

# Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 4, Issue 1 • Spring 2015

## Potter's House Reopens!

By Maria Barker

**A**t the Potter's House, the week of February 16 began with orientation for the new staff, and ended with a successful health department inspection, Tim Kumfer, Transition Manager, announced to the Board. Praise the Lord! It has taken a year and a half, but the Potter's House is about to re-open its doors and welcome you to our beautiful gathering space, café and bookstore.

The brand new kitchen is ready for chef Christopher Roberson and his team to create a nourishing menu of soup, sandwiches, baked goods, and other seasonal dishes.



*Chris and Russell discuss stocking the kitchen.*

Harkening back to when the Potter's House was the first establishment in DC to serve espresso, we will offer a full range of specialty coffee drinks. Mike Balderrama, our new coffee bar manager and his team are ready to serve you.

We have new comfortable, welcoming furniture. The reclaimed barn wood formerly on the Potter's House walls will be our new café tables.

There are brand new bookshelves spread throughout the Potter's House now. Brennan Baker, the bookstore manager, has stocked them with a collection of favorites, plus new titles in spirituality, social issues, cultural studies, as well as a selection of literature, poetry, and children's books.



*Kimberly, Sherray, and Gabby practice making coffee.*



The bookstore will also have ceramics, handmade paper goods, and fair trade gifts. You might have seen some similar great offerings at the holiday pop-up in December.

The community and worship space in the back is fresh and bright. It is now equipped with a built in projector, and new sound system specially adapted to help hearing aid users. Jess Solomon of Art in Praxis will help bring workshops and dynamic cultural events to the Potter's House and connect us with local like-minded artists, businesses, and community groups. Alison Dunn Almaguer, our Community Outreach Coordinator, will help us to stick to and expand on our commitment to radical hospitality.

*continued on page 3*

# From the C of S Office

By Kayla McClurg

As we all know, the one constant in life is change. I want to tell you about some changes happening in the Church of the Saviour office.

I have been blessed in the past few years to work alongside some remarkably gifted young adults. First was Martin Saunders, who assisted in every aspect of the office and inward/outward before moving last year with his wife to Seattle, where he now attends seminary. Before he left, we found a great next fit in Lisa Frist, who has the tech gifts inward/outward needs. But remember, the one constant in life is change. Lisa's fiancé got a job in California and she left last week to join him there.

In the meantime, I heard from a young woman who had been one of our summer interns from Duke Divinity School. She had returned to the metro area with her husband and wondered about ministry opportunities. Her inquiry came at the same time I was learning of Lisa's imminent departure, and I am very happy to report

that Alison (Dunn) Almaguer has now come on board one day a week, while Lisa will continue supporting inward/outward from California!

Alison will focus on a feature of inward/outward called On the Way, editing and posting occasional Saturday reflections on the practices of faith, while also exploring how this office can better utilize social media tools like Facebook and Twitter to reach out and communicate with our scattered churches, ministries and the wider community. With all these exciting developments, each coming right on time, I think I am learning to trust change.

Kayla McClurg is the staff person for The Church of the Saviour, and facilitates the website: [www.inwardoutward.org](http://www.inwardoutward.org).



## Editor's Corner | Intrepid Saints



In the midst of a worsening blizzard, about 75 intrepid saints gathered in the newly renovated space at Wellspring on February 21 to celebrate the life of Carol Fitch. Involved at Church of the Saviour since 1961, Carol anchored the Wellspring Mission Group as it formed in 1974 and became an early member of the 8th Day Community.

Her five children, their spouses, and Carol's grandchildren bore witness to her love for family, music, travel and social justice. Don Russell came all the way from Michigan to speak of their deep "anam cara" friendship over the years. Mary Clare Powell, now living in Massachusetts, reminded us of Elizabeth O'Connor's lament that so few of us have persons who will really listen to us – and how

Carol did that. And Jenny Gosche spoke of the "mothering" that Carol shared with all those who sent her their spiritual reports. Others shared tender and funny stories as well. That so many people braved the worsening storm outside to attend is a testimony to the wide circle that Carol touched with her life. I thought it was a perfect way to celebrate the reopening of the Wellspring Center.

