



St. David's  
Episcopal Church  
Southfield

2nd Quarter 2018

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# St. David's Reflections

## Summer Dance

*Karen Robertson Henry, Editor*

Why is our happiness index so high in Michigan, despite the long, sometimes harsh winters? It is because of the joy of summer, of being able to finally shake off the constraints of winter and the chill or rain of spring. This puts us in a tailspin of joy. John Steinbeck puts it nicely, he says "What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."



*continued on next page*

## Summer Dance (*continued*)

Summer becomes the time to draw closer to God as we clean our flower beds and plant our flowers and water them, all the while in deep communion with God. Summer gives each of us the opportunity to fellowship around the barbecue grill, each person's joy in just being—being easy, being outdoors, being relaxed, “passing like a sunbeam through to another and reflecting itself with redoubled brightness”. Summer allows us to steal away from our day-to-day; to do and see something different, or to simply rest or be still, because it is in the stillness that we meet God. Summer allows us to go on walks and “He walks with me and He talks with me...”, or we talk with our walking partner or we talk to ourselves and we look at everything around us through new or renewed lenses of appreciation and wonder. Have you ever stopped and looked way up the length of a densely leafed tree, opening your imagination to the conversations between the leaves, or wished you could visit with a mother squirrel inside her nest? These are the gifts of

summer, and there's none nicer than a Michigan summer!

In this edition of Reflections of St. David's, we are pleased to feature the contributions from Cindy Litwinowicz who reviewed the book she was reading, Jessica Rienstra who takes us outside our own issues to answer the question “what can we do for others”, Kitty Kenning who champions our young members through Vacation Bible School and Lorraine Tyler who gives us a peek into the artist's world. As usual we thank our standing contributors and committee members. Reflections of St. David's is for you, a place for your stories, your reflections; your book reviews, whatever is important to you that you want to share with the rest of us. Write it. We have editors who will shape it into your masterpiece.

Have a wonderful summer, and as Susan Polis Schutz says, “Let us dance in the sun, wearing wild flowers in our hair...”

## SUMMER PRAYER



Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!  
Thank you for the warmth of the sun  
and the increased daylight.  
Thank you for the beauty I see all around me  
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.  
Thank you for the increased time I have to be with my friends  
and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.  
Draw me closer to You this summer.  
Teach me how I can pray  
no matter where I am or what I am doing.  
Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence  
and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.  
As I enjoy Your creation, create in me  
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen

Taken from [IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://IgnatianSpirituality.com)



*Kitty Kenning*

For five days each summer, St. David's offers Vacation Bible School with an exciting program planned each year! Don't miss out on the fun this year. VBS will take place at St. David's, Southfield, and once again, we are excited to be partnering with St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

Each session begins at 5:30 pm for a simple dinner before we start the evening activities. Children then assemble in church for a short skit introducing the day's theme and singing. Following assembly time, students rotate through different activity centers including recreation, science, scripture, and crafts. The children gather again for dismissal at the end of the session at 8:00 pm.

The 2018 VBS theme is: **Peace Lab: Let Peace Begin with Me.** The goals for **Peace Lab VBS** is for children to learn that:

- Blessed are the peacemakers.  
(Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:9, 43-48)
- Peacemakers find good ways to solve problems.  
(Abram and Lot: Genesis 13)
- Peacemakers help other people.  
(Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz: Ruth 1-2)
- Peacemakers speak up for what is right.  
(Jonathan, Michal, and David: 1 Samuel 18- 19-20)
- Peacemakers ask for help to resolve conflict.  
(Martha and Mary: Luke 10:38-42)

Questions may be directed to :

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**Student Registration:**

<https://stjamesepiscopalchurch.formstack.com/forms/2018vbs>

**Volunteer Registration:**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4baaa62ca46-peace>

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**St. David's**

**June 18-22**

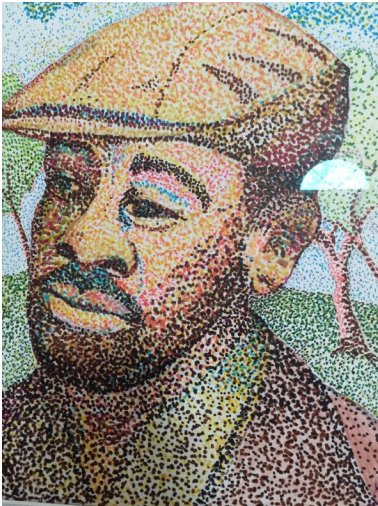
**5:30—8:00 pm**

***Invite your friends  
and neighbors!***

***See you at VBS!***

## Reflections on Art in my Life

by Lorraine Tyler



I have been painting for many years. I started drawing in elementary school when I filled shoe boxes with drawings of clothes for my paper dolls that changed outfits every minute in their daily routine. Art was always a given “A” in school. My intention was to go to art school in Chicago to pursue a career in fashion design. My Saginaw High School counselor convinced my parents to send me to a small college because I was very quiet. (I stuttered so I chose not to do a lot of talking!)

