Riemersma
Jennifer Scariano
Merrell Anne Shearer

2025

Sandi Boone
Bess Carsner
Gay Gillen
Jim Norman
George Zwicker

2026

John Crow
Peni Ellis
Allison Marshall
Rick Patrick
Joe Sanchez

ST. DAVID'S STAFF (AS OF 01/01/2024)

Danni Biddle, Finance Accountant
Lori Blewett, Director of Communications
Dijonnaie Burks, Sexton
Sara Cannon, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry
Taylor Cloyd, Director of Events
Kelsey Cooper, Director of Youth and Young Adult
Ministry
Michael Follis, Assistant Director of Children's Choir
Virginia Gonzales, Childcare Coordinator
Maryam Gouda, A/V Technician
Holt Haley-Walker, Assistant Director of
Communications
Rebecca Hall, Director of The Abbey
Bobbie Holder, Front Desk Receptionist
Michael Holder, Facilities Manager
Jim Lamm, Parish Administrator
The Rev. Carter Leer, Director of Newcomer Ministry
Nathaniel Lundquist, A/V Technician
Eric Malnassy, Director of Stewardship and Planned
Giving
Albert Martinez, Sexton
Eric Mellenbruch, Organist and Choirmaster
Alma Miller, Staff Accountant/Day School Business
Manager
Diamond Milligan, Sexton
Marty Newkirk, Systems and Technology Manager
Maureen Broy Papovich, Director of Children's Choir
Robin Parker, Sexton
Liliana Pierce, Front Desk and Database Manager
Janiece Ponce, Sexton
Janelle Raad, Front Desk Receptionist
Catherine Roberts, Executive Assistant to the Rector
Patrick Senn, Director of A/V
Kimberle Smith, Director of Accounting and Finance
Ray Trono, Chef and Director of Food Ministry

Tyler Thomas, A/V Technician
Edmundo Vasquez, Kitchen Assistant
Dr. Mona West, Director of Adult Christian
Formation
Maril White, Sexton
Amanda Wischkaemper, Director of Children's
Ministry and Wedding Coordinator
Mark Wischkaemper, Director of Music, Bethell Hall
Cynthia Zaragoza, Front Desk Receptionist

SEMINARIANS

Katy Campbell
Carter Leer

ST. DAVID'S DAY SCHOOL

Kate Terrell, Head of School
Juliana Pettiette, Assistant Head of School

NEXT-TO-NEW STAFF

Robert Reid, Executive Director
Carrie Barbour, Merchandise Manager
Jenn Bocardo, Resale Manager
Susan Sitton, Volunteer Manager
Virginia Jones, Part-time Cashier
Katherine Wolbrink, Part-time Cashier

TRINITY CENTER STAFF

Christian Rodriguez, BSW, Executive Director
Myah Williams, LMSW, Case Management
Supervisor
William Day, BSW, Operations Coordinator
Eunice Garcia, BSW, Volunteer & Communication
Coordinator
Gregory "Bishop" Turner, Kitchen Aid

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ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
301 E 8TH STREET AUSTIN, TX 78701

Annual Parish Meeting

January 28, 2024



Order of Business

Call to Order and Welcome

Adoption of Order of Business

Approval of this order of business must be received by two-thirds of the voting members attending.

Invocation The Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell

Appointments

- Parliamentary..... Lowell Keig
- Clerk Jim Norman

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Election Procedures

Candidates for Election as Members of the Vestry

Candidates for Election as Delegates to Diocesan Council

Election Results

Introductions

- Recognition of Vestry and Officers
- Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
- Recognition of Parish Staff

Ministry Focus

2024: Year of Discernment

Reports

- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Rector's Report



Our Annual Report is available at stdave.org/annualreport, or in print by request.

Announcement of Senior Warden

Necrology Report

The Doxology

Prayer for Mission

Blessing and Dismissal

Adjournment

ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Rector, Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell, called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. The order of business was adopted by unanimous consent.

Father Chuck acknowledged the 175th anniversary of the parish and led the congregation in a prayer developed for the occasion.

Father Chuck appointed Lowell Keig as Parliamentarian and Mary Rose as Clerk. The minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were adopted by unanimous consent.

Lowell Keig read the election procedures for 2023. Following a motion, a second, and a voice vote without objection, the congregation approved a slate of five Vestry members for three-year terms and one Vestry member for a two-year unexpired term. Father Chuck recognized the new Vestry members: John Crow, Peni Ellis, Allison Marshall, Rick Patrick, Joe Sanchez, and George Zwicker.

One Diocesan Council representative was elected after a motion, a second, and a voice vote without objection. Father Chuck recognized Lori Eiserloh as the new Diocesan Council representative.

Father Chuck recognized the returning and retiring Vestry members. He then recognized the clergy and staff, with special recognition for Dr. Amy Moehnke who leaves St. David's in February to be appointed curate as part of the process of pursuing ordination.

Father Chuck announced that the church is seeking someone for a part-time position as director of newcomers' ministry. He then announced the creation of a new position of the Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy.

Father Chuck pointed the congregation to the 2022 parish annual report, which is posted online and available via QR code in the bulletin, together with reports from the Senior Warden and other ministries within the congregation. Senior Warden Rex Hunt and Junior Warden Billy K Thomson presented their annual reports. Britton Gregory presented the 2022 financial report on behalf of Treasurer Alison Riemersma.

Eric Leibrock gave a presentation on behalf of the Building Committee.

Father Chuck gave the Rector's Report and announced the commencement of Project 32, designed to engage in long-term planning. He announced the appointment of Ann Jenkins as the next Senior Warden. Father Chuck gave the necrology report and invited the parish to pray for the deceased.

Father Chuck led the parish in the Doxology and the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Rose, Clerk

St. David's Vestry Members

2024



ANN JINKINS
SENIOR
WARDEN



PHILLIP OWEN



ALISON
RIEMERSMA



JENNIFER
SCARIANO
JUNIOR
WARDEN



MERRELL ANNE
SHEARER
TREASURER

2025



SANDI BOONE



BESS CARSNER



GAY GILLEN



JIM NORMAN
CLERK



GEORGE
ZWICKER

2026



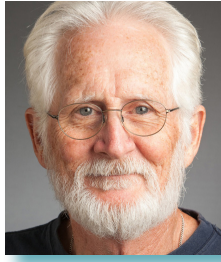
JOHN CROW



PENI ELLIS



ALLISON
MARSHALL



RICK PATRICK



JOE SANCHEZ

Diocesan Council Delegates



TOM GEBHARD



SARAH
KAPOSTASY



KRISTINE
DEVINE



LAURIE
EISERLOH

The Canons of the Diocese of Texas provide that “Men and women at least 16 years of age, who are enrolled confirmed communicants in good standing of the Parish, are entitled to vote for members of the Vestry and upon all questions requiring the action of the Congregation, but none shall be admitted to serve as members of the Vestry except those who are at least 18 years of age.”

Under the Canon, St. David's has decided that 15 qualified persons shall serve three-year terms on the Vestry, five of whom shall be elected each year and by written ballot. A member of the Vestry having served a three-year term shall not be eligible to re-election until one year has passed after the end of the member's term. Only those present at the Annual Parish Meeting are entitled to cast a ballot. Voting by absentee ballot has not been authorized. All elections, by Parish tradition, are determined by those receiving the highest number of votes within the field of eligible nominees. A majority of those voting is not required to elect. In this Parish, tellers appointed by the Rector are designated, under the Canon, as the election managers

charged with reporting the results of elections to the Rector unless the meeting, by a two-thirds vote, shall determine otherwise.

By Canon, members of the Vestry may not be elected to serve more than three consecutive years; however, this restriction does not apply to a person serving an unexpired term. This person is eligible for nomination and election to a full term at the conclusion of service for the unexpired term.

As to Council Delegate elections, the Parish is entitled, under the Canon, to elect four Lay Delegates. Elections may be either by the Vestry or at the Annual Parish Meeting, as the Vestry may determine, unless one of these methods has been stipulated at an Annual Parish Meeting. By Parish tradition, persons elected Lay Delegate serve four-year terms with one position being filled each year. By Canon, the Rector is authorized to fill any vacancy in the Lay Delegation at the time Council meets by appointment from parishioners who meet the qualifications.

2023 has been a year of renewal and new beginnings at St. David's, one in which the blessings of God have been present.

The vestry was excited to focus on the completion of the renovations on the Historic Church. Thanks to the work of many the last few years fundraising, planning by the Building Committee, and identifying an architecture firm and construction company, this vestry had the pleasure of supporting the actual completion of the project. Under Jim Lamm's watchful eye, the project was completed on time and within budget! We were grateful to worship together in the beautifully restored church for Welcome Home Sunday in August.

Under the leadership of Sandi Boone, the 175th Anniversary Committee planned and implemented an array of activities. There was a downtown Holy Hike to locations where early St. David's parishioners worshiped, a pilgrimage to Wales, and an all-parish service with standing room only and meal on a blustery spring day at the Sunshine Camp in Zilker Park. Panels showing a pictorial timeline tracing the history of St. David's from 1848 to the present were created. The bishop celebrated St. David's Day with us, blessing crosses made from salvaged flooring from the restoration of the Historic Church. The culminating event at Tarry House honored our community partners (Caritas, El Buen Samaritano, St. David's Healthcare, Trinity Center, Warm Heart International, Laundry Love, Foundation Communities, Texas Ramp Project, St. David's Day School, Salvation Army, and Next-to-New). St. David's leadership and parishioners' history of outreach in the city continues today.

With the reopening of the Historic Church, there has been an increase in Sunday attendance and engagement in adult formation. Christmas services saw more than a 25% increase from 2022. The all-parish worship Sundays have been well attended. Worship opportunities are being expanded to include Tuesday morning, Thursday midday, Wednesday evening prayers and feast days.

Staff, clergy, and the vestry continue to support "introducing St. David's to the community" through external and internal events. Under the leadership of Chef Ray and Taylor Cloyd, the hospitality ministry is continuing to grow through Sunday breakfasts, Wednesday dinners, Thursday lunches, Candlelight concerts, The Texas Tribune Festival, SXSW, and more. The Downtown Austin Alliance is hosting Issues and Eggs at St. David's quarterly, bringing community members together to learn about the challenges and opportunities downtown faces. St. David's began staging World Music Encounters concerts September 2023 that will continue each month through May 2024. To quote Father Chuck, "St. David's is proud to host World Music Encounters to connect Austinites to global music and meaningful conversation."

In July, we welcomed Dianne Hardy-Garcia as the director of Community Engagement and Advocacy. In her first six months, the focus has been on cultivating working relationships and strengthening St. David's ministries, community engagement groups, Racial Justice Committee, and community partners. She has been actively involved with civic leaders and has found ways for St. David's to partner with other churches, community/civic groups, and social service organizations.

A land acknowledgement statement was presented to the parish November 2023 and accepted by the vestry. This statement is a way for St. David's to share our whole history and recognize that our building has been a stumbling block as well as a foundation for sharing the light of Jesus in Austin.

Bishop Doyle met with the vestry in November and shared that what the church "is for" can be taken from the Book of Common Prayer: that the church exists for the glorification of God. Service ministries flow from the worship of God not because people are doing good works but because they are doing good works for the sake of Christ in others. We can comfortably state that St. David's is positioned to expand and continue good works for the sake of Christ in others.

2023 was an exciting year for St. David's in many ways including the completion of the renovations to our beautiful Historic Church! We also experienced many more attending services, meetings, and events at St. David's on site rather than through computer or TV screens. St. David's looked more familiar in 2023, and the building was once again buzzing with activity thanks to our "regular events" like Texas Tribune and Austin Film Festivals being back in our building. We welcomed hundreds of attendees to these events, and SXSW is returning in March 2024. We hosted new events such as the World Music Encounters concert series (created and curated by parishioner John Burnett) and other events like the Candlelight Music concerts and "Issues and Eggs" meetings with the Downtown Austin Alliance, the City of Austin, and downtown businesses that put St. David's back on the map for music and community events. Thank you to the staff, parishioners, and volunteers of St. David's Church for your continuing support of St. David's and continuing to be engaged by your presence, your prayers, and your gifts.

FINANCES

The parishioners of St. David's Church continued to be generous during 2023. Our pledge payments were unfortunately lower than we budgeted by \$122,332 or -9%. Our plate collections, which is cash given at Sunday services, was greater than budgeted by \$1,170, or 6.5%, which is a direct result of more people attending Sunday services in person, especially since August when we moved back into the Historic Church. Pledge and cash gifts represent 34% of the total parish revenue. The parking garage, and to a lesser extent the surface lot, continue to be a consistent and valuable revenue stream for the parish. In 2023, the church received monthly payments from Metropolis, the garage management company, totaling \$1,751,651 or 46% of the total revenue received by St. David's. The remaining 20% of total parish revenue came from the St. David's Church Foundation (\$245,168), hospitality meals and events (\$282,396), Lucas Foundation and Maxey estate gifts (\$105,028), rent from Sprint cell tower – located on top of the garage (\$22,361), and others. Please see the financial report at the end of this document for more financial information.

PARKING GARAGE UPDATE

In late spring of 2023, Cruise, a self-driving electric (EV) car subsidiary of General Motors, moved into Austin and began leasing parking spaces in our parking garage, on the 8th and 9th levels. They also installed four EV charging stations, three for their exclusive use located on the left as you drive into the garage, and one they donated to St. David's which is located to the right as you enter along with the two City of Austin EV chargers. Unfortunately, as you may have read or heard, Cruise ceased operations in December due to issues with the self-driving cars both here in Austin and in California. Cruise will vacate the garage by the end of January 2024. However, St. David's requested that Cruise donate the three EV chargers, which they owned and operated, to the church to use as public charging stations. Cruise granted that request on Jan. 5! We have contacted Shell Oil Company to have them install their pay app software on these three machines. Garage parkers and staff who own EV or electric vehicles now have four chargers for up to eight cars (two cars can charge at each charger). These are very fast chargers, and the church will receive revenue each month from Shell Oil for the per minute charging of vehicles. St. David's is excited to be able to provide these charging stations to our staff and parkers in our garage. Metropolis, the company that manages the garage, is marketing to increase the number of contract parkers in the garage to help make up for the loss of Cruise.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

We were able to beautify and improve security on the church property in 2023. We installed new LED lighting and new stainless steel interior walls and ceilings in the two garage elevators as well as new flooring. New doors will be installed in the coming weeks. A new vertical garage sign was also installed at the garage entrance off Trinity St. The Holy Grounds Café/Bookshop, which had remained dark during the week since the coffee shop was not open, has been transformed into a multi-function, modern, welcoming meeting/work/quiet space for use by staff, school parents, and parishioners. Holy Grounds coffee is still served on Sunday mornings.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

A door locking system at the front doors was installed which allows the front doors to remain locked and the receptionist can unlock the doors remotely to provide better security. We also installed a new Rhombus video camera system throughout the interior and exterior of the building, 54 cameras in total. Prior to this installation, we had very limited camera capability, only a few old external cameras were present, and these would constantly “black out” for several minutes and often at the most

inopportune times. We now have all the building's hallways and common areas, the playground, Trinity Center, and external entrances and sidewalks of the buildings covered by the cameras, with video storage in the Cloud. In August, we added an unarmed security guard to be present on campus and in 2024 we will continue to have a guard on site on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings to ensure the safety of our staff, visitors, and parishioners.



