

# Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 10, Issue 4 • Winter 2021

## RECOVERY CAFE DC: PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE NEW BUILDING

By Jacqueline Conerly and Kim Montroll

Since the incredible step of buying the property in Ward 8, Southeast DC, we've formalized a partnership with the Anacostia Economic Development Corp (AEDC) to develop a new 5 story building from the ground up. Recovery Cafe DC and AEDC will co-own the building, and together catalyze racial, health, and environmental equity with every aspect of this project and vision. Recovery Cafe DC will have 8,000 square feet for our beautiful, long term, authentic healing community space, and AEDC will operate and manage the upper four floors/48 units of beautiful, deeply affordable supportive rental housing.

With AEDC leading development, we're meeting with the building design and construction teams, doing intensive community outreach and relationship-building, and starting the permitting processes. We're raising the final \$1.2 million to complete Recovery Cafe DC's \$2.5 million Capital Campaign! AEDC is bringing together the additional \$19.7 million in financing. Recovery Cafe DC's total \$2.5 million in Campaign gifts will build the 8,000 square foot space for long term healing community, and leverages the 48 new affordable apartments and \$22 million in total development costs.

At the same time, our long-term, authentic healing community is supporting each other's recovery from trauma, addiction and other mental health challenges, homelessness, isolation and incarceration. Our Recovery Circles are thriving, gifted volunteers are leading new School for Recovery classes, key resource referrals for housing, jobs, physical and mental health supports are growing, and our emerging Headwaters program for young men ages 18-24 is meeting profound need. Most of our programs continue to be virtual.

We're so grateful for the wider Church of the Saviour community, for the unceasing prayers, encouragement, financial contributions, and new partnerships. If you would like to learn more or get involved in the Campaign, please email [Jacqueline@recoverycafedc.org](mailto:Jacqueline@recoverycafedc.org) or [Kim@recoverycafedc.org](mailto:Kim@recoverycafedc.org).



# Editor's Corner | New Address for CoS Mail



## Holiday Special!

**Get Kayla McClurg's  
lectionary reflections  
for any gift to Church of  
the Saviour over \$25**  
See page 6 for details

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.  
Washington DC 20009

Starting right now, Church of the Saviour (CoS) has a new address. It is **2708 Ontario Rd., Washington DC 20009**. After a period of anticipating the renovation of the Festival Center and moving boxes and files from one place to another, the Festival Center has generously given us space in the Kayla McClurg House to collect the files from Gordon's office, along with storage space for books available for purchase on our website: [inwardoutward.org](http://inwardoutward.org). We are SO grateful!

Following Kayla's unexpected death in 2018, the Ecumenical Council decided not to seek a replacement for her pastoring presence, but to let the Spirit lead us toward the future as separate communities, connected by the Council and by our commitment to the inward/outward journey. That means Church of the Saviour exists in different places, not in one spot, though the new office helps facilitate coordination and communication.

Legally and spiritually, the eight CoS communities are grounded in our common ownership of Dayspring Farm. Although we depend on Dayspring Church to be the steward of that property, the land itself is the most visible expression of our common commitment to listen and learn our place in the web of life on this planet. We are hoping that someone new will be called to offer leadership for the Wellspring Conference Center (at Dayspring) and imagine Wellspring could become a gateway to offer the CoS experience to a new generation of those seeking a deeper faith journey. Call also continues to spiral through our quiet times at Dayspring and we are rejoicing now that we can have in-person retreats again (see page 3).

As the seeds of new missions continue to sprout, CALLINGS makes our newer missions visible to the wider church. In this issue, Recovery Café DC is partnering with other strong organizations to create new housing and new services in the Anacostia area of DC. And in the Adams Morgan neighborhood, gentrification is happening all around the Potter's House, which makes their Pay-It-Forward program even more critical for keeping low-income families in this neighborhood. Along with the thriving bookstore, this will give Potter's House a distinctive mission as other coffee houses spring up in these fancy new buildings. Now is the time to spotlight this distinctive role for Potter's House.

As you consider your year-end giving, I hope you will be drawn to one of the new ministries which we have featured this year. Covid-19 has been particularly hard on low-income families in Jubilee and Manna housing, in Platform of Hope and on the homeless population served by Christ House. Most of the independently organized missions listed in this issue (page 7) have their own website. Take a few minutes to acquaint yourself with their programs and maybe choose one that is new to you to explore a deeper connection.

