

A History of Hope Pavilion

St. Francis began as a second worship site for Christ Episcopal Church (CEC) of Ponte Vedra Beach. This worship site came about because CEC owned 46 acres of land in what is now known as Nocatee and there was no Episcopal Church presence in the area. So in 1996 CEC assembled a small congregation of people on picnic tables under large oak trees to conduct church services for the first time. CEC called the worship site "CEC at Daybreak" and over time the name of the whole 46 acres of property was shortened to "Daybreak."

In 1998, with a donation from a future St. Francis family, a permanent pavilion was constructed near the south end of the property. The structure was named the Hope Pavilion, and for the next four years St. Francis held its worship services in that Pavilion. In 2001 St. Francis was designated a Mission Church by the Diocese of Florida and funds were raised to build the current sanctuary and administration buildings for St. Francis, which were completed in 2002. At that time, St. Francis was granted the contractual right by CEC to use a 18 acre parcel in the center of the 46 acres of land to construct its church buildings and conduct its parish activities. But the entire 46 acre parcel continued to be owned by CEC. And all the property, other than the 18 acre parcel being occupied by St. Francis, remained under the control of CEC. St. Francis formally became a parish church in 2003.

Over time CEC came to realize that St. Francis would be a more appropriate steward of the entire 46 acres of land. So in 2015, through the gift of a St. Francis family, the entire 46 acres of land and the Hope Pavilion building were purchased from CEC by St. Francis. St. Francis has refurbished Hope Pavilion and other surrounding grounds and intends to develop the entire property for church purposes. Hope Pavilion is now open to bookings for weddings and selected public events. To rent Hope Pavilion, contact events@stfpv.org.

St Francis
IN THE FIELD