

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 9, Issue 1 • Spring 2020

RECOVERY CAFE DC NEWS

By the Recovery Cafe DC team:

Jacqueline and Donald Conerly, Jim Marsh, Jr, and Kim Montroll

We're excited for this new year and the ways we are growing as a healing, transformative recovery community in Ward 8. This past November 14th, 2019, we held our first annual Bridging the Gap Fundraising & Education of the Heart Breakfast. About 70 people gathered from all over the DC area for deeply moving stories of hope, sharing of our vision and commitment to bridge the extreme gaps of opportunity in DC.

We are turning over every stone to find the building to purchase in Ward 8 that can become a beautiful place of radical hospitality, belonging and healing community. Please join with us in prayer for the right building, and the launch of our Capital Campaign.

Thanks to the gift of partnerships, some Recovery Cafe DC members are no longer homeless - they are proud residents of beautiful Jubilee Housing apartments. Jubilee Jobs and Christ House have been critical resources for Recovery Cafe DC members. A gifted licensed Art Therapist from George Washington University's graduate program leads a new class in our School for Recovery. The circle of partnerships is growing!

Recovery Cafe DC is a healing, transformative recovery community for all who have been traumatized by addiction and other mental health challenges, homelessness and incarceration.

To learn more, contact Jacqueline Conerly (jacqueline@recoverycafedc.org) or Kim Montroll (kim@recoverycafedc.org)



Donald Conerly (Co-Founder, Recovery Cafe DC); Guest; Jacqueline Conerly (Co-Founder, Recovery Cafe DC) at the first Bridging the Gap Breakfast in November 2019.

Recovery Cafe DC is a healing, transformative recovery community for all who have been traumatized by addiction and other mental health challenges, homelessness and incarceration.

Editor's Corner | Remembering Fred Taylor



The headline for Fred Taylor's obituary in the Washington Post read "Pastor turned activist helped to close a dangerous DC children's shelter." That was Junior Village, an overcrowded orphanage with almost a thousand children. But the obituary made no mention that he was the co-founder of Seekers Church, and barely mentioned Church of the Saviour. Here is some of that story.

As a student at Yale Divinity School, Fred heard Gordon speak – and was inspired by the message that every person could have a call to action. A decade later, after Gordon returned from the march with Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama, Fred resigned from his church to get more involved in the freedom movement as FLOC began in response to Gordon's vision for "a home for every child."

FLOC was the second outward mission of the church (after Potter's House). FLOC volunteers came from many different churches and neighborhoods, and Fred offered a 12-week course to provide a biblical underpinning for their work, but it was not a congregation. When the city government voted to close Junior Village in 1973, Fred stayed with FLOC for 30 years, developing programs like Hope and a Home, FLOC's Advocacy Center, and later the Wilderness School. Meanwhile, Gordon turned his attention to housing and jobs for people living close to The Potter's House. Mission groups began to proliferate and, in 1974, Gordon announced his view that the church needed a new form, possibly grounded in three worshipping centers: 2025, Potter' House and Dayspring. It was not clear where FLOC would go.

When I interviewed Fred for my book about Seekers, *Stalking the Spirit*, he told me that his work with FLOC was very challenging in those days, but he missed preaching and the close relationships of a small congregation. He also wanted to share the leadership with a woman, even though the mainline denominations were not yet ordaining women. It was a matter of justice, he said.

In January, 1976, Fred asked Sonya Dyer if she would co-pastor a new church with him. She had been the volunteer coordinator for FLOC's Hope and a Home project, so they had worked together. Both had teenagers then, so the early service at 2025 became a natural base for their written call to "be church," rather than a single mission. Fred became the regular preacher at the early service, and Sonya held the worship space as liturgist.

For the next ten years, Sonya and Fred worked together to build a church that would call forth mission and ministry from all members. By the mid-80s, there were about 60 adults and 40 children at Seekers – often a chaotic mix. All this time, Fred's primary work was with FLOC, developing policies and programs that would provide a "home for every child."

Fred left Seekers in 1991, when he and his wife, Sherrill, moved to the Shaw neighborhood. For awhile, Fred worshiped with New Community, then settled with the 8th Day Community. When Gordon proposed that the sister churches incorporate separately in the mid-90s, Fred raised his voice for staying connected. He found a willing partner in Kate Cudlipp, who was then Chair of the FLOC Board, member of the Servant Leadership Team at Seekers, AND Chair of the CoS Council. Fred and Kate worked together to revamp the CoS constitution, shifting membership from individuals to churches, and she oversaw the sale of 2025 before her accidental death in 2011.

