

# Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 2, Issue 3 • Fall 2013

## Seeking the Spirit's Renewal at The Potter's House

By Tim Kumfer

**T**his past year, several big changes took place in the life of The Potter's House. The Potter's House Church, who both owned the property and oversaw the life of the ministry, decided it was time to lay down their Call. Together with the wider Church of the Saviour circle, there followed a period of discernment concerning the future of this beloved institution.

During this time, a group composed of members of Eighth Day Faith Community and Friends of Jesus Church sounded a call for the renewal of The Potter's House. Eighth Day, who has worshiped at The Potter's House since its founding in 1976, stepped forth to steward the property. With the blessing of The Potter's House Church, Eighth Day became the owners in August while the newly formed Potter's House Project Team became responsible for the ministry.

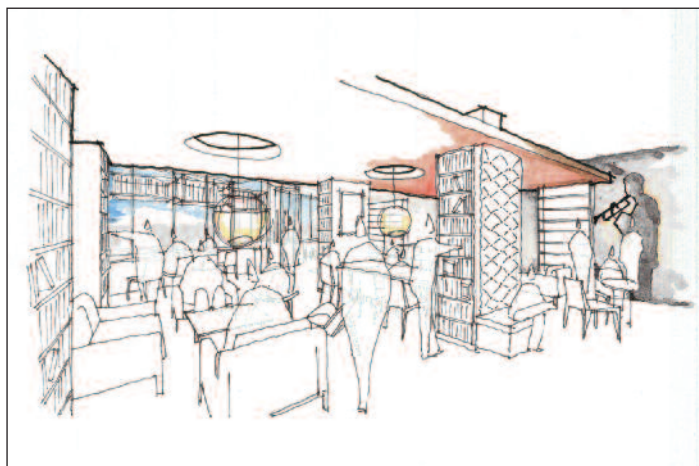
### Sabbath Time

With the change of hands began a period of sabbath rest and soil tilling. In partnership with the community, our Project Team is currently developing a vision for The Potter's House that we believe will be both spiritually and financially sustainable. This renewal will focus initially on three familiar elements: a cafe, a bookstore, and a multi-purpose community room.

**The cafe** will serve food that is fresh, healthy, and simple. Sourced from local farmers and producers - including the Dayspring Permaculture Project! - the menu will change throughout the seasons. Our current thinking is to offer sandwiches, salads, and soups with a Southern accent and at affordable price points. Paired with the menu will be an espresso, pour over coffee, and loose leaf tea program recalling our earliest days as a high quality coffeehouse.

**The bookstore** will continue its focus on spirituality and social justice, with an increased selection of literature and cultural studies titles. An expanded online bookstore, complete with e-books, essential reading lists, and reviews, will compliment regular author events and reading groups onsite. Such additions will widen our circle of conversation partners as well as our sustainers.

**The community room** will provide worship space for our home churches as well as meeting space for local nonprofit organizations. It will also host a variety of programs and events - from film screenings to issue forums to cultural performances - acting as a 'hive' for activists, artists, and people of faith in the surrounding neighborhoods.



At every step of the way, we will seek to connect our daily decisions with our deeply held values. We will pay employees higher than the prevailing wage and provide health insurance to those working full-time. We will find creative ways to offer free meals to guests who are unable to pay. Rooftop solar panels will offset our carbon emissions while composting will transform our food waste into rich soil. We believe that such commitments will ultimately build a stronger business foundation as well.

### Renovation

Central to this renewal will be an extensive renovation of the building, whose front room has not received significant updates since our founding in 1960! We were given a great gift in Emily Owsley, a member of Eighth Day who works with the architecture and design group Gensler. This world-class firm is designing our new space at a highly discounted rate. MANNA's Providence Construction will serve as our general contractors. We are excited to support another vital Church of the Saviour ministry in the process of renovating our own.

We invite your prayers and support as we seek to answer the Call we have been given. We believe that the soil here remains rich and will provide fertile ground for new faith communities and missions just as it has before. We are grateful that another generation will be able to participate in - and be transformed by - the powerful story of The Potter's House.

