

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 3, Issue 3 • Fall 2014

Two Books and a CD from Seekers

By John Morris

Seekers Church upholds creativity as a vital expression of God's calling. The church has always nurtured writers, musicians, painters, and many others – but this September marked three particularly exciting new milestones for Seekers' artists.

Dancing Toward the Light

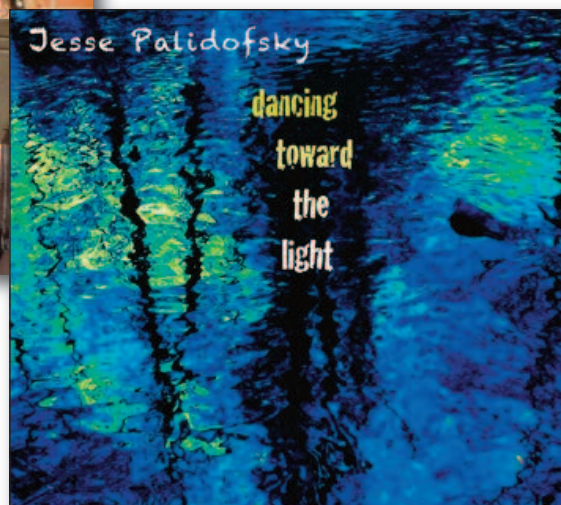
On September 12th at Carroll Cafe, the monthly coffeehouse sponsored by Seekers, Jesse Palidofsky hosted a concert to celebrate the release of his second CD of original songs, *Dancing Toward the Light*, recorded in Toronto and released by Takoma Park's Azalea City Recordings, features world-class musicians who make Jesse's artistry come alive. Producer Ken Whitely has been nominated as Producer of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards for his work on Jesse's CD.

The concert was a rousing celebration of what Jesse says are "songs that began magically appearing out of nowhere, like fish leaping out of the water into the fisherman's boat." Humor, faith, pain, and courage are just a few of the many moods highlighted in this profoundly spiritual and beautifully realized recording.

Copies of the CD are available by contacting Jesse at jessetools@aol.com, and you can visit Jesse's website, www.jessepal.net.



Jesse and the band at Carroll Cafe.



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Photos by Peter Bankson

Editor's Corner

Wellspring Opens Again

After a long sabbatical, the Wellspring Conference Center at Dayspring is open for business again. Ken Klopfenstein, the new director, has moved into the residence there and the website (www.WellspringConference.org) is up and running.

Kent comes with a long history of attending Dayspring retreats while he worked as a "turn around specialist" with various for-profits in the Baltimore-Washington area. Now he has been hired by the Dayspring Church to guide Wellspring into the future. When I visited with him, I was impressed by his vision for programming and his interest in hosting other groups and programs as well. Kent plans to visit the various communities within the C of S network, to invite po-



Kent Klopfenstein



Kent and Carolyn Hubbers.

tential users to see the space and imagine themselves there once again.

Meanwhile, needed repairs and updating of the facilities at Wellspring continue to make the space more hospitable. After fifty years, replacing windows and chairs in the conference center is happening and the cabins are getting a serious makeover as money permits.

And for those of you awaiting news of the Potter's House, I see that the main spaces inside have been roughed in and rewiring is nearly complete. The new board is meeting regularly to make design decisions and, even though the space is under renovation, you can watch the progress by visiting the Potter's House website (Potter-shousedc.org).

Although the bookstore is closed right now, Brennan Baker is still filling book orders. Kayla McClurg has a new collection of her sermons and the two books by Seekers' authors are also available: call The Potter's House @ 202.232.5483 or email books@potter-shousedc.org.

In our December edition of CALLINGS, we will have a complete update on reopening The Potter's House.

Keep Praying,
Marjory

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

Next CALLINGS deadline is November 15.



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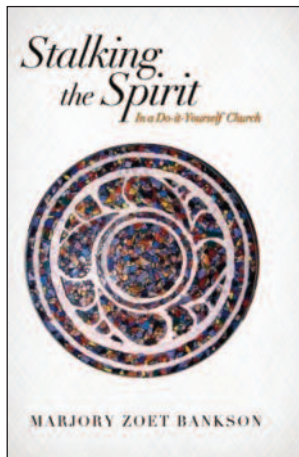
Would You Like to Support this Publication?

