

*CULTIVATING TRADITION  
ENGAGING BOUNDARIES  
FOSTERING INNOVATION*

*St. David's Episcopal Church  
Austin, Texas*

2026 PARISH PROFILE

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....3	Serving Our Parish .....23	<b>Who We Seek</b> .....36
A Prayer for Discernment.....5	Hospitality .....23	Parish Survey.....36
Invitation and Profile .....7	Children and Families .....24	Follow-up Listening Groups.....37
<b>Who We Are</b> .....9	Youth .....25	What We Seek in a Rector.....38
Core Values .....11	Young Adults.....26	A Prayer for Applicants.....39
Demographics .....12	Adults .....27	Link to Application .....39
Financials .....13	Serving Our Neighbors .....29	<b>Clergy and Staff</b> .....40
Parish History .....15	Community Engagement .....30	<b>Leadership of Parish Corporations</b> .....41
Looking Toward the Future .....17	Advocacy.....32	<b>Transition Committees and Vestry</b> .....42
A Strategic Partner to the Bishop ....18	Parish Corporations.....33	<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....43
<b>Who We Serve</b> .....19	Trinity Center .....33	
Serving God .....20	The Next-to-New Shop.....33	
Worship Services .....20	Parish Foundation .....34	
Music .....21	Warm Heart International.....34	
Worship Spaces .....22	The Abbey .....35	

# Introduction

As a parish, the people of St. David's Episcopal Church are steadfastly anchored by our deep roots in the traditions of Western Christianity in general and The Episcopal Church in particular.

We are aware of our continual need for guidance and forgiveness and we seek to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Amid rancor and polarization, it is more important than ever to listen prayerfully for God's direction, and to build Christian community by engaging with our neighbors gently, generously, and sympathetically.

The search for the 15th rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas, is unfolding against a backdrop of global, national, and local advocacy for human rights.

With courage, love, and faith, we have stepped up boldly to speak out for and embrace the most vulnerable people in our community.

We welcome and serve all our neighbors – especially our unhoused, LGBTQ+, migrant, differently abled, and neurodivergent siblings. Y'all means All.



*Pictured clockwise from top are: 1) [Interfaith Migration with Dignity Prayer Vigil](#); 2) [Vidas Robadas/Stolen Lives T-shirt art installation for gun violence awareness](#); and 3) [Open and Affirming sign](#) with a logo displayed on both our parish website and physical property in downtown Austin.*





The need for prayer and action is great; together we pray for all who are discerning a call to raise a prophetic voice as the next rector of St. David's.

## *A Prayer for Discernment*

Almighty God, we ask for your grace and guidance as we call a new rector for St. David's Episcopal Church.

Open our hearts and minds to discern your will during this time of transition. We pray for your Holy Spirit to inspire candidates to step forward with courage and faith.

Grant them wisdom, discernment, and joy as they consider this bold new ministry, and may they embody the deep and unbounded love of Jesus as they come among us.

We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*





## *Invitation and Profile*

The purpose of this profile is to introduce our parish and its hopes and expectations for its next rector to those who prayerfully are discerning a call to offer themselves for consideration.

The search committee presents this profile as a description of what we hear the many voices of our parish saying about our past, our present, and our future as well as the necessary skills and characteristics of the person who will lead us forward in the next stage of our witness and ministry in Austin, the Texas state capital.

The search committee invites potential candidates and those who will nominate candidates to study this profile and to consider offering themselves or those whom they see as having the requisite gifts and skills for consideration as the 15th rector of St. David's.





# *Who We Are: Beacon of Resilience and Renewal*

Drawing on a core of tradition to engage in transformative work, St. David's Episcopal Church has endured for nearly two centuries and continues to engage as a leader and pacesetter in the capital city as well as The Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

While churches downtown and everywhere are facing a different landscape than ever before – from “[Nones and Dones](#)” to extended pandemic attendance and financial recovery – St. David's has remained vibrant in its renewal, ever evolving to meet each next moment with faithfulness, love, and innovation from downtown Austin since 1848.

***You are the light of the world.  
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.***

***Let your light shine before others,  
so they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.***

***-Matthew 5:14, 16***



## CORE VALUES

Parishioners at St. David's "walk the talk." That is, we don't just come to worship on Sundays and leave our "thoughts and prayers" in the sanctuary. We live into our [Core Values](#) every day in every way that we are able.

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

Active members are baptized Christians who pray daily, attend worship on most Sundays, continue to mature in all aspects of discipleship, especially by discerning how they can serve the common good, and by contributing to the financial well-being of the church and her ministries.

As a parish, we expect our members to live into our Core Values.

### *SEEK AND SERVE*

Actively pursue a relationship with God and God's people, discerning how God is calling you to learn, serve, pray, worship, and mature as a member of the Body of Christ.

### *BE AUTHENTIC*

Bring your full and true self and all your gifts to the work of the Kingdom of God.

### *EXPERIENCE GRACE*

Receive God's grace and share God's grace with others.

### *CONNECT AND COMMIT*

Become regularly involved in at least a small group, formation, or service ministry. Provide financial support as a regular part of your life at St. David's.

### *ENGAGE BOUNDARIES*

Seek God on the margins, not just where it is safe. Expect God's love to pull you to an uncomfortable place so you can grow and help the world grow.

### *SHARE*

Let people know you are part of St. David's by using car stickers, sharing sermons, social media posts, etc. Invite friends to come to church with you.

