

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 7, Issue 4 • Winter 2018

Growing Stronger Movements



Our city is filled with strong, gifted people who are fighting for a better world. They labor in offices, streets, homes, and with their friends in ways that are often times unseen and unappreciated. These folks and their work are the dynamic components of our city's movements for justice. They tirelessly create, think, build, and hope believing that another world is possible.



At our recent Fall Festival, we invited our guests to join us in the call and the commitment to dream of how we can strengthen DC's movements for justice in the coming years



In recent years, The Festival Center has provided rich support to these movements for justice. We are honored to have provided space for the Poor People's Campaign, Diverse City Fund, Black Lives Matter DC, Democratic Socialists of America, No Justice No Pride, and many more. Through Soteria Community School, we've offered courses that nurtured political education such as DC in 1968: Politics and Protest, Black and Liberation Theology, and Understanding Intersectionality. And through Discipleship Year, volunteers gained a formative experience working with local non-profits as they address social and economic inequities. Through this mission of hospitality, education, and service, The Festival Center has supported various activists, artists, service providers, and change-makers. However, we need to do more.

At our recent Fall Festival, we invited our guests to join us in the call and the commitment to dream of how we can strengthen DC's movements for justice in the coming years. We were honored and challenged by Rev. Graylan Hagler who called us to take courageous action. He begged us to shake off "liberal" comforts in favor of a radical commitment to liberation. A liberation that faces conflict, takes risks, and works alongside the black and brown communities fighting for justice. At the festival, each person received an autumn-colored leaf-shaped card on which to write how we can grow stronger movements for justice. People offered organizations, causes, materials, speakers, and inspiration for the work ahead. Using the leaves, our guests covered a bare, lifeless tree with their words until the tree was vibrant with colorful hopes for liberation.

I invite all of you reading this to join us in the call and commitment to grow stronger movements for justice. Join us in understanding the needs and strengths of our communities, in taking new risks, and in being a voice for justice in our city.

Jay Forth, Executive Director of the Festival Center.

Editor's Corner | Elizabeth's Promise

If you'd like to see CALLINGS continue, please make a contribution by check to:

Church of the Saviour

(In Memo line put "Callings")

1640 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009



On a recent pilgrimage in New Mexico, I visited a small "children's church" in Chimayo. In it was a life-sized carved wooden figure of Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, heavy with child. Signs said "No photos please," so I obeyed, thinking there would surely be a postcard of the saints enshrined there. But no, I have only my memory of her ancient lined face, glowing with the shock of her pregnant belly, where many hands had rubbed away the blue color to show the bare wood grain. How beautiful and haunting it has been!

It is Elizabeth, not Mary, who inhabits my Thanksgiving and Advent prayers this year. Might she represent Church of the Saviour, now 70+ years old? Could she be holding the future for us? As we approach Advent, I'm aware of the new life stirring in many Church of the Saviour communities and ministries:

At New Community, where plans to create low-income housing around the church are moving ahead;
At 8th Day, featured on the centerfold pages of this issue, questions of new forms emerge;
At the Festival Center, Potter's House and the new Recovery Café in Anacostia – expanding the outreach of our community;

At Dayspring, where the Permaculture Garden is drawing international students and local residents into new relationship with the land.

Who are we becoming? How is our identity as Church of the Saviour changing in this fourth phase? As we wrestle with call and commitment and our desire to be more inclusive, I see these four distinct periods in our story.

Phase I (1946-1976) CoS gathered around Gordon and Mary Cosby; basic practices defined.

Phase 2 (1976-1996) birthing the sister churches and many new missions.

Phase 3 (1996-2017) incorporating separately with shared ownership of Dayspring. This phase is marked by our separateness.

Phase 4 (2018 ...) linked by the Council and Dayspring, we find many different ways of being "good news" to others. Visit our website, www.inwardoutward.org, and share it with others.

As an offering for this Advent season, I want to share a simple reminder of the way forward by a long-time member of Church of the Saviour who asked not to be identified (Simple Way Forward, page 7). My hope is that it will inspire your own reflections. We'd love to hear from you on the website.

Marjory Bankson

Editor of CALLINGS and inwardoutward.org

Chair of the CoS Council

CALLINGS deadlines for 2019: January 31, April 31, July 31 and October 31.

The Church of the Saviour Council

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



RECOVERY CAFÉ OPENS IN ANACOSTIA

Donald and Jacqueline Connerley dreamed of opening a Recovery Café in Anacostia – and it's finally happened! With training provided by the Recovery Café Network, founded by Killian Noe in Seattle, and support from the Bread of Life Church, the Connerleys have added to the services provided by Jubilee Housing and Jubilee Jobs in the heart of South-east Washington.



