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## Tithing

**T**ithing is the offering of “first fruits”. We understand that everything we have comes from God and that we are charged to be good stewards of all that God gives us. We uphold the biblical standard of giving 10% of our financial gifts back to God. When we return 10% of the financial gift God gives, we break the power of money-dependency and money-idolatry in our lives.

## Small Groups

**S**mall Groups gather each week in parishioner’s homes to share highs and lows, study scripture and discuss our spiritual journeys in real time. When we meet weekly with a small group, we experience the love of God through the love of neighbor.

## Gifted Ministry

**T**he Holy Spirit gives each one of us spiritual gifts to use in the service of our Covenant Community, our neighbors and our world. These gifts from God are joyful, flexible, and give meaning and purpose to our lives. Sharing our gifts as God intends transforms us. There are so many ways to share our gifts here at St. David’s. Our diverse ministries and contact information for ministry leaders are listed on our Web site.

## Sharing the Story

**G**od is moving in our lives every day. We practice intentionality in telling others about how God is working in, with, and around us. Sharing the Story of God’s work in our daily lives helps us to be mindful of the Holy Spirit moving in our lives every day and helps others begin to see how God is at work in their own lives, in our Covenant Community, and in the world.

## How To Learn More

**W**e would love to get to know you! Please sign our guest book in the Narthex (entrance hall) so that we may be in touch with you, call the church office at 703-729-0570, or check out our Web site, [www.sdlife.org](http://www.sdlife.org).



**St. David’s Episcopal  
Church & School**

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**St. David’s Episcopal  
Church & School**

# Welcome

**W**e are a Covenant Community in the Episcopal (Anglican) tradition sharing a commitment to worshipping together, supporting one another and the church’s missions. As you get to know the people of this community, you may begin to sense that you have “come home.” You will discover a community that cares about you. In our caring for you, you will discover the love of God at work in you.

## Mission

To transform lives through Christ in joyful worship, celebration of community, lifelong learning and engaging outreach .

## Vision

To know Christ and make Christ known  
in a Covenant Community  
where no one stands alone  
and lives are transformed.

## We are a Covenant Community

**T**o covenant together means to bind oneself to another for unconditional mutual support. The Bible portrays God as a covenant maker. The biblical narrative tells story after story of how God enters into covenant relationships with people.

## Where no one stands alone

**G**od does not create us for loneliness. The creation story says, “It is not good for Man to be alone.” But despite God’s intention, too many people live lonely lives. Our great hope is that anyone who comes among us very quickly discovers that he or she is among friends.

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## Learning to love others

**L**ove does not come naturally. Although we are created for love, we live in a world where false love obscures the richness of the quality of love God intended for us. Sharing life together helps us practice.

## Learning to be loved by Jesus

**O**ne Jesus story involves a rich man who comes to Jesus seeking eternal life. The rich man has everything anyone could ever want. And yet, he is looking for something more. Jesus challenges the man to give away all he has, but he resists. The rich man goes away, sad. The simple fact of the matter is that he does not know how to be loved by Jesus. This is our challenge – learning Jesus’ love for us.

Any time. Any place.

The Internet makes the world seem so small. But then, many of us do not even know the name of our neighbor who lives across the street. Any time a person is lonely, any place another person needs a friend – whether it is across the globe, or across the street – we hope to be there for them with the love of Jesus.

## Five Root Values

**F**ive Root Values provide the enduring standard for life in Covenant Community. They point the way to maturity in faith and practice. When embraced by individuals committed in covenant relationship to God and one another, they shape behavior that creates a social environment where God’s blessing flows freely.. The Root Values also provide the foundation for healthy families, caring schools, and a more compassionate and empowered workplace.

### People

**E**very one of us is created by God, in God’s image. God calls us good, and loves us not for what we do, but for who we are.

### Community

**I**n community, we learn to trust God and one another, to tell one another the truth, and show our true selves.

### Trust

**I**n community, we learn to trust God and one another, to tell one another the truth, and show our true selves.

### Commitment

**W**e are called by Christ to commitment to relationship and community. Living out our commitments deepens our discipleship and gives the Holy Spirit room to work in our lives.

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## Legacy

**W**e honor our past, and live in the vitality of the present, in order to leave a legacy of God’s abundant blessing for the future.

## Seven Spiritual Disciplines

**A**n empowered relationship with Jesus grows over time. Certain practices create space in your life where the Holy Spirit is free to work. Spiritual disciplines are not rules or expectations. Nor are they a standard of divine judgment. They build up a person’s faith and help a person learn how to enter more deeply into relationship with God and other people.

Not everyone practices spiritual discipline in their lives. When one first learns of the opportunity to grow through nurturing a more intentional faith, it takes time to readjust priorities. Old habits die hard.

However, those who embrace these seven Spiritual Disciplines find their lives enriched. They have their eyes opened to see the abundance of God’s blessing that fills their lives every day. They discover the great joy of becoming a blessing to others.

## Prayer

**I**n prayer we listen to the voice of God speaking deeply within our hearts, and respond in word and action. As we pray, we are better able to discern God’s voice above the “noise” of our daily lives. As we journey toward Jesus, we weave prayer more and more into the fabric of our lives.

## Bible Study

**A**s God’s living, inspired scripture reveals the story of God’s love for us and our unique parts in God’s plan for us and the world. We study the Bible for understanding, inspiration, direction, and spiritual growth; scripture is our compass and guide.

## Sabbath Keeping

**S**abbath keeping unites us with God and our Covenant Community in a seven-day cycle that frames our lives in God’s purposes. The Sabbath is a time apart to honor God, to spend with God and our Covenant Community, to rest and refresh. What a gift to be able to worship together, eat at God’s table, and wish each other peace each week.

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