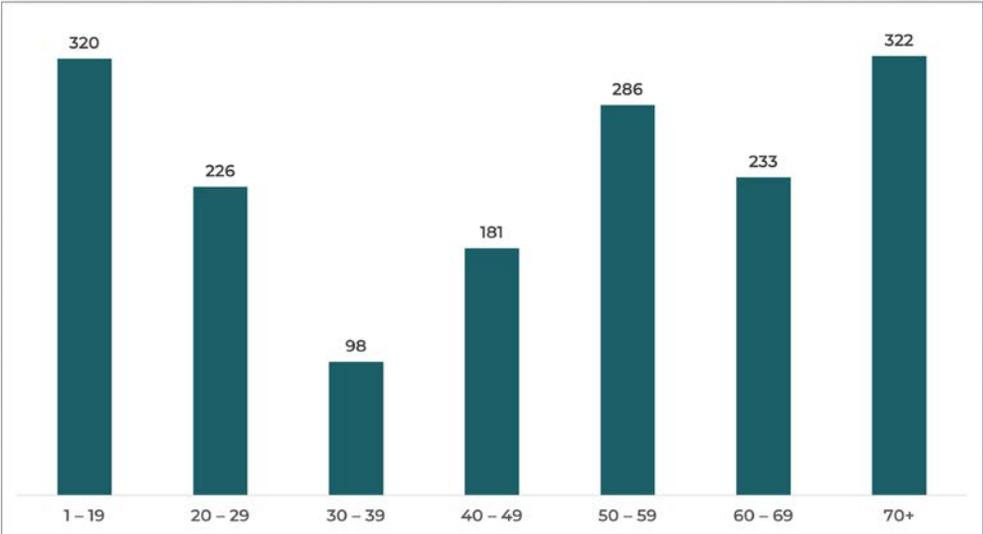
# DEMOGRAPHICS

In many ways St. David's is typical of churches nationally in that about half our communicants are 50 and older.

Compared to national benchmarks, we are overall younger than most churches. In the past 10 years we have retained members, thus they are moving into different demographic categories, inching our average age up.

However, we are gaining new younger people, nearly 2.5 times as many as in our last demographics survey.

It is the young families' segment, 30-39, where we would like to see more growth to balance out our aging membership.



ST. DAVID'S COMMUNICANT AGE DISTRIBUTION

TOTAL COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING.....	1,763
TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERS.....	1,129
AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE .....	272
EASTER SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (2025).....	1,112

# FINANCIALS

	<b>Unaudited 2025 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Pledge Payments	\$1,318,841	\$1,600,000	<b>1,700,000</b>
Loose Plate & Holiday	\$39,136	\$35,000	<b>35,163.55</b>
Parking Garage & Surface Lot Revenue	\$1,435,972	\$1,588,000	<b>\$1,380,000</b>
Lucas Foundation/Estate Distributions	\$209,762	\$106,200	<b>\$109,600</b>
St. David's Church Foundation	\$255,375	\$255,000	<b>\$326,785</b>
Additional Foundation Transfer for Deficit	\$382,117	\$382,500	<b>\$0</b>
Sprint Cell Tower (located on garage)	\$4,099	\$22,350	<b>\$22,360</b>
Columbarium Sales	\$23,500	\$3,000	<b>To Designated</b>
Trinity Center Space Use Revenue	\$28,616	\$43,350	<b>\$14,540</b>
Hospitality (Café Divine, The Space)	\$299,901	\$261,500	<b>\$290,987</b>
Next-to-New Distribution for Operating	\$0	\$0	<b>\$180,000</b>
All Other Revenue	\$72,529	\$52,800	<b>\$27,399</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$4,069,848</b>	<b>\$4,349,700</b>	<b>\$4,086,835</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Clergy & Pastoral Care	\$28,129	\$35,000	<b>\$23,200</b>
Worship & Music Ministry	\$65,001	\$74,600	<b>\$89,680</b>
Formation Ministries and The Abbey	\$50,669	\$55,350	<b>\$55,100</b>
Community Engagement & Outreach	\$30,547	\$35,700	<b>\$37,850</b>
Hospitality (Café Divine, The Space)	\$106,452	\$93,300	<b>\$122,946</b>
Communications & Stewardship	\$44,359	\$40,000	<b>\$43,500</b>
Administration	\$409,368	\$361,900	<b>\$392,042</b>
Diocesan Assessment & Episcopal Support	\$388,884	\$379,884	<b>\$350,953</b>
Facilities	\$333,631	\$266,100	<b>\$326,950</b>
Utilities	\$176,434	\$232,500	<b>\$217,000</b>
Payroll & Benefits Expenses	\$2,585,022	\$2,746,351	<b>\$2,798,888</b>
All Other Expenses	\$35,409	\$25,900	<b>\$24,150</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,253,905</b>	<b>\$4,346,585</b>	<b>\$4,482,259</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$184,057)</b>	<b>\$3,115</b>	<b>(\$395,424)</b>



1867



1963

**WELCOME**

*To all who are weary and need rest; to all who are lonely and want friendship; all who mourn and need comfort; to all who pray and all who do not but ought; all who sin and need a Saviour; and to whosoever will . . . this Church opens the door and says in the name of the Master, "Welcome."*

*St. David's Messenger*

VOL. 20

AUSTIN, TEXAS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1963

NO. 15

**St. David's To Remain On Present Site**

Historic St. David's church will remain where it has stood for more than 100 years.

This was assured Wednesday night when the special meeting of the Parish voted 241 to keep St. David's a downtown church on the same site where it first raised its beacon of hope on an Austin still in its swaddling togs. Ten votes were cast to move the church to a suburban location.

On the question "Should the Vestry provide the best possible building on the site selected", the vote was 180 for, and eight against.

On the question "Will you substantially support a building program on the site selected at this meeting tonight," the vote was 199 for, 12 noes, with 15 abstaining.



## PARISH HISTORY: 175 YEARS AS THE 'LIGHT ON THE HILL' IN DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

Founded in 1848, St. David's celebrated our [175th Anniversary](#) in 2023. Located in the center of Austin, both geographically and culturally, St. David's has played and continues to play a significant role in the city.

Among other contributions, St. David's founded the St. David's Hospital system (now an [HCA](#) system), established [Trinity Center](#), a resource location for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, and installed [the largest solar project in downtown Austin](#) by putting solar panels on the roof of the garage. The spaces of St. David's serve as venues for [SXSW](#) showcases and other events that make up the cultural vibrancy of Austin.

