

# Callings

in Church of the Saviour

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## Building a Space for Spiritual Formation: Updates on the Renovation of the Festival Center

By Lyndsay Fertig-Johnson

As you walk past the Festival Center these days you will hear the sounds of hammering, smell the scent of fresh lumber, and see construction vehicles in the parking lot—all are signs of transformation, rejuvenation, and hope. Construction on the Festival Center building began in November and will continue throughout the year, with an expected reopening in Spring of 2023.

The massive renovation to the Festival Center will bring new life to our building. This renovation will strengthen our sustainability for the future, deepen and broaden our community, national, and global impact, launch new innovative programs, and further our call to hospitality and justice.

Environmental and technological investments will expand the impact of the Festival Center beyond our four walls and create long-term sustainability for the future. A new commercial training kitchen and art gallery space will further the impact of the Festival Center in the Adams Morgan neighborhood and wider Washington DC community. Expanded rentable square-footage and below-market-rate pricing will create opportunities for community groups and non-profits to meet and collaborate privately and safely.

Furthermore, innovative new programs will further the mission of the Festival Center by strengthening opportunities for collective formation, collaboration, and mutual solidarity. One of these impactful programs is the Center for Spiritual Formation.

Dedicated to our value of collective formation and the inward journey, we will have a dedicated space for spiritual direction and formation. This space will be available free-of-cost for people of all religious and spiritual beliefs so that individuals and groups can deepen their connection and relationship with the Divine and Sacred. The Center for Spiritual Formation will consist of the first floor Chapel and the second-floor turret room.

Understanding that call is at the intersection between the inward and outward journey, the Center for Spiritual Formation will serve as a space for rejuvenation for the outward journey while individuals and groups work to discern their sense of call, discover individual and collective gifts, and build community. The Center for Spiritual Formation is a physical representation of what God is calling us to do with the inward and outward journey.

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The third floor of the Festival Center is being expanded so that more non-profits can utilize the below-market rate office space that the Festival Center offers. The roof of the Festival Center will contain solar panels which will help reduce our carbon footprint.

# Editor's Corner

## Growing Still



If you'd like to see  
CALLINGS continue, please  
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[callingseditor@gmail.com](mailto:callingseditor@gmail.com)

The first time that I went on a silent retreat at Dayspring, I brought six books – because I hate to be bored and could not imagine what we would DO with a whole weekend of silence. Our leader, Mary Cosby, said in her lovely Southern voice, "If you've brought any books, I hope you'll lock them in your car." I was mystified by her advice, but followed it, and discovered that setting aside my own agenda made space for the Spirit in a new and unexpected way.

Since then, of course, I've gone on many retreats without books, eager for the chance to sink beneath the chatter in my head and with others. There I find a different form of meditation. Recently I was freed to pick up a surprising book that I would never have bought on my own, Thomas Merton's *Bread in the Wilderness* (1953). It revived my deep trust that we already belong to the intricate web of life.

I've learned to listen for the Spirit and not be quick to say what it means. My intuitions seem stronger when there is space to let hunches float in the breeze, take shape and shift again. And conversation at the end of retreat is always full of truth and wonder, as though we've been visited by the Holy One or Sophia herself.

That inner work continues at home with the help of a spiritual companion – someone who knows the ways we trick ourselves into separation and ego-ology; someone who can ask the right question rather than giving advice, or who can offer language for something that seems opaque or troubling. A dream I am holding for the Center for Spiritual Formation which is developing at the Festival Center is to nurture a monthly Zoom group of spiritual companions who want to tap that river of grace in order to dis-engage from their own ego needs and be available for others who want to be intentional about their spiritual growth.

Another way to do that inner work is by signing up for the weekly reflection at [Inwardoutward.org](http://Inwardoutward.org). Written by a team of six writers from the different communities of Church of the Saviour, there are usually journaling questions to quicken your spirit or prompt your own musings. You can also meditate on the daily quotes chosen by that writer for the following week. The season of Pentecost is a perfect time to let go of things you do not need on your spiritual journey, and to add something or someone to encourage your path – because we are growing still.

With care,

**Marjory**

Marjory Bankson  
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*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.*



## Festival Center, continued from page 1

We are thrilled to invite you along on this renovation journey with us. Visit, [www.festivalcenter.org/space-rentals](http://www.festivalcenter.org/space-rentals) to take a virtual tour of the renovations to the Festival Center Building and learn more about what you expect when we welcome you back through our doors in 2023!



**A mezzanine will further expand the square footage of the Festival Center and allow us to utilize more of our great building.**

## 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 • 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



# Pine Ridge: Words on the Wind

By Matthias Everhope

*Pine Ridge: Words on the Wind* is a digital art piece hosted by the Luce Center for Arts + Religion on their website. It consists of photography paired with poetry and prose. It's a very personal reflection, but one that tells a story about confrontation and forgiveness, despair and hope, and the persistence of God's grace across time and space.

