

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 12, Issue 2 • Summer 2023

New Leadership at Manna

Jim Dickerson, founder of MANNA, Inc., has stepped back to welcome Sasha-Gaye Angus as the new President and Chief Executive Officer. As a member of the Board, Jim continues fundraising for what he says is his legacy project – a 90-unit affordable rental housing community adjoining New Community Church that will include 9,000 square feet of office space for Manna's new headquarters. All the permits for that project have been approved.

MANNA's new President, Sasha-Gaye Angus, has been a leader of affordable housing and community development with over 20 years' experience in re-building communities for low-income individuals, families, and seniors. She brings executive experience in leading teams, directing projects, risk management and building public- private partnerships.

In 2020, Sasha joined MANNA, Inc. from McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc., one of the nation's leading for-profit developers of economically integrated urban neighborhoods where she served as Senior Vice President. There she managed a diverse team and oversaw the planning and implementation of large multi-phased neighborhood transformation projects in Pittsburgh, PA and Baltimore, MD totaling 2,000+ affordable/mixed-income units combined.

Throughout her career, Sasha has held leadership roles with national developers of affordable housing, and has served on numerous boards including the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh. She currently serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors of Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND).

In 2015, Sasha was nationally recognized as a Young Leader by Affordable Housing Finance. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Public Administration from Fisk University and holds a master's degree in Public Administration from GSPIA at the University of Pittsburgh. Sasha also completed a 2-year graduate fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Urban Redevelopment Excellence (CUREx).

Last year, Manna continued to serve low-income people to become homeowners amidst the challenges of a global pandemic and supply chain issues that led to increased construction costs and rising interest rates. In 2022, MANNA

- Completed construction on 131 units of affordable rental housing in Ward 5 & 8;
- Provided 444 clients with housing counseling;
- Helped 18 clients become first-time homebuyers;
- Held 16 8-hour home buyer education classes and 36 group workshops;



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- Manna's President, Sasha-Gaye Angus, was appointed by Mayor Bowser to the Black Homeownership Strike Force;
- Through Manna's testimony and advocacy efforts, DC approved \$10 million for the Black Homeownership Fund in FY 2023 to address issues that Manna has been wrestling with for many years.

You can follow the progress of these and many other issues by visiting the Manna website: MannaDC.org

Editor's Corner

Inward/Outward Together



To receive CALLINGS free of charge or let us know you've moved, write us at callingseditor@gmail.com

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

As we emerge from pandemic isolation and celebrate the Grand Opening of the Festival Center on June 17, Church of the Saviour is at another turning point. We have learned to use the internet to stay connected, but nurturing our essential character has long been a commitment to spiritual growth in small mission groups (hence the name of our CoS website, Inward/Outward Together).

How to support that togetherness is the question now. Like the earliest Christians, we exist as a church in diaspora. We hold the Dayspring property together but worship in five different locations: Dayspring, New Community, Seekers, the Potter's House, and the Festival Center (which hosts 8th Day, Festival Church and Jubilee). Our togetherness happens at Council meetings, special gatherings at Dayspring, and the spiritual bond that we have through common disciplines.

It's been five years since Kayla McClurg, who started InwardOutward.org, died too soon of heart failure. As the pastoral hub of CoS missions along Columbia Road, Kayla wrote a weekly reflection on the lectionary gospel text and responded to her many readers on email. After her death, the Council decided to invite a group of writers to continue inward/outward (IO) and expand the CoS website to include the weekly reflection, Dayspring's retreat offerings, the archive of Gordon's recorded sermons, and book sales of classic CoS titles.

Not meeting in person for the past three years has confirmed our presence on the web and deepened our commitment to shared leadership as evidence of the Spirit's dynamic presence. When the IO writers met in person for the first time after long absence, a consensus emerged. We will

- Join the Festival Center offerings (Center for Spiritual Formation) on the Networks for Good;
- Maintain the Church of the Saviour DC website;
- Continue the weekly gospel reflection by email on Saturdays;
- Add a live link to one additional resource and drop the daily quotes for now.

