

What Pastoral Care is at St. David's...

St David's has a strong tradition and deep commitment to building and maintaining our community of faith. Being a member of St David's is more than belonging to an institution; we are connected in Christ, bound to one another through Christ's love.

Over the years, the lay pastoral care team at St. David's has reached out to provide care and support to parishioners in need. With the arrival of COVID-19 and the pandemic last year, the Pastoral Care Team was invigorated to reach out to members of the parish once again.

When the pandemic began, a team of dedicated PC members began contacting parishioners through phone calls to check in. The responses to the calls range from thank you for calling, we're doing fine, to conversations that often last a half hour or more, indicating that some of our parishioners are glad to hear another warm and caring voice on the other end of the line. Always, our goal is to share the love of Christ.

Some of the calls are quite moving. One of the saddest calls has been to a family where the woman could not be with her father in another state while he was dying, and she could not arrange the funeral. The emotional and physical distance created by the pandemic was deeply evident in that call but having someone who could listen, pray with and support her made a difference.

Job loss, too many days at home with children, worries about other distant family members, illness, loneliness, isolation: these and other themes have come up in conversations.

Some people returned calls left on their voice mail to say how much they appreciated that someone from St David's was reaching out. Most just expressed gratitude for checking in.

On a lighter side, one very funny lady is temporarily living with her daughter in another state and asked if we could send someone to rescue her from captivity. Her daughter is being very strict about her safety during the pandemic!

We invite you to share in this ministry. It takes no special skill or extensive training, and we will provide an initial orientation to get you comfortable with the process. As pastoral care team members, we gather regularly to support one another and to pay attention to our own spiritual and mental health.

The Pastoral Care Ministry is about connection: family members checking in with family members, neighbors with neighbors, pew mates with pew mates.... If you feel called to this type of ministry, contact pastoralcare@sdlife.org.