

Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 7, Issue 1 • Spring 2019

RECOVERY CAFÉ DC: Birthing a new vision in Southeast DC

The need:

“For the past four years, the nation’s capital has undergone its worst public-health crisis since the arrival of AIDS: an explosion of fatal drug overdoses...The rate of death, caused by heroin cut with the lethal synthetic opioid fentanyl, is comparable to the opioid epidemic’s worst ravages in rural and suburban parts of the United States. More people died of opioid overdoses than homicides last year in the District.”

Washington Post 12/19/18

Jacqueline and Donald Conerly: What drew us to found Recovery Cafe DC goes back to all our conversations with Gordon Cosby at the Potter’s House and their Christ House apartment. Donald would share that he wanted to open a Potter’s House over in Southeast. For years he’d brought guys from the 801 shelter and methadone clinic (in Anacostia) over to Adams Morgan for worship at Bread of Life and fellowship at the Potter’s House. He wanted to bring that to Southeast because of the desperate need that he knew first hand from being homeless, addicted and without community.

Out of years of relationship with Bread of Life, we learned about the Recovery Cafe in Seattle and began exploring the possibility of starting one in DC with the support of the Recovery Café Network and Bread of Life Church. After conversations with Killian Noe and David Uhl in Seattle, we knew instantly—this was what we’ve been called to do. We fell in love with Killian’s spirit and passion, and waited in expectation for our trip to Seattle to meet her. Have you ever felt like, even though you’ve just met someone for the first time, they were family? That’s how we were welcomed.

Jim Marsh, Jr.: In April 2018, Donald and Jacqueline Conerly and I flew to Seattle to attend the training for new members of the Recovery Cafe Network (RCN). This trip was a culmination of an intensive exploration between Bread of Life Church and Living Word Christian Ministries about our collective call to establish a Recovery Café in Southeast DC.

Killian Noe, founder of Recovery Cafe in Seattle, reminded us that essence cannot be defined...only stories can point towards it. On the second day of training, the cafe opened with five minutes of silence. All of the trainees were invited to find a seat among those gathered. As I sat at a table with four others, I shook hands and introduced myself. One told me that this place was special. Everyone else nodded. I looked around as folks got settled for the short period of silence, and my heart broke wide open.



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. We believe everyone is in recovery from something, and offer radical hospitality, belonging, and an energy field of healing, communicating “your life matters” to every person.



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Editor's Corner | Membership and Belonging

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



As I read the lead story in this issue of CALLINGS, I was struck by the rules for membership in a Recovery Café: be drug and alcohol-free for 24 hours, join a recovery circle, and participate in running the café. I suspect that the chance to give back, as well as getting help to stay sober, are key to building a healing and hopeful community. It reminded me of Sam Shoemaker's slogan for Faith At Work, the organization that was my principle work for many years: "Get changed, Get Together, and Get Going." It's no surprise then that both the Recovery Café and Faith At Work had their roots in the 12-step movement.

At Church of the Saviour, membership has always involved more hurdles. Core membership required disciplines of prayer and study, certain classes in the School, membership in a mission group, tithing of time and money, and finally, writing a spiritual autobiography. It is an ordination process designed to deepen our roots in a body of Christ and prepare us for service in a polarized world. But the length of time and degree of commitment for membership has been a barrier for many. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but it does not encourage a quick sense of belonging among those who come primarily for help.

The premise, articulated by Elizabeth O'Connor in Call to Commitment, was that Church of the Saviour would have a committed core group—and a radical welcome for all. Belonging might develop through a shared mission or classes in the school, but the goal was not belonging. It was listening for God's call, finding others called to the same mission, and taking action together. Hence our slogan: inward/outward together.

Over time, each of the CoS churches has modified its path to core membership, either because they did not have enough people to sustain a school for regular classes or because accountability structures were lacking. At various times, core membership itself has been questioned, although our Constitution requires it. (As a side note, to meet the legal requirements of our charter, the Council submits a list of core members in each community. In January, 2019, there were 76 core members in eight small congregations. I see them as the "boney structure" or the ligaments and tendons in this particular body of Christ.)

But belonging is bigger than core membership. There is a place in creative worship, community life and mission groups for all who are drawn to be on "the way" with us. The wider circle is the flesh and blood of each communal body. As time goes on, each community will sustain a clear path into core membership, but we can all take a lesson from the Recovery Café and make sure that we also have a way to welcome those who simply come out of curiosity or need.

May Lent be a time for reflection and renewal,

Marjory Bankson

Editor of CALLINGS and inwardoutward.org

Chair of the CoS Council

CALLINGS deadlines for 2019: 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

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RECOVERY CAFÉ DC: Birthing a new vision in Southeast DC

Here was a beautiful space, filled with Recovery Cafe members who were valued children of God. All of whom could easily be stereotyped or classified as forgotten, discarded, strange, or “different.” And yet, there we were, milling about, greeting and laughing in their own peaceful safe space. I was sitting in an oasis in the midst of a barren desert surrounded by people who have come home. And it just flooded me, like a heavy rain falling on my own dry places. I felt at home, too!