At Central Michigan College, again, my career would be changed when my advisor convinced me that I would do better as a teacher. (At one time, most African Americans were encouraged to become teachers or nurses.) It wasn’t until I had moved to Detroit and was teaching French and English that I actually became interested in art again having received an oil set for a Christmas gift. I enrolled at the Center for Creative Studies. That was the beginning!!!

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*“I enjoy creating pieces about the human experience,”*

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I have had many exhibits, and I’ve sold many, many paintings. The highlight of my art career was a one person exhibit at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History which happened after an employee at the Wright museum saw me on television talking about my work. Other highlights include designing wall hangings for the former St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church and a tee shirt design for the former St Christopher/ St Paul Episcopal church. I also designed the logo for the now defunct Detroit Metropolitan Orchestra.

I enjoy creating pieces about the human experience. Many of the pieces I’ve done have been from photos made from my trips abroad. Creating art at St David’s was a challenge when Fr. Chris asked me to do pieces for specific seasons. As in all art, the acceptance of the wall sculptures, the cloth draping on the cross, and the haloed skeletons have had mixed responses. I thank Fr. Chris for having allowed me to express myself freely. The paintings I did for the altar were used again last year. I think they might be keepers!



## Book Review: *Ujima in Action*

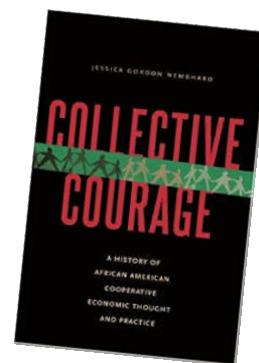
by Cindy Hampel-Litwinowicz

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### **COLLECTIVE COURAGE: A HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC THOUGHT AND PRACTICE**

By Jessica Gordon Nembhard  
(The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014).

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Okay, I'll get the big question out of the way first: Why did a white girl like me from a Polish-American background read a scholarly book that documents the cooperative economics practiced in the African American community for more than 200 years?

Because I'm fascinated with Ujima—the principle of collective work and responsibility that is celebrated on the third day of Kwanzaa.

And because I saw a 15-minute YouTube video in which GritTV Host Laura Flanders interviews Professor Gordon Nembhard about her book. Before you read this book, I would recommend watching the video.

This is history off the beaten path of our current school curriculum. But it is real history, thoroughly documented with chapter and verse as only a history professor could provide. Gordon Nembhard keeps an objective tone despite some of the injustices she documents as African Americans act collectively to improve their

lot in life. “People have been killed for doing cooperative economics,” she says in the YouTube video. Which is why, for me, this book is such a big deal.

Even from my Polish-American background, my parents talked about the value of collective action. They described some of the unpleasant realities of life for working class people and the discrimination they sometimes faced because of their Polish name and heritage. In response, Polish Americans formed groups—like the Polish National Alliance—that offered members training, education, social opportunities and a bit of financial protection through life insurance.

Insurance and mutual aid also were an early focus of collective action for African Americans, Gordon Nembhard says. These are some of the basics of life that cooperatives have organized to offer members. In our modern era, these basics have taken the form of credit unions, insurance companies, gas

stations, grocery stores, education and jobs.

Gordon Nembhard also documents some unique ways that people banded together, including the Freedom Quilting Bee in Alabama. Sales from the quilts helped to purchase land for those displaced from work or land during the struggle for civil rights in the 1960s.

Some cooperatives flourished only for a time, she writes. Others continue today, including credit unions and rural electrical companies. These organizations are run democratically and their goal is to benefit their members. Other large American cooperatives today include Cooperative Home Care Associates and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. Closer to home are the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland.

These cooperatives exhibit the spirit of Ujima that Gordon Nembhard documents so thoroughly.

# Children's HopeChest

by Jessica Rienstra

This past March, my friend, Joanna McKinney, came to speak at an adult forum about her work with Children's HopeChest ([hopechest.org](http://hopechest.org)) for a community in Ethiopia. HopeChest works to "equip vulnerable children, their families, and communities escape from the cycle of poverty." They do this through child and family sponsorship, which helps provide nutritious food, medical care, and schooling for the child as well as his family. They also help the community through larger projects such as building wells, providing school supplies, etc.

I was able to meet Joanna several years ago through our Ethiopian adoption group in Michigan. Both of our families have Ethiopian children, and we've seen firsthand the abject poverty of some families and communities in Ethiopia. What made me especially excited about HopeChest is that it's a very holistic program, working to support not just children, and not just their families, but their entire communities. Additionally, they do everything possible to keep children in their families so they don't become "economic orphans", orphaned due to poverty and their family's inability to provide for them.



