



The St. David's Institute

AT ST. DAVID'S BY-THE-SEA

Dementia Friendly Church Certification

We are thrilled that you are considering becoming a Dementia Friendly Church through the St. David's Institute. The spiritual needs of people living with dementia remain untouched by cognitive decline. Our posture toward people with dementia needs to enhance their dignity, personhood, unique stories, and role in the Kingdom of God. Their Kingdom work has changed, but it has not ended. It is our job and our privilege to remind them that they are a gift from the Lord.

This process is designed to be easy and budget-friendly regardless of church size. After completing these steps, please email info@stdavidsbythesea.org and we will email your certification.

Required Steps

1. All clergy must be certified Dementia Friends and complete the demonstration videos (five in total) from *When Words Fail*.
- (Approximate time commitment: 1.5 hours per person)
2. All staff members must be certified Dementia Friends .
- (Approximate time commitment: 10-20 minutes per person)
3. Ten percent of your average Sunday attendance (ASA) must be certified Dementia Friends.
- (Approximate time commitment: 10 -20 minutes per person)
4. Read the St. David's Institute Dementia Friendly Environment checklist and begin making steps toward a dementia friendly environment as the church budget allows.
5. All Lay Eucharistic Visitors (or pastoral care team) must be certified Dementia Friends and complete the demonstration videos from *When Words Fail*.
- (Approximate time commitment: 1.5 hours per person)



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Bonus Steps

The steps outlined above are required to be certified as a Dementia Friendly Church through the St. David's Institute, but they are just beginning stages! Here are a few "bonus" ideas to take your Dementia Friendly Initiative to the next level.

- Consider having a monthly Dementia Friendly worship service (contact us for tips).
- Consider beginning a support group or Memory Cafe.
- Host a workshop (or several) with local dementia experts to educate your church and community.
- Appoint a ministry leader and have monthly meetings. We recommend that you focus on four areas: education, resources, practical care, and spiritual care.
- Identify certified Dementia Friends with a forget-me-not floral pin (needlepoint, crochet, etc) or a sticker like this:
- Create an emergency contact card for parishioners to keep in their wallets or purses. Here's an example:



If you would like to print this sticker, send an email to info@stdavidsbythesea.org and we will send you the file.

EMERGENCY CONTACT CARD

*In the event of an emergency, please contact **both** my family and my church, St. David's by the Sea.*

My name is: _____

and I live at: _____

Family Contact: _____

Church Contact: 321-783-2554 or 321-456-7114



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Environment Checklist

The following checklist has been revised and adapted from a checklist produced by the Alzheimer's Society. You may [find their list here](#).

- Evaluate your property for areas that are not clearly marked. This will be helpful for both people living with dementia and visitors to your church who are not familiar with the property. Keep in mind restrooms, the Nave, the Parish Hall, classrooms, and offices.
- Signs should be mounted on the exact surface. For example, restroom doors should be marked rather than having a sign on an adjacent wall.
- Signs should be at eye level.
- Family restrooms (large and gender neutral) are preferable so assistance may be given by a family member if necessary. Keep them free of clutter and storage.
- Restroom wall color should be a contrasting color to toilets. This makes it easier for people with depth perception or visual difficulties to navigate.
- Create seating areas in the Narthex and other appropriate places throughout your building and grounds.
- Property should be well lit.
- Changes in floor surfaces should be avoided in future building improvements or renovations. Bold patterned carpets should also be avoided.
- If space allows, consider creating a quiet space for people living with dementia and their caregivers to go if feeling anxious. This is also helpful for families with young children. Take advantage of these flex-space options when space is limited.