This past year has been a year of celebration and a return to normalcy as we celebrated our past and began to look into the future. With construction now completed and a return to our glorious historic sanctuary we have begun to see many unfamiliar faces as well as returning faces.

WORSHIP

The year began as it ended with all our worship continuing in Bethell Hall. Steady progress was continually made as we made our way to Welcome Home Sunday. Our Christmas and Easter worship saw increased numbers even as we continued to worship in Bethell. Under the umbrella of celebrating 175 years as a congregation, there were several extraordinary events that affected the worship team. These included a special Holy Hikes in March where we walked around downtown historic sites that belonged to St. David's history as well as a spring all-parish picnic held at Zilker Lodge. Although the temperature was cold, and rain was in the forecast, we had nearly 300 in attendance and fun was had by all. Both events were a tremendous success, and it involved a multitude of staff and parishioners to make them happen.

Over the summer and into fall the worship team worked hard to understand how everyone was feeling about worship with an all-parish survey. It was clear that much of our congregation was ready to be back in our historic sanctuary and the decision was made to move all our worship back into historic for the fall months. This was all kicked off with an all-parish worship and celebration on Welcome Home Sunday and another event in October with the bishop. Our worship space was packed at both events. A third all-parish worship event was also held on Harvest Sunday. Feedback from the congregation has been positive from all the events and we will continue to look at incorporating all-parish events into 2024.

Worship saw the return of daily office offerings with the addition of Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Evening Prayer on Wednesday, and Midday Prayer every other week aligning with our biweekly Thursday lunch offerings. We will continue to assess these offerings and make changes as needed. We are currently looking into offering a monthly healing eucharist on Thursdays starting in 2024.

Holy Hikes, mid-week feast day services, and other special events continue as well. The music team provides the same excellent level of music at all these services that are provided on Sunday. The worship team continues to evaluate all we do and offer, especially on Sundays. Sunday services include three unique worship opportunities. We have seen a slow but steady increase in attendance on Sundays. Given the positive trend in attendance and feedback, the decision was made to continue offering all Sunday worship services in the historic sanctuary.

Many thanks to all who do so much in support of worship, from communications, altar guild, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, sextons, other volunteers, choir, and musicians. We recognize that worship happens because of so many individuals who give of their talents and time.

PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral team meets weekly and is supported by the many lay Eucharistic visitors (LEVs) who help visit and take communion to our most vulnerable parishioners who are unable to be here in person on Sundays. 2023 saw those visits return regularly and with LEVs sent out on Sundays during the worship services. The team is currently evaluating how to extend support to our aging population. With the year's close and the threat of another freeze, the team has focused on responding to emergencies and is developing a process to help. The worship team has also added the prayer list to the bulletin for Sunday services, helping ensure that the congregation is aware of who we are praying for and who would benefit from others reaching out.

SEMINARIANS

St. David's continues its long relationship with the Seminary of the Southwest in developing future leaders in ministry. This past year we saw both Katy Campbell and Carter Leer graduate and move on to other positions. Katy moved on to North Carolina and Carter Leer has come on board to help with the Newcomer Ministry here at St. David's. He is using his training to revamp the on-boarding process and formation of newcomers.

St. David's finished 2023 without any seminarians. This was due to the low enrollment during the pandemic; there were not enough seminarians for the 2023-2024 academic year. However, we are already in conversations with the seminary and will have two seminarians start here in the fall of 2024.

The Rev. Kristin Braun is completing her second year of curacy taking on additional roles and responsibilities. The curacy will conclude at the end of the summer of 2024.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OTHER

I am currently serving my second of three years on the Board of St. Andrew's School here in Austin. I completed my term serving on the Episcopal Foundation of Texas and on the Strategic Mission Grants sub-committee. I am proud to say that I continue to serve and facilitate the diocesan Beginning Well program, which helps new

clergy in the Diocese of Texas integrate into the broader community and helps educate them on all the resources available to them in the diocese. I have been serving in this capacity for four years now. I was recently asked to join the Global World Missions Board by Bishop Fisher. I continue to work on my final integrative project for my Doctorate in Ministry and now hope to graduate in the spring of 2025. This past year I traveled to Malawi and helped represent both St. David's and Warm Heart International and will continue to do so as part of the Global Missions Board. Finally, I led a successful pilgrimage to St. David's in Wales as part of our 175th anniversary this past year and hope to plan and take a sabbatical in the fall of 2024.

Grace and peace,
The Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas
Associate Rector



This year's rector's report might be redundantly titled, "Retrospective on a Year of Retrospection." Under the guidance of our 175th Anniversary Committee, we spent all of 2023 looking back over the years that St. David's has been in downtown Austin. We published stories in our newsletter, produced a historical calendar, and taught classes about our history. We produced beautiful historical panels that represent countless volunteer hours of research about our amazing parish. We learned things we never knew, boasted about the things we are proud of, and named some things we are not. We gathered to celebrate many organizations in Austin that St. David's was instrumental in starting. We had a large, joyful liturgical celebration. This was all part of honoring our past, and acknowledging our beautiful, complicated history.

Meanwhile, most of 2023 found us experiencing beautiful, inspiring liturgy in Bethell Hall while our Historic Church was under renovation. As more people in our congregation returned to corporate worship, Bethell Hall was the perfect intimate space for that return. Just as things were getting a little cozy in the smaller Bethell Hall, we were able to move back into the Historic Church. We were amazed at the beautiful craftsmanship and artistry of our contractors, and the fruit of the labor of the Building Committee.

All the while, we continued to offer myriad ministries that make St. David's such a vibrant place. Next-to-New, Trinity Center, and the Day School, were all doing wonderful work welcoming people and treating people with respect and dignity, making St. David's a diverse and vibrant community. As we celebrated the long ministry of Amy Moehnke and launched her into ordained ministry, we created a new staff position of Community Engagement and Advocacy. Dianne Hardy-Garcia has stepped into that role, and we are thrilled with the energy and focus she is bringing to these ministries.

As is written about in more detail in the treasurer's report, in 2023 we approved a \$275,000 deficit budget. We were able to do so with funds from the Employee Retention Tax Credit as well as our confidence in the return of our worshipping community post-pandemic, and our confidence in your generosity. Throughout the year our confidence was validated – our attendance has slowly been increasing. On Christmas Eve we saw 26% more people that we did

at Christmas a year ago. During our stewardship drive at the end of 2023, we let you know we needed to increase our giving by \$100,000, and you have responded. At the time of this writing, our pledge commitments for 2024 are already higher than they were in all of 2023.

While this is all true, we still find ourselves in a deficit position for 2024. This year we must move to a balanced budget. Likewise, we acknowledge things are much more expensive this year than last, and last year more than the year before. As we adjust salaries in response to this, and pay more for materials and resources, we must make significant budget adjustments elsewhere. Along with combing our facilities and material costs, we will reduce our human resources budget by \$150,000. To do so will require the elimination of two full-time positions and a reduction of hours in a few others. Their duties will be reassigned to remaining staff. The details about these changes will be shared with the parish in February.

Even so, as we move into 2024, we do so with confidence. Now that we have completed our renovation and our 175th anniversary celebrations, we are poised to ask, "What is God calling us to next?" 2024 will be a Year of Discernment for us as we move through a process of listening for an answer to this question. We will ask each individual, household, and parish ministry to reflect on this question throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter.

While this is underway, a newly appointed task force will begin working on Project 32. A brainstorming project that began with the vestry and staff in 2022 has developed into a formal discernment process. By mid-2025 we will discern how, within the next eight years, we will fully utilize our capital resources, help people engage in the life of faith more deeply, create new community ministries that engage half our worshipping congregation, and create another sustainable alternate income stream.

Three other big things are on the horizon for us in 2024. The General Convention of The Episcopal Church meets this summer in Louisville, KY. We will elect the next presiding bishop this year, so it promises to be an important gathering. We will also take a group of up to 16 participants on a pilgrimage to Malawi, further deepening our relationship with our siblings in Africa.

Finally, our beloved associate rector, Angela Cortiñas, will take a much-deserved sabbatical in the fall. Combined with all the ongoing ministries of this vibrant parish, this all adds up to an active, faithful church, of which I am deeply proud.

We move into 2024 with great hope and confidence. I am confident in your commitment, your attendance, and your fidelity to Christ. I am confident in our amazing staff and their ability to adapt to new and challenging circumstances.

And I am fundamentally confident in the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we ask God, “What do you want us to do next?”

In Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell
XIVth Rector



MINISTRY REPORTS

LIFE EVENTS BY THE NUMBERS

We record life events, such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals each year, and we report this information to the Diocese via our annual parochial report. Below are the numbers of each life event for the past two years.

	2022	2023
Baptisms	13	13
Confirmations	18	10
Marriages	6	5
Funerals	17	11

During the year, we welcomed 13 new members through baptism and 10 new members through confirmation. Bishop Monterroso confirmed the first six candidates in May 2023 in the Historic Church, and Bishop Doyle joined us in the newly restored Historic Church for the confirmation of the second group of four in October 2023. We are looking forward to our visit from Bishop Kai Ryan in the spring of 2024.



The number of funerals includes those that were done at St. David's in the Historic Church or in Bethell Hall, as well as those that clergy performed graveside or in a chapel, and the committal of ashes into the columbarium.

If you or a member of your family are interested in participating in any of these life events, you can find information about them on our website, or you can contact one of the clergy.



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Dr. Mona West,
Director of Adult Christian Formation

OVERVIEW

Over the course of the year, **291 people engaged** Adult Christian Formation offerings at St. David's. We believe a primary reason for their engagement has to do with the intentionality we put into our programming. Our commitment to diversity guides choices in the books we read together and the speakers we invite. Our awareness that people have different spiritual temperaments is reflected in the variety of programming we offer. Our longing for justice keeps us creating spaces for conversation at the intersections of faith and culture.

Collaboration was a key component to much of the programming for Adult Christian Formation in 2023. Those collaborations included:

- 175th Anniversary Committee: Eckhardt Mission Series featuring the Rev. Mary Vano; Crail C lecture series featuring St. David's community partners.
- Racial Justice Committee: Sacred Ground curriculum offered; creation and adoption of St. David's Acknowledgement Statement which included a Crail C Holy Conversation.
- Community Engagement and Advocacy: introduced the new director, Dianne Hardy-Garcia to the Open Table community at St. David's; offered a Holy Conversation on Community Engagement and Advocacy.
- In conjunction with the Environmental Guild's Creation Fair, offered a Holy Conversation on Climate Change.
- Invited the youth to participate in One Church, One Book study during Lent.

In addition to specific collaborative efforts, ongoing **weekly offerings** for 2023 included:

- Crail C lectures featuring professors from Seminary of the Southwest, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and the University of Texas, as well as clergy and parishioners from St. David's. Lectures are archived as podcasts and can be accessed on the Adult Formation page of the St. David's website.
- Men's Bible Study, a study of the Bible one book at time using a discussion format.
- Sunday Morning Meditation, a facilitated time of silent meditation using poetry.
- Reading the Bible ToGather study series that takes a communal approach to reading and discussing the lectionary text for the day.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study discussing individual books of the Bible.
- Education for Ministry, in conjunction with Sewanee: The University of the South.
- Medieval Book Group, an online facilitated discussion of the classics of medieval literature.
- The Middle Place a facilitated discussion group for people aged 35- 50, experiencing life changes.

Monthly or yearly offerings for 2023 were:

- Sacred Ground, an 11-part film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith, which is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society.
- The Soul of Aging, a small-group program using curriculum created by The Center for Courage and Renewal.
- The Open Table, a monthly formation program offering topics of interest to the LGBTQIA+ community and includes a quarterly Eucharist.
- One Church One Book Study of *This Here Flesh*, by Cole Arthur Riley during Lent.
- Eckhardt Mission Series with the Rev. Mary Vano, former associate rector and St. David's.
- Advent Quiet Day, using poetry to explore joy and hope.
- IFTAR dinner during the season of Ramadan in conjunction with The Dialogue Institute of Austin.

In addition to these we had **Journey Groups**:

- Life Beyond Full-time Work
- Spirituality and the Twelve Steps

HIGHLIGHTS AND CHANGES

The One Church One Book study during Lent was a huge success. Groups engaged Cole Arthur Riley's book, *This Here Flesh*, and on Palm Sunday we had a virtual interview with the author with more than 60 people in attendance in Crail C.

There was an increase in the variety of offerings for Adult Formation at the 10 a.m. hour on Sunday, which resulted in robust participation.

In December 2022, we launched a new program for the second Sunday of the month in Crail C called Holy Conversations which really took off in 2023 with average attendance of 60. We covered topics such as the Theology of Transgender Identity, Health Equity in Austin, Climate Change, and Immigration at the Texas Border.

There was a change in leadership for the Wednesday Night Bible Study in 2023. The Bible Study had functioned with rotating leadership covering a variety of biblical books and topics. While this approach met the scheduling need, it was felt that there would be more group cohesion if one designated leader facilitated the weekly discussions. Fr. Kristin Braun agreed to become the ongoing leader of the Bible Study which has resulted in more collaboration among the group in choosing what they want to study.

We said goodbye to The Middle Place in May 2023. Adrian and Anne Claire Woods called this group into being in 2019. Their vision was to create a space of community and learning for those who find themselves in some kind of middle place in their lives (newly divorced, caring for aging parents, empty nesters, new parents). That vision became a reality and the group grew to 22 regular participants over the next few years. In May 2023, Adrian and Anne Claire needed to step away from leadership of the group. After a time of discernment and discussion, the group chose not to continue meeting under new leadership.

