

Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 4, Issue 2 • Summer 2015

Learning from the Land

Let the fields be jubilant,
and everything in them:
Let all the trees of the
forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:12

Resounding through the annual church-wide celebration of Dayspring, the words of Psalm 96 invited everyone to listen and learn. In the afternoon, Cheryl Hellner and Jim Hall led an intrepid group of hikers along the streams and into the woods. Jay Beck, lead drummer for Psalters, shared his large collection of African drums with an eager circle of drummers and story-tellers. And another group gathered at the Lake of the Saints to scatter the ashes of Carol Fitch.

Worship in the Amphitheater centered around the litany: "The song of the people and the song of the Earth are one; the struggle of the people and the struggle of the Earth are one." Led by Tevyn East, a Discipleship Year dancer, teacher and advocate for right relationship with the Earth, we sang, prayed, chanted the names of trees who had been our teachers, and shared communion from the garden abundance at Dayspring. Wind in the treetops, high above, accompanied birdsong and the shouts of children as part of worship, echoing awareness that we are all parts of God's creation story.

Photos:

Top: Jay Beck leading a drumming circle.

Bottom: Tevyn East leading worship.



From the C of S Office | Duke Interns

By Kayla McClurg

One of the fun things about summer in Washington—besides the heat and humidity—is that The Church of the Saviour gets to be a teaching community for one or more interns who come to us from Duke Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation. The Center places interns in ministry settings that are primarily committed (in vision and in practice) to the work of reconciliation. These churches and ministries across the country and Canada are known for working intentionally to bridge gaps in our society—whether cultural, economic, gender, racial, educational/developmental (on and on!). And they do their work in non-traditional church ways.

We are the only teaching community to have received interns every year since the Center for Reconciliation's first summer program ten years ago! Our 2015 interns include: David Berka, learning and working with L'Arche; Katie Ross, working with Reunion (the new mission of the Church of Christ, Right Now) and with New Community for Children; and Sangwon Yang, our "resident generalist" who

is spending time with Christ House, Dayspring, the Potter's House and Andrew's House. The interns are our full partners for ten weeks, practicing the ministry of presence as well as preaching, teaching, taking classes, attending mission groups and serving among us.

I am grateful for the communities and individuals who are reaching out to them and helping them have a meaningful experience. This year special thanks go to Joseph Deck for offering weekly theological reflection and to Alison Almaguer, Becca Stelle, Grace Dickerson, Jean Brown, Gale Quist, Dave Long and others who have given vital support. I couldn't do it without you!

Kayla McClurg is the staff person for The Church of the Saviour, and facilitates the website: www.inwardoutward.org.



Editor's Corner | Songs of Hope



In the last issue of CALLINGS, we celebrated the reopening of the Potter's House. Since then, the buzz of earnest conversation has made the front room a lively place for local activists, while the back room has hosted all kinds of book and music events as well as worship. All the hard work and hopeful prayers seem to be bearing fruit as the weather warms and patrons spill outside. Check out the Potter's House website for their current offerings.

In the centerfold of this issue, we feature the fabulous evening of food, performance by present and former Discipleship Year participants which was held at the Festival Center on May 30. The room was alive with young people and it gave me real hope for the next generation and for the importance of the DY program! The room rocked as Maybelle Bennett invited us to join the march for civil rights,

and Dawn Longenecker was honored for her tireless work as the mentor and guide for the DYers.

As we move into summer, I hope you will also take time to visit Dayspring – to enjoy the quiet woods and open fields there – and let the land speak to you of struggle as well as solitude. With news of declining water tables and western droughts, extreme weather events signal the need for a theology that includes the voices of soil, water, insects and birds. Dayspring is a treasure that has been passed on to us. We must let it teach us the language of mutual accountability.

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

Next CALLINGS deadline: Sept 15

The Church of the Saviour Council

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

A Haitian Incarnation

By Helen McConnell

Wislet Garçon arrived from Haiti on October 2, 2014 to have life-saving spinal fusion surgery to repair his vertebral column that had fractured in two places in an automobile accident in the summer of 2013. For fifteen months Wislet bravely faced each day wearing a neck brace and sitting still, keeping the hope alive that a solution would appear so that he could return to a normal life. There was no possibility for him to have the surgery needed to save his life in Haiti.



