

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

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New Potter's House Director Called to the Common Good

By Andrea Lewis

I somehow knew, even as a young adult imagining my future and what I would do with my life, that the work I would find most fulfilling would be in a role supporting others in some way. I am a believer in the collective good. The greater good. That we are made stronger by uplifting one another. This was the professional world I wanted to be a part of.

I began my career working in the arts. Museums, specifically. Some consider art a frivolous pursuit, but I believe that living a truly happy and fulfilled life must include the things that bring us joy. Art does that, whether it's the simplest drawing done by a child or a famous artist's masterpiece. Art can also bring healing and it does to many—through painting or music or writing or performance. There is something wondrous about art when you share it in ways that allow people to immerse themselves in it. I had the pleasure of doing this for many years, witnessing the wonder it brings to all ages.

While art will always hold a special place in my heart, after a few years I was drawn to libraries. Those who left the public library in their childhood may have forgotten its importance as a community space. I spent nearly 20 years helping to promote public libraries and their services. Children came to hear stories and find books to help build literacy skills; teens for homework help or just to hang out. Adults came to enjoy author talks or to receive assistance in writing a resume and finding a job. And, as many know, libraries often provide a safe space for the unhoused, which is so critical in many communities. I found through this work that the library could be whatever members of the community needed most. In fact, libraries continue to evolve to do just that, with one of their more recent and very visible offerings being free meals for children during the summer months.

Eventually I made my way to the humanities where we viewed one of our primary roles as that of convener, bringing people together to discuss the most pressing issues in their lives and

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— Andrea Lewis

Editor's Corner | Is Meeting in Person Important?



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Church of the Saviour has been known for our emphasis on call and commitment, but yearly recommitment may be just as important. Like taking a deep breath before a dive, the invitation to evaluate, shift or change on a regular basis is a critical element that honors our freedom to choose in or out. For me, the yearly question that I ask during recommitment season (traditionally the third week of October, when CoS was founded) is "What fans the flame of my aliveness?" Knowing that helps me say "yes" as well as "no."

What initially attracted me to Church of the Saviour was the kind of people I met here: They were intentional, inclusive, and questioning. The lack of dogma or creed appealed to me. The idea that every person was called to a level of self-awareness that included shadow work also attracted me, and the emphasis on servant leadership gave me a clear framework for my faith. All of those things rested on the practice of yearly recommitment.

Now, after nearly two years of meeting for worship via Zoom, the question of meeting in person is part of our annual recommitment angst. Several of the CoS communities have grown during the pandemic because former members were now able to participate in worship from home or afar. Others have returned to in-person worship because it sustains their mission.

Jesus seems to provide guidance here. He chose an inner circle of disciples to live with for three years AND he spoke in large public gatherings to people who were interested but were not in training for servant leadership. While it is true that worship via Zoom can reach a wider audience, my inner guidance points to the need for in-person contact to sustain the kind of work that you read about in this issue of CALLINGS.

Recently I went back to Elizabeth O'Connor's book, *Servant Leaders, Servant Structures*, for some guidance. She writes about the New Testament concept of being a priesthood of believers, engaged in both the education and experience of becoming priests over time:

We are not religious persons because we read the Bible, pray, and say the proper words. We are persons of faith when we are exercising the capacity that each of us has to be a priest—when we are about the business of healing the divisions that exist within us, between us, and among us. The strange thing about our being priests is that we heal ourselves as we engage in binding up the wounds of others. [p.66]

Although becoming priests may sound foreign to modern ears, that is the real work that we are doing in each Church of the Saviour community. And yearly recommitment keeps it fresh. My hope is that a body of committed members will take a deep breath and dive into the turbulent waters wherever we are—knowing in our physical bodies that we are not alone.

With care,

Marjory

Marjory Bankson
Chair, Church of the Saviour Council
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The Church of the Saviour is an ecumenical Christian community, made up of eight small churches, rooted in the radically inclusive life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We believe that in our diversity, each of us is an image-bearer of God, equally valued and loved. We welcome all individuals to join in the life of worship, fellowship and ministry in any of our small faith communities. All of us have an essential role in bringing God's love, justice and mercy to our world.

Director, continued from page 1

communities. The humanities provide the lens through which almost everything we do is viewed. If you've chatted with friends or family members about the history of your neighborhood or the ethics of how local government is handling community issues or your favorite work of literature, that's the humanities in action. I was blessed to put more than 50,000 free books in communities across Maryland, convene discussions about community policing, wrangle visitors every year at the National Book Festival, and provide a safe space for veterans to discuss their service as part of countywide book groups. The many years I spent doing this work were some of the most meaningful of my career.

