

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 2, Issue 1 • Spring 2013

New Face at Potter's House Bookstore

Friends, you might have noticed a new face in the Potter's House bookstore or, perhaps, just the absence of a familiar one over the past few months.

Many of you already know there's been a passing of the torch here in the bookstore. For those of you who maybe haven't visited in a while or were, perhaps, just confused by the abrupt appearance of young face sitting behind the desk, it's true: our beloved Tom Taylor decided to explore another opportunity back in October--"retirement". It only seems fitting, then, to begin this introduction with a nod to the more than nine years he spent telling jokes and pulling legs (probably many of yours) here at The Potter's House--not to mention managing the bookstore on the side. It's an honor to follow in Tom's footsteps, and, yes, they are some big footsteps to follow in.

I can't help but smile when I take a minute to reflect on how the last few years have led to this new beginning managing the bookstore here at The Potter's House.

My first contact with the Church of the Saviour community, a little over three years ago now, was an Eighth Day worship service at The Potter's House. I must admit I was more than a little distracted by the peculiar combination of spirituality and social justice titles behind me just waiting to be explored.

In fact, growing up in a small and overwhelmingly conservative Southern city, books and reading were already more than an integral part of my own process of becoming and exposure to new, challenging ideas. These powerful encounters with books helped instill in me a desire for critical reflection and political engagement. They also introduced me to a politicized reading of Jesus' life and a rich history of progressive Christianity, ideas that were absent from the people around me, and without which I probably would have never discovered this wonderful community.

To tell the truth, the thought of working in The Potter's House bookstore definitely crossed my mind more than a few times during my two years in Discipleship Year (a volunteer program run by the Festival Center). I would often help Tom by selling books at faith and justice conferences like Ecumenical Advocacy Days. It was times like these, full of vibrant conversation and encounters taking place over books, that awakened me to the transformative potential of a radical Christian bookstore and community space for a neighborhood.

Three years from that first Sunday at The Potter's House, after a year working as a caretaker at Joseph's House (an AIDS hospice in Adams Morgan), and another organizing around financial reform with the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (a progressive Catholic advocacy office in DC), there's nothing I'd rather be doing more than managing the bookstore here at The Potter's House.



Brennan Baker at work

It is, for me, the perfect embodiment of both my Christian faith and progressive political engagement. I see The Potter's House bookstore as more than a place for people to come to deepen their individual spiritual journey or learn about the next social justice issue they might take up.

At a time when electoral politics seemingly offers no way out, and gentrification is violently displacing and transforming what's left of DC neighborhoods, The Potter's House--as a bookstore, coffee house, and community space--can be a place that nurtures a different form of community politics, one characterized by reaching out to, joining, building relationships, and elaborating new forms of sharing with those who are closest to us: our neighbors.

It's these types of relationships and solidarity, grounded in particular places--in particular neighborhoods--that can nurture the roots of new communities, ones with the power to resist the cold logics of the market and "urban redevelopment."

It's an exciting time for The Potter's House, and I'm excited to be part of a place that breaks down the walls of the church and engages our community. I look forward to journeying forward with you.

Brennan Baker is Potter's House Bookstore Manager.

Editor's Corner

People often ask, "What is the connection between the churches of the Church of the Saviour Council (listed below) and the "Related Ministries" listed on page 5 of this newsletter?"

The short answer is this: the related ministries are now separately incorporated, but they began as missions of people in Church of the Saviour. Some of those missions still claim their connection to one of the Council churches. Others, in an effort to attract funds from outside sources, do not identify themselves with a church. But all of them trace their roots to the call and commitment encouraged by C of S.

One of the earliest lessons that I learned here was to release the very notion of ownership and control which is so central to our culture. From the beginning of Church of the Saviour, the original membership commitment acknowledged God as the "owner" of everything. We are simply stewards, charged to do our best to take care of the resources



we have been given, and ready to let go of control when the guidance to do that comes from the Spirit.

Most of the "related ministries" began as a tiny group, "seized by the power of a great affection," as Gordon often said. That affection often demanded long hours and unstinting effort. Once launched, the Council expected each mission to sustain itself. Some missions became very good at fund-raising, applying for grants, and getting funding from the city for specific purposes – healthcare, housing, hospice. Some became strong independent organizations, like Christ House or the Sitar Arts Center. Other missions have come and gone, as the sustaining people were called elsewhere.