LOOKING AHEAD

Adult Christian Formation is already collaborating with the rector to plan programming and book studies as St. David's engages the topic of discernment for 2024. We are also working with the rector, associate rector, and the director of Newcomer Ministry to expand St. David's current confirmation curriculum and make it available to the whole parish. We also have plans to collaborate with the Hispanic Ministry as they roll out new initiatives for 2024.

THE ABBEY AT ST. DAVID'S

Rebecca Hall, Director

OVERVIEW

2023 was a year of growth and experimentation for The Abbey. We are continually living into our mission to be a contemplative, spiritual community that attracts people outside St. David's walls. There is an active contingent of St. David's members at The Abbey that serves as a bridge to the Episcopal tradition as well as to St. David's itself.

The majority of Abbey activities continue to thrive on Zoom. We hold periodic in-person retreats (see below), and we are planning

for a monthly, in-person gathering starting in the new year. We plan to host this at a few locations, including St. David's and maybe people's homes, to see where the community likes to meet. We imagine this gathering would be Saturday early evening or Sunday late afternoon.

FALL SURVEY RESULTS

We gleaned some interesting data points from a survey we did this fall. The upshot is that The Abbey is moving in the direction of its goal to do ministry outside the walls of St. David's, while also serving as a place for St. David's members to grow spiritually.

- There are about 60 active participants of The Abbey
- 38% of participants are members of St. David's.
- **62% of participants are not members of St. David's.**
- 22% are from other denominations.
- 12% are from other Episcopal churches (mostly outside of Austin and Texas)
- 72% call themselves "churchgoers."
- 28% do not attend church. Some do not call themselves Christians. Some are "post church Christians".
- 75% live in Austin.
- 25% live in other Texas cities and outside of Texas.

ACTIVITIES & GROUPS

Practicing Presence Blog: Our blog is growing and attracting readers from all over the world! Editor Melanie Moore invites people from diverse backgrounds to write posts, many of them are writers and have their own followers. This brings many new readers to our site and our blog. Melanie was invited to attend the Festival for Faith and Writing and will be representing The Abbey blog to this amazing group of writers.

Retreats: We held three, day-long retreats at Still Waters Retreat Center in South Austin. The retreat in January focused on spiritual growth in the new year led by Janet Davis. We held a spring Journaling as a Spiritual Practice retreat in the spring led by Melanie Moore. Rebecca Hall led a fall retreat on Belonging.

The Gathering: The Gathering meets on Zoom the 2nd and 4th Sunday morning of each month for 20 or so minutes of prayer and reflection. Many people stay for the rest of the hour for discussion of the reading of the day. These people find their way to The Gathering through other Abbey groups.

Labyrinth Community: Janet Davis convenes two groups a month, one in person and one online. She compiles poems and readings to be used in conjunction with walking a labyrinth. Many people from all over the US use Janet's reflections in their own locations. Some join the monthly Zoom group to discuss their practice as reflected in the monthly readings.

Enneagram Community: Caroline Kibler and Calan Thurow are both in the process of becoming certified Enneagram teachers in

the Narrative Tradition. They lead a monthly Saturday morning discussion on various Enneagram topics. Right now, they are discussing spiritual practices for each of the types. Most people who participate in the Enneagram group are not from St. David's or even go to church.

Meditation and Discussion Group: Led by Rebecca, the Tuesday Meditation and Tuesday Discussion Groups continue to be the place where many people find their way to The Abbey. These groups have become strong, supportive communities. Practice, learning, and discussion bind these people together, and the groups function more like peer spiritual direction than classes.

LOOKING AHEAD

We foresee three probably/possible impactful growth areas in the coming year.

First, as described above, The Gathering plans to meet monthly in-person in addition to the two Zoom Gatherings. The Abbey community is growing stronger, and people have a desire for a predictable, in-person gathering for the whole community. We anticipate that 10-20 people might attend on any given month.

Second, we are considering applying for a Strategic Mission Grant through the Diocese of Texas. The Abbey falls well within the Diocese's definition of "missional community," for which these grants exist. We would like to offer group spiritual direction and spiritual support for young activists on the front lines of social justice work. These groups would start by being offered on Zoom.

Third, because 62% of Abbey participants are not St. David's members, we will start a regular stewardship practice (planned in conjunction with St. David's Stewardship office). We plan to ask non-St. David's members to make a small, monthly contribution.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Eric Leibrock, Chair

At last year's annual parish meeting, the Building Committee presented the paint colors it had chosen for the restored Historic Church. The colors were our best guess for how the interior had been painted in the historic photo from about 1888, backed up by the investigations of our historic paint conservator and recommended by our architects at Ford, Powell & Carson. The full 30-member Building Committee carefully considered the plan with the aid of a full-bay mockup of the proposed paint, that is, a giant paint sample including every building component from floor to ceiling within one stained-glass bay of the church. This was the most controversial decision of our entire committee service, involving a radical change in the Historic Church's interior look, and it was made in a spirit of loving disagreement, gentle debate, and some blind faith.

Final changes, surprises, and additions to the building program:

- New Chancel “jump seats” for acolytes
- Restoration of discovered historic tile floor at the South Entrance
- Decision to refinish rather than recarpet the South Stairs
- Additional column capitals restoration on rear Chancel pilasters
- Repair of broken supports behind the reredos (tall marble piece behind the altar)
- New plaque for the “Crown of Life” window recognizing the Castleberry Fund’s contribution
- Exterior retaining wall at the surface parking lot and street patched and painted
- Re-installation of the restored reredos triptych paintings
- New organ console installed; organ pipes cleaned and tuned
- Several stained-glass windows fully restored; all windows washed, and new exterior storm windows installed
- Chancel floor patched using salvaged wood from the Nave, sanded down and bleached to match
- Cross atop Bell Tower repainted
- Historic corner guards restored to Chancel columns and pilasters
- Yet to come: additional restoration of decorative painting on column capitals

Our contractor, SpawGlass, finished the job on time and with impressive commitment to client satisfaction and job safety. The cost was within the budgeted amount from the “It’s Our Turn” capital campaigns—with the caveat that some pledges remain outstanding.

Our lead architects, Allison Chambers and Anna Nau of Ford, Powell & Carson, administered our ongoing project with great skill, patience, and professionalism.

On Sept. 14 the Austin Chamber of Commerce honored St. David’s with a ribbon-cutting to officially open the restored church.

On Nov. 14 Preservation Austin presented us with a Preservation Award for Restoration. This annual juried award recognizes “exemplary projects with community impact” and “celebrates the hard work and visionary approaches of those preserving Austin’s architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage.”

Our committee’s final act is to hand over the Phased Preservation Master Plan to the vestry’s standing property committee. The PPMP was a major part of our project’s cost and is meant for the church’s use for years to come. Reminder: the Historic Church renovation was just Phase 1 of the six phases in the PPMP. Yet to come are:

Phase 2. Sumners Hall and Bethell Hall: Life Safety, Information Technology, and Electrical Renovations

Phase 3. Sumners and Bethell: Exterior Envelope and Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing Renovations

Phase 4. Sumners, Bethell, and Grace Chapel: Interior Renovations

Phase 5. Site Repairs and Landscape Improvements

Phase 6. Garage Improvements

The cost of the remaining phases, plus a maintenance plan, was estimated at the time of the PPMP at about \$7 million.



CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Amanda Wischkaemper, Director of Children’s and Family Ministries

- 2,053 total annual participation

CHILDREN’S FORMATION

Children’s classes include both Montessori-based and story/play-based offerings and met on most Sundays in 2023. Children’s classes are carefully and prayerfully led by teachers Elizabeth Bangs, Christy Hodge, Elaine and Rex Hunt, Dani Lybrand, and Susan Perry, with assistance from Mary Lenz. We occasionally partner with Church Childcare for combined formation offerings like Club 10:15 I am grateful for the collective talent and time these folks continue to give.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Our “Prayground” soft space at the front of the church remains a popular spot where families and children sit together and actively engage with worship. In August, a new Prayground area was set up in the front of the East pews in the newly renovated Historic Church.



Children's chapels have returned to the first-floor chapel foyer, directly down the stairs from the main doors into the Historic Church. In 2023, another chapel service was added to the 11:15 a.m. service. Children's chapel consists of a short liturgy and lectionary-based lesson. During the Gospel procession, children follow a cross to the exit of the church. All return to church at the conclusion of the sermon. There are four weekly chapel roles, and we would like to add new volunteers to our team!

OTHER PROGRAMS

In 2023, we continued to foster engagement and fellowship with families. We've enjoyed regular family playdates and outings, including meetups at parks, ice skating, improv for kids, the pumpkin patch, and more. We continue to collaborate and nurture relationships with St. David's Day School, Youth Ministry, Church Childcare, and the church at large.

Our Children's Choir has officially rebounded from the pandemic, literally tripling in size from 5 to 15 since 2021. It is exciting to welcome a large new contingent of pre-K and kindergarten students into our programs. We also added a new choir director, Michael Follis, to assist Director of Children's Choir Maureen Broy Papovich with the older kids who sing with us. The results have been great.

Fellowship and formation programs for children and families include Shrove Tuesday, Good Friday Children's Program, Children's Choir Spring Musical, Vacation Bible School, Summer Performing Arts Camp, Parish Movie Nights, Family Playdates, Club 45 outings, Austin Heart Walk, Trunk or Treat, Advent Wreath-Making, Caroling Dinner, and more.

In 2024, we aim to live into our St. David's core values, bringing more opportunities for all ages of our community to learn, experience, and live out the love of God.

CHILDCARE (DURING CHURCH EVENTS)

Virginia Gonzalez, Childcare Coordinator

Childcare at St. David's provides care for children ranging in age from 2 months through 11 years. Our programs include childcare for all Sunday morning services, Wednesday evening activities, Vacation Bible School Aftercare, and other mid-week and feast day worship and programs as needed. Childcare also provides care for Club 10:15, our periodic combined-age play-based alternative Sunday morning formation for children. Throughout the year, we work closely with Amanda Wischkaemper and Children's

and Family Ministry to provide an enriching and nurturing environment for your children.

In 2023, we welcomed four lovely new Childcare staff – Anais Arechiga, Ariana Arechiga, Joyce Ruiz, and Belinda Ruiz – who have joined Bonni Tolar as part of our regular team. This year we also said farewell to our beloved Laura Faulk who has retired after more than two decades of faithful work at St. David's.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Kate Terrell, Interim Head of School

The Day School provides students aged 18 months to 5 years with a warm and accepting environment where they can learn through play.

To refocus on the school's original mission, we changed our school hours and our staff's hours this year to better reflect our goal of being a high-quality early childhood educational facility. We are now open 7:30 to 3:30, with an extended care program from 3:30 to 5:30.

We recertified with Texas Rising Star this year and maintained their highest rating of 4 stars; we are also NAEYC accredited and members of NAES. Along with all those changes, we completely updated our playground by adding turf, greenery along the fence line, and all new playground toys. We rearranged our classrooms and converted a classroom into a school library. We also updated the hallways by painting them a bright, crisp white.



We currently have 25 students and several more are enrolling over the next few months. Kate Terrell was officially appointed head of

school after a year as the interim, and we welcomed assistant head of school, Juliana Pettiette. Juliana has worked hard to increase our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, along with working to create new signage for our school. Thanks to Catherine Michalk, we built a new, beautiful website and updated our logo.

We attend children's chapel every Wednesday with a member of the St. David's pastoral staff, and a local children's fitness and movement instructor, Coach Bob, comes in each Tuesday to work with our students on important gross motor skills.

We strive to be a community for our students and families; we hosted regular school gatherings and encouraged our families to participate in the Children's Ministry and church activities this year. We invited all our families to participate in the Episcopal School Sunday Service, the Downtown Austin Alliance Tree Lighting Event, our Parent Workday event, and many other events. We look forward to many more joint events this year and continuing to expand our community.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Lori Blewett, Director of Communications

Holt Haley-Walker, Asst. Director of Communications

- 8,475 total online worship viewership
- 163 average weekly online worship viewership
- 117 e-newsletter communications (52 St David's at a Glance); +153 subscribers; 2% open rate increase (over 17% increase in 2022)
- 121,853 stdave.org website page views
- 2,045 sessions My St. David's app (launched in 2022), 264 active users
- 1,349 podcast episodes to date; 45,340 downloads to date, 10 countries
- 2,747 Facebook likes; +76 likes, +27 new contacts
- 540 X (formerly Twitter) followers; 1,369 tweets to date; +11 followers
- 1,036 Instagram followers; 608 posts to date; +159 new followers, 18% increase
- 32k YouTube views to date; 10.5k views, 23% increase; +72 subscribers, 348 subscribers to date
- 3k Vimeo views to date; +211 unique viewers

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Holt and I are in our sixth year as a communications team, and there is always much to communicate to the parish, downtown community, and the Austin-metro area about St. David's and its ministries – especially during a banner year celebrating 175 years as a parish.

In addition to maintaining the parish website and social media, as well as producing a weekly parish e-newsletter and promotions for upcoming events and worship services, we also supported anniversary events and new projects.



175th Anniversary Projects

- Jan. 29 – Prayer cards and pins debuted at Annual Parish Meeting
- April 23 – All-parish worship and picnic at Zilker Lodge
- Summer – Brand design, feedback, and promotions for Historic Church floorboard commemorative items
- Aug. 12-13 – Welcome Home Weekend (Pride Eucharist, first Sunday worship in newly renovated Historic Church, and ministry fair)
- Oct. 15 – Timeline Sunday and debut of five panels
- Oct. 22 – Feast of St. David and 175th Anniversary Celebration
- Oct. 23 – Evening Event Honoring Community Partners

ONLINE WORSHIP

Since July 2021, we've used a third party to help with livestreaming and camera operation. With renovations underway in Historic Church, with a new AV console planned in the back of the nave, we began work on designing an in-house livestream set up. Not all the equipment was received in time for our return to Historic in August, but we made it work. We finally received the outstanding video switching board the week before Christmas and we are learning and adjusting to the new system.

