



**ST DAVID'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ST. DAVID'S VESTRY

Ted Jackson, Senior Warden

Hadley Cooper, Junior Warden

Stuart Prince, Treasurer

Rich Bland

Austin Taylor Branson

Adriana Brown

Mary Kathryn Covert Steel

Arthur "Ottsie" Cox

David Frulla

Vanessa Sarchet

Oscie Thomas

Pamela Wise

CLERGY & STAFF

The Reverend Kristen L. Hawley, Rector

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# MEETING AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Announcement of a Quorum

Appointments of Secretary, Tellers & Parliamentarian

Senior Warden's Report

Rector's Report

Financial Report from the Treasurer

Celebration of Outgoing Vestry Members

Introduction of Warden and Vestry Nominees

Election

Institution of Senior Warden and Vestry Members

Questions and Other Business

Closing Prayer

Adjourn



## 2024 VESTRY NOMINEES

As Chair of the Vestry Nominating Committee, I would first like to thank the following members of the committee—Ottis Cox and Rich Bland.

Vestry members typically serve a three-year term, and each member serves on one of the three working groups—Property and Grounds, Finance and Administration and Mission, Education and Outreach

This year we present the following candidates for parish approval to serve on the St. David's Vestry:

Rich Bland, Junior Warden

Welles Orr, Meme Glenn, Bill Burns, and Indra Chalk

All candidates are active members of the St. David's community and are committed to the future growth of the parish. They all bring unique and diverse talents and energy.

Hadley Cooper, Junior Warden



**RICHARD F. BLAND** (Junior Warden)

As Vice President at WETA/PBS NewsHour, Rich leads a team of fundraisers who raise \$30M+ annually in institutional funds for WETA's multiple business units that serve the nation by providing programming for the 330+ PBS stations across the country. These WETA programs include: *PBSNewsHour*, *Washington Week*, national productions by Ken Burns and Henry Louis Gates, and local productions which include five television stations and a radio station, Classical WETA 90.9 (Washington's Classical music station).

Rich started his career working for U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan as a Speechwriter and Deputy Chief of Staff. After then earning his law degree from the University of Virginia and a master's degree from Harvard University, Rich has dedicated his career to nonprofit management which included roles as Director of Federal Government Relations for the YMCA of the USA, National Director of Policy, Advocacy and Development for Save the Children, and Chief Operating Officer for the Washington National Cathedral. Rich received his BA from Bowdoin College, his JD from the University of Virginia and his MTS from Harvard University. Rich has a 17-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old son, Noah. He and his wife Deborah Bland live in Spring Valley.

## 2024 VESTRY NOMINEES

### BILL BURNS

Bill has attended St. David's regularly for the past three years. He has served on the committees for three seminarians during that time.

Bill was born in Des Moines, IA and baptized there at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. As a result of his father's naval service and civilian job changes as well as Bill's own navy career, he spent the next 52 years moving, belonging to and attending numerous Episcopal churches across the country. He was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lansing, MI.

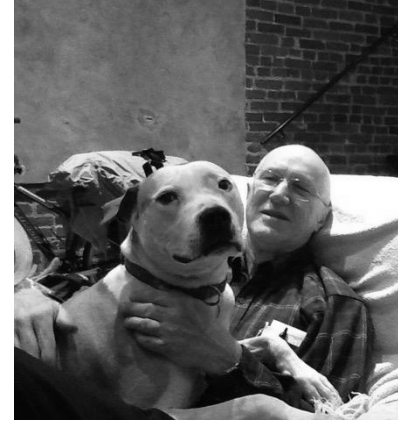
Bill graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and later received an MPA from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a graduate of the National War College.

Following his time at the Naval Academy, Bill served the better part of 30 years at sea, trained as a surface warfare officer and nuclear engineer. He was privileged to command three ships during that time. Ashore, Bill served as Deputy Director of Operations for U.S. Central Command. After retiring from the Navy, Bill worked as an Adjunct Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, VA.

During retirement from the Navy, Bill spent thirteen years volunteering at Joseph's House in Adams Morgan, a home for formerly homeless men and women dying of HIV/AIDS and cancer, and he served as a member and president of its board.

Bill's wife, Catherine, was ordained an Episcopal Priest in 2021. Bill has a daughter, Bobbi, who lives with her family in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and a son, Billy, who lives with his family in Antigua, Guatemala.

Bill has played tennis all his life, and that remains his favorite form of exercise and relaxation... except, of course, for his daily walks with his friend Barney.



### INDRA CHALK

Indra Chalk began attending St. David's in the fall of 2020 after going on an unofficial reconnaissance mission for her previous church vestry to see how Episcopal churches in the Diocese were holding in-person services during COVID. After so many months of worshiping on a laptop at home, she and her husband, Philip, were delighted to find an active church community. Indra met St. David's youngest members first by volunteering as a Sunday School teacher and later got to know adults better when she joined the wonderful women of the St. David's Flower Guild. Born in Toronto, Indra is the daughter of a Canadian mother and Indian father. She grew up in Topeka, Kansas. She earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and law degree from the University of Virginia. She practices telecommunications law in T-Mobile's Government Affairs office. She and Philip have



three adult children—Madeleine (28), a social media influencer in L.A., Mary Margaret (25), a third-year law student at Stanford Law School, and Judge (19), a music composition major at the University of Kansas. They live in McLean, Virginia with Indra’s five backyard chickens and a needy dachshund.