While adopting our youngest son has been a huge blessing to us, we know that adoption is never the first choice for a child. The best case scenario is a child able to stay with his biological family who loves him and can provide for him. If that is not possible, adoption may become necessary, but as I said, it's never the first choice for a child. Adoption, especially international adoption, comes at a great loss for children. Many lose all connection with their biological family, they lose connection with their language, culture, sometimes religion, and more. Assuring international adoption only happens when it's in the very best interest of the child is one way of caring for orphans, and preventing children from needing to be in orphanages and/or adopted is another way. HopeChest provides a great opportunity to help families stay together and allow children to receive what they need to thrive.

For more information on how to be involved or to sponsor a child, please visit Woyera Carepoint's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LinkedtoEthiopia/about/> or see me and I can get you in touch with Joanna. Joanna and I want to thank everyone who donated to the project and signed up to sponsor a child when she visited St. David's. Your response was overwhelming and we were so appreciative!

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## Switching Up the Way We Read the Bible

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### Rector's Message



There are few things more dear to the heart of us St. David's folk than the Bible.

Every Sunday we hear it proclaimed, sung, preached on, and prayed. And you've probably suspected that the selection of any given text, Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel, is intentional.

It is.

And it's about to change.

The Revised Common Lectionary is the book of ordered readings that most Episcopalians, Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, and a host of other Christians use to decide which texts to read on any given Sunday. This is cool because we can then be 'on the same page' as our brothers and sisters in other traditions (go to [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net) to find out more),

During the long green season after Pentecost, there are two tracks (or strands) each week for Old Testament readings. Within each track, there is a Psalm chosen to accompany each particular lesson.

The Revised Common Lectionary allows us to make use of either of these tracks, for as long as I've been here, we've used Track 1. This is the first track of Old Testament readings and it follows major stories and themes, read mostly continuously from week to week. In Year A we begin with Genesis, in Year B we hear some of the great monarchy narratives, and in Year C we read from the latter prophets.

A second track of readings ("Track 2") follows the Roman Catholic tradition of thematically pairing the Old Testament reading with the Gospel reading, often typologically—a sort of foretelling of Jesus Christ's life and ministry. This second track is almost identical to our previous Book of Common Prayer lectionary.

Within each track there may be additional readings, complementary to the standard reading; these may be used with the standard reading, or in place of it.

I'm writing to let you know that this year we've officially switched to Track 2 as a way to provide a different way of hearing the Bible. Do let me know what you think! Do the Sunday readings make more sense? Less sense?

May we continue to grow closer to God and each other by our shared journey through scripture.

*Fr. Christ†*



**Photo Gallery**

Parish Life  
at St. David's

*Joanne and Len Sackett*



Judy Walsh tells us about her trip to Iceland at the Adult Forum.



Our children's cross bearers now have stoles to wear as they process.



Friends greeting friends



Altar Guild members at work.



Our team at Crossroads on March 18.



It's Easter! Getting bells to make a joyful noise.



Finding Easter eggs is so exciting.



DOK members donated dresses for the children in Haiti.



Dominique is seeing patients in Mirebalais, Haiti.



Everyone had a great time at Vandenberg's Pen Pal Tea.



Sharing foods and traditions at Cultural Sunday.

**Mother's Day**  
Celebrating all of our Moms



St. David's hosted the SOS coordinators' meeting... sharing ideas and learning from each other.



Creation Sunday was a day of renewal for our gardens with new benches and new flowers

## Reflections of St. David's

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## Episcopal Church Quiz

1. Who is considered the founder of the Episcopal Church?  
a) Martin Luther    b) King Henry VIII  
c) Saint Stephen, the follower of Jesus who, according to the Bible, was stoned to death for his beliefs  
d) A traveling preacher whose name is unknown
2. The Episcopal Church is in communion with what other church?  
a) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints    b) The Church of England  
c) The Catholic Church    d) The United Church of Christ
3. Who is sort of the Episcopalian equivalent of the Catholic Church's Pope?  
a) The Archbishop of Canterbury    b) The Cardinal of Madrid  
c) The Cardinal of Canterbury    d) The Archbishop of Liverpool
4. The word "episcopal" means what?  
a) governed by bishops    b) assisted by deacons  
c) organized into dioceses    d) led by priests
5. What is the prayer book of the Episcopal Church?  
a) The Book of Common Prayer    b) The Daily Episcopalian  
c) The books of Psalms and Proverbs in the Bible  
d) There is no special Episcopalian prayer book
6. You must be a confirmed Episcopalian to receive the sacrament of Communion in an Episcopal Church.  
a) True    b) False
7. Which of the following are you least likely to find in an Episcopal church?  
a) A baptismal font    b) A candle    c) A confessional booth
8. True or False: The Episcopal Church has a formal canonization process for saints  
a) True    b) False
9. What are the Episcopal Church's orders of ministry?  
a) Pastor, teacher, apostle, evangelist, exorcist  
b) Laity, deacon, priest, bishop  
c) Lay preachers, pastors, deacons

Answers 1-b; 2-b; 3-a; 4-a; 5-a; 6-b; 7-c; 8-b; 9-b



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