

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 3, Issue 2 • Summer 2014

New Board at Potter's House

By Brennan Baker

The first meeting of The Potter's House Board of Directors began with a reading from the Catholic mystic, Thomas Merton: "The biggest paradox about the Church is that it is, at the same time, essentially traditional and essentially revolutionary."

It is between these two poles - tradition and revolution - that we now stand at The Potter's House. As we re-open this fall, what inevitably needs to change and what is of our very essence? How will we receive and carry forward the wisdom of The Church of the Saviour while remaining open to new forms of community, hospitality, and justice-making?

Our new Board of Directors is well-poised to wrestle with these big questions. With deep ties to The Potter's House and a diversity of gifts, they will guide our steps as we re-establish our public mission in the Adams Morgan district and throughout the city. Particularly important in this next chapter is that our leadership better represents the beloved community we seek to build.

We want to briefly introduce each board member and hope that if you haven't had a chance to meet them you will soon. Please pray for us a board and staff as we seek to renew The Potter's House, "bringing out of the storeroom new treasures as well as old" (Matthew 13).

Brennan Baker is the bookstore manager for The Potter's House.

(More on page 2)



(pictured left to right)

Renise Walker lends her experience in nonprofit administration and her eye for inclusion of the Jubilee Housing community, where she serves as Director of Resident Services.

Dixcy Bosley-Smith is a member of 8th Day and a nurse at Christ House. She is an energetic volunteer and one of our best ambassadors.

Mike Hopkins is a member of Friends of Jesus Church and On the Damascus Road, and will support our efforts towards racial justice and reconciliation.

Dominic Moulden is a longtime organizer for ONE DC and brings a wealth of connection to grassroots movements and a passion for building democratic organizations.

Marcia Harrington is a member of 8th Day and serves as our President. She

is a gifted facilitator and will lead the Board through listening.

Jay Forth was first exposed to The Potter's House as a Duke Divinity School student in 2008 and will help to craft our theological conversations.

Maria Barker is a member of 8th Day. She will utilize her background in affordable housing finance to help place The Potter's House on a sustainable trajectory.

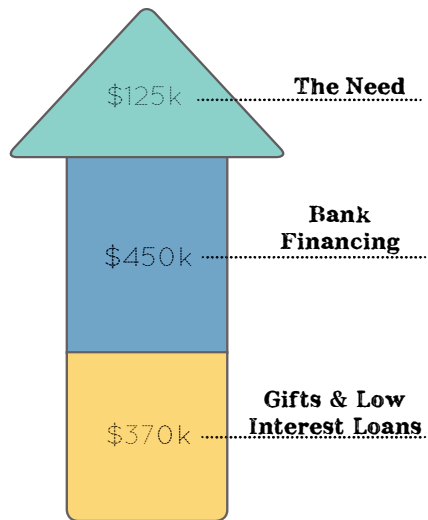
Jim Bennett has extensive experience in retail development, and is helping to develop partnerships with The Festival Center's emerging Festival Foods program.

Shelley Marcus is a member of Friends of Jesus Church, and will draw on her training in nonviolent communication to help us navigate this time of growth and change.

THE POTTER'S HOUSE

Cafe • Bookstore • Community Space

We have come so far! Can you help us cross the finish line?



In just nine months friends and supporters of The Potter's House have contributed \$370,000 in gifts, pledges, and low to no-interest loans. What an amazing display of love and affection for this special place! As the graphic shows, we still need to raise \$125k more in gifts to be ready to open in the fall.

Consider making a special gift this summer...

- A matching gift of \$5,000 or more to encourage others to give
- A gift in honor of someone special to you
- A gift from your church or other organization
- A gift of stock (great tax benefit to you)
- A pledge that can be fulfilled over the next 12 months

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Editor's Corner

Churchofthesaviourdc.org

In the year since Gordon's death, we have seen many changes in our network of churches and independent ministries. The Potter's House is temporarily closed for renovations, and the Eighth Day Community now owns the PH building. The new PH Board has just been approved (page 1). Wellspring Center at Dayspring has been closed for two years, while the Next Chapter Team at Dayspring Church sought guidance from the Holy Spirit – and now they have selected a new director (see page 5). The Permaculture Project at Dayspring, under the guiding hand of Chris Grataski, has the potential for being a model of sustainable agriculture for future generations (page 4).