DAYSPRING Permaculture Garden

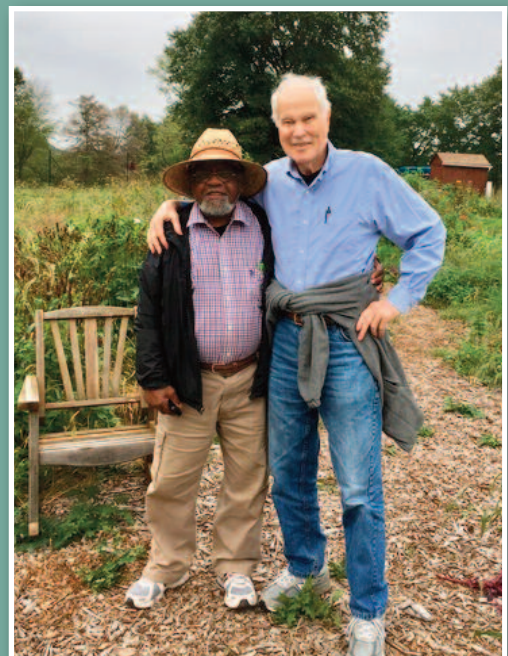
The Permaculture Garden at Dayspring continues to draw people across ages, backgrounds and faith traditions, all saying yes to connect more deeply with the wider web of life.

We recently welcomed a group of Japanese students on one day and helpers from the 8th Day Camp Meeting on another.

After a season of growing now it is time for harvest and preparing the beds for the winter. Saturday, November 10th wraps up monthly volunteer days scheduled for this season. At 5 pm we will enjoy a potluck harvest meal at the Farmhouse. All are invited. Many thanks to all who have come out to help!!!

Stay tuned for more to come!

On behalf of the Garden Team,
Jean Brown



Maurice Miles and Fred Taylor

The Courage to Be

Every year, usually the first Saturday and Sunday in October, the 8th Day Faith Community holds its Camp Meeting, a time of gathering for play, conversation, singing, walking in the woods and fields, shared activities and worship.

This year the Servant Leadership Mission Group decided on the theme, The Courage to Be, drawn from Paul Tillich's book of the same name, originally published in 1952. The book is a series of lectures concerned with living with anxiety in current time coming from the loss of the meaning of life and with addressing the courage needed to overcome that anxiety.

We chose that theme as a response to the raw feelings, anxiety, anger, violence and for some, bottomless sorrow of these times. We wanted to think more deeply about courage and ask ourselves these questions: What is courage? How do we live it out? What nurtures and gives us courage? How does our individual story and our corporate sacred story feed our courage?

Our gathering started on Saturday morning with singing and a reflection on the essence of Tillich's lectures by Kent Beduhn. He asked:

- 1) How can we understand our life in our journey inward, outward and in community as the "Courage to Be" our true selves?
- 2) How do we recognize this through the experience of the early CofS in looking at the language of the early membership commitment?
- 3) How does that story show up in how we tell our unfolding stories in community?



Jean Brown

Then Emily Owsley and Wendy Dorsey invited us to reflect on how nature inspires or encourages courage within us and sent us out into the woods and fields and to a table of found objects. Paper, pencils, paint, chalk, magazines, and glue were our tools. Later, we formed a circle to visually and verbally share our diverse creations.

After lunch, some of us continued to live into the theme of courage in nature by working in the Dayspring permaculture garden: weeding, picking fall flowers and preparing the ground for the winter. Others remained at the Wellspring Center to play board games, work on puzzles, and enjoy fellowship and fun.

As darkness fell over the field below the Wellspring Center, we gathered around a campfire to share stories and experiences of courage. Marcia Harrington invited those gathered to reflect on and share times when we were called to courageous action or to remember models of courage in our lives. The words of Paul Tillich served as an introduction to our storytelling: *"There are no valid arguments for the 'existence' of God, but there are acts of courage in which we affirm the power of being, whether we know it or not*

Courage has revealing power, the courage to be is the key to being-itself." (p. 181). Then, as the fire flamed and was fed, stories came forth:

- Leaving a job where joy was no longer present, knowing the rightness of that decision amidst the uncertainty of the future;
- Risking discomfort in opening to a relationship with one of the core members of L'Arche with multiple physical and developmental challenges and learning to love him deeply;
- Stepping up as a young professional in a design firm to lead a major renovation project despite questioning one's skills and leadership ability;
- Using one's voice and writing skills in college to expose a major problem on campus; and
- Leaving an abusive relationship.

Recalling the courage of Martin Luther as he stood in the Diet of Worms in 1521 and proclaimed: ".... it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen"

There were many more stories than these, and some who heard them expressed that the depth of this sharing was a highlight of the Camp Meeting.