This month we celebrate two new websites: Potter's House (www.pottershousedc.org) and Dayspring Church (www.dayspringchurchmd.org). I encourage you to visit both in order to check out their current listings. And for those of you who enjoy this quarterly newsletter, the Council has approved continued publication of Callings. Watch for the next issue in June.

Marjory Zoet Bankson
Editor & publisher of Callings
Chair of the C of S Council

Servant Leadership School - Spring 2013

at the intersection of spirituality and social justice

Tuesdays, April 2 - May 21, 7-9pm

- **Self-Compassion: Molding the Compassionate Heart**
- **Biblical Justice: An Un-American Activity?**
- **Racial Reconciliation: A Pathway to Empowerment**
- **Love Walks: Spiritual Pilgrimage as Political Resistance**

For more information and to register, visit www.slschool.org

The Church of the Saviour Council

Bread of Life • Dayspring Church • Eighth Day • Festival Church • Friends of Jesus
Jubilee Church • New Community • Potter's House Church • Seekers

Jubilee Jobs Makes 1,000 Job Placements

In 2012, Jubilee Jobs reached its goal of 1,000 entry-level placements – almost half were ex-offenders! The job retention rate is an estimated 64%, which reflects follow-up support offered to applicants to guide them toward economic self-sufficiency. (This is impressive in view of a nearly 100% turnover usual for entry-level positions.)

Jubilee Jobs started small. In 1981, as new tenants were moving into the Jubilee Housing complex in the Adams Morgan section of D.C., they were questioned about their needs. Hands down, jobs won.

Terry Flood heard that news as a challenge. She sought guidance from others familiar with employment issues. Then, with a table, two chairs, a telephone and lots of prayer, Jubilee jobs opened for business.



Jubilee Jobs executive director looks for jobs and follows up with applicants.

is astonishing -- over 23,000. Recently, Jubilee Jobs opened a satellite office in Anacostia, an area of entrenched poverty with a staggering 28% rate of unemployment.

How does it work?

As the director, Terry keeps prayer, staff development and volunteer support at the center of this ministry. It seems to me that JJ is not so much a service to others, but rather a willingness of the staff to see themselves in kinship, in solidarity with applicants. Not in “doing for,” but in “being with.” A friend puts it this way: “Jubilee’s approach is not found in taking the right stand on issues, but rather in standing in the right place -- with the unemployed, the discouraged and those relegated to the margins.”

A bi-weekly orientation outlines the shape of the program – what JJ offers job seekers and what JJ asks of them. Testimonies follow. Perhaps the strongest message communicated is “There is



Job seekers line up to attend jubilee jobs orientation 2012

Terry sensed a call – a prompting to engage in a specific work – that of helping women and men on the margins to gain employment. Over time, she honed fundamental principles for what would become Jubilee Jobs. 1) Look for the good in all applicants. 2) Focus on job placements; keep that goal in sight.

During the first year, there were 96 job placements. Thirty-two years later, the total number

nothing in your past that can keep you from a productive, hope-filled future.”

For those who choose to join, there is a thorough intake interview with a case worker, followed by a series of job-readiness workshops. These are meant to provide practical information and to build confidence. In small face-to-face group settings, applicants build skills in interviewing, conflict resolution and goal setting. Should any need help in developing a work-experience resume and/or in obtaining clothes to wear for inter-

views, assistance is given. Then case workers begin to send them to interviews.

Since there has never been any formal advertising, applicants are often asked how they came to JJ. The answers vary – “I heard at an AA meeting;” “A neighbor lady told me;” “I learned in prison;” “A barber...;” “My pastor...;” “Jubilee helped my sister...;” “I saw a sign in the window.” They come and keep coming.



Aaron Moore III prepares to go on job interview (Job Counselor Brother Francis)

I once arrived early for an 8:45am orientation at the Festival Center, only to encounter a diverse crowd of almost 150 people, milling around in the biting cold, waiting expectantly for the doors to open. You would have thought Michelle Obama was coming.

Competition in today’s job market is fierce. Turn downs are frequent. Many lose heart. The staff keeps on searching for ways to support job seekers and the recently employed. It remains a challenge. Over the years, a number of initiatives have been tried. Some, like Job Friends Dinners, the Move-up Program, and Women Mean Business are proving effective. The quest to provide additional ways of support continues as a priority. Participants often comment on how grateful they are for the respect shown them at JJ (in contrast to some other programs).

