

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 11, Issue 1 • Winter 2022

A Call Sustained by the Wind:

Saving Dayspring Silent Retreat Center from Proposed Midcounty Highway Extended/M-83

By Margaret Schoap

When was the last time you stayed overnight on the Dayspring Church property? Were you on a silent retreat, or did you stay in a cabin at the Wellspring Conference Center for an event? Have you been a guest at the Overlook Retreat House looking out on the south 40 (acres, that is)? When did you last tour the Simple Gifts site, or sit on the bench meditating at Merton's Pond and lose track of time? Have you sat in a rocking chair, lately, on the Lodge porch at sunset to watch the geese fly overhead and land on the Lake of the Saints? When was the last time you heard the owls hoot in the night, or see the bats fly past your car headlights while driving to your destination at the Silent Retreat Inn? Have you walked the rock labyrinth praying? Have you visited the beautiful Earthen Hands Potting Shed? When was the last time you were at Dayspring and gazed at the beautiful organic garden plots and wished you had more time in life to grow your own garden? Come sit in the corner of the Farmhouse porch and feel the breeze cool your brow. Come, be still, and wait for God.

The Call to save Dayspring Silent Retreat Center and Dayspring Creek comes through living on this land, walking on the grassy paths through the meadows, stepping over beaver-chewed tree stumps in the forest. The strength for continuing this Call comes through the wind touching your face on a daily basis while tending to the land's needs. This unsought Call, to save Dayspring Silent Retreat Center from the encroaching M83 Highway, comes while smelling Dayspring Creek as it enters the inlet to Merton's Pond; and the Call comes in the raindrops covering your face while splitting wood.



Before my arrival at Dayspring, there were many people on the property who worked for 20 years to successfully alter Montgomery County's proposed M83 Highway master plan away from going through the center of the Silent Retreat Lodge. All praise to those dedicated folks who took on this hard, unexpected work!

Those of you who have walked into the forest areas on Dayspring know there is a quiet not experienced in the surrounding urban areas. In fact, most who come to Dayspring don't know they are in the middle of a city. Germantown's population exceeds 100,000 residents. One half mile to the east is Rt 355, and another half mile further east is I-270. Both roadways carry thousands of cars daily.

Where is the silence found on Dayspring, and how is it here? Actually, silence can be found almost everywhere you walk on the land. The people who have lived here since Dayspring land was purchased have ensured there is natural cover all around the property and borders, so to create the feeling of being "screened" from the busyness of the world. This work, this stewardship, is intentional, so every visitor can experience their time alone with the great I Am. It is quiet work, intentional and loving work. It is Call.

We are entering the fourth decade of our Call to save Dayspring Silent Retreat Center and



Please join us in the Dayspring Intercessory Prayer, originally created by Festival Church:

Gracious God, the eyes of our hearts see the planned M-83 highway through Dayspring as relocated; the integrity of the Dayspring Silent Retreat Center protected; this, or something better, manifested for our community, in totally satisfying and harmonious ways, to the highest good of all concerned. And so it is. May the grace of this seeing help to bring your vision to reality. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Editor's Corner | Winter Songs



If you'd like to see CALLINGS continue, please make a contribution by check to:

Church of the Saviour
(In Memo line put "Callings")
Address: 2708 Ontario Rd. NW
Washington DC 20009

It's another wintery day as I write this, so it seems appropriate to share a few pictures from the Second Annual (yes, that's right) "Chocolate and Caroling" songfest in front of the Festival Center, which is closed for a long overdue renovation. The Potter's House provided containers of rich hot chocolate for people as they stopped to listen, and we surprised each other with the richness of our harmonies. Who knew there were so many fine full singers among the scattered CoS churches?

Honestly, it was the high point of Christmas for me. I didn't realize how hungry I was to sing with other people. And because we were outside, we were able to tuck our masks away and feel the sense of community there on the street.

This comes with our grateful thanks to Bill Mefford, Director of the Festival Center, for continuing to invite us to draw from the deep well of our common heritage, and to Leigh Tivol, for guiding the Potter's House through this pandemic period, and to Karen Mohr from 8th Day, who led us in our singing.

In this issue, you will find some calls to action and a new feature titled "Remembering." To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Faith and Money Network, we've dedicated more space than usual to the evolution of what started as the Ministry of Money at Wellspring. And we are inviting you to watch a short film produced by the TAME coalition that features the land at Dayspring. Both invite your help.

