

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

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Headwaters Program at Recovery Café DC

Elizabeth McMeekin

The Headwaters program is a special component of Recovery Café DC's effort to connect with young men (18-24 years old). The facilitators, Keith Anderson (L) and Jim Marsh, Jr. (R), have a combination of lived experience and therapeutic training. They share a passion to create meaningful connections with young men in and around Southeast DC.

Beginning in 2019 at the 801 East Men's Shelter run by Catholic Charities in Ward 8 in Southeast, Washington, DC, Keith and Jim met weekly with the young men. Their aim was to create an open space for deep, authentic conversation. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused the program to shut down, but Keith and Jim were determined to find a way to continue their work. They eventually formed a new partnership at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School's Young Adult Learning Center (YALC). In February of 2023, a group of YALC participants began attending the Headwater Program's newly named "Barbershop" conversations.

The format is kept intentionally open. For one hour each Wednesday, the **Barbershop** becomes a space where young men working on their GED can gather to share a meal and talk. Little by little, the participants have opened up about their day-to-day experiences. Most are navigating very complex realities. Some are on probation; others live in a half-way house or group home. Nearly all have experienced trauma and deep emotional wounds.

During these gathering times, the armor of self-protection comes off, allowing for powerful awakenings and connections to emerge. These can be as simple as when Keith says "I'm proud of you" to a young man. After hearing this freely offered affirmation, the young man's face clearly revealed that Keith's words had touched him at his core; a moment of hope.

The **Barbershop** is also a place to share profound pain. At one session, a young man told the group a family member of his had been murdered the previous night. The "non-porous container" that Keith and Jim create allows for excruciating experiences to be expressed and held with deep care. This is vital first step toward healing.

This type of space is possible not so much because of what Keith and Jim are doing. Rather, it is how they are being. As facilitators and as caring adults, they make their own experiences, knowledge, and wisdom accessible to these young men. After one gathering, a participant declared "I trust you two!"



Keith and Jim

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Elizabeth joined the amazing Recovery Café DC team in July of 2022 as Director of Operations. She has been involved with other CoS ministries over the years, including at the Festival Center, Jubilee Housing, and with Faith and Money Network. For questions about RCDC, email her at elizabeth@recoverycafedc.org.

Editor's Corner | Being Church Today



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Church of the Saviour
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Washington DC 20009

If you google "Church of the Saviour DC," you will find yourself on a website titled "Inward Outward Together." That was a conscious choice by the CoS Council to acknowledge our roots in Church of the Saviour and our separate identities today. Each of the church communities that comprise Church of the Saviour has a different call and a different charism, but we all practice the inward/outward journey that Gordon Cosby preached and Elizabeth O'Connor wrote about (see the reading list on page 6).

The weekly gospel reflection that many of you get by email comes from a group of writers representing those different communities. Following the style that Kayla McClurg offered before her untimely death in 2018, each writer offers a personal reflection on the lectionary text assigned for the coming week. You can sign up to receive that gospel reflection every Saturday by filling out the form on our website, <https://InwardOutward.org>. You can also find it on our InwardOutward homepage and on the Festival Center homepage.

In addition, there is a weekly zoom prayer circle at midday on Wednesdays which you can join by contacting Lindsay@festivalcenter.org for the link. And there is a weekly Bible study online which you can sign up for on the Festival Center website.

Now that the Festival Center has reopened after extensive renovations, you can also visit the stunning Elizabeth O'Connor Chapel on the main floor, which anchors the social justice ministries located throughout the building. Upstairs at the Festival Center, the Center for Spiritual Formation is also becoming a sacred spot for spiritual direction and counseling. Designed to be a quiet space for contemplative reflection adjacent to the busy open-space for computer stations, the Center is a physical reminder that the inner journey is essential for sustaining social change. You can see a short video on the Festival Center website of the bright space which is directly above the chapel, looking out on the city.



Callings is yet another form that Church of the Saviour is taking today. As the editor, I pay attention to the inward/outward journey of both the church communities and the missions that have grown out of Church of the Saviour. Although we still own the Dayspring property together as Church of the Saviour, there are different ministries taking place there too. In this issue, Earthen Hands is featured. On the back page of CALLINGS, you will find open retreats at the silent retreat center [dayspringretreat.org], and special offerings at the Wellspring [wellspringconferencecenter@gmail.com].

