

# **Sandhills Episcopal Cluster of Churches**

## **Who we are**

The Sandhills Episcopal Cluster of Churches consists of three entities in Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties in North Carolina. The three entities are All Saints' Episcopal Church in Hamlet, Penick Village in Southern Pines, and St. David's Episcopal Church in Laurinburg. The cluster is a cooperative ministry between the three entities. We share resources and ministries, and develop programs for evangelism, pastoral care, stewardship, and Christian formation. In addition, we provide opportunities for joint worship and for members' spiritual development through involvement in diocesan activities.

Twenty-five miles separates All Saints' and St. David's. The distance between All Saints' and Penick Village is approximately 30 miles. The Sandhills area offers diverse educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities. St. Andrews Presbyterian College, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Richmond Community College, and Sandhills Community College are within a 45-minute drive from any of the three communities.

## **What we do**

Among the many SECC activities are: Stop Hunger Now events at Penick Village, an EFM group, a choir that sings at special services such as Evensong, the Easter Vigil, and Advent Lessons and Carols. We share ecumenical activities such as a yearly pet blessing with local Lutheran churches. Members of the cluster have participated in mission trips to the Gulf area to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The cluster provides a cluster-wide confirmation class and Bible study for young adults. The cluster also trains and sponsors lay Eucharistic ministers and lay preachers.

## **All Saints' Episcopal Church**

All Saints is a member of Small Town Main Street USA with the city of Hamlet. This historic church is open to the public during the annual Seaboard Festival Day. Its membership consists of thirty-nine families. The church has an active lay ministry, including ECW and pastoral care. Its outreach includes hosting the local AA chapter for the past 50 years and working in the local soup kitchen. We have community services such as the Christmas Eve Vigil and the Blessing of the Animals. All Saints' participates in ecumenical Holy Week services with local churches. We are Eucharistic-centered. We are a diverse, faith-based family that provides a nurturing, friendly atmosphere. We are small, but devoted and powerful.

## **St. David's Episcopal Church**

St. David's consists of forty-five families. The Eucharist forms the heart of worship at St. David's. Music is a vital aspect of our worship. We have active lay Eucharistic ministers and lay preachers. St. David's outreach programs include Covington St. School and Church Community Services. Many members have individual outreach ministries such as Relay for Life, the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, Scotland County Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity, and others. St. David's is where members recharge their batteries so they can minister in the community. We are a passionate and committed community of believers, who value diversity and hospitality. We come together and work well in crises. St. David's has an active ecumenical partnership with the local Lutheran church and has hosted several diocesan events on behalf of the cluster, such as the anti-racism conference and Millennium Development Goals conference.

## **Penick Village**

Penick Village is an Episcopal retirement community located in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Eucharist-centered worship is offered every Thursday and Sunday in the Chapel of the Transfiguration. Rev. Patsy Smith, the chaplain, leads these services. In addition to many of the activities connected with Penick Village, its members are active in the Stop Hunger Now events, in EFM, cluster choir, and a range of services to the cluster community. The SECC is able to use the facilities of Penick Village for meetings, Stop Hunger Now events, worship, and EFM.

### **Our vision for the future**

Both churches are looking forward to growing in numbers and diversity of membership. We want more musical opportunities for the cluster and for the individual churches. Reaching young people and establishing an active youth program are priorities. We want to continue as a cluster and advocate for the cluster model within the Church. We will continue to support cluster-level outreach ministries. We particularly value mentoring younger members for leadership roles. At the same time, we are seeking to avail ourselves of the talents and experience of the residents of Penick Village.

### **What we are looking for in a Cluster Missioner**

- A faith community leader able to work in multiple communities with a youthful spirit
- A Eucharist-centered liturgical leader adept at varieties of liturgical styles
- A Cluster Missioner who
  - appreciates art and creativity
  - is flexible, adaptable, and able to balance different responsibilities
  - maintains a presence and involvement in the community
  - connects sermons and scripture readings to daily life
  - is willing to provide individual spiritual direction as needed
  - respects and encourages lay ministry/leadership

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For more information, please contact the Rev. Canon Michael C. Hunn, 200 W. Morgan St., Suite 300, Raleigh, NC, 27601-1338