

News Release  
Dec. 5, 2007

### **St. David's Episcopal Schedules Special Holiday Events**

Columbia, S.C. – Looking for special church services for the holiday season? St. David's Episcopal Church in northeast Columbia has scheduled its annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for 10:30 p.m. Dec. 23, and will host an Epiphany play at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 6.

St. David's also will host Christmas Eve services at 5:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24, and Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Located at 605 Polo Rd., the church's events are open and free to the public.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a format of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns. The format was first used in the Anglican church in England in the 1880s, and is widespread among Episcopal churches in America.

All of the holiday services will be conducted by Rev. Robert Chiles, with music performed by the St. David's choir under the direction of Sarah Fletcher. Fletcher also will perform and accompany the choir on the church's 100-year-old pipe organ. The 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be child-friendly but also will have a nursery available, and the 11 p.m. service will be more ceremonial with incense and candlelight.

The Epiphany play is based on the fictional "Story of the Other Wise Man," by Henry Van Dyke. Epiphany recalls when the wise men came from the East, following a star, to Bethlehem where they worshipped the new-born king, Jesus, and laid treasures at his feet. The Van Dyke story features another wise man who also followed the star not only to Bethlehem, but throughout his life, and yet he never found the king. The play will be performed by the church's young adults during the Sunday morning service.

St. David's, established 25 years ago, is committed to seeking Jesus Christ and inviting all to share God's love. Services are held at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. every Sunday throughout the year, with Bible study and other religious inquiry sessions on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Episcopalians worship in a sacramental tradition that balances and emphasizes both holy scripture and tradition, and focuses on a mystical encounter with the presence of God through the communion gifts of bread and wine. St. David's includes groups for youth, young adults, senior adults, and other special interests.

For more information, call 736-0866 or visit [www.stdavidscolumbia.org](http://www.stdavidscolumbia.org).

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