#### WELLES ORR

Welles Orr and his wife Ann have been active parishioners at St. David's since 2018. They have one daughter, Francesca, who graduated from the University of Vermont last year. Welles grew up in Pittsburgh and graduated from Denison University with a B.A. in Political Science and then an M.A. in International Security Studies from the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. He began his Washington career in the House and Senate and later in senior roles in the State Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in the Reagan, Bush 41 and Clinton Administrations. He was in private practice for 18 years advising corporate and foreign government clients on international trade, customs and export control policy with a DC based law firm. He retired in 2021. Welles and Ann are "all eyes" on St. David's having lived directly across the street for the past 20 years. They are regular attendees at the 5:00 Sunday service as well as the Noon Wednesday service and the Saturday Holy Happy Hour.



#### MEME MCNAIRY-GLENN

MeMe McNairy-Glenn has been attending Saint David's with her family for four years. She is currently a Managing Director on the Partner Relations team of CH Investment Partners. MeMe graduated magna cum laude from Washington University and holds a master's in divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. She also currently serves on the national strategic advisory committee of Everytable. MeMe is married to Dylan Glenn and they have three amazing boys, Coburn, John and Charles.





# RECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome, friends, to the 2024 Saint David's Annual Meeting! Each year, as we prepare for today's meeting, I like to look back at the Rector's Reports that I have given in years past as I reflect upon where we are now. Though so much has changed over the last six years there are many constants. This year I will be consistent and stick to four of these: Joy, Growth, Leadership & Gratitude.

**Joy.** So often visitors to Saint David's stop on their way out to let me know just how much they enjoyed their time with us. Most often they stumble on the words needed to express why but eventually land on the word joy. They are surprised by the impact that joy has on a Sunday service and point to the fact that it is such a wonderful change to be in a church where everyone seems to want to be there! Our joy, your joy, transforms our time together when we worship into something that not only changes us but those who visit us. One might think that this should be the experience at every church but it is not, unfortunately, and Saint David's is becoming known in DC as a place where welcome and joy permeate our worship, fellowship, formation and outreach... and others are taking notice. Friends, I believe that joy is infectious and that one of our primary gifts to our community, visitors, diocese and ourselves is our modeling of the joy that is founded on God's love that permeates this place and people.

**Growth.** Some of you have heard me talk about being interviewed by a church publication recently as the rector of one of the few Episcopal parishes that grew both before and during covid. Metrics are funny and I am loathe to use ones like average Sunday attendance (ASA) and pledges to point to our growth, because they do not paint the picture of our parish in its fullness. We have and, I pray, will continue to grow in every way that leads more people to the truth and knowledge that they are beloved children of God who have a calling to follow Christ in the world by loving God and by being love to others and oneself. We do this by offering ourselves to God and one another, gathering for joy-filled worship, song and prayer, reaching out to a hurting world, pouring our love and hearts into the youngest among us so that they will grow in and share this love with the world, baptizing, marrying and burying all who come to us desiring God's blessing and focusing on formation through the building up of relationships. Yes, our numbers have grown, our staff has grown, our Sunday School and choir have grown, our programming and number of services have grown and more—but they do not tell the whole picture. Our growth looks like love in action.

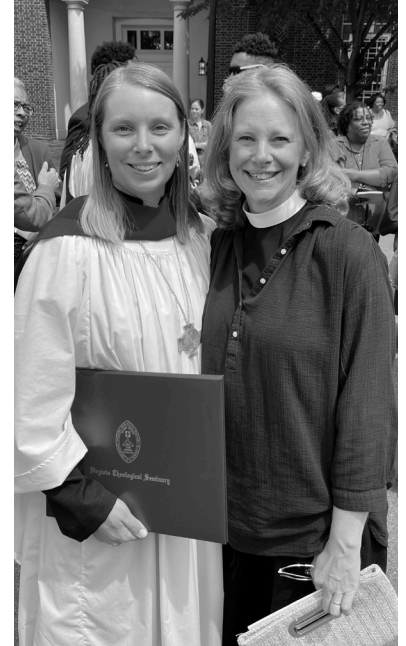
**Leadership.** To be a joyful and growing parish does not happen without those who commit to help make it so. Though we do not have an abundance of committees and guilds, like many other churches, we have a parish full of people who want to serve and help... and I am grateful! Unlike the churches of my youth where ninety percent of the work of the church was done by just a handful of the same people,



Saint David's dances to a different rhythm. We share the work among many and invite others to join wherever and whenever they feel so called. Our vestry, staff, guilds, teachers, seminarians, lectors, choir and committees are joined every week by parishioners who bring food for coffee hour, help set up tents, chairs, tables and moonbounces or offer to take flowers to Grand Oaks or clean out the kitchen. These rarely seem like big jobs to those who do them, but they are so very important and make Saint David's a vibrant parish full of leadership in things both great and small. Thank you to each of you for your gifts of leadership.

