

Sheatsley Testimonial for Stewardship

There is much I can say about St. David's and what it means to me – how warmly welcomed my wife and I were greeted on an Easter Sunday almost six years ago, the new friendships that have flowered from our interactions within the church and hearing the Word from Rev. Mary Kay's beautiful and thought-provoking sermons. However, I want to focus on the place itself.

Northern Virginia, to say the least, is not a calming influence on our lives. Actually, I guess I can only speak for myself in making that statement. Outside of one's home, it is difficult to find solace among the ongoing construction, traffic and constant noise from a variety of sources. For me, St. David's offers two sanctuaries within the hustle and bustle of the greater Loudoun area. There is the actual sanctuary, where, if I can clear my mind from events of the past week and the week to come, I can commune with God, enjoy the music and listen intently to Mary Kay's message for the day.

Then there is the sanctuary I find in quietly sitting among the chapel ruins, otherwise known to some of us known as the "sacred outdoor space." Yes, the noise is still there and the shopping center can be seen through the trees, but it is here that I am better able to focus my thoughts in the beautiful setting God has provided as only one part of St. David's. Some of my best conversations with God are held here, conversations that reduce my anxiety, my fears and other negative thoughts. Through the new-found quiet, I am able to put "life" into perspective and realize all of the blessings that I have in my life and thank God for them. Yes, my wife and I pledge to St. David's to support all that is needed to keep our doors open and to provide for the many good works that emanate from inside our walls. But, the importance of the outdoor oasis in helping me to keep my life centered on all of the good happening around me is the priceless portion of our financial contribution. And God doesn't charge me for my 50 minutes (or longer) spent with Him. God bless St. David's Church and School and the two sanctuaries it provides.