

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 5, Issue 2 • Summer 2016

What's in a Name?

By Cindy Martens

The Festival Church and Servant Leadership School kicked off their new joint venture, "The Jerry S. Parr Lecture/Dialogue Series," on April 29 with inaugural guest speaker Rev. Douglas Tanner, founder of the nonpartisan ecumenical Faith and Politics Institute on Capitol Hill. Rev. Tanner spoke on "Vulnerability, Courage, and Politics" in the context of the current turbulent election cycle.

This lecture series addressing the intersection of faith and social change was sparked in the Transforming Words Mission Group of the Festival Church. The original call is to bring wise, Gospel-inspired speakers to a Washington audience hungry for love and justice. Jerry S. Parr, one of Festival Church's founding members, passed away last October. Remembering Jerry's great aptitude for listening at a deeper level, it was decided to name the series after him.

The Jerry S. Parr Lecture/Dialogue series on "faith, spirituality and politics" is an opportunity to honor this remarkable man. The people who love him hope that his spirit will continue to inspire us to courageously embrace and address the difficult issues of our time.

Jerry Parr, a much-beloved member of Festival Church for 25 years, was a national hero credited with saving Ronald Reagan's life by taking him directly to the hospital after he was shot on March 30, 1981. But to those who knew him Jerry was so much more than a famous Secret Service agent. Before his career in the Secret Service Jerry had an equally dangerous job as a lineman climbing electric power poles.

There was another deeper and more complex side to Jerry than his risky work. After he retired, Jerry managed the Potter's House where he did almost everything, from fixing fuses to taking out the trash to serving food to doing whatever was needed. He was the embodiment of a servant leader, always ready to listen, pray, and counsel with his friends, and sometimes strangers. Jerry felt a deep call to



June 17: Faith and Sanity in a Hi-tech World

visit and pray with the sick of our extended community. He often was the first one at the hospital and sometimes the last person to be with the dying.

People at the Festival Church and the Servant Leadership School, where he sometimes taught classes, considered Jerry a true spiritual leader. Jerry is remembered by many who knew him as a caring, compassionate, loving human being. He treated everyone he encountered with respect and a genuine interest. Whether it was a homeless person who walks around this neighborhood, or the President, Jerry treated everyone as his brother or sister.

His colleagues in the Secret Service not only respected his leadership, but more importantly knew he cared and could be trusted with their concerns. Jerry's deep and abiding faith was evident in all aspects of his life: as loving family man, as an agent who loved and served his country, as a friend or counselor. He loved his God and extended that

love to everyone who crossed his path.

Jerry truly lived his life by his mantra "It's All About Love."

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Coming Up!

Our next guest speaker is Marjory Bankson, who will be speaking on Friday evening, June 17, beginning with a light reception at 6:15 p.m. at the Festival Center. Marjory's topic is "Faith and Sanity in a High-Tech World." Drawing on Parker Palmer's idea of a "whole-hearted life" and her own discernment about practicing Sabbath, Marjory's talk will focus on how to integrate our faith in a world that has increasingly become hectic and data-driven. The evening will include opportunities to participate in small group discussions, and work on setting our own priorities. Come out and be part of a great dialogue and join other people who want to explore what it means to live faithful and creative lives. Please join us and bring a friend!

Cindy is the production manager for Sojourners and a member of Festival Church.



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make a contribution to:

Callings

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

What first attracted me to Church of the Saviour was an article by Elizabeth O'Connor titled, "What We Need is More Saints." In it, she described people who had been shaped by a committed community and found their calling in life. It was something I longed for and found here.

As nearly 200 people, including many core members from L'Arche, gathered at the Festival Center to celebrate the life of Dottie Bockstiegal, I was reminded of that article when Dixcy Bosley-Smith named these five things that she saw in Dottie's life:

- 1) **Build Community**...everywhere and with everyone. Dottie had a passion to bring folks together.
- 2) **Show up** ... Dottie was there for so many of us in our pain and in joys. (Clearly, her showing up for so many of us was reflected in the enormous crowd gathered.)
- 3) **Fight back**...Dottie was sweet as a kitten and fierce as a tiger. She was stubborn, fearlessly independent and determined to do it her way. Her spirit for Life could not be contained in her aging body.
- 4) **Worship God**...always and in all ways. Dottie taught us how to celebrate the Goodness of God's relentless love.
- 5) **Serve** ...Knowing she was touched by the Master's Hand, Dottie used her broken self for the whole purpose of serving God and others.

It was then no surprise to learn that Dottie had also donated her body for medical study.

Dottie's memorial service gave us a unique chance to see her gathered community, to touch the physical presence of that invisible spiritual communion. In this season, when many of our elders are making this final passage, we have the invitation to gather as the disciples did around Jesus' death, to feel and hear and know again the physical reality of this body of Christ, here and now. It was Dottie's final gift. The next opportunity will be Don McClanen's memorial service at Dayspring on July 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Knowing that we will all die at some point, the Ecumenical Council had a lively discussion in May of how we might accompany people at the end of life. At Seekers, we have begun to gather emergency contact information and final wishes about healthcare from everyone who wants to participate. We also have a "memory wall" of etched tiles and a memory book in which people can write their own life journey or ethical will ahead of time. And we know that each community and ministry continues to benefit from those saints who have made a final bequest with financial support. Those final gifts continue to bear fruit in the places where we have been called.