May Advent be a season of new beginnings — again,

**Marjory**

Marjory Bankson  
Chair, Church of the Saviour Council

Send address changes to: [callingseditor@gmail.com](mailto:callingseditor@gmail.com)

## The Church of the Saviour Council

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

# Reopening Retreat

By Nat Reid

Dayspring Silent Retreat Center resumed hosting weekend retreats at the end of September! We closed in March of 2020 when the pandemic hit. As we learned more about the coronavirus, and about what we could do safely, we began gradually reopening. First, we opened for individual day retreats, and eventually small group day retreats, including Quiet Days and Ember Days. We hosted several of the sister ministries and churches for day retreats. Each step was joyful. Dayspring is of and for the Church of the Saviour churches and community, and for anyone who hungers for the silence, solitude and spiritual community of retreat. As Elizabeth O'Connor wrote in Call to Commitment, "Dayspring is a place where each person's aloneness with God is respected and protected." It was so good to resume, as each step was given, fulfilling that call.

One of the surprises of this time is how many new people are discovering Dayspring. We are offering two or three Quiet Days per month, with registration required and numbers limited. All of the retreats are filling up, and usually half or more are people coming for the first time. It seems that the incredible challenges and suffering of the pandemic have stirred up a new spiritual hunger in many people.

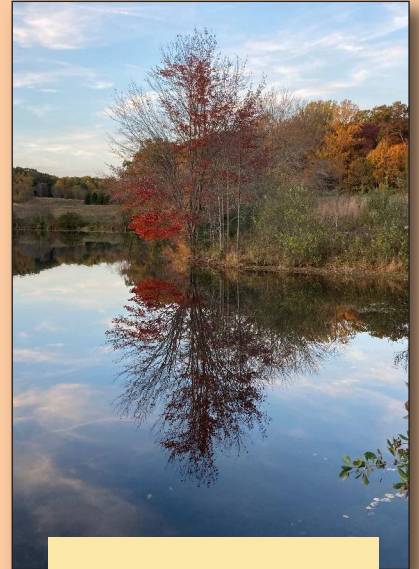
Finally hosting a weekend retreat again marked the return to the fullness of our mission. The extended silence and depth of community of weekend retreats, and the openness to God this invites, is a unique gift that is perhaps more important than ever before.

As we prepared the Inn, it felt as though it had been frozen in time since the last weekend retreat in March of 2020. On the one hand, everything felt familiar to me, like I hadn't missed a beat, since I have prepared for many retreats over the years. On the other hand, everything felt new, different, even momentous.

Rachel Rudy, our kitchen manager and primary cook, made lots of changes, with input from the Retreat Mission Group, to allow for safe dining. Tables were set up on the patio outside the Yoke Room to create additional dining space. Finally, everything was ready and we welcomed Seekers Church, the first group back for a weekend retreat. Adding to the power of the weekend, it was one of their first in person gatherings since the beginning of the pandemic. It was wonderful to have the place filled again for that for which it was brought into being.

We hosted our first Open Retreat the following weekend. This retreat was led by Ann Dean with the inspired theme of "Seeding Hope in Transition." We enthusiastically welcomed a mix of first timers and returning retreatants. The Open Retreat in November has this wonderful mix as well, and is full.

Now we are in the midst of planning for a full slate of weekend retreats in 2022, knowing that we will continue adapting to changing circumstances. But for now, we rejoice at being able to safely resume welcoming people to "Come away to a quiet place, all by yourselves, and rest a while." (Mark 6:31)



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# New at the Potter's House...

**From Leigh Tivol, Executive Director:** While the fall chill in the air means the growing season is winding down in our gardens, here at The Potter's House we're tending a ripening harvest that will continue to bear fruit all year long. In recent months, we've welcomed a number of new staff who are guiding us to exciting new services and impact for our community. Here, they introduce themselves and their work – and what called them to be here with us during this time of growth and



transformation for The Potter's House. Their stories are compelling and powerful, and the perfect illustration of our commitment to welcome and kindness for everyone. I'm proud and honored to work alongside them.

**Lauren Coles, Café Manager:** Washington, D.C. has served as a backdrop for a significant time in my life. Even as a child, I found myself in the neighborhood of Adams Morgan, only to discover it was for reasons that, in hindsight, offered profound meaning to faith, community, and culture. The Potter's House continues to service and uplift generations of the Adams Morgan community. I am honored to make a positive imprint on its rich legacy by pursuing my passion for food and the humanities.