Marjory Bankson is Editor of CALLINGS and chair of the Ecumenical Council

Next CALLINGS deadline is May 15



**Correction:** In the last issue, instead of Kaplan University students, it was the Kaplan University staff who volunteered in the Dayspring Permaculture Garden as part of a program called Difference Makers. Over 200 volunteers came out to help last year.



# Potter's House Reopens!

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So many of you have prayed for the transition, given your feedback about designs and visions, donated money, and given support in myriad ways. It's finally time for you to come back, to actually move, feel, and breathe in new Potter's House. We will gather for a (Re)dedication Celebration on Sunday, March 8 at 3pm to bless the space as we embark on this new stage in the life of the Potter's House. Come and take part!

Please come and visit, offer guidance and wisdom to our many applicants, and above all, we treasure your love and prayers



*There are brand new bookshelves throughout the Potter's House. Stocked with a collection of favorites, plus new titles in spirituality, social issues, cultural studies, as well as a selection of literature, poetry, and children's books.*



*The bookstore will also have ceramics, handmade paper goods, and fair trade gifts.*



*We have new comfortable, welcoming furniture. The reclaimed barn wood formerly on the Potter's House walls will be our new café tables.*

*Maria Barker is a member of the Potter's House Board of Directors.*

*Photo credits: Brennan Baker, manager of the Potter's House Bookstore.*

## The Church of the Saviour Council

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

### Celebration on the Land at Dayspring (formerly Earth Celebration)

Sunday, June 7, 2015  
1:00 pm till dusk

Come one, come all - those in the Church of the Saviour (CofS) "scattered community" of small independent churches; the greater circle of CofS ministries, and CofS friends.

The Celebration on the Land welcomes Tevyn East and Jay Beck with their passion to weave theater, live music, dance and ritual, putting their faith in action around creation spirituality and environmental justice. With us they will be creating the worship that day and offering other activities full of spirit. In addition we will have opportunities to share stories and explore the land. More information will be forthcoming.

For more information, see [dayspringchurchmd.org](http://dayspringchurchmd.org) or contact Margie Lance [mylance@comcast.net](mailto:mylance@comcast.net) or 301-648-4879.



## 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



# Breaking Through

By Jim Hall  
Dayspring Earth Ministry

**D**o you ever feel discouraged as we struggle against injustice, violence, and all that is unraveling in our culture and in the Earth?

I recall Gordon Cosby in the early 1990's looking back at our mission work in the city over the preceding 20 years. Despite all our efforts, he found that in every area we were working – health care, housing, education, employment, racial reconciliation – statistics overall were worse than when we began. Now, discouragement, even despair, and fear for the future of our city, our nation, and our planet gnaw at us daily in this wintertime of quiet desperation.

At the same time, a new spring is beginning to break forth. Something is stirring underground, something deeper than appears on the evening newscast, something popping up at the edge of our awareness. We call this the new story, even as we recognize it has roots in ancient wisdom.



For several years now, some of us have been paying attention to this new story. Where is it coming from? How can we tend it, help it to grow in us and in it, help it to grow in the world of culture and nature around us?

What we have found is that this new story is very much one of reconnection and of humility. For too long we have been caught in stories of separation – human from nature, body from mind, spirit from matter – and stories of human superiority and domination. From within us, and within the Earth around us, a deep longing is giving rise to another story, a story of connection and of taking our small but important place in God's creation.

This April at the Wellspring Conference Center at Dayspring we want to share what we've been learning about new story in a weekend program called, "Breaking Through: cultivating personal, cultural and planetary stories for a new era." In this new season for Wellspring, begun less than a year ago, this program will be the first to come out of our long life together as a faith community in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour.



Come and join us in April at Wellspring as we immerse ourselves again in the body and spirit of this sacred part of God's Creation, as we reconnect with our bodies through the practice of gentle yoga, as we explore the inner world of dream, and as we gather to share stories, for ceremony, and for delicious vegetarian home-cooked meals. A new story is indeed breaking through!