I recently heard an interview with psychologist and author, Brené Brown, who said, and I paraphrase, “In the absence of love and belonging, people suffer. We are all worthy of love and belonging.” We all want to be seen.

First Steps

Kim Montroll: We’re offering the core Recovery Circles on a small but transformative scale thanks to use of Jubilee Jobs SE space at 2419 Minnesota Ave. SE, and are searching for property to pur-

chase in Southeast. We invite you to come and learn more. Contact Kim Montroll kim@recoverycafedc.org or www.recoverycafedc.org

Here is our statement of call: 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. We believe everyone is in recovery from something, and offer radical hospitality, belonging, and an energy field of healing, communicating “your life matters” to every person.

Membership is offered to anyone who has been drug and alcohol-free for 24 hours, has joined a recovery circle and will help with running the café. Recovery Cafe DC is one of 14 new Recovery Cafes’ around the U.S. that RCN has helped to launch. To learn about this powerful movement, visit www.recoverycafenetwork.org

By the Recovery Cafe DC team: Donald and Jacqueline Conerly, Jim Marsh, Jr., and Kim Montroll



A House Filled with Song

By Trish Stefanik

About thirty gathered voices rang out accompanied by hammer dulcimer, mandolin, and guitars, 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free / 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be... Thus began an evening of music honoring our dear friend Kayla McClurg upon the anniversary of her death, a year ago on the feast day of Epiphany. We had already begun to honor a piece of our vision for Overlook – friends old and new connecting over a simple meal, the house filling with heart song.

The other part of our vision, Overlook Retreat House, is two years old now. We have a steady stream of individuals and small groups coming for personal retreat and renewal. The notes in the guestbook tell some of the story. Here is one:

"I came here as a gift to myself in celebration of my birthday. I am leaving with so many gifts in return. The gifts of rest, silence, slowing down, savoring, noticing, appreciating. The gift of sitting beside a crackling fire, while sipping tea and alighting upon some passage in a book that was just what I needed to read. The gift of sounds you can hear in the silence and not caught up in the busyness of the mind – raindrops on wood and stone, burbles and bubbly sounds of flowing water by the stream, squishy sounds of mud underfoot on the walk to the lake. I am returning home refreshed and relaxed for the journey ahead."



Overlook guest quarters

In addition to our musical evening, the residence has hosted other community gatherings, including an afternoon of summer fun and a pumpkin fest last fall. What joy to see and hear the Hassan children of Dayspring's refugee family squealing with delight under the crazy sprinkler and in the baby pool! Several of us adults did our own squealing as we resurrected our inner-child playing croquet and badminton. And the bar has been set high for perhaps another time of artistic pumpkin carving this fall.

Welcoming Overlook's guests, both upstairs and downstairs, I harken back to the mission of Andrew's House, formerly the Church of the Saviour guesthouse in Washington, DC. As resident host there, Kayla often shared with visitors the creativity of its original owners



Overlook view



Overlook gathering

Charles and Margaret Demere who envisioned a place that embodied these words from Henri Nouwen (Reaching Out):

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend... Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place.... Hospitality wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances."

Kayla and I dreamed Overlook would be a place where those who come feel deeply at home. I'm smiling, and I think Kayla is too. And last fall Overlook welcomed Catalina Conneally-Salazar to join in its mission. Thank you Kayla. Thank you Dayspring. Thank you Church of the Saviour. Thank you Spirit for leading me, and now Catalina, here. Sing us on! Stay tuned to future offerings at Overlook. And if you, your mission group, friends and colleagues want time apart to rest and reflect and simply be with the natural wonders of Dayspring, please contact overlook.retreathouse@gmail.com to get on the calendar. We'll be delighted to welcome you!



Catalina and Trish

Catalina Conneally-Salazar *In Her Own Words:*

We come to share our story, we come to break the bread, come to know our rising from the dead... This has always been one of my favorite communion hymns (Song of the Body of Christ). It captures my lived experience both at home and in church. From my parents, I inherited a deep love for having friends and family come to visit, creating a warm and welcoming environment, breaking bread together, and sharing stories.

In southern California the weather is always grand, and every Saturday night my father would barbecue. All were welcome with a standing invitation to friends, relatives, and people passing through town (living in Los Angeles 12 minutes from the airport made our home a convenient stop over location). Guests always brought my parents delight. The barbecue lasted 4-5 hours as we ate, drank, and shared our lives through stories, sitting outside around the hot coals.

Another significant love I have is for the outdoors and the change of seasons. In the mid-90s I started making regular trips to the east coast in autumn to see the changing colors of the leaves. I became enamored with the beauty of the numerous forests and hiking trails. In 2005 I decided that I wanted to move to this area. The next year my parents became ill and that dream had to be postponed. Finally, in 2017, I left my chaplaincy position working with the incarcerated, sold my home, packed my car, and set out for a six-month trip across the country.

