

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 6, Issue 1 • Spring 2017

Julian Forth, new Executive Director of the Festival Center

As people of faith who acknowledge the pain, violence, and oppression that many communities and individuals face, sometimes while sitting next to us in the pews, I believe we have a responsibility to act. To confess, to march, to speak, to listen, to imagine anew, and to organize. It's my dream that the Festival Center will be place for this important work. That is, a place for people to faith to take action shaped by contemplation, care, and solidarity.

During the summer of 2007, I worked at Joseph's house, a home



for low-income folks who are living with HIV/AIDS or cancer. I still remember the chime of the singing bowl that transitioned us from a time of silence to the start of our staff meeting. I remember sweeping the floor, cooking breakfast, chatting with folks, some of them were joyful, some gruff, and some in pain. It was there that contemplation, care, and justice were woven together in seamless practice. I learned there to live out the words of Meister Eckhart who

begs us: "As you are in church or cell, that same frame of mind carry out into the world, into its turmoil and its fitfulness." I learned this not so much as a technique, a program, or a secret, but as a practice and a reorientation.

Sharing space and days alongside people who are sick, some of them with no prospect of recovery, meant that often times I felt powerless. I felt powerless to cure, to provide guarantees, or to offer hope. Often times, all I could offer was prayer. Prayer not as a certain act or uttering certain words, but as intentionality, patience, and generosity with our time. It is prayer as a contemplative posture that accompanied me in all my work.

Sharing space and days alongside people who are sick, some of them with no prospect of recovery, meant that often times I felt powerless. I felt powerless to cure, to provide guarantees, or to offer hope. Often times, all I could offer was prayer.

However, being at Joseph's House also required that that I learn to value care over cure. Even though we hoped and assisted many on journeys to remission, we continued to care for those who had no such guarantee. Making breakfast, sweeping the floors, driving guests to appointments, or popping in a DVD are forms of care. These small acts are opportunities to tend to the needs and affirm the life of the guests. In these ordinary acts, we expressed our commitment to journey with them, even to the end.

As I said, being alongside those nearing the end of life, gave me a sense of powerlessness. I could not provide cures or guarantees to most of the guests, but I learned to remain alongside them anyway. Being unable to give a cure, a guarantee, or anything of worth puts in check our inclinations to charity and paternalism. It is by remaining alongside others especially when we are unable to control the outcome that we engage in solidarity. And in practicing solidarity, I better understood justice. It's this same form of solidarity that I have carried with me into activism as I've worked alongside those who fought for their homes, their families, and their dignity.

In the fall of 2016, I started as the new Executive Director for the Festival Center after years of local community organizing, direct service, and education. In many ways, my summer at Joseph's House has and continues to inform my professional work and my activism. It reminds me that the struggle for justice is not reducible to a project or a goal. Rather, justice requires relationships of working with [not for] others while respecting autonomy.

Julian Forth, Executive Director of the Festival Center, grew up in Gaithersburg MD and graduated from Duke Divinity School. For information about Soteria (formerly the Servant Leadership School), visit www.festivalcenter.org.

Editor's Corner | Remembering Tom Hubers and *Diaspora*



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

The CALLINGS newsletter that you are now reading actually grew out of the call and professional experience of Tom (and Carolyn) Hubers. For more than a decade, they wrote, edited and published a quarterly newspaper, *Diaspora*, in order to keep the missions and CofS churches connected. When they retired six years ago (Tom was 84!), they generously shared their mailing list and remaining funds to start CALLINGS. Although the format is different, the purpose is the same—to keep us connected.

Tom died in February, at the age of 90. Together with Carolyn, his wife of 64 years, Tom gave much to our church life. Tom came to the Church of the Saviour in the early 1950's—as he described it, an utterly broken man. Embraced by the love of the community, and the particular care of the church secretary (a young woman named Carolyn Johnson), he began to heal. In late December, 1954, he married Carolyn, one of the three women who, in 1953, found the farm that became Dayspring.

After the wedding, they moved into the farmhouse at Dayspring and Tom became the farm manager. He participated in the building of the Lodge of the Carpenter and befriended Ian Cramb, the Scottish stonemason who built several structures on Dayspring, in part with Tom's help. In 1961, Tom and Carolyn, having purchased a 1.3-acre section of Dayspring and built a house on it, moved into “the Gatehouse.” Tom and Carolyn's three children, Martha, Janice, and John, grew up there.

In early 1970, the Hubers sold their house and land back to the Church of the Saviour and left the community for New York, where Tom briefly wrote for a new magazine, then a local newspaper, and later for the Salvation Army. There he also volunteered with the Interfaith Outreach United organization and sang both barbershop and light opera. Music fed his soul.