A contribution of \$10 from every reader would actually cover our costs. More would be gratefully welcomed. Gifts payable to the Church of the Saviour may be sent to: Callings, Church of the Saviour, 1640 Columbia Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

The Church of the Saviour Council

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

Stalking the Spirit



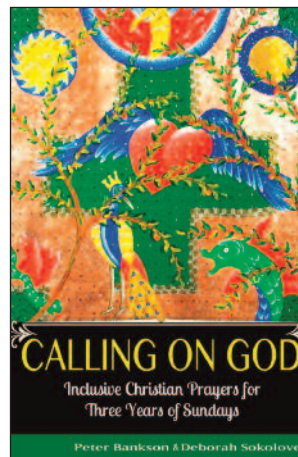
Marjory Bankson, a Steward at Seekers and editor of Callings, is also a prolific author. Wipf and Stock just published her sixth book, *Stalking the Spirit*, which tells the story of Seekers Church from its beginnings as a second-generation Church of the Saviour community to its current vibrant presence in the Takoma neighborhood of Washington, DC. As Kayla McClurg writes, “Rare is the opportunity to get an inside look at the challenges and discouragements of being community in this way, to listen in on the conflicts as well as witness the faithful responses. This is the story of one

small laity-led church striving to be an authentic expression of Christ’s body in a local setting and not a mere replica of its founding prototype.”

Seekers co-founder, Sonya Dyer, entrusted Marjory with her journals that detailed the formation of Seekers, and the Stewards affirmed her to write this history. “It was only after the church moved to its new location that I was able to find the right ending for our story,” Marjory says. This edition also includes “Questions for Emerging Churches,” many of them based on questions Marjory has heard over the years about Seekers.

Order these books from the publishers or Potter’s House bookstore: 202.232.5483 or email: books@pottershousedc.org

Calling on God



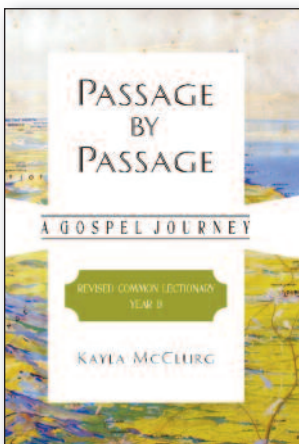
Marjory’s husband, Peter Bankson, is also a longtime Steward at Seekers church – and now a first-time author. He and another Steward, Deborah Sokolove, professor of art and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary and author of *Sanctifying Art*, have collaborated on *Calling on God: Inclusive Christian Prayers for Three Years of Sundays*. This collection of prayers, keyed to the liturgical calendar, is the fruit of their decades of experience as liturgists and worship leaders at Seekers. The language is moving and poetic, founded on creativity, inclusivity, and sharing.

“Seekers gets inquiries on the Web from all over the English-speaking world asking for help and inspiration to create fresh, contemporary worship prayers,” says Peter. “There are many other churches, even smaller than ours, who don’t have a mission group to devote their energies to this task.” So Peter and Deborah combined their trove of worship-writings over the years and produced a compendium of prayers that follows the procession of the seasons, appropriate for personal devotion as well as for use in leading worship. The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope, vicar of Washington National Cathedral, has already praised *Calling on God* as “beautiful, fresh language for Christians of all denominations.”

John Morris is a widely-published poet, musician and aspiring novelist in Seekers Church.



New inward/outward Book by Kayla McClurg! Pre-Order Today!



We are pleased to announce the release of the second book in our *Passage by Passage: A Gospel Journey* series—available for pre-order today.

Readers of *The Story*—Kayla’s Sunday reflections—will be interested in these all new offerings, which explore the weekly Gospel lessons of Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary.

SPECIAL OFFER: As a thank you gift to those who pre-order TWO OR MORE copies of *Passage by Pas-*

sage (Year B and/or Year A) by Monday, September 29, we will in-

clude a free copy of *The Promise of Paradox* by Parker Palmer (while supplies last).

