



1st Quarter 2018

# Reflections of St. David's

## From the editor...

*Karen Robertson Henry*

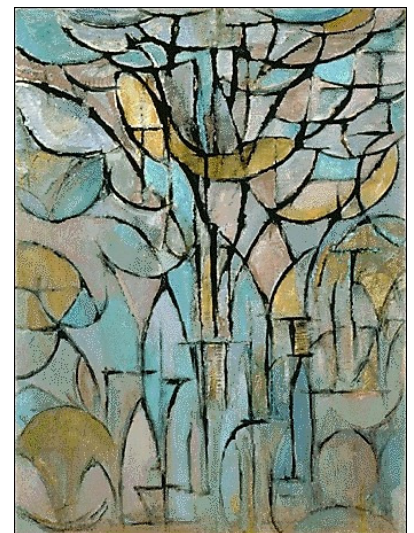
Every Sunday we gather as a church community around the communion table. We sing our praises to God, we receive our strength, we recommit for another week as God's foot soldiers—to do the work God has called us to do as a church, as a mother, father, friend, sister, brother. When we leave the physical walls of our church home, we are strengthened in our mission *to love and serve God through worship, outreach, and love for all.*

What then becomes the best place to document our journeys as we go about this mission, where can we share our challenges, showcase our accomplishments, share our stories as we do God's work in our homes, on the job, or through random acts of kindness? I strongly believe that there is no place better to share and gather our community together than through a publication dedicated to highlighting these journeys. Our beloved *Reflections of St. David's* is taking on a new face, and recommitting to its purpose as the heart of St. David's, the medium through which we tell our stories, share new ideas, talk about events and where we see God actively at work in our lives.

The new publication will still use the name *Reflections of St. David's*, but will be more of a magazine and less like a newsletter. It will be published quarterly and will feature whatever you want to talk about—your travel stories, your ministries within and outside St. David's, something that's been gnawing at you that you must share, articles that showcase our diversity and cement our unity in Christ, your challenges and joys as you go about doing God's work and growing in Christ. Just stop a magazine team member and let him or her know that "I have this perfect idea for

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Trees by Piet Mondrian

## From the editor (continued)

an article”. We have pulled over some of your favorites from the old *Reflections of St. David's* including *Just Wondering* by Mary Margaret Bair and *New in The Pews* by John Hawkes.

We will also feature a book review—so think about what you are reading and how it would enhance our spiritual lives, and write a review. We will always have a prayer, or as

in this publication, openings for conversations with God. Each member has a story, and we'd like to feature your story. In this publication, read about the challenges and joys of home-schooling, visit with a member on a trip to Italy, and get insight into the workings of a small group and more.

Welcome then the new *Reflections of St. David's* magazine. Get excited and be

a part of it, don't be afraid to write—our editing team is available to polish your masterpieces. There is no limit to how interesting and exciting this ministry can be!



## Rector's Message



### Snuggle Time

The kids still love to hop into bed with us, 'Look out daddy, here we come!'

A few minutes in the morning seems to start everyone's day off well.

And it's not surprising.

Child development research tells us that human touch is essential

to the health of infants and young children. It's a good thing that 'snuggle time' with our little ones is so enjoyable. And I have found, as a married man, these moments of warm caress are also important to keeping a marriage vital.

And I think we all know this is true with God.

If we define 'snuggle time' as those moments of intimacy and drawing near of one we love, then I think we get the idea. This is why we see the increased interest and practice of meditation in Western culture. The quieting of the mind, the deep attention on breath (which is the Hebrew word for spirit),

and the intentionality of devoting valuable time to this routine, can amount to spiritual snuggling. Some meditation practitioners testify to its efficacy as much as monks do to prayer.

It's because, like physical touch, this mental and spiritual exercise is beneficial, perhaps even essential, to human health and development.

So in these chilly winter months it may be especially appropriate to ask: What does your 'snuggle time' with the Divine look like? When and how often do you find it helpful? Understanding how vital it is to our health, do we do it enough?