In 1998, Tom and Carolyn returned to this area and became a vital part of the CofS community. They joined Friends of Jesus Church and were regulars at the Ecumenical Service, where they became the spiritual parents of four young men from the Central African Republic (see Kumi Alatishe's' article). Concerned about the churches and ministries birthed by CofS, they also gathered the news and published our quarterly CofS newspaper, *The Diaspora*.

After they moved to The Village in Rockville, they worshipped with Dayspring Church. They continued to support CALLINGS financially and never failed to ask about the health and stability of this publication. I'm personally grateful for their continued interest in the life we are creating together and celebrate Tom's different callings over his lifetime.

With Lenten gratitude,

Marjory

CALLINGS deadlines: May 31, August 31, Nov 30

Marjory Bankson is editor of CALLINGS and chair of the Church of the Saviour Council.

The Church of the Saviour Council

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

Thank you. And Welcome

A note of deep gratitude to all of you who came to the Open House at Overlook Retreat House and have accompanied us on this part of our journey with your presence, generosity, and prayer. We are home. And for those who came that day at the end of January, to those who have visited since, and to those yet to come, WELCOME HOME.

It has been such a delight to lovingly prepare this newest addition of retreat space at Dayspring for our wider community. And more, to see your faces light up as you wandered through the rooms and imagined how you might come here to rest...to envision new possibilities for your life and work...to connect with the beauty and wonder of the natural world all around...to give yourself and your companions on the inward/outward journey the gift of creatively opening to the Spirit in new ways.

We hope to see you soon. So many blessings, Trish Stefanik and Kayla McClurg



Kayla speaking to open house visitors

For more information on Overlook and to schedule your stay, contact overlook.retreathouse@gmail.com. Stay tuned for monthly Friday and Saturday facilitated gatherings beginning in June.

Remembering Tom Hubers

By Kumi Wiggins Alatishe

In January 2007 I got the call from my evangelist girlfriend, Jennifer. She had come upon four young African students sleeping outside because they had just lost their financial support from home. They were studying here in America, from Central African Republic, where their parents had ties to the government.

Jean, Serge, Lionel, and Sultan had each received reports that their families had been murdered, raped, tortured and/or burned out in a political coup. One report counted thousands of Central Africans fleeing from villages being raided by violent, armed gangs of rebel factions (remnants of insurgent groups from recurring conflicts in the region). Refugees described scenes of “near total anarchy”, including homes being burned to the ground, and children being kidnapped for ransom. These innocent young men were left with extreme grief, fear and confusion, with no place to ever again call home.

Jennifer felt spirit-led to get involved, and offered me the chance to help her. My immediate thought was to help them with groceries...soon. The very next morning, I walked right into her and the students sitting outside a coffee shop!

To make a long story short, I brought them home with me, to live in a one-bedroom apartment! And was happy to do so for several weeks while reaching out to local churches for help. Since I was already a member of a Spiritual Support Group at the Festival Center, I mentioned the situation there and was guided to share it at a Friends

of Jesus Church meeting at the Potter's House.

Tom and Carolyn Hubers responded immediately. They helped Jean, Serge, Lionel, and Sultan to be placed in an apartment on Oak Street in Washington, DC. There, the Hubers stepped right in like loving parents, and we managed to get things established. Others donated money for tuition, home essentials, groceries, school supplies, and utilities. They were safe and sheltered.

Tom and Carolyn became Jesus' hands and feet again, by arranging for the guys to move into the Church of the Saviour's stately headquarters, at 2025 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Washington, DC. Tom became an instant father-of-four all day, every day, and he managed to do it in a fashion that made the guys feel loved and respected. We had regular family meetings to establish and maintain structure and harmony, and once again, they were safe and sheltered. They remained enrolled as students, with each working towards being granted political asylum in the United States.

As we grew together as a spiritual family, I witnessed commitment, patience, diligence, and Holy Spirit love in action. Words can't explain how this has changed my view of the world, or how this has impacted the guys. We have been blessed.

Kumi Wiggins Alatishe is an ordained member of the Church of Christ, Right Now, which meets at the Festival Center, with a focus on assisting those returning home from incarceration.



Lake of the Saints at Dayspring

In this new time in our country Dayspring Church invites members of our Church of the Saviour Faith Communities, including Christ House and Church of Christ, Right Now, to gather for a weekend silent retreat to root ourselves more deeply in God's mystery and love as we carry this question:

**As Faith Communities,
Who is God calling us to be in this new time?**

PRAYER

Holy One, in this time of profound concern for our nation and for this planet, we come to you in the silence. We seek to open ourselves to Your abundant love and mercy. Help us to let go our fear and be fully open to however you might lead us and our communities in this time of turmoil. Deepen our trust in the movement of Your Spirit that we may be faithful followers of Your call in these days.