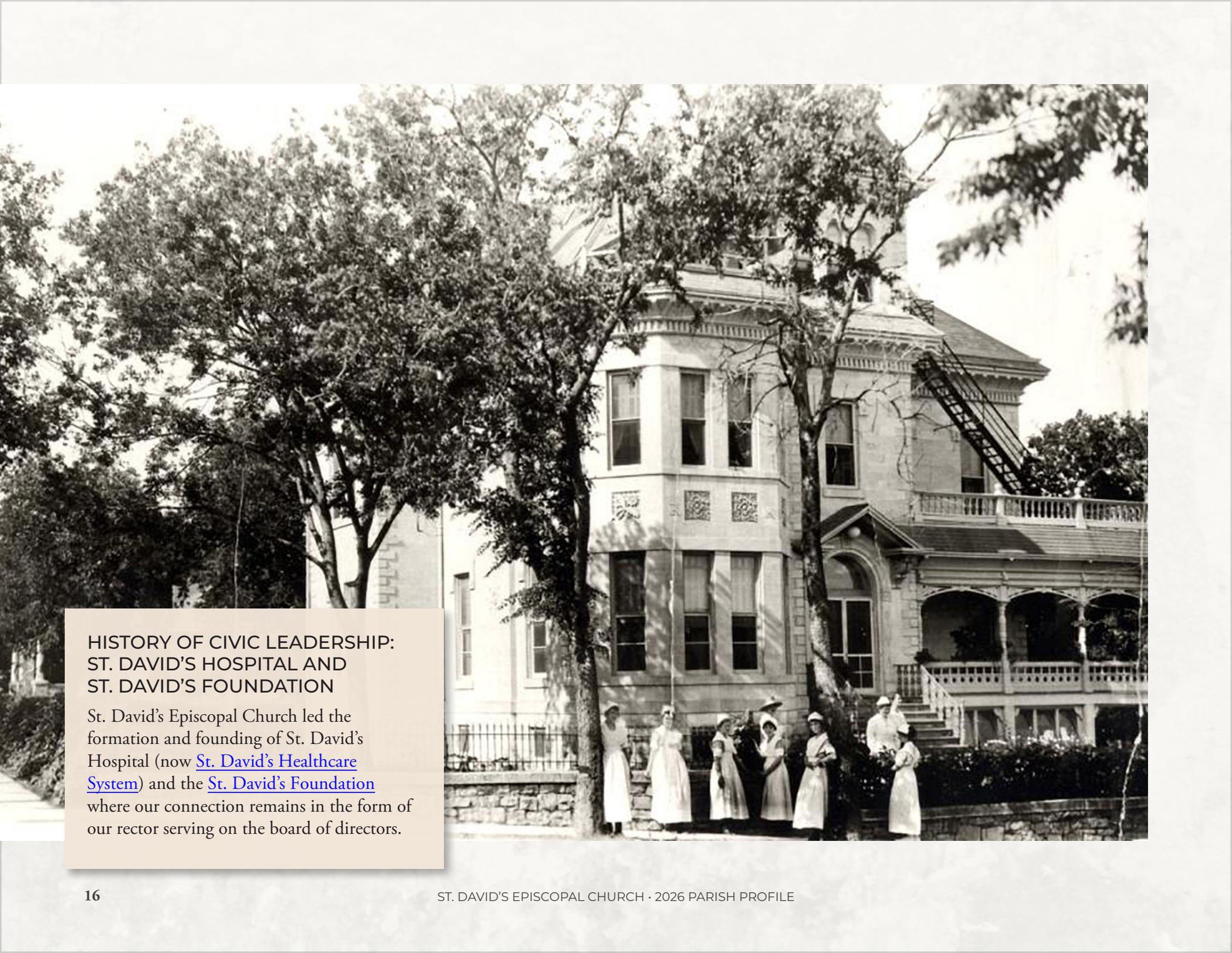
Inheriting an historic space is a blessing that is not without its challenges. As part of necessary work to reinforce a crumbling west wall of the historic sanctuary, the entire historic church received a makeover thanks to a robust capital campaign that began in 2021. The restoration began in 2021 and completed in 2023.

The work of restoration and repair is not just in the structure of the building but in the [telling of our history](#) as well. Our past is not without its sins as well as its triumphs, and we have worked to be honest about all parts of our past as we look to the future.

In the ongoing work of racial justice and healing, St. David's parishioners created an acknowledgement statement recognizing that the church stands on the ancestral land of Indigenous peoples, and that enslaved people labored to sustain the church in the early years of its formation.

These efforts for and within our spaces have been recognized by the broader community. St. David's was awarded a [Preservation Austin Merit Award](#) in 2023 and was recognized in 2024 with the inaugural [Downtown Austin Alliance Vision Award](#). Even as we carry our past with us, we strive to welcome and grow with many kinds of people and perspectives toward a more just society.





HISTORY OF CIVIC LEADERSHIP:  
ST. DAVID'S HOSPITAL AND  
ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION

St. David's Episcopal Church led the formation and founding of St. David's Hospital (now [St. David's Healthcare System](#)) and the [St. David's Foundation](#) where our connection remains in the form of our rector serving on the board of directors.



## LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: PROJECT 32

One of the many forward-looking initiatives, and the most recent, is Project 32. The Project 32 Committee was launched by the Rev. Chuck Treadwell in 2022 after St. David's participated in Trinity Church NYC's "Gift of Place" initiative.

This committee is leading a long-term effort to imagine faithful, sustainable uses of parish property and to deepen parishioner engagement in ministry beyond Sunday worship.

The next rector will play a pivotal leadership role in this initiative by helping the parish explore how to balance financial

sustainability and mission-driven possibilities while continuing to shepherd parish-wide discernment, nurture broad lay participation, and partner with the vestry and outside experts to ensure future development aligns with St. David's spiritual, pastoral, and strategic goals.

## A STRATEGIC PARTNER TO THE BISHOP AND THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

As the oldest and most centrally-located Episcopal parish in Austin, St. David's continues to be a strategic partner to the bishop and The Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

In addition to our proximity to the state capitol, just two blocks north of our parish, the bishop has stated that he sees St. David's and the work we've been leading – both in our community and the diocese – as inspirational for the Church and sees our rector as a key partner in the diocese.

