



# St. David's in the Pines

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# Welcome to St. David's-in-the-Pines Episcopal Church in Wellington, Florida

## *Who We Are*

St. David's-in-the-Pines is a multicultural Episcopal congregation with members of all ages. As one new member recently noted, "When I walked into the church, I was amazed by the diversity, with people of different races sitting comfortably together ... and serving together." We are proud of our diversity, and we recognize the joys and strengths that come with it.

We are located on five acres of wooded property in the heart of beautiful Wellington in Palm Beach County, Florida, and we are part of the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida diocese.



Our parish began as an Episcopal mission in 1976. The first all-in-one building was dedicated in 1978. The second building, our current 300-seat church, was dedicated in 1987. The first building now houses the parish hall, administrative offices for the church and the day school, four classrooms, and a kitchen.

We have had just three rectors in our history, and the third retired in 2023 after serving our congregation for 32 years! Our past rectors have been right for the time when they served, and we know our new rector will be also. Together in faithfulness to God, we shall discern the call of our next pastor and priest.

More information about our history, our property, our ministries, and all other aspects of our parish may be found at <https://www.saintdavidsinthepines.org>

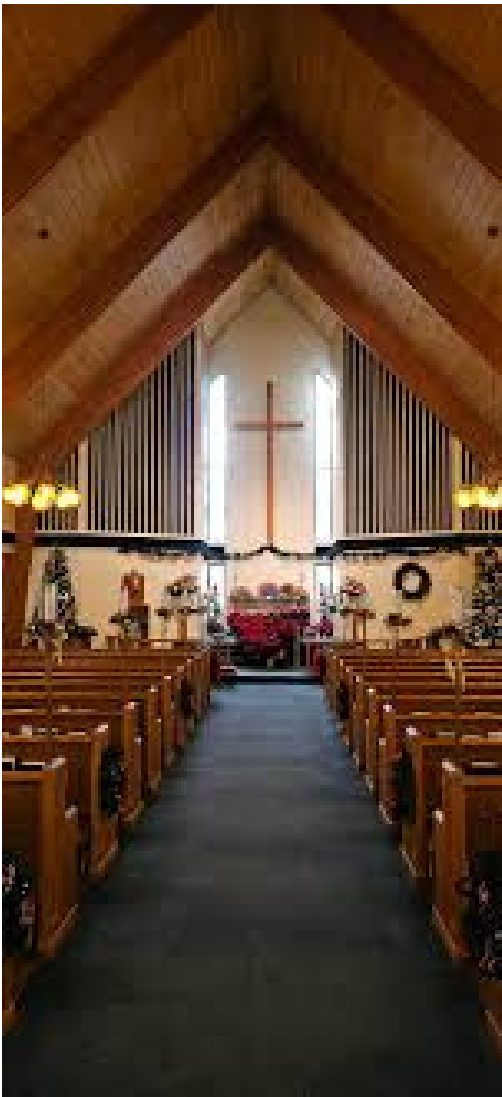
# Our Mission

Through our ministries and parish life we pursue our mission to **Welcome Seekers, Form Disciples, and Send Apostles.**

## **Welcome Seekers**

We are a warm and welcoming parish. We believe that the welfare of each resides in the welfare of the other, so we emphasize and invest in our communal life.

We use our time and talents and our beautiful campus to spread the love of God throughout our congregation and our community by our worship, healing, and hospitality.



Every Sunday we invite the community to our two **Holy Eucharist** services, **Sunday School** for children, three **Bible studies** (one for the youth, one for women, and one open to all adults), and our **Hospitality Hour**.

A new ministry to the community is our **Healing Service**. This service is designed to minister to those parishioners and members of the community who are hurting mentally, physically, or emotionally. This service is offered on the third Sunday of every month after the completion of the 10:00 a.m. service. It is open to the public.

We also open our doors to several different **addiction recovery and support groups** who hold their weekly meetings in our parish hall on evenings and weekends. Supporting the recovery movement by sharing our facilities has been a vital part of our mission to welcome seekers, and many parishioners have joined our church through this path.



**ST. DAVID'S**  
Episcopal School

St. David's Episcopal School, our day school, is an important ministry for forming disciples at an early age. Our school has been serving the community since 1996 and has grown tremendously, now serving as many as 100 students from preK-3 through first grade. The school provides an environment to help the children develop and grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. The teachers consider it a privilege to minister to the children and watch them grow in the love and knowledge of God. Students and staff attend weekly chapel services led by our priest, with parents and grandparents also encouraged to attend.

### ***Form Disciples***

We celebrate God and share joy with one another through our adult formation programs as we continue to build a community of strong spiritual lives. We walk through life together, showing one another how to pray, study the Bible, grow in Christ, and lead others to Christ. **Our discipleship programs for adults** include two Bible studies (one just for women and one for all adults), a notably active and accomplished chapter of DOK, a recently reestablished ECW, a men's group, and a Cursillo team.

