

A Brief History of the split in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and St. David's Church

Between 2008 and 2012 there were a number of changes at St. David's that are significant to the history of the congregation. There are many in our surrounding community who have seen the sign out front change from "Episcopal" to "Anglican" to "Church of the Redeemer at St. David's" back to "Episcopal." This has certainly had a negative effect on the life of St. David's as few are interested in their church being filled with conflict or uncertainty. This brief history is intended to communicate clearly the changes that have happened in the five years following the schism in the Diocese (and the larger Episcopal Church). Many have asked, "What is going on over at St. David's?" and this is an answer to that question.

In the Fall of 2008, the then Episcopal Bishop of Pittsburgh, Robert Duncan, led a group who left the Episcopal Church. Since the leader of the movement was our bishop, many in the diocese followed him out of the Episcopal Church. The following year they created a new independent denomination called the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). This is a misleading name as the Episcopal Church is the only recognized member of the worldwide Anglican Communion within the United States.

The Rector and Vestry of St. David's Episcopal Church made an attempt to leave the Episcopal Church as a part of this split. This is when the sign in front of the church changed to read "St. David's Anglican Church."

In April 2012, the Rector and Vestry of St. David's called a special meeting of the parish in attempt to dissolve St. David's church and reconstitute as Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church. In reality, it is not possible to dissolve an existing parish in such a way and the meeting resulted in a split in the church. The newly formed Church of the Redeemer made plans to leave the building located at 905 E. McMurray Rd. and continue their new church in Canonsburg, PA.

The congregation continued to worship at St. David's under the name Christ the Redeemer for another month and a half. During this time, the Episcopal Diocese was informed of the situation and reached out to any in the congregation who did not wish to depart. Bishop Price, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh at the time, asked the Rev. Lou Hays and the Rev. Kris McInnes to hold services at St. David's and to help rebuild the congregation after the Church of the Redeemer departed. About 80% of the congregation departed to join Christ the Redeemer, the Rector and Vestry among them.

The keys to the building were handed over at the end of May and on May 27, 2012, Pentecost Sunday, Episcopal worship returned to St. David's and the parish resumed the use of its legal name "St. David's Episcopal Church."

Since the split, St. David's has experienced a wonderful renaissance. The conflict and uncertainty are over and a stable, warm, and inviting spirit has taken root. In this welcoming environment we are growing and flourishing.