In the C of S office, Martin Saunders has been helping Kayla update the C of S website (churchofthesaviourdc.org) to show where and when our different churches worship. I am hoping that we can add other regular offerings, like classes, concerts and art shows, so the website will become a common resource. Now Martin is leaving in July to start seminary in Seattle, and we will miss his tech-savvy mind and generous heart. Thank you, Martin!

At the Servant Leadership School, Joseph Deck, Director of the Festival Center, is welcoming the volunteer help of Rev. Art Brown. At the SLS, there are plans to identify a "membership track" of classes to prepare people for core membership in the Columbia Road churches. Art will also be contacting the "related ministries" of Church of the Saviour to set up monthly gatherings at the Festival Center – to strengthen the muscles and sinews of this diverse "body of Christ."

Do keep us in your prayers,
Marjory

Marjory Zoet Bankson is editor of *CALLINGS* and chair of the Ecumenical Council

Next CALLINGS deadline is September 1



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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

Finding Jesus Again at FLOC

By Dixcy Bosley-Smith

When Fred Taylor, the original Director of FLOC (For Love of Children), invited me to the 49th Anniversary celebration, I was honored – because I knew that FLOC had been a foundational ministry for early Church of the Saviour members. Initially, their mission was to close Junior Village and help to find homes for over 1,000 children warehoused there. Their radical witness that told the story of God blessing them with a promise, a vision, and a purpose for their lives.

FLOC has brought healing to hundreds of precious children through empowerment and educational services in DC, as well as at the FLOC Rolling Ridge Wilderness Center in West Virginia. The expansive and ambitious mission, however, was not only for the children. It was an anchor for Christian discipleship and sacred joy for the early members of C of S. FLOC became a practical way to “bring every phase of life under the Lordship of Christ,” as the church commitment read.

Fred was delighted when I brought Mary Cosby, all dressed up and ready to revel in the event and, at 92, to be part of the re-telling of the FLOC’s sacred story. While Mary and I knew very few folks at the event, I was reminded by all the speakers that Jesus is appearing again and again through the work of FLOC.

At the podium, Tim Payne, FLOC’s Executive Director, spoke of his commitment to tutor a FLOC participant for over 15 years. His tutee, a young woman who is now a graduate student at NYU, was articulate in describing the rare but remarkable reality of their years of mutual learning. I wept as I listened. Was it a complete coincidence that both of their lives were profoundly changed? Or was their joy an encounter with Jesus?

After the grand event ended, Mary, Fred, and I, paused to reflect on the historic legacy of FLOC. We had a brief discussion about the evolution of many Church of the Saviour missions which were originally rooted in authentic obedience to God’s call. Over time, many have become model agencies of justice in our city, but I am saddened that such encounters with Jesus are rarely named. Lives are trans-



Fred Taylor greeting Trish Nemore at FLOC celebration.

formed, but the Spirit which moves in the “everyday sacred” is not acknowledged. I wished that more volunteers and staff of FLOC today knew the significance of how true call leads to more than just a successful program. The same Spirit that called Fred to respond also beckons a young volunteer to teach a child to read on Tuesday evening, rather than go to the gym or a bar.

When our deepest yearnings send us out in search of something sacred, I believe the Spirit is there in the random but very deliberate joining of hearts. Surely it is something more than “good service.” Surely, God is at work (or at play!!!) in the very Presence of something greater than ourselves and our imagining. May FLOC continue to be a conduit for those who seek and for those who find this life-giving Spirit.

Dixcy Bosley-Smith is a member of Eighth Day Community, a home-health-care nurse, and mother of two teens.