**Gratitude.** You may get tired of hearing me say it, but it needs to be said. Thank you. As a mentor used to say every Sunday during announcements—"As I am wont to say... thank you, all of you, for being the church." I am humbled by what an amazing group of people call this parish their home and give thanks for each of you every day. Thank you, friends, for another amazing year on Macomb Street. Thank you for willing to be stretched and pushed for the sake of the gospel. Thank you for the difference your lives make in the lives of others here and around the world. Thank you for being interested, interesting and generous. And thank you for calling me to be your rector in 2017 and letting me journey alongside you!

May God bless you and those beloved to you, now and always.  
Kristen



# ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

Upon completion of one full year of ministry at St. David's, if you asked me "what makes St. David's unique?," my answer today would be that "St. David's cares." Of course, the clergy care for our parishioners, and we hope that you know how much we care about you. But more significantly, you, the parishioners, genuinely care. One of my most meaningful moments this past year was during a pastoral visit with a couple of our members. I said, "why do you keep inviting me back? Is there some concern that we haven't covered?" And the couples' response was simply, "We care about you." I hope that you feel cared for at St. David's and if not, that you will reach out to us.

Being cared for is a gift not to be taken for granted in a society that has been described as having 'an epidemic of loneliness'. In addition to the more administrative tasks that encompass my position, the primary focus of my ministry here at St. David's has been on Christian formation. This ministry area covers a wide variety of programs offered in 2023 at St. David's. Beginning in February, parishioner Cornelia Powers began a book group that over the course of the year read *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, *Enchantment: Reawakening Wonder in an Exhausted Age* by Katherine May, *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)* by Kate Bowler, *Circe* by Madeline Miller, *Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make us Whole* by Susan Cain, and *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Varghese. While one of the purposes of this group is to discuss and learn more about literature and theology, it has also become a remarkable intergenerational group that indeed cares for one another.

Of course, St. David's offered many other formation opportunities and seasonal classes. Kristen offered an evening study group titled *Home by Another Way* during the season of Epiphany and continued to host Bible Study on every other Tuesday morning throughout the year. In March and April four teenagers participated in confirmation preparation and were subsequently confirmed at Washington National Cathedral on May 20, 2023. Harvey continued to offer discussion sessions via Zoom on various topics, including a summer group that met four times to explore the meaning of Christ's resurrection, and a fall group that also met four times to discuss the Sermon on the Mount.

If you attended the monthly Celtic service, you might have noticed that beginning in fall of 2023, lay people began offering personal reflections in lieu of a homily. These reflections have been opportunities for parishioners to share personally how they experience God in their own lives. The people who have spoken were courageous to offer their own stories for the good of us all - an inspiring act of discipleship. These speaking opportunities will continue in 2024, and I encourage





you to consider if the next step in your own spiritual journey might be to share your own story. Nothing fights loneliness and shame like being known - and offering a reflection at the Celtic Service is an opportunity to be known more deeply by our community. If you feel this nudge, please be in touch with me.

In 2024 we will continue our Bible studies, book club, seasonal classes, topical discussions, and preparations for the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. Please reach out to us if you have ideas or questions of your own you want to explore in the coming year. Thank you for offering your loving care and kindness at St. David's and know that we are here for you at St. David's, no matter what life brings your way.



## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

St. David's has been growing around 20% per year over the last few years. It is exciting to read about it in this annual report--from our finances to our outreach and mission work, this parish is teeming with activity. We are blessed to have a talented and engaged vestry during this time.

We have been balancing the challenges of today with an outlook for the future. The immediate challenges we have been working on include a leaking roof, storm damage, elevator and alarm repairs, replacing an organ and an HVAC system (a lot of buildings and grounds work). As we look out to the future, we are working on tactics like stewardship, budgeting and supporting a growing number of seminarians. We are also making sure that we are welcoming, by not only building fellowship with our "old friends" but making sure that we are a smiling and open community to those that are coming to discover St. David's for the first time.

We have started a survey to learn more about the diverse needs and desires of our parish, and we are working on a directory, so everyone can put names to those familiar looking faces in the pews across the aisle.

I'm inspired each week and month to hear how our parish is supporting families in need with coats, gift cards, sandwiches, meals, and other volunteer activities. Whenever I think "are we trying to do too much," I'm reminded that different people engage and volunteer in different ways and at different times. As a neighborhood parish, we continually look to provide different opportunities to get to know Jesus and to live out His teachings.



As we continue to grow in 2024, I encourage you all to engage more in our work and give us feedback on how we can better serve our community of faith. I'm grateful to learn about the continued generosity of this parish, and I'm inspired to support St. David's in any way I can. I hope each of you can find a way, whether through worship, formation, fellowship, or education, to nourish your faith journey here at St. David's.

While I will miss working with all the outgoing vestry members, I must express extreme gratitude for the leadership and perspective of the outgoing Junior Warden, Hadley Cooper, who has provided stability, background, and valuable insights about the operations of St. David's on a weekly basis.

