

Special Events

To inspire and sustain your outward journey, visit pottershousedc.org for a complete listing of book discussions and political events at the Potter's House. To sustain your inward journey, Dayspring Silent Retreat Center offers a variety of quiet days beginning in February, as well as weekend retreats. Please visit dayspringretreat.org. For community, check out offerings at the Festival Center [festivalcenter.org] and individual CoS church websites.

Jan 12 | Danny Whitecotton at Carroll Café, the Second Friday coffeehouse at Seekers Church, 476 Carroll Ave, Takoma DC. For tickets, see carrollcafe.org.

Jan 19-21 | Winter Light: Returning Home to a Place of Deep Belonging, at the Wellspring Conference Center at Dayspring. Leaders: Jim Hall, Cheryl Hellner, and Julie Gabrielli. For more information and to register go to <http://www.wellspringconference.org/events/8>

Feb 9 | Sparky and Ronda at Carroll Café, Seekers Church. See (banjo & guitar) at Carroll Café, Seekers Church, 476 Carroll Ave, Takoma DC.

Feb 16-18 | "Who Do You Say I Am?" Open retreat with Carole Crumley for the beginning of Lent. \$210. For complete descriptions and registration, visit dayspringretreat.org.

Mar 9 | Guy Davis (guitar) at Carroll Café, Seekers Church.



Mar 9-11 | "Resting in Divine Love," open retreat with Kim Montroll. Dayspringretreat.org.

Apr 13 | David Sacks and DC Choro at Carroll Café, Seekers Church.

Apr 13-15 | "Stillness and Growth," open retreat with Kenzie Raulin. Dayspringretreat.org.

Apr 27-29 | "Rooted in Love," open retreat with Robin Seiler, Jr. Dayspringretreat.org.

A "KAYLABRATION"

More than a hundred people gathered at the Festival Center on October 30 to celebrate Kayla McClurg's long ministry in the Adams Morgan neighborhood and in the wider world.

Kayla started 20 years ago as Gordon Cosby's assistant, but from the beginning, she was more like his co-conspirator, as the primary witness for an inward/outward journey. Her background as an English teacher (and practical mystic) equipped Kayla for the publication ministry that gradually became her own. She co-authored "Becoming the Authentic Church" with Gordon, nurtured a wide circle of seekers around the country with daily inspirational quotes and a weekly homily on her website, inward/outward.org, and maintained an active correspondence with people who wanted something more.

Living at Andrews House, Kayla also hosted frequent visitors and served as a guide to Church of the Saviour as it took new forms. When Gordon retired, she led worship at 2025 until it was sold. She was the go-to person for the C of S Council – keeper of mailing lists, directories and records. She caught typos in CALLINGS and kept up on city regulations to guide us along. Kayla also led the Potter's House transition and walked with those who didn't welcome the change. On behalf of the wider CoS community, Kayla helped to make Gordon and Mary's final years fruitful and rich.

Last March, Kayla's daily postings on inward/outward were interrupted by complications from pneumonia. In her last column, she spoke a deeper truth than even she realized at the time. It began with a quote from Leonardo Boff:

Falling Down

Falling is not just a physical accident. Falling means recognizing freely and sincerely the limits of our strength in the face of situations that are beyond us and force us to submit. Falling shows our human frailty. It reveals the fragile clay of which we are made, showing us that we are neither omnipotent nor invulnerable. Confronted with such a fall, we may nurture a spirit of revolt. . . . Or we may nurture a spirit of resignation. . . . There is a third possibility, however. We can nurture the spirit of humility. While calmly accepting our fall, we may still trust in God, whose strength comes to reinvigorate our weakness, and get up again with renewed courage.



NOTE TO READERS: Starting today, and for some undetermined length of time, I will need to suspend inward/outward due to having contracted

pneumonia, complicated by a chronic heart condition and an overflow of ungrieved losses and exhaustion. This quote was already lined up before I knew that perhaps the Spirit had chosen it particularly for me. Oh, but I do see it now—I am the one falling; I am the fragile clay.

Thank you for your faithful reading, sharing, and posting in the past, and remember that all of the earlier Daily Words, and more, can be found again and again at www.inwardoutward.org. Keep digging for your own life's truth. It's closer than you might think, in every falling, getting up moment. – peace, Kayla

continued on page 4



If you'd like to see CALLINGS continue, please make a contribution to:

Callings

Church of the Saviour
1640 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009

Now that Kayla McClurg has set down her call as the Church of the Saviour administrator, we (as a scattered church) have come to another round in the spiral of call for our life together. Version 4.0.

The first round, which shaped our core values and identity, probably dates back to the first 30 years of Church of the Saviour as a single body. Many of the basic patterns and practices (committed membership, mission groups and the journey inward/journey outward) that we share today were established during that period. Gordon and Mary Cosby held the center for us then.

The second round of our call began to develop in 1976, when six small churches formed out of the original body to support our work in the world. Most were shaped and defined by a single outward mission. When the Festival Center was established in 1985, it joined the Potter's House as a center for missions along Columbia Road and many of the earlier mission groups spun off as non-profits (see banner on page 3). Gordon continued to initiate new missions and many were nourished by his continued preaching at 2025 Mass. Ave. That was Church of the Saviour, 2.0.