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

Dayspring's Permaculture Garden Has Begun to Take Shape

By Jean Brown

Over twenty people gathered to begin creating the first few layers of the Permaculture Project's 1-2 acre market garden. Even Nat and Rachel Reid's "girls" (their chickens) contributed hardboiled eggs to feed the crew. Dayspring gardeners, Ben Patterson and Grace Singletary, directed folks eager to get started. Some helped process the huge stacks of cardboard by removing all the staples and tape. Others laid down the prepared cardboard on the ground nearby. Next woodchips were piled on top with tractor and wheelbarrow; then volunteers raked them over the cardboard foundation. The process being used is called "sheet mulching," a method for rapid topsoil formation through bio-mimicry and re-purposing wasted material. A more detailed description can be found at www.dayspringchurchmd.org.

Grace and Ben invited volunteers to bring their musical instruments to offer up a song or two throughout the day. A spontaneous music jam rounded out a lunch break taken under the shade of the bordering trees. A few hardy souls took up the invitation to camp out in the tents set up on the platforms nearby, and some were reminded of the rock moving parties of old.

Plans are underway for monthly gatherings on July 12th and August 9th, the Second Saturday of the month from 9am – 4 pm.

Contact Jean Brown for more information at dayspringchurch@gmail.com or call 540-230-1760.



Ben Patterson and Grace Singletary

Like us on [facebook.com/DayspringPermacultureGardens](https://www.facebook.com/DayspringPermacultureGardens) and share the word with others you think would be interested in volunteering their time or giving financial assistance to help prepare the ground for what's to come.



A Permaculture workday . . .

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

About forty people, representing most of the C of S congregations, gathered at Dayspring on June 1 to explore the land with experienced guides, hear stories on the Farmhouse porch from the first resident directors, Tom and Carolyn Hubers, learn more about the Permaculture Project from Chris Grataski, and gather for worship in the amphitheater. With input from Dayspring, Eighth Day, Festival Church and Seekers, worship gave us a glimpse of Church of the Saviour as it is forming today.



Jm Hall and Cheryl Hellner



Farmhouse Porch gathering



Carol Martin and Margaret Schoap (driving)



Meade Jones, Kent Beduhn and Connie Ridgeway



Chris Grataski speaks to the group

New Director for Wellspring

By Jim Hall

On Monday noon, June 2, a small group of Dayspring staff and residents gathered in an upstairs room at the Farmhouse for noon prayer. As usual, some friendly kidding went on, prayers of thanksgiving and intercession were voiced, and a 20 minute period of centering prayer observed.

What made this particular day special for Dayspring was that among those gathered was Kent Klopfenstein, the new Director of the Wellspring Conference Center. What was special for Kent was that he found himself taking his place in a community of sacred land and people of faith – a part of the Church of the Saviour which he has long admired.

In Kent, Dayspring has found someone who first roamed the land in silence at Dayspring 18 years ago, at once knowing it to be a deeply sacred place. In him we have also found someone with many years of experience in building business enterprises from start-up and early stages of development. Karen, a longstanding active member of the Dayspring community, who has known Kent for almost 20 years, speaks of his deep attraction to contemplative prayer and his putting God first in his life, as well as his business acumen, relational sensitivity and personal integrity.

Kent is most excited about becoming part of the Church of the Saviour in this way, and looks forward to getting to know others in the Church of the Saviour Faith Communities and their missions in the months ahead. We know he will be warmly welcomed!

Jim Hall, for the Next Chapter Team at Dayspring.

Christian Rites of Passage at Festival Church

By Cindy Martens

On June 7, a beautiful Saturday afternoon, The Festival Church gathered at Wellspring to witness Jake Schramm and Josiah Smith complete their Christian Rites of Passage (CROP). This was nearly a year-long process for the two boys who focused on the Gospel of Luke and worked specifically on the areas of compassion, creation care, mindfulness, and social justice/nonviolence.

Katie Chatelaine-Samsen and Chris Samsen, both community members of Festival Church, mentored Jake and Josiah over this past year. Their preparation included volunteering at the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, a historic early African American church. Jake and Josiah did food prep and meal distribution to the homeless with the Salvation Army van. Additionally, a mini silent retreat is planned for this fall.