You can sign up to get the weekly IO gospel reflection by going to the Church of the Saviour DC website, Inward/Outward Together (www.inwardoutward.org). People can sign up by visiting <https://inwardoutward.org/category/gospel-reflection/> and using the form on the side. If you have questions or comments about any of the articles in CALLINGS or the lectionary reflections on IO.org, you can email me at callingseditor@gmail.com.

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 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.

Compassion and Courage

by Mari Lowe

Since 2010, I have served as a volunteer, nurse, and practitioner at Christ House. I found Christ House by chance late one night, as I scoured the AmeriCorps website for volunteer nursing roles. At the time, I was working straight night shifts as a surgical nurse at a busy hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During my training, it had been drilled into me that the only “real” nurses were those who worked in the hospital, and that the more acute the floor, the “better” you were. Between the grueling overnight hours and the patient load, I found myself fearful of going to work and disconnected from my patients who usually slept while I was there or who were acutely ill if awake during the night.

Call?

By chance, I was paired one evening with a patient living with schizophrenia and quite symptomatic from the condition. He experienced significant sleep-wake disturbance, which was likely exacerbated by being in the hospital, so he was up most of the night. He was chatty, disorganized, kind, and completely unaware that I was inexperienced and weighed down with imposter syndrome. Due to his surgical complications, he stayed several weeks in the hospital, and through his trust in me—a trust I did not deserve—I recognized that he invited me into the kinship of patient and practitioner relationship that made me feel connected and significant instead of lonely and incompetent. For weeks after he left, I laid awake, wrestling with wanting the “prestige” of working on a bustling, academic hospital floor, and yet knowing that my nursing call was to something simpler, yet perhaps more profound and more freeing. Several months after I applied to the nursing position at Christ House, I sold most of my belongings and packed two suitcases and one box to come with me to Washington D.C.

Presence

When I arrived at Christ House, I noticed a countercultural quality embodied by those who worked there. Whereas most people tend to withdraw from the pain of others, I witnessed a staff of practitioners, nurses, case managers, and chaplains that moved



toward suffering, using a ministry of presence to foster trust and offer healing. I became part of a health care team living out Henri Nouwen’s definition of compassion, where “we are sent to wherever there is poverty, loneliness, and suffering to have the courage to be with people.”

At Christ House, this courage looks like wound care. Some of the wounds are physical—wounds laden with maggots from neglect, wounds from amputations, and wounds afflicted by knife blades and bullets. I have sat proximate to emotional and spiritual wounds—wounds that have formed from oppressive systems of racial hierarchy, economic injustice, food insecurity, and over-criminalization, that have broken the spirits of these men for whom we care. And I have seen the chronic, mental wounding that occurs when those living with symptoms of mental health conditions and substance use disorders, and / or those survivors of childhood abuse fail to receive the tender care they deserve. Yet Christ House is a place of compassion, a place where the courage and vulnerability of those for whom we care inspires me to be courageous and vulnerable myself. In this mutual vulnerability, healing occurs.

Mari Lowe is a nurse practitioner at Christ House.

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Are You Ready to Delve Deeper?

Are you ready to go deeper? Are you willing to explore beyond the surface into a deeper understanding of your relationship with money?

If you are, then we're willing to be companions on the road.

For one-on-one spiritual accompaniment, we offer "money mentoring." Our money mentors ask guiding questions, provide motivation, and prompt your creative imagining of new ways of life more in line with your vision of a just, equitable and sustainable world.

For individual reflection, we offer the Faith and Money Podcast, a series of interviews with people who share their stories and insights on a range of money-related topics.

Where else would you find such open, honest conversations about faith and money?

For more ideas, check out What We Offer and our Resources.