Fr. Chris†

# Homeschooling

*Jessica Rienstra*

When my husband, Steve, and I first talked about homeschooling our children, I had visions of one day everyone peacefully doing their school work, doing a science experiment together, and painting a picture before Dad came home from work. We would sit around the dining room table eating our homemade dinner and cheerfully discuss the books we'd read that day and what we discovered in our science project.

These days if you walk into my house you'll probably see one kid with his nose in a book, another asking me to check his math homework, while I tell the third to seriously get his chores done... Now! There are books everywhere, the pencils have disappeared (even though recently I bought about 1,000 on Amazon), and there are a few baskets of clean laundry waiting to be folded. We do often talk about what we learned that day while we eat dinner, but if you ask my youngest what his favorite subject is he'll still say recess. Or maybe lunch.

"Do you get recess?" "What about snow days?" "Do you do your school work in pajamas?" Many of our kids' friends will excitedly ask these questions and then tell their parents they wish they could be homeschooled. They seem to envision a day of playing video games with maybe a math worksheet or two.

Our days are quite different from the Norman Rockwell-like picture I'd once envisioned, but they're also not full of video games in pajamas. We do take breaks, which often involve playing outside, and once in a while we'll call a snow day so we can enjoy playing in the snow (though that pretty much never happens for the kids who are in 8th and 9th grades now!).

Each of our children have their own curriculum that they follow for school. It includes the "regular" school subjects like math, reading, writing, and history, and allows for extra subjects



that they are specifically interested in. When my middle son was looking at foreign language options, he wasn't very interested in studying Spanish, so he ended up choosing Dutch after learning more about our Dutch ancestors. He also loves to bake and spends plenty of time in the kitchen making muffins, cakes, and cookies. My oldest loves to write and has been reading many books lately about writing fiction. He hopes to one day be a special education teacher as well as an author. My youngest is in 3rd grade and currently says he wants to be a Youtuber. I didn't know such a thing existed, but apparently it does! He loves building with Legos, drawing pictures, and of course playing video games.

While homeschooling has its disadvantages, we have enjoyed the freedom it gives us.

We go on fun field trips to places like the Detroit Science Center, Detroit Institute of Art, and the Belle Isle Conservatory and Aquarium. Last spring we even took a biology cruise down the Rouge River that included testing water samples. Though many worry about homeschooled kids making friends, missing out on prom, and being home too much, we haven't found it difficult to overcome these difficulties through home school groups and other activities and classes.

Though it may not be the right choice for every family, homeschooling has been a wonderful experience for our children.

### Our Group

Denese Adams  
Ivy Forsythe Brown  
Debra Davis  
Simone Charter-Harris  
Karen Robertson Henry

## Small Groups—Big Dream

*Denese Adams*

We worship together on Sunday mornings and occasionally participate in various ministries and outreach opportunities within our faith community. So, at the suggestion of Father Chris, and with a desire for wanting to get to know each other better, five of us decided to form a small group. In August 2017, we began meeting monthly and through this fellowship we have discovered that each of us seems to have our individual strengths and we effortlessly come together. Our small group has had several meetings at the lovely home of Simone Charter-Harris where we begin and end each potluck meeting with prayer and affirmation. We have used our time together to get to know one another and better understand each of our spiritual journeys. As we have become more comfortable with each other, I have seen us begin to push each other through our comfort areas and challenge each of us in positive ways. We have discussed our migrations to Michigan, our families, aging parents and education among other things. Now that we have become comfortable with one another, we are ready to progress to the next stage.

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup>For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! <sup>11</sup>Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**

Along our journey, members of our group have consulted with Father Chris to keep him informed of our progress and seek counsel as we search for a common purpose. We have also taken field trips to help guide us along our way. On January 15, Martin Luther King day, three members of our small group attended “The Fierce Urgency of Now” symposium at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to honor Dr. King’s leadership and sacrifice. Hill Harper’s “Power is the People” sermon inspired us, explaining that each of us has an ability to help make a difference and that our collective power is the kinetic energy needed to keep the momentum going. We

cannot sit still. Hill motivated the audience to take a stance and use our power to influence others, in Dr. King’s words “move past indecision to action.”