As in her Year A reflections, Kayla continues to offer simple thoughts and questions to help us ponder the relevance of the Bible for our own journeys. Ideal for personal devotions, group discussion or sermon preparation, this second book in a three-part series brings *The Story* home.

If you have any questions, please contact us at inwardoutwardeditor@gmail.com.

Our mailing address is:
inward/outward: a project of the church of the saviour
1640 Columbia Rd. NW
Washington, DC 20009

Why We Can't Wait

By Barbara Moore

For the past six years, the Church of Christ, Right Now has been working in various ways to end the evils of mass incarceration through the ministry of Why We Can't Wait. Co-Pastors Rebecca Stelle and Larry Watson have travelled to Nashville each May along with others to attend the annual shareholders meeting of the Correction Corporation of America (CCA). This past June, two leaders of the CCA traveled to DC to dialogue with us. We pray the dialogue continues.

At the same time, our little church of eight members has been supporting the efforts of Becoming Church. With the inspiration of Michelle Alexander's excellent book, the New Jim Crow, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Why We Can't Wait seeks to be Washington, DC's church-wide response to this movement. For more than three years we have met with over thirty churches across the city for prayer, revivals and strategizing. Drawing heavily on the work of Dr. King, we seek to be non-violent and loving agents of reconciliation and, by the grace and power of God, to be courageous, strategic and persistent in our efforts.

Our ministry on the men's re-entry unit at the Correction Training Facility highlights even further the need for a national change of heart on this critical issue. Several men have joined spiritual support groups and three have been residents in our re-entry house in Southeast. We continue to learn by trial and error and are grateful for the blessing of knowing these men.

As a nation we must confess our own complicity in the effort to address mass incarceration and challenge the Church to move forward with courage and renewed commitment to Jesus' Way of love and forgiveness. Gordon is surely praying from the other side of



Strength to Love group in Nashville for CAA shareholders meeting (2010)

the veil for this effort that he so longed to address. We covet the prayers of the wider C of S community as we, in turn, pray for all of you!

P.S. You are warmly invited to join us in a ten week Immersion Experience beginning September 16. For more information go to becomingchurch.org

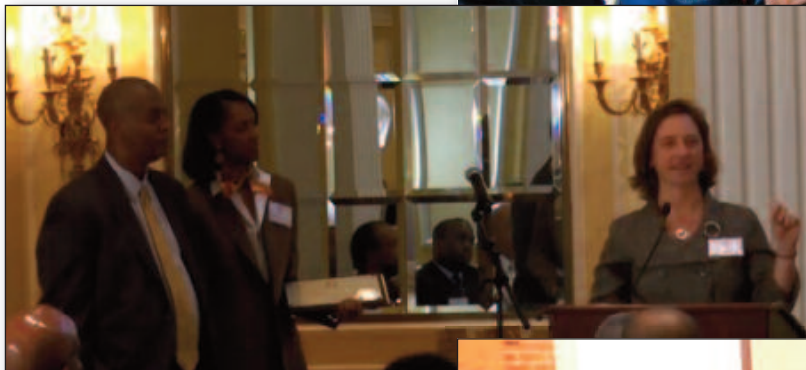
Barbara Moore has been a member of Church of Christ, Right Now for five years. She works part-time for Jubilee Housing and has been a part of Church of the Saviour since 1966.

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

First work party at re-entry house (1410 S St. SE) with Gordon Cosby (2011)



Becca Stelle speaking at Restore Together breakfast with Rev. and Mrs. Louis Hutchinson (2014)



Why We Can't Wait prayer and planning session at 610 S St. NW (2014)



Worship at Second Acts Conference (2012)

At The Festival Center

Hip Hop for Social Change

September 27, 2014

10am - 1pm Saturdays

Join us for a half-day interactive workshop exploring the diverse ways in which hip hop can affect social change. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other creative people. Monthly sessions will occur in September, October, and November. Look for advertised dates.