Arriving in Silver Spring, MD, in January 2018 I had some good friends who had previously relocated from Los Angeles who welcomed me to their home. I had no job, no permanent place to live, and yet, I knew God would provide and show me the path in the fullness of time. All I knew was that I wanted to live and or work at a Retreat Center. In February of last year, I decided to come to a quiet day at Dayspring on Ash Wednesday. My friend told me that there was also a home on the grounds where individuals could stay overnight for quiet time. So I contacted Trish at Overlook and booked myself a room for two nights.

When Trish came to meet me we talked. I discovered the story of Overlook and Kayla's recent passing. Trish mentioned that in the coming months she would want to find someone to join her in the ministry. My heart skipped a beat and I thought to myself, Could this be where God might be calling me? Trish and I continued to dialogue and meet throughout the following months, and in the summer I began to visit Dayspring Church where I also found an amazing worship community. In September I came to stay at the house for a week of discernment. On October 1st I moved in.

God placed a longing on my heart long ago and then fulfilled it in the most amazing way! At Overlook my love of hospitality and spirituality are wonderfully integrated. I look forward to this coming year and partnering with Trish to welcome guests to Overlook.

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

Bokamoso Celebrates 20 Years

As apartheid came to an end in South Africa, Roy Barber of Seekers Church went there to see if his music and drama skills could be useful for social change in the transition. Guided to Winterveldt by another Seeker, Paul Holmes, Roy visited the Bokamoso Life Centre and dreamed of bringing a group of young people to the United States for a fundraising tour which would benefit others in this desperately poor township outside of Pretoria.

At that time, Roy was teaching drama and theater at St. Andrews Episcopal School in Potomoc. He developed a partnership with Leslie Jacobson, head of the drama department at George Washington University and, sponsored by Seekers, Roy used a small inheritance from his mother to bring the first group to the U.S. in 2002. Since then, a new group has come every year.

Now sponsored by the Bokamoso Youth Foundation in partnership with St. Andrews and GWU, the Bokamoso Youth Centre provides a safe haven for young people (generally 18 to 24 years old) to develop life skills, express themselves artistically, explore work possibilities and apply for scholarship help to pursue post-secondary education.

In the past 20 years:

More than 1,200 youth have graduated from the Centre's Adolescent Development Program;

More than 250 youth have participated in the U.S. tour;

More than 225 youth received nearly 400 scholarships offered by the Centre since 2008;

Currently there are 34 Bokamoso youth studying at South African colleges and universities—7 of whom have received scholarships directly from the universities that they are attending.

Bokamoso graduates contribute to the families in which they were raised, often affording younger siblings opportunities to advance. They also contribute to their communities, often volunteering to mentor other youth. While apartheid destroyed the dream of a better life for many, Bokamoso has rekindled hope in these young people and given them tools and skills to pursue those dreams.

Read more at www.bokamosoyouthfoundation.org.



Earthen Hands Now Open

Fulfilling her dream to open a working pottery studio at Dayspring, Jean Brown welcomed a sizable crowd for the formal blessing and fundraiser in December. Cheryl Hellner created beautiful liturgy, Mary Shapiro added music, and guests scattered written blessings for Jean to find in surprising places. Just over \$2,000 in pottery sales and donations were raised toward bringing heat and light to the Earthen Hands Shed.

The former lawnmower shed has already become a soulful space of welcome, are and connection for people on retreat at Dayspring. Whenever the door is open, guests are welcome.

Now Jean is looking for a portable solar system for under \$4,000 to avoid the use of fossil fuels and still bring POWER to the POTTER. She's put the word out to find someone with expertise in off-grid solar, and hopes to have a plan in place by Easter. If you, or someone you know, could help—please be in touch.

EarthenHandsatDayspring@gmail.com
11301 Neelsville Church Road,
Germantown MD 20876



Cheryl Hellner and Jean Brown lead the procession

Mary Shapiro and Nolan Smith



Church of the Saviour
1640 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009

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Special Events

Feb 15-17 | “A Homecoming,” silent retreat led by Sallie Chatfield, associate of Shalem. \$220.
Register at dayspringretreat.org.

Mar 1-3 | “Intimacy, Emptiness and Awakening,” led by Ian White Maher, UU minister. \$220.
Register at dayspringretreat.org.

Mar 6 | Ash Wednesday QUIET DAY, 10-2. No cost. Bring your lunch.

Mar 8 | Tret Fure (guitarist), Carroll Café at Seekers, 7:30pm.
Tickets at CarrollCafe.org.

Mar 22-24 | “Holding Space for Hope,” led by Lorie Conway, Shalem graduate. \$220. Register at dayspringretreat.org.

April 13 | Trio Sefardi, Carroll Care at Seekers, 7:30pm.
Tickets at CarrollCafe.org.

April 19 | Good Friday QUIET DAY, 10-4. Led by Peter Bankson of Seekers. Reservations necessary (call or email). Donations welcome. Bring your lunch.

May 10 | Jennifer Cutting/Oceans Celtic Quartet, Carroll Café at Seekers, 7:30pm. Tickets at CarrollCafe.org.

May 10-12 | “Sharing Silence,” led by Nat Reid, director of Dayspring Retreat. \$220. Register at dayspringretreat.org.



Photo by Jean Brown