Fred Taylor continued to mentor younger people as they were drawn to Church of the Saviour, and two years ago, he initiated a retreat at Dayspring for representatives from all eight communities of Church of the Saviour. He never stopped casting a vision for unity and cooperation. On February 1, members of the wider CoS community will gather to remember Fred at the Festival Center. Truly, he was God's gift to us.

Marjory

Marjory Bankson
CALLINGSeditor@gmail.com
2020 CALLINGS deadlines: Jan 15 Ap 15, Jy 31, Oct 31

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The Church of the Saviour Council

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

Remembering Fred Taylor

By Jean Brown

Sometimes a nudge comes and we listen. I am so grateful I listened and called Fred without delay. I knew he had been sick. It seemed only days before we walked to the Dayspring garden during an 8th Day community gathering. Though Fred's body had already been weakened, he chose to walk to the Permaculture Garden none the same. There we met another elder at the center, Maurice Miles, from Dayspring. While others worked to clear the land, Fred and Maurice sat and visited. Two wooden rockers held the men as if the garden had known of their coming. While they exchanged stories, others cleared the soil and planted winter wheat to cover the ground adding to its fertility.

All the while, the wider Creation buzzed about. Fred and Maurice observed the movement of the full-bodied, little insect, the bumblebee. Fred asked: "Where do they live?" A lengthy discussion ensued, rendering all present childlike in wonder and filled with more questions than when the day began.

The following year, late in October 2019, I sat with Fred in the front room of his home. I had come to seek his guidance; I had come to glean from his experience. He had generously said yes to my visit and welcomed me in. I described the deep call taking shape in me. A ministry emerging at Dayspring called Earthen Hands. After listening intently, he read the draft I had written. With affirmation he said: "Yes, sounds like call." Then he told me: First, don't try to do it alone, invite others to join you. Second, love yourself. Third, the Kingdom of God is here, now. Pay attention to where you see it. Shortly after, we concluded our conversation so he could get back to writing his book, focusing on hope in the middle of all our polarities.

Throughout the years of knowing Fred Taylor he has always had an open ear and an encouraging word. For each time given, I give thanks. I will always be grateful for listening to the nudge.

Jean Brown, Creator of the Earthen Hands ministry; EarthenHandsatDayspring@gmail.com.

By Jim Marsh

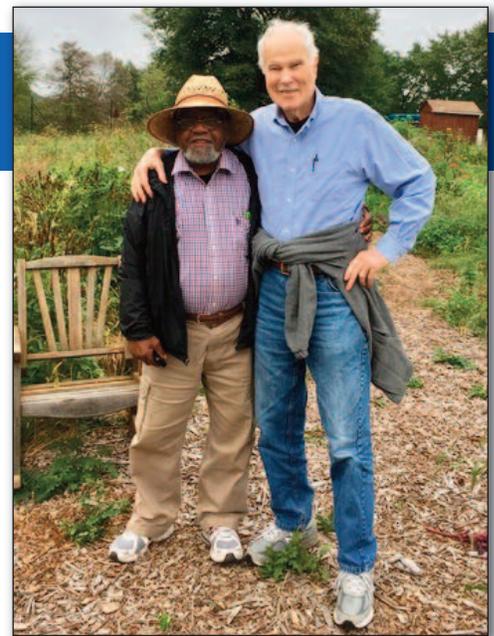
As Fred pressed to finish his book on finding hope in dark times, he made time for me to ask questions and learn more about his Church of the Saviour experience. He talked in a sweeping way, recollecting what seemed salient at the time. I was happy to see him come alive when I asked him to tell me what he knew about working with young people on the margins. It was an honor to seek his council.

He told a beautiful story of meeting Gordon for the first time: *"It was Gordon's authenticity that grabbed me while hearing him speak at Yale in '54/55."*

"After Selma, the call came for FLOC to come to be. Claude and Yolande Ford were interim directors." Fred said, "I was the builder." (His telling of the whole Junior Village saga was just spellbinding and inspiring)

He told the story of going door to door in the Shaw neighborhood asking families, *"Where are your children winning?"* This was a positive spin on supporting a kids strengths rather than focusing on their weaknesses. A tutoring program would follow.

