

## CONTACT US

### ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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#### OFFICES

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#### PROGRAM STAFF

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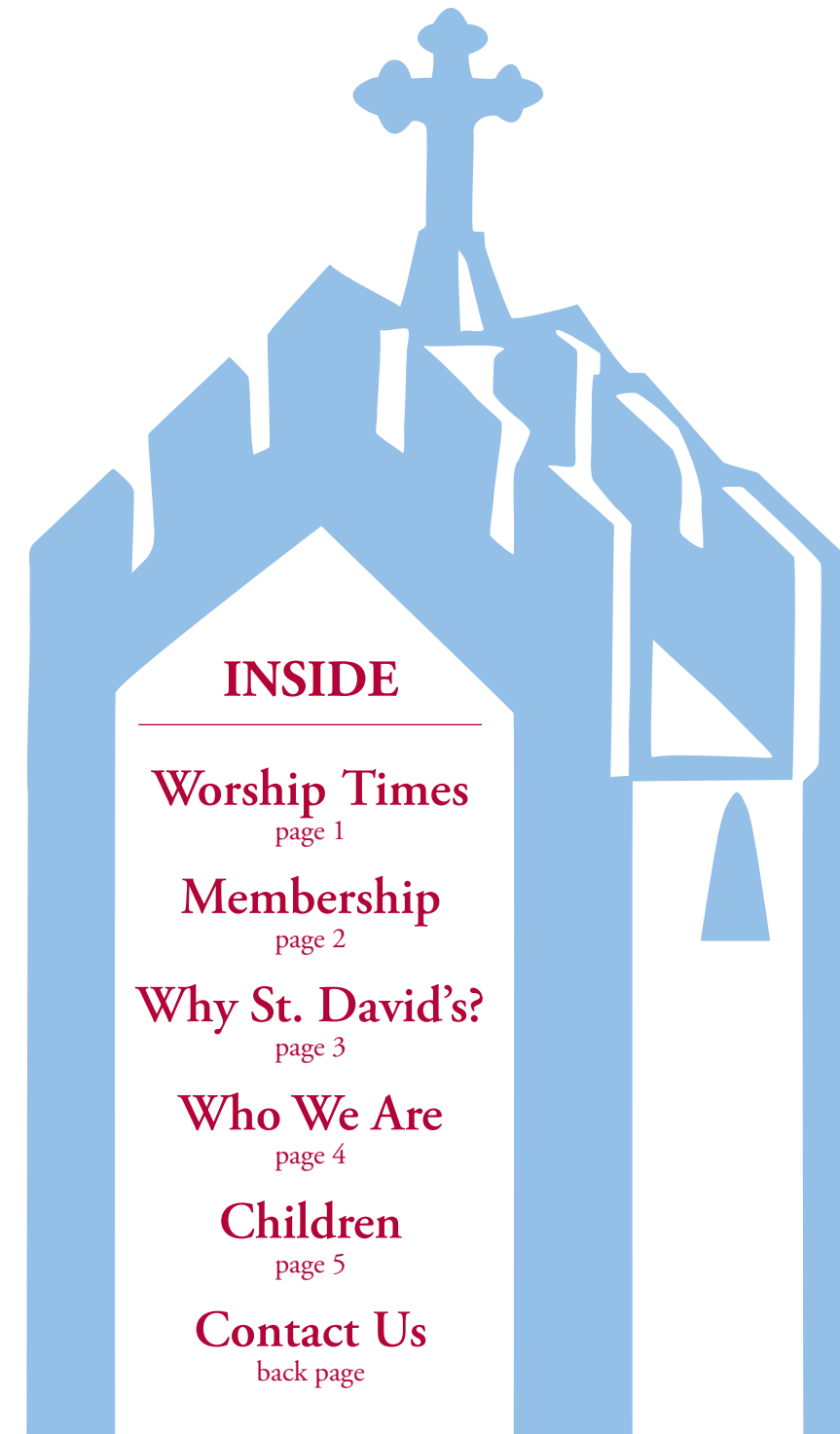
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# NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

## St. David's Episcopal Church



# CHILDREN

## **Children in Worship**

Children of all ages are always welcome and encouraged to attend any worship service. One option for families is the 9:10 a.m. service in Bethell Hall, a worship experience designed particularly for families with active young children.

## **Nursery (1st floor)**

St. David's nursery provides a loving, safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment for the children given to its care. The Church Nursery is open for those attending church programs on the following regular schedule:

### **Sunday Worship Services**

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (2 mos. – 3 yrs.)

### **Weekday Church Events**

Tuesday & Wednesday: 6-9 p.m. (2 mos. – 12 yrs.)

Friday: 10 a.m. – Noon

(2 mos. – 12 yrs. for the Friday Morning Moms Group)

Parents' Night Out: First Fridays of the month: 6 – 10 p.m.,  
Reservation required.

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

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

## **Sunday School (1st floor)**

Seven different Sunday school classes meet for children ages 3 years through 5th grade. (Information about programs for Youth can be found in our Ministry booklet and on our website, [www.stdave.org](http://www.stdave.org).) Classes meet from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

## **Children's Choirs**

Four children's choirs rehearse on Wednesday evenings and perform on various Sundays and at special events during the school year.

## **Contacts**

Nursery and Day School: Laura Lancaster Faulk, [laura.f@stdave.org](mailto:laura.f@stdave.org)

## WHO WE ARE

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

### A Brief History

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

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

### The Episcopal Church

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

More information on these topics is available in the St. David's BookShop or online at:

#### The Episcopal Church

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org>

#### The Episcopal Diocese of Texas:

<http://www.epicenter.org>

## WELCOME

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

### Free Breakfast

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

### Welcome Dinner

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

### Newcomer Classes

We offer this 4-week introductory series on the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church quarterly. The class meets on Sunday mornings, 10:25 – 11:10 a.m., usually in the Library (2nd floor).

## WORSHIP

### SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Childcare is available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

#### Morning and Evening Prayer

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

Noonday Intercessory Prayer

Wednesday, 12 noon

#### Holy Communion

Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. (with healing)

Thursday, 11 a.m. (with healing)

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

## MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WHY ST. DAVID'S

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

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

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

*My husband and I visited many churches in the Austin area but were drawn to St. David's because of its welcoming parishioners. From a member's warm invitation to visit the church, to enthusiastic greetings on our first Sunday, we were welcomed at St. David's with open arms. We really enjoy the Adult Christian Formation classes and that we can choose from a variety of topics. These classes provide education, interesting discussions, and a great way to meet new friends from all walks of life. We are so happy to have found such a warm and exciting church home.*

*Beth*

*It took me a long time to come up with this testimonial, because there are so many positive aspects of St. David's. The size of the church allows for a wide diversity of ways that each of us can find to improve our relationship with God, and the clergy and staff go out of their way to assist each member and visitor to St. David's in that process. In short, anyone can feel at home at St. David's. Supporting people's faith is important, but it is important to me that St. David's cares about doing good works in the community as well. There is always more to be done, but at St. David's you can find a church that is willing to ask, "What else can we do?" rather than "Haven't we done enough?"*

*Stu*