On Sunday morning, Wendy Dorsey gave the teaching. She had brainstormed a personal list of "courage to be whats?" Her list included the courage to be creative, childlike, honest, authentic, humble, imperfect, faithful, genuine, a risk-taker. And, courage to be real, to be truthful, powerful. But what she really had been thinking most

about is how we are to have courage to be fully ourselves – both individually and as a human community. This reflected these words of Paul Tillich:

"The courage to be is essentially always the courage to be as a part and the courage to be as oneself, in interdependence. The courage to be as a part is an integral element of the courage to be as oneself, and the courage to be as oneself is an integral element of the courage to be as a part." (pp. 89-90)

The challenge, she said, "is to be fully ourselves, courageously exercising our gifts as God has given them, as fully participating, interdependent members of the community."

After sharing current examples of the courage to be, Wendy noted examples from her own experience and from the 8th Day Community. She then asked, "Will I again have the courage to leave the familiar path and step into a new calling? I wonder if there are others of you wondering about your calling? about a change or transition in your life? Where will your courage come from?"



Meade Jones Hannah



Marcia Harrington

Community Re-formation

Wendy spoke about the need to be courageously and fully ourselves, exercising our gifts as individuals in service to and with the support of the community. However, she wondered if a community like 8th Day needs the courage to be itself **as a whole**. Does 8th Day have to transform, consciously turn around, change, and re-learn how to live openly, with curiosity and creativity to allow the Spirit to work?

She shared about an article that stated that authentic reform means recovering some aspect of the church that has been “lost, marred, misconceived, or even forgotten. Authentic reform means reaching back and bringing into the future something that has been lost in the church’s present.” This reminded her of Gordon’s question at various stages of Church of the Saviour’s development: “What is the essence of the Church of the Saviour that we want to preserve or renew?”

She then asked us to gather in groups of three or four and discuss one or both of these questions:

For individuals: Are you wondering about your calling? About a change or transition in your life? Where will your courage come from?

For our community: Where does 8th Day need to change? What movement are you sensing in our community? How do we need to be open to courageously stepping out of our comfort zone and being open to the unexpected?

After a time of discussion, each group’s responses were shared. The following week they were discussed at the covenant members’ meeting and will now become items for reflection and action over the next 7 months leading up our annual recommitment ceremony on Pentecost Sunday. We then closed our time of worship with a cir-

cle dance to the tune of Simple Gifts, lifting our feet and voices with strength.

Courage can be contagious. It is not one big virtue that most of us have or don’t. It can wax and wane despite our best intentions. But, we always have countless courageous witnesses as inspiration. We have supporters and helpers, friends and companions on our spiritual journeys. We have Jesus as a courageous and risk-taking model who challenged his disciples to “Take heart, ... do not be afraid.” (Mark 6:50)



Mike Brown



Paolo and Noah Dorsey

“The essential character of courage, for Tillich, is ‘in spite of.’ We must go on striving for freedom, justice, and our faith in spite of oppositions. In this age of late capitalism, globalization, and terrorism, we all need the virtue of courage”

—Nimi Wariboko, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA

By Marcia Harrington, Moderator of the 8th Day Community. Wendy Dorsey’s October 7th teaching is on our website: www.8th-day.org.

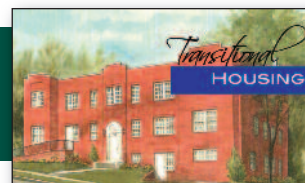
Related Ministries

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



Bethany, Inc.



Family Homelessness

"There are now more homeless kids and parents in D.C. than homeless single adults"
Aaron Davis, Washington Post, May 11, 2016

On May 11, 2016, *The Washington Post* reported that the number of homeless families in the District had soared by more than 30 percent compared with a year ago. For the first time since the annual census began in 2001, homeless children and their parents in the District outnumbered homeless single adults. On one day in late January, officials counted 4,667 homeless children and their parents, compared with 3,683 single adults.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that one of the most important strategies for lifting families from homelessness is rapid re-housing. The more quickly families are connected with permanent housing, the more quickly their homelessness can be solved and their lives can return to relative stability.

Family homelessness is devastating and disrupts every aspect of family life, including the physical and emotional health of family members and the education and well-being of children. Poverty, declining job opportunities and wages, changes in the welfare program and the lack of affordable housing put affordable housing out of reach for many families in the District.

About Bethany

Founded in 1993, Bethany, Inc.'s mission has been to combat homelessness for families in Washington, D.C. In 2004, Bethany opened the doors of an eight-unit apartment building in Anacostia and later named it ***Good Hope House***. Through 2016, Good Hope House provided transitional housing and support services for single mothers and children. **Overall, Bethany has helped more than 80 families, including more than 150 children.**

In 2016, Bethany began supporting homeless families in the Rapid Re-housing program, which provides families with short-term rental assistance and stabilization services. Many of the families we serve have difficulty qualifying for apartments in D.C. Some families strive to survive while overcoming psychological and physical disabilities, substance and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and other traumas. All of our families are part of the cities most vulnerable who often have a difficult time meeting their families' financial and most basic needs.

