

A WORD WITH THE WARDENS

April 27, 2025



AGENDA



1. What has the Vestry been doing for the past three months?
2. What does the future hold?
3. Financial update
4. Endowment update
5. How can we get involved?
6. Mark your calendars!
7. Q & A

St. David's 2024-2029 Vision Statements



St. David's lives out our Christian faith through Discipleship, Justice, Faithful Innovation, and Congregational Vitality following the Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Commitments for embodying a loving community:

1. Our faith inspires and equips each of us, from young to old, to follow Jesus with hope into a loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God, one another and creation.
2. We are an innovative, healthy, and radically welcoming Christian community where all feel safe to gather, learn and connect.
3. We know and are known by one another and respond with love and compassion to the needs of others.
4. We as part of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement, see diversity as a gift from our Creator and aspire to build relationships with neighbors and across differences.
5. We believe in God's abundance and are faithful stewards of our land, buildings and financial resources to support staff and ministries now, and for generations to come.
6. We strive, through our words and actions, to be a force for love and justice, collaborating with organizations that work to address needs in our community for the poor, suffering and marginalized.
7. We continually discern our unique identity and gifts, empowering both lay people and clergy to seek new opportunities and intentionally try fresh ways to live the Good News within ourselves, our congregation, our neighborhood, and our communities.

Vestry Meeting Routines

- Meet Third Monday of Month & Two Annual Retreats
- Start with Dinner Together at 6:15pm
- Meeting Starts with Prayer at 6:45pm
- Dwelling in the Word
- Vestry Visitor
- Discernment Topic
- Routine Business (Minutes, Financials, etc.)
- New Business
- Closing Prayer
- Meetings Open to All!



Discernment Listening Guidelines



1. Take time to become settled in God's presence.
2. Listen to others with your entire self (senses, feelings, intuition, imagination, and rational faculties).
3. Do not interrupt.
4. Pause between speakers to absorb what has been said.
5. Do not formulate what you want to say while someone else is speaking.
6. Speak for yourself only, expressing your own thoughts and feelings, referring to your own experiences. Avoid being hypothetical. Steer away from broad generalizations.
7. Do not challenge what others say.
8. Listen to the group as a whole-to those who have not spoken aloud as well as to those who have.
9. Generally leave space for anyone who may want to speak a first time before speaking a second time yourself.
10. Hold your desires and opinions — even your convictions — lightly.

2025 Vestry Goals



DISCIPLESHIP

- More intentional focus on the Vestry being disciples of Christ together

FAITHFUL INNOVATION

- Take concrete next steps in the Comprehensive Campus Initiative (CCI) Project
- Ensure that St. David's is experimenting with new ways of doing church

2025 Vestry Goals (continued)



JUSTICE

- Stronger vestry presence in justice activities
- Ensure that St. David's is promoting justice, expansiveness, and hospitality

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

- More frequent, intentional, transparent communication between Vestry and congregation

2025 Vestry Members



Katherine Lewis - Rector

David Niles - Sr. Warden

Cathy Schwichtenberg - Jr. Warden

Stephen Ferro - Treasurer

Rita Hayek - Clerk

Bonnie Boyd

Nan Drake

Julia Handley

Andy Harvala

Ann Robinson

Mike Sandsmark

Vestry Shepherds

*Shepherds serve as liaisons between important ministry areas
of St. David's and the Vestry*



Buildings and Grounds

Andy Harvala

CCI

Ann Robinson

Endowment

Mike Sandsmark

Faithful Innovation

Julia Handley

Justice

Bonnie Boyd & Rita Hayek

Stewardship

Nan Drake

Comprehensive Campus Initiative (CCI)



- Formed in May 2024
- Initial Envisioning of Possibilities with St. David's Buildings and Land
- Phase I Completed Early 2025
- Thanks to Cliff Crockford for Leading this Team
- Next Steps

In the Past Three Months...

- Community Nights
 - Mes Amis Francophone Dinner
 - Personal Care Backpacks
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
 - Hosted by the Endowment Committee
- St. Patrick's Dinner/Bingo Night
- Lenten Dinner Series
- Holy Week/Easter

Minister of Parish Life

- Welcome, Julia!
- Created Vision for Role
 - Welcoming, Connecting, Supporting
- Companion Team to Support Julia
- Thanks to Office Volunteers for All Their Work
 - Marilyn Clark, Vida Edmond, Jane Sandsmark
- Thanks to HR Committee for Facilitating Hiring

What's the Vestry Focused on for the Next Three Months?



- Discerning CCI Next Steps
- Continue Progress Towards 2025 Goals
- Pentecost and Celebration of Lay Leaders
- Bishop Visit

Financial Summary through March 2025



YTD Pledges

\$174,300

\$1,300 more than plan

Pledges are slightly better than plan YTD

Total Income is 1% above our plan YTD

YTD Expenses

\$112,300

\$2,500 less than Plan

Expenses are 2% less than plan YTD

YTD Income

\$197,000

\$2,000 more than Plan

Q1 2025 Endowment Update



St. David's Cornerstone Endowment Quarterly report to Vestry for period ending 3/31/25

Values as of quarter ended 3/31/25

➤ Total Endowment gifts	\$366,279.66
➤ Endowment Total Market Value	\$517,458.88
➤ Amount in checking	\$3,638.70
➤ Total balance	\$521,097.58

How Do I Present an Idea for Endowment Distribution?



- Applications for 2026 distributions are now available!
 - Copies located in the Undercroft and Office
- Due October 1, 2025
 - The Endowment Committee determines the amount available by the end of September
 - The Vestry is responsible for deciding spending
- Endowment distributions must support:
 - Capital improvements for the Parish
 - Outreach ministries and grants
 - Seed money for new ministries
 - Special one-time projects

Mark your calendars!

- May 2 Variety Show
- May 4 - May 13 Wales Pilgrimage
- May 28 Community Night
- June 1 Newcomer Brunch
- June 8 Pentecost & Celebration of Lay Leaders
- June 22 Bishop Visit & Confirmation
- June 22 - June 26 ECMN Youth Camp
- June 29 Pride
- July 27 - July 31 ECMN Family Camp
- August Creekside Baptism
- September 7 Kickoff Sunday

Get Involved!

- Volunteer
- Join a ministry team
- Dream
- Speak up/speak out
- Share ideas
- Try something new
- Take a risk
- Organize an event

Working together at St Davids, we can make a real difference in our own lives, our community, and the world.

Q & A