Register soon as spaces are filling up. Go to [wellspringconference.org/events/2](http://wellspringconference.org/events/2)



# Be the Hands of Compassion

By Taylor Whitfield

The season of Lent is a time of reflection. Not only is it a time to give something up like chocolate cake or cutting down on the amount of time you spend on social media but it is a time for us to look inward, take a step back from the demands of our lives, and contemplate our life journey. It is fitting that I am writing about my experiences during this time as it compels me to reflect more on my time within the community of Discipleship Year and what drew me down this path. I personally encourage transitioning, post college students like myself to become involved in some type of service year with an intentional community component before going into a full-time career. Not only is it a positive asset towards a potential career but it also teaches you things about the community, others, and yourself that you may have never been aware of before.

## Serving Others

Service has always been a vital part of my upbringing. I have a staunch Catholic background which put a heavy emphasis on serving the marginalized in our community. In high school, I was involved in many service projects and a majority of my high school career was spent attending to children during Sunday mass or volunteering to play bingo at a nursing home. My mother has been a public defender in Los Angeles for 27 years and has inspired me to work with ex-offenders.

A project in particular that I enjoyed the most was a California based project called Get on The Bus – a project that reunites children and their families with their loved ones who are currently incarcerated. On Mother's Day and Father's Day, the children and their caregivers are able to participate in activities like arts and crafts with their parent(s), take pictures with them, and have a meal with them all in part of this project.

We live in a society that infiltrates us with a heavy punitive response when it comes to the population of offenders and ex-offenders. This mindset, in turn, robs this group of people of their humanity. I remember receiving looks of confusion and disbelief when people found out I was involved in this project because of the stigma surrounding offenders. In response, all I could think was that offenders and ex-offenders need our help too. Society should not deny them compassion, love, and the opportunity to transform their lives. As I saw through my work with Get on The Bus, people love them too, just as people love the victims. I saw how their children love them despite their most grievous faults and that love is what

changes things. Ever since then, I knew I wanted to continue some type of work with this population. The work and effort that the Discipleship Year program puts into reforming the lives of ex-offenders is one of the many positive qualities that attracted me to this program.

## Samaritan Ministry

I am currently working at Samaritan Ministry as a caseworker. While the main population that is served is homeless, about 48% of that population is ex-offenders. The relational and compassionate work of Samaritan Ministry is what I admire the most about the organization. This style of casework allows me to walk along side of the participants and serve as a "life-coach" which is a very rewarding experience I would not be able to be a part of working for a huge, government social service agency. This is the type of experience I was looking to find and I'm glad Samaritan Ministry could provide that for me.

I encourage young adults like myself to get involved in a year-long service program similar to Discipleship Year for four reasons:

First, it is enriching to your emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being to be surrounded by people who share your passions. There comes a sense of fulfillment when you are part of an intentional community of individuals who are just as passionate about serving others as you are.

Second, living with those who are intentional about community fosters a safe space for growth and vulnerability. My fellow housemates truly make home a safe space. I can rest knowing that my concerns, quirks, and traits that make me unique are cared for and respected.

Third, it allows you to explore your passions on a much more profound level before you settle into a full-

time career. I never truly got the opportunity to explore them in college the same way I have during my time here because I had to focus on so many other things.

Finally, as Don McCrabb, the development director of Samaritan Ministry so eloquently states: "You are acting as the hands of compassion. In a nation torn apart by poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and addiction, it needs people who are motivated to make a difference. Be the hands of compassion."

*Taylor Whitfield graduated from Catholic University with a bachelor of arts in psychology this past spring. She grew up in Santa Monica, CA*



*Ian McPherson (on the left), Amy Brubaker beside him, Kiersten Rossetto (middle left), Taylor Whitfield - middle right), Maria Langholtz (2nd to right) and Emily Owsley on the right.*

*Ian serves at FLOC; Amy @ Briya Public Charter School; Kiersten at The Family Place; Taylor - Samaritan Ministry; Maria Langholtz was at Interfaith Power & Light but left at the end of December. We now have a new member - Elizabeth Stevens at Interfaith Power & Light. Emily is at L'Arche*





On this trip to Haiti we will meet dedicated, grassroots leaders who are building inspiring, liberating community-based responses to systemic challenges. Hosted by our Haitian partners Limye Lavi Foundation (Light of Life), we will learn about Haiti's culture, its history and policies in relationship to the US, and experience solidarity and accompaniment in action.