**Sophie Silberman, Program & Outreach Manager:** Before I came to The Potter's House, I spent several months in rural Northeast Iowa working as a field organizer for now-Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. On the campaign trail, we worked hard to create inclusive spaces where everyone felt welcome, diversity was expected and tough conversations guaranteed, not unlike the culture we've embraced here at The Potter's House for 61 years.



Over the course of our six-decade history as a staple in the Adams Morgan community, The Potter's House has actively resisted the great crisis of belonging. It's rare to find spaces that are welcoming and kind to everyone, regardless of where you slept last night, who you love, the color of your skin, your citizenship status, or who you vote for. Everyone who walks through our doors is greeted with a smile and a real sense of "you belong here."

The Potter's House has always evolved to meet the needs of our community. Prior to the pandemic, we gave out ten free meals a day. Since March 2020, our neighbors have lost their jobs, faced eviction, fallen ill, grieved family members, lived paycheck to paycheck, experienced unbelievable hardship – and these days, our incredibly hardworking kitchen staff is churning out sometimes as many as 90 free meals each day for neighbors in need. We're grateful for the donations that continue to sustain our Pay It Forward program, and we want to do more to support our neighbors in need. As Program and Outreach Manager here at The Potter's House, that's what I'm focusing on – strengthening relationships with community partners and brainstorming innovative ways for us to expand our not-for-profit.

**Bryan Weaver, Program & Outreach Advisor:** For the last 30 years it has been the privilege of my life to have worked with young people living at the edges in Washington, D.C. – the hardened, the traumatized, the despised, the forgotten, the discarded. They have turned my life upside down...but in a good way.



People think that they go to "the edge" – volunteering at a soup kitchen; building a house for Habitat for Humanity; or mentoring a student – to make a difference. But that's not what happens. Sure, our work and volunteering is appreciated by organizations and the people receiving our help, but when we go to "the edge," we shouldn't think that we are saviors. No, when we go there, the folks at "the edge" make us different. When we move beyond the roles of "service provider" and "service recipient, there is a beautiful place of exquisite mutuality. Where we truly see ourselves in the other, or as the K'iche Maya say – "En, en, at. At, at, en." – which loosely translates to "I am the other you" or "you are the other me" (I forget which). Once we see ourselves in the stranger, or (as we were told) truly love our neighbor as we love ourselves, then we can't turn your back on true suffering. That, in its most complicated simplicity, is what The Potter's House calls radical hospitality.

We're grateful for the donations that continue to sustain our Pay It Forward program, and we want to do more to support our neighbors in need. As Program and Outreach Manager here at The Potter's House, that's what I'm focusing on -- strengthening relationships with community partners and brainstorming innovative ways for us to expand our not-for-profit.



Through Potter's House I have also reconnected with my middle-school basketball coach Bryan Weaver. Now we are working together, trying to find ways to open doors for more formerly incarcerated people. A year from now I can envision our program expanding, giving a platform, a place to teach the different soft skills that returning citizens need to survive -- like the things that take place daily in the Potter's House -- which I think is powerful. —Delontae Britton

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."

Now, The Potter's House is expanding our radical hospitality by embarking on a workforce training program designed to give opportunities to citizens returning from incarceration to enter a world of work. We have been gifted with the first of our employees in this new program – Delontae Britton. I have known Delontae since he was 11 years old. He was the sweetest, most thoughtful, and sincere kid I have ever had the pleasure of working with....which just proves to me that people are so much more than the worst thing they have ever done.

### **Redemption is possible, and it is the measure of a community.**

I recognize that an employer is not going to choose the person who's just been released from prison: they're going to choose the person with the skills. That is why we are creating a program that not only teaches hard skills of the hospitality industry, but also the soft skills required to navigate a world that has changed so drastically since they have been away. Soft skills like – show up on time, show up every day, take coffee orders from people even when they're being disagreeable. Plus the things most of us take for granted – like opening a checking account, getting a driver's license, how to use an iPhone or Gmail.

The great thing about working with Delontae is that he has done so much of this work on his own, or with light guidance or help...it's like he's standing on third base, and we feel like we hit a triple. That's why his help has been invaluable to us - showing us the way to create more opportunities for returning citizens, like him.