For all the saints who have gone before us, we give thanks for the witness they have made. And for all who continue to build community, show up, fight back, worship God and serve in this broken world, we thank God for the living Spirit among us.

With gladness,

Marjory

Upcoming deadlines for Callings articles: Aug. 31 and Nov. 30.

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

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The Church of the Saviour Council

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

From Scarcity to Sufficiency

By Mike Little

The Faith and Money Network (FMN) is excited to announce a new collaboration with the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference (SDPC). The SDPC is a social justice organization that reaches African American congregations from around the country who are committed to sustaining justice ministries. The mission of the SDPC is to nurture, sustain, and mobilize the African American faith community in collaboration with civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders, to address critical needs of human and social justice within local, national, and global communities.

Thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment, SDPC is creating The Micah Institute and Ministerial Excellence Fund. This fund will enable congregations and seminaries to address and correct the economic challenges facing pastoral leaders who desire to transition from a theology of scarcity to one of sufficiency.

The Institute and Fund represent a long-term program and financial investment to help serve and sustain ministry excellence in some of the most challenging communities of this nation. The targeted audience and partners will be pastors, seminaries and their students and congregational lay leaders, all stakeholders in modeling Christian stewardship and discipleship.

Our role at Faith and Money Network will be to support SDPC servant leaders by offering tools, information and unique sets of historically and culturally significant experiences that they self-identify with and feel they can use to help sustain and advance their own effective community development in oppressed urban, rural and suburban neighborhoods, on their own terms, in partnership with others. This work will companion SDPC members through an inward and

outward spiritual journey that aims to support their desire to directly confront, address and end pervasive internalized oppression.

This manifestation of oppression, they believe, coupled with the outright racism of the predominant culture that created and feeds it, often frays African-American self-determination and halts their progress toward accomplishing substantial gains. The lens through which their journey will be viewed is the leader's examination of how money commonly serves to undermine sustainable community development in two primary ways: Money is misused toward the advancement of greed via a prosperity ethic that serves the interests of a select few, and money is rapidly depleted, sapping human energy and resources that those who give of themselves share without reserve.

Participant recovery and remembrance of how their fore-mothers and fathers were systematically denied material riches and wealth, yet they possessed the inner fortitude and communal staying power to stave off ever-present threat of total demise, they anticipate will be a fraction of the whole story of God's transformational grace that they and we will celebrate and bear witness to, together.

We are excited that the Rev. Diane Ford Dessables, long-time CofS community member and national faith-based nonprofit program manager, will be joining our team for this endeavor. She will lend us her experience in recovery as well as in human, church, and community relations practices to this developing area of our ministry.

Mike Little is the Director of the Faith and Money Network, and member of the Bread of Life community.



Mike and Diane

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Permaculture Project at Dayspring



By Jean Brown

On your next venture to Dayspring, as the Farmhouse comes into view, look to the left and you just might see a new crop of gardeners tending the permaculture garden beds next to the old ball field. We have formed a new group, nicknamed the Dayspring Greenies. We extend an invitation to join us in the garden once again.

The "No Till" beds laid down in earlier seasons by the sweat of many of you, alongside Ben Patterson and Grace Singletary, have created one of the things our world is so desperately in need of, healthy soil. While the United Nations worked to promote 2015 as the Year of the Soil, the layers of organic materials in the garden were silently participating.

Our hope is to tend the ground with an eye toward the wider web of life. Early this Spring some Kaplan University staff helped re-chip the central path and transplant perennials along its edges creating a corridor for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Individual garden plots have become home to native plants, herbs, lettuce, kale, potatoes, arugula and pumpkins. One person has started a "Three Sisters Garden," three beds next to each other containing corn, beans and squash. Dayspring's Earth Ministry helped finance the completion of the deer fence recently installed. Wellspring's Director Kent Klopfenstein has planted some basil and tomatoes for use in the Dayspring ministries. Hopes are to extend the gardening opportunities to the surrounding neighborhood as plans progress.

If you'd enjoy getting your hands in the dirt, come join us for Community Volunteer Days on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 9- noon.

Dates: June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, August 13 and 27. For questions or more information call Nona Beth Cresswell at 202-340-9169.

Jean Brown is a member of Dayspring Church.

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 • Wellspring Conference Center

Our hope is to tend the ground with an
eye toward the wider web of life.



Volunteers from Kaplan University staff

Calls to Wisdom and Creativity Ignite a Salon Group

The **Wisdom FireLight Circle** meets one Sunday a month from 2 to 4 in the community room of the Potter's House. In its "salon" format one person brings a question (of which participants have been notified in advance) such as:

- How can we reveal and break down differences or conflict in ways that reveal our genuine selves?
- What are the specific stories of people who have embraced a way to live without private property?
- What is justice in the world?
- How do you personally use creativity to change yourself, your relationships, or your world?