Finally, as Dayspring Retreat opens again for in-person silent retreats, Nat Reid is looking for another cook to be part of the team needed for meals with new safety protocols (see that ad on page 8).

We're grateful for all the financial support that came in at the end of the year, and look forward to keeping you connected with the wider Church of the Saviour network again this year.

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The Church of the Saviour Council

Bread of Life • Dayspring Church • Eighth Day • Festival Church • Friends of Jesus
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Honoring the past, envisioning the future: Faith and Money Network celebrates 40 years

By Brittany Wilmes

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary at Faith and Money Network, we're taking a look back at our legacy, revisiting the programs and events we've introduced over the decades, and outlining the possibilities that lie ahead for our small but mighty organization.

Don McClanen founded the organization as the Ministry of Money after holding his first unofficial workshop at Wellspring in 1976. After a successful career as the founder and executive director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Don found himself grappling with questions around money in his own life. His reflections – and his charismatic presence while speaking frankly about personal giving and finances – resonated with a growing audience.

"People started coming from everywhere who wanted to talk about money in a safe place," says current Faith and Money Network director Mike Little. "Jesus spoke about money, but it's often the last thing we'll talk about in church."

In its early years, the Ministry of Money brought people to Washington, D.C., to meet others and to hear from speakers who were ready to help them explore their relationship with their money through a lens of faith, personal values and spiritual beliefs. The Ministry's earliest offerings consisted of entry-level weekend workshops, which took place over two days and introduced attendees to a personal exploration of spirituality and wealth, anchored in a biblical reality, and advanced workshops, which often featured prominent theologians as speakers, including Walter Brueggemann, Richard Rohr and Henri Nouwen.

Reverse Mission Trips

In the 1980s, the Ministry of Money began to host what were then called reverse mission trips, now known as Trips of Perspective. Mike Little says that the organization sees this tradition as a response to a typical mission trip: rather than going

to a place like Haiti or Bosnia or Appalachia to change it, we send people to listen, to learn and to be changed by the relationships they form and the experiences they have along the way.

Many members of the Faith and Money Network first encountered the organization by attending Trips of Perspective, including board president Paul Taylor and his wife Cara. They went to Haiti with the Ministry of Money in 1987, where they worked respectively in a wound and dental care clinic and a home for the dying run by the Missionaries of Charity. "The impact of being amidst poverty, seeing it, smelling it, touching it; it just can't help but give you a contrast to middle-class life in the U.S.," Paul says.

The couple's conversations on the trip and their experience was like "an advanced education" in the effects of poverty, Paul says, and within days of their return, the local Catholic Worker house in Sacramento contacted Cara Taylor to ask her to start a home for people living with AIDS – something she only felt qualified to do because of her brief but affecting experience with the Missionaries of Charity in Port au Prince.

New Leadership

Mike Little became director of Faith and Money Network in 2007, and in his leadership role, he offers a pastoral approach as a money mentor and as a leader for the organization, say board members. "We are so fortunate with Mike's roots in the Church of the Saviour that he brings that reality of a life rooted in the awareness of spirituality and wealth and biblical economics, and then is able to preach it – he can really do that authentically," says board chair, Paul Taylor.

Susan Taylor and her husband, Andy Loving, joined the board of directors in 2008, a time that challenged many nonprofits and donor-based organizations who had to quickly adapt to the realities of the Great Recession. "I saw other organizations that waited too long and refused to change

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The Faith and Money Network Board of Directors in 2011:
Back row – Paul Taylor, Susan Taylor, Andy Loving, Dave Osgood, Mike Little.
Middle row – Judy Osgood, Kim Montroll, Margee Kooistra.
Front row – Bob Hadley, Gordon Cosby, Fr. Roger Desir, Betsy Edmonds.
'Needed now more than ever'

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anything until they were just broke,” said Susan. “Mike was much more proactive, bringing the budget to us and asking what we were going to do. It was still painful to shrink the vision for a while, but because he led, we pulled through.”

Programming pillars

The signature piece of Faith and Money Network’s programming is the Money Autobiography, created by Elizabeth O’Connor, an early member of the Ministry of Money. Writing a money autobiography allows an individual to begin to better understand their behaviors and emotions evoked by money.

This activity became a turning point in board vice-president Susan Taylor’s life. She completed her money autobiography at her first Ministry of Money retreat in 1987, when she was a graduate student in economics, and she says it was “quite the contrast” to what she was learning in university classrooms.