*continued on page 2*

There will be a special preview of the Potter's House Renewal on Wednesday, October 9, 6-8pm, at the offices of the Gensler architecturer firm. 202 K St., NW. There will be wine and hors d'oeuvres, a chance to see plans and sketches, and to meet the planning group who are holding this important call for all of us.

**Support Potter's House Renewal!**  
Give online at  
[pottershousedc.org](http://pottershousedc.org)  
Checks to Potter's House c/o  
Church of the Saviour,  
1640 Columbia Road,  
Washington DC 20009.  
Every dollar counts toward  
matching funds.

### Members of The Potter's House Project Team

Gail Arnall  
Dottie Bockstiegel  
Brennan Baker  
David Dorsey  
Marcia Harrington  
Mike Hopkins  
Tim Kumfer  
Karen Mohr  
Harold Vines



## Editor's Corner

This has been a summer of change. The Potter's House Church has courageously set down its call and transferred ownership of the Potter's House building to the Eighth Day Community, where the Banyan Tree Mission Group has responded to God's call for renewal of the coffeehouse ministry.

At the same time, Friends of Jesus Church has confirmed Harold Vines and Joe Collier as co-pastors and shifted their central focus from economic justice to racial reconciliation. You will see that Harold and others from FoJ are represented on the Potter's House working group (listed above) to make



decisions during this Sabbath Time, while the Potter's House is closed for much-needed renovations. They plan to re-open in January.

Meanwhile, book displays can be arranged by Brennan Baker through the Potter's House website ([pottershousedc.org](http://pottershousedc.org))

And for those of you who want to read CALLINGS online, it is being posted on the Inward/Outward website: ([inwardoutward.org/callings](http://inwardoutward.org/callings)) and also at [SeekersChurch.org](http://SeekersChurch.org) and click on "Home" to find back issues.

**Marjory Zoet Bankson**  
Chair of the C of S Council  
Editor/publisher of CALLINGS  
Steward of Seekers Church



# Dayspring - Green and Sky: It Belongs to Us ...And We Belong To It

By Jean Brown

*When I was a girl, my favorite thing in the whole wide world*

*Was to see a field and run for no reason*

*And off I'd go, no one behind*

*Only earth below*

*Just a patch of green, green as the season.*

*Don't ask why, your feet just fly*

*Green and sky is all that you're needin... \**

Green and sky call to us in different ways, while some may break out in a run others may sit awhile taking in the variety of birdsong or follow the gentle path of the butterfly. Season after season young and old alike continue to be invited into Dayspring. Countless people who have found her, echo Elizabeth O'Connor's words: "We love all her ways: the woods, the fields, the trails, quiet spots and spacious stretches, the lessons we have learned there, the still born dreams we have for this place as well as those that have found root in her soil" ( Call to Commitment p.55).

60 years ago Dayspring began as a dream conceived in prayer. A generous Easter offering provided necessary funds to purchase the land once found. "Each one that went out to look at it knew with certainty that it belonged to us and we belonged to it... Only one question was raised: Was it large enough to let the dreams we had for it unfold?" (ibid p. 57)

Since then, unfold they have...dream after dream. Some have taken root, some have remained only for a time, and others emerge in the current season. These dreams, their planting and their tending need you. Just like the Dayspring rock moving parties, where everyone got involved clearing the land, preparing the soil for what would come.

We have come through a fallow time and now a new cycle of planting is at hand. Never has there been a more urgent time for faith to find expression through the Dayspring land. Dayspring's agrarian heritage is reawakening in a new form.

Plans continue to develop for a "beyond organic" market garden. \$ 35,925 has been raised to date and a \$10,000 matching grant offer has just come in, bringing us closer to our \$114,000 goal. For updates follow <https://www.facebook.com/DayspringPermacultureGardens>.



A new mission group has sounded its call. Children Exploring Dayspring meets weekly, planning a variety of ways to share the lessons of this land with others, especially children and young people.

Four weekends this Fall Wellspring's buildings will be filled once again. A variety of groups have reserved those sacred spaces,



among them a watershed discipleship group engaged in a conversation led by Ched Myers and Chris Grataski .

