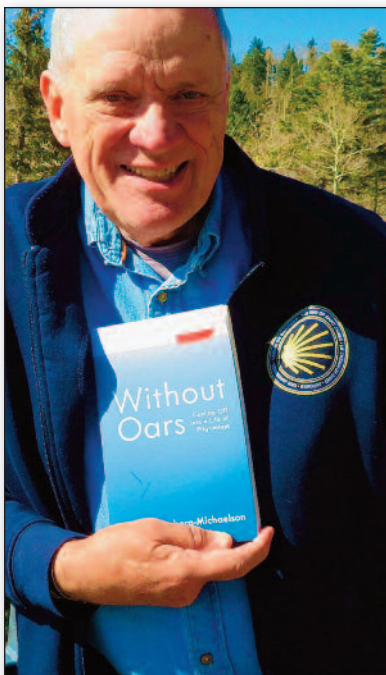


# Callings

in Church of the Saviour

Vol 9, Issue 4 • Winter 2020

## CASTING OFF “WITHOUT OARS” – BOOK LAUNCH DECEMBER 1



**Without Oars**, refers to  
the Celtic stories of  
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tiny boat without oars,  
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their journey and  
determine their  
destination.

*Without Oars*, by Wes Granberg-Michaelson, is an invitation to see life as a pilgrimage. For those of us steeped in the practice of faith as a journey inward as well as a journey outward, the book offers fresh language and experience for a familiar path of risk and revelation.

It will come as no surprise that Wes was influenced by Gordon Cosby and Church of the Saviour as well as the Sojourners community while he worked for Senator Mark Hatfield in the early 70s. Indeed, Wes was the scribe for a tumultuous period in our life as we “cast off” from the certainty of a single church into the “new land” of separate congregations in 1976. After Gordon’s death, Basil Buchanan of Festival Church has maintained our connection with Wes through the Parr Lectures.

Wes tells his own story of casting off “without oars” on his first retreat in 1972 at the Trappist Monastery in Berryville VA. Desperate for spiritual guidance after the bruising election of Richard Nixon, he stepped out of the evangelical certainties that he grew up with, and took his first steps into the wilderness of a Spirit-led journey which has sustained him throughout his career as General Secretary for the Reformed Churches of America.

Now retired and living in Santa Fe, Wes describes nearby pilgrimage sites at Ghost Ranch and Chimayo, as well as taking us to more remote places: walking the Camino de Santiago; Mt. Tabieorar outside of Lagos, Nigeria; monastic sites near the Jordan River; and the healing waters of Lourdes in southern France. Each experience provides a setting for reflection. He writes, “All my life I’ve carried weighty theological assertions – creeds and historic confessions I declared were faithful interpretations of the Bible. These I took into my pack when I was ordained.” And at each site, he lightens his load until he is carrying only the essentials. He invites us to do the same.

Deeply relevant in this time of political turmoil, Wes broadens our view of pilgrimage and deepens our roots in the biblical story of a Spirit-led life. His title, *Without Oars*, refers to the Celtic stories of monks who set out in a tiny boat without oars, letting the Spirit guide their journey and determine their destination. As we face into the winds of change in our time, Wes Granberg-Michaelson has given us a guide and companion for the journey. It would make a great gift for someone you love.

Copies are now available at The Potter’s House.

–Marjory Zoet Bankson  
Church of the Saviour Council President

December 1 at 5pm on Zoom  
Potter’s House Book Interview  
with Wes Granberg-Michaelson by  
Marjory Zoet Bankson





## Keep Watch by Kayla McClurg

To read the signs of the times means to pay close attention to all that is happening in our world, within and without regardless of what we are afraid to see. It is to see our day's news with the eyes of the heart, and not hide out in a fog of secular numbness or hyper-religiosity. Shrouding ourselves, we pretend to be remote and untouchable. To read the signs of the times is to dare to acknowledge what is hidden in plain sight, to dare to find our part to play, our song to sing, our small task to fulfill in the unfolding drama of days.

Keeping watch, we learn to read the poetry of our existence, the subtle nuances of complexities lying beneath the surface. We deepen our experience of life. Even the trees begin to preach. Learn from them. Even a story about a man gone away on a trip and servants left in charge at home, and other quite ordinary tales, become ripe with meaning once we learn the music and rhythm of metaphor.