A third round began in 1995, when each of the sister churches incorporated separately. Some said that Church of the Saviour had ended. In fact, our polity shifted. Church of the Saviour became a collection of churches, joined by our common heritage and shared ownership of Dayspring Farm. Kayla became Gordon's assistant at that time. She lived at Andrews House and hosted visitors who came to see the missions primarily clustered along Columbia Road. During the next 20 years, Kayla was the "point person" for Church of the Saviour as Gordon and Mary became more frail.

Now, the fourth round of call as Church of the Saviour is beginning. It's been 70 years since CoS began, 40 years since the sister churches formed and 20 years since they incorporated separately. Each of the eight churches represented on the CoS Council know the power of listening for God's voice in the silence of Dayspring. We look to Jesus for what we are to do: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, release the prisoners... We understand the energy of call and commitment. We let our money flow to places where we have already invested time and energy. We have respect for the many different callings that God has planted in the lives of our wider community, and we ponder what the new form of God's call for us as a church will be.

As we listen for God's leading in this Advent season, please join us in prayers for discernment and discovery. Your financial support is always welcome. Please make checks payable to "Church of the Saviour" with Callings on the memo line.

Advent blessings,

Marjory Bankson

Editor of CALLINGS, Chair of the CoS Council

2018 Callings deadlines: Jan 31, April 30, July 31, October 31

The Church of the Saviour Council

Bread of Life • Dayspring Church • Eighth Day • Festival Church • Friends of Jesus
Jubilee Church • New Community • Seekers

Showing Up is Half the Battle

It's Friday, 1:48 a.m., and a D.C. silence hangs in the air, or at least for the moment. On most mornings, the roaring engine of the Safeway truck wakes me as it backs into the driveway with a piercing "beep, beep, beep." It's hard to believe the first three months of Discipleship Year 2017 have come and gone. It seemed like only yesterday I



was living in Winston-Salem N.C., anxiously anticipating the season in which the act of juggling my contracting job, two internships and Divinity school would come to an end. I was hopeful that life would slow down as I transitioned to Washington D.C. in pursuit of the inward/outward journey, while living in intentional community. Girl (or boy) was I wrong! As a creative being, coming to D.C. was literally



like walking into a wonderland, which has caused an imbalance in favor of the outward journey. Besides a quick prayer in the morning, maybe a quick prayer before bed, and Thursday evening services at Bread of Life, I have yet to carve out a time to commune with God, to feed

my spirit. One might argue that I am being too hard on myself, but I recognized that to effectively be of service to others, I must make time for inward growth. In the same way I show up to my volunteer placement day after day, it is equally important that I make room for the spirit.

I remember the first time I walked into Joseph's House, which is where I volunteer. The welcoming, long wooden table making

room for everyone who enters, the colorful painting visually portraying love, the smell of freshly baked treats singing to be eaten, coupled with the soothing presence of Ms. Patty, excited me, as it would any volunteer on his or her first few days on the job. But these were not the things that kept me coming back. Before long, my feet began screaming from walking up and down the stairs all

day in my no-arch-support shoes. There were times when my mind would play tricks on me, telling me that the home's divergent personalities would not even notice if I just happened to disappear for a period of time. The truth is they would notice. Nevertheless it is not their appreciation, or seemingly lack thereof that determines whether or not I physically show up. I show up because the roaring engine of the Safeway truck continues to awaken me each day. And, even if that piercing "beep, beep, beep" never comes again, my inner clock - or, better yet, the God in me - will not allow me to stay in bed. I go, whether I feel like it or not, whether I feel present or not. Even when my humanness causes me to doubt the very place I know with certainty I was called to, I show up to prove my commitment.

In a similar way I must make the same commitment to my inward journey. Even when the complexities of life causes me to doubt the very thing that I know will sustain and keep me, I must soldier on. Carving out some quiet time allows me to be truly present. Communing with God allows me to see beyond what the eye can see and assures me that my life will sing the song of Christ without having to say a word.

**Shameless plug: If you have not visited Joseph's House, make it your New Year's resolution and actually go.*

Clara Debnam is a Discipleship Year intern. She relocated to D.C from Winston Salem N.C. and is a recent graduate of Wake Forest School of Divinity

A "KAYLABRATION" continued

As you can see from these photos, Kayla touched many lives during her sojourn in the Adams-Morgan neighborhood. Each person who spoke recalled a different facet of her ministry. The stories were funny, honest, personal and heartfelt. To close our time of tribute, C.W. Harris and his wife, Amelia, brought us all to laughter with his spot-on "advice from Gordon," and then he led us in a simple song, "We love you, Kayla," as the Holy Spirit filled the room with grace.

Then Kayla had the last word. She spoke with the spirit of humility in Leonardo Boff's quote, naming the dark times in the past few months when she too felt lost and alone. But, seemingly filled with new energy and light, Kayla reminded everybody of her new call with Trish Stefanik to the Overlook Retreat house at Dayspring. Ever the welcoming hostess, she ended her talk with an invitation: "Come and use this beautiful space for individual or small group retreats."