Osa, a community organizer and hip hop artist and a member of the sanctuaries community of activists, artists, and creative minds joining together to make a positive difference in our world

Servant Leadership School

Fall 2014 Class Offerings

Creative Aging: Rethinking Call in a Changing World

September 24, 2014 - November 12, 2014
7pm - 9pm Wednesdays

** Does God have a "good work" for me now? At this time in my life?*

** Is there a new way for us to listen and respond together?*

Come to explore the concept of call as a spiral journey-unfolding throughout our lives. This 8-week course will include individual and group exercises, discernment of gifts and ministries in the ordinary structures of our lives: at home, at work, preparing for "retirement" and in the hurting world around us, with a special segment on financial planning with a certified financial adviser. Basil Buchanan and Marjory Zoet Bankson, with Jameel Jason Branch will facilitate this exploration. Come ready to listen, learn, participate and pray together.

Basil Buchanan is an educator, member of Festival Church, and a long time member of the Church of the Saviour

Marjory Zoet Bankson is a relational retreat leader, working artist and published author. Her book, Creative Aging: Rethinking Retirement and Non-retirement in a Changing World will be the primary text for this class.

Zionism Unsettled

September 23, 2014 - October 29, 2014
7pm - 9pm Tuesdays

This six-week course will use the new congregational study, to explore the contribution of Zionism to the conflict in Israel/Palestine. The fundamental premise of this study is that "Zionism is the problem", meaning that Zionism "commits theological injustice by its appeal to God, history, and race in its claim to the land of Israel based on the promises of God to the ancient Hebrew tribes." (from ZU). Participants in the class will explore the claims of Zionism, as well as critiques from a wide range of Christian theologians. We will welcome a lively discussion among participants.

The class will be mentored by Susan Bell, co-chair of Sabeel DC Metro, as well as other members of this group.

Racial Reconciliation - Practicum Part 2

September 24, 2014 - October 29, 2014
7pm - 9pm Wednesdays

This class will encourage socially active individuals to consciously and purposefully strengthen their practice of racial reconciliation within their arenas of social activity. Book required for this class: "Reconciliation Blues", by Edward Gilbreath

Rev. Dr. Paula Matabane is a professor at Howard University, Documentary filmmaker, historian, and film producer, and retreat leader. She is an ordained Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and associate Minister at Mt. Zion AME Church

Rev. Dr. Kimberly Turner, is an associate minister at Metropolitan Baptist Church. She is also a program manager for the Occupational Safety Health and Statistics Program at the DC Department of Health

The Bible Made Easy and Dangerous Part 2

September 23, 2014 - November 4, 2014
7pm - 9pm Tuesday

This class will explore the great stories and parables of the Gospel message and look at them through the eyes of the different characters in the stories as well as the perspective of the students in this class. Class participation and interaction in the stories may reveal a new look at scripture that will arm you with the tools to

Fred Taylor is a theologian, author, found of For The Love of Children (FLOC) member of the Festival Center Board and the 8th Day Church Community

Talking Together: An Introduction to Circle Process

September 23rd & September 30th, 2014
Tuesdays

Longing for deeper connections and safer space for communication? Interested in gaining a new skill for facilitating conversations? Join us! Jennifer Graville Bricker, an experienced restorative justice practitioner and member of New Community Church, will facilitate this two-session introduction to Circle Processes. In addition to exploring practical tools, the session will outline the content of a longer, more in-depth restorative justice course.

Jennifer Graville Bricker is a member of the Damascus Road Support Group and member of New Community Church in the Shaw neighborhood

Contact the front desk receptionist
202.328.0073 or email jpdeck@slschool.org
register for classes, *we have a new improved website! www.festivalcenter.org,
please be patient as website registration will
be available shortly!

Light meal will be provided in the classrooms

Dayspring Permaculture Garden Project

Gale Quist

The permaculture garden project at Dayspring is beginning to bloom – literally! After months of hard work, plants are going into some of the beds, and green is beginning to show as seedlings emerge.