Beneath it all, the Spirit continues to call each community to deepen our roots in Divine Oneness so we can take up the work of Jesus in our world today. We invite you to journey with us.

With care,

Marjory

Marjory Bankson
Chair, Church of the Saviour Council
callingseditor@gmail.com

The Church of the Saviour is an ecumenical Christian community, made up of seven 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 7th, 10 - 1 pm

Earthen Hands Seed Saving Workshop at Dayspring

Come get your hands in the dirt while learning the art of seed saving from Mosadi Khaliq.



Mosadi is a 4th generation Washingtonian with more than a decade of experience in urban agriculture and environmental education. He has led programs for various organizations and agencies and is founder and co-owner of Rooted and Sustained, a local business that provides greenspace maintenance while training and employing individuals to beautify and care for their community and the environment. With experience recruiting, training, and directing over 5,000 volunteers, interns, and trainees, Mosadi is committed to creating a world full of productive and environmentally harmonic greenspaces.

Dayspring is located at 11301 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown, MD 20876.

Contact Rev. Jean Brown at 661-522-0876 or

EarthenHandsatDayspring@gmail.com for more details.

If you would like to make a donation to support this event and more events in the future, we welcome your contributions!

From Civil Rights to Social Investing in the Deep South

By Jeanne Marcus and Kate Lasso

In June, a small group of pilgrims gathered in Memphis, Tennessee, for the first Deep South Investors Tour. It included four members of the Church of the Saviour: Jim Edmonds (Bread of Life Church), Meade Jones Hanna and Kate Lasso (8th Day Faith Community), and Jeanne Marcus (Seekers Church).

Sponsored by the Faith and Money Network, in coordination with Hope Credit Union, and led by Mike Little, the week-long trip took participants to sites in Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. These were communities where Hope Credit Union is making financial services available to some of the most underbanked communities in the U.S. and supporting community partners in creating new opportunities for housing, food access, education, and community participation.



DREW, MS: The Grocery Online Ordering Distribution Service (GOODS) refrigerated van makes the daily 35-mile round trip from the converted Drew Armory to the nearest full service grocery, easing the burdens of getting good food for dozens of Drew's residents. Hope Credit Union financing made the program possible. Photo: Meade Jones Hanna

The group also visited historical sites in the Deep South, including the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery.

In late July, Kate Lasso and Jeanne Marcus reflected together on their experiences, and what they learned from the Tour.



MEMPHIS, TN.: At the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel, Jim Edmonds reads stories of protest from the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Jimmie Lee Jackson was a black civil rights activist in Marion, Alabama, who, while walking in a peaceful voting rights march, was beaten and fatally shot by Alabama state troopers. Photo: Sarah Loving

What communities or Hope Credit Union projects were high points for you?

JM: I was especially moved by the Mae Bertha Carter Learning Center in the Delta town of Drew, Mississippi. Founded by Gloria Carter Dickerson, and named in honor of her mother, the Learning Center is a meeting and learning space brightening Drew's no longer prosperous downtown.

Mae Bertha Carter share-cropped with her husband on a plantation outside Drew. Against continuing obstacles and threats, Mae Bertha Carter fought, ultimately successfully, to enroll her children in the all-white Drew public schools. When her children returned from their emotionally difficult days, Mae Bertha sang her children freedom songs to lift their spirits. Her resistance paid off: Ms. Dickerson and seven siblings graduated from the prestigious University of Mississippi.

Ms. Dickerson now has an additional project: creating easier food access for Drew's underserved community. With financial assistance from Hope Credit Union, a refrigerated van makes daily trips to and from the nearest large grocery, filling residents' online food orders. New community gardens grow a range of vegetables in raised beds next to the pick-up center.