Hill’s speech has sparked our Small Group into action. We have decided to work in solidarity on getting our collective houses in order. To attack the thing or things that have been waiting for our attention but have been left undone. The things that, left without attention, could influence the rest of our lives. We have agreed to become each other’s entourage, keeping the group accountable and cheering each other on.



# Just Wondering

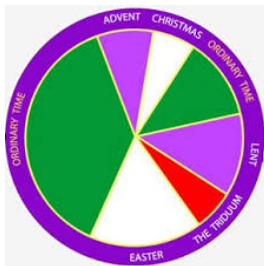
Mary Margaret Bair

## *What is a Liturgical Calendar?*

The Liturgical year is a calendar of the special days we use to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ's teachings are there for us to follow in our daily lives and faith journeys.

The early church chose the days and dates of primitive people whose calendar was already in use and easy to adapt to important Christian dates.

In brief, the Liturgical year is thought of in a circle, where the beginning and the ending meet and continue. Easter is the most important of all the days in the year. The events of Holy Week took place at the Jewish Passover, thus Easter became like Passover, a movable feast. December 25th was set by Emperor Constantine and there were Sundays set aside to keep the continuity of the year.



The following is a brief description of each season:

**Advent:** First season beginning the church year; color is blue or purple; period of preparation, hope, anticipation of Christ's birth; lasts 4 Sundays

**Christmas:** December 25th, celebration of Christ's birth; color is white for joy and peace; lasts until Epiphany—12 days

**Epiphany:** January 6th; means showing forth; Jesus was presented to the Magi; color is green; the experience of God's revelation as the Incarnate God; varies from 4 to 9 weeks.

**Lent:** A period consisting of 40 days (Sundays not included) of penitence and introspection into our lives and spiritual renewal; color is purple for humility and wisdom from inward examination; Holy Week is the last week of lent.

**Easter:** Celebration of Christ's resurrection; color is white; the most important period of the year; lasts 7 weeks and includes Ascension Day

**Pentecost:** 50th day of Easter; Pentecost celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to the apostles. Tongues of fire appeared over their heads; the color is red; excitement, energy and the color of the Holy Spirit.

**Season After Pentecost:** Color is green; Sundays after Pentecost and up to Advent; lasts up to 29 weeks.

Thus the cycle has ended and begun again.

Is there something you have always wanted to know about the church—the Bible, hymnal, prayer book or some other question about the church in general? Just ask Mary Margaret by submitting your question along with your contact information to the parish administrator [lynne@stdavidssf.org](mailto:lynne@stdavidssf.org) (248-557-5430).



## Join us for coffee...

*Edna Buday*

The coffee is on—please join us by for a cup of coffee or tea after our 10 am worship service. This is a great time for us all to greet each other in friendship, to extend a warm welcome to any newcomers, to just relax, and enjoy friendly conversations.

A coffee hour after morning worship is standard fare at most churches, but at St. David's, it's combined with Adult Forums—giving us opportunities for not just fellowship, but to learn and grow. A forum planning committee gathers approximately twice a year to develop a schedule of events and topics—sometimes concerning the Episcopal church, sometimes focusing on personal spiritual, physical or financial issues, sometimes on local or wider community needs or concerns, and sometimes concerning needs within our own parish. We have been blessed to have heard speakers and leaders from within and outside of our parish on a wide range of subjects. This hour also allows us time for celebrations and for fellowship. While coffee and light snacks are available every Sunday, a wider and more elaborate array of delicious foods, generally contributed by parish members, are available for special celebrations. See the sidebar on the next page for a summary of 2018 forums held to date



Margaret Fleming from Schoolcraft College



Fr. Deon speaking about "the art of forgiving"

Two upcoming parishioner-led forums you will want to put on your calendars are the forum "Land of Fire and Ice" on March 4 when Judy Walsh and her husband Harvey will give us an overview of their trip to Iceland, and "Biafra-A Modern Day Genocide" on April 29 when Ndidi Awurum will share and discuss with us the current conditions in Nigeria. If you do not have a copy of the Winter/Spring 2018 "St. David's Happenings" booklet where you can read all about upcoming forums and events, pick up a copy from the table in the Narthex.

The coffee is brewing—come and join us!



