

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 5, Issue 4 • Winter 2016

Overlook Retreat House Opens

2017 will bring new opportunities for retreat at Dayspring! When the Festival Center decided to close Andrew's House, the guest house on Ontario Road started by the Rev. Charles Demere and his wife Margaret and managed for 19 years by Kayla McClurg, it was uncertain what might come next. Kayla and her friend Trish Stefanik, formerly on staff at the Servant Leadership School, both felt



Trish and Kayla

called to the work of hospitality and hoped to find another way.

Uncertainty began to turn quickly to opportunity as Dayspring Church had been seeking renters for the house known as Overlook, built by Don and Gloria McClanen and located between the farm-

house and Lake of the Saints. Overlook is a lovely two-level space with full living areas up and down, an ideal setting to continue and even expand the ministry of Andrew's House as a place of hospitality, creativity, and contemplation.

With financial assistance from many friends, and lots of trust, on December 1 Kayla and Trish moved to Dayspring and began preparing to welcome guests in January. Each will work some days in DC, with Kayla continuing to serve as the CoS administrator, and devote the remaining time to Overlook.

What is Overlook Retreat House? A place for . . .

- (1) HOSPITALITY:** to provide restful space for people in the CoS communities and beyond to come away, to read, plan new missions, reflect and renew, while enjoying the natural beauty of Dayspring;
- (2) INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR:** to continue to welcome out-of-town visitors who want to "come and see" the churches and ministry groups downtown, and experience life among us;
- (3) CREATIVITY:** to be a place of inspiration for the artist within to be given voice, allowing new ways of seeing and being to be brought to life;
- (4) CONTEMPLATION:** to give support for the inward journey of prayer and solitude as a way to nurture the activist's soul.

These goals will be achieved through individuals and small groups coming independently, as well as Trish and Kayla hosting facilitated reflection groups. It is not too early to schedule your first visit. First preference will be given to CoS members and friends, and payment initially will be on a sliding scale so as to allow all to come (if possible, \$40-60 per 24-hour period). To discuss your visit or to inquire about gatherings, email overlook.retreathouse@gmail.com.



Come to Overlook Retreat House and help dream the future!

Saturday, January 28,
2:00-5:00 p.m.
House blessing at 3:00.

Editor's Corner | Church of the Saviour Today



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

As I prepare a Sunday School lesson for our teens about why we at Seekers claim to be “a Church of the Saviour community,” I wonder what others would say ... and invite you to send us your thoughts for future editions of CALLINGS in 2017.

Our kids like visuals, so I started with a sheet that had stars and planets on it, and an open Bible. For “our grandparents,” Gordon and Mary Cosby, I brought in the two issues of CALLINGS which celebrated their lives. Then I added Elizabeth O'Connor's books, *Call to Commitment* and *Journey Inward/Journey Outward*, and talked about the School of Christian Living to nurture a culture of commitment, Dayspring to nourish our inward journey, and Potter's House and FLOC as the earliest outward missions in the city.

Glitzy stars around a 1976 Bicentennial prop signified the year we moved into six little congregations. For Seekers, that meant two more books to represent our parents: Fred Taylor's account of FLOC in *Roll Away the Stone*, and Sonya Dyer's prayerbook. I read a couple of Sonya's inclusive creation-centered prayers to help our kids think about being God's people together, and we talked more about racism in Washington DC to explore FLOC.

In order to keep it simple and focused, I added a Columbia Road cluster of cards for the five existing churches that grew out of conversations at the Potter's House: Bread of Life, 8th Day, Festival Church, Friends of Jesus, and Jubilee. A little distance from them, I put EOC's book, *The New Community*, for the New Community Church. And toward the edge of the cloth, I drew a green square with fences and trees to symbolize Dayspring. Then I showed them the long list of independently organized missions (see page 4) which have grown out of the Church. “Wow, that's a lot of good,” one said.

Finally, I added two more books which describe Seekers today: *Calling on God*, a book of inclusive lectionary-based prayers by Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove, and my book, *Stalking the Spirit*, which tells the Seekers story within the C of S family. Then I asked the kids to draw their own picture of Church of the Saviour today. As you can imagine, they ranged from clouds, to an organizational chart to an elaborate building with steps for each related church.