KL: I was moved by the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, where Dr. King was assassinated. Entering the museum, we wandered down a centuries-long path recounting the insistent struggle for freedom and equality of Blacks since the 17th century. While the formal exhibits ended with King's assassination and we left the exhibit area, I was deeply impacted by



SELMA, AL.: The Edmund Pettus Bridge is infamous as the site of an unprovoked attack on 600 civil rights marchers, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Because of the brutality of the attack by county sheriff's deputies and state troopers using tear gas, horses and billy clubs, the date of the attack, March 7, 1965, became known as Bloody Sunday. Photo: Kate Lasso

walking up the exit ramp into 21st century reality alongside the silhouettes of civil rights marchers. I felt a strong invitation to be a part of the continuing work. This sense of the ongoing struggle for equity was reinforced during our visit to Hope Credit Union's headquarters which had framed a quote by Myrlie Evers-Williams: "HOPE is a continuation of the Civil Rights Movement. When a person can begin to lift oneself up, to have a better home, to have a better job, to be able to walk into a financial establishment and be treated as a human being, respected as a human being, you can lift yourself up and you can walk out with class and with dignity."

What did you see or learn than stirred hope in you?

KL: I was both inspired and humbled by the leaders of the communities we visited. George Holland had returned from Chicago to retire and wound up as mayor of the tiny town of Moorhead, MS where the credit union was helping to renovate homes. He also cut the grass in front of the municipal building. In Memphis, Mary Wainwright, who cooked and served our lunch on the last day, also ran a program to purchase homes being auctioned for tax delinquencies, returning them to the homeowners, complete with needed renovations, thus avoiding housing speculation in their neighborhood. These are hardworking people who also show up for their communities. Such beautiful examples of servant leadership.

JM: Martin Luther King, Jr. defined power as **"the ability to achieve purpose and effect change."** What stirs hope in me is the growth of this kind of power at Hope. From its humble beginnings in a Jackson, MS. church, it's grown to provide over \$3,600,000,000 in financing to the unbanked and underbanked in Deep South states. That magnitude gives Hope the kind of power Rev. King spoke of. Hope Policy Institute, Hope's advocacy arm, is now partnering with the Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis (BCCM) to address the harm of predatory loans that look like easy financial fixes but trap

borrowers into loans with exorbitant interest rates. While BCCM and the Credit Union have developed a low-cost borrowing alternative in Memphis, BCCM and Hope Institute are lobbying at the state and federal level for a sensible cap to annual interest rates—which in Tennessee, can now run over 400%.

We've been back several weeks: Have you thought about what our churches might do to move forward from here?

KL: 8th Day has a committed core of folks dedicated to working with racial justice and healing, which includes bringing more white people into this work. I am wondering if there is a way to unite this commitment with Hope's example of restorative justice through a financial lens. I have thought about us becoming a sister community to one of the churches or the Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis, to accompany them and support their engagement in social justice work. I have thought of this as a potential tithe of 10% from our mostly white community as a step towards financial restoration of a community from which so much has been stolen.

JM: At Seekers this summer, a group of about 15 met to consider reparations for the continuing harms to Black people and communities from slavery through decades of Jim Crow laws and practices. Their impacts and legacies continue to cause harms to the present day. I noticed I was often seeing the organizations and projects on the Tour through that lens of restorative justice. I'm imagining Black communities taking the lead in naming their needs and strategies to meet them, with white allies providing necessary support. A lunch discussion with the Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis helped ground this vision in the need for sustained advocacy.

I'm reminded that some members of each of our two churches combined into the Racial Justice and Healing Mission Group that met for some years. So there's potential to build upon earlier efforts.

Final Thoughts

KL/JM: Faith and Money Network's Deep South Investors Tour made starkly clear the intentional, centuries-long divestment and violence that continues to be experienced by Black communities. With deeper mindfulness of this shameful history, we met leaders whose commitment, resilience and creativity nurtures wholeness in their communities. We are reminded of the phrase "They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds." We witnessed so much fertile soil being carefully tended on this tour of the South; the harvest will surely be abundant. Let's join with Hope Credit Union in watering the field.

If you'd like further information about Hope Credit Union, please contact Mike Little at Faith and Money Network; mike@faithandmoneynetwork.org .

Jeanne Marcus is a retired mediator, a writer, and a member of Seekers Church, living in Washington D.C. Kate Lasso lives in Washington DC and is a long-time member of 8th Day Faith Community.



Create Positive Change: Books to Get You Started

Today's world calls for people who can build the common good. Since 1945, the Church of the Saviour and its sister communities have inspired and trained people to do just that. They have discovered key elements necessary to create the world we truly want. Here are these elements together with some books that elaborate what was discovered.

