

What an image of peace and rest  
Is this little church among its graves!  
All is so quiet; the troubled breast,  
The wounded spirit, the heart oppressed,  
Here may find the repose it craves.

—Henry Wodsworth Longfellow



# An Image of Peace & Rest

St. David's Episcopal Church (or Radnor Church) has a long and rich history serving the spiritual needs of our community. What began humbly as a simple country church has grown to be the largest parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Still, we retain our original mission to spread the Gospel and make God in Jesus Christ known to all.

On May 9th, 1715, Welsh missionaries laid the cornerstone for a “handsome stone church” of modest size (40 X 26 ft.), and the first services were said later that year on Christmas Eve. Originally constructed with Gothic arched windows and doors, these were later replaced in favor of rounded arches. A testament to their homeland, the simplicity of the interior is reflective of the worship spaces of the Welsh immigrants who built the church.

When first built, the church most likely had a dirt floor, that has in its history been covered in hardwood, stone, carpet, and brick. The traditional practice of interring the deceased under the floor of the sanctuary was discontinued in 1720s. Judge William Moore is the only identifiable grave site in the church, just inside the vestibule; others are unmarked. Unidentified remains were found in 1893 when heating was added to the building, which were reburied in the churchyard.

The oldest section of the churchyard—the Ancient Yard—is closest to the church and is part of the original five acres given by a farmer to build the church and bury the dead. To the left of the property is the receiving vault, which was used during winter as a holding place until the earth was soft enough for a grave to be dug.

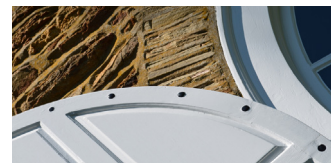
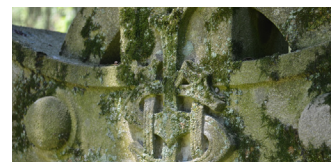
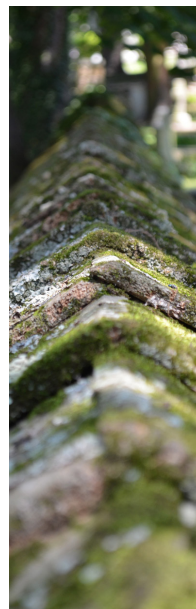
The Churchyard itself is reflective of the passage of time. Here can be seen the changing styles of monuments marking the final resting place of many generations. Early colonial graves can be identified by simple, rounded limestone markers. Later period monuments include elaborate table top stones and intricately carved ledger slabs, tomb chests and crosses.

The famous and the humblest of God's children are buried side-by-side in St. David's Churchyard. They all share the hope of the Resurrection to eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Visit us online at [www.stdavidchurch.org](http://www.stdavidchurch.org).

## churchyard sights

During your visit, try to spot these items.



1. Flagpole at driveway 2. Grave in Ancient Yard 3. Fence-line at back of Old Yard  
4. Plot entrance in Old Yard 5. Monument in Old Yard 6. Shutter at Chancel Window 7. Monument statuary in Old Yard



the  
churchyard  
St. David's Episcopal Church



- 1 ANTHONY & ISAAC WAYNE grandfather and father of General Anthony Wayne.
- 2 JUDGE WILLIAM MOORE during his time, Moore was one of Pennsylvania's most prominent citizens. He served as judge for Chester County for 40 years.
- 3 HENRY CARTER was a surgeon attending Lord Nelson on the HMS Victory when he received his fatal wounds.
- 4 WILLIAM CURRIE was Rector of St. David's and forced to resign his position during the Revolutionary War, but he continued to perform pastoral duties.
- 5 JOHN R. BROOKE was a Civil War Soldier wounded in battle.
- 6 ANTHONY WAYNE was a US General and Statesman. Wayne commanded the Pennsylvania Line of soldiers leading them in several key Revolutionary battles including the Battle of Paoli.
- 7 VIRGINIA PLEASANTS was a well know harpsichordist.
- 8 CPL. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TAYLOR is the only soldier buried here killed in Civil War (*Battle of Antietam*).
- 9 HENRY deHAVEN MANLEY served in the Navy during Civil War and was at several key battles that shaped Naval history.
- 10 LUDLOW ODGEN SMITH was the first husband to Katharine Hepburn. Divorced in 1941, they remained on good terms and he later funded her play, *The Philadelphia Story*.
- 11 HOPE MONTGOMERY SCOTT was the inspiration for the lead character Tracy Lord in *The Philadelphia Story*, a play credited with revitalizing the career of its star, Katharine Hepburn.
- 12 R. NORRIS WILLIAMS was a RMS Titanic survivor. He later became a gold medal tennis player during the 1924 Olympics. He is buried near his father who was lost at sea in the Titanic sinking.
- 13 ROSE BAMPTON was a celebrated Opera Singer. Bampton sang with the Met Opera from 1937 to 1963.


**St. David's  
Episcopal Church**

— Churchyard —

