



ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
301 E 8TH STREET AUSTIN, TX 78701
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July 30, 2026

Dear St. David's parish community,

It is a bittersweet thing to write to you all in this way. My last day at St. David's will be Sunday, Aug. 16, Welcome Home Sunday. I have been offered employment with Wake Forest University and, after much discernment, have decided to accept their offer. This academic year, I will be working as a program officer with Wake's Program for Leadership & Character in their Educating Character Initiative. It is exciting, disruptive, and generative work and allows me to work again with a former colleague for whom I have the utmost respect.

Even as I look forward to these new opportunities, I carry the grief of goodbyes close to my heart. St. David's has been so kind to me, and there has been much about this job that has been deeply meaningful. I have loved bringing wonderful authors to this parish for our inaugural Books and Authors Series, launching a small group ministry, and praying through Lamentations and Philippians with many of you on Wednesday nights. I wouldn't trade those moments of connection and spiritual formation for anything.

Grief therapist and author Paula D'Arcy writes that "God comes to us disguised as our life." Thank you for letting God disguise God's self in you during my time here; you all have ministered to my soul in ways you will never know. Serving this congregation has been a supreme honor. I know that God will continue to show up as this church and as its members for years to come.

With deep gratitude,
Dr. Anna E. Beaudry

Dear St. David's members,

I am sure Dr. Anna's announcement above comes as a surprise to many of you, as it did for me. She has been an asset to our parish in her time at St. David's, and I have been pleased with the direction and energy she has brought to our Adult Formation program. Dr. Anna is leaving us with solid plans to carry us through to Advent.

I know she will be a blessing to her colleagues and new community at Wake Forest, and we will miss her. Please join me in praying for her as she makes this transition. We will honor her and say goodbye at our Welcome Home luncheon.

I am happy to announce the Rev. Preston Yancey will be joining us as interim director of Adult Christian Formation beginning Tuesday, Aug. 18. We'll share more information about him in our next newsletter, but I think you'll agree he is well qualified to pick up the baton from Dr. Anna. The Rev. Preston and Dr. Anna will work closely together in the next few weeks to facilitate this transition.

I appreciate your commitment to your own growth and learning as demonstrated by the passion with which this parish pursues adult Christian formation. Please don't hesitate to share your questions, hopes, and dreams for this work with me as we move forward together.

Blessings,

The Rev. Hope Tinsley Benko
locum tenens

Photo: Director of Adult Christian Formation Dr. Anna Beaudry with author Jason Green and St. David's parishioners and guests for the Books and Authors Series finale June 28 in Bethell Hall.



St. David's Episcopal Church | 301 E 8th St | Austin, TX 78701 US

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