Packing the car for the Crossroads delivery on 'Sandwich Sunday'

Fr. Chris greets Dr. Bernie Les



African American History with Jamon Jordan



Making Valentines for our neighbors at St. Anne's Mead



## 2018 Forums (to date)

- an interesting and informative look behind the scenes provided by Margaret Fleming, from the Culinary Arts program at Schoolcraft College providing a wonderful enticement for us to visit the restaurant at Schoolcraft College to enjoy a meal prepared by the students preparing to be Master Chefs
- a motivating and inspiring forum led by Fr. Deon Johnson about "Finding the Art of Forgiving" with serious yet humorous moments provided during some lively exchanges between participants and Fr. Deon
- a valuable and life-saving presentation provided by own Kathy Graham about stroke prevention following a fund-raising breakfast prepared and served by our Haiti Outreach mission team
- a Q and A session on our Annual Report combined with Sandwich Sunday when parishioners could enjoy some soup and a sandwich and then help prepare bag lunches for distribution to the needy at Crossroads of Michigan—over 200 lunches consisting of a sandwich, a juice box and snacks were prepared for delivery after the forum
- an informative and motivating presentation about "Building Better Relationships" presented by professor and psychotherapist Dr. Bernie Les
- our annual, traditional intergenerational event of creating valentine greeting cards to deliver to our neighbors at St. Anne's Mead
- a fascinating and enlightening presentation on African American history, particularly in Detroit, given by educator, author and historian, Jamon Jordan

*Photos by Joanne Sackett*





## When in Italy...

*Reflections on Our Italian Honeymoon in Rome and Amalfi*

By Katie Yaw

*When in Rome...*

You forget the diet. You eat the prosciutto- aged and salted to perfection, the way it's been done for centuries. You drink the house wine at a ristorante, composed of a blend of grapes procured from the family's own backyard vineyard. You savor every sip of volcanically hot, steaming espresso, immersed in the chatter of a crowded piazza. You eat the pasta, the pizza, the pastries, and every wonderful carb that comes across your path as you meander the crowded streets. You dutifully take your daily dose of gelato, determined to try each and every flavor, always managing to come back to your very favorite—Italian pistachio.

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*"You forget the diet. You eat the prosciutto- aged and salted to perfection, the way it's been done for centuries."*

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Rome provides a fascinating spectacle: a graffiti-splashed urban landscape of high-rises, gridlock traffic, and high fashion- and home to crumbling, Roman columns and obelisks locked in antiquity. As we toured such sites as the Colosseum, the Forum, the Pantheon, the Vatican, tossed a coin into Trevi fountain, climbed the Spanish Steps, and dodged Fiats and motorbikes within a second of our lives, Chris and I came to the understanding that Rome is a city of contrast—a city of ruins, yet overwhelmingly and unapologetically ALIVE.





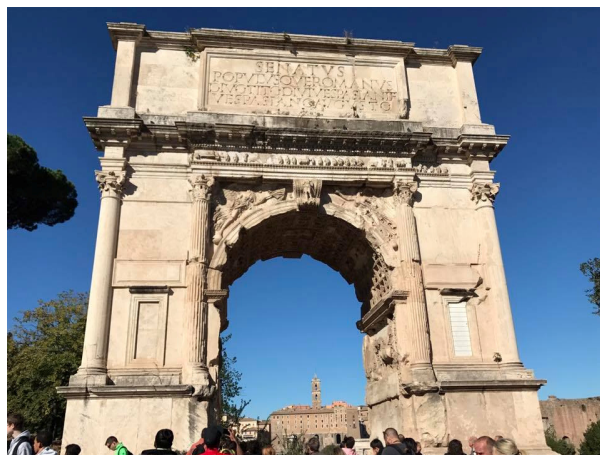
### *When in Amalfi...*

When Chris and I started to discuss plans for our honeymoon, he reminded me of a conversation we had early on in our courtship. He recalled asking me if I could go to any one place in the world, where it would be. Without hesitation, I replied “Amalfi”—this was quite coincidental as Amalfi equally enchanted Chris’ mother, Nancy, who would regale her plans to retire there.