Today, Susan still begins with the personal when she’s focusing on issues of faith and money, whether that’s in her professional life as a partner with Just Money Advisors or as a speaker and writer for Faith and Money Network and other organizations.

The Faith and Money Network

The Ministry of Money rebranded in 2009, becoming Faith and Money Network. Some mourned the loss of the organization’s original identity, but others felt the new name better reflected an evolving reality — and poised the organization to address systemic issues that affect people’s relationship to their faith and their finances.

“The organization has evolved to address many aspects of the ways we relate to money,” says Susan. “We’re not just talking about giving, but also our spending, our earning, our relationship to caring for the earth. We’ve gotten bolder about talking about giving as redistribution. That’s part of the evolution that I’ve seen [at Faith and Money Network] that feels like it addresses the conversation of our times.”

Today, the organization has expanded the breadth of its focus, asking individuals to think about how small actions affect bigger systems of power and influence. Leadership has also taken on more responsibility to commit to systemic change, as demonstrated in the network’s recent racial equity statement.

Looking Ahead

Although the coronavirus pandemic put an indefinite stop to some of the organization’s key programs like Trips of Perspective, it also revealed the silver lining in embracing a digital-first philosophy for communicating with members nationwide. Thanks to the organization’s work with consultant Heidi Thompson in proactively pivoting to online events and communication, Faith and Money Network’s online small groups have had a 525% increase in attendance over the past two years.

Mike hopes that Faith and Money Network’s future will continue to hold more collaboration with people who are

doing this work, whether that’s in household covenant groups, seminary partnerships or developing material with theologians. “We want to be a voice of conscience in this culture of scarcity and consumerism — to be a part of a movement of others who are trying to push back at the way that Jesus has been co-opted,” Mike says.

As Faith and Money Network celebrates 40 years of outreach and ministry, Mike continues to believe in the culture of possibility that the organization promotes. He continues to take his work a day at a time, 14 years on at the helm of the organization, and looks forward to the relationships and collaborative opportunities that will come in the future.

For him, Faith and Money Network has always espoused the philosophy at the core of anyone’s transformative relationship with their beliefs and their money: “You can’t do this work alone.”

Brittany Wilmes is a freelance writer, project manager and strategic consultant based in Portland, Oregon



“I’ve focused on personal household practices instead of big systemic issues because I feel like we’ve created this mess one convenient decision at a time. As Dorothy Day would say, I want to make it easier for people to be good. That’s why community around this kind of work is so important. Getting support, getting ideas, having fun with it, those are the reinforcing pieces of the work,” Susan says.

Study groups, like the household covenant groups formed after the Sabbath Economics workshop and recurring Money, Faith and You groups, are another key Faith and Money Network offering. They offer participants an opportunity to build the community that Susan mentions and, as Mike says, create “a safe place to wrestle with the question of how much is enough.”

For those wanting spiritual accompaniment and accountability as they delve into their relationship to money, Faith and Money Network also offers money mentoring. “That’s where for some people particularly, that transformation can take place,” says Susan. “So many money issues are so deeply personal that some of us never would speak about it in a group.”

An Invitation to Anti-Racist Action: Moving Money to Hope Credit Union

In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement and Faith and Money Network's own reckoning with a commitment to racial equity, the organization has committed to moving money to Hope Credit Union, a Black-led, government-insured financial institution based in Jackson, Mississippi.

Faith and Money Network director Mike Little and board member Andy Loving of Just Money Advisors invite you to consider opening a money market account at Hope Credit Union to support its efforts to build capital for Black individuals and businesses.

By moving money to Hope Credit Union, you would join Faith and Money Network board members and the organization itself in solidarity with the anti-racism movement and healthier financial futures for BIPOC Americans in the Mid-South.

Why Hope Credit Union?

Hope Credit Union (HCU) has its roots in Jackson, Mississippi, where it was organized in 1995 by the members of Anderson United Methodist Church as the state's only church-sponsored credit union.

Since its founding, the minority-led credit union has formed several partnerships, sponsorships and mergers that today enable

Hope Credit Union to deliver its services to a largely BIPOC membership in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Slavery was most prevalent in these states before the Civil

War, and today the region continues to be plagued by persistent poverty, with large swaths of the population un- or underbanked and vulnerable to predatory lending practices. HCU strives to build wealth and capital in underserved communities throughout the Mid-South, and Faith and Money Network supporters can help the credit union achieve its goal by opening money market accounts at HCU.