The Dayspring land and Wellspring conference center was a perfect settings for both affirming and launching these young men deeper into their spiritual identity and sharing the good news of Church of the Savior to a broader group. It was a natural pick for the celebration because Jake and Josiah have made over ten retreats on the land for Festival Church's annual family-style retreat. We were especially pleased to have Jim Hall and Cheryl Hellner among the attendees. They have faithfully taken all of our children on na-

ture walks at Dayspring for the past eight years. Festival Church would also like to add a special note of thanks to Janet Hudson, Nona Beth Creswell, and Jean Brown for their support.

The culmination of all their hard work was a worship service where Jake and Josiah both gave a message based on their favorite passage on the Gospel of Luke. About 70 friends and family members came from near and far to support them and be part of the festivities.

In addition to the worship the day included fun and games, a wonderful dinner prepared by Juan Sanchez, and concluded at dusk with a bonfire and s'mores.

The Festival Church is very proud of these two young men as they mature in their faith and leadership. We know they are the hope and future of our world, and will make it a better place.



Jake Schramm and Josiah Smith

Servant Leadership School

July 15th - Fred Taylor - **The Bible Made Easy and Dangerous Part I**

July 22nd - Scott Purcell - **The Forgotten City, east of the Anacostia**

August 5 - JB Schramm - **How Social Entrepreneurship is sending Kids to College**

Fall Semester of the Servant Leadership School

Understanding the Crisis in Israel Palestine

Tuesdays, September 16 - October 21

Instructor: Susan Bell and Members of Sabeel

The Bible Made Easy and Dangerous Part II

Tuesdays, September 16 - November 4th

Instructor: Rev. Arthur Brown

Creative Aging

Wednesdays, September 17 - November 5

7pm - 9pm

Instructors: Marjory Bankson

Basil Buchannon

Please contact Joseph Deck, Executive Director of the Festival Center at (202)328-0072 or jpdeck@slschool.org to register.



Faith and Money: Making the Connection

*Exploring our relationship with money
within the grounding of our faith*

With Mike Little, Director, Faith & Money Network

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Note number desired of each program beside the title.

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_____ **Faith and Money: Making the Connection**

With Frank Butler and Betsy Edmonds

*Our relationship with money reflects and shapes what we value, how we live, even our faith.
Understanding our relationship to money through the money autobiography*

_____ **Connecting Faith and Money: The Biblical Vision**

With Theologian and Activist Ched Myers

*The money themes woven throughout the Bible
Examples of people who are today taking these biblical instructions to heart in their daily lives*

_____ **Escaping the Work-More-Spend-More Cycle**

With Rev. Matthew Colwell, Angela Lincoln and Tim Darst

*Are you weary of the frenzy of producing and consuming? Slowing down our lives a bit
Conscious consumption choices can free us to enlarge our mission and impact in the world.*

_____ **When Privilege Becomes a Prison**

With Psychologist Dr. William R. Miller and Dale Stitt

*Privilege can be our prison, locking us away from God, God's people, even our own hearts.
Rich stories of prison breaks--living more freely as the people of God*

_____ **The Joy of Giving**

With Philanthropists Judy and David Osgood

Giving and receiving nourish our awareness that in God's economy, there is enough for all.



Callings

Church of the Saviour
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Special Events

Thurs, June 26: Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat. 10-2pm.
No charge. Bring your lunch.

July 12-22: Guatemala Work-Pilgrimage w/Marjory and
Peter Bankson, sponsored by Seekers Church. FULL.

Wed, July 9: Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat. 10-2pm.

Tues, July 29: Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat. 10-2pm.

**Fri-Sun, Aug 1-3: "Come Back to Me: Recovering a Sense
of Direction."** Weekend retreat with Amelia Harris, co-founder
of Newborn Community, the Sandtown Neighborhood of
Baltimore. \$200. For info and registration: dayspringretreat.org.

Wed, 17 Sept: Ember Day at Dayspring. 10-4pm, with
Merrill Carrington and Carol Martin. No charge. Bring your lunch.

September 21 Ecumenical Council meeting, 1:30-3:30pm
at the Festival Center.



Photo by Peter Bankson