We encourage members to share both personally and generally, that is, pointing to wisdom which can be applied to many people in many situations.

The creative, practical, but wisdom-focused center of the group is located in the shared stories of our lived experience. Imagination, endurance, and integrity connect us to one another across generations, levels of inequality, and different ideas about church. They can cross the breach between our visions and our actions in faith; they invite us to live with new awareness of our shared potential to be fully alive.

What is it that propels us toward the changes we seek, individually and collectively? How does our faith or spiritual practice move us toward continued growth? Having safe and "deep-listening places" for telling our small stories of this Good News to one another helps us to hear the large story of our shared faith without the distractions of busyness, networking and facts inherent in our digitized, online preoccupations. It allows for mindful engagement, intentional connection, and shared meanings.

This 2-hour group can offer to you, in safety, the gifts of the other participants in a personal and potent mix of insight and imagination.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Daniel Jean-Louis



Daniel Jean-Louis author, will discuss **"FROM AID TO TRADE: How Aid Organizations, Businesses, and Governments Can Work Together: Lessons Learned from Haiti.** Daniel entrepreneur and investor, is the founder of Bridge Capital S.A. investment firm and owner of Trinity Lodge in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He teaches at Université Quisqueya and speaks and trains internationally on entrepreneurship and development.

Saturday October 8 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Festival Center
1640 Columbia Rd NW
Washington, DC 20009

This is a free event

For more information contact Mike Little at:
mike@faithandmoneynetwork or 202-469-8512

COMING HOME

By Elizabeth Michael

When the congregation I was serving in 2013 gave me the generous gift of a sabbatical, I knew I wanted to use it to visit the Church of the Saviour. I knew a little about the ecumenical congregation with a reputation for renewal and came eager to learn more. For a week I walked up and down Columbia Road, worshiping with several of the churches, breaking bread at Christ House, watching *Dancing with the Stars* at L'Arche, getting oriented at Jubilee Jobs, eavesdropping on table conversations at the Potter's House, sharing struggles at a Spiritual Support Group, attending a School of Christian Living class, and enjoying a nice long holy sit in the living room of Joseph's House.

The itinerary appeared innocuous but proved wholly disruptive in my life. In those short days, I'd witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit channeled through a few discerning ones who give themselves to Christ's call. A taste of new life makes it difficult to return to the old; I was hungry to know that power only more.

Thanks be for the Discipleship Year, which has allowed me deeper access to the community that showed me what church could look like. I find the streets of that mission-drenched neighborhood still teeming with saints. I feast on worship in the C of S congregations and on formation at the Servant Leadership School. I receive the generous forbearance of my fellow DYers as I practice the steps of new life. And in my placement at Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR), I practice those steps alongside those once incarcerated who now make their way home.

At OAR, I'm part of a team piloting our new Intensive Reentry

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Program. We partner with clients in the final months of their sentence, visiting them weekly in the jails and prisons and continuing those weekly sessions for several months after their transition home. We sit with them as they plot new life, sketching the outlines

of their return to community, dreaming of renewed relationships, eagerly anticipating their chance to contribute to society again. In that work, I often think of what Becca Stelle says in *Freedom Circles*, as

she speaks both to those recently liberated from incarceration and to those seeking freedom from the bondage of cultural addictions. To stay free, Becca says, we need a new way of thinking and a new set of friends.

It turns out that the process of coming home from prison isn't so different from the process of coming home to the self beloved of and called by God. We all need a reorientation of heart and mind that shifts paradigms and transforms lives; we all need friends committed to that same journey. For the privilege of discovering both in DY, I remain profoundly grateful.

Elizabeth Michael came to Discipleship Year from Durham, NC, and will continue working at OAR next year.



L to R top: Andrea Mast, Susanna Bean, Daniel Dixon & Leanne Finamore. Seated: Mirline Duphresne, Deborah Koch & Elizabeth Michael.

Callings

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Special Events

***See pottershousedc.org for a complete listing of exciting events at the Potter's House.**

Jun 23..Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat, 10-2pm, no reservation, no cost. Bring a bag lunch.

Jun 24-26 .. Deepening Prayer and Love, weekend retreat led by Terry Flood at Dayspring. \$210. Reserve space at DayspringRetreat.org.

July 5 ..Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat.

July 22-24.. Practicing Forgiveness, weekend retreat led by Deborah Sokolove at Dayspring. \$210. Reserve space at DayspringRetreat.org.

Aug 3..Quiet Day at Dayspring.

Aug 25..Quiet Day at Dayspring.

Sept 7..Quiet Day at Dayspring.

Sept 16-18..On the Way with Jesus, weekend retreat led by Fred Taylor at Dayspring. \$210. Reserve space at DayspringRetreat.org.

Sept 18..Ecumenical Council meets, 1:30-3:30 at the Festival Center.

Sept 21..Ember Day, Dayspring Retreat, 10-4pm, guided meditation, no reservation or cost (donation welcome).



Photo by Peter Bankson