You there, who keep falling asleep in shallow waters, who float there on the surface of your life, wake up! Stop staring blankly, numb to the wonder of who you are. The God Who Is searches for you in the holy mundane of your days. Wake up! Keep watch! Your enlightenment is very near.\*

\*Mark 13:24-37

– Kayla McClurg, *Passage by Passage*, Year B

## Editor's Corner | Wait and Watch

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

Advent is a season of waiting, of watching the horizon for signs of change, and of noticing small signs close by. As Year B of the lectionary cycle begins, the command is clear: "Keep watch! Stay awake!"

The temptation to numbness right now feels bone deep. During the election, there has been too much noise, too many promises, and too many lies. After such a contentious election, our patience is wearing thin. The pain of jobs lost and deathcounts rising makes it even harder. Being cooped up at home doesn't help. And taking on the burden of schooling at home has cost many women their jobs.

So the first step for me is to get outside; to walk in brisk morning air; to notice slight changes in the light, and see skeletal branches against the dawn. To breath in the musky smells of damp leaves and feel my body loosen into longer strides is one small sign of hope.

Back home, I reach for my favorite Advent books, *All Creation Waits* by Gayle Boss, and *Night Visions* by Jan Richardson. I let them lead me into darkness and waiting. I reread Kayla's poetic offering for the first week of Advent (above), stunned again by the beauty of her words and the loss of her presence at the heart of our church community. Grief and gratitude dance in my soul as I watch and wait for Jesus to be reborn in my life, in our lives as a local community, and as a nation.

This year I am enjoying Wes Granberg-Michaelson's new book, *Without Oars*, as a part of my Advent reading. It seems just right, as an invitation to let go of old certainties and trust in the Spirit's leading. At Seekers, we have begun a season of discernment for adding someone new to our Servant Leadership Team. The Earth & Spirit Mission Group has met with some Dayspring folks to explore how we might let the land teach us new ways of being together. And we have experimented with our first silent retreat on Zoom, with each participant sending a contribution to Dayspring Retreat as a thank offering, even though we are not being fed by the signs of autumn turning toward winter at Dayspring.

May we all watch and wait for the new passion for justice being born in us today.

### Marjory

Marjory Bankson

Send address changes to: 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



# Christ House Celebrates 35 Years

When Christ House opened on Christmas Eve, 1985, there was no other 24-hour care facility for people experiencing homelessness in the United States. By choosing to live and work in the same building, the original mission group envisioned a place where the most vulnerable among us, the sick and homeless, could rest and recuperate. That group, Allen and Janelle Goetcheus, David and Marja Hilfiker, Sr. Marcella Jordan, and Don and Ellen Martin, began what has become a model for medical respite care throughout the United States. And from the beginning, their spiritual life together was essential.

A few facts will sketch the range of Christ House services. The average length of stay is 35 days. 55% of the patients are 55 or older, and most have three or more health issues. Many of those issues are complicated by addictions, so there is an active 12-step program available along with skilled nursing at all times. Ten staff members now live on the third and fourth floors at Christ House and their sense of community with patients is palpable.

A recent newsletter noted that they do 30 loads of washing every day just to keep up with patient clothing, bedding and towels. In 2019, there were 3,125 individual volunteers who gave more than 9,000 hours of volunteer help, and 43 different groups, many from churches in the DC area, served more than 200 meals at Christ House.

In addition, there are five young Year Long Volunteers (YLVs) who have committed to serve patients at least 40 hours a week. Their skills range from case management, patient logistics, respite care and patient activities to full nursing care. The YLVs live in community during their year of service and some former YLVs have returned to be regular staff members at Christ House.

## Kairos Program

In 1992, Christ House initiated the Kairos Program for patients with chronic illness who decided to make a commitment to their recovery. For the first four years of its existence, the Kairos Program was available to former Christ House patients who found living arrangements in the neighborhood. They met together, provided volunteer service, and participated in other kinds of structured community-building programming.

After seeing the progress of the Kairos Program members, Christ House leaders decided to purchase an apartment property and open a permanent supportive housing facility. Kairos House opened as a permanent home for program members in 1996. It then contained apartment units for 37 residents and 3 staff members. Because of the demonstrated success of the Kairos Program, the Christ House Board of Directors made it a priority to



add seven apartment units to serve that many more formerly homeless men. Renovations began in October 2