As Terry often says, “Our people do not realize how much they are needed in the community.”

Dick Busch is a volunteer with Jubilee Jobs in Anacostia.

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 • 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 • inwardoutward • 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 • Potter's House • Samari Ser-Inns • Sarah's Circle • School • Leadership Sitar Arts • Sign of Jonah • The Word • Center • Tell

Jubilee Church: Explo

Jubilee Church is a little family of Jesus trying to love each other and follow Jesus more fully each day. Our deep calling is to delve into the Scripture each week and hear what the Spirit is saying to each one of us. In our service we share our struggles, questions, pain and joy as we seek to become more like Jesus and more loving in our relationships with each other and those we have been given to accompany on this remarkable spiritual journey.

Our Christian Living classes help us to share our lives and our faith with each other and to deepen our sense of community, our sense of a growing intimacy with God and Jesus, and enable us to listen to what the Spirit is calling us to become and to do.



Emerging Leaders

One of our most recent new calls is to bring the inward journey, the outward journey and community to the next generation of Christian young people who are longing for churches that are balanced in their path of discipleship for Jesus. The Emerging Leaders Mission Group, with Jeff Kursonis from Jubilee Church and David Hilfiker from the Eighth Day Faith Community, has a vision of creating churches and structures where young people are able to hear their call from God and follow it. Rather than being mentors in this process, I see a mutual accompaniment in our path of opening to what new visions, new challenges, and new life our young Christian brothers and sisters will bring to our community. Only God knows the structures and new ways of being church this vision will bring about.

Trauma Healing

As a psychologist who follows Jesus, I have also become aware of how the greatest trauma or pain in our lives often turns into our call from God. I remember many stories of our founder, Gordon Cosby, asking a startling question of those he meets: "What is the greatest pain in your life?" This question becomes even more important to us if, in fact, our call comes from this core of suffering.

I have recently been called to a new mission with a number of my spiritual sisters from Eighth Day and Jubilee Church. We are calling the Interfaith Trauma Healing Mission Group into being. I have seen how those who have suffered trauma are called into service for others who have suffered similar trauma in their lives. The scripture from Romans 5:3a-5 points to this issue. "We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out His love in to our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us."

The psychological research in post-traumatic growth is very important in demonstrating the positive changes that can occur after trauma and suffering. Research in post-traumatic growth demonstrates that those who heal from trauma and suffering can develop both a realization that they are more vulnerable than they thought they were, but also much stronger than they thought they were. They can develop a greater appreciation of life, and more empathy and understanding of others. They have the ability to see what is important in life, and to set priorities. They can develop a deeper connection with their faith and spirituality. They have a recognition of new possibilities in their lives. All of these changes we experience can direct us to a new call or a vision for what we can change in the world with those who have suffered as we have.

ring Pain as a Source of Call



Carol serving communion



problems to have hope and find emotional and spiritual strength in and through the changes they suffer in their lives. I had polio as a child of 18 months, with the trauma of pain and being taken away from my family and put in isolation. I have dealt with being disabled throughout my life.

Each of us in the Trauma Healing group has suffered trauma of some kind in our lives. We are all called to be healed and be healers too. This comes about through mutual accompaniment, friendship and deep sharing. These deep connections are occurring in our "Women Empowering Women" Group, which has been meeting for a year in different women's homes. The group includes women from Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Americans from Eighth Day and Jubilee Church. Our last meeting was a gift to us all as we were beautifully hosted by a Muslim sister from Darfur in Sudan. We shared about men's and women's roles in our different countries and how they have affected our lives as women. Another aspect of our mission is to heal the trauma of children and to help to end the physical and sexual abuse of children in families, schools and institutions.

Way to Jerusalem

Several of us at Jubilee Church were in the Way to Jerusalem mission group for many years, focusing on advocacy, education and actions to provide a way for peace and justice to come to Israel-Palestine. The military occupation of Palestine by Israel is a perfect example of how the victims of trauma, Jews in the Holocaust, can become the per-

petrators of trauma for others, the Palestinians. Some Palestinian Christians in the U.S. have put out a Kairos document urging the rest of the world to use the techniques of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) as a means to pressure Israel for justice and human rights for Palestinians. Alice Azzouzi is now in the process of reforming this mis-

sion with a vision of creating a Jewish, Muslim and Christian group, all working together for the end of violence and a vision of peace and justice we know can come in Israel-Palestine. If you are interested in this mission, please e-mail her at azzi70@hotmail.com.