Respectfull Submitted,  
Ted Jackson, *Senior Warden*

## SAINT DAVID'S 2024 BUDGET

### Saint David's 2024 Budget and Summary Financial Results

	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	\$ OF CHANGE
<b>INCOME</b>						
Pledge	\$390,000	\$428,188	\$490,000	\$511,081	\$590,000	\$78,919
Plate	\$75,000	\$111,906	\$115,000	\$113,964	\$105,000	-\$8,964
Building Rental	\$18,000	\$19,325	\$18,700	\$18,700	\$20,000	\$1,300
Endowment Draw	\$74,000	\$40,000	\$78,000	\$78,000	\$47,500	-\$30,500
Other	\$25,000	\$14,462	\$12,000	\$23,465	\$15,500	-\$7,965
Parish House Rental	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>	<b>\$661,881</b>	<b>\$761,700</b>	<b>\$793,210</b>	<b>\$826,000</b>	<b>\$32,790</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>						
Personnel	\$329,000	\$359,387	\$458,000	\$469,901	\$514,000	\$44,099
Administrative	\$48,250	\$35,465	\$38,000	\$39,718	\$47,000	\$7,282
Property	\$50,000	\$59,860	\$56,000	\$35,010	\$47,000	\$11,990
Education	\$4,800	\$5,556	\$6,300	\$2,557	\$6,000	\$3,443
Parish House	\$14,800	\$16,208	\$16,000	\$31,518	\$19,000	-\$12,518
Utilities	\$22,700	\$24,210	\$27,000	\$26,021	\$28,000	\$1,979
Insurance	\$16,000	\$15,865	\$17,300	\$17,363	\$19,000	\$1,637
Worship & Music	\$51,750	\$80,759	\$76,300	\$86,783	\$78,000	-\$8,783
Fellowship	\$3,500	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$15,976	\$15,000	-\$976
Diocesan Giving	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$41,000	\$7,000
Outreach	\$11,900	\$8,000	\$13,000	\$11,515	\$12,000	\$485
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$577,700</b>	<b>\$643,310</b>	<b>\$755,900</b>	<b>\$770,362</b>	<b>\$826,000</b>	<b>\$55,638</b>
<b>NET GAIN/LOSS</b>	<b>\$52,300</b>	<b>\$18,571</b>	<b>\$5,800</b>	<b>\$22,848</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$22,848</b>

# FINANCE REPORT

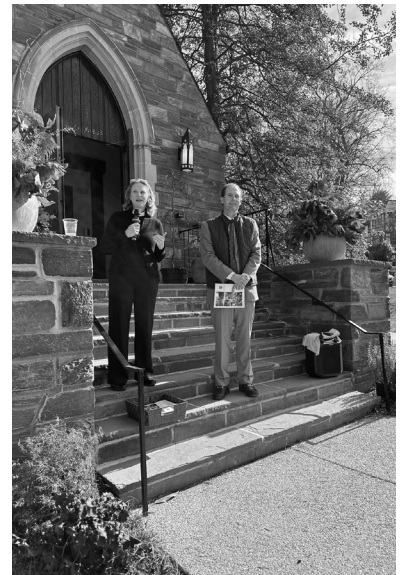
St. David's had another very healthy year from a financial perspective, benefitting from robust pledge and plate support from parishioners. Pledge activity in 2023 totaled just over \$511,000 up 19% over 2022 and \$21,000 over the budget. Plate collections in 2023 of \$113,000 were about \$1,000 more than the amount collected in 2022 and \$2,000 below projection. On the expense side, the Church spent \$770,000 on its operations, almost \$15,000 over a budget of nearly \$756,000. The principal reason for the overage was damage from a late July storm, during which a tree fell on the Parish House and caused extensive damage, around \$17,000 net of insurance proceeds.

Our Endowment saw strong returns given the market rebound in 2023, leaving the Church with an Endowment balance of \$1.82 million at December 31, 2023, vs. \$1.56 million Year End 2022. The Endowment policy allows for an annual 5% draw to fund operations, calculated as 5% of the average of the prior three (3) year-end balances for the Endowment account. Even after Endowment draws totaling \$78,000 in 2023, the account balance grew by nearly 17%. Our budgeted draw for 2024 is \$84,000, the full amount of which we do not anticipate needing if the Church meets its budget projections.

The Church was busy with two significant capital investments in 2023—a spectacular new organ and a much-needed re-design and construction of the HVAC system. Made possible by a generous capital gift in the fall of 2022, these necessary projects will not only add to the enjoyment and comfort of parishioners and staff, but will reduce significantly the repairs and maintenance on the physical plant of the Church. Along with decreasing staff time associated with the constant oversight and short-term fixes of the HVAC system these last few years, the new system is far more energy efficient than its predecessor.

St. David's greatly appreciates the parishioners' support in as in 2023 as it made important investments in staff, programming, and the building. We look forward to another successful year in 2024 as St. David's continues and expands its mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stuart Prince  
*Treasurer*





# INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Investment Committee, faithfully led by Bruce Whelihan for many years, would like to thank Bruce, on behalf of the entire parish, for his dedication, faithful leadership and passion for protecting and growing Saint David's Endowment Fund for generations to come! Bruce decided to step down as chair of the committee late last year and has handed the Investment baton to Pamela Wise. Thank you, Bruce.