Sometimes, angels appear bearing the most-needed gifts we when we least expect them. Wislet met Madeline Fetzko, a remarkable, selfless person, during her annual mission trip to Haiti. She resolved to help him. During months of preparation, Madeline pursued with fierce determination all the challenges of this multi-projored project until the pieces were all in place:

- Visas for Wislet and his brother Benedict (translator and devoted helper)
- Medical transport essential for Wislet to fly in supine position
- Funding to purchase 1st-class airline tickets required for Wislet and a medical companion and an economy ticket for Benedict
- A surgeon and a hospital to do the operation pro bono
- A well-located, furnished apartment and funding for rent
- Donations of cold-weather clothing



Madeline Fetzko with Wislet awaiting surgery, November 26, 2014

their time and resources, providing weekly transportation to Festival Church and, after surgery, to physical therapy, cooking meals, taking them to see major Washington sights and sports events, inviting them into their homes, etc.

At long last, on November 26th the surgery took place and was a success! [day-of-surgery photograph] After two and half

Wislet Garçon after the accident, summer 2013



Farewell party on February 8th with members of the Church of the Saviour community: L-R: Barbara Moore, Basil Buchanan, Wislet Garçon, Florence Akurut, Margie Ford, Benedict Garçon, Helen McConnell

months of rehabilitation Wislet is much stronger and more stable in his walking. Wislet now beams with joy, laughs loudly and states confidently in his newly-acquired English, "I am fine," –and he means it. He is an emblem of brokenness restored to wholeness, of life ebbing away to life flourishing, in short . . . a sign of hope to the world!

On February 10th Wislet returned to his town of Montrois, Haiti a restored man. Here he is beaming with his wife and 9-year old daughter



Wislet back in Haiti with his daughter and wife, February 10, 2015

This coming together of many to make possible a new life and a future for Wislet who had no outlook for a healthy life—Madeline, Benedict, the doctors, nurses and physical therapists, all the generous donors, and Wislet's humble gratitude—actualizes in a simple, pure and undeniable way the essence of the great mystery of the Incarnation of love.

Helen McConnell is a member of Festival Church

Discipleship Year Celebrates the Arts & Community

By Dawn Longenecker



David Hilfiker

On May 30th, at the Festival Center, we had a dinner theater experience with the DY community. Our meal was prepared by Pam Ford, a wonderful caterer, along with food donated by local restaurants and stores.

The theater portion of the evening was a smashing success! DY alum and current volunteers rocked the house with exceptionally beautiful music, dance and a spoken word piece that had everyone enthralled - brought to us by Taylor Whitfield. Someone said afterwards, "I wasn't expecting the talent to be so good!" It was especially exciting to have so much diversity in the room. DY volunteers & alum have figured out what is so elusive to the rest of the world - how to break down the barriers of class and race - and are doing so through the arts.

Visual Art was displayed on the walls by Emily Owlsey, Jean Brown, L'Arche, Sarah Baker and Mathias Martin. Elizabeth Stevens created a slideshow of DY volunteers through the years shown before the official show began in the main hall.

The performers focused on the three DY & Church of the Saviour themes - Community, Justice & Faith. Robert Davis, a Samaritan Ministry participant sang Lift Me Up by Josh Groban. Tevyn East, a professional dancer with Holy Fools Art, made us all thirst for clean and plentiful water for all with her beautiful swirls & cartwheels. Kiersten Rossetto gave us chills with her song Up To The Mountain by Patty Griffin. Paige Reuber presented a slide show on community as she's been living in Quebec House since her DY year. She shared the importance of Intentional Community & how Discipleship Year's emphasis on this helps their community.

David Hilfiker did the ASK for \$, emphasizing the importance of the volunteers being exposed to the challenge of poverty in DC and how through the weekly DY seminars they learn about the structural injustices underlying our systems of oppression in this country.

We ended the evening with prayer by Chaplain Brey Cribbs & the song Bind Us Together, led by Jessica Wabler, which we all sang in a circle - Church of the Saviour style.