Evangelism and Pastoring

As a part of our Evangelism and Pastoring Mission Group, Jim Speer uses his amazing gift of prayer as he visits three local hospitals three times a week, praying for those in intensive care. He and his team of friends have developed such deep relationships with these patients, that they often feel safe enough to leave this world in his presence as he is praying. This has been a difficult challenge for him as he sees his friends die, but he has been empowered by this amazing ministry from the Lord. He also shares his faith in his AA meetings regularly and prays for those who are angry and put down his faith as he is sharing. He is truly one of our saints.

Carol Bullard-Bates is a member of Jubilee Church, is a clinical psychologist and has been following Jesus since she was 24.

Why We Can't Wait

Washington DC's Church-Wide Response to the New Jim Crow

2013 marks the 50th anniversary of critical moments in the Civil Rights Movement. This spring and summer, as we are re-kindled by the spirit of those who have gone before us, Becoming Church is calling on congregations throughout Washington to “be” the Church together through a series of city-wide revival meetings. Each gathering will include worship and prayer, teaching on the New Jim Crow, preaching God's great Good News, and a call to renewed commitment to Jesus' Way.

Christ, Methodist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal and denominationally un-affiliated congregations. We are African American, Latino, immigrant and white from all four quadrants of our city. Members of one body, we need each other. Our first work is to rest together in the Spirit and to find one another there: to be one.

Through our worship, God will raise up leaders and give us the next steps for our shared mission to dismantle the New Jim Crow. Church buildings throughout DC will be our campus. We will meet

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say
all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in
the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Matthew 5:11-12)

“The New Jim Crow” refers to mass incarceration and its staggering web of injustice. Throughout American history, a caste system has been in place to satisfy the drive of privilege. The caste system, previously institutionalized through slavery and Jim Crow laws, is now perpetuated through mass incarceration.

To ensure a second class of citizens, we disproportionately convict people of color. We strip them of constitutional rights and impose heavy sentences. After serving their time, those convicted are denied housing, employment, voting and other rights. Not only are the convicted affected, but families and communities are devastated. Children pay the highest price. Meanwhile the industries which depend on mass incarceration receive billions in profit. The cycle of exploitation intensifies.

The New Jim Crow is a manifestation of our national spiritual crisis. We have neglected love of God and neighbor. We have failed to care for the most vulnerable. The Church is called to respond in the Way of Jesus: The way of faith in God, the way of unity, creativity, non-anxious truth-telling, non-violent action, compassion for the most vulnerable, forgiveness of those who know not what they do, willingness to suffer for the cause, and love of and reconciliation with the “enemy.”

The Christian response to injustice always invokes trial and trouble. For this reason Jesus tells us that very few will follow the narrow way. Dismantling the New Jim Crow, we will be devastated by our country's systemic racism and our own part in its exploitation. As we are brought to our knees in despair, we will encounter the grace and love of God anew.

We will find ourselves persecuted and despised as we take action. We will come to rejoice and be glad, encouraged that we stand in the company of the prophets of Jesus' day and of our own. Under the troubling conditions that Jesus promises his followers, we will be inwardly renewed- also according to his promise. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the city and nation, the rich and poor, the captor and captive will be tested, transcended and transformed.

The congregations participating in the revivals are Baptist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Christian Reformed, Church of God in

each month in a different part of the city, in a church of a different denominational tradition. Our teaching text will be “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander. Each revival will build on the one which preceded it.

Jesus beckons, “Take up your cross and follow me.” This invitation is the pearl of great price. The cost of discipleship is its own reward.

Becca Stelle is the founding pastor of Becoming Church.
Visit www.becomingchurch.org

REVIVAL SCHEDULE

Sun. April 14 @ 3pm
Emmanuel Church of God in Christ
2600 Minnesota Ave SE 20020
Marking the 50th Anniversary of
Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail

Sun. May 19 @ 3pm
Lutheran Church of the Reformation
212 East Capitol St. 20003

Sun. June 23 @ 3pm
Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church
1720 Minnesota Ave SE 20020

Sun. July 14 @ 3pm
Church without Walls &
Church of Christ, Right Now
Festival Center 1640 Columbia Rd. NW
20009

Earth Celebration June 2

The second annual Earth Celebration for all Church of the Saviour communities will be held at Dayspring Farm on Sunday, June 2, 12:30-6:30. Festivities will begin at the Wellspring Center and will end with a celebratory liturgy in the amphitheater.