We have a highly active **Sunday school** program with a talented director and a team of dedicated teachers. Their campaign of intentional improvement has more than doubled weekly attendance in the past year—from fewer than five children in early 2023 to ten or more in 2024. Thanks to some dedicated parents, the push to enhance our Sunday School program has also involved the day school, as several families from the day school have joined the parish in the past year.

Our parish is blessed with a host of talented teens who compose our **Youth Group**. Most of our youth are high achievers in their schools, and a remarkably high percentage graduate from college. We have watched them become valedictorians, team captains, Eagle Scouts, and military officers. The youth are encouraged to participate in the eucharist by becoming lectors, acolytes, and greeters. We also have an annual Youth Sunday in which the youth take charge of the service, including the sermon.

Spiritual formation for our youth involves a biweekly youth bible study and a regular schedule of social activities, service projects, and trips. Our teens enjoy local outings, serve the parish by helping with projects and fundraisers, and attend Episcopal camps and formational events, such as Happening, as well as interdenominational events like Rock the Universe Christian music festival in Orlando.

### ***Send Apostles***

Our parish is blessed with several ministries that send apostles for outreach and evangelism. The Home Communion ministry provides for shut-ins who cannot make it to church. Seven lay members are currently trained to provide this service. Cursillo alumni in our congregation frequently serve on Cursillo leadership teams in our diocese.

Dedicated parishioners assist other members with rides to church and to their medical appointments. Others visit and take meals to our members who are sick at home, hospitalized, or living in long-term care facilities. We also host a blood drive twice per year.

Volunteers from our parish prepare and deliver sandwiches every Wednesday for the St. George's food program in Riviera Beach, which is a major outreach ministry involving Episcopal parishes from our Northern Palm Beach Deanery.



Our Christmas outreach to Glades Preschool provides presents for children and holiday dinners for families who live in the agricultural region to the west of Wellington. Our DOK chapter also sponsors underprivileged children in Haiti.

## *Our Worship*

The main source of our spiritual life at St. David's is our worship. We celebrate the Holy Eucharist three times a week—twice on Sunday and once on Tuesday—and the Sunday 10 a.m. service is livestreamed and recorded. Most parishioners attend one of the Sunday Eucharist either in person or online, while a small group attends the Tuesday morning Eucharist.

Our services are rooted in the Book of Common Prayer and the Anglican tradition. The services at 8 a.m. on Sunday and at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday are spoken liturgies; the 10 a.m. Sunday service features congregational hymns and music by our choir accompanied by our organ and piano.

Acolytes, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, ushers and the altar and flower guilds help us to experience our rich Anglican traditions. Trained Eucharistic ministers take the sacraments to those parishioners who are unable to attend.

## *Our Music*

St. David's Music Ministry is an integral part of our worship. It expands our outreach to the parishioners and community and provides hope and joy as we praise God with music. This ministry is committed to the preparation and performance of quality music to enhance our worship, and they lead the congregation in hymns and responsorial singing.

The volunteer choir is led by our music director and four section heads, all of whom are paid professional musicians. In addition to rehearsal and performance of weekly service music, the choir prepares and performs for numerous special services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil, and Christmas Eve. Two Evensongs and a yearly Christmas Concert are highlights of our music ministry. We are thankful to have a Rodgers **Organ**, a **Baby Grand piano**, and a **Williams Digital piano**.

# Our Membership and Finances

St. David's is currently financially stable but has not always been so. We had been struggling financially from the beginning of the pandemic, and by 2023 we were strapped with a debt of \$101,000 in the form of a line of credit with our bank. In September of 2023, our then priest-in-residence challenged us to pay off this debt. The congregation's response was overwhelmingly positive, and the debt was paid off in January of 2024. That experience felt like a miracle, and it has taught us what God can do if we will only set aside our doubts and work faithfully to further His kingdom.

## Membership and Attendance

Total Membership	2022	2023	2024
Active Participants in Congregation	350	350	350
Total Active Baptized Members	311	303	310
Average weekly Attendance	110	141	156
Average Sunday Attendance	110	133	141
Average Weekly online Worship	10	20	23

\* Taken from Parochial Report

## Financial Profile for St. David's

5-year Projected Budget	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	Budget 2027	Budget 2028
Total Offerings Tithes & Pledges	\$236,000	\$249,000	\$254,000	\$260,000	\$266,000
Other Revenues	\$126,700	\$95,650	\$96,650	\$98,650	\$94,650
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$362,700</b>	<b>\$344,650</b>	<b>\$350,650</b>	<b>\$358,650</b>	<b>\$360,650</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Staff & Admin	\$186,144	\$243,644	\$245,544	\$247,444	\$250,944
Parish Programs & Outreach	\$33,394	\$26,367	\$30,499	\$31,124	\$22,308
Diocesan Assessment	\$35,211	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$38,000	\$38,000
Buildings & Grounds	\$40,000	\$30,366	\$30,499	\$31,124	\$40,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$294,749</b>	<b>\$337,377</b>	<b>\$343,442</b>	<b>\$347,692</b>	<b>\$351,342</b>

## Stewardship

Our Stewardship Committee has begun a yearlong effort to broaden our congregation's perception of stewardship: from viewing stewardship as an isolated annual campaign to understanding it as a well-planned, year-round way of life that empowers parishioners to grow in relationship with Jesus as they give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Testimonials and talks will be used to demonstrate how our gifts are used to participate in the healing of a broken world. The committee's efforts also include more focus on planned giving, the cultivation of major gifts, and the establishment of an endowment fund.