Although fulfilled in my humanities work, I felt called to another professional shift. It brought me to The Potter's House in Washington, DC. I couldn't be more honored to be entrusted with guiding such a well-loved community institution into the future. As I said to the Steering Committee when I accepted the position, my professional life has mostly been spent working at organizations rooted in community. It's where my heart lies. I feel most in alignment with who I am under such conditions. It has served me well over the years, and I look forward to seeing what this alignment allows me to bring to The Potter's House and the Adams Morgan community.



Andrea Lewis with Leigh Tivol.



**Join the Festival Center
on September 14th from
6-8pm ET for an evening
of stories and memories
at the Servant
Leadership School
Reunion.**

**Servant Leadership School Reunion
September 14th from 6-8pm ET | Zoom**

**Speakers include Ray McGovern, Diana Chambers,
Joseph Deck, Marjory Bankson, and
AnaYelsi Velasco-Sanchez, and more.**

**Register today at:
<https://festivalcenter.networkforgood.com/events/44776-servant-leadership-school-reunion>**

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 • Earthen Hands at Dayspring • 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 DC • Samaritan Inns • Sarah's Circle • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Wellspring Conference Center

The Heart of the Recovery Café: To Be Known & Loved

By Mike Schutt

Imagine a place where you feel known and loved. Or a person or a community who makes you feel that way. Imagine a space that is warm and comfortable and beautiful.

Now imagine that you've never known such a space or felt such acceptance from others—or that it at least has been a long, long time. Where would you go to begin to lay down your fears, to let go, to heal—especially if you've experienced traumas like homelessness, addiction, or other mental health challenges?

Creating that sort of space and community is what Recovery Café's founders—Killian Noe, Ruby Takushi, and Mary Crow—set out to do in Seattle. Killian had the experience of cofounding and leading Samaritan Inns in Washington, DC; Ruby was a psychologist and therapist; Mary was on her own recovery journey. They saw the need for such healing communities to address the gap between treatments available for those in a crisis (the emergency room or detox center, for example) and the drop-in centers available for those in long-term recovery.

Recovery Café would not be a drop-in center. Every person in the space would be either a one-time guest or an active Member of the Recovery Café community. Members would commit to: 1) Be drug and alcohol free for 24 hours before entry; 2) Participate in a weekly Recovery Circle; 3) Contribute to the Café community. Opportunities for loving accountability would arise when Members were not able to meet those commitments.

Recovery Café would also recognize that we're all in recovery from something—and all of us need support in recovering from whatever blocks our capacity and freedom to love. In addition, Recovery Café would offer recovery support along the entire continuum of care, designed to welcome those in the early stages of recovery, those considering treatment, and those both in and post-treatment. Finally, Recovery Café would support recovery from trauma and the results of trauma like addiction, homelessness, and other mental health challenges.

The first Recovery Café was founded in Seattle in 2003 and became a place of radical hospitality and loving accountability, rooted in being both known and loved. The Café became a place of healing and discovering divine love in ourselves and others.

The Recovery Café Network (RCN)

Places like that are rare. Places like that are sorely needed. And so the word spread.

First, a church in San Jose, California, reached out to Recovery Café through Church of the Saviour connections, followed by a group from Everett, Washington.

After investing much time and energy sharing the Recovery Café model with these early groups, Recovery Café launched

Recovery Café Network (RCN) to respond to the growing number of groups, nonprofits, and faith communities from around the country seeking to create their own Recovery Café.

The RCN created a nurturing recruitment and cohort training model to train and equip those interested in establishing a Café in their community. Every spring and fall, following an in-depth application process, a new cohort of Cafés joins the Network. Each of these new Cafés is referred to as an "Emerging Member."



Lexington, Kentucky staff

Emerging Members begin their journey with a two-day Cohort Launch. The launches are exciting, inspiring times as Cohort members meet each other and feel the energy of a movement of people gathering around a shared purpose. RCN staff provide training and lead community building exercises, such as:

- The Heart of the Recovery Café
- The Six Core Commitments of the Recovery Café Model
- Healing Community Space: The Culture of the Milieu
- Loving Accountability: Recovery Circles

Following those initial two days, each Emerging Member Café participates in a series of virtual training modules, practices a healing community space in monthly Cohort Check-Ins, and joins periodic all-Network events and supplemental trainings.

After finishing their Cohort training, each Café works closely with the RCN staff for ongoing coaching and support. Though COVID slowed this process down, following that two-year period the RCN staff facilitate an Emerging Member evaluation process, including a site visit. Those who have successfully implemented the Recovery Café model become "Full Members."

The Network's first Cohort Launch took place in 2016. The most recent launch, in May of this year, welcomed 13 new Emerging Member Cafés! The Network now consists of 49 Cafés. We expect to welcome about 20 new Cafés each year over the next three years.