After the hustle and bustle of Rome, we took the ferry to this enchanting town, dramatically perched on a cliffside in the province of Salerno. Known for paper and pottery, Amalfi is locked in time—a picturesque, seaside village filled with shops, family grocers, intimate cafés, cobblestone streets, hauntingly beautiful cathedrals, and stunning beaches. We were greeted in the morning by a blazing sunrise and the scents of lemon trees,

toured nearby towns along the cliff-hugging Amalfi drive (on our motorbike built for two!) during the day, and at night, were sung to sleep by the lullaby of the enchantingly azure Mediterranean.



### *When in Italy...*

We savored each day, and thanked God for the opportunity to experience such a feast for the senses, to relish the time for prayer and connection, and to prepare for the journey ahead. We thank you all for your prayers and well wishes as we traveled and are grateful to share an adventure so dear to our hearts.

*Arrivederci!*

## New in the Pews

*John Hawkes*

Although Jarrett and Lise-Pauline Barnett have only been attending St. David's since June, they are not exactly newcomers to our parish. Their two children, Michele, age 11 and Jared, age 9, previously attended Vacation Bible school for the last four years.

Lise-Pauline is the daughter of parishioner Janny Milton. For the past 13 years, the family was living in York, Pennsylvania, north of Philadelphia. Our Bible school program afforded them an opportunity to participate in this youth ministry while also allowing Janny a chance to spend some time with her grandchildren. When Jarrett took on a new job last year, the family relocated to the Detroit area and made St. David's their church home.

When asked what they like most about St. David's, Lise-Pauline said, "I like the people, the mission of the church and the way we give to the community. The kids like coming to church too. They've made friends, so we don't have to drag them along."

Jarrett said, "I like the energy at St. David's. At our church back in Pennsylvania, there wasn't a good tempo. I like how they do Sunday school here. The kids get more out of it and I like the one-on-one interaction."

Jarrett was born in Cleveland, Ohio and grew up in Toledo. He attended Catholic school and went to church a lot during his youth. His great-grandfather was a preacher in the Baptist faith. Lise-Pauline is from Southfield and is a graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School. The couple met in college in an academic program at the University of Toledo. They were married at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Detroit.



Currently, Jarrett works as a Business Development manager for Phoenix Packaging. He works at home and on the road.

Lise-Pauline is a college professor of English and primarily teaches online. The Barnett family lives in Bloomfield Hills.

The Barnett kids are active in a variety of activities. Michele performs in community theater and has acted in *Les Misérables* and *Annie*. She is also a cheerleader and plays piano and basketball. Michele is a sixth grader at Bloomfield Hills Middle school. Jared is in third grade at Conant elementary and is a sports enthusiast. He enjoys football and basketball. The Barnetts play golf as a family. They like to attend at least one live sporting event each year. In 2017, they went to the Detroit Lions Thanksgiving football game.

The Barnetts like to travel every other year or so on a Disney cruise. Jarrett admitted that the family enjoys the cruises so much that he'd be willing to serve as a spokesperson on any Disney cruise commercials!

We welcome Jarrett and Lise-Pauline Barnett to St. David's.

## Book Review: *Quantum Theology*

Fr. Chris Yaw

Are you interested in how current scientific discoveries impact and inform our views of God?

One of the more helpful and hopeful books I've read is not as new as it is insightful. *Quantum Theology* by Diarmaid O'Murchu (1997, Crossroad Publishing Co., New York) is an assemblage of inspiring and thought-provoking observations by a very intelligent Irish Jesuit.

Now if you're like me, you don't know much about quantum physics. Perhaps you're only familiar with one popular insight it sheds upon human life, that the observer shapes the observed. This abrogation resonates with common sense: that our knowledge of and witness to an event does, in some large or small way, shape the outcome.