HCU can use the increased capital from our deposits to continue to build wealth on the margins by increasing access to basic banking services in rural and economically distressed communities and serving more mortgage and small business loans to Black, Brown and Indigenous community members.

Hope Credit Union is a CDFI, or community development financial institution, that is insured through the National Credit Union Administration up to \$250,000 per individual and \$500,000 per couple.

Leading by example

With our renewed commitment to advance racial equity as outlined in our October 2021 racial equity statement, Faith and Money Network has been examining our own partnerships and programming for opportunities.

As part of this practice, we have committed to move money to Hope Credit Union in 2022. This commitment builds upon Faith and

Money Network's work to support underserved communities by placing money in institutions that help these communities build wealth, such as City First Bank of DC, Self-Help Credit Union and Calvert Impact Capital.

This invitation to join Faith and Money Network in moving money to Hope Credit Union can be the beginning of a deeper exploration of anti-racist ideals put into action, says director Mike Little. "Lifestyle changes aren't a political solution to anything, but they may be a political question to everything."

Empowering communities to build wealth

Community development financial institutions like Hope Credit Union are historically underfunded, says financial advisor and Faith and Money Network board member Andy Loving. CDFIs often have a lot more work to be done in their communities than the money they have to loan out. And when looking at what it would take to overcome wealth inequality in the United States, the reality is stark: The average Black family in America has just 12% of the wealth of the typical white household.

HCU helps communities and individuals build wealth by serving mortgage and small business loans, both of which can be essential in eradicating systemic inequality. If you're looking for your money not just to make more money, but also to do good in the world, moving some of that capital to HCU can be a promising start.

"This is just a different social justice action that we don't think about," says Loving. "When you go into a financial institution and make a deposit, you're handing over a measure of power."

By moving money to HCU, even in small amounts, you can support individuals who often face barriers when trying to build wealth. Making this move may be an answer for those who have demonstrated in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and committed to anti-racism but are wondering what actions they can take next.

"We're saying to [HCU], you take this money and do what's best for your community instead of us telling you what to do with it," says Loving.

How do I get started?

Signing up with Hope Credit Union is both simple and low-risk. Andy Loving and his team at Just Money Advisors can help you get started if you're interested in opening a money market account.

Just Money Advisors has a relationship with a dedicated staff member at Hope Credit Union who is providing personalized support and assistance for those opening new accounts, and HCU also offers free checks. Credit union membership requires a one-time, tax-deductible payment of \$10 and the establishment of a \$15 savings account. As a member, you will also have online banking access.

To learn more about Hope Credit Union and to explore opening your own account, visit their website.

** Faith and Money Network gains no material benefit from nor revenue through our partnership with Hope Credit Union.*



We focus a lot of our programming through the School for Liberation on building movements for justice - and rightfully we should considering so much injustice in our world! But a vital part of building movements is found in the inward journey, cultivating nurture for our souls and spiritual journeys.

This is why I am excited about a class called Building a Discernment Toolkit, that starts Tuesday, February 22 and is being led by Crisely and Luisely Melecio-Zambrano.

Each of us as humans make thousands of big and small decisions everyday. At times, those decisions feel easy and natural and at other times they can paralyze us. Sign up today to learn more about various tools for discernment that span across centuries of wisdom. We will delve into a different discernment tool every month as we build community together. The class will be based in experiential learning engaging body, mind and heart.

Classes will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month 7 pm-8:30 pm EST and the schedule is as follows: 2/22 • 3/22 • 4/26 • 5/24 • 9/27 • 10/25 • 12/3

Full and partial scholarships are available!

Sign up today

Here is a sneak peek at the rest of 2022 for the School for Liberation:

- Teach Ins on 12 Steps to Decolonize & ReAfricanize Our Thinking of Racism
- The Discernment Project sessions modeled after the Quaker clearness committees
- Several lunch-time teach ins on Black History
- Class on liberating evangelicalism
- Colloquium on listening to unheard voices impacted by climate change
- Teach ins on anti-racism, climate change, and the inward journey

And so much more so keep an eye out for more details!

Remembering Conrad Hoover...

Conrad Hoover came to Church of the Saviour as a Presbyterian minister who also considered becoming a monk. In his early years, he wrote for Sojourners Magazine, a national publication devoted to racial, social and environmental justice. As a member of Church of the Saviour in the 1970s and 80s, he was a spiritual director for many, frequently led silent retreats at Dayspring, and ran The Potter's House bookstore, where his eclectic love for books attracted spiritual seekers from all over Washington, DC.