Faith and Money Network
1640 Columbia Rd. NW
Washington, DC 20009
240.606.2282

Alexandra Nelligan and Jean Brown leading Earthen Hands 2nd Sunday May Gathering.

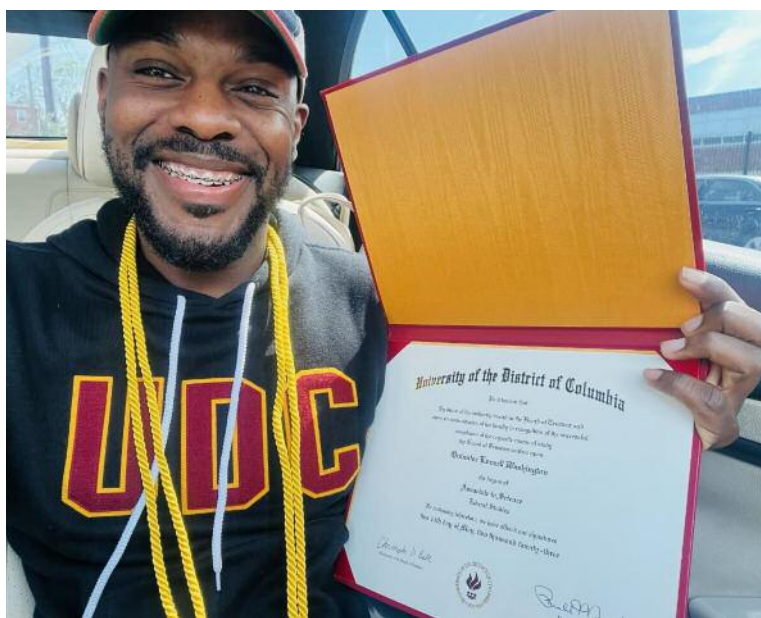


The circle created in the Farmhouse Chapel welcomed those familiar and those new to Dayspring Land. Participants young and old shared personal connections to natural spaces, wandered the meadows, paths and gardens, then lingered for fellowship over soup and snacks both savory and sweet. The day was especially blessed by Dorothy Nelligan's presence at 104 years old (grandmother to Alexandra). A Mother's Day to remember. Gatherings will continue on 2nd Sundays through Advent. If you'd like to know more, email Jean at: EarthenHandsatDayspring@gmail.com or call 661-522-0876.



RECOVERY CAFÉ DC

A REFUGE FOR HEALING + TRANSFORMATION



Quinntez Washington describes the journey to his current role working with So Others Might Eat (also known as SOME), as a “full circle moment”. His recovery started at RAP Inc. About a month later, as the question of what would follow emerged, he chose a long-term recovery at a program offered by Catholic Charities at the 801 Men’s Shelter. Although there were other locations he could have gone to, he saw it as an opportunity to deepen his experience and skills in navigating long-term recovery in a context that would expose him to real life challenges instead of a more secluded setting.

While at the 801 Men’s Shelter, Quinntez met Donald Conerly, Co-founder and Program Director of Recovery Café DC (RCDC). Through this connection and others, he experienced the integration of spirituality with recovery. He also found that others at the shelter turned to him for help. Some folks needed help with applications for housing, insurance, food stamps, and unemployment. Others needed help with

reading or completing class assignments. Even staff members turned to him to help some of the residents.

When asked how he attained the know-how to offer this type of support, he replied that being drug and alcohol free opened his mind to think logically. This allowed him to be who he always was. It also opened an awareness of competency that he had not recognized before. In his words, “It was a chance to experience my humanity again!”

Another important support for Quinntez came through a group of volunteers from Back on My Feet. These men introduced 6:00am walking and running groups - a big and valuable change in behavior patterns - as well as a host of other opportunities to learn new skills, restore and/or rebuild credit, and more.

Quinntez wanted to resume his studies. With the encouragement of a counselor, he applied to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He started classes in early 2021, during the pandemic, taking three classes per week. At around the same time, he learned about a job opening at SOME that would use many of the skills he had built serving his fellow residents at 801. He applied; interviewed for the job and soon after began working at the Karin House Senior Center, in Ward 4.