DATE & SPACE

The retreat will be on the weekend of March 24-26 at Wellspring. All retreatants will stay in the Wellspring cabins. We hope to have 3

people from each Faith Community attend for a total of 30 people. Registration is limited to 3 people per Community until February 8th, after which time registration will be open to additional CoS people from any community to fill the 30 spaces.

SILENT RETREAT

Rather than this being a time apart to figure out what we might do, develop action plans and imagine how to implement them, we see this retreat as a time to seek the Spirit's leading as to who we are called to be. As we in C of S have done in the past when facing times of challenge, we will open ourselves to the Spirit in the Silence. We will go on silent retreat.

THE FORMAT

This would be fairly simple. Sharing examples of Good News that is occurring in each Community would happen on Friday evening. In the silence we will trust in the Spirit as we carry the question: As faith communities, who is God calling us to be in this new time? Within the Great Silence, on Saturday there would be two gathered times of silence, together. On Sunday there would be a generous time of sharing out of the silence.

REGISTRATION

Payable to: Wellspring Conference Center
Send to: 11411 Neelsville Church RD, Germantown, MD 20876
with deposit of \$100 or full fee

Name (please print)

(person to share room, if any)

Email

Phone

Amount Sent \$

CoS Faith Community Name

Total Fee - \$180 per person



Saving the Polar Bear

By Jennie Gosche

Today, February 27th, is International Polar Bear Day. People all over the world are raising awareness about polar bears and the risks they face due to our warming world. My love of all things polar bear started when I first visited the Arctic in 2010.

Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, is called the "polar bear capital of the world". I visited Churchill to photograph the polar bears. Little did I know it would be a trip that would change my life. The trip combined my love of photography and my fascination with wildlife. As I watched the polar bears every day, outside the specialized trailer where we stayed, I fell in love with the majestic "ice bears" as well as the austere Arctic. There are few trees, it is cold, and usually overcast. Even in 2010, there was little snow. But I felt my heart leap inside my chest

as I listened to the naturalists explain the plight of the polar bear if we did not do something to reverse climate change. Without ice, polar bears can not hunt for their primary food, ringed and bearded seals. If female polar bears do not have sufficient food, they will not bear cubs nor can they nurse their cubs if their weight drops too low.

You are probably asking yourself, how can raising awareness about polar bears and the Arctic be a "calling"? I have asked myself that same question.

In the early days of the Church of the Saviour, Gordon Cosby, as quoted by Elizabeth O'Connor in Call To Commitment talked about call when he said "the person knows himself to be grasped by God

for a task that only he can do and the Church must have done". Marjory Bankson in The Call to the Soul says "call is specific, urgent, and separates me from the crowd". She goes on to say "call is an invitation to wholeness, a spiritual prompting to complete the work of love that we are here to do. Attending to call implies belief in the Greater Being and the possibility of making connections with the unseen realm of Spirit that holds all things together".

In February I had a "pop-up" art show at the Potter's House where I displayed polar bear photos from my trip to Kaktovik, Alaska, and showed a power point about Kaktovik, the only Native village within the 19.6 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Using my gifts as an artist and photographer to educate and empower people to care about the Arctic feels like a call

to me. I am compelled to tell anyone who will listen about the polar bears and the precarious future they face. Climate change is happening everywhere but much more quickly in the Arctic which is warming at twice the rate of the rest of our planet. I fear some day people who live on the coasts of any country will have to relocate because of encroaching oceans. The financial and human costs will be astronomical.

So Happy International Polar Bear Day. And join me on April 29th for a Climate March in Washington, D.C. Let's work together to save polar bears and the only planet we have.

Jennie Gosche is a gifted photographer and member of the 8th Day Community.



Margie Ford's New Adventure

By Cindy Martens



In August 1986 Margie Ford and her adoptive mother, Jean Smith, moved from North Carolina to the Washington, D.C. area. Margie planned to celebrate her Jubilee year in D.C. and explore life in the Church of the Saviour community. Now, after more than 30 years of being an integral part of the CofS community,

Margie is moving back home to North Carolina to be closer to her family.

Margie originally joined the Jubilee Church and had the good fortune to have Elizabeth O'Conner as her sponsor. In 1990 Margie became one of the founding members of the Festival Church. During this time Margie worked as an accountant for Jubilee Jobs, the Director of Jubilee Ministries at the Festival Center, and then as an accountant for the Child Welfare League of America.

For twelve years Margie, along with founding member Jerry Parr, served as co-pastors for the Festival Church. During this time, she received her Master's degree in pastoral counseling from Loyola University. Margie served as a teacher at the Servant Leadership School many times, offering classes on community and creative aging. She also co-taught classes on compassion, and offered spiritual companionship and direction, as well as led retreats.