To run everything in-house, we currently we have four AV team members: Patrick Senn, director of A/V working part time on Sundays and during the week as needed for weddings, funerals, and other events. He has assembled a rotating team of AV techs to help with audio, cameras, and on-screen graphics: Maryam Gouda, Tyler Thomas, and Nathaniel Lundquist. We hope to build a volunteer AV ministry to help with livestreams, so let us know if you're interested.

Our last livestreamed worship services with the vendor will be Feb. 2 and March 1, 2024, in Bethell Hall. After that, we will explore our options for an in-house livestream set up and services will continue to be livestreamed in Historic Church.

Community Events and Projects

- March – St. David's Fortlandia fort design proposal (design finalist, but not selected; Marc Bove led proposal process with Rex Hunt's design concepts and supporting research)
- April 1 – Zilker Kite Festival booth presence; estimated 3k booth attendance, 1k pinwheels distributed
- Sept. 1 – Pay it Forward 9/11
- Sept. 14 – Austin Chamber Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony; nearly 200 in attendance
- Sept. 27 – Austin Young Chamber Give Back Get Loud Give Back Champion Sponsor
- Dec. 2 – Downtown Stroll booth presence; several hundred booth attendance

World Music Encounters

- Sept. 10 – Atash
- Oct. 15 – Ana Barajas and Cruz del Sur
- Nov. 5 – Mahmoud Chouki
- Dec. 10 – Ulla

Communications support for WME included logo design feedback, sponsorship communications, solicitation, and fulfillment, Eventbrite event set up and ticket/promo code coordination, online community calendar event submissions, website and blog set up and maintenance, digital programs, printed concert posters and fliers, coordinating community poster/flier distribution, street banner design, onsite wayfinding and promotional signage, digital promotions, social media campaigns, Facebook and Eventbrite advertising campaigns, community arts cross promotion, and media coverage tracking and archiving. We also employed a paid student intern in the fall to help with community outreach and social media strategy. Five more monthly concerts are planned through May 2024.

BUILDING THE ST. DAVID'S BRAND

We literally designed and purchased a St. David's brand iron. It was used for the commemorative wood crosses fashioned from the Historic Church floorboards and on wooden ornaments distributed at the Downtown Stroll and other Christmas events. It's quite the 'hot' commodity.

Of course, our 175th anniversary provided an excellent opportunity to build our brand, the other kind, in the community. Through established events like the Zilker Kite Festival, PRIDE parade, and Downtown Stroll, we're able to connect with event participants in positive ways. Finding uniquely Austin and family-oriented events that happen before Easter, Welcome Home, and Christmas are prime opportunities to practice a ministry of presence in the community. In 2024, we may look at other annual festivals like Pecan Street Festival and other downtown events for ways to partner or sponsor a booth.

Summer 2023 we joined the Austin Chamber of Commerce to connect with area businesses and promote our 175th anniversary events and church offerings. As part of our membership we were able to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Nearly 200 people

attended on Sept. 14. Clergy and vestry members attended along with representatives from Ford, Powell & Carson and SpawGlass. Eric Leibrock, chair of the Building Committee, and our council member, Zo Qadri, also gave remarks during the ceremony. Afterward, everyone joined in Sumners Hall where we showcased our hospitality culinary offerings and staff provided tours of the building.

Professional Development

Another way to build the brand is to share our knowledge with other church communicators. In January 2023, Holt and I were invited by the Episcopal Parish Network to be panelists on a webinar, "Excellence in Church Communications: Newsletters and Websites." It's been six years of learning from others and tweaking, so we were happy to share what's worked for us. Several communicators reached out to learn more.

Holt and I are also members of the Episcopal Communicators professional organization. In addition, I continue my term through spring 2025 as a board member for the organization. In April 2023, St. David's earned two Polly Bond awards for excellence in church communication during the annual conference held at Camp Allen.

St. David's work was recognized in the following categories:

- Best Email Newsletter Award of Merit: St. David's at a Glance | Holt Haley-Walker and Communications Team
- Graphic Design Award of Merit: 175th Anniversary Logo | Lori Blewett

GOING INTO 2024

We look forward to building on our parish and community connections. We will evaluate our ministry processes for ways to improve – especially with technology. For example, we've seen a slowing of activity on Twitter/X and an increase on Instagram. We also want to tell more St. David's stories and will explore the best ways to share them. These are just a two of the areas we want to investigate during our year of discernment.

Thank you for your support – and grace at times – as we work to improve our communications and share St. David's work, stories, and offerings within the parish and in the Austin community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy

As St. David's celebrated its 175th anniversary as a church, its commitment to community engagement and advocacy through our many ministries remains strong, active, and impactful. Our church's core value 'to seek and serve' has long been a St. David's tradition and serving the most vulnerable remains the cornerstone of our ministerial efforts.

In 2023, this commitment to service has meant that our parish

has donated thousands of volunteer hours in extremely generous ways.

ST. AGNES GUILD

This year, the 25 members of the St. Agnes Guild gathered as a group of inspired knitters and crocheters to create prayer shawls, “Knitted Knockers,” and scarves and hats for those experiencing struggle. Their beautiful, handmade work was a reminder to those in pain that they are covered in God’s love and comfort.

In November, the St. Agnes Guild displayed **more than 250 of their annual gifts** in the church lobby. For Christmas, St. Agnes Guild provided more than **100 lovely hats and scarves** to the women at Trinity Center. They also helped distribute handmade bags filled with hygiene supplies made as Christmas gifts by our **Daughters of The King**.

ARBOR TERRACE LUNCH

On the fourth Saturday of each month, a loving group of St. David’s volunteers cooked and shared a meal with the residents of Arbor Terrace. Arbor Terrace is supportive housing for single adults and these meals helped to cultivate loving and meaningful relationships with Austinites in need of connection.

Under the leadership of **Trey and Adrian Buchanan**, this ministry of **40+ volunteers** of all ages served more than **850 meals** this year. This included an incredible Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Supper.



ST. DAVID’S RAMP BUILD TEAM

Nearly every month, our dedicated Ramp Build Team worked with the Texas Ramp Project to construct vitally needed ramps for people with mobility challenges. This year, the group built its longest ramp to date, added new volunteers, and is becoming an intergenerational effort.

Under the leadership of **Rex Hunt and Ray Trono**, this ministry has **60+ volunteers** ranging in age from 13 years and up. In its six years, this ministry has built 44 ramps. The St. David’s Ramp Team is an active outreach into the community and an effective tool for attracting people into a closer relationship with God.

LAUNDRY LOVE

Laundry Love is St. David’s ministry to help better lives with love, dignity, and access to clean laundry. Each month, an active group of **30+ volunteers** provided laundry cards and supplies to our neighbors in need, followed by a simple meal of pizza and dessert.

The need for this ministry has grown by 30% this year. While we used to serve **70 people** every month, we now serve **more than 100 monthly**. In 2023, Laundry Love provided more than **1,000 meals** and **960 laundry supply packets** that included laundry cards, detergent, and dryer sheets enabling our neighbors to do **4,800 loads of laundry**.

TRINITY STREETS

St. David’s volunteers hosted a liturgy and lunch one Sunday a month at Trinity Center for our unhoused neighbors. This vibrant ministry has **40+ active volunteers** and that includes individuals, families, and children who work together to prepare a meal, celebrate the Eucharist, and then serve lunch for the Trinity Streets community. Under the leadership of **Fr. Kristin Braun**, attendance has increased with **20-40 participants monthly**.

This year, Trinity Streets volunteers brought back the tradition of serving a Christmas Eve Dinner following a Christmas Eve service. It was a beautiful evening for our neighbors and volunteers alike.

ENVIRONMENTAL GUILD

This past year, the Environmental Guild of **45+ members** continued to lead sustainability awareness for the congregation, with collections of recyclable items – batteries, printer ink cartridges, eyeglasses, natural and synthetic corks, small electronics, CDs, and cases – in the church lobby, and at our annual Creation Care fair. The Guild is also beginning an exploration of ways to reduce the church’s use of single-use plastic water bottles.

The group hosted Creation Care Fair on Oct. 1 attended by **150+ parishioners** and a special goat and chicken from Barking Dog Ranch. The successful event continues to celebrate our community’s great care and stewardship of all of God’s creation.

WEDNESDAY EVENING VOLUNTEERS

In the fall 2023, a new group of **10+ volunteers** started to meet to put together items for our ministries to those in need. The group filled bags with winter supplies, hygiene kits, laundry packets, emergency food items, and more. The group meets after parish dinner. In November and December, volunteers assembled 150 backpacks filled with winter supplies for our unhoused neighbors as preparation for cold weather emergencies.

BREAKFAST PREP AT TRINITY CENTER

To help Trinity Center, St. David’s began to recruit volunteers and staff to help prepare breakfast on weekday mornings for our unhoused neighbors. This one-hour volunteer event is attracting a new group of volunteers for St. David’s and Trinity Center alike.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

St. David's Community Engagement Committee continued their special role of working with the Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy, Dianne Hardy-Garcia, to support and coordinate volunteer and outreach opportunities for St. David's Church. This year, there was a particular emphasis on working in partnership and those efforts enabled many special projects to move forward successfully including:

- **Reading Buddies** at Norman-Sims Elementary St. David's volunteers continued to serve as "Reading Buddies" to students at Norman-Sims Elementary School. By providing this one-on-one attention to students, our volunteers are helping strengthen reading skills and furthering a love of reading.
- **Pay It Forward 9/11** St. David's worked with Pay It Forward 9/11 to host their kick-off event for the nationally recognized #11DaysofKindnessCampaign. The effort is a positive way to honor those impacted by 9/11. This year, volunteers distributed backpacks and meals to our unhoused neighbors and provided backpacks and school supplies to local students.
- **Painting & Refurbishing SAFE Intake Room** In October, Community Engagement was asked to paint the new intake room for the Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Program at SAFE. This was a special service project between St. David's, our Youth Ministry, and Austin Area Urban League of Young Professionals. More than 25 volunteers gave of their time, resources, and energy to this weekend-long project. The intake room was completed, it looked fantastic, and the staff at SAFE was deeply appreciative.



- **St. Francis Pet Food Drive** Throughout September, St. David's organized a pet food drive as part of our St. Francis Blessing of the Pets event on Wed., Oct. 4. We collected more than 200 lbs. of both cat and dog food and donated that to the El Buen Samaritano Food Bank.
- **2023 Heart & Stroke Walk** In October, Team St. David's participated in the Austin 2023 Heart & Stroke Walk as a church team. The team raised more than \$1,000 for heart health programs in Austin.

- **Norman-Sims Elementary Cold Weather Gifts** In partnership with St. James, St. David's helped provide winter hats, scarves, and gloves to 280 beautiful elementary students at Norman-Sims Elementary. 92.8% of children at this school are considered economically disadvantaged.
- **Angel Tree 2023** In partnership with El Buen Samaritano, St. David's parishioners provided Christmas gifts for 18 families helping to make sure that every member of the family received a gift. This was one of our largest Angel Tree efforts to date and our church's generosity exceeded all expectations.
- **RCYF Holiday Toy Giveaway** St. David's donations allowed us to contribute 60 gifts of sports equipment and toys to the River City Youth Foundation's Merry Memories event. This annual event has become Austin's second largest one-day toy giveaway serving more than 2,000 children in Southeast Austin.
- **Uniting for the Trinity Center Christmas Party** Volunteers from St. David's, Central Presbyterian Church, and First Baptist Church joined together to decorate, serve food, check in bags, and set up and clean up for Trinity Center's Holiday Party this year. St. David's was so proud to provide volunteer support and resources for the heartwarming event attended by more than 200 of our unhoused neighbors.

As we look at our church's many acts of service and generosity in 2023, it is our hope that each symbolizes how the abounding love of God can become a reality in many communities in Austin and beyond. That thought guides us going forward.

FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Mona West,
Director of Adult Christian Formation

Sunday Foyers Lunch: Thanks to the leadership of Janet Sawyer, this fun group had another wonderful year of gathering for lunch in Sumners Hall after church one Sunday a month. These events were filled with storytelling and laughter and continue to be a welcome addition to the fellowship offerings.

Women's Group: This group met in Sumners Hall after church on Sunday's once a month to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Chef Ray. There were several times the women's group and Sunday foyers joined together to share a meal and fellowship!

Men's Group: The Men's Group dinners are legendary around St. David's! This monthly dinner gathered in Sumners Hall, the Labyrinth, and members' homes in 2023. Resilience was the theme



of the fall retreat at Mo Ranch, facilitated by the Rev. Patrick McCoy. **Movie Group:** The Movie Group met once a month at St. David's to discuss recently released movies with about eight regular attendees. This group is fun and interesting to be a part of.

Primetimers: Primetimers resumed gathering for fun events after taking a hiatus due to COVID-19. Those who attended were so happy to have regular gatherings again as evidenced by 37 attendees at the annual Christmas party!

Pickleball: This was a new fellowship group added in 2023. The group meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in St. David's gym to engage in this newly popular sport. Beginners are welcome!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Merrell Anne Shearer, Treasurer

CHURCH FINANCES

2023 was a year of re-opening. With the return to services in the historic sanctuary, we welcomed back our fellow parishioners, friends, and guests at the many church services, events, and concerts we had in 2023 – many for the first time since 2019.

As you can see from the financial report at the end of the full Parish Report, our giving is down from what the vestry had budgeted and what we had received in 2022. The vestry had anticipated this downturn in giving as we came out of the pandemic and approved a 2023 budget with an operating deficit of (\$275,915). However, we ended the year with a deficit of (\$362,900). We have used our "Employee Retention Tax Credit" monies, received in 2022, to offset this deficit. This increase in the deficit for 2023 is due largely due to a shortfall in giving income (\$122,332) or 8.74%. The staff did a great job staying within their respective departmental budgets, even with some major unbudgeted expenses such as the upgrades to building security, renovation of Holy Grounds/Bookshop, renovation of several staff offices, and the addition of a security guard six days a week. Total expenses were only over budget by \$39,625, or 1% of the deficit.

We are grateful to all of those who pledged and gave in 2023. Based on the giving pledges we have received for 2024, many of you have increased your giving commitment for 2024. We thank you! As a reminder, you can set up a recurring gift through our website at www.stdave.org and clicking on the "Give Now" button. You can also set up your weekly or monthly gift via your bank.