As a Christmas story, it was a seedbed of hope in this dark time of the year. Let me know if you and your church have created other “pictures” of Church of the Saviour today.

Marjory

.CALLINGS deadlines for 2017: February 28, May 31, August 31 and November 30.

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

Effective immediately, Dr. Sal Corbin is the new volunteer Interim Director of Reunion, a ministry to end mass incarceration through relationships and commitment. Rev. Rebecca Stelle, who has served as Reunion's founding director, will continue as a member of the Reunion Board with a particular responsibility for nurturing relationships between Reunion and the faith community.

For more details, see: reuniondc@reuniondc.org.

The Church of the Saviour Council

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

Youth Selected for the 2017 Bokamoso Tour



Each year since 2008, 12 youth have been chosen from the Bokamoso Life Centre in Winterveldt, South Africa, to spend a month in Washington, DC. They stay with families connected with St. Andrews Episcopal School, do career training at Seekers Church, spend a week in the drama program at George Washington University and perform at different venues to raise scholarship money for post-secondary education. Since 2008, 190 students have benefitted and 338 scholarships have been awarded. Plan now to attend one or more of the following:

PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OR MORE OF THE BOKAMOSO PERFORMANCES

Sunday January 8 11 AM	Service & Performance	Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St SW DC
Sunday January 15 9:30 & 11 AM	Service & Performance	All Souls Church 16th & Harvard Sts NW DC
Sunday January 22 9:30 AM	Service & Performance	Seekers Church 276 Carroll St NW DC
Monday January 23 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Blue Monday Blues Appearance	Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St SW DC
Saturday January 28 11 AM to 1 PM	Bokamoso Dream Brunch and Benefit	St Andrews Episcopal School 8804 Postoak Rd, Potomac MD
Sunday January 29 9:00 AM	Service & Performance	First Baptist Church of North Brentwood 4000 Wallace Rd, North Brentwood, MD
Friday February 3 7:30 PM	Bokamoso Benefit Performance First Night (Ticketed Event)	Marvin Center Theater GWU 800 21st St NW DC
Saturday February 4 7:30 PM	Bokamoso Benefit Performance Second Night (Ticketed Event)	Marvin Center Theater GWU 800 21st St NW DC
Sunday February 5 9 am 11 am	Service & Performance	United Methodist Church 3401 Nebraska Ave NW Wesley Methodist Church 5312 Connecticut Ave NW

We've Got the Power

By Jim Dickerson

Manna is a housing rehabilitation program that demonstrates God's power to prevail here and now, in this world, in this city.

This is the Buxton building, on W Street, just around the corner from the Frederick Douglas home in Anacostia. This building is sitting in a hole. All the property around looked like it was sinking into the hole with them. People were suffering, calling on us to come and help them. The neighborhood was full of drugs. It was a mess.



Manna got this building through a competitive bid three administrations ago, during the Fenty years. The city wouldn't do the infrastructure work to get the sewers and plumbing to work, so we put \$300,000 of our own money into it, to get the water running again. Then, just when we were about to start on the building, we got a letter saying they were taking it away from us. No reason was given, so I had to prevail on somebody. We were not going to let this happen.

Meanwhile, in God's providence, Mayor Grey was elected. Manna was involved with two other non-profits in renovating 60 homes near Galludet, called Ivy City. At the groundbreaking ceremony, Mayor Grey came and spoke. After he spoke, I grabbed his arm and dragged him over to where the director of the housing department for the city was standing. I said, "Mayor Grey, you tell him to give us this building back!"

He looked startled and said, "What's going on here?"

I said, "They took it for no reason. You tell him to give it back to us." Eventually Michael Kelly, the third director after this guy, gave it back to us.

The Buxton had been sitting there, empty and boarded up, for 14 years. The roof had collapsed and the water erosion was incredible. So we raised money all over again. Originally thought we could do this with wood porches, but water damage meant we had to do metal porches. Because of the delay, it cost us a lot more to do the renovation, but we were determined to do it.