Donald and Jacqueline Conerly with guest, Lorraine Dancy between them.

Connections Across the Network

The Network itself helps Cafés listen to, learn from, and support each other. Network staff host a weekly “Boost” Zoom call, a time for Café leaders to build relationships and share the joys and challenges of leadership. The Network also facilitates a bi-monthly “Commitment Coffee Hour” with presentations and conversation focused on the six Core Commitments that each Café adheres to:

- *Create a community space that is drug and alcohol free, embracing, and healing*
- *Nurture structures of loving accountability called Recovery Circles*
- *Empower every Member to be a contributor*
- *Raise up Member leaders*
- *Ensure responsible stewardship*
- *Work to end systemic racism and socioeconomic inequality so every person can thrive*

These Commitment Coffee Hours have so far highlighted our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion across the Network. During our last Commitment Coffee Hour, over fifty Café staffers from over 20 Cafés heard from the leaders of the Recovery Cafés in Longmont (Colorado) and Clark County (Washington) who shared their experiences with extending support to the deaf community and to Spanish speakers through offering recovery support in those languages.

In addition to these training modules and ongoing opportunities for learning and connection, the Recovery Café Network offers a robust set of resources to all Cafés: a comprehensive Operations Manual, guidance on fundraising, access to a database to track how people interact with and benefit from each Café, and much more.

Washington, DC to Orting Valley, Washington

Recovery Cafés have now been started in cities, like DC, and in small towns, like Orting, Washington, a town of about 9,000

serving the very rural Orting Valley. Recovery Cafés stretch from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Daytona Beach, Florida.

Recovery Café DC grew out of Jacqueline and Donald Conerly’s life work of coming alongside those being released from prison. Through their relationships with Bread of Life Church they discovered Recovery Café’s model. After visiting Seattle and meeting with Killian and Ruby, they knew they had found the model that would help them create the healing recovery community they envisioned—and so they applied to become an “Emerging Member” and participated in the third Cohort Launch.

Jacqueline and Donald felt joining the Network was a “no-brainer.” In their experience, the training and support provided by the Network, and the Network staff’s desire and ability to come alongside all those interested in founding Recovery Cafés, has been invaluable. Recovery Café DC even consulted Recovery Café Seattle’s building blueprints as they designed their own space!

Starting a Recovery Café: You’re Invited!

As Jacqueline points out, “You don’t need to know how to do this. You don’t need to be a recovery support specialist. You don’t have to own a space. Jump in!”

If you are feeling a sense of call to create a community of radical hospitality and loving accountability that exudes beauty and welcome, please do reach out to info@recoverycafenetwork.org and visit the Network’s website: recoverycafenetwork.org. To connect with Recovery Café DC, please email Jacqueline Conerly at jacqueline@recoverycafedc.org.

*Mike Schut serves as the Recovery Café Network’s Communications Manager. After college he volunteered for a year as a resident manager at Church of the Saviour’s Samaritan Inns in Washington, DC. Mike has spent the majority of his career connecting spirituality and faith with caring for the Earth, at Earth Ministry and with the national Episcopal Church. While working in that field he edited/partially authored three books *Simpler Living*, *Compassionate Life; Food and Faith*; and *Money and Faith*.*

Remembering ...

Gloria McClanen

1925-2022

Gloria McClanen's memorial service will be held at Well-spring, November 6th, Sunday at 3pm. Gloria came to the Church of the Saviour with her husband Don and their two children, Michael and Laura, in June, 1962, and immediately moved into the farmhouse at Dayspring, where Don became the manager of the farm.

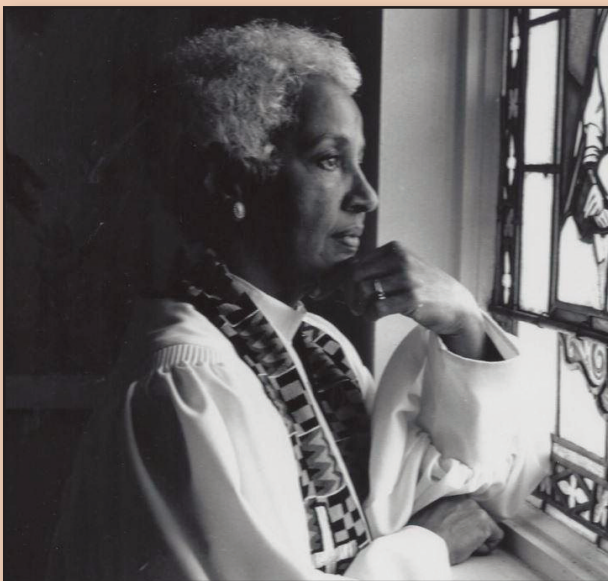


In 1968 the family moved into Overlook, which had been built especially for them along lines that Gloria laid out for the architect, and lived there until the 2010's.