With a focus on Limye Lavi's transformative work to end the restavek (child servitude) system, part of our time will be spent in a rural community, living in the homes of Haitian peasants: building relationships; discovering abundance in what looks like scarcity; and seeing long-term solutions, helping us make the connection with our own lives and communities at home. Daily reflection will anchor our experience.

We seek to listen, learn and be present to the lives, circumstances and relationships we experience in Haiti. Alongside our encounter with material poverty is an encounter with hope. Through this experience, participants will have the opportunity to examine their own lives and choices in relationship to the larger global family.

The \$1,200.00 fee covers trip leadership; administrative expenses; speaker honoraria; local ground transportation; and all meals and lodging.

For more information about this Haiti trip or to receive a trip application, please contact Mike at (202) 469-8215 or by e-mail at [mike@faithandmoneynetwork.org](mailto:mike@faithandmoneynetwork.org)

Application deadline is March 31, 2015.  
Cost \$1,200.00 not including airfare



*"Woch nan dlo pa konnen doule woch nan soley."*

"The rock in the water does not know the suffering of the rock in the sun."

HAITIAN PROVERB

## SOME FACTS ABOUT HAITI

Population: 10.3 million (Sept. 2013 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than the state of Maryland

President: Michel Martelly (since May 2011)

People: Although Haiti averages about 325 people per square kilometer, its population is concentrated most heavily in urban areas, coastal plains, and valleys. About 95% of Haitians are of African descent. The rest of the population is mostly of mixed Caucasian-African ancestry. A few are of European or Levantine heritage. Sixty percent of the population lives in rural areas.

Religions: The dominant religion is Roman Catholicism. Increasing numbers of Haitians have converted to Protestantism through the work of missionaries active throughout the country. Much of the population also practices voodoo (voodoo), recognized by the government as a religion in April 2003. Haitians tend to see no conflict in these African-rooted beliefs coexisting with Christian faith.

Languages: Haitian Creole, French

Literacy: total population: 56%

Health: Child mortality--1 out of 8 children die before they reach the age of five

Population below poverty line: 80% (2003 est.); 54% live in abject poverty

*Callings*

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## Special Events

**March 12 Quiet Day** at Dayspring Retreat. 10-4pm. No charge. Bring your lunch.

**March 14 (second Saturday) Carroll Café** at Seekers Church presents the Music Pilgrim Trio featuring Seth Kibel & Vladimir Fridman. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Reserve your space at: [CarrollCafe.org](http://CarrollCafe.org).

**March 20-22 Silent Retreat** "Making Time for Bliss" led by Ian White Maher, founding pastor of Original Blessing, a Unitarian Universalist community based in Brooklyn, NY. \$210. Register at: [DayspringRetreat.org](http://DayspringRetreat.org).

**March 24 Jubilee Life Initiative** Networking reception at 11:30am. Lunch 12-1:30. Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW. [RSVP@JubileeHousing.org](mailto:RSVP@JubileeHousing.org).



*Photo by Peter Bankson*

**April 10 Carroll Café** at Seekers Church presents Genticorum. For info, see [CarrollCafe.org](http://CarrollCafe.org).

**April 17-19 "Breaking Through: Cultivating personal, cultural and planetary stories for a new era"** led by Jim Hall, Vivian Campagna and Julie Gabrielli at the Wellspring Conference Center. \$250 (double room). To register: [wellspringconference.org](http://wellspringconference.org).

**May 8 Carroll Café** at Seekers Church presents Brother Sun. For info, see [CarrollCafe.org](http://CarrollCafe.org).

**May 9 "Faithonomics"** event sponsored by Faith and Money and Common Change at the Festival Center. \$135-\$175. More information at: [festivalcenter.org](http://festivalcenter.org).