The Endowment fund, having received two generous gifts from parishioners last year, had a balance of \$1.82 million dollars as of December 31, 2023. As budgeted, the parish took two draws last year, totalling \$78,000.

We were very satisfied with the performance of our endowment assets under the excellent security selection of our outgoing leader, Bruce whelihan. His style was most suited for the 2023 environment. To replenish cash reserves we did a very minor rebalance out of large cap growth in December and, going forward, we will have quarterly committee meetings.

Investment Committee members are Pamel Wise (chair), Bruce Whelihan, Stuart Prince (treasurer) and Chip Nottingham and we would be happy to answer questions at any time. If you would like to know more about the committee and how to join, please contact Pamela.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Wise  
*Chair, Investment Committee*



# BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT

The Building & Grounds committee spent 2023 focused on the infrastructure of our beautiful church home. The best news is that installation of a comprehensive, energy efficient HVAC system is nearing completion. Early in the year, we put engineering drawings out to bid, selected an excellent contractor, hired a project manager, and work started in the fall. By the end of the year, all the offices and undercroft area were on the new system. We are waiting for a final heat pump unit to be delivered in late February 2024, which will serve the nave. It's been an extremely complex project, and we're delighted to be at this final stage.

Other 2023 projects included replacing the two sagging window well grates near the columbarium with handsome new grates. We also continued to maintain our network of sump pumps and installed a new one in the well of the elevator shaft. With additional repairs to the elevator, we were able to pass the necessary DC annual inspection, and we have applied for a DC certificate. In addition, we installed a new fire system throughout the church, which is monitored 24/7.

The church is beloved by all of us, and we look forward to caring for the building and grounds in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Oscie Thomas  
*Vestry Member of Building and Grounds Working Group*



# MEO REPORT

The primary role of the Committee is to support the three pillars of the Parish: Mission, Education, and Outreach (MEO). The MEO Committee spent much of 2023 participating in a listening exercise. We strove to understand what St. David parishioners needed to ensure our worship, education and outreach offerings meet their needs.

As a growing church, we realized many in the parish longed for additional opportunities for community and fellowship—in the form of Coffee Hour, Happy Holy Hour, Book Club and Family Nights. We also heard from many—both longtime members and newcomers—how helpful it would be to have a photo directory so as to engage one another purposefully and by name. Very much a work in progress, but we begin the year with a draft.

We continue to be inspired by the work of our incredible Outreach Committee and the various partners they support in our greater community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adriana Brown  
*Vestry Member of MEO Committee*





# SEMINARIANS REPORT

St. David's is blessed with three seminarians: Sam Armstrong, Matt Overturf, and Jordan Rippey. Each brings her or his own gifts to our congregation and helps support what St. David's offers to the parish and the community. Sam and Matt are 2nd and 3rd years, respectively, at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Jordan is a 3rd year at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington and is also a professor at Johns Hopkins Business School. Having all three is an embarrassment of riches.

St. David's has two seminarian committees to help support our three seminarians. Sam's committee includes David Frulla, Bill Burns, Craig Albright, Leslie George, Tim Mock and Grace Kreher. As a second year, Sam's service is a dedicated part of her curriculum at VTS. You will be seeing a lot of Sam around the church this winter and spring. Because Sam's program is a prerequisite for academic credit, her committee process is comparatively formal; we meet monthly and provide more structured feedback and support. But the number one goal remains to extend love and welcome to Sam and meet her where she is in her faith journey. (Of course, that's also true for Matt and Jordan.)

For their part, Matt and Jordan share a committee comprised of David Frulla, Bill Burns, Jane Schubert, Dianne Parsons, and Catherine Nottingham. As third years, Matt and Jordan are "volunteer" seminarians. They've completed their formal seminarian process and are offering their gifts as a supplemental form of enrichment for the parish and themselves. Because Matt's and Jordan's service to St. David's is less formal, so, too, is their committee. We meet more at their pleasure and want to let them guide us in how to support them best.

Sam, Matt and Jordan all share a goal to be active and engaged parts of the St. David's community. Please help make them feel at home and get to know them. At least one (and often more) assist at each of our Sunday worship services.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Frulla  
*Chair, Seminarian Committee*



# YOUTH AND FAMILY REPORT

It has been an honor for me to continue to serve as the Saint David's Youth and Family Missioner. What a joy it has been to welcome new families to the parish as well as deepen my connection to established members. The children and youth programs have continued to grow this past year, and there is lots of exciting development ahead.