In this vein, St. David's seeks a rector who will prioritize their apostolic leadership, who chooses courage over consensus, and is self-differentiated. The bishop has guided us to seek a rector for St. David's who sees the whole city as a parish, a visionary who can lead St. David's to stretch even further in transforming ways.



# *Who We Serve*



In worship and in our other ministries, we honor our Christian and liturgical traditions while engaging contemporary boundaries so that we might serve God and others by meeting them where they are.

In worship, this takes the form of traditional, Rite I and Rite II services, as well as a host of special services informed by our diverse parish members and leaders.

In ministry, this leads us to serve each other within the parish and leads us out into the world to meet our neighbors at the edges of society.

## SERVING GOD

### ***Worship Services***

Three worship services, including Rite I and Rite II, are conducted each Sunday in the Historic Sanctuary, with a livestream broadcast of the 11:15 a.m. service reaching far beyond our walls. Regular and holiday services are all family friendly, featuring:

- Children's Sermon during worship services
- Personalized bags with differentiated learning materials in worship

Daily Prayer is offered in Grace Chapel.

### ***SPECIAL SERVICES***

In addition to the traditional liturgical feasts and holy day services, St. David's focuses specific services to commemorate special cultural events such as MLK Day, Hispanic Heritage Month when some of the liturgy is spoken and sung in Spanish, and Black History Month.



Some services that began as community engagement services, have been integrated as part of the regular calendar, including the following services and observances:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Cesar Chavez
- La Gran Posada
- All Souls Day Requiem
- A Dia de los Muertos Altar
- Community-wide Pride Eucharist before the parade
- Transgender Day of Remembrance Eucharist

## **Music**

The two primary Sunday morning services each contain a diverse selection of music, ranging from traditional chant to modern.

The 9 a.m. service includes a variety of music from throughout history and incorporates organ, choir, guitar, and piano regularly. Choral music, contemporary Christian music, and other styles merge with traditional and alternative hymnody from each of the hymnals available for use in The Episcopal Church.

The 11:15 a.m. service features the choir and organ, traditional hymnody, an organ prelude, and choral masterworks from Thomas Tallis to Ralph Vaughn Williams. Chanted Introits and psalmody are common.

Both services are visited regularly by our Children's Choir and Handbell Choir.

Throughout the year, a number of additional Feasts of Our Lord Jesus Christ are celebrated with various musical ensembles, including the St. David's Choir, our professional Voices of St. David's, and other ensembles.





## **Worship Spaces**

### **HISTORIC SANCTUARY**

Restored in 2023 to the look of the 1880s, the Historic sanctuary is our main worship space, with pipe organ, piano, choir and chancel area. On one side is the restored Good Samaritan Chapel.

### **BETHELL HALL**

Completed in the early 2000s, and named for former rector Jim Bethell, this is a more modern space that has been used for a variety of services. It was built as part of the physical expansion of the education and office areas.

### **GRACE CHAPEL**

Located below the Historic Sanctuary, Grace Chapel is a small space where Daily Prayer services take place.

### **LABYRINTH**

The labyrinth, built in 2006 is situated between the parking garage and the church building. It is open for use daily. Native plant landscaping and the St. David's Columbarium surround the stone labyrinth.



## SERVING OUR PARISH



### ***Café Divine: A Robust Hospitality Ministry***

A team of event planners and cooks, led by a Culinary Institute of America-trained chef, our Hospitality ministry serves the parish and community almost daily. Café Divine also provides an opportunity for parishioners to volunteer as cooks, servers and cashiers on a rotating basis. A partial list of Hospitality offerings includes:

- Breakfast every Sunday morning from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., keeping everyone bacon-fueled for education and worship!
- Wednesday evening dinner, providing a wonderful meal for parishioners before choir practice, children's choir, and study and social groups on Wednesday nights.
- Thursday lunches for parishioners and community members.
- Superbowl Sunday briskets, smoked and available for order in January.
- Thanksgiving pies, baked and available to order in November.
- Special events including iconic festivals like [SXSW](#), [Austin Film Festival](#), and the [Texas Tribune Festival](#), use space in the parish and are fed by the Hospitality ministry.



### **Children and Families**

Children are a vital part of our parish life. Parenting in these times is challenging for families, as they have much to contend with in the course of secular life.

To that end, we have breakfast before Sunday Formation so that the chaos of the family morning is acknowledged.

We have multiple spaces for formation that meet each child individually, whether they prefer play-based learning or more quiet and liturgically-minded learning. Family-friendly features of St. David's include:

- Sunday School
- Godly Play with crafts and games
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for Level I & II catechumens
- Parents' Night Out
- Bethell Parent's Group
- Children's Choir
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)



We add family-focused fun to all our parish-wide events, like Last Splash during Welcome Home Sunday. [Bethell Parent's Group](#), Parents' Night Out, VBS, and Children's Choir round

out our programming and offer opportunities for fellowship so that we gather not only for learning and prayer, but also for wonder and play.

## Youth

St. David's Youth Ministry serves students in grades 6-12. Being a teen is tough during the best of times, so we love to walk alongside and support youth as they move toward adulthood.

- We meet on site twice weekly during the school year to have fun together and learn more about God.
- Wednesday nights we gather for dinner, games, and a devotional, closing off the night with Compline.
- Sunday mornings, we gather to encounter Scripture in new and exciting ways, bringing all our questions, ideas, and ponderings about who God is and where we belong in the world.

At St. David's we believe that youth are not meant to be siloed to their own corner at church, but part of the ongoing work of ministry in all areas. Youth are active and crucial members of ministries including:



- Worship support
- Café Divine (kitchen) volunteers
- Ramp Build
- Trinity Center

A summer Youth Service Weekend retreat occurs at the church where we do various service projects locally together.

In 2025, we began a tradition of attending a week-long Youth Service Trip with our sister church, Holy Trinity in Greensboro, NC, at a campsite in the Blue Ridge Mountains exclusively for high school students.