Gardeners Grace Singletary and Ben Patterson have been working full time since January, and many volunteers have joined in. There have been regular Saturday workdays for all the Church of the Saviour (CofS) sister churches. Friends of the gardeners have come for a few days or a few weeks. On three occasions one or two bus loads of youth from Camp Sonshine have invested their collective energy in raised bed construction.

There will be regular volunteer days every second and fourth Saturday into the late fall. We'd also welcome helpers most weekdays. Just check in advance with Jean Brown at dayspringfarmproject@gmail.com.

Several rows of comfrey are sprouting, and will be a primary source of “green manure” for future enrichment of the beds. A mushroom garden has been created in the shade of mature maple trees. A bed of chives is lush with the exuberant green of new growth. Chris explains: “A temporary nursery on the deck of the Woodside residence is currently hosting over 1000 perennial plants set to go in this fall. While all of these plants are either edible or medicinal for humans, their primary purpose is to help facilitate a deep health and ecological integrity within the garden. The goal is to nurture fertility at the ecosystem level by providing habitat to a wide diversity of beneficial wildlife, including insects, birds, bats, and amphibians. This is just one of many strategies used in concert that will allow us to have a garden free of pesticides and other harmful substances.”

And, Chris adds: “seedlings for the fall garden crops are well on their way to maturity. Heirloom varieties of kale, cabbage, carrots, turnips, spinach, broccoli and lettuce are all being trialed this fall as part of our variety selection process for future Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and market sales. Initial harvests from these plantings will serve various Church of the Saviour ministries and initiatives, with some sales occurring at farmer's markets.”

In mid-August, the garden team (Grace, Ben, Chris Grataski, Jean Brown, and Gale Quist) visited Adams-Morgan, D.C. for a day of conversations with several CofS ministries there. The visit deepened our team's awareness of the rich history of ministry we are connected with. We look forward to cooperating with several of these missions in the future.

On the evening of that visit, Chris spoke to an interested audience at the Festival Center, where questions and conversation lingered well beyond the scheduled end time. For me, Chris' message was a fascinating and inspiring sermon, touching on the theology

of sacred agriculture and the spiritual imperative to engage in ecologically regenerative food production. We hope that members of all the sister communities will find opportunity to join the conversation in coming months.

Gayle Quist lives in one of the eco-cottages at Dayspring, and has been tending the land there for many years.



Jim Hall and Grace Singletary

Gale Quist and Chuck Huffstetler



Woodside Nursery

Follow us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/Dayspring-PermacultureGardens>
Or visit dayspringchurchmd.org.

Special Events

Sept 28 "S Street Rising," bookparty at New Community Church, 614 S Street NW, to meet the author, Ruben Castenanda. 1:00-2:00pm

Oct 17-19 "Seeking Wisdom with Parables," silent retreat

Leader: Judy Walsh-Mellett led "retreats in the woods" with students and parents from Christian Family Montessori School in Washington, DC, where she taught until her retirement in 2013. \$200. To reserve a space, please send a \$75 deposit with an application you can print from the application page. DayspringRetreat.org.

Oct 17 (the 3rd Friday) Carroll Café at Seekers Church presents **Kim & Reggie Harris** and **Ken Whiteley**. \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Info at: CarrollCafe.org.

Oct 25 Rev. Jim Forbes will be the featured speaker for the Festival Center Fundraising dinner. Make your reservations at: FestivalCenter.org.

Nov 14 CD Release at Carroll Café, at Seekers Church. "KA/PO in Concert" **Karen Ashbrook** and **Paul Oorts**, New and old traditional music from Belgium, Ireland, and beyond on hammered dulcimer, harp guitar, accordion, and wooden flute. With special



Photo by Peter Bankson

opening act by the Sligo Creek Hedge School's 2014 teen band, "The Rolling Scones."

December 13 (Saturday) Carroll Café presents **Ramon Cassatt** and **Emmanuel Truffilo** with **Roya Bahrami** and Co. At Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW, Wash DC. Doors open at 7pm.

Permaculture Workparties at Dayspring.

Saturday, September 13th and 27th

Saturday, October 11th and 25th

Saturday, November 8th and 22nd

Saturday, December 13th.