HISTORIC CHURCH RENOVATIONS

The work on the Historic Church was completed in August and it is beautiful! Unfortunately, the cost of the renovation work, originally estimated at around \$5 million in late 2019, ballooned to \$6.5 million due solely to the increase in material and labor after inflation skyrocketed in 2021. Parishioners responded to our call to increase and extend their capital campaign pledges. Since pledges are not set to end until December 2025, we had

to take out a construction loan with Plains Capital Bank in the interim. The final loan balance amount of the construction loan is \$1,844,680. This is a three-year loan, and we only have to pay the interest for the first three years. We will be paying down the loan with the capital campaign pledge monies as they are received.

FOUNDATION

Art Boone, Chair

The St. David's Episcopal Church Foundation maintains an endowment with the mission of enhancing the financial health of the church. It is the body that oversees all investment matters that make sure the church remains a sustainable and well-funded organization for the future. The Foundation focuses on providing meaningful ministry enhancements to the parish, which are beyond the capacity of the annual operating budget. The Board consists of two ex officio officers, the rector and the senior warden, and seven board members, with the officer structure of chair, vice-chair, treasurer, and secretary. In addition, there is an outside investment consultant currently represented by CFM Wealth Partners. The Board meets four times a year: January, April, July, and November.

Each year we honor parishioners who have joined the Sumners Legacy Society, which represents parishioners who have included the church in planned giving for the future. Every year we celebrate the Legacy Society members as well as present information explaining how parishioners may become members. An annual tradition, Legacy Sunday honors all the saints in the parish who have left a lasting legacy in the form of a bequest or other planned gifts from their estate.

In 2023, St. David's marked 175 years as a parish. In recognition of this, members of the Legacy Society helped the 175th Anniversary Committee plan and host a special celebration for the church's community partners. The event was held at Tarry House in Austin and included representatives from The Diocese of Texas and the City of Austin. Mayor Kirk Watson read an official proclamation naming October 23, 2023, as St. David's Episcopal Church Day.

Donors to the Sumners Legacy Society are listed in church publications. Members and friends of the parish can participate in St. David's mission through time with a legacy gift. For information, contact Eric Malnassy at eric.malnassy@stdave.org or a director of the foundation. In addition to Chair Art Boone, directors include Vice-Chair Linda Gebhard, Treasurer Chris Gorychka, Secretary Britton Gregory, Paul Brownell, Jess Chapin, and Charles Moody.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Chef Ray Trono, Director of Food Ministry

For the Hospitality Ministry, 2023 was the year where we saw the results of 2022's rebirth.

With Chef Ray Trono and Taylor Cloyd, working with Dishwasher/Prep Edmundo Diaz, our incredible group of dedicated volunteers

and contract helpers, we were able to add to what we achieved in 2022.

While we continued our focus on parish-sponsored events, we hosted several new clients as well as many returning clients.

Sunday breakfast and Wednesday dinner continued throughout the year. From our vantage point, the number served, and revenue generated, we saw participation increasing in St. David's events. Café Divine prepared Sunday lunches for the Women's Group and the Sunday Foyer's Group as well as the Daughter's of the King Wednesday luncheon. Café Divine Superbowl Sunday and 4th of July brisket sales also took place, (as they will this year). Special events hosted by St. David's included the Eckhardt Mission Series, the Parish Spring Picnic at Zilker Lodge, Welcome Home Sunday, Stewardship's Harvest Sunday, and the festivities for St. David's 175th Anniversary.

Thursday Lunch restarted in October 2022 as the First Thursday of the month lunch. It continued monthly to the fall and in October 2023, we added the third Thursday of the month for lunch. We hope that by increasing the consistency of the Thursday lunches, we will help increase our numbers with a goal of 100 as the average number of entrées sold. (This is everyone's call to join us on Thursday for lunch, no excuses).

External events hosted by The Space at St. David's kept us busy. Although the construction in the Historic Sanctuary did hamper our ability to use this space (no SXSW in 2023), we hosted both the Texas Tribune Festival and the Austin Film Festival in the fall as well as Downtown Austin Alliance's Issues and Eggs series. In 2023, we hosted 110+ external events, and brought in 10,000+ visitors to St. David's.

The Space also saw the return of Fever Entertainment and their Candlelight Music Series. They spent some of their time in Bethell Hall, but when the Historic Sanctuary reopened, they moved back to the space they love the most. The concerts were held about two times each month and are on the books to continue in 2024. If anyone is interested in attending any of these events, our department receives comp tickets for the show, please contact us.

The Hospitality Ministry also played a key role in the World Music Encounters Series, hosted by parishioner John Burnett. This Sunday afternoon series, which hosts world music musicians monthly in the Historic Sanctuary began in the fall and will continue through the spring. In addition, working with the other ministries of St. David's to put on the concert, we worked with volunteers to create the usher team promoting St. David's hospitality to those attending. We have consistently seen attendance numbers grow and in the first show of 2024, there we 232 in attendance. If you have yet to attend one of these show, you need to.

Overall, the Hospitality Ministry hosted 200+ events. Although the end of the year's budget numbers were not in at the time of report being submitted, end-of-the-month November financials report actual total revenue of \$262,774.36 (2023 budgeted amount \$218,650.00) and total expenses (without staff payroll)

\$117,814.07 resulting in a \$114,960.29 net (without staff payroll).

The Hospitality Ministry can never thank our volunteer/contract staff enough for all they did in 2023 to make it the success it was. There is so much behind-the-scenes planning and preparation as well as the actual event execution that goes into each event, there is no possible way we could have achieved the numbers and success we achieved without their help. We thank those volunteers who are part of our regular weekly event teams who volunteer with us each time, and we also thank those volunteers who are available to us on an "on call" basis for when those irregular (but becoming more and more frequent) events are scheduled. Thank you, thank you, and thank you.



We also want to make a special shout out to the Austin ISD GO Project, who in their 18th year at St. David's, have become such an integral part of our ministry and the St. David's community. These young adults, along with their teachers, do more and more for us every year while learning valuable job and life skills. Without their steady support, we aren't sure how we could do what we do. Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

Now, let's rock 2024.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Eric Mellenbruch, Organist and Choirmaster
Mark Wischkaemper, Director of Music, Bethell Hall

In many ways, 2023 has been a year of returning: returning to the Historic Church, returning to familiar places and sounds, returning to St. David's. The St. David's Music Ministry can reflect on a number of achievements through 2023 and expects great things from 2024!

RETURN TO THE HISTORIC CHURCH

The big news of 2023 was, of course, the return to the Historic Church. The Music Ministry was delighted to discover, upon that return, a much different, and improved, acoustic in the space, which has only encouraged St. David's always strong congregational singing, and has allowed the musicians to better

hear and be heard and thus to provide better liturgical leadership. The exciting and attractive renovation of the familiar architecture has brought refreshed energy to music-making in the space.

The autumn of 2023 featured several large combined services. St. David's 175th anniversary celebration culminated with an observation of our patronal feast, which occasioned the singing of the ancient *Te Deum* – a text traditionally used for such important celebrations – in a new musical setting written by Eric Mellenbruch. The choir, joined by some former members, worked for many weeks to learn this challenging piece, and Eric happily entrusted Mark to conduct the work for its premiere. Other large services invited the use of brass instruments, with our usual quartet expanded to a quintet with the addition of Tate Philpott playing French horn.

CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC

The congregation is the heart of music-making in worship. Eric and Mark continue to develop the congregational music repertory of St. David's, choosing and introducing hymns, hymn-tunes, and service music (including musical settings written or arranged by Mark or Eric) appropriate to the season and day in question. Additionally, we are working to enrich our repertory by drawing upon the range of congregational songbooks published by The Episcopal Church. We look forward to continuing to explore more congregational music in the year to come.

ADULT CHOIR

The St. David's Choir continued its devoted service to our parish throughout 2023. As a break from the choir's demanding 2022–23 season and in preparation for the transitions of the autumn, we adopted a Summer Choir model, reducing the difficulty level of the repertory and rehearsing only the music for the upcoming Sunday each week, both to accommodate existing members' travel schedules and to give people the opportunity to try the choir without an ongoing commitment. This led to some new members in both the soprano and tenor sections.

With the return to the Historic Church, we did away with the Chamber Choir as an ensemble-within-an-ensemble and became one single choir serving at the 11:15 Eucharist. In addition to Sunday mornings, the choir also serves at a number of non-Sunday services throughout the year, including Maundy Thursday, the All

Souls' Requiem, and a variety of other feast days of the church. We intend to continue that practice through 2024.

Our professional Choral Scholars, who provide outstanding and crucial leadership to the St. David's Choir, serve some of these feast days as an ensemble of their own, as well as supporting congregational singing and, in week-by-week alternation with the Bethell Family Singers, an anthem at the 9 a.m. Sunday Eucharist.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The St. David's Children's Choirs have exploded with new participation this year! A new crop of littles have joined the choir, adding to a stalwart group of older kids who hung in through the pandemic. The energy is infectious and has only been added to by the addition of a new assistant director, Michael Follis, who is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Music from UT.

In the spring, the kids put on the musical *All Things* for the parish, which was well-attended and very well presented. In the fall, they once again were the backbone of our annual Lessons and Carols service. Both are traditions they intend to carry into 2024.

BETHELL FAMILY SINGERS

Despite no longer being in Bethell Hall, the Bethell Family Singers continue to serve roughly every other Sunday in the Historic Church at 9 a.m. This group of singers continue to provide some musical variety to that service, including hearing songs more commonly heard on the radio. This group will continue to provide musical offerings throughout 2024.

WORLD MUSIC ENCOUNTERS



This fantastic new concert-and-interview series is the brainchild of parishioner John Burnett, who has drawn upon his career experience, contacts, and boundless enthusiasm to create a thriving and thrilling initiative for St. David's and the Austin community. With logistical support from parish staff and volunteers and financial contributions from community partners, this monthly series welcomes musicians from all over the world and now mostly residing here in Austin to share their art and their stories with diverse audiences in the inviting,



family-friendly, beautiful setting of St. David's Historic Church. Too many to name have helped make this effort a resounding success!

ORGANS AND ORGAN COMMITTEE

The very small organ in Bethell Hall, despite its limitations, served admirably in 2022–23. Nevertheless, the fuller capabilities of the much larger Historic Church organ, enhanced by the new acoustical setting, were a welcome change. After the dusty renovation, each of the organ's more than 2,800 pipes was thoroughly cleaned and tuned. The new console has made the task of playing the instrument much easier and healthier and allows the organist to conduct the choir from the bench when needed; it can also be moved throughout the head of the nave.

The organ is now more than 110 years old, and though it has been well maintained, changes in acoustics, attendance, ensembles, and repertoires, and the simple passage of time, mean that the instrument now has, or soon will have, significant musical and material deficits. An Organ Committee, now meeting biweekly and with the aid of a consultant, has begun the task of studying and recommending what actions and resources will best provide organ support for liturgies in the Historic Church for the rest of this century. Tucker Bonner chairs that committee, which currently consists of Elaine Hunt, Eric Leibrock, Kenneth Lightle, Eric Mellenbruch, Jim Norman, and Fr. Chuck Treadwell.

HANDBELLS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Our Handbell Choir continues to rehearse and serve joyfully under the long-standing leadership of Gail Findlay, who not only leads rehearsals but is also responsible for writing many of the arrangements the bells present. Our large set of handbells doesn't sit idle! Besides adding to the festivity of some Sunday morning liturgies including the patronal feast, the bells also served at the Great Vigil of Easter, lending a meditative aural cloud to the proceedings, and they were joined this autumn by violinist Calvin Hodge. The Handbell Choir, like all our ensembles, is always eager to welcome new members, and we look forward to hearing the bells continue to ring through the new year!

The return to the Historic Church was an opportune time to exchange the piano formerly in that room with the larger and better one formerly in the Choir Room. The 'new' Historic Church piano has received some much-needed care, including the addition of a humidifier/dehumidifier to help keep the instrument in better tune even with large climatic changes in the room.

Xavier Davis continues to serve as pianist for the Bethell Family Singers, and Dan Redner, formerly on our staff, has also filled in from time to time. Both of are jazz pianists who have worked with Mark for many years, and they have offered music we might not otherwise get to hear, in addition to helping our choir and congregation sing their best. Tucker Bonner has continued to serve as a substitute organist, including on the Sunday after Christmas, which was New Year's Eve! His faithful service to the organ and the choir is very much appreciated.

CHOIR LIBRARY

Last year, three tireless volunteers – Kerry Zavaleta, Rosemary Borthwick, and Nancy Wilson – began the long task of organizing and managing the 30 to 60 copies of each of more than 1,800 titles which make up the choir library in a historic parish like ours. Our librarians put in several hours weekly making sure the pieces we need are in our folders when we need them and are put away correctly when we're finished. The goal of this scrupulous management, along with ongoing cataloging by Eric, is to make the library more accessible to current and future directors, helping both choirs and congregations to better make music.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Mark continued his studies at Texas State University (eat 'em up, 'cats!) in choral conducting, on track to receive a master's degree in music in December 2024. In addition to regular conducting lessons with the music director of Austin's own Conspirare, Craig Hella Johnson, he has taken classes in choral literature including Oratorio, Anthem, Motet, and Cantata, and looks forward to studying Masses and Requiems in the spring. He's also become the assistant director of Aurora Voce, one of Texas State's treble vocal ensembles, and assists with music choices, rehearsal, and performance.

CONCLUSION

2023 returned us to Historic Church and to some form of post-pandemic normalcy. We expect 2024 to bring many exciting new things, including growth of the choir, expanded repertoire of choral and congregational music, and finding new ways to explore music as worship. We look forward to making music with you!

NEWCOMER MINISTRY

The Rev. Carter Leer, Director of Newcomer Ministry

A 2023 was an exciting year of change. Over the course of the year, we had at least 115 newcomers or first-time visitors through guest cards and contacts of staff and members of St. David's. We began the "Have breakfast on us" promotion for first-time visitors to experience one of our strongest ministries on a Sunday morning. As a church we confirmed 10 people, received three more, and even had a reaffirmation! Our hope for 2024 is that we can continue to build on the interest being shown throughout the year and find new ways to engage with those we come in contact with.

The only staffing change was that I began working as the interim newcomer director in July. I am happy that I was able to hang my hat here at St. David's after graduating from Seminary of the Southwest. It has been encouraging to interact with people that are looking for a church home and to help them decide whether or not St. David's is the right fit for them. I have loved participating in community events like the Pride Parade and the Holiday Stroll because they are a good reminder to the Austin community that we are here for them when they need us. It can be hard to quantify who we reach in those moments, but I am confident that the

number continues to grow.