The installation grew out of an eleven-day trip with other seminarians to Pine Ridge, on the Oglala Lakota Reservation in South Dakota in the middle of winter, January 2020. But it's still on my mind, often. Not just that God delivered me from drinking alcohol once and for all on my 35th birthday. Not just because I was given divine affirmation of my name change. Not just because I confronted the wounds of Wounded Knee within myself and my legacy. Not just because I was to become a father and would soon feel the everyday responsibility and joy of bringing up my own "Wakaneja" / "sacred being" / child. All this and so much more, this closeness to Great Spirit / "Wakan Tanka" / Creator just behind my shoulder. It was a gift that had to be shared.

I'm getting more comfortable storytelling, which should make the Lakota happy, as that is their preferred method of passing on wisdom. If I want to be more like Jesus, I suppose storytelling is a skill I should cultivate. I've just graduated from Wesley and my thesis in public theology focused on the ethics of modern and future technologies. That felt like an intellectual culmination, so this feels like crescendo of the heart and spirit. These were lessons I didn't learn in the classroom.

I'm really excited and honored to share this work with you. May it bless you and give glory to Great Spirit.

—Creator's Peace Be With You Mitákuye Oyás'ŋ / All My Relations,

Matthias Everhope is a member of Jubilee Church, 8th Day Community, the webmaster for [InwardOutward.org](http://InwardOutward.org), and a recent graduate of Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC. *Pine Ridge: Words on the Wind* is available on the Henry Luce III Center for The Arts + Religion website at <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/pine-ridge-words-on-the-wind>.

Valery Brown Eyes making a quillwork bracelet.

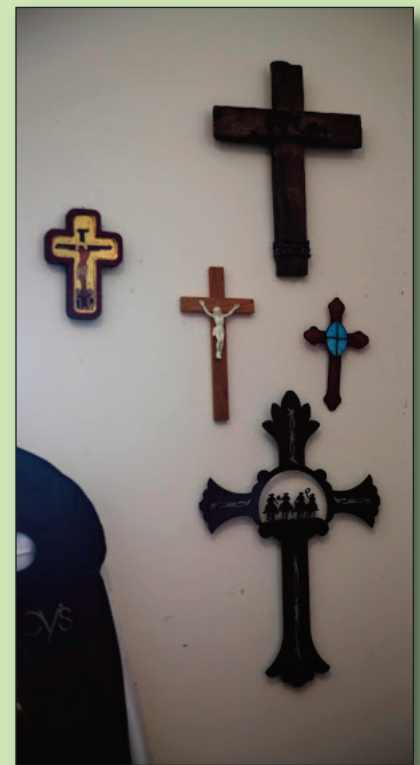


What was  
handed to  
me on a  
stolen plat-  
ter, what  
was hard  
earned, and  
what was  
grace? What  
about dumb  
luck?



Elder Kelly at Wounded Knee

I know I've received  
mercy, so did Dad  
and others. But the  
Lakota don't see  
this cross above the  
window the same  
way I do, even the  
Christians. As  
Robert Allen  
Warrior put it,  
many Native  
Americans read  
Joshua and  
identify with the  
Canaanites,  
slaughtered in the  
name of God.  
Wasn't it my an-  
cestors riding high  
on the cavalry,  
bearing down on  
those women and  
children in the  
valleys of  
Wounded Knee?  
My visit there a few days ago was still on my  
mind and spirit, haunting me, haunting my  
blood.



Christchurch Episcopal Red Shirt Table, SD



Baby six months on  
the way back home.  
My firstborn son.  
I am seeing even more  
responsibilities now—  
to truth, to healing.

-From the page,  
"Birthday Prayer /  
Early Morning"



Kelly and Susie Looking Horse  
at KILI Radio



Henry Red Cloud demonstrating a solar energy storage system.  
Red Cloud Renewable Energy Center.



## Squinting at Grandmother

But sometimes you / we / I look up at her..  
Grandmother Moon,  
And admire her lights and shadows

Her smoothed out silver cheeks and  
asteroid scars  
Her great big eye!

Good  
She is to be admired

Is she dear to you?  
'What do you mean?' You ask

A silly question for a citizen  
Loyal to a blanket of stripes and stars

Not real stars  
Pictures, laid out like crops, three colors

How you have reaped  
What you've sewn

Are you comfortable in there  
Wrapped in its bars?

Loyal to a notion  
Repatriate

I'm asking  
What have you given back to the Moon?

Think I'm being funny?  
What if I laugh with you?