Here's a picture of design plan. It's a vision of the new Jerusalem, right here 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 • 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

And here's a picture of our crews working with volunteers. There was a Youth Build class from the high school there the whole time, learning the building trades. It was really a community effort as we began to scrape away what was covering it up.



Welcome to the new Buxton. This is the first ever home ownership in this census tract of the city. There are rental properties all around, but the Buxton provides stability and pride in the neighborhood. Of the 24 units, 22 have been purchased. Even though there were lots of extra costs, it's been worth it. Now there's a ripple effect. There's been a 16% drop in crime rate, and the drug dealers have been pushed out. And there's lots of new development all around. The public benefit of this is just enormous.

Finally, here's our Lydia. Marilyn Phillips. She and her husband, Calvin, joined our homebuyers club and they worked hard to get support for our project the whole time. She had stage 4 cancer, and was so afraid she wouldn't live long enough to get her unit. On the day they took ownership, she and Calvin stood on that porch so proud. She died 2 weeks ago, but I want to honor her as the Lydia, who prevailed over all the obstacles in her

path. She was a great ally and advocate for Manna. Another owner graduated from Samaritan Inns. We've got several of those. They are so happy to be able own their own homes.

Our former mayor, Marion Barry, came to the opening ceremony. This was his last public appearance before he died. He believed in these housing programs and got them started. He had lots of moral failures, but he cared about the people and he got these programs started. I want to honor him for that.



Marilyn and Calvin Phillips



Jim Dickerson is the founder of Manna, and the pastor of New Community Church. Both were established in 1982.

Festival Church Says Goodbye to Carolyn Parr

By Cindy Martens

It is with gratitude and sadness that the Festival Church says goodbye to one of our founding members, Carolyn Parr. Carolyn along with her husband Jerry Parr, and a few other faithful friends helped birth the Festival Church into being in 1989. Carolyn and Glennys Williams were the first co-pastors of the Festival Church, whose original mission was the Servant Leadership School.

Carolyn, who is a retired federal tax judge, used her many talents to benefit the Church of the Saviour, volunteering her time and knowledge to help decipher legal documents and straighten out property holdings for Church of the Saviour. For many years, she has represented the Festival Church on the Ecumenical Council, and until recently she was the president of the board for the Festival Center.

With Jerry's passing in 2015, Carolyn is entering a new chapter in her life, and has moved out of the Washington, D.C. home that she shared with Jerry. Their home was a place of fellowship and hospitality for many over the years, and the Parr's often offered housing to those who were in between situations and needed a place to live.

Now Carolyn is off to her next adventure, and has moved to Annapolis to be closer to her daughter and to the new man in her



life, Jim Le Gette. Jim, like Jerry, is a retired Secret Service agent. We know that it won't be long before Carolyn finds another church home, makes new friends, and brings her gifts to her new community. The Festival Church is mourning the loss of one of our original church mothers, but we know that God will use Carolyn no matter where she is and feel blessed that she was part of our lives for so long. Thank

you Carolyn. We wish you all good things!

Cindy Martens will now represent Festival Church on the C of S Council.

Discipleship Year is Moving



The Discipleship Year Program is moving our six interns to the 2708 Ontario Rd House (formerly Andrew's House), on February 4th from 9-3 and are looking for volunteers to help load and unload our furniture and belongings. If you can help, please let me know.

The Festival Center is downsizing, from ownership of three properties to two (selling the 3321 16th St. DY House, which has been our home since 1995). We're grateful to have a new home,

and thank both Kayla McClurg and Trish Stefanik, who've been living at Andrew's House, for their complete and total graciousness towards us as they've moved on to Dayspring @ Overlook House to make room for us to move into their old house.

We wish them the best and promise to take good care of the last remaining property given to The Festival Center by Charles Demere, as he gave both these houses to the Church of the Saviour Community many years ago. He was a very generous, kind and loving man. We hope we honor his spirit and Jesus, whom he emulated so well, by the work the volunteers do in the community, the depth of community they create, and the faith we attempt to live out.