Yolande Ford

1929-2022



Yolande and her husband, Claude Ford, came to Church of the Saviour in the early 60s. With her graduate degree from Howard University and her passion for children, Yolande became the first part-time director of FLOC (For Love of Children). Then, she oversaw integration at the University of Maryland as special assistant to the Chancellor for 16 years. Taking early retirement, she was ordained and served two different UCC churches before joining Gordon Cosby at Friends of Jesus Church. Finally, with a heart for returning citizens, she joined the Church of Christ Right Now. As a life-long advocate for racial justice, Yolande created a welcome table for all throughout her life.



The Festival Center Reestablishes 'Come and See' Program Under New Name



Last week 18 high school youth and their leaders came to Washington DC for our first “Service and Learning” event, which were formerly known as “Come and See” events. “Come and See” trips were an important program for the Festival Center and Church of the Saviour to share with visiting groups the exciting work happening in Washington DC through Church of the Saviour ministries and Festival Center partners.



The Festival Center welcomed Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, MN with service projects, speakers, tours, and more. Each morning they started their day with a service project. The group served at So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.), Joseph's House, Bread for the City, and Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House. The group also heard from current leaders in our work for social change, community, and call:

- Jim Marsh, UMC Clergy person, Core member of Bread of Life Church, and Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, challenged the group to think about how churches all too often encourage passivity among their members. Jim urged them to think about their own call to serve their community.
- Keith Anderson and Delontae Britton of the organization, Headwaters, told their personal stories and their call to mentor young men in the District of Columbia.
- Gerson Quinteros, from United We Dream, spoke with the young adults about how young people have led the movement for immigration reform and asked the group to think about how they can be active in leading movements for justice in their own context.
- AnaYelsi Velasco-Sanchez, founder of En Conjunto, a collective providing support, community, resources, and collaborative opportunities to People of Color working independently at the intersection of justice and spirituality, led a participatory exercise which enabled the youth to deepen their understanding of themselves through art and poetry.



Finally, the group visited the Museum of the Palestinian People, just days after 47 Palestinians, including 16 children, were killed in attacks in Gaza. And the group also learned what it means to build movements for justice and create systemic change through a tour of the Church of the Saviour ministries in Adam's Morgan.



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Special Events

Wed, Sept 7 | Quiet Day, 10-2pm, \$25. Vaccination required. Bring a bag lunch. Pre-register with Nat Reid at office@dayspringretreat.org.

Sun, Sept 11 | Earthen Hands invites you to Dayspring, 3-5pm to listen for God in scripture and creation. This will continue on the second Sunday of each month.

Sept 14 | Servant Leadership School Reunion, 6-8pm on Zoom. Register: Festival Center.

Sept 16-18 | "Making the Lord's Prayer Your Own," led by Connie Ridgeway. Weekend retreat, \$250. Register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Sept 18 | REUNIONS Annual Cookout, 3pm at site #13 in Rock Creek Park.

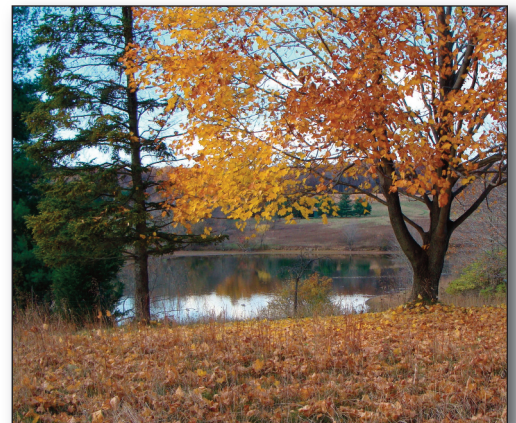
Tues, Sept 20 | Ember Day, 10-4pm, Bring a bag lunch. \$25. Pre-register as above.

Wed, Sept 21 | "Praying with the Poetry of Creation Mystics: Gerard Manley Hopkins," led by Ann Dean, 10-4pm, \$50. Register: office@dayspringretreat.org

Wed, Oct 5 | "Bridging the Gap" friendraising breakfast for Recovery Café DC, 9-10:30am at THEARC Blackbox Theater, 1901 Mississippi Ave SE. Contact: kim@recoverycafedc.org.

Wed, Oct 19 | Self-guided Retreat Day at Dayspring Retreat. Register as above.

Tues, Nov 1 | Quiet Day, 10-2pm, bag lunch. \$25. Pre-register as above.



Jenny's Tree