Dawn Longenecker, Paige Reuber and Katy Cribbs

Dawn Longenecker, Director, Discipleship Year Program @The Festival Center
Dawn Longenecker
Director, Discipleship Year Program@ The Festival Center

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



L to R: Mikalaugh Beckwith, Jalaine Polk, Tevyn East, Jessica Wabler, Jean Brown, Debby Churchman



Kiersten Rossetto



Tevyn East



Robert Davis



Maybelle Bennett and Ian McPhearson



Mathias Martin and Emily Owsley

Photos by Mike Smith and Peter Bankson

Dismantling Mass Incarceration Through Relationships and Commitment

The most significant indicators of successful re-entry are available to us immediately: Relationship. Community. Friendship. Healing. Reconciliation. Matters of the heart and spirit.

Our grounding in community is absolutely essential, but we tend not to be aware of our own need.

Reunion seeks to dismantle all barriers to successful re-entry. We envision a whole different way of addressing crime, justice and brokenness. These new possibilities are only in reach as we learn together to be communities of redemption and love.

A New Set of Friends and a New Way of Thinking. For Everybody.

As important as jobs and housing are to the success of men and women coming home from incarceration, even more important are

- a new set of friends and
- a new way of thinking.

You can probably imagine: If you come fortunate to home from prison with all kinds of resources— a job, housing, money, an inner commitment to do things differently this time— but you have the same friends and the same mindset that got you into trouble originally, chances are you will make the same mistakes and wind up incarcerated again.

If, on the other hand, you come home without any resources at all— as so many do— but you adopt a new attitude, a new mindset about life, you are willing to make mistakes and to learn, and you now have friends to encourage you and affirm your positive choices, chance are good that you will find your way to the things you need.

As important as community is to those coming home from incarceration, it's not only returning citizens who need new friends and a new way of thinking.

Consider the events pertaining to race in recent history. Consider our deep mistrust of one another. Our tendencies toward war and violence. Loneliness and isolation. Divides of race and class. The extremes of power and privilege. For the sake of our individual well being, and for the well being

of our communities, the nation and the world, we all need a new set of friends and a new way of thinking. We need new hearts, a new spirit. We need the fabric of community and relationship, healing and redemption. All of us.

To bear a new kind of justice, we need to be a new kind of people.

To be a new kind of people, Reunion welcomes everybody. Join us!

Schedule: Reunions/becomingchurch@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATES!

Bread of Life Church and the Silent Retreat mission group are offering an opportunity to explore and grow more deeply into the practice of Centering Prayer. On September 12, 2015, at the Festival Center, Fr. Carl Arico, Vice-President of Contemplative Outreach, will introduce us to Centering Prayer. This introduction will be followed by six weeks of in-depth instruction, through videos created by Contemplative Outreach and featuring Fr. Thomas Keating. The experience will be concluded by a weekend retreat October 23 - 25, 2015, at Wellspring, also led by Fr. Arico.

The Silent Retreat Mission Group offered a similar experience about 20 years ago and many of us remember that time together as a seminal, life-changing experience. Fr. Arico has sweet memories of his time with our community all those years ago and looks forward to joining us again.

Saturday October 3rd, 2015 at the Festival Center
Dr. Anton Treuer, Author and academic specializing in the Ojibwe language and American Indian studies.

Dr. Treuer will share insights from his book, "Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask."

Dr. Anton Treuer (pronounced troy-er) is Executive Director of the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University and author of 13 books. He has a B.A. from Princeton University and a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He is Editor of the Oshkaabewis (pronounced o-shkaah-bay-wis) Native Journal, the only academic journal of the Ojibwe language.

For more information contact Mike Little at Faith and Money Network
202-469-8512 or mike@faithandmoneynetwork.org

The First Nakba Museum Exhibit

The Nakba Museum Project of Memory and Hope debuts at the Festival Center on June 13, 2015, and we invite you to join us at this special exhibit.

Our team has been working around the clock to make this happen, and we are excited that our exhibit will bring all these creativity together from art, theater, storytelling, dance to poetry. We procured 14 paintings from 5 Palestinian refugee artists, we received 16 photographic prints from an award winning Palestinian Journalist, we have put together an interactive oral history and film screening component, and a comprehensive display detailing Palestinian past and present. Now, we are inviting you to come hear these human stories.