With both his studies and his new job underway, Quinntez started thinking about where he would live. He heard about Samaritan Inns through others, and contacted them. He was approved and, in February of 2022, Quinntez moved into a single room occupancy apartment in Ward 3. He now attends classes three times per week and expects to complete his Bachelors in Social Work in 2025. He also works full time with senior men at SOME’s facilities in NW and SE. Quinntez recently brought the men from the NW facility to attend the Recovery Circles offered at Recovery Café DC. He hopes to deepen this connection, so that the men can see and be encouraged by Donald’s experience and passion for recovery, in the same way he was.

This is indeed a “full circle moment!” Quinntez, may your Light continue shining brightly!

Questions or ideas you would like to share? Contact Elizabeth (elizabeth@recoverycafedc.org)

Community Purchasing Alliance

Dear friends,

Thank you to Wellspring for inviting us to share the story of the Community Purchasing Alliance (CPA). Our story begins in 2011, when 12 congregations in DC came together and realized they were spending more money on electricity bills than their clergy's salary. This led them to facilitate a group electricity purchase that saved those 12 congregations over \$100,000 – and set in motion the drive to see what else community institutions can achieve when they come together.

Today, CPA is a successful purchasing co-op led by our members, including houses of worship, schools, and community organizations. We support over \$20 million in annual purchasing – in energy, HVAC systems, copier leasing, waste hauling, janitorial services, food service, insurance and more – with more than half supporting local small businesses and those owned by people of color.

CPA Co-op was founded to put the interests of our members first. In reflecting on our own calling inward, calling outward journey, we want to share some of the stories that show we are stronger together.

- Challenging energy suppliers on unfair charges: In 2019, 31 of our DC institutions worked together to fight overcharges on their electricity bills – and won. It was an incredible victory against an often extractive industry – one that would not have been possible without the leverage of our entire group. Read what happened here.
- Helping a historic DC church replace their 108-year-old roof for free during a solar installation: Our director of solar program recalls “walking in the sanctuary and members of the church were filling baskets of food to handout to those in need in the neighborhood. Right next to their workstation were the buckets filled with water from the damaged roof. I thought what they are doing is the true work of community, and every dollar going towards fixing that roof is a dollar not going towards filling those baskets.” Together, the co-op worked with church leaders to facilitate a solar contract that enabled the church to receive a brand-new roof at no cost to them. Read what happened here.

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- Rewriting waste hauling contracts to include consumer protections: When we noticed our members getting gouged by waste hauling contracts that auto-renewed for 5 year terms with auto-escalating prices, and arbitrary surcharges, we jumped into action. Collectively, we hired a lawyer to write our own contract that, while fair to waste hauling companies, protected our members from predatory practices common in the industry. We then worked with local haulers to accept these contract terms. The result was fairer contracts, savings, and a spending shift towards local businesses.
- Facilitating group decisions in complex, volatile markets: Earlier this year, CPA discovered a new local law that could have a profound impact on members' electric bills. We acted fast to help our members make an informed decision in their best interest and that of the communities they serve. Read what happened here.

See how you can join, share resources, and build community power with over 500 faith institutions, schools and community organizations taking part in CPA Co-op at www.cpa.coop.

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

An Urgent Message to Love

By Lauren Goodyear

I fell head over heels in love with every one of the eleven authors of the collaborative book, *The Diversity in Humanity: A New Vision for Creating Harmony in the Workplace*. Stories, as Jesus showed us, are the most effective mode of teaching and the best way to draw us into love. *The Diversity in Humanity* abounds with rich, rewarding stories that wrap themselves around the heart with enticing, edifying threads. Some are funny, some earnest, some sharply witty, some astonishing.