Bethany continues to provide homeless families with housing and supportive services that prepare them for long-term sustainability and that promote the emotional and physical well-being of each family member. Bethany helps build stronger families so that they become better prepared to support themselves.

Bethany Inc. is a non-profit (501c3) organization

Your Support Makes a Difference:

- Make a Pledge or Contribution to Bethany, Inc. to support our program and help us serve more families.
- Donate toiletries, house wares, clothing, school supplies, non-perishable food, transportation assistance, holiday gifts/toys for children.
- Volunteer your time, energy and expertise by becoming a Board member, leading workshops, mentoring and tutoring families (Additional opportunities are available).

Bethany, Inc.

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Changes in Potter's House Staff and Programming

Soon after Gail Arnall became Executive Director of The Potter's House in August, funding became available to hire several senior staff members to replace those who were leaving. Clara Debnam, formerly a Discipline Year participant serving at Joseph's House, stepped in as part-time Sales and Marketing Manager. She is the person to call when you want to rent space at The Potter's House. Grace Singletary, formerly involved with the permaculture farming at Dayspring, came in as part-time Program Manager. She lines up the various public events that are offered multiple evenings. Be sure to let her know if you want to receive the email announcements of the program event. When Brennan Baker resigned, effective November 1, Grace became the full-time Program and Bookstore Manager. Claude Dukes joined the staff in October as the new Cafe Manager. He brings to his work years of experience as a chef and restaurant owner, and a deep faith to his work. He is so excited to be part of The Potter's House ministry.

The Program Committee, under Grace's leadership, has developed six overarching themes that will guide program decisions in 2019. The plan is to spend two months on each theme, involving authors, experts, relevant organizations and foundations to promote extensive discussions and possibly advocacy responses. The six themes are: Civil Discourse; Racial Justice and Equity; Soul at Work; Climate and Environmental Justice; Sex, Gender and Power; and



Housing Justice. **During The Potter's House Catalyst for Change Fundraiser, Saturday, November 17th, attendees will be invited to offer ideas and contacts for each of these themes. The fundraiser is from 7 to 9 pm, with great food and drink. Free parking is across Mozart Street from the Festival Center. Check out the improved website and found out ways you can support and volunteer at The Potter's House at www.pottershousedc.org.**

A big thanks to Brennan Baker who steps down after seven years as manager of The Potter's House bookstore. He has been such a faithful steward of vision of The Potter's House.

Note to Self: My Roadmap

In this turbulent election season, a long-time Church of the Saviour member made this "note to self." We thought you might find it helpful.

To keep my equilibrium, I have to remember the way I have come and who brought me here, which helps to keep me grounded.

- Practice of Silence
- Listening for God in the silence
- A word from Scripture
- Continuously practicing the Presence
- Daily affirmations and calling forth possibilities in all circumstances
- Leaving negativity behind - - in thinking, in associates
- "Learning to catch the wind of the Spirit"
- Praying the difficult situations and distractions - - seeing how God manifests in and through them
- In "lapses" of focus, a gentle return to the center
- Practicing daily gratitude and thanksgiving for God's mercies, grace and provision
- Forgiving myself and others
- Knowing that prayer is always answered. This is not wishful thinking. It is the reality of my personal experience to be claimed at all times. It is the stuff of life.
- Learning to leave behind the things that distract from the central focus of living in the Divine Presence
- Keep reading
- Don't be too hard on yourself
- Getting used to being alone and devoting time to hallowing these circumstances
- Gratitude for what I have and not focusing on what I do not have
- Celebrating how resources manifest, are created and flow to achieve ends

This is just my road map - - always being updated in the moment, as the spirit directs

NEW COMMUNITY
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* * * * *
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5-8 PM

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Special Events

Nov 17 | “Catalyst for Change” fundraiser at Potter’s House, 7-9pm. Free parking.

Nov 27 | Quiet Day at Dayspring. 10-2pm. No cost. Bring your food.

Nov 30-Dec 2 | “Prepare the Way,” silent retreat led by Karen Johnson. \$220. Register at dayspringretreat.org.

Dec 4 | Ember Day at Dayspring Retreat. 10-4. No cost. Bring your own lunch.

Dec 7 | Holiday Bazaar, New Community Art Space, 614 S St NW, 5-8pm.

Dec 14 | “Phil Wiggins with the Chesapeake Sheiks,” Carroll Café at Seekers, 7:30pm. \$18-20. Tickets at CarrollCafé.org
Check individual church websites via inwardoutward.org for Christmas services
Check individual church websites via in-

Photo by Peter Bankson



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