And Dayspring's Next Chapter team continues to engage the community in asking: How do we move toward a sustainable future?

Sky and green.... It belongs to us and we belong to it.

Enjoy a day of silence or a weekend retreat. Join in her worship Sunday mornings at 10 am or come on a weekday for noon prayer. Write a letter against the proposed road, M83, slated to possibly skirt her borders or cut through her woodlands. Gather at the Farmhouse for the School of Christian Living -Thursday evenings, September 19- November 21 when Andrea Burguard and Karen Johnson will lead a class around Gordon Cosby's meditations in "Seized by the Power of A Great Affection." Support her with your prayers, your interest, your financial support, your presence.

To quote Wendell Berry: "The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope."

## Support the Permaculture Project:

Additional gifts, up to \$10,000 will be matched. Give online <https://www.facebook.com/DayspringPermacultureGardens> or send a check payable to Dayspring Church (indicating the permaculture project in the memo line) 11301 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown, MD 20876.

**Jean Brown** Dayspring Development and Outreach Coordinator

For details: [www.dayspringchurchmd.org](http://www.dayspringchurchmd.org)

Photos by Keith Seat

*\*Blue For No Reason by Bonnie Raitt*





On June 30, 2013, Gordon Cosby's ashes joined others at Dayspring, in the Lake of the Saints. A brief service was held at the Wellspring Center, after which we walked or rode to Jenny's tree, overlooking the lake, between cloudbursts of light rain. Each person was invited to take some of his ashes to scatter in the fields or the lake, after which we closed with song and prayer.







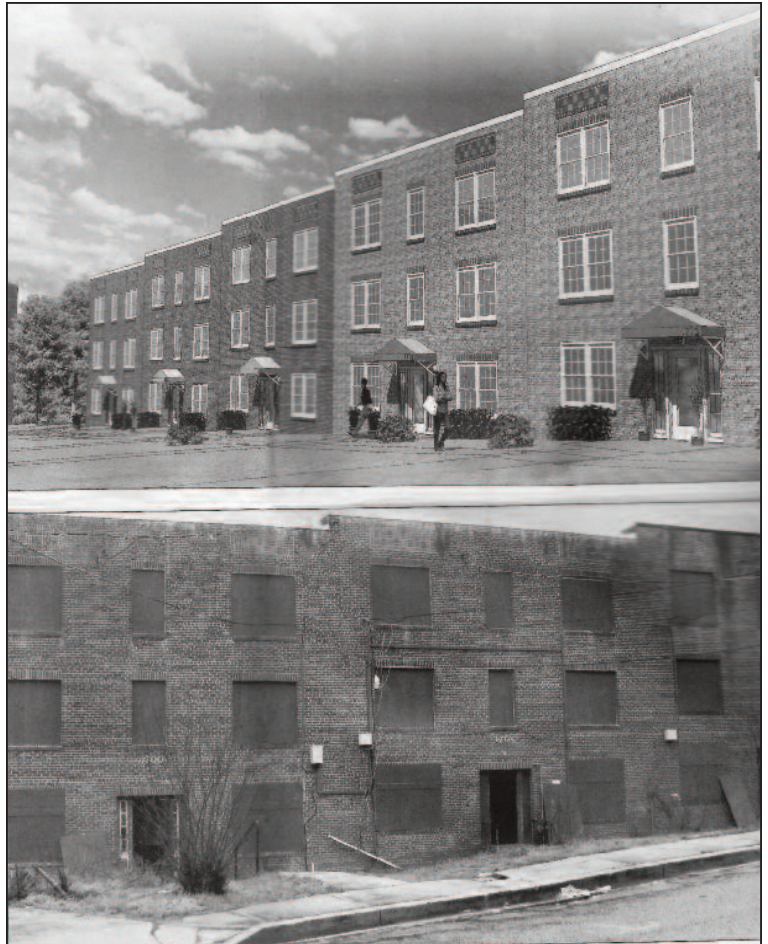
For the entire photo file: <http://tinyurl.com/gordon-ashes>

Photos on these pages were  
taken by Keith Seat



# Buxton Condominium Groundbreaking

At last, after several years of setbacks, Manna celebrated the groundbreaking of the Buxton Condominium on April 18, 2013. Manna was selected to develop the vacant properties located at 1700-1720 W Street, SE, through a competitive bid conducted by Department of Housing and Community Development's Property Acquisition and Disposition Division, and subsequently was competitively awarded a gap financing loan from the agency's development finance division. The rehabilitation of the dilapidated building will create twenty-four 2-bedroom/2-bathroom units on the site with prices starting from \$159,000. The entire project is expected to be completed within 15 months.