What if she joins in,  
And we all laugh together?

-From the poem "Squinting at Grandmother"

## Wellspring Conference Center Seeking Director

We are searching for a person or couple who can administer a financially sustainable, faith-based Conference Center, associated with The Church of the Saviour, located in 200+ acres of beautiful woodlands, meadows, ponds and wildlife 25 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. in Germantown, Maryland. [www.wellspringconference.org](http://www.wellspringconference.org)

The candidate we desire will possess ecological awareness and an interest in working alongside members of a small intentional ecumenical Christian community as we continue the work of envisioning and ongoing creating of this center for healing, arts and nature.

For more information about the Dayspring Community and The Church of the Saviour, please see our websites at: [www.dayspringchurchmd.org](http://www.dayspringchurchmd.org) and [www.inwardoutward.org](http://www.inwardoutward.org)

Our ideal candidate can demonstrate:

- substantive business management experience, preferably including conference center management.
- a welcoming presence and strong organizational skills



- experience in new business enterprises which achieve operations that support both capital and operating expenses.
- the ability to work well with others involved in the stewardship of Dayspring as a team player and partner in the overall enterprise

After reviewing the websites, if you are interested in exploring this position further, send a cover letter, resume and references with salary request\* to: Christy Gordon at [skyswan53@gmail.com](mailto:skyswan53@gmail.com) by July 1, 2022.

*\* (In addition to salary and insurance, this position will include a residential home with 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, and a screened porch surrounded by woodlands.)*

Thank you for considering  
Wellspring Conference Center.

## Call for a new mission group of Dayspring Church

*WELLSPRING Mission Group to support an envisioned Wellspring Center for Healing, Arts and Nature at Dayspring*

Dayspring is a place of natural beauty and wonder, silence, and prayer. It is holy ground for the Church of the Saviour community and many other groups and individuals seeking renewal of body and spirit. It is a wildlife sanctuary of meadows, woodlands, streams, and ponds amidst heightened urban development and busy modern lives.

The Wellspring Conference Center at Dayspring and its original mission group envisioned and held events to revitalize churches through a commitment to the inward and outward journey of called individuals in community as modeled by the Church of the Saviour. The Center has also been a place of retreat, education, and celebration for various rental groups as well as a location for a summer children's camp.

The new Wellspring mission group is called to bring individuals and communities together to experience healing through connection with each other, the natural world, and the arts. We want to be a part of God's joy in restoring what is broken or broken apart in ourselves and the world.

Many of us have become so weary or shaken by life, societal, and global challenges that we forget or are too filled with grief to realize and lift up the beauty, gifts, and wholeness of our being as one community of creation in God. The Wellspring mission group hopes to both design and invite programs and events that are life-giving and restorative. We imagine gatherings that:

- Nurture life together as the Church of the Saviour
- Celebrate the arts
- Open our awareness of God's Living Presence through art and nature
- Explore holistic practices for healthy living
- Discover ways to celebrate and support the diversity of God's kin-dom
- Heighten our ecological awareness and attention to earth's gifts and wisdom

***We welcome your prayers and to join us in whatever way you are called!***

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# Reflections on 20 Years

## An Interview with Jubilee Housing President & CEO Jim Knight

by Amanda Long

A skeptic. A wounded man whose dream of playing professional baseball had just been dashed and whose mother had just died far too young. A wanderer, searching for a path his faith was pushing him to find, but not sure what that looked like or where it led. A college baseball coach with zero experience in affordable housing. That's how Jim Knight described himself when he first came to Jubilee Housing in 1994 as an intern, as part of the Discipleship Year program with The Church of the Saviour.

One year and countless toilets unclogged later, Jim was no longer a skeptic. He'd seen the work firsthand that Jubilee Housing and other Church of the Saviour missions were doing in Washington, DC's Adams Morgan neighborhood. Just walking down the block, the evidence of faith-based service was impossible to miss. And Jim's immersion into the Jubilee community was healing. Sitting down to a meal with Queen Esther and other memorable residents, sharing a house with six other disciples, attending Servant Leadership School classes, attending worship led by Gordon Cosby, and seeing the reality of affordable housing in a thriving, healthy neighborhood changed him. "I knew I wanted to be a part of this for the rest of my life," Jim says.

The path back to Jubilee after the internship would be full of twists and detours. Jim's then-girlfriend and now-wife Wendy was still finishing veterinary school in Tennessee. When she finished and got a vet job in McLean, Virginia, the couple returned to DC. However, Jim's mentor and Jubilee's founder, Bill Branner, was no longer at the helm, and no jobs were in the offing. Jim took a program leadership position at Samaritan Inns, Church of the Saviour's addictions recovery and transitional housing program, a formative experience at what he considers "the best run nonprofit" at the intersection of faith and business. "It was hugely important for me to see that it is possible," he says of a fiscally and spiritually solvent business model. "It can be real."