### **Exquisite mutuality.**



**Delontae Britton, Front of House Team Member:** Earlier this year I was released after serving 8 years in prison. That is a hard thing to write...but it was a harder thing to have lived. I spent much of my incarceration reflecting on the things that had gotten me to that point – the decisions I made, the opportunities I lost, the people who loved me who I had let down. I decided to change my trajectory, to bet on myself, to start over – to be redeemed. I

finished my GED, completed 2 years of college, and received my associate's degree. I made a commitment to be a part of anything geared toward giving back to the world.

Upon my release I went out to lunch with a good friend of mine, Jim Marsh. He knew my story, my drive to be a part of change – and he knew I was looking for a job. At lunch he said to me, "I have somewhere I want you to go, and someone I want you to meet." He then gave me the backdrop of the wonderful work that was going on in a place called The Potter's House – a bookstore, cafe, and community space. So, after lunch we walked over there and I met Leigh. We chatted, I told her about my history, and a few days later I was an employee.

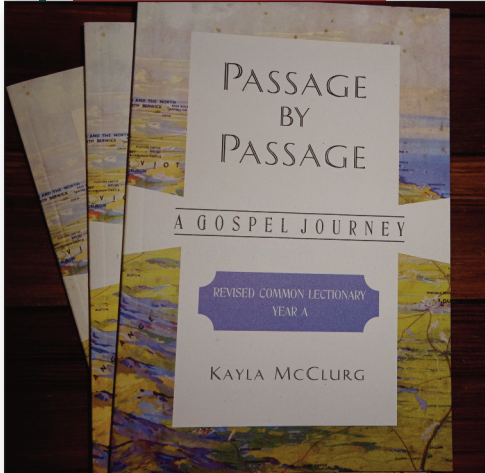
Since working at Potter's House, the people here have become family. They have helped me with transitioning home – helping me open a bank account, helping get my personal documents so I can get an ID – you know, the simple stuff that derails so many people coming out of prison. I'm learning how to communicate with all types of people – everyone from people who are experiencing homelessness and need a sandwich and hot cup of coffee, to a lawyer at the World Bank, video conferencing with a co-worker in Switzerland. They all come through the doors of Potter's House, and they are all welcomed. The culture of Potter's House helps break the biases that are learned in our households when we are children, and that we carry with us and pass back on to the world when we are older.

Through Potter's House I have also reconnected with my middle-school basketball coach Bryan Weaver. Now we are working together, trying to find ways to open doors for more formerly incarcerated people. A year from now I can envision our program expanding, giving a platform, a place to teach the different soft skills that returning citizens need to survive – like the things that take place daily in the Potter's House – which I think is powerful.

**Want to learn more about  
The Potter's House's service to  
and work in our community, and  
how you can support it? We'd  
love to share more!  
You can reach us at  
[www.pottershousedc.org/contact-us](http://www.pottershousedc.org/contact-us).**



# Holiday Special!



Get Kayla McClurg's lectionary reflections for any gift to Church of the Saviour over \$25

- Passage by Passage
- 3 booklets -- Years A, B and C

Send your check to our new address:  
2708 Ontario Rd., Washington DC 20009

*\*Put Callings in the memo line*

Or make you gift by PayPal on our secure website:  
[InwardOutward.org](http://InwardOutward.org)

(No international orders without additional postage)



Emmy Lu Daly watches Marjory Bankson throw a pot on Bud Wilkinson's kickwheel



Leslie Kepley, intern at Earthen Hands, harvesting vegetables



Milkweed supports Monarchs at Dayspring



# More Than Learning About Justice...

By Bill Mefford

Throughout the life of the church, any significant contribution the church has made towards justice and peace has emanated with small groups of people with shared passions and a shared call. Slavery abolitionists, the Civil Rights Movement, the Sanctuary movement, the nuclear disarmament movement, the LGBTQ rights movement, the farmworkers movement, and so many more; all were begun and powered along the way by small groups of people amassing together and often living in solidarity with those directly impacted by injustice. This is how change happens.

When I first became involved in justice work as a college student back in the 1980s in Texas, I joined a small group of students on our campus committed to abolishing the death penalty. That small group was made up of some of the most creative and dedicated people I have ever known and we had to be since Texas has the most active use of the death penalty in the whole country! We wrote letters, we creatively educated students and faculty, and this group helped inspire me to a lifelong journey of activism and organizing.

We at the Festival Center believe the importance of small groups of people with shared passions and a shared call cannot be emphasized strongly enough. This is why we are starting something new in 2022. Since we took all of our classes online due to the pandemic in early 2020, we have seen an unprecedented growth in participation. In the past year and a half, hundreds of people have attended our online teach ins, classes, and events from across the country. This expansion of our influence reminds me of the tremendous influence the Servant Leadership School had in its early days. Gordon Cosby's original vision of widespread impact through our school remains our vision today.