A cornerstone of the youth and family programs is Sunday school, which is held each Sunday (except First Sundays) during the first part of our 10:15 a.m. service, from 10:15 a.m. until The Peace. This schedule frees parents/caregivers to listen to the readings, sermon, and prayers while allowing their children to engage with Bible stories and ask questions in a very approachable way. Our children then rejoin the congregation to share the Communion service with their families. A huge thanks goes out to all the amazing folks who volunteered to teach Sunday School this year: Patty Mason, Indra Chalk, Sheryl Dolan, Adriana Brown, Preston Brown, Liz Davis, and Courtney Parkinson. Sunday School has continued to be a time of learning and fun for our young parishioners. There are two sections of Sunday school: one for Preschoolers through first graders, and one for second graders and up. The younger students' lessons come from the Spark Lectionary curriculum, a three-year curriculum, which aligns each week's Sunday School lesson with the readings the adults hear in the church. We explore the lessons through craft activities and sensory play centers. The older children are reading through the highly engaging, graphic novel style Action Bible using the Spark Connect curriculum to guide discussions and accompanying activities. We have seen a marked and exciting increase in the number of children attending Sunday school at St. David's this past year.

In addition to Sunday school, we have reinstated Children's Chapel this year! Held before Sunday school (beginning at 10 am), children and families are invited to gather along with clergy and seminarians to light candles, pray, sing, and explore bible stories together. Children's chapel offers a uniquely special time of connection between our youth and church leaders. We have recently introduced Dewi (the Welsh version of David) the Dragon in Children's chapel. Dewi spends time with different families each week and the children keep a journal of their activities with Dewi to share with their friends during the next Children's chapel. Please consider attending Children's Chapel; it is a delightful way to begin your Sunday worship.

Nursery care is also offered each Sunday during the 10:15 service for babies and toddlers aged 0-4. Babysitters extraordinaire, Charlotte Airosus and Elizabeth Keller returned this year to continue to provide loving care to our little ones. In addition, we have been lucky enough to have some of the middle and high schoolers from the St. David's family babysit in the nursery as well: Sally Prince, Catherine Cooper, and Brooklyn Carter. Thank you to all of our babysitters for making the St. David's nursery such a warm, inviting place to play and grow!



First Sunday children's services have flourished this year! On the first Sunday of each month the children are invited to help lead the 10:15 service and the sermon is directed toward the kids, too. The children seem to really enjoy this opportunity to take leadership roles in the service and connect with the full St. David's parish. The most exciting additions to the first Sunday services this year were performances by the children and youth choir.

Family Night at St. David's has continued this year. Now helmed by the talented David Fazekas, Family Night is held on the second Thursday evening of each month. Families gather to enjoy a meal, followed by choir rehearsal for the children and youth (led by Rob Church and David Fazekas) and fellowship for the adults. Family Night is truly something to look forward to each month. A wonderful time is had by all; families are especially encouraged to attend, but all are welcome!

The children and youth of Saint David's were able to participate in several special holiday/fellowship opportunities this year. Breaking chains, a Lenten resource was made available to all families to facilitate an at-home daily devotional practice. Many families also participated in a highly engaging, hands on holy week service specially designed for children. Children enjoyed coming to church in costumes for a special Boo-charist service, visiting with St. Nicholas on St. Nicholas Day, decorating cookies and gingerbread houses at our annual cookie decorating party, and performing in a pop-up outdoor Christmas pageant. These special events help our children feel valued as members of our community where their friendships are encouraged and nurtured. In addition to fun events, many children also participated in outreach activities as well. Many children participated in, along with the rest of the parish, providing funds to purchase Thanksgiving pies and grocery store gift cards as well as Christmas gifts for students in a Title One school in Montgomery County. Both Thanksgiving and Christmas morning were made a lot merrier for 50 young people in our area thanks to the generosity of the Saint David's and Little Graces communities. Many children also participated in making sandwiches and dropping off food for our monthly SOME sandwich collection. Additionally, Sunday school students made holiday cards for patients at Sibley Hospital to receive during the holidays.

It is my hope that the Saint David's children and youth programs continue to expand and flourish in the years to come with the aim of providing our young people a welcoming, loving place to grow up as members of our church. I look forward to continuing to serve our current families and welcome new ones with open arms.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lizzie Kiernan Polk  
*Youth & Family Missioner*





# MUSIC REPORT

St. David's music program, and the entire parish, received a wonderful new gift in 2023, a magnificent new organ. This new organ, built by the Walker Technical Company, was made possible by the very generous donation of parishioner Bruce Whelihan. Hopefully everyone has already had a chance to hear and enjoy this wonderful new organ, which fills the church with rich, full sound like never before. We're planning many more events in 2024 to showcase this new instrument, with updates to come in weekly announcements. Until then, I hope you get the chance to hear and see this instrument first hand during Sunday services and evensongs.

The need for a new organ was clear. Our prior organ, which was also purchased through the generous donations of parishioners, was nearing 25 years old. It was beginning to need extensive repairs with parts that were becoming very hard to find. Our new instrument, with a much more robust build quality, should serve this parish for the next 40 years before needing any rebuilding. I encourage everyone to visit the music pages on St David's homesite for more details on this organ and the history of the prior instruments in our parish.

In addition to the organ, choral music has always been an important part of the life of this parish. Our choir consist of eight professional choristers funded by the generosity of your pledge contributions. Having this core group of singers allows us to present diverse and complex choral music to enrich our morning worship, lessons & Carols, and evensongs. Our Celtic evensong, on the 4th Sunday of the month, is a tradition that was started in 2021. This contemplative, candlelit service continues to grow and it is my hope to add additional instrumentalists this year.