"[Conrad] was a brilliant spiritual director, providing wisdom and spiritual counsel," said Cindy Wear, a friend who was with him when he died January 7, 2022. "He was kind and accepting. People could be vulnerable with him without fearing they would be judged. My whole family, even my kids, would go to him for counsel."

Wear and husband David met Conrad at Dayspring in 1980. "A silent retreat is a challenging contemplative experience where most of your time is spent in rest, silence and prayer – like Father Hoover, it is contemplative," Wear said. "You were silent except for preordained times, such as meals, or for spiritual counsel with Father Hoover. He would listen, and he would help you find healing."

While still a member of Church of the Saviour, Conrad joined the Catholic Church and held dual membership until he was ordained to the priesthood on May 6, 1989.

After his ordination as a priest, Father Hoover served as campus minister at The Oratory in Rock Hill, SC, then served on the faculty of Belmont Abbey College before becoming a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, where he ministered to people living with AIDS as the epidemic took off in the South.

Brother Joe Guyon, who lived with Father Hoover at The Oratory, said: "What sticks out with me was his kindness. He was open to everybody – rich, poor, black or white. It made no difference."

Conrad was born Aug. 7, 1936, in Takoma Park, Md., the son of Hiram Charles Hoover, a district manager for Social Security, and Dorothy Culbreth Hoover. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., in 1958, and a master's degree in



ministry from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He later earned a doctorate in ministry from The Catholic University of America.

Along with his pastoral duties, Father Hoover also served as the diocese's director of ecumenism until he retired from active ministry in 2006.

Remembering his time at The Potter's House and other Columbia Road ministries of Church of the Saviour, Conrad Hoover designated L'Arche of Greater Washington for memorial donations: L'Arche of Greater Washington D.C., P.O. Box 21471, Washington, D.C. 20009, or online at www.larche-gwdc.org/donate.

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 • Dunamis Peace Institute • 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 • Liberation School • Life Asset Credit Union • Life Pathways • Manna, Inc. • New Community ArtSpace • New Community for Children • O.N.E.DC • Overlook Retreat House • Potter's House • Recovery Café • Samaritan Inns • Sarah's Circle • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Wellspring Conference Center

Callings

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Dayspring, continued from page 1

Dayspring Creek. The ministry at Dayspring which carries this Call is the TAME Coalition (Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended, M-83). A new short film features Dayspring Church, Dayspring Silent Retreat Center, and Dayspring Earth Ministry. Visit TAME Coalition's YouTube Channel to see all five films exhibiting portions of the six-mile proposed M83 Highway. More short films will be released soon.

With great thanksgiving, the CoS sister churches and the wider CoS diaspora join in praying for the M83 Highway to be eliminated from all road plans in Montgomery County and in the transportation plans for the DC region.

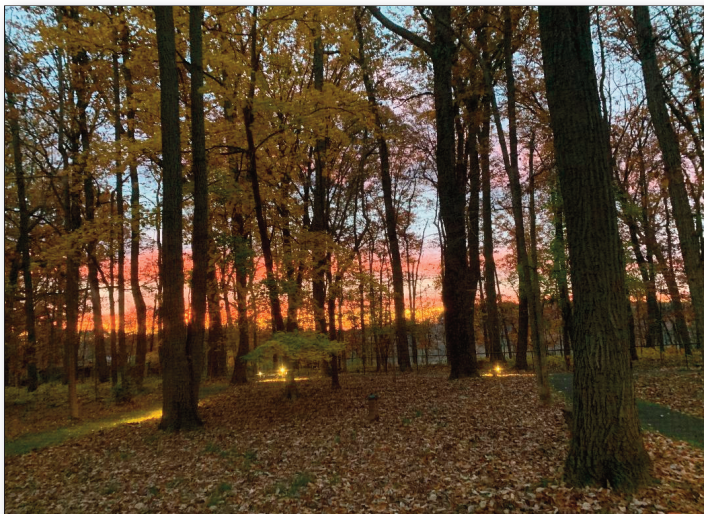


Photo: Basil Buchanan

Dayspring is Hiring

Dayspring Silent Retreat Center is hiring a cook. The Retreat cook works independently to prepare vegetarian meals for up to 18 people for weekend retreats which run from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. This position requires cooking for one to two weekend retreats per month, most months of the year. The cook also helps serve and clean up after meals. All work is done in the silent retreat environment. For a full job description and instructions on how to apply visit: dayspringretreat.org or email kitchen@dayspringretreat.org.

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