Dayspring Farm is now the only place large enough for all of us in Church of the Saviour can gather. As we renew our appreciation for the gift of this land, the land itself, the forest, the meadows, the creek valley, and the ponds, the hawk, the fox, and the box turtle welcome us home. As stewards of the land, Dayspring Church is hoping to make this a yearly gathering, where we can meet in a casual setting, explore some of our common needs, and eat together too. Do come with a picnic (beverages available); plan to enjoy hikes, children's activities, and music jamming.

Simple Gifts

For those of you who have never seen the Simple Gifts cottages, gardens, and solar straw-bale greenhouse built on the slope downhill from the Farmhouse, a tour of the greenhouse and gardens will be offered. That will include a look at the outside of the eco-friendly cottages. As a model for sustainable living, these houses are powered by solar panels and are currently returning power to the grid.

The Earth Ministry Mission Group will also be offering informative nature hikes for those who would like to explore the land. The exploring Children and Nature Mission Group will offer a variety of



outdoor activities for children. We know that many people who come on Silent Retreats enjoy the serenity of the space, but may not have clambered up the stream that feeds Merton's Pond, or walked the far perimeter of the farm. If we're lucky, we'll see some of the rare tiny orchids that may convince Montgomery County officials that a road would destroy this endangered species.

Current Issues

Margaret Schoap will be available to give an update on her political work to divert the M-83 highway. And if there are volunteers who would like to offer discussions on other Church of the Saviour issues, we would be glad to schedule those so people would know when to be where.

Dayspring Church is frankly looking for ways to engage the other communities in our network to explore our future together.

Silent Retreat

After 2pm, the Lodge at Silent Retreat will also be open for visitors. Some have never seen the beautiful tapestry by Adalaide Winstead in the Yoke Room, or the haunting charcoal drawing of Christ's face by Robert Natkin. Here's what Dorothy Devers wrote in Potter's House Press about that picture:

...suddenly it became the face of an austere nobleman, short-haired, dignified, proud; then, with kaleidoscopic swiftness, it was the deep-scarred face of a criminal; a martial man; a sad, gentle, feminine face; a young person; an aged person; and now and again it reverted to one of the images already seen. Sometimes the eyes were closed, sometimes half-veiled, sometimes wide open.

After the day's activities, Seekers Church has offered to create a liturgy that will include offerings from all of us for our closing worship in the amphitheater.

Margie Lance, is a core member of Dayspring Church and a member of the Next Chapter Team. For more information about the Earth Day Celebration, contact Margie Lance mylance@verizon.net.



Special Events

March 15-17 ... Dayspring Retreat, "From Stardust We Come, To Stardust We Return," a Weekend Retreat with Ian White Maher. See www.dayspringretreat.org

March 16 ... Bethany Bazaar fundraiser @ Bethany's Good Hope House, 1715 V St. SE, Washinton, DC.



April 12 ... Carroll Café, "Ruthie & the Wranglers," @ Seekers Church, 7:30pm.

April 27 ... Sabeel DC Metro Conference @ Wesley Seminary. Palestinian American Christians share their stories; offer churches practical ways to engage the human rights issues in Palestine. All are welcome. www.sabeeldc.org

May 4 ... 5K Run/Walk Walk to benefit Manna. Anacostia Park – Skating Pavilion. To register, got to www.mannadc.org/Run!

May 10 ... Carroll Café, Jennifer Cutting OCEANS Quartet, w/Lisa moscatiello, Steve Winick & Andrew Dodds, @ Seekers Church, 7:30pm.

May 14 .. Jubilee Jobs gala dinner at the Katzen Art Center w/ Ray Suarez. Call Sheila @ 202-667-8970 or go to www.jubileejobs.org.

June 2 ... Dayspring EARTH DAY, 12:30 – 6pm, Church of the Saviour gathering at Wellspring. Bring your own picnic; drinks provided. See article inside.

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