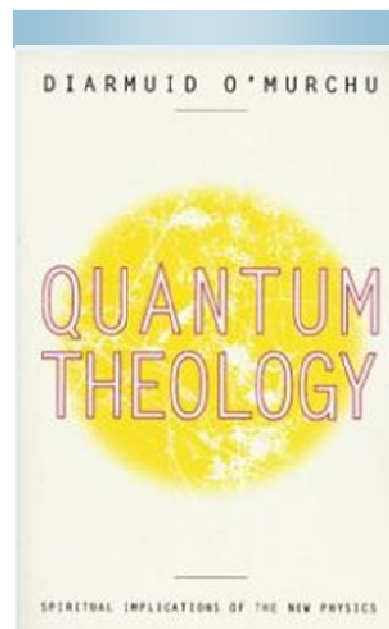
This is just one of a number of eye-opening connections O'Murchu makes between the two fields. He begins with the idea of God, seen both in quantum physics and in the Bible as a creative energy and a co-creator. We understand that God works through movement, rhythm, pattern, and restlessness within the evolving nature of life. O'Murchu suggests we are wise when we use sparingly terms like 'God' and 'divinity'

because, "they are human descriptions that may limit rather than enhance our understanding of life's ultimate source and meaning." (p 197)

O'Murchu is particularly inspiring in his observation about the purpose and meaning of life—that it is inherently destined toward the ultimate triumph of goodness—and not catastrophe. He also sees humans as innately spiritual—as are all life forms—and as we mature we feel the need to celebrate. We see this in the ways we construct our worship services.

I find him most helpful in understanding the Trinity. As we know, the word is found nowhere in the Scriptures, though its footprint is prevalent—the Trinity being our human attempt to describe God's fundamental relational nature. We understand, then, that the Trinity describes God, in whose image we are made, as an energy of relationships, from which we draw life's deepest meaning and happiness.

In remarking about this book to a trusted friend, he said, 'Oh you got through it?' which suggested to me it is hard to read—however, I found the concepts engaging enough to make the slog. Maybe you will too.





## **Photo Gallery**

Parish Life  
at St. David's

*Joanne and Len Sackett*



Children decorate stockings at the  
SOS Hope for the Holidays party.



A Christmas party isn't complete  
without Santa.

St. David's crew at Crossroads  
on Christmas Eve.







The holidays brought friends back from the U.P. Welcome!



It's good to have college students come home for the holidays.



What better way to start the New Year than with a baptism?



We welcome the newly baptized.



Passing the Peace with guest preacher, Fr. Deon Johnson.



Sweet sounds from the Bell Choir.





The children now have joined the processional and have their own cross bearer.



A new Vestry



Fr. Chris leads the Adult Formation class at 9:00 a.m.



This family lost their home to a fire, and St. David's helped them recover.



Preparing lunches for Crossroads.



Sunday School students decorated lunch bags for Crossroads.





Over 200 lunches were packed for delivery to Crossroads on "Sandwich Sunday."



Godly play in action.



Welcome three new Acolytes!



Making Valentines for St. Anne's Mead.



The first Sunday of Lent



Presenting Fr. Chris with the 2017 Scrip donation of \$1000.

## Reflections of St. David's

Karen Robertson Henry, Editor  
Mary Margaret Bair, Writer  
Edna Buday, Asst. & Print Editor  
Steve Ernst, Digital Editor  
John Hawkes, Writer and Editor  
Joanne Sackett, Photographer  
The Very Rev. Chris Yaw, Rector  
Lynne Zacharias, Production Asst.

# Opportunities for Prayer

## Questions Our Lean-To God Asks

Will you believe that I love you without reservation?  
Will you trust me?  
Will you let me be your strength?  
Will you let go of your own strong control?  
Will you walk with insecurity for a while?  
Will you believe that I am inviting you to greater wholeness?  
Will you allow my grace<sup>3</sup> to move within you?  
Will you open up your heart?  
Will you come to me in prayer so I can empower you?  
Will you talk to me about what is really difficult for you?  
Will you thank me for always being there for you?  
Will you recognize your own weak areas?  
Will you be there for someone to lean on today?  
Will you share the strength I've given you with someone else?  
Will you be quiet enough to hear me?  
Will you trust me to raise up the good things in you that  
have died?  
Will you listen closely as the story of my suffering is proclaimed?  
Will you stand close to Calvary and learn from me?  
Will you believe in the power of my resurrection?

Extracted from *May I Have This Dance* by Joyce Rupp



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