"Stopping the suffering didn't stop didn't change the system." (He was referring to the closing of Junior Village in 1973.) "We needed to change from a "rescue" mission to one of



Maurice Miles and Fred Taylor

"permanence". (He was talking about families being re-united and then supported/empowered to create their own plan, building personal/family agency.)

My personal favorite was *"Don't tinker with old systems, because they always resist change."*

"People came to me with their dreams." (Fred said this in the context of developing the wilderness school out at Rolling Ridge, where he was helping people find/nurture their call and mission around working with young people, I believe.)

Some of my other favorites were:

"Gordon cheered people who took chances, and was a good sounding board".

"Therapy is for strong people, not weak..."

"Choosing kids you have a chance with..."

"A call is like this: it's up and down...and with age, comes perspective. You've heard the call and have answered. To have a call, and a community of people behind us, is all we can ask for." (Fred said this after I shared my call and vision around working with older adolescents through the Headwaters program within Recovery Cafe. It was the last thing he said to me on my third, and final, visit.)

M-83 Again Threatens Dayspring!



Since the last election in November 2018, forces which oppose sustainable mass transit are quietly, even silently, growing. Some officials who earlier opposed building M-83 are now changing sides.

Maryland's Governor Hogan has pushed through a financial package to widen 270/495/American Legion Bridge for relieving traffic congestion, and the players involved are working to attach funding for M-83 to this interstate project. Despite all our hope in the past, the threat that M-83 will finally be built is again very real.

The Psalms are helping me articulate my own dialogue with God as I cry out for help in this daily work to stop M-83 from being built. What am I to do next? In praying through the psalms, we join generations of Jews and Christians across the ages who have cried out to God for help, especially when all hope seemed lost, and when no human could rescue.

Praying the Psalms

As we face the threat of the M-83 Highway being built next to Dayspring Silent Retreat, our source of guidance and strength is coming from the Book of Psalms. They were written in the midst of the threats of war, exile, and annihilation of Israel without, and despair and fear within; yet the psalmist gives voice to Yahweh, who presides over every darkness, every fear.

Praise and prayer expressed in each psalm assumes and affirms that God is on the other end of the singing and speaking. Yahweh promises reliable fidelity, generous abundance, limitless blessings, trusting dependence, and Eternal Hope. Throughout the ages, the community's practice of praying the psalter has opened the way for a different, more generative vision to emerge.

We are now in the same position as the psalmists with the M-83 Highway. We are to trust God and hand over the whole lot; admit we are completely helpless and cannot do anything without God. I'm scared M-83 could be built; so I meditate on two particular psalms for strength when every hurdle to our advocacy work seems higher and higher. One addresses the external threat to the integrity of the forest surrounding Silent Retreat. The other calms the threat to my inner peace.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear

though the earth should change
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea
though its waters roar and foam
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

Come behold the works of the Lord
how he has wrought desolations in the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear
he burns the chariots with fire.

Be still, and know that I am God.
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth!
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me,
uttering slanders against me,
my adversaries and foes,
they shall stumble and fall.

Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,
he will set me high upon a rock.

I believe that I shall see the
 goodness of the Lord
 in the land of the living.
 Wait for the Lord;
 be strong, and let your heart take courage;
 wait for the Lord.

Join Our Work

As we read the psalms, we know the story of Israel: how an independent nation was eventually surrounded, besieged, and exiled by earthly empires that exerted brutal force. The prayers of Israel and Judah did not stop this, but they implanted a faith that endured every military action, and lived to bring a remnant back to Jerusalem. Centuries later, as the Roman Empire surrounded Israel, Jesus again demonstrated to us what generations of faithful prayer of the psalms can do in human hearts. Jesus never compromised his truth, though it did not spare him from the outcome he dreaded.



We are in the same situation the children of Israel found themselves in, and there is nothing that can stop us from asking God for help. The Bible becomes our record of an eternal Source of reliable fidelity, generous abundance, limitless blessings, trusting dependence, and Eternal Hope.