## **Young Adults**

The Young Adult Community includes people from their early 20s to early 40s, with varying demographics: married/partnered, with or without kids, full-time professionals, and students. In addition to the adult formation listed below, several regular gatherings are specifically tailored to help young adults navigate life and faith in The Episcopal Church together:

- Austin-area EpiscoPals - Semi-monthly meetings at a private home for dinner and conversation with special guests.
- Tapestry Austin - A monthly brewpub gathering for young adults from Austin-area Episcopal churches for snacks, conversation, and fellowship.
- An online group chat helps young St. David's members plan to attend these events together to build community with each other and with others in Austin.



## **Adults**

At St. David's, we believe an inquiring and discerning mind is a path to God.

Accordingly, the Episcopal maxim that the church rests on scripture, tradition, and reason comes to life in our parish in an array of educational opportunities for all ages.

Participants can deepen their understanding of scripture and scholarly works, but also grapple openly and candidly with challenging questions such as the implications of biblical teachings for today's world. Members and non-members alike are drawn to these rich offerings.

Formation opportunities include and extend beyond Sunday mornings. From traditional lectures to small groups, retreats, and workshops, St. David's encourages members to grow in their spiritual practice throughout the year.



### ADULT FORMATION CLASSES ON SUNDAYS

Capitalizing on its proximity to several universities and to the [Seminary of the Southwest](#), as well as on a congregation with wide-ranging pursuits and expertise, St. David's offers its adult formation hour between the Sunday morning services with lectures and discussions by distinguished and engaging speakers.

In Fall 2025 alone, a few of the topics have been:

- The history of John Henry Newman, leader of the 1800s Oxford Movement
- Biblical interpretation in the Jewish tradition
- The history of Dia de los Muertos
- A creation care series on the nature and spirit of Japanese gardens and on regenerative agriculture as practiced locally
- Theological Finance: Where God and Your Wallet Meet

### EXPLORING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH / BEING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Designed to engage newcomers while also deepening the understanding and commitment of life-long Episcopalians, this rotating series of Sunday morning classes examines what it means to be Episcopalian in our world, our country, and our city.

### SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS

This is a 2-year certificate program that provides an in-depth exploration of the Old and New Testaments, considering their historical contexts, literary characteristics, and relevance for today.

### BIBLE STUDY

Two Bible study groups meet on Sunday, and one on Wednesday night.

### ECKHARDT MISSION SERIES

This is an endowed annual speaker series that brings a prominent speaker to St. David's for a weekend of spiritual growth and development for the parish.

### EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)

This is a unique 4-year small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection. Run locally, EfM lives at The [Sewanee School of Theology](#).

### PERIODIC WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

Overwhelmingly, our members sense a spiritual responsibility for lifelong learning and formation, and they believe that St. David's offers a rich variety of high-quality educational opportunities for all phases of life.



## SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

St. David's service work is where we engage boundaries with specific areas of focus to reach some of the most vulnerable people in our community and our world.

In surveys, parishioners have clearly indicated that service work is a vibrant part of their spiritual lives. Many parishioners joined St. David's after serving with one of our outreach groups.

To maximize our impact – which allows us to “punch above our weight class” – we have created the following groups to manage service to our neighbors.

- The Community Engagement Committee organizes our service work across multiple ministries.
- The Advocacy Group organizes specific projects to address social and human rights issues.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement coordinates outreach opportunities for parishioners to participate in a wide range of activities, internal and external, with an expanding commitment to external pursuits.



### ***Internal Service***

Activities serving the parish and each other include:

- Greeters
- Ushers
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Eucharistic Minister
- Acolytes
- Cafe Divine - preparing and serving meals including Sunday breakfast, receptions following special worship services, such as the Our Lady of Guadalupe commemoration, All Souls' Day, and the Easter Vigil repast

### ***External Service***

The list of externally-focused ministries and activities is extensive and diverse, reflecting our parishioners' wide range of interests. Annually, we celebrate a month of service when parishioners are encouraged to volunteer for a special project planned specifically for that month.

A few of the external ministries are highlighted below:

- [Arbor Terrace Supper Club](#)
- [Environmental Guild](#)
- [Hispanic Outreach](#)
- [Laundry Love](#)
- [Ramp Build Team](#)
- [Go and Do Likewise](#)
- [St. Agnes Guild](#)
- [Norman Sims Elementary](#), (a Title I school)  
- we support a book fair for students and breakfasts for teachers

Annual holiday-related activities include:

- [El Buen Samaritano's](#) Hands for Hope Thanksgiving food distribution
- Scarves, gloves, and caps for children attending Norman Sims Elementary
- Holiday stockings for our neighbors at [Trinity Center](#) and Laundry Love
- Buckets of cleaning products for [Arbor Terrace](#) residents
- Take our turn among other Austin parishes in hosting [La Gran Posada](#) inviting people from across the city to join in this Hispanic cultural tradition
- Gifts for children through our Angel Tree project
- Assist at the Trinity Center Christmas Party



## ADVOCACY

A growing and robust component of St. David's is its role as an advocate for racial and social justice. We have established an Advocacy Committee that carefully considers which issues to address. The Committee works closely with the Episcopal Church USA and The Episcopal Diocese of Texas to select advocacy priorities. We have a great relationship with our bishop.

Recent advocacy projects, aligned as always with our core values, include:

- Open and Affirming Congregation – we host meetings to discuss issues relevant to the LGBTQ+ community and develop action plans.
- Migration with Dignity – we host and join with other local faith and advocacy groups to conduct prayer vigils and other activities to both support families who are impacted by immigration issues and to shine a light on what is actually happening in our city.