Things got even more real in 2002, when Jim became executive director at Jubilee Housing. It was a leap of faith, fueled by trust. Jim is adamant about giving credit to those who created the community he was about to lead. "I trusted the people who held the positions before me. I trusted that the work is being carried from beyond us and that it would continue to be," he says, determined to put their legacy ahead of any talk of his 20 years at the helm. "[They] had created an unusual, but amazingly impactful church and tilled the soil for all these missions. People who laid down their lives for this — we stand on their shoulders."

From that grounding, Jim is leading Jubilee Housing into its Jubilee year — one ripe with opportunity for transformation. On the heels of the country's racial reckoning, in the heart of the nation's capital, at a time when the economic and racial chasms between us threaten to tear our social fabric apart, Jubilee has "a chance to reimagine what it means to be Jubilee," Jim says. "In ancient scripture, the Jubilee year was an antidote to structural problems.



Debts were released. Prisoners set free," he says. "It's time for Jubilee to do its share of dismantling inequitable structures, internally and externally."

### When you came on board, what was your first priority?

Everyone says, "Fix my pipes. I'm tired of the ceiling leaking." So began my straight-up learning curve of finance and development of affordable housing. I had all the ideas and plans — to jump-start the transformative quality of supporting people along their goals. But that was met with, "Maybe you don't understand how important this housing piece is. I can't follow my dreams when I'm cleaning my floors from leaky pipes." I had to jump-start the physical transformation of our buildings before anything. We had nine 90-year-old buildings that hadn't seen a significant renovation in 30 years. The conditions were affordable, but they weren't high-quality anymore. I did say to the board, "If we don't take this seriously, I'm not the right guy." There wasn't any pushback from that, but there wasn't anyone who was ready to take on the job before.

### How did you find capital for the renovations?

I had pretty close to zero background in politics. I had voted before. Luckily, the Church of the Saviour community has international reach. People visited from all over the world to learn from us. One of those visitors was Gordon Blackwell, an affordable housing developer. Gordon connected us to a developer named Juanita (Wadell) Priddy. She showed us everything in DC from A to Z. She introduced us to the various agencies, prepared us for our funding applications, showed us how to hire architects. There would be no Jubilee Housing without her.

### Tell us about a time when someone (or many people) told you something could not be done, but you (and others) did it anyway.

Which time? Really, there have been many times, but this is where I want to highlight our journey into housing people who transition out of incarceration. In 2008, Gordon Cosby started gathering a bunch of us from different missions, telling we needed to listen to Janelle Goetcheus, who at the time led health care at the DC jail for Unity Health Care. He wanted us to hear her describe what she's seeing at the jail. He said, "You're going to get the urge to do something. You can't. You have to listen."

Try telling that to a chronic, addicted do-er. That's telling someone who's hungry not to eat. I knew the minute I was in the first meeting we had to do something about housing. But first I had to listen. What I heard was emblematic of the dehumanization of millions of people.

And then not long after that, there I am journaling at Tryst, gazing across the street when I see this boarded-up building. How is

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## Reflections, continued from page 7

there a boarded-up building left in Adams Morgan?! The building is up for auction — that Friday. We needed \$65,000 to bid. We had church on Thursday night. I go, tell them about the building and by the time I left that small group of 20 people, we had the money. Like so many Jubilee journeys, it's not a straight line. But now we've redeveloped that building with the help of the city for transitional housing for people coming out of incarceration. In 10 years, 300 people have come through. It wasn't that someone said "you can't do it"; they said "you can't do it — yet."

## What would 2022 Jim tell 2002 Jim?

I did not recognize early enough the importance and gifts of other people. I like doing. I was really happy to have a platform from which to do more. That [approach] can be about yourself if you're not careful. It doesn't sustain operations for the long haul. You have to be able to surround yourself with good people who you can rely on — and then trust them to do the work once you hand it off to them. It's the trusting part you have to get good at. It's hard for me to not take it back and do it myself. You need other people. We can only do this together, not alone.

For more, go to [jubileehousing.org](http://jubileehousing.org).

## Dayspring is Hiring

Dayspring Silent Retreat Center is hiring a cook. The Retreat cook works independently to prepare vegetarian meals for up to 18 people for weekend retreats which run from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. This position requires cooking for one to two weekend retreats per month, most months of the year. The cook also helps serve and clean up after meals. All work is done in the silent retreat environment. For a full job description and instructions on how to apply visit [visit:dayspringretreat.org](http://dayspringretreat.org) or email [kitchen@dayspringretreat.org](mailto:kitchen@dayspringretreat.org).



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