2024 is gearing up to be an exciting year of opportunities to help grow our community. We will be revamping our current newcomer classes into a multi-class series, beginning with “Exploring The Episcopal Church” in February. These classes will help people explore, join, and finally be a part of this wonderful community we have. Thank you to everyone who has helped out with this ministry, and I look forward to partnering with you all to welcome newcomers to St. David’s in 2024!

NEXT-TO-NEW **Robert Reid, Executive Director**

The Next-to-New shop was founded in 1959 and has proudly served the Austin community at large for 64 years. Being Austin’s only volunteer-based consignment, donation, and resale shop we have enjoyed a unique niche among the surrounding businesses. As a non-profit entity, our volunteers are the absolute lifeblood of our day-to-day endeavors, and our overall success is contingent upon the recruitment and retention of them. Our volunteer count



currently sits at 173 in total, with 122 regularly active members (71%). The bulk of our volunteers come from the local community (149, 86%) versus St. David’s Parish (24, 14%).

In 2023, Next-to-New added 357 new consignment and estate clients to our roster of more than 1,800 active accounts (20%). We reconfigured our intake area this year to maximize space and are now able to accept double the number of consignors on any given consignment day. This has made our intake process much more efficient by easing congestion and shortening the overall drop-off period. Thanks to our incredibly talented and resolute volunteers and staff, our sales have soared to \$1,059,047 for the year (\$109,277 more than in 2022, +111%). This is the first time in more than a decade that Next-to-New has exceeded sales of \$1 million and the third time in the shop’s overall sales history.

Leadership challenges/changes in 2023 did not adversely affect business. Former director, Ulrike Miller, left for a leave of absence in the summer during which time Jenn Bocardo, Carrie Barbour, and Susan Sitton managed the shop with the part-time help of Katherine Wolbrink and Virginia Jones. In September, Robert Reid was brought on by St. David’s as interim director to manage the team during Ulrike’s extended absence. Then in October, upon Ulrike’s departure from Next-to-New, Robert was promoted to executive director.

The partnership between Next-to-New and Generation Serve continues to benefit us well. Generation Serve places children and youth with local non-profits to increase volunteerism in the greater Austin area. Family volunteering at Next-to-New on Saturdays began in 2019 and we have hosted family volunteers almost every Saturday for the last four years since inception. We also continue to be a partner site for community service for individuals looking to earn school/college or other service hours.

Everyone continues to feel welcomed and accepted at the Next-to-New shop. Our commitment to inclusion and diversity, as well as service to others, remains strong. Both the staff and volunteers approach each interaction with patience, understanding, empathy, and compassion. We steadfastly convey through our words and deeds that all of us are children of God worthy of courtesy, honesty, kindness, respect, and generosity in our dealings with one another.

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE **Joy Philpott, Chair**

The Racial Justice Committee works in collaboration with clergy, staff, and lay members of St. David’s Episcopal Church to promote racial justice in telling our past, in living our present, and in visioning for the future. The five overarching goals of the committee are these:

- In prominent spaces at St. David’s Episcopal Church multiple ethnicities are reflected in positive ways.
- St. David’s hiring practices reflect a commitment to diversity with attention to diversity within all levels of the organizational structure.
- St. David’s will have ongoing, consistent, intentional Christian education for all ages that reflects a diversity of topics and voices that are pulled from a variety of sources across the city and beyond.
- St. David’s actively participates in advocating for local, state, and national policies that promote equality for people of all races/genders.
- When St. David’s publishes anything about its history whether online or in print, it will draw from as many voices as possible and demonstrate a commitment to understanding the role of race, slavery, and segregation in parish history as well as the legacies of ongoing discrimination and racial inequities.

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Mona West, in 2023 St. David's offered a variety of adult formation sessions from diverse voices and perspectives. During Lent, the church read *This Here Flesh* by Cole Arthur Riley and hosted a Zoom formation session with Ms. Riley on Palm Sunday. Among the other offerings were classes of the Holy Conversations series. At the November session, the Racial Justice Committee presented an Acknowledgement of Land and History for St. David's. This Acknowledgement was adopted by the vestry in November and will be used in St. David's communications and gatherings in 2024.

Members of the Racial Justice Committee, especially Dr. Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman, were active in historical research as part of the 175th anniversary celebration. As part of this, Dr. Hernandez-Ehrisman presented a session on St. David's founding families and the church's relationship to the enslavement of people in Austin.

The Racial Justice committee also supported an offering of the Sacred Ground Series in the fall of 2023 and was honored to host the Union of Black Episcopalians, Myra McDaniel Chapter, for their May meeting celebrating the legacy of Ms. McDaniel.

The Racial Justice Committee was delighted to welcome Dianne Hardy-Garcia, St. David's new director of community outreach and advocacy, both to the church and as a member of our committee. Thanks to her leadership, the committee looks forward to more opportunities to partner with other organizations in the community to advocate for and to work toward greater racial justice.

STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNED GIVING

Eric Malnassy,
Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving

- 8 Meetings
- 10 Stewardship Committee Members

The start of 2023 marked the 175th anniversary year of St. David's as a parish. Several gatherings and celebrations were held to commemorate this amazing milestone. Stewardship assisted a subcommittee of the 175th Anniversary Committee to raise funds for these various events. A special "Thank You" goes out to all the generous 175th anniversary underwriters!

The Welcome Home celebration on Aug. 13 featured a special and long-awaited event: an all-parish Eucharist that took place in the newly renovated Historic Sanctuary! It is a testament to the hard work and generosity of St. David's staff and congregation. After the service, a meal was served in Bethell Hall. This location for food and fellowship was chosen to commemorate the thirteen months the space was used for church services during construction on the historic church. Ministry offerings for the new program year were displayed on posters along the walls in Bethell Hall. Ministry Leaders of more than 40 groups shared information and answered questions about all the various program opportunities.

Another exciting celebration of our 175 years as a parish in the heart of downtown Austin was held at St. David's on Oct. 22.

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, presided over an all-parish worship in the renovated Historic Sanctuary, during which he confirmed several members into the church. After the service, Bishop Doyle led the ceremonies in Sumners Hall. This included lunch and a video presentation made by parishioners who offered birthday wishes to St. David's for the next 175 years! This was followed by a cake cutting to honor and thank all the members of the 175th Anniversary Committee whose faithful dedication made possible the year-long festivities. A special recognition and thank you was also given to Sandi Boone, who chaired the committee through all their hard work.

The annual Harvest Sunday celebration took place on Nov. 12, which began with a parish-wide worship in the renovated Historic Church. During this service, the congregation made a communal commitment to support the work of St. David's by bringing forward their financial gift commitments for the coming year. Then everyone enjoyed a special brunch menu prepared by Chef Ray and his team. Nearly 250 parishioners and newcomers attended and ate together in Sumners Hall.

Thanks be to God for the amazingly generous parishioners who made financial gifts in 2023! At year end, gifts to the annual giving campaign totaled \$1,197,318, and gifts to the capital campaign totaled \$5,243,750. We ask parishioners to financially support our parish by making a year-long commitment to support all our ministries, including worship, music, pastoral care, and so much more. In addition, we strongly encourage everyone to grow in the life of the church through participating and volunteering in the many engaging ministries and groups at St. David's.



Throughout the year the Stewardship Committee plays an important role communicating with the parish about the ways in which each person can share in the work God is doing at St. David's. Each committee member brings their spirit of generosity to ensure we have the financial resources to fulfill God's calling to us as a parish. The committee is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the annual giving campaign, which funds all our ministries. We are most grateful to Father Chuck, Senior Warden Ann Jinkins, Chair JJ Langston, Vice-Chair Terri Orton, and Committee Members Janet Sawyer, Susan Driver, Linda Gebhard, Mity Myhr, Martha Salazar, and Connie Maverick.

TRINITY CENTER

Christian Rodriguez, Executive Director

Hello! Hello, this is Christian Rodriguez, executive director of Trinity Center. I feel so privileged to be able to write this annual report as I did last year, especially after completing my first full year as the agency's director. In May I will complete my sixth official year as an employee with Trinity Center. Having witnessed so much throughout those years, I have been a witness to the same, unchanging reality despite global, national, or local changes: the unhoused neighbors we love and serve every day continue to come to our door physically, emotionally, and spiritually hungry and in need. It is for these reasons that I feel immense pride in the amazing work our agency continues to do to meet such needs. 2023 for Trinity Center was a year of departures and new beginnings, new partnerships, successful fundraising initiatives, impactful advocacy, increased service delivery, as well as a year of continued radical hospitality and care for our unhoused neighbors, both of which have been at the foundation of our existence for more than 20 years.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

In 2023, Trinity Center had four staff transitions. Trinity Center's former case managers, Libby Brennan and Emily Britz, departed from Trinity Center and now utilize their skills and gifts in new spaces. Libby joined the team in the Summer of 2021 as the agency's AmeriCorps volunteer. In 2022, she was offered a full-time position as a case manager. She was well-known for going above and beyond for her clients. Emily joined the Trinity Center staff team in the fall of 2020 as a case manager and was promoted in 2022 as the agency's case management supervisor. Through her amazing leadership and work ethic, Emily has added to the amazing legacy of social workers and case management supervisors who have elevated Trinity Center's Case Management Program to what it is today. Thirdly, Sean Campbell, Trinity Center's 2022-23 term AmeriCorps volunteer, also transitioned out of the agency at the end of his term in July. Sean was a perfect example of the phrase, "love has no boundaries." He embodied Trinity Center's values of being hospitable, caring, and accepting of all. Before his departure, Sean redecorated our chapel area – a space where neighbors can escape the busyness and "noise" of the outside and center themselves and be attentive to what's going on "inside," a practice Sean modeled very well for all of us. Lastly, Trinity Center saw the transition of its kitchen aid, Joshua Posada. Joshua came to us in the summer of 2022 at first as a favor, filling in at a time of some major staff transitions. A month of help turned into a year, and we are so grateful for his attentiveness and maintenance of our kitchen where hundreds of thousands of nutritious meals were prepared throughout the year.

As we said goodbye to so many amazing individuals, we welcomed new faces into our agency. Gregory "Bishop" Turner joined the Trinity Center staff team and serves as the agency's current kitchen aid. Bishop brings with him a vibrant, positive energy, and a knack for putting together even some of the most random food

items and turning them into nutritious snacks for neighbors daily. Along with Bishop, Trinity Center hired its new case management supervisor, Myah Williams. Myah Williams comes to Trinity Center from The University of Georgia where she obtained her Master in Social Work Degree. Myah has been in a season of continuous learning of homeless services, shaping the agency's Case Management Program into one that is both impactful and intentional for the clients who participate. Regarding Sean's replacement, for the first time in a decade Trinity Center was unable to successfully recruit a new AmeriCorps Volunteer. The reasons are heavily attributed to Austin's continuous increase in the cost of living. We are hopeful to continue recruitment throughout the year as well as raise funds to supplement the stipend an AmeriCorps Volunteer would receive in the future.

BOARD TRANSITIONS

In 2023, four of Trinity Center's Board of Directors completed their terms: Heather Dennison, Stephanie "Cissy" Warner, Al D'Andrea, and David Schumaker. All were instrumental in supporting and ensuring the agency's mission moved forward through some of the most difficult times, including the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so grateful for their dedication and commitment to our cause. Trinity Center welcomed and on-boarded three new members to our board of directors: Gaye Polan, Jason Palos, and Caitlin Maher. These three individuals enter the group with nearly 20 years of combined experience as volunteers for Trinity Center, serving in our clothing closet, in our kitchen for breakfast distribution, as well as our ID Assistance Program. Their love for the neighbors we serve as well as insight and knowledge of the issues and needs our neighbors face make them incredible assets among Trinity Center's leadership.

ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

In 2022, Trinity Center joined staff from agencies like Sunrise Navigation Center, Texas Harm Reduction Alliance, and others to advocate to CapMetro for free fares for the unhoused in Austin. We took our voices to CapMetro's board of directors, made numerous news headlines, and persisted to push and speak on what the benefits could be for an unhoused person when barriers were removed to transportation. CapMetro listened and took action. In the spring/summer 2023, Trinity Center along with other agencies participated in a pilot program for the distribution of free-fare "Smart Cards," and in October the Free Fares Program went live and Trinity Center has continued to be a major distributor of 2-year bus passes to neighbors daily. What a win!

SERVICES

Overall, Trinity Center physically saw 40,000+ individuals at Trinity Center in 2023, with many of them receiving a specific service as well as many who entered our space to simply "be," finding relief from the elements, while likely enjoying a snack and maybe a cup of some amazing coffee inside. With this, I would like to share an extensive list of what Trinity Center accomplished throughout the year:

Meal Distribution: Trinity Center has been one of the only agencies

in the downtown area to distribute breakfast consistently Monday-Friday. In 2023, in partnership with Texas Coffee Traders, Trinity Center served 22,510 breakfast meals. In addition to breakfast, 5,274 snack items were also distributed in partnership with the Central Texas Food Bank, Royal Blue Groceries, and St. David's kitchen. In partnership with El Milagro Tortilla, our Sunday Streets Ministry volunteers served 2,450 total lunch meals. In partnership with St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Trinity Center distributed 500+ lunch sacks. And lastly, in partnership with The Giving Tree organization for Thanksgiving, and St. David's Episcopal Church Kitchen for Christmas, 500+ hot meals were served during the holidays. This totals to 31,234 meals/food items distributed to our neighbors in 2023!



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At Trinity Center, we understand that a government-issued ID means the ability to apply for various housing programs, employment opportunities, social services dealing with physical and mental healthcare, food access as well as transportation services, all amounting to the stability necessary for better individual situations. Our ID assistance program is facilitated by William Day, our operations coordinator, as well as our three amazing and dedicated volunteers: Martha Degrasse, Catherine Robb, and Jason Palos. Together, in 2023 we were able to assist neighbors with: 638 Texas ID cards, 90 Texas driver licenses, and 339 in- and out-of-state birth certificates.

In addition to identification documents, Trinity Center also assisted with 46 Food Handler and TABC Permit Courses, and 46 prescription co-pays. 2023 marked the second year of our partnership with the Downtown Austin Alliance for our diversion program. Through our partnership, Trinity Center purchased 209 Greyhound bus tickets. 209 individuals were successfully reunited with friends or family members who stated they would take in the individual(s) when arriving at their destination, ending their homelessness. In total, Trinity Center financially assisted 1,368 neighbors in 2023!