- Gun Violence – in 2025, St. David's unveiled its participation with [Texas Impact's "Vidas Robadas/Stolen Lives"](#) campaign. Vidas Robadas was an outdoor art installation of T-shirts commemorating the lives of Texans lost to gun violence and calling for public policies that promote sensible gun safety. The Installation Blessing, open to the community, was on Feb. 26.
- Vote Faithfully – we provide opportunities to ensure our parishioners are properly registered to vote and we participate in voter registration and get out the vote efforts around the city. St. David's won the statewide challenge of large-size Episcopal Churches for the number of parishioners who voted in the November 2024 election.
- Engagement with Elected Officials – we determine legislation to testify on by considering input from both The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the Episcopal Church USA, and the Episcopal Health Foundation to select activities that align with our core values and reflect our faith-based priorities. Some of these activities include:
  - » Phone Calls and Emails to Elected Officials – we coordinate with other Episcopal Churches, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and non-profits.
  - » Press releases and conferences – with other Episcopal churches and The Diocese of Texas we organize and participate in press conferences and issue press releases.

## PARISH CORPORATIONS

Over the years, St. David's launched community institutions, including Trinity Center, The Next-to-New Shop, the St. David's Episcopal Church Foundation, and Warm Heart International, all of which are an important part of the corporate structure of our parish.



### **Trinity Center**

#### MISSION

[Trinity Center](#) addresses the basic needs of unhoused and low-income individuals, providing support and helping resolve homelessness.

#### HISTORY

Trinity Center grew from the concern of parishioners of St. David's Episcopal Church for people experiencing homelessness, their downtown "neighbors," who were living in shelters or on the streets near the church.

Trinity Center was founded by volunteers and is based on a model of action through volunteerism. Since its inception in 1999 Trinity Center has evolved from a Sunday-only ministry in borrowed space to a separately-incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, incorporated in April 2000, that offers a variety of programs and activities for the unhoused population throughout the week.



### **The Next-to-New Shop**

#### MISSION

[Next-to-New](#) is a ministry of St. David's Episcopal Church that is empowered by God's love and sustained by hope, joy, vitality, and a vision to serve the church and others in our community.

We are committed to conveying through words and actions our conviction that all of us—consignors, customers, our staff, and volunteers—are children of God who are worthy of courtesy, honesty, respect, kindness, and generosity in dealing with each other.

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Next-to-New is a consignment shop operating as a ministry of St. David's Episcopal Church. As a nonprofit organization, 50 percent of Next-to-New's proceeds go toward funding local grants. Every year, St. David's Grants Committee selects a number of nonprofit organizations in the Greater Austin Area to receive \$10,000 grants. Another 50 percent of the proceeds go toward the preservation of St. David's historic sanctuary.

## HISTORY

The physical shop has been operated by volunteers from the Central Texas community since 1959, moving to several different locations before occupying our own current space on Burnet Road.



## **St. David's Episcopal Church Foundation**

### MISSION

The St. David's Episcopal Church Foundation (SDECF) exists exclusively for the benefit of, and to further the activities and purposes of, St. David's Episcopal Church. Its specific functions include (i) encouraging broad-based public support of St. David's, (ii) receiving property to be held and invested for the long-term benefit of St. David's; and (iii) directing distributions of funds for the benefit of St. David's operations, ministries, and physical facilities.

### HISTORY

Created in 1941 under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Sumners, the Foundation was incorporated in 1993 as a charitable organization. It now comprises 17 endowment funds totaling approximately \$9 million in assets.



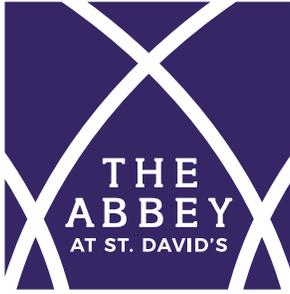
## **Warm Heart International**

### MISSION

[Warm Heart International](#) is focused on raising funds and awareness for our brothers and sisters in Malawi, located in Southern Africa. A non-profit organization, it works to bring fresh water, orphan care, educational scholarships, and pilgrimages to people in developing communities worldwide.

### HISTORY

In 1980, James Tengtenga left his home country of Malawi for Austin, Texas, and the Seminary of the Southwest. He soon found a church home at St. David's Episcopal Church and became an active and well-loved member of the parish. He and his wife, Josie, were married at St. David's. When this extraordinary seminarian returned to Malawi in 1984, he took part of our heart with him. Since then St. David's relationship with James, Josie, and the people of the Diocese of Southern Malawi has flourished.



## THE ABBEY - A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

[Missional communities](#) are spiritual and relational gatherings that foster authentic, transformational relationships between the church and its neighbors.

[The Abbey](#) is a community of people exploring the contemplative spiritual path. Some of us call ourselves Christians, some are “church adjacent,” some are contemplatives from other faith traditions, and some are just finding their way toward spiritual seeking. Each journey is respected. The Abbey seeks to be a safe landing place for all.

The Abbey offers groups (smaller communities) that explore different tools and practices for the spiritual journey such as walking the labyrinth, Enneagram study and discussion, meditation, and book-focused discussion groups. We also have a Sunday morning contemplative reflection time. We publish a semi-weekly blog, “[Practicing Presence](#),” to subscribers in and beyond Austin and the U.S.



At The Abbey, we are cultivating a collaborative and less hierarchical community. Although there is leadership in all of The Abbey’s offerings, groups are not “leader-centric.” The Abbey is small and prioritizes growing deeper above growing in numbers. We see the patterns of how we relate to one another and God – the shape of loving connection – as most important. We recognize the power of being collaborative and we value the gifts everyone offers which help us continue to evolve.

### HISTORY/ORIGIN STORY

The Abbey began in 2019 as a place to explore the deep contemplative stream in the Christian and other traditions. Part of the original mission — which continues as

a priority today — is being open to people who would not likely seek out a church for spiritual community. A second priority is to have a strong online presence and be less rooted to a single geographical location. During the pandemic, we practiced building online communities and found Zoom to be an effective platform for weekly gatherings while sprinkling in-person meet ups throughout the year.

The founding visionaries were members at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. Through support from St. David’s and the participants at The Abbey, the community continues to grow beyond the bounds of the church that helped launch it.

# Who We Seek

In preparing this profile, parishioners completed a survey and participated in listening sessions to provide input.

## PARISH SURVEY

The parish survey indicated we have a clergy-centric climate, reflected a high level of satisfaction in the parish, and articulated our top five priorities.