Most of us who work in organizations of any kind – for-profit companies, schools, the government, non-profits – have undergone or led diversity training in the past few years. This has been a positive development in our society, even if the training itself is flawed and uneven. *The Diversity in Humanity* is marketed for organizational leaders, but it's really for anyone at all who is engaged in community with other human beings, for anyone who feels called to connect and love outside their personal comfort zone.

The eleven authors of this book came together over the course of several months to share and reflect with one another before writing the contributions that appear here. Each has a wealth of leadership, coaching, or counseling experience. The group reveals a multiplicity of perspectives in these essays, and yet a few common themes emerge. One is the painful interface between one's internal ideas about "who I am" and the world's encroaching, simplistic judgements about identity. Am I who you say I am, or am I whom I know myself to be – or thought I knew myself to be, before I got so confused along the way? Prolonged pain and delayed self-actualization result from that inner-outer tension between the "heart's intelligence" and the false self.

I teach 4th graders, and they come in September



unselfconscious and brimming with passion and curiosity. Their open-heartedness towards one another and classroom happenings keeps me coming back to teach them year after year. They feel great about themselves and can't wait to drink in all the world has to offer. It's a little like Eden! But by January, many have hit that fateful developmental moment when they start to notice who's cool and what's cool. Those shoes are so cool. That kid who's cutting up in class – he's cool. Dabbing is sooo last year. Ohio (the meme) is in. You didn't know that? I guess you're not cool...The kids who notice "cool" start to posture and develop an outer persona. Better cover up who I really am! Self-doubt creeps in. Premeditated, mean behavior sometimes ensues. Yes, every year I bear witness to humanity's Fall.

Personal, individual healing – one by one – will save the human race. Claudia Cauterucci argues in her brilliant and moving essay for this book, "Self-hate [is] the root to all holistic diseases...What happens inside of us, materializes outside of us; what happens in one of us, happens in all of us." This moment, NOW, is a sacred moment – an urgent moment. If we don't stop hating ourselves, we will destroy ourselves.

The authors of *Diversity in Humanity* offer a pathway out of our self-hatred as a species towards healing and health. The Good News here is expressed in a language of psychology and spirituality, rather than of any one religion or creed. As Claudia reminds us, "Caring is a human trait that has survived at least two million years of Darwinian natural selection." We can bring care to this moment in time. First, towards our own self-healing, next towards our fellow humans in all of our beautiful, God-given diversity.

Lauren Goodyear is a fourth grade teacher at St. Alban's School and a member of Festival Church.

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Callings

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2708 Ontario Road, NW
Washington DC 20009

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Special Events

Also see Pottershousedc.org and
FestivalCenter.org

Wed, June 7 | Jubilee Housing Breakfast. 7:30 am – 9:30 am. The Hamilton Live, 600 14th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (Located at 14th and F streets, near Metro Center.)

Wed, June 7 | Quiet Day 10am-2-pm. \$30. Bring lunch. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Sun, June 11 | Earthen Hands 2nd Sundays. 3-5pm. Begin at the Dayspring Farmhouse. If you'd like to know more email Jean at EarthenHands@Dayspring@gmail.com or call 661-522-0876.

Sat, June 17 | Grand Opening of the Festival Center! 11am... Welcome All! Art, music, food, and general celebration.

June 16-18 | "The Going Out and Coming In: Thresholds," Weekend retreat. \$275. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Wed, June 28 | Self-guided retreat. 9-5. No leader. Bring lunch. Limit: six persons. \$30. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

July 12, 10-3 | "Praying With the Creation Mystics: Jessica Powers." \$275. 2 nights & 6 meals. Pre-register: office@dayspringretreat.org.

Wed, July 19 | Quiet Day 10-2. Details above.

Wed, July 26 | Self-guided retreat. 9-5. Details above.

July 28-30 | "What Does the Lord Require of Me?" Weekend retreat. Details above.

Wed, Aug 23 | Self-guided retreat. 9-5pm. Details above.