PARTNER PROGRAMS

Trinity Center has always been an agency that has thrived on collaboration. We are so grateful to partner with churches and organizations who conduct weekly outreach or provide specific services to neighbors in our space like: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Tarrytown United Methodist Church, El Buen Samaritano, SAFE Alliance, The Central Texas Food Bank, Community Care, Vivent Health, UT Austin's School of Nursing and Social Work, Texas State University, AGE of Central Texas, Communities for Recovery, Travis County Health and Human Services, Well Care, United Healthcare, and CapMetro, to name a few.

To offer you glimpses into the amazing impact our partners had in 2023, I am grateful to share: St. Mark's Episcopal Church's shower ministry for women provided 402 private showers, Tarrytown United Methodist Church's shower ministry for men provided 533 private showers, Community Care utilized our space for outreach and successfully met with and provided 566 Medical Access Program (MAP) insurance cards and conducted 125 free HIV tests, and The Central Texas Food Bank and El Buen Samaritano utilized our space for outreach and met with and completed 336 SNAP/food stamp applications. Within our clothing closet, our amazing volunteers have assisted 1,365 women with outfits on Monday shopping days and 1,400 men with outfits on Friday shopping days.

Also in 2023, in collaboration with Travis County and led by our former Case Management Supervisor Emily Britz, Trinity Center became a distributor of Naloxone (aka Narcan), an opioid overdose reversal spray. Today, an accessible cabinet in our main space houses dozens of boxes of Naloxone spray that can be freely taken by neighbors with no questions asked. In the current opioid overdose epidemic, Trinity Center supports lifesaving, harm reduction practices, especially for our unhoused neighbors. Lastly, in addition to the above churches and agencies, we are so grateful for the willingness of the following faith congregations who have continued serving the spiritual needs of the downtown unhoused community during our Sunday Streets Service and meal: St. David's Episcopal Church, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, The Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. James' Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal School, St. Joan of Arc Episcopal Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Through these groups' continued faithfulness 1,367 neighbors total attended Sunday service and were spiritually and physically fed in 2023.

CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2023, 66 neighbors participated in Trinity Center's Case Management Program and received one-on-one guidance and assistance in navigating some of the most complex benefit systems as well as intentional care and attention by their case managers which included paid staff and university interns. Through our Case Management Program Trinity Center assisted financially with 92 transactions of client needs such as sleeping bags, tents, cell phones, chargers, flashlights, clothing and supplies for

employment, backpacks, eyeglasses, international identification documents, H-E-B gift cards for newly housed clients, etc. Our Case Management Program also financially assisted clients who were housed in 2023 with 21 application fees, five administrative fees, 13 security deposit fees, 15 instances for rental assistance, and 2 instances of help with utilities, totaling 56 housing-related transactions! Despite the transitions throughout the year, Trinity Center successfully housed 14 Case Management clients in 2023! Such work is not easy, and affordable housing options are few in this growing city of Austin. Our case managers serve our clients as advocates, bridge-builders, problem solvers, and agents of empowerment. We look forward to the successes in 2024.

VOLUNTEERS

The above achievements in service delivery could not be done by our small 5-person staff team. For more than two decades Trinity Center has relied on the dedication and commitment of individuals who are willing to show up on weekday mornings and come in with the intention of loving on and caring for others. We are so grateful for those who have served and continue to serve alongside us. In 2023, Trinity Center hosted 306 volunteers total throughout the year, all of whom recorded 900+ total hours of service. In addition to our weekly volunteers, 1,367 individuals volunteered during our weekly Sunday service. Whether it is through our daily breakfast distribution, the preparation and serving of snacks, set up, facilitating and serving of food during our Sunday Street Ministry, our front desk volunteers who hand out mail, answer questions, and distribute toiletries, our volunteers who assist in our ID Assistance program, our volunteers who assist neighbors in shopping for clothing in our closet, or even sorting all of the donations that come in, or the amazing volunteer teams from St. Mark's and Tarrytown United congregations who facilitate private showers for dozens of neighbors each week – THANK YOU!

2023 also consisted of amazing and willing groups from Dell Technologies, The Giving Tree, Central Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, AvanaDe, as well as mother-daughter teams from The National Charity League, to name a few. We could not do anything that we do without such willing hands and spirits.

FINANCES

In addition to our dedicated and faithful volunteers, I also want to acknowledge that this work could not be done without the amazing supporters who give to Trinity Center financially. In 2023, Trinity Center successfully hosted its annual Barbara Jordan event, an event filled with celebration, storytelling, and the recognition of the incredible individuals who do the work every day. In 2023, Riki Rushing, a long-time supporter of Trinity Center, was honored for her amazing contributions to our agency. The event raised more than \$140,000 and we are grateful for all who gave financially that evening, especially those who gave major gifts: Riki Rushing and Allen Gilmer, Heather and Paul Dennison, Beth and Bryan Plater, Kelly and Lewis Talbert, and Robin and Gene Shepherd.

In addition to our Barbara Jordan event, Trinity Center was

awarded \$249,000 in grants. We are grateful for the following grant makers and foundations who supported us in 2023: The Moody Foundation, The Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless, The Shield-Ayres Foundation, The City of Austin, Glimmer of Hope Austin, The Austin Community Foundation, The Lola Wright Foundation, The Donald Hammill Foundation, and The Connor Foundation. Throughout the year Trinity Center was also blessed with fundraising initiatives initiated by groups like The Texas Playboys Baseball Club, who hosted a game with all proceeds dedicated to Trinity Center, and Adobe at the Domain who fundraised and contributed more than \$6,000 specifically for blankets that have been timely and freely given out throughout the recent cold snaps.

We also experienced amazing generosity throughout the year in the purchasing of much-needed items off of our Amazon Wishlists, providing relief from the heat and cold, as well as providing essential toiletry items, backpacks, and clothing. Lastly, Trinity Center ended the year with its annual campaign that successfully brought in more than \$50,000. To all of you who financially support our mission, we thank you and hope the above numbers and service data reflect the impact of your amazing generosity.

CONCLUSION

Services, policies, and even the culture among individuals who are unhoused are always changing. The needs continue to grow as more individuals in Austin become homeless due to the continuous increases in costs of living as well as inflation rates on essential needs. People are seeking help and relief, and Trinity Center continues to provide both the best we can every day. Whether it is through important information, a service we provide, or simply the acknowledgement and relationship-building that occurs naturally within our walls, Trinity Center remains an important pillar in the downtown Austin community. Would you consider supporting Trinity Center with the generosity of your time or finances? Would you consider rallying up your workplaces or neighborhoods to provide essential toiletry items or much-needed clothing? There is always something you can do. I hope everything above has been encouraging for you to read and I hope you can be as proud as I am of the amazing work Trinity Center continues to do in its serving of the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of our unhoused neighbors that we love. God bless you.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Kelsey Cooper, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

2023 saw a change in leadership for Young Adult Ministry at St. David's. Amy Moehnke led the ministry until her departure in February. Leading up to that point, Kelsey worked with Amy on the transition and took over as Young Adult minister in March. In the transition, Kelsey and Amy met with stakeholders to better understand their needs before planning programming. At the time, there was energy around a short-term journey group. So, during Lent, we joined One Church One Book

to read *This Here Flesh* and discuss over lunch together. We started strong with seven in attendance, but then drastically dropped off in attendance as many of our stakeholders traveled or got sick throughout the Lenten season. Kelsey continued to hold quarterly brunch conversations with folks to see how we could best meet their spiritual development needs. It became clear that young adults who worship at St. David's also want to partake in some of our Adult Formation offerings, especially in Reading the Bible ToGather at 10 a.m. on Sundays.



Young adults are deeply involved at St. David's, but not in one homogenized group. They volunteer in the kitchen, the Altar Guild, Youth Ministry, Acolyte Ministry, etc. It is beautiful to see folks clearly forming as disciples and deeply ingrained in the fabric of our congregation, and they do not want or need a young adult-specific program weekly for that development at this time.

We can't talk about Young Adult Ministry without discussing Austin-Area EpiscoPals. Many young adults come to St. David's for a time – thanks to our excellent visibility in the community – and then ultimately find a church home in their own neighborhood congregations. They still need community with other young adults though, and often struggle to reach critical mass in that demographic at other churches in the area. This is where EpiscoPals comes in: Pals serves as a city-wide Episcopal young adult ministry. We meet every other week on Thursday nights to eat dinner and engage in fellowship at homes and restaurants across the city. Folks who might regularly worship at Jubilee, St. Julian's of Norwich, or another denomination come to Pals for community with like-minded believers.

Our attendance numbers held steady with around six present at Pals gatherings in the spring semester and summer. During the fall, we discerned we were missing a formation element in our gatherings. We were more intentional in our planning for

fall events, with specific topics or activities planned more often. Our numbers reflected some enthusiasm for that change, and we averaged 10 present at Pals gatherings throughout the fall semester. In 2024, we aim to plan more activities, invite more guests to speak on topics, and engage in tough conversations at our biweekly gatherings. We're also in talks with St. Matthew's and other churches in the area who have a young adult ministry to plan city-wide gatherings regularly in 2024.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Kelsey Cooper, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Sara Cannon, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

By the start of 2023, I had completed my first full year on staff and felt I could really begin to make the youth ministry programming my own. In that spirit, we did a few things different in 2023! To begin with, I tried to keep our programming to only twice weekly. Youth ministry meets on Wednesday nights for EYC and Sunday mornings for formation during the school year. I try to keep as much as possible off the calendar other than that. This helps keep my own focus on making that programming excellent and also helps St. David's be clear in our messaging: "we want your students involved, and here's when/where they can do so." We saw 14-15 students each week during the school year in that regular programming. We welcomed three new active sixth graders who graduated from Children's Ministry and two new active youth parishioners who joined the church. We also grew our acolyte program by adding two new acolytes and promoting four torches to the crucifer position.

We intended to do a summer mission lock-in similar to what we offered in 2022, but found that there wasn't much energy or availability for it from our families. Instead, we hosted several service project days. We painted the intake room at SAFE Austin, joined the Ramp Build project for a Saturday, and decorated the gym for Trinity Center's Annual Christmas Party.



Our youth showed up in an enthusiastic way for VBS; we brought 10 youth volunteers who showed up every day that week. We also did a few fun activities like watching the Barbie film, puzzling through an escape room, and attending a pool party at Fr. Chuck's home which were all successfully attended. Another new initiative this summer was an "alternative formation" offering on Sundays. I took up residence in Sumners Hall during the breakfast hour and sat with any youth present. It was another opportunity to do more ministry of presence outside of our regular programming.

By mid-way through the fall semester, our Sunday formation class had outgrown its current model and space. Our routine has been 7-9 students with two adult staffers in the room. With 10+ students in the room sometimes, it became clear we needed a different model. I rapidly cleaned out Room 165 and repurposed it. It had been our confirmation classroom with accumulated extra storage clutter, and we were able to redecorate it to serve as a soothing breakout space with a cozy rug, a set of classroom Bibles & BCPs, and a set of pouf cubes to sit on. That space also got repainted during the Christmas break thanks to our facilities team. We expanded to a team of four adults on Sunday mornings, and 2023 thankfully added 3 new adult volunteers to the youth ministry rosters!

A few key takeaways for me this year: I've learned to stop committing to having "the youth" help with a project during the dinner hour of EYC on Wednesday nights. Our fellowship time is valuable, worth our focus, and should be guarded. Kristin Braun and I wrote a new curriculum for youth confirmation and intend to smooth any rough edges in 2024 and publish it. I have never been more grateful for the time and devotion of our volunteers who have helped this ministry move from a mindset of surviving to thriving. Sara Cannon serves in many invisible ways that I'm sure most in this parish are not aware. I genuinely don't know how I could do this ministry without her presence, counsel, and friendship.

175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Sandi Boone, Chair

The celebration of St. David's 175th anniversary began with discussions at the vestry and staff level, and informal discussions with active parishioners about what would be appropriate events and activities. At the request of Sr. Warden Rex Hunt, vestry member Sandi Boone agreed to lead a committee of parishioners. The first meeting of the 175th Anniversary Committee was held June 22, 2022, where goals and potential projects and events were discussed. Four goals for the year's events were articulated:

- Connect with all groups and missions of the parish, and our partners in the community;
- Celebrate and learn about our whole history, including struggles, sins, and triumphs;
- Begin an update of written histories and educate our parish;
- Deepen relationships and revitalize projects with the community partners.

Meetings in August and November fleshed out projects and events. Afterward, a list of events and projected expenses was compiled by the chair of the committee with help from the staff. The vestry included \$25,000 in the 2023 budget for 175th celebration events. Projected underwriting of \$20,000 was included in the budget.

Around the same time, as the renovation of the Historic Church progressed, and the oak floorboards that had been laid more than 100 years ago were removed, several parishioners who worked in wood were asked to consider discussing commemorative items that could be made from the floorboards.

In November 2022, Virginia Phillips, who originated St. David's archive for the 150th anniversary celebration, and is still serving with Mity Myhr as the parish archivist, was announced as the honorary chair. Ms. Phillips celebrated her 100th birthday shortly thereafter.

The first project the committee contributed to was a commemorative 2023 wall calendar featuring historical and current photos. The calendar was proposed, designed, and printed by the communications staff, with research, input, and drafting of text by committee members Mity Myhr, Eric Leibrock, Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman, Sandi Boone, and Janet Sawyer. It was the first use of the 175th anniversary logo, and was mailed to all active parishioners in December.

At the January 2023 annual meeting, a prayer card with a small lapel pin was distributed. The prayer in honor of the anniversary was composed by Rector Chuck Treadwell. It was used throughout the year at meetings and printed in the Sunday bulletins.

Former Associate Rector Mary Vano accepted the invitation to be our guest speaker at the annual Eckhardt Mission Series Feb. 4-5, 2023.

Also in February, a subcommittee of volunteers was gathered and began work on creating a timeline of St. David's history to be presented to the parish in the fall. A multi-panel visual presentation that could be moved and displayed in multiple locations was outlined by Lori Blewett, Mity Myhr, and Sandi Boone. The group of volunteer historians divided into teams to do in-depth research into a particular period of St. David's history. Mity Myhr took the task of adding pertinent events in Austin, the U.S., and The Episcopal Church as a reference. Most volunteers began research with the three published histories of the parish, pulling key events and searching for images in archival materials. Susan Driver and Janet Sawyer, whose focus was on more recent, uncompiled history, took the task of combing through bulletins, annual reports, and other archive files to do original work.