Thus, beginning in January of 2022 we are starting three year-long Collectives focused on Climate Justice, Anti-Racism, and Community Organizing. The year-long Collectives will include teach



ins, salons (organized discussions), discipleship by your Collective Educator, and opportunities to practice what you learn and then reflect on those experiences with others.

Our impact has become nationwide in many respects and now our goal is to ensure that widespread also has depth of substance and shared commitment.

In joining a Collective participants will strengthen their knowledge and skills on the area of focus and will build relationships and establish a network among people with shared passions and a shared call. And the networks we want to help build will hopefully bridge communities across regions and states as small groups from various faith communities will encourage and learn from one another throughout the course of the year.

I believe it is time for us to move beyond merely learning about justice. I believe it is time for us to effectively build movements for justice so please check out the Collectives tab on our website to learn more and sign up.

*Bill Mefford is Executive Director of the Festival Center.*

## Related Ministries

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

Academy of Hope • Becoming Church • Bethany, Inc. • Bokamoso Foundation • Carroll Café • Christ House • Columbia Road Health Service • Cornelius Corps • Cornerstone • Dayspring Earth Ministry • Dayspring Retreat Center • Dunamis Peace Institute • Faith & Money Network • Family Place • Festival Center • For Love of Children • Hope and a Home • Institute of Radical Reconciliation • Inward/outward • Joseph's House • Jubilee Housing • Jubilee Jobs • Jubilee JumpStart • Kairos House • L'Arche • Liberation School • Life Asset Credit Union • Life Pathways • Manna, Inc. • New Community ArtSpace • New Community for Children • O.N.E.DC • Overlook Retreat House • Potter's House • Recovery Café • Samaritan Inns • Sarah's Circle • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Wellspring Conference Center



*Callings*

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Washington DC 20009

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## Special Events

**Nov 9, Tue | Quiet Day, 10am-2pm.** Registration at [Dayspringretreat.org](http://Dayspringretreat.org) required.

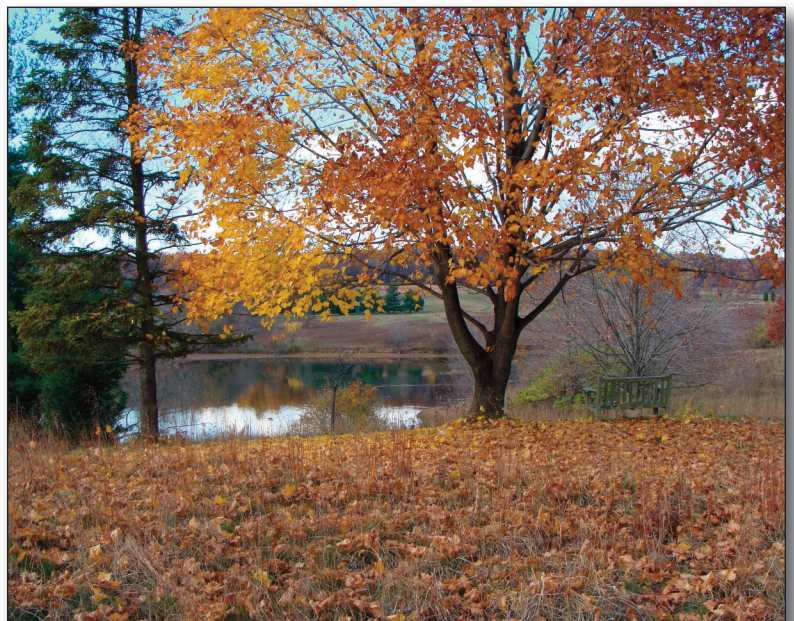
**Nov 30, Tue | Ember Day, 10am-4pm.** \$25. Already FULL. Wait list only.

**Dec 7, Tue | Quiet Day, 10am-2pm.** Already FULL.

**Dec 8, 5:30 | Caroling & Cocoa outdoors at the Festival Center,** led by Christ House Gospel Choir.

**Dec 18, Sat | Quiet Day, 10am-2pm.** Dayspring registration required.

**Other offerings:** FESTIVAL CENTER at [festivalcenter.org](http://festivalcenter.org) and POTTER'S HOUSE at [www.pottershousedc.org](http://www.pottershousedc.org).



*Jenny's Tree*