Mary Anders, Kayla McClurg, Emmy Lu Daly, Marjory Bankson



Jay Forth

For more information on Overlook and to schedule your stay, contact overlook.retreathouse@gmail.com



Amelia and CW Harris



Carol Bullard-Bates



Basil Buchanan



Becca Stelle



Peter Bankson



Kumi Wiggins Alatishe



Kate Lasso



Chris Taylor and Kent Beduhn

32 Years of Thanksgiving Generosity

As they approached Thanksgiving in 1985 the Browne family, members of Covenant Christian Community, assembled three baskets, each containing just a turkey and a few extras, as gifts for households in need.



Thirty-two years later, this generosity has grown into an outstanding legacy, providing the ingredients of a Thanksgiving dinner for many families of 4, plus basic food items for each family such as tuna, fresh fruit, eggs and more. Started by Covenant, this project has been embraced by local churches Pavilion of God and Seekers.

The financial times have affected the project, both positively and negatively, causing the number of Baskets (really boxes and bags!) put together each year to go up and down over the years. This year 80 volunteers gathered early on the chilly Saturday morning before Thanksgiving to assemble the boxes and bags, and fill them with contributions from members of the participating churches and area businesses including Starbucks Takoma Park, Trader Joe's Silver Spring, Salon Jam, Amano and Mark's Kitchen. And we could not have done it without Shopper's Food Warehouse who offered us a generous discount and threw in items for free. By the end of the day, 105 families in need were served. The families served include senior citizens, veterans, and low income families from Ideal Academy Charter School and each of the three churches involved.



This all-volunteer effort is coordinated by a planning team with participation from all three churches. As they look forward to next year, the Thanksgiving Basket Project team is inviting us to watch for their "Go Fund Me" campaign in 2018, to help get the level of generosity back to 300 Thanksgiving gifts!



Related Ministries

The following ministries have grown from churches and mission groups of The Church of the Saviour. Each is independently organized.

Academy of Hope • Becoming Church • Bethany, Inc. • Bokamoso Foundation • Caroll Café • Christ House • Columbia Road Health Service • Cornelius Corps • Cornerstone • Dayspring Earth Ministry • Dayspring Retreat Center • Discipleship Year • Faith & Money Network • Family Place • Festival Center • For Love of Children • Hope and a Home • Institute of Radical Reconciliation • Inward/outward • Joseph's House • Jubilee Housing • Jubilee Jobs • Jubilee JumpStart • Kairos House • L'Arche • Life Asset Credit Union • Life Pathways • Manna, Inc. • Miriam's House • New Community ArtSpace • New Community for Children • O.N.E.DC • Overlook Retreat House • Potter's House • Samaritan Inns • Sarah's Circle • Soteria [Servant Leadership School] • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Sounds of Hope • Tell The Word • Wellspring Conference Center

Winter Light: Returning Home to a Place of Deep Belonging*



"If we surrendered to Earth's intelligence,
we could rise up rooted like trees"
-- Rilke

At Dayspring -- a brilliant, windy day grows quiet at dusk; fields go fallow; ducks return to the lake. It is autumn. What does Earth know? Earth knows how to let go, how to sink down into the ground of its deepest belonging, how to then rise up rooted like trees.

In these days when much unravels, when much comes apart, Earth invites us to a fallow, re-grounding winter season, to a time to remember who we are and the deep eternal story of which we are a part. In response to this invitation, we offer this nature/soul/restoring retreat -- Winter Light: Returning Home to a Place of Deep Belonging, January 19-21 at the Wellspring Conference Center at Dayspring. Leaders: Jim Hall, Cheryl Hellner, and Julie Gabrielli. For more information and to register go to <http://www.wellspringconference.org/events/8>

***FULL - Wait list is open for this event**

Good News!

Montgomery County Council Passes Transportation Resolution favoring No M-83 Highway

On October 31st, the Montgomery County Council PASSED the following Resolution: Transportation Solutions for NW Montgomery County with a vote of 7 to 2 in favor.

The resolution vote of 7 to 2 is a victory for opposing M83 Highway and a defeat for those wanting to build roads first and damaging the environment in its path. The resolution vote marks a political turning point TOWARDS smart growth for Montgomery County, and AWAY from a 1960s urban planning model. TAME and all its allies worked as a team with the council to get this resolution written and passed.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and letter-writing these past years to stop M83 Highway from being built through Dayspring Silent Retreat Center and our surrounding neighborhoods! Our work is not done; however, the road is shelved for now.** TAME Coalition will continue to work with organizations, citizens and government on securing viable and reliable transit alternatives for Montgomery County's upcounty region, like: Bus Rapid Transit on 355 north, more RideOn Buses and RideOn Extra routes, and expanded MARC Train service, making M-83 Highway plans permanently obsolete.

**The Right-of-Way for Midcounty Highway Extended (M83) has been retained by the Council in the Master Plan of Highways.

Joining You In Prayer,

Margaret Schoap
Organizer for Coalition for Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended (TAME)