## Our Location



The Village of Wellington had a population of 61,637 as of the 2020 census, making it the fifth most populous municipality in Palm Beach County. It occupies approximately 31.4 square miles just west of West Palm Beach in Palm Beach County and about seventy miles north of Miami.

**Climate:** Like all of South Florida, Wellington enjoys a subtropical climate, with two dominant seasons: hot and humid with lots of rain from June through November, and cooler and drier from November through May. Winters here are mild to warm. During the coolest month, January, average high temperatures are around 75 °F (24 °C) and lows around 55 °F (13 °C). It is not unusual though for winter temperatures to reach 83 °F (28 °C).

**Excellence in Education:** Wellington attracts young families with its consistently A-rated public schools; no municipality in Palm Beach County exceeds its track record for educational excellence from elementary through high school. There are also numerous private and public charter school options in and near the Village.



**Equestrian distinctives:** Wellington is world famous for its equestrian community and hosting equestrian events, notably show jumping, hunting, dressage, and polo. Wellington hosts the annual Winter Equestrian Festival, the largest and longest running horse show in the world, from January to April. In all, Wellington hosts more than forty weeks of equestrian competitions per year, including prominent international polo events and the Global Dressage Festival, begun in 2011.

International competitors, including numerous Olympians from many nations, attend equestrian events and social events held in our community. Many such part-time residents of Wellington have worshipped at St. David's over the years. Our most famous visitor was Prince Charles, now King Charles III, who attended our Sunday service in 1981 while he was in Wellington to compete in a polo tournament.



## The Episcopal Church

IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

**Diocese:** St. David's is part of the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida, a diocese in Province IV of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America (ECUSA) led by Bishop Peter Eaton. The diocese extends along the southeastern coast of Florida all the way from Key West north to Jensen Beach, and about thirty miles inland to Clewiston. It encompasses Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties, with parts of Monroe and Hendry Counties. Major cities in the diocese include Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach. The cathedral church of the diocese is Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Miami. The diocese currently includes 83 churches.

# Our Next Rector

The Search committee for a new rector at St. David's was formed in the fall of 2023 right after the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) was completed by the congregation. The Executive Summary revealed three main priorities for the next period of our parish's life:



- Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).
- Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.
- Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.

With those needs and the following prayer as our guides, the committee has worked diligently to respond to the desires of the parish.

*Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: We ask you to look graciously on the people of St. David's-in-the-Pines and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new rector for this parish. Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of the Search Committee, as they labor to be faithful in seeking you. Bless us with mutual trust, respect, courage and foresight as you shepherd our parish through this journey. Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection. All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the Glory of Your name. Amen*

In that spirit, we seek a rector:

**Who possesses** a deep spirituality and great personal faith in and love for Jesus Christ;

**Who is committed** to our Anglican tradition and can build on our history of attracting families and younger, nontraditional, and unchurched children of God, while nourishing those who are a part of our identity and traditions;

**Who follows Jesus Christ** in caring for souls and directing them through the joys and sorrows of their spiritual journeys and healing those broken by life's circumstances;

**Who inspires and educates** with compelling preaching and teaching, who clearly relates the Word of God to our lives and grows our opportunities for spiritual formation;

**Who broadens our evangelism efforts** and reaches out to those around us through outreach ministries that bring help to those living on the margins of society;

**Who recognizes the variety of talents** in our community and who can raise leaders for the work at hand and to the greater glory of God;

**Who is a good steward** of our physical campus and our financial resources, has a record of success in fundraising and is comfortable asking people to increase their financial commitment to St. Davids;

**Who has knowledge of the endowment process** to help St David's set a strategy for financial sustainability;

**Who is a good administrator** who will establish durable processes and structures that will sustain our parish for the future;

**Who has experience** in nurturing and growing a youth ministry.

### ***How to Apply***

**If you discern that God may be calling you to St. David's, please submit:**

- Resume/CV
- A copy of your updated OTM profile
- A letter of interest that highlights how you feel you meet the needs of St. David's' and why you feel called to serve as our rector.

**Send your materials by email to:**

The Reverend Canon Fletcher Montgomery  
Canon for Redevelopment and Transitions  
The Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida  
[fletcher@diosef.org](mailto:fletcher@diosef.org)