On March 5, a letter inviting underwriting was sent with the goal of raising \$20,000. More than \$37,000 was eventually donated by generous parishioners.

On March 25, a '175th Anniversary Edition' of the Monthly Holy Hikes series, initiated and led by Associate Rector Angela Cortiñas, was held. Current parishioners walked a circuit of the six sites that our parish has worshiped in Austin. At each stop, a brief history of the site was given and prayers were led by Pastor Angela. The event, attended by 38 ended with a box lunch and fellowship in Sumners Hall.

On the third Sunday of Easter, April 23, a single all-parish outdoor worship service and picnic was organized at the Zilker Lodge. Coordinated by Bess Carsner, the worship team, alter guild, musicians, children's choir, and ushers managed a beautiful, smoothly-run service on a misty gray morning. The venue, built and managed by the Austin Sunshine camps, provided a covered pavilion for the service, as well as indoor eating and gathering areas. Chef Ray and numerous volunteers prepared a BBQ lunch in the large kitchen, and games and art activities were available for the youth. Despite unreliable weather, 292 folks turned out for the event and a parish photo was taken by parishioner and professional photographer Rick Patrick.

Over the summer months, woodworkers were able to begin their projects. Rex Hunt, who worked with the contractors to procure the floorboards in good shape, and Mark Wells, Kenneth Lightle, and Lori Gainer began designs. Four different designs of crosses were offered for special order. Several hundred keychains, branded with the St. David's logo, were made to be given to all parishioners. A plaque with the 175th logo was gifted to underwriters, and a wooden-based picture frame was fashioned for Building Committee members.

The focus of Welcome Home Sunday on Aug. 13, 2023, was the joyous reopening of our Historic Sanctuary, and honoring the leaders who worked over several years to bring it about.

In August, Director of Formation Mona West organized a series featuring several St. David's community partners. They

described the work being done to bring God's love to the Austin community. The Sunday morning series (Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 10, and 17) included speakers from El Buen Samaritano, Caritas, and St. David's Healthcare spoke on August 20, 27, September 10, 17th.

Early in the year, Pastor Angela began working with vestry member Gay Gillen of Gay Gillen Travel and announced the itinerary of a pilgrimage to St. David's of Wales. The trip was planned Aug. 30-Sept. 8, 2023, with space for 25 people. In the spring, it was fully subscribed with a waiting list.

In October, the work of the Timeline Committee was brought to fruition with the design work of Director of Communications Lori Blewett. Five large panels of the St. David's timeline, highlighting events spanning 18 decades, was presented to the congregation during the formation hour on Oct. 15. It has been displayed in Sumners Hall and remains in the main lobby of the church.

A single, all-parish worship service celebrating the Feast of St. David with Bishop Doyle was the culmination of the parish's anniversary celebration on Oct. 22, 2023. The 10:30 a.m. service had full pews, extraordinary flowers, music, and incense. The crosses, keychains, and frames fashioned from the historic floorboards were blessed by the bishop during the service, and were distributed afterward. At the lunch reception following the service, a video of birthday wishes featured a variety of parishioners, the bishop and rector gave comments, and cake was cut and served to all.

The following Monday evening, the focus turned to our partners in the community at a cocktail buffet at Tarry House. Leaders of our outreach ministries and representatives of eleven current and historic organizations were honored guests. All parishioners were invited to attend and asked to contribute to the cost of the evening as they were able. A bagpiper provided a festive welcome to the arriving guests, and the short program was moved inside due to rain. The rector, The Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell introduced each organization and highlighted its history with St. David's and the organization's mission. Comments were made by Mayor Kirk Watson, who

then formally declared Oct. 23, "St. David's Episcopal Church Day" in Austin. Under the leadership of Gay Gillan and Louise Pincoffs, arrangements, food, and refreshments were elegant and celebratory, and included a signature "1848" cocktail.

Many committee members helped on numerous projects. Some led or contributed to one in particular. The parishioners who volunteered their time and talents to this uplifting year-long endeavor are:

- Virginia Phillips-Honorary Chair and Sr. Archivist
- Sandi Boone, Chair
- Art Boone
- Bess Carsner
- Susan Driver
- Ann Marie Ellis
- Lori Gainer
- Gay Gillen
- Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman
- Elaine Hunt
- Rex Hunt
- Eric Leibrock
- Kenneth Lightle
- Mity Myhr
- Jim Norman
- Louise Pincoffs
- Janet Sawyer
- Merrell Anne Shearer
- Ross Smith
- Mark Wells
- Jo Wicker
- Laura Wisdom

As the parish enters 2024, many parts of our celebration are being carried forward. The remaining funds from the 175th underwriting will be used to seed a continuing history project, as well as buy some much needed shelving for the archives. In addition, the worship team has decided to continue an off-site all-parish worship and picnic, and Dianne Hardy-Garcia, our director of Community Engagement and Outreach, plans to continue with an annual event honoring our outreach partners



FINANCIALS

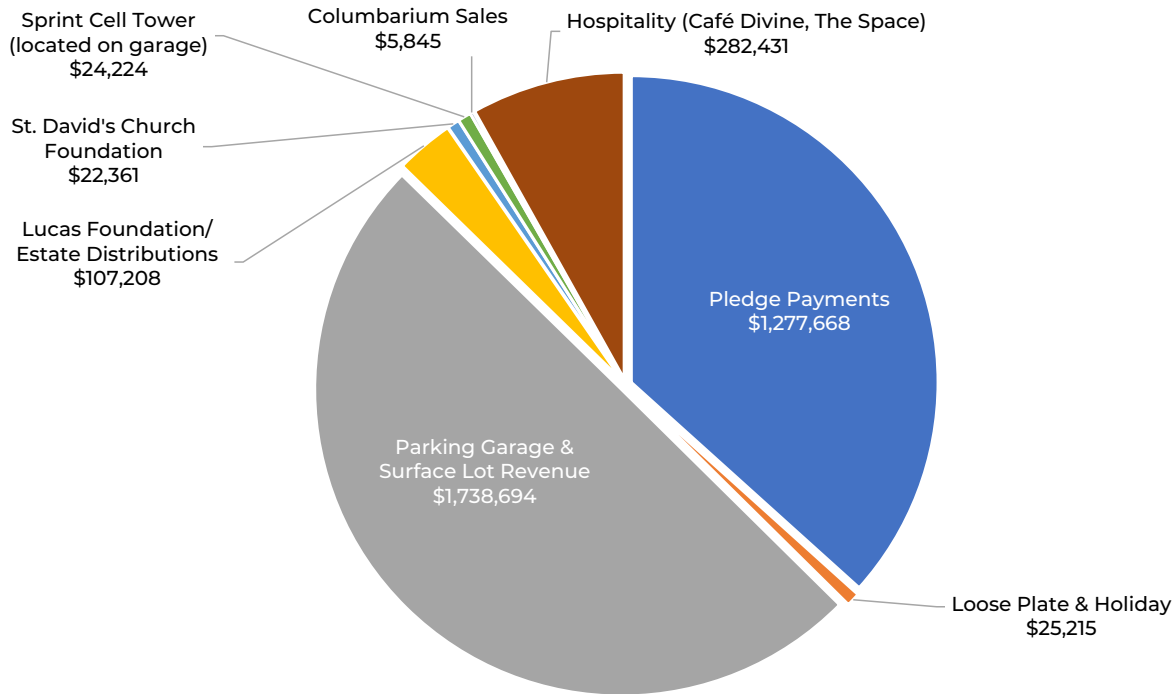
	2023 Actual Unaudited	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
REVENUES			
Pledge Payments	\$1,277,668	\$1,400,000	\$1,500,000
Loose Plate & Holiday	\$25,215	\$28,000	\$30,000
Parking Garage & Surface Lot Revenue	\$1,738,694	\$1,752,000	\$1,782,050
Lucas Foundation/Estate Distributions	\$107,208	\$106,735	\$104,000
St. David's Church Foundation	\$245,168	\$244,210	\$250,000
Sprint Cell Tower (located on garage)	\$22,361	\$22,300	\$22,300
Columbarium Sales	\$5,845	\$3,000	\$6,000
Hospitality (Café Divine, The Space)	\$282,431	\$218,650	\$290,300
All Other Revenue	\$97,459	\$53,100	\$120,185
TOTAL REVENUES	\$3,802,049	\$3,827,995	\$4,104,835
EXPENSES			
All Clergy & Pastoral Care	\$31,323	\$36,500	\$37,000
Worship & Music Ministry	\$67,316	\$79,400	\$79,400
Youth, Young Adult, Adult and Children Formation, Evangelism, and The Abbey	\$60,385	\$58,950	\$63,850
Communications & Stewardship	\$38,173	\$54,300	\$39,000
Community Engagement & Outreach	\$25,200	\$27,800	\$29,800
Diocesan Assessment & Episcopal Support	\$363,565	\$370,357	\$394,574
Hospitality (Café Divine, The Space)	\$103,752	\$74,039	\$92,700
Administration	\$362,186	\$334,868	\$333,900
Facilities	\$284,050	\$192,542	\$283,980
Utilities	\$184,642	\$153,100	\$206,500
Payroll & Benefits Expenses	\$2,574,672	\$2,671,504	\$2,492,691
All Other Expenses	\$48,272	\$50,550	\$7,600
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,143,535	\$4,103,910	\$4,060,995
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(341,485)	(275,915)	43,840
Remaining monies from 2022 ERTC*	\$341,485	\$275,915	n/a
NET BALANCE AFTER ERTC MONIES	\$0	\$0	n/a

*ERTC = Employee Retention Tax Credit - Part of the CARES Act and was a credit given to businesses who kept their qualifying employees employed during the pandemic.

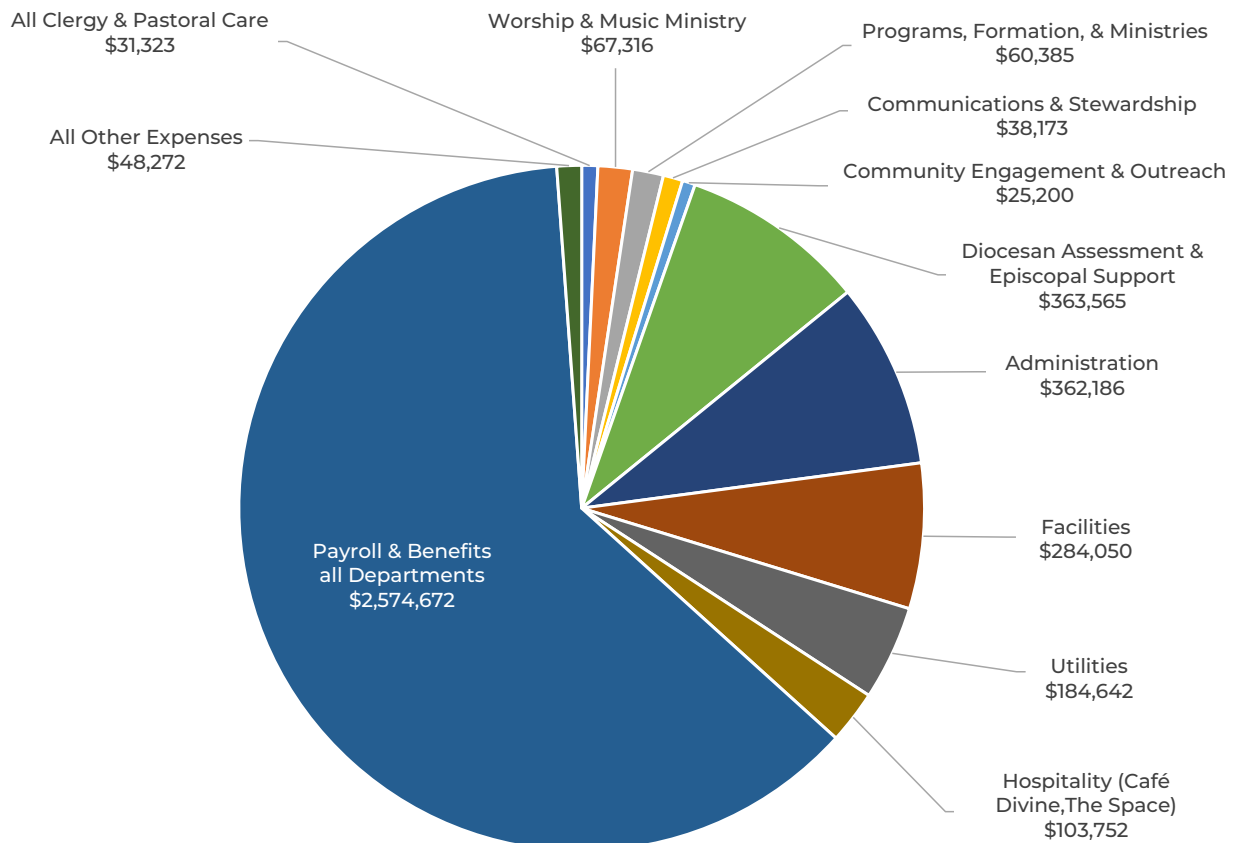
The amount of the credit is 50% of qualifying wages paid between March 12, 2020, and Jan. 1, 2022.

FINANCIALS

2023 ACTUAL REVENUES



2023 ACTUAL EXPENSES



2023 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN DONORS

as of Jan. 11, 2024

Your giving commitment allows St. David's to establish a responsible budget for our Christ-centered ministries to reach their full potential. Thank you to our parishioners and friends listed below who have made a giving commitment to God and our future together. For more information or if we need to add your name, please contact Eric Malnassy at eric.malnassy@stdave.org.

Alex Almodovar	James Casey and Rachel Duggan	Laurie Eiserloh and Jess Chapin
Heidi and Dave Anderson	Judith Cayton	Ann Marie Ellis
Allison Anderson	Anthony Chapple and Dennis Driskell	Anne Ellzey
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Jan Boswell	Kristin and Blake Davis	Marisa Gilmore
Peggy Bradley	Bob and Janet Davis	Jennifer Glass and Doug Haugen
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Tom Brown	Abe and Deborah Delgado	Gildardo Montemayer
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Clay and Bess Carsner	Jeff and Allison Edwards	Rebecca Hall

2023 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN DONORS

continued

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