I and others in the TAME Coalition* continue to work daily with county and state elected officials, civic groups, transit and environmental groups, and many others,



to intervene and reverse all possible funding for M-83. Each of you can powerfully add to our hope and strength by praying every day, all year long. It will require deep resources of spiritual, emotional and physical courage for us to answer our call to resist the encroachment of the M-83 Highway. This is the very best way for you to participate, right from your home and as a community voice.

Dayspring needs your daily prayers and your community prayers. Please pray the psalms above with me, and join us during your worship time in praying this Intercessory Prayer:

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.

Margaret Schoap, Dayspring Church and TAME Coalition Organizer.

**TAME Coalition (Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended Coalition).*

Related Ministries

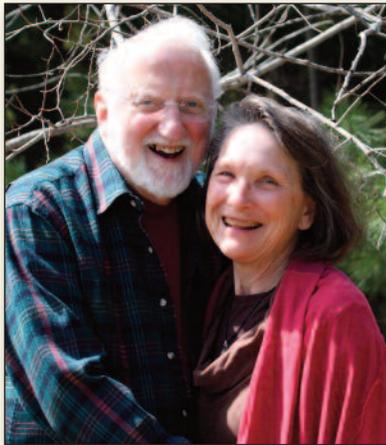
The following ministries have grown from churches and mission groups of The Church of the Saviour. Each is independently organized.

- 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 • Discipleship Year • 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 • Life Asset Credit Union • Life Pathways • Manna, Inc. • Miriam's House • New Community ArtSpace • New Community for Children • O.N.E.DC • Overlook Retreat House • Potter's House • Samaritan Inns • Sarah's Circle • Soteria [Servant Leadership School] • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Sounds of Hope • Tell The Word • Wellspring Conference Center

The Land is Calling

By Susan Morley, co-director with Don Russell of Primavera of Dunamis Peace Institute

Snow had drifted as high as three feet when first we visited “the land” in March of 2001, just six months before 9-11 and our country’s great awakening. Fastening on rawhide laced white ash snowshoes, we trudged along the descending creek, as it picked up flow from its horseshoe shaped headwaters near the entrance. Inexperienced, we helped each other traverse fallen trees in the lowlands, pausing to let in the whispers of ancient cedars and to wonder at four inch dark gaping “snow holes” where soft green moss could be seen within. Who lived here? No one peeked out as we ascended to the upland northern boreal forest where tall maple, beech, and hemlocks murmured among themselves. Silent, the pond, frozen solid, gave no hint of the giant snapping turtle or yellow perch beneath. Yet, a mysterious Presence, an Otherness, stirred and reached out calling to us to look deeply into the field before us, to see and hear beyond the obvious. Pausing, we heard a heart whisper bubble forth from the land, “We have been waiting for you.”



Don Russell and Susan Morley

From the beginning, it was clear that this particular piece of land in northwestern Michigan “wanted” us. In a world where for our survival, we are needed to pause and listen to the desires of Earth, can we trust the voice of the land to speak its needs? In a class early in my time as a member of Church of the Savior and Wellspring Mission Group in Germantown, Maryland, Cheryl Hellner and Jim Hall had summoned soul consciousness that would allow a specific landscape to call our name. Over the years, on visits to this Great Lakes bio-region, the Spirit of the landscape had stirred, cajoled, and invited us to “come and see.” Some years later Mary Oliver wrote *Into the Storm* a poem that captured the essence of our response, “Belief isn’t always easy, / but this much I have learned—if not enough else— / to live with my eyes open.” The pull of this summons prompted us to say our goodbyes to Wellspring Mission and Dayspring Church. Packing our possessions, we moved north to begin the process of personal change and land exploration that would help us “to live with our eyes open.” Eventually we were led this twenty-six plus acres on which we were snowshoeing on a late winter day— the land where the river begins.

Soon after our arrival north, a year and a half before the discovery-day-of-the-land, living with our eyes open had caused us to “listen up”. Already board members of Dunamis Peace Institute (DPI), we were asked by fellow board members, “Could what is happening to you, be happening to us (meaning DPI)?” The Peace Institute had originated in 1989 in Washington, DC out of the ashes of Dunamis Vocations Church, one of the original six Church of the Saviour faith communities. Its first twelve years had been focussed on healing the brokenness and violence in Central America through spiritual retreats for U. S politicians and in Central America for the families of exiled indigenous Mayans, as well as, education, accompaniment, sustainable agriculture, and health. Our “yes” would mean that we would begin a journey together stewarding land just short of the forty-fifth parallel, a land where everything was oozing with the Spirit of Christ.