The St. David's Youth Choir welcomed a new director this year. David Fazekas, one of the tenors in our adult choir, has now resumed leadership of the choir since we had to say good-bye MaryBeth Sanders-Wilson, who left St David's for her new parish in Northern VA. The Youth Choir sings once a month during the first Sunday family service. The Youth Choir practices monthly during Family Night, so if you have a young singer, please see our schedule and join for the next Family Night to see what it's all about. Singing in a choir is a great way to expand on one's musical education. Today's school music programs are constantly being cut, and the choir is a great way to learn more about music theory, music appreciation and music history. This is true for the grown-ups in our parish as well! So, if you would like to give choir a try, please reach out to me. Even if you just want to try it for a week or two, the St. David's Choir would love to have you, and we welcome any new volunteers from High School age and up.

In conclusion I want to thank the Rector, the staff, the Vestry, Bruce Whelihan, and the many parishioners that supported our mu-





music program in 2023. I also want to give thanks to my choristers for all your contributions to the music at St. David's over the years. I feel very blessed to be a part of this music program and community. I look forward to an even brighter future for our parish this year.

Robert M. Church  
*Organist and Choirmaster*



# OUTREACH REPORT

The Outreach Committee meets via zoom at noon, on the first Tuesday of the month. There are 10 members of the committee and we enthusiastically welcome new members! The committee oversees St. David's outreach efforts, which focus on six primary partners: the Bishop Walker School (BWS), Friendship Place (FP), the Honduras Independence Bilingual School (HIBS), Iona Senior Services (Iona), So Others Might Eat (SOME) and Loaves and Fishes (LF). In addition to working with our outreach partners we have held clothing drives and volunteered to support refugee respite services in DC.

Since July 2020 we have organized monthly "Third Sunday Donation Drives" encompassing "distanced sandwich makings", and in calendar year 2023 we made/collected about 4000 sandwiches from the parish and the community to donate to SOME. Neighborhood families have joined us to help feed the hungry from their own kitchens and St. David's is now a local hub for outreach to the food insecure. In addition to sandwiches and fruit we often also collect clothing items or personal care essentials for SOME, for the elderly population served by IONA, and for refugees.

Quarterly St. David's collected food and/or personal hygiene items for Iona Senior Services to meet the needs of seniors in the three wards they serve. In addition to serving seniors in upper Northwest, Iona operates a service center in Congress Heights to serve Wards 7 and 8. In 2023, we substantially contributed to Iona's Food Pantry Plus program which provided deliveries of food and necessities to older, home bound adults.

We conducted a Lenten Egg effort in support of Bishop Walker School, a tuition-free Episcopal boys K-5 school in ward 8, which serves traditionally underserved communities and seeks to foster in each student a love of learning, intellectual curiosity, a spiritual foundation, and moral character. St. David's congregants contributed over \$3000 in grocery store gift cards for students and their families who are food insecure.

A core group of five to six parishioners volunteers on the fourth Saturday of the month at Loaves and Fishes (St. Stephen and the Incarnation) to cook and distribute meals to the homeless and hungry. This year parish confirmands also participated in this family-friendly service opportunity.

In July we made our second mission trip to Honduras Independence Bilingual School, a coed K-10 school which helps students from poor families in Quimistan, Honduras, achieve a life of independence. Crucially, the students learn English, a vital skill for them to support themselves and build stable lives. As a parish we have made a commitment to provide a bilingual education for four children who live in extreme poverty in one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere, where life has become even more precarious. Our congregation paid the school tuitions for Suany, Meyssi, Veronica and Kerin. In addition, thanks to the generosity of the parish, we raised funds to help



rebuild an earthquake-damaged classroom.

Our Outreach partner Friendship Place is dedicated to ending homelessness and has made a significant impact in the D.C. region for over 30 years. Last fall St. David's held a very successful drive for art supplies and educational toys for the afterschool program for the homeless children served by the nearby Brooks family shelter. In October about a dozen parishioners attended a breakfast and learned first-hand of the transformative work Friendship Place is doing to serve the homeless.

Financial contributions in support of Outreach included donations to all our partners. The cost of HIBS scholarships was approximately \$7600. At year end, monetary gifts of support from the budget, Advent donations and fundraising were also sent to BWS, FP, HIBS, Iona, Loaves and Fishes, SOME and Palisades Village, a non-profit helping older residents in our neighborhood "age in place".

In addition to our Outreach brochure (available at the entrance) we maintain a bulletin board in the bell tower entrance describing our work with our Outreach partners. We hope to grow our work with current partners, and continue to facilitate hands-on service opportunities, such as food preparation at Loaves and Fishes and work supporting the refugee clothing drives. We are planning for an even larger mission group to travel to Honduras and volunteer at HIBS in 2024 and we hope to have at least one in-person sandwich making so that the whole congregation has the opportunity to participate in hands on service if they choose.