The Festival Church is sad to see Margie leave, even though she stayed with us 29 years longer than she planned! We wish her many blessings on the next chapter of her life, and know she will be a great gift to her new community.

Cindy Martens is the Council Rep from Festival Church and a staff member at Sojourners.

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 • Carroll 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 • 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

Dayspring Stewards wish to recruit a new Caregiver to assist with Buildings and Grounds maintenance.

Our first choice would be someone from the wider CofS community who already knows and loves Dayspring, and is eager to support our missions with all aspects of building repair and maintenance as well as diverse grounds landscaping tasks. Caregivers are also responsible for maintaining all tools and machinery used in the work. A strong candidate must be able to work independently and reliably. Skilled applicants will be considered from outside CofS as well. Please pass the word!

Position may be full time (40 hr/wk) or half time (20 hr/wk). Salary and benefits will be negotiated based on employee experience and requirements. For a complete job description, more information, or questions, please contact Gale Quist. twoquists@verizon.net or 240-893-4661.

“Growing Good Soil” Saturday, March 18th Workshop at Dayspring

At a conference on “Earth and Spirit” farmer John Jeavons said, “I want you all to *stop* growing *crops*.” After an effective pause he added, “Instead, you must begin growing *soil*.” (Nancy Roth, Organic Prayer, 2007)



On Saturday, March 18th from 9:30 am to noon, Judy Walsh-Mellett will lead a workshop entitled, “Growing Good Soil.”

The layers of organic material in the Dayspring Permaculture Garden beds have been showing us how it’s done. Join us as we delve deeper into the lessons to be learned.

During our time together Judy will describe basic soil health through the Soil Food Web, touch on permaculture principles and detail practices such as composting, sheet mulching and selected use of organic amendments.

Judy is a Master Gardener, holds a certificate in Permaculture Design, and has learned practices in Sustainable Mini-Farming from Ecology Action and EcoCity Farms. She is also a long time friend of Dayspring and has assisted on numerous retreats.

This is a hands-on workshop so dress appropriately and bring gloves if you have them. We will gather at the Dayspring Farmhouse, 11301 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown, MD 20876. In case of inclement weather, call for information. Rain date is April 29th. There is no charge. Donations appreciated.

Please RSVP by Thursday, March 16th to 301-515-4399 or email dayspringfarmproject@gmail.com.

Special Events

Check Potter'sHouse.org for a full list of events at The Potter's House. Also check jforth@festivalcenter.org for events at the Festival Center.

Mar 10 | Carroll Café. Brazilian music by Minas @ Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW. Reserve your seat via CarrollCafe.org.

Mar 19 | Ecumenical Council meets in the Tower Room, Festival Center at 1:30pm.

Mar 24-26 | CofS Discernment Retreat @ Wellspring Conference Center. 3 reps/church; \$180/person. Inquiries to Margaret Schoap: schoapm@aol.com.

Mar 24-26 | "Nurturing an Open and Willing Heart," open silent retreat led by Patience Robbins. \$210. Register at DayspringRetreat.org/events.

Thurs, Mar 30 | Quiet Day at Dayspring. 10-2 at the Lodge. No cost or reservation necessary.

Ap 14 | Good Friday retreat, 10-4pm. Bring a bag lunch. Reservations necessary (DayspringRetreat.org)

Ap 15 | Easter Vigil, prayerwalk and campfire from the Farmhouse, 7pm. To spend the night, make reservations thru Dayspring Church to spend the night at Wellspring.

Ap 16 | EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE at 6:30-7:15am, Wellspring Center, Dayspring.

Ap 21 | Carroll Café. Bluegrass music etc. by Rob Flax and Round About. (See above)

Ap 26 | Quiet Day at Dayspring (see above.)

May 11 | Quiet Day at Dayspring (see above.)

May 12-14 | "Finding a Way When There's No Way," open silent retreat led by Basil Buchanan. \$210. Register at DayspringRetreat.org/events.

May 12 | Carroll Café. Celtic music with Ocean Celtic Quartet. (See above.)

May 21 | Ecumenical Council (see above).

Tues, May 23 | Quiet Day at Dayspring (see above).

Wed, Jun 7 | Ember Day, 10-4 at Dayspring Lodge. Led by Merrill Carrington & Carol Martin. No cost or reservation necessary.

June 9 | Carroll Café. Folkmusic by Mara Levine with Gathering Time. (See above.)

Wed, Jun 21 | Quiet Day at Dayspring (see above).

June 23-25 | "Saying Yes to God," open silent retreat led by Rev. Fay Acker. \$210. Register at DayspringRetreat.org/events