A compelling vision: To learn how Gordon and Mary Cosby worked with others to envision and realize a powerful expression of practical faith, read the stories and discoveries of their first years:

Call to Commitment by Elizabeth O'Connor

Journey Inward, Journey Outward by Elizabeth O'Connor

Servant leadership: To get a flavor of how Gordon used preaching as a leadership tool to build the community and to evoke the leadership of all, read this collection of Gordon's sermons annotated with key events:

By Grace Transformed: Christianity for a New Millennium by N. Gordon Cosby

A short collection of sermon excerpts was compiled by Kayla McClurg in this volume:

Seized by the Power of a Great Affection by N. Gordon Cosby

Silence and retreat: To understand the centrality of listening to God in silence and receiving inspiration and direction over a period of time, read:

Search for Silence by Elizabeth O'Connor

Training: To replicate in your life, your group, your church, basic training for empowered action as pioneered by the Church of the Saviour's School of Christian Living, use the four volumes of The Doorways Series by Jacqueline McMakin and Rhoda Nary:

Encountering God in the Old Testament

Meeting Jesus in the New Testament

Journeying With the Spirit

Discovering Your Gifts, Vision and Call

For more on identifying your gifts and work that expresses those gifts, read:

Eight Day of Creation by Elizabeth O'Connor

Mission groups: To understand how mission groups can effectively create positive change in individuals, the community and the world, read:

Handbook for Mission Groups by Gordon Cosby

Work: To learn how we can create positive change through our work by incorporating key discoveries of the Church of the Saviour, read:

Working from the Heart by Jacqueline McMakin and Sonya Dyer

Retirement and Aging: To discover our call in retirement and to invent new ways to live that out, read:

Creative Aging by Marjory Zoet Bankson

Church as Seedbed for Powerful Change: To learn how a handful of people created a new expression of church inspired by the Church of the Saviour, read the story of Seekers Church:

Stalking the Spirit In a Do-It-Yourself Church by Marjory Zoet Bankson

Calling on God: Inclusive Christian Prayers for Three Years of Sundays by Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove

The Call to Create a Thriving Earth Community: To see how Church of the Saviour learnings apply to creating a world that works for all, read:

Our Defining Moment: A Call To Create the World We Truly Want by Jacqueline McMakin (Available at www.theglobalrenaissance.org).

Check InwardOutward.org for availability from Church of the Saviour or order from Potter's House bookservice. All these books, except *Our Defining Moment*, are also available from Amazon.

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 • Caroll 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



Earthen Hands

Wednesdays around the Wheel

Potting Shed Hours

Wednesdays 2 - 8 pm

Other times by appointment or chance



- **Try your hand at the wheel** - *Call ahead to schedule*
- Take home **nature photo cards**
- Empower women by purchasing soup mixes from the **Women's Bean Project**
- Learn about **Contemplative Pottery Retreats, 2nd Sunday Worship and Wanders, Walks on the Land**

"We are of the Earth and Earth is in Our Hands"

You can find us at 11301 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown, MD 20876. For more information reach out to Rev. Jean Brown - Pastor, Potter, Photographer and Pollinator:

EarthenHandsatDayspring@gmail.com or 661-522-0876.

Callings

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Special Events

Also see Pottershousedc.org and FestivalCenter.org

2nd Sundays, Sept 10 & Oct 8 | Earthen Hands. 3-5PM

Begin at the Dayspring Farmhouse. Email Jean at EarthenHandsatDayspring@gmail.com or call 661-522-0876.

Sept 15-17 | "Stillness, Simplicity & Silence." Weekend retreat. \$275.

Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Wed, Sept 27 | Self-guided retreat. 9-5. No leader. Bring lunch. Limit: 8 persons. \$30. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Sept 29-Oct 1 | "Discerning Call." \$275. 2 nights & 6 meals. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Wed, Oct 11 | Quiet Day 10am-2-pm. \$30. Bring lunch. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Wed, Oct 18 | Self-guided retreat. Details above.

Thurs, Nov 16 | "Praying with the Poetry of Creation

Mystics: Denise Levertov." \$50. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Saturday Nov 18 | Wellspring's 50th Anniversary

Watch for details