### TOP FIVE PRIORITIES

- » Growth: Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- » Growth: Make necessary changes to attract families and young people.
- » Develop the spiritual generosity of people to financially support the church.
- » Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.
- » Create more opportunities to form meaningful relationships.

### A CLIMATE CHARACTERISTIC

- » Clergy-centric

### WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU FOR SATISFACTION?

- » Persons who serve as leaders are representative of the membership
- » Worship services are exceptional
- » Decision making approaches are flexible
- » Our rector articulates a clear vision for our church in compelling ways
- » Leaders show a genuine concern to know what members are thinking

## FOLLOW-UP LISTENING GROUPS

Following the parish survey in Fall 2025, parishioners shared more detailed input during multiple listening sessions. What follows is a summary of that input. St. David's parishioners were very clear on the following points:

### *VALUE LITURGICAL TRADITIONS*

- Long history of the parish,
- Music (especially singing together)
- Liturgical traditions give a sense of structure and stability, but we are also willing to innovate with services
- Not judgemental (“original blessing, not original sin”)
- “Both progressive and grounded; It is a downtown church, it feels solid, but also open and welcoming”

### *VERY STRONG FORMATION WORK*

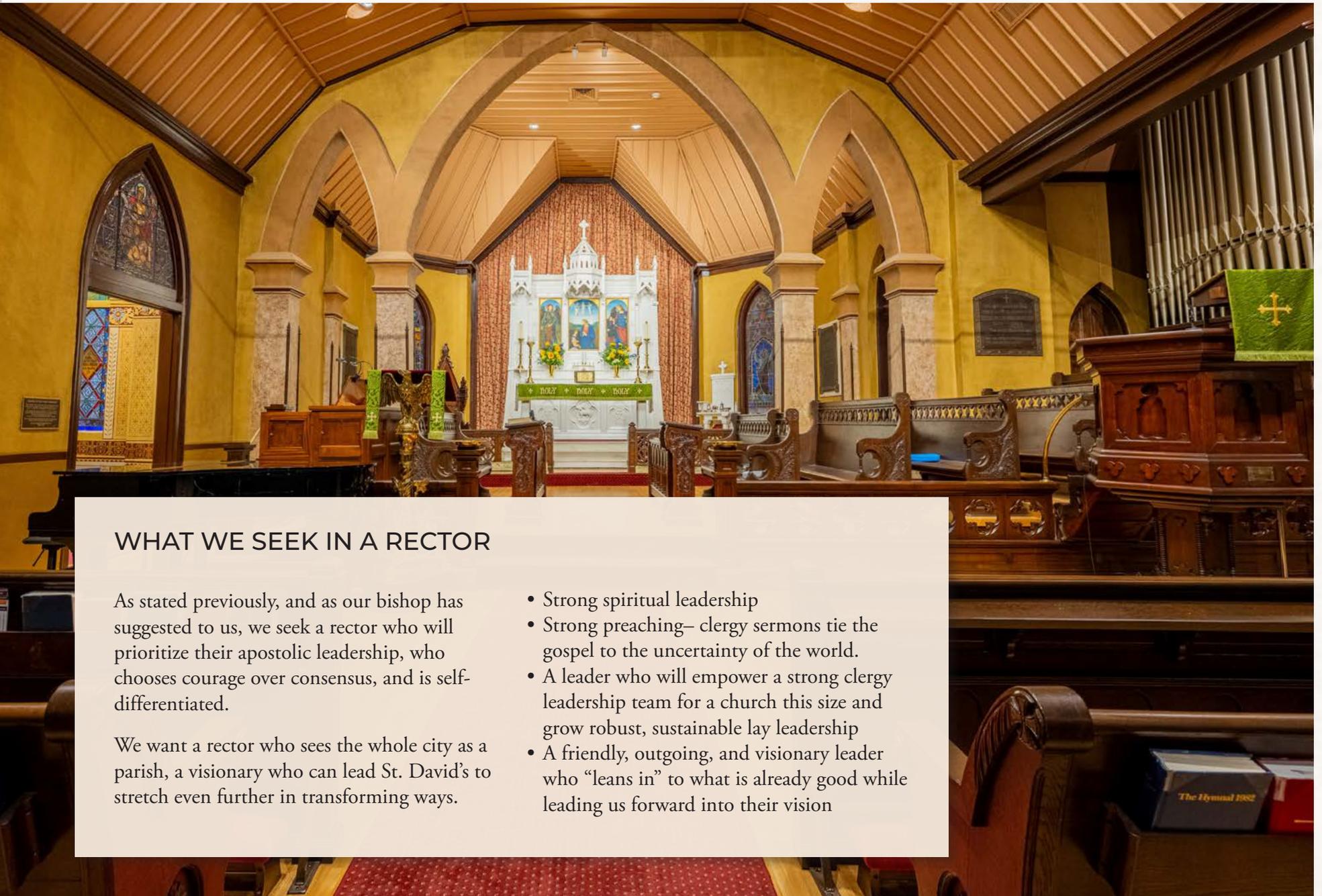
- Proud of intellectual history
- A willingness to question, to explore
- Not rigid or dogmatic

### *DEVOTED TO OUTREACH, SERVICE, ADVOCACY*

- “Our role is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable”
- Importance of calling out injustices and advocating for a better world
- “Kindness in action”

### *WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE*

- Accepting and affirming, particularly with regard to LGBTQ+ folks (“you can be real here”)
- “I don't think people realize how much it meant to have St. David's at the capital, with priests wearing collars, at hearings about trans kids. ...able to tell people, “This is my home, and I am queer.”
- “...not only being welcoming but being affirming.”
- Proud of being a downtown church, even if it comes with its challenges
- “I choose to go downtown, and I choose to drive by Trinity Center, because I have to be reminded of what the world really looks like....that's an element of St. David's that's unique, that it should be a little messy...It should look like the world.”
- I drive past other Episcopal churches to come downtown to St. David's



## WHAT WE SEEK IN A RECTOR

As stated previously, and as our bishop has suggested to us, we seek a rector who will prioritize their apostolic leadership, who chooses courage over consensus, and is self-differentiated.