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About the St. David's Institute



At St. David's we believe that every member is a theologian. The goal of the St. David's Institute (SDI) is to provide discipleship and accessible theological training for St. David's members and beyond. SDI provides helpful and practical resources for our members, our deanery, our diocese, and the wider Church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SDI, [VISIT OUR WEBSITE.](#)

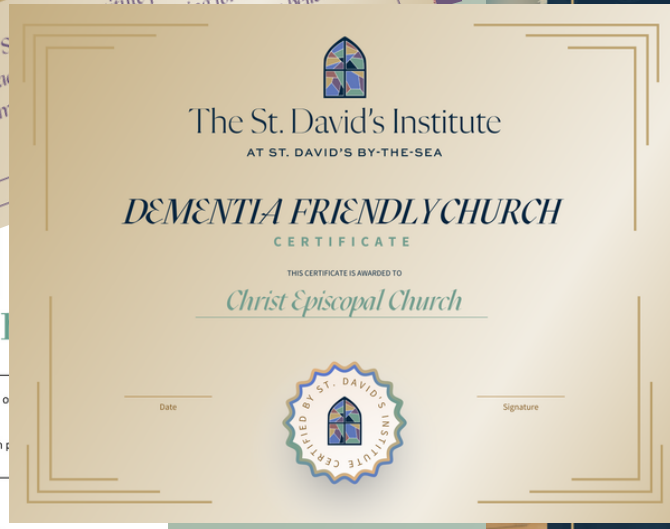
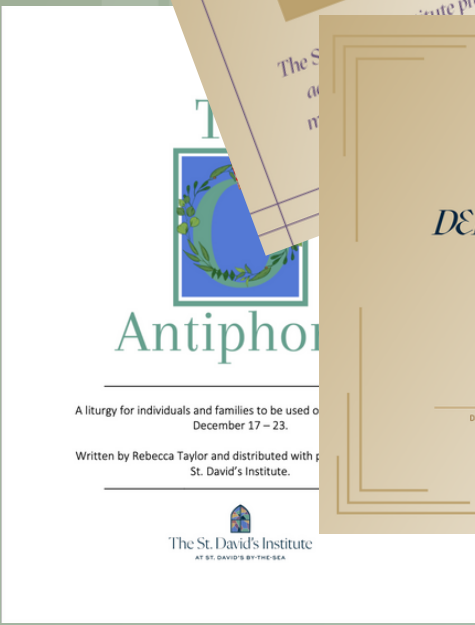


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Examples of SDI Resources

Below please find examples of just a few of the resources SDI has produced.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SDI, [VISIT OUR WEBSITE.](#)



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Additional Resources on Dementia

SCRIPTURE

“Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

“He will neither fail you, nor abandon you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

“Can the darkness speak of your wonderful deeds? Can anyone in the land of forgetfulness talk about your righteousness?” (Psalm 88:12)

BOOKS

When Words Fail by Kathy Berry

Dementia: Living in the Memory of God by John Swinton

Redeeming Dementia: Spirituality, Theology and Science by Dorothy Linthicum and Janice Hicks

Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens by Kenneth Carder

Forgetting Whose We Are by David Keck

Scar Tissue by Michael Ignatieff

WEBSITES

Dementia Friends USA (Become a Dementia Friend) – www.dementiafriendsusa.org

When Words Fail (Training videos) – www.whenwordsfail.com



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Hymn

The following hymn is traditionally sung during Maundy Thursday in Anglican churches, but does not appear in our hymnal. "All the verses but the last focus on our remembering Jesus because of his command to remember him Eucharistically; but the last verse lays the task of remembering back with God, on our behalf." – John Swinton, Dementia: Living in the Memories of God

ACCORDING TO THY GRACIOUS WORD

*According to Thy gracious word,
In meek humility,
This will I do, my dying Lord:
I will remember Thee.*

*Thy body, broken for my sake,
My bread from Heaven shall be;
The testamental cup I take,
And thus remember Thee.*

*Gethsemane can I forget?
Or there Thy conflict see,
Thine agony, and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee?*

*When to the cross I turn mine eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,
I must remember Thee;*

*Remember Thee, and all Thy pains,
And all Thy love to me;
Yea, while a breath, a pulse remains,
Will I remember Thee.*

*And when these failing lips grow dumb
And mind and memory flee,
When Thou shalt in Thy kingdom come,
Jesus remember me.*



The Dementia Friendly Church certification process and corresponding packet were created by Rebecca B. Taylor.