## Seized by the Power of a Great Affection

N. Gordon Cosby

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## 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 • 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 • Servant Leadership School • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Sounds of Hope • Tell The Word

# Special Events

**Oct 3 ... Rapid Transit Roundtable**, 6-9pm, Exec Office Bldg Cafeteria, 101 Monroe St, Rockville MD. From the TAME coalition regarding M-83. See map and impact on Dayspring inside.

**Oct 4-6 ... "Multifaith Prayer Illuminating Hope,"** weekend retreat @ Dayspring. Register: [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org).

**Oct 5 ... Solar House Tour @ Dayspring Farm**, 11am-5pm. Information at [www.solartour.org](http://www.solartour.org).

**Oct 9 ... Preview of Potter's House Renewal**, 6-8pm @ Gensler (architects), 2020 K St. NW, Wash DC.

**Oct 9 ... Quiet Day**. 10-2pm at Lodge of the Carpenter. See [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org)

**Oct 11 ... Carroll Café @ Seekers Church** presents Phil Wiggins (blues harmonica), Rick Franklin (Piedmont guitar) and Eleanor Ellis (blues guitar). Reservations: [CarrollCafe.org](http://CarrollCafe.org).

**Oct 15 ... Servant Leadership School begins.** See listing on page 7. Register at [SLSchool.org](http://SLSchool.org).

**Oct 25-27 ... "Honest to God, "** weekend retreat at Dayspring. Register: [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org).

**Oct 26 ... Festival Center Annual Fundraising Dinner w/ speaker, Doug Tanner.** Founder of Faith & Politics Institute, Doug has conducted pilgrimages led by Congressman John Lewis to civil rights sites in Alabama and Mississippi.

**Oct 26 ... "Why We Can't Wait" planning meeting**, 10am @ New Community Church, 614 S St NW.

**Nov 6 ... 18th Annual Friends of Manna Silent Auction & Reception**, City Club of Wash DC, 555 13th St NW. [www.mannadc.org](http://www.mannadc.org).

**Nov 8 ... Carroll Café @ Seekers Church:** wacky songsters, Lou and Peter Berryman from Wisconsin. [CarrollCafe.org](http://CarrollCafe.org).

**Nov 12 ... Quiet Day**, 10-2pm at Lodge of the Carpenter. See [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org).

**Nov 15-17 ... "Nurturing the Compassionate Heart."** Register: [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org).

**Dec 3 ... Quiet Day at Dayspring.** 10-2pm. Just come with your own lunch.

**Dec 10 ... Ember Day at Dayspring.** 10-4pm. Register: [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org)

**Dec 13 ... Carroll Café @ Seekers Church:** new folk super-trio Brother Sun with Joe Jencks, Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor. [CarrollCafe.org](http://CarrollCafe.org).

**Dec 13-15 ... "Expectant Waiting,"** weekend retreat at Dayspring. Register: [dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org).



*Photo by Peter Bankson*

## 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 • Seekers



*Callings*

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Beginning October 15. . . Eight Weeks to December 3rd

**Servant Leadership School ([slschool.org](http://slschool.org))  
at the Festival Center**



**Biblical Justice, an Un-American Activity**

**Ray McGovern** is a contributor to Tell the Word and a retired Intelligence Agent. Ray is a social activist domestically and abroad.

**Bible Speaks to Us Today**

**Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen & Katherine Chatelaine-Samsen**, are graduates of Princeton Theological Seminary and members of the Festival Church

**Exploring the Depths of Spirituality for Men**

**Joseph Deck** is the Executive Director of the Festival Center and Minister to men at Reid Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church.