Special Events

June 19 – 6:30 pm – On the side of the Road documentary

June 20 – 6:30 pm – “It’s What We Do” A Play about the Occupation + The Wall Performance (\$5- \$10 suggested donation)

June 27 – 6:30 pm – Art Auction hosted by comedy troupe Ted and Company, performing “I’d like to buy an enemy”

Festival Center
1640 Columbia Road NW
Washington, DC 20009

FREE ADMISSION

*With hope and gratitude,
Bshara, Sam, Ahmed, Allie, Lyndi, Tony, Guy, Kiersten*

The Nakba Museum of Memory and Hope is the first of its kind in the US. It is more than just a museum, it is a living testimony to unheard stories whose time has come. Our team includes Palestinians, Israelis and Americans and we welcome you all.

Donations and pledges from the exhibit will go toward establishing a permanent space in Washington DC

FAITHONOMICS: connecting belief and practice for the common good.

By Margee Kooistra

That was the challenge posed to the spirited group of about 45 who gathered at the Festival Center on Saturday, May 9th. How do we translate what we believe into practical ways that bring redemption to a world in need? How do we close the gap between how we actually live and how we want to live? How can we invest our time and money so that many more can live abundantly? How can I engage my ache for global equity and sustainability to make a difference for the common good?

It was thanks to the collaboration and leadership of Common Change, Faith & Money Network, and Common Table that the day included discussions ranging from writing a money autobiography, counteracting the exploitation of payday lending, experiencing the benefits of relational resource sharing, providing financial services to the un-banked and the under-banked, understanding and using banking as a tool for justice (just money!), thinking in terms of ‘service worship in place of worship service’, recognizing the role of money in creating, exploiting and punishing immigrants, and much more. The discussions and workshops grew out of the experiences and creative initiatives of the presenters and organizations present: Jackie Bulanow, Mike Little, Rachel Anderson, Mike Stavlund, Andy Loving, Mark Scandrette, Will Samson, and Jen Smyers, Markus Larsson, and John John Kavyava.

The times to network and wrestle together woven into the intensity and richness of the day were an essential element, as were the delicious food and drink which followed the opportunity to ‘tie every-



thing together’. It was a gathering in which I had exciting glimpses of the Kingdom of God, of the Beloved Community, in which transformation, justice, and redemption are realized in our life together. As a member of the board of Faith & Money Network, I was deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate, inspired by the creative ideas and opportunities shared. While both stimulated and overwhelmed by the imaginative and compassionate possibilities opened for us as agents for the common good, I am holding on to the goal that was suggested both at the beginning and the end of the day: “take one next practical step”.

Margee Kooistra is a board member of the Faith and Money Network.

Special Events

June 19-21 – “The Gift of Divine Time.” Weekend retreat at Dayspring is FULL.

June 23 – Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat.

June 25 – Potter’s House Book Event: S Street Rising! With Jim Dickerson and the New Community Church. Details: www.pottershousedc.org.

July 11 – Soul Slam @5pm, the Servant Leadership School in collaboration with the Sanctuaries will host a "Soul Slam" This event will feature creative presentations that speak to our soul!

July 11-21 – Seekers Pilgrimage to Guatemala. Led by Marjory & Peter Bankson is FULL.

July 31-August 2 – “The Mystical Words of Jesus: Praying the Beatitudes in his Native Aramaic.” Weekend silent retreat led by Connie Ridgeway. \$210. To register: dayspringretreat.org.

August 13 – Quiet Day at Dayspring Retreat.

Sept 9 – Ember Day

Sept. 12 – Fr. Carl Arico at the Festival Center(see page 6)

Sept 18-20 – “The Spiritual Practice of Letting Go,” weekend retreat led by Stephanie Burgevin is an associate faculty member of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. \$210. To register: dayspringretreat.org.

Sept 27, 3-6pm – “Exploring Silence,” an introduction to silent retreat.

October 3 – Dr. Anton Treuer at the Festival Center (see page 6)

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Join us on Tuesdays at The Potter's House for a hosted discussion at our community table! Here is the schedule:

1st Tuesdays: Dismantling White Supremacy with members of Eighth Day and Friends of Jesus Church

2nd Tuesdays: Creative Writing Group with Kayla McClurg of Inward/Outward

3rd Tuesdays: Exploring Faith and Money with Mike Little of Faith and Money Network

4th Tuesdays: What is Calling? with Yonce Shelton of Being with Between