We want a rector who sees the whole city as a parish, a visionary who can lead St. David's to stretch even further in transforming ways.

- Strong spiritual leadership
- Strong preaching— clergy sermons tie the gospel to the uncertainty of the world.
- A leader who will empower a strong clergy leadership team for a church this size and grow robust, sustainable lay leadership
- A friendly, outgoing, and visionary leader who “leans in” to what is already good while leading us forward into their vision



## *Prayer for Applicants*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds and hearts of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

[Learn More and Apply: stdave.org/profile](http://stdave.org/profile)

# Clergy and Staff

## CLERGY

The Rev. Hope Benko, locum tenens  
The Rev. Kristin Braun, Assistant Rector  
The Rev. Chad McCall, Associate Priest

Liliana Pierce, Executive Assistant to the Rector

## MUSIC

Mark Wischkaemper, Director of Music  
Eric Mellenbruch, Organist and Choirmaster  
Jessy Eubanks, Director of Children's Choir  
Amanda Wischkaemper, Assistant Director of Children's Choir

## HOSPITALITY

Ray Trono, Head Chef  
Latesha Couch, Sous Chef  
Bill Landon, Cook  
Edmundo Vasquez, Prep Cook and Dishwasher

Alexis Washington, Director of Events  
Kendall Voekel, Assistant Director of Events

## PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Kristin Braun, Minister to Children and Families / Safeguarding Coordinator  
Kelsey Cooper, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries  
Sara Canon, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry  
Virginia Gonzalez, Child Care Ministry

Dr. Anna Beaudry, Director of Adult Formation  
Rebecca Hall, Director of The Abbey

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy

Eric Malnassy, Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving

## COMMUNICATIONS

Lori Blewett, Director of Communications  
Patrick Senn, Director of AV  
Maryam Gouda, AV Tech  
Nathan Lundquist, AV Tech  
Tyler Thomas, AV Tech

## ADMINISTRATION

Jim Lamm, Parish Administrator  
Edith Roman, Accounting  
Diana Martinez, Accounting

Esther Loukota, Front Desk Manager  
Bobbie Holder, Front Desk Reception  
Cynthia Zaragoza, Front Desk Reception/AV Tech  
Isabel Pierce, Front Desk Reception

## FACILITIES

Michael Holder, Facilities Manager  
Dijonnaie Burks, Sexton  
Diamond Mulligan, Sexton  
Robin Parker, Sexton  
Aaron Roman, Sexton  
Maril White, Sexton

# *Leadership of Parish Corporations*

## THE NEXT-TO-NEW SHOP

Robert Reid, Executive Director  
Jennifer Bocardo, Sales Lead  
Stephen Glithero, Merchandise Manager  
Parysh Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator  
Virginia Jones, Estates Manager  
Samuel Allen, Operations / Donations Manager  
Olivia Marek, Font End Manager /  
Consignment Assistant  
Kimberly Walker, Bookkeeper  
Vidhi Mehra, Social Media Intern

## TRINITY CENTER

Christian Rodriguez, Executive Director  
Carter Leer, Operations Manager  
Manuela Arago Tabares, Volunteer and  
Communications Coordinator  
Henry Ryan, ID & Financial  
Assistance Coordinator  
Rodney Lentz, Breakfast Cook

## WARM HEART INTERNATIONAL

St. David's Rector, Board Chair  
Robin Cooper  
Linda Gebhard  
Thomas Gebhard  
Rex Hunt  
Rebecca Knowe  
The Rev. Katie Leuba  
Eric Malnassy  
Karen Milton  
Mark Mitchell  
JC Sanders  
The Rev. Cameron Spoor  
Christy Somerville  
Barbara Stinson  
Mav Turner  
The Rt. Rev. James Tengtenga  
The Rev. Robert Vickery  
The Rev. Hope Tinsley Benko

### ***Diocese of Southern Malawi Partners:***

The Rt. Rev. Alinafe Kalemba  
The Anglican Bishop of Southern Malawi

# *Transition Committees and Vestry*

## PROFILE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Melanie P. Moore – Chair  
John Crow – Ex-officio  
Bess Carsner  
John Fitzpatrick  
Laura Hernández-Ehrisman  
Diane Mazuca  
Charles Moody  
Derek Pang  
Joy Harris Philpott  
Mary Rose  
Lori Blewett – Director of  
Communications  
Jim Lamm – Parish Administrator

## SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JC Sanders – Chair  
Elizabeth Bangs  
Stacia Bowley  
Tom Gebhard  
Crystal Goolsby  
John Fitzpatrick  
Cath Polito  
Bob Riendeau  
Catherine Roberts  
Dan Salter  
Jose Sanchez  
Barbara Stinson

## 2026 VESTRY

John Crow – Senior Warden  
Dan Salter – Junior Warden  
Bunny Neible – Treasurer  
Mity Myhr – Clerk  
Matt Carlberg  
Meg Erskine  
John Fitzpatrick  
Laura Hernández-Ehrisman  
Clare Knapp  
Diane Mazuca  
Melanie Moore  
John Orton  
Derek Pang  
JC Sanders  
Colby Simpson

# Acknowledgements

## PHOTO AND VIDEO CREDITS

Special thanks for photos and video courtesy of Austin History Center, St. David's Episcopal Church Archive, St. David's Hospital System, and Rick Patrick.

### **Parish Profile and Video Creative Direction and Graphic Design**

St. David's Director of Communications  
Lori Blewett

### **Parish Profile Video Editing**

Stuart Hargrove

## VIDEO SOUNDTRACK

The soundtrack for the St. David's Episcopal Church parish profile video is a mashup of "All Things Bright and Beautiful," a hymn written in 1848 (the year St. David's was founded), "Born This Way" by Lady Gaga, and the traditional chant melody "Ubi caritas" from the late 8th century.

### **Music and Vocals**

St. David's Music Director  
Mark Wischkaemper

### **Final Mixing**

St. David's Director of A/V  
Patrick Senn



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