COSIGN 40th Reunion **For All Participants in the CoS Refugee** **Relief in Southeast Asia** **March 15, 2020**

Alden Lancaster’s House
6708 Poplar Ave., Takoma Park MD 20912
7-9:30pm AFTER dinner

RSVP is necessary (by a week ahead please)
by calling Alden at (301) 270-2222 and leaving your
phone number.

WANTED: home for historical Church of the Saviour artifacts. There is available the silver (plate) tea/ coffee service which was the centerpiece for after- service coffee hour at 2025. This includes the big tray and two ice water pitchers. There is one small finial needing repair. Suitable for weddings, memorial services, etc. I would give priority to a faith community, then individuals, before donating it to charity.

Please call Betsy Edmonds.

Radiant Love:

Journey Inward, Journey Outward, Journey Together



- **Are you longing for a fuller spiritual life?**
- **Have you been participating in Quiet Days and desire to go deeper?**
- **Is Radiant Love moving you to journey with others in tending the Spirit's call?**

Join this unique offering of four monthly silent retreat days to deepen in the four core dimensions of the committed spiritual life. Over the decades, the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in which Dayspring is rooted has found these to be the essence of authentic, transformative spiritual community.

Overall, these retreat days will focus on being on a journey together in a community of spiritual seekers who are drawn to the abundant grace of Radiant Love. Each retreat day will have a rhythm of contemplative meditation, creative reflection and silent prayer:

- **February 27, Opening to Love in Prayer** – Fostering a growing awareness of living in the presence of divine Love illuminating the core of all being and inviting us to everunfolding relationship and creativity.
- **March 26, Embracing Vision and Mission** – Attuning to the fullness of God's vision and hope for the whole interconnected community of life.
- **April 23, Listening for Call in Community** – Recognizing that each one of us is uniquely called and gifted to serve a piece of God's dream of justice and peace at this place and time in our broken world.
- **May 28, Growing in Spiritual Discernment and Joy** – Committing to lifelong practices, in solitude and in community, for distinguishing and attending to the healing, revelatory movements of the Spirit.

LEADERS: **Ann Dean**, longtime minister in the ecumenical Church of the Saviour, member of Dayspring's Retreat Mission Group, spiritual director and retreat leader, program director and faculty at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

Trish Stefanik, experienced retreat leader, artist, resident host of Dayspring's Overlook Retreat House, longtime friend and participant in the Church of the Saviour, administrator for the Shalem Institute.

DATES AND TIME: 10 am – 4 pm on Thursdays: Feb 27, March 26, April 23 and May 28

PLACE: Dayspring Silent Retreat Lodge. Please bring a bag lunch.

TO REGISTER: Please complete the registration form and send with \$200 for the 4-month series (registration is for all four retreats) by February 1, 2020.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of application _____

Send to: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd. Germantown, MD, 20876

Callings

Church of the Saviour
1640 Columbia Rd., NW
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Special Events

See pottershouse.org and festivalcenterdc.org for their current event listings.

Feb 14 | Carroll Café with Tom Prasada-Rao, guitarist. 7:30pm at Seekers Church, Takoma DC. Tickets at CarrollCafe.org.

Feb 14-16 “Let Us Not Lose Heart,” silent retreat led by Karen Johnson. \$235. Register at office@DayspringRetreat.org.

Mar 6-8 | “Resting in Divine Love,” silent retreat led by Kim Montroll. Details above.

Mar 13 | Carroll Café with In Process, African American Women’s Acapella Ensemble. Details above.

Mar 21 | 40th Anniversary COSIGN Volunteers & Songkhla Refugee Reunion. Contact aldenwrite@aol.com for details.



Mar 27-29 | “Wild Hope in the Time of Earth’s Song and Suffering,” silent retreat led by Jim Hall and Cheryl Hellner. Details above.

Ap 10 | Good Friday Quiet Day, 10-4 at Dayspring Retreat. Reservations: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Ap 10 | Carroll Café with Pierce Pettis. Details above.

Ap 12 | Easter Sunrise Service for Church of the Saviour. Wellspring Center, 6:30am.

May 8 | Carroll Café with Iona Music. Details above.

May 8-10 | “Growing Into Salvation,” silent retreat led by Becca Stelle. Details above.