Peace to all of you this Christmas season,
Dawn Longenecker
Director, Discipleship Year Program

@ The Festival Center, Inc.
1640 Columbia Rd. NW • Washington, DC 20009
202-328-1102
dlongenecker@slschool.org • www.festivalcenter.org

CARROLL CAFÉ, a ministry of Seekers Church

By Sandra Miller

The dream of a music ministry arose within the Seekers community in the form of small folk music concerts before the church moved out of 2025 Mass. Ave. and into the Takoma neighborhood. Later, when Seekers bought and renovated their building, the technology necessary to host professional-quality performances was installed.

Carroll Café is a music venue deeply rooted in the values and principles of Seekers Church, and the Church of the Saviour. The core group that makes the Café happen embraces the notion of servant leadership, and as a group selects musicians, decide on policies, promote the concerts, and mount the shows. There are also volunteers from the wider community who help to get things done. This year we are pleased to have an intern from Howard University helping out.

Each time our core group meets we read the Call of Carroll Café:

We believe:

- that music is a gift that brings a deeper understanding and experience of the Creator and ourselves in a way different from any other discipline;
- that music is a gift for everyone, and everyone's own music can be good and useful;
- and that music from other places, cultures, and times can be important for everyone to bring us to mutual understanding.

We are called:

- to offer excellent music to the community at the nexus of Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and the Greater DC area for education, inspiration, enlightenment, and joy so everyone can receive the gifts that music offers.
- to provide a venue for musicians to present their music and thoughts; where they can be paid a fair wage for their skill and dedication.
- to help visitors learn more about, and experience the hospitality of Seekers Church.

By the time this issue of Callings is distributed we will have had the first three concerts of the season:

Joe Uehlein & the U-Liners, roused us out of our summer slumber with a CD release celebration of their new CD: Sweet Lorain; **Danika Holmes and Jeb Hart**, from Nashville, TN stirred us with their lyrics and consummate guitar skills; and the **Huda Asfour Trio**, who introduced our audience to the beautiful and haunting compositions of Huda's contemporary Palestinian songs.

In 2017 we will feature:

- **January 13th The Sweater Set**, a fabulous local female duo featuring extraordinary harmonies.

- **February 10th Ladybird**, a stunning female trio out of Philadelphia.
- **March 10th Round About**, local talents that cross genres will pair with Rob Flax, the one man band out of Massachusetts.
- **April 21st Minas** will fill the space with the Bossa Nova beat.
- **May 12th Ocean Celtic Quartet** will wow our audience again.
- **June 9th Mara Levine** brings fine traditional and contemporary folk music to close out our season.

We would urge you to come to a concert, sign up for email announcements of coming shows, or become a volunteer. If our Call or mission makes you smile, feel better, or want to dance please consider helping us out. Let us know how you can help at info@carroll-cafe.org

Register to get concert announcements and buy tickets at <http://carrollcafe.org>.

SACRED SPACE: Silence and Singing



When: 4th Sundays, 8:15-9am

Where: Festival Center, Prayer Room
(just inside front door on left)

Description: A time of silence and singing, in a similar tradition as Taize, with a wider variety of chanted music, mostly from the Christian tradition. Led by New Creation Mission Group musicians, 8th Day Faith Community.

Callings

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

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Special Events

Check Potter'sHouse.org for a full list of events including author events, children's story time on 2nd Saturdays, dismantling racism discussion table (Tuesdays @ 12:30), Recovery Café (Sat@7).

Jan 28 | Overlook Retreat Openhouse, hosted by Kayla McClurg and Trish Stefanik, 2-5pm at Dayspring Farm, blessing at 3pm.

Feb 3 & 4 | Bokamoso Benefit Performances, Marvin Center Theater GWU, 7:30pm. Tickets at www.bokamosoyouth.org.

Feb 4 | Moving day for Discipleship Year interns, 9-3pm. To help, contact Dawn Longenecker, dlongenecker@slschool.org.

Feb 17-19 | "Cultivating Presence," open silent retreat led by Nat Reid. \$210. Reservations: DayspringRetreat.org/events.

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



Photo by Jennie Gosche