Ways to get involved:

- Make sandwiches at home (third Sunday) for the hungry folks served by SOME, or stay at church an extra hour and participate in an in-person sandwich making
- Volunteer at Loaves and Fishes at Saint Stephen's and the Incarnation (16th and Newton Streets NW) at 8 am on the fourth Saturday of the month to cook and serve meals to the homeless
- Join fellow parishioners this summer (June 15-22) on a week-long trip mission trip to volunteer at HIBS, a co-educational school in Quimistan, Honduras
- During Lent contribute to a special fund to support the aquaponics science project for the boys of Bishop Walker School
- Participate in ad hoc opportunities to support the work of the Cathedral Sanctuary Committee in refugee respite and other efforts (clothing drives, clothing sorting, serving at respite centers, supporting prenatal care for pregnant migrants)
- Reach out to the Outreach committee: Susan Ashburn, Harvey Bale, Sheryl Dolan, Betsy Edgeworth, Meredith Griggs, Sarah Miller, Maggie New, Dianne Parsons, Jordan Rippey or chair Margaret Johnson for more information, or better yet, come join us!

Respectfully Submitted, Margaret Kinsley Johnson,  
*Chairs, Outreach Committee*





# FLOWER GUILD REPORT

The St. David's Flower Guild is responsible for arranging flowers on the altars and throughout the church each week and also on special occasions, including weddings, funerals and baptisms. Our biggest floral occasions are Palm Sunday, Easter and Christmas, where we work to decorate both the inside and outside of the church.

The floral industry continues to have supply chain problems as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and, unfortunately, that negative impact trickles down to St. David's, presenting us with higher costs and difficulties obtaining specific flowers and greens. With that said, we are very happy to report that our Flower Guild has remained very positive and joyful when creating with available materials and we are always pleased with the results of our efforts! It is the joy of being together and creating to the Glory of God in His Church that delights and inspires us!

Over the last year we have had ten active members in our all-volunteer guild. Our co-chair model has allowed us to divide responsibilities so no one person is overly burdened and the church always looks its best, especially on special occasions. We find that this model works very well for us and we will continue with it. St. David's is incredibly lucky to be growing and we have had many more weddings and baptisms this year than ever before. We hope that this wonderful trend continues but we are in need of more experienced arrangers than ever.

Therefore, the Flower Guild is actively recruiting new members who have some experience or who are interested in learning this skill and participating regularly. Requirements for joining the Guild include attending the National Cathedral's flower arranging workshop, attending Flower Guild meetings and arranging flowers regularly at St. David's. Those interested in joining or with questions should please reach out to one of the co-chairs.

The Flower Guild continues to support the Flower Delivery Ministry team, led by Kirstie Tucker, which delivers the altar flowers, rearranged into glass vases, to home-bound parishioners and Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community. Please contact Kirstie if you are interested in joining this ministry.

The Flower Guild is planning at least one in-person meeting and several social gatherings for 2024. We are blessed to have a group of kind, supportive members who truly enjoy each other's company. We send out regularly updated Sign Up Genius links so people are able to sign up for their preferred dates at their convenience and we strongly encourage members to work as a team both for fellowship as well as for learning/teaching opportunities. We also are planning at least one live demonstration and hands-on project for our guild members to learn new skills and socialize with each other during the 2024 year. We want our members to feel confident in their skills and continue to learn new





ones. Again, if interested in joining the Flower Guild, please reach out to one of the co-chairs.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alex Shockey, Kirstie Tucker, Pepper Van Noppen and Christine Spencer  
*Flower Guild Co-Chairs*

## ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The altar guild is an all volunteer, lay-led ministry whose purpose is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for Sunday services and clean up afterwards, in addition to helping with special pastoral services such as weddings and funerals.

Members of St. David's altar guild include: Karen Beardsley, Maisie Branson, Cathy Ball, Jean Barquin, Sheryl Dolan, Jaynie Lilley, Patty Mason, and Kathi Taylor. All of us at St. David's owe many thanks for their dedication and attention to detail. The altar guild is a vital and necessary ministry of the church, without which we would not be able to praise God through our sacramental and liturgical worship.

During 2023 the Altar Guild continued to adapt to the lingering impacts of the pandemic. Most significantly, we offer our deepest gratitude to Karen Beardsley, who served as Altar Guild Chair throughout the pandemic and who stepped down this year for a well deserved rest. In 2023 the guild resumed regular in-person monthly meetings, and in March hosted a tour and orientation of the holy spaces and vessels for the wider parish.

There continue to be many opportunities for growth within the Altar Guild, as St. David's itself continues to grow. Currently, the guild is working by committee without an Altar Guild Chair under the oversight of the Rev. Sarah Taylor Miller. As a result, the guild is actively recruiting new members and leaders. The altar guild is a wonderful opportunity to deepen one's faith, work alongside fellow parishioners, and learn more about the sacraments of the church. No prior experience is required, and hands-on training will be offered to new members. If interested in learning more about the ministry of the Altar Guild or to get involved, we encourage you to contact the Rev. Sarah Taylor Miller!





Almighty God,  
who called your servant David  
to be a faithful and wise steward  
of your mysteries for the people of Wales:

Mercifully grant that,  
following his purity of life  
and zeal for the Gospel of Christ,  
we may, with him, praise you  
both here on earth and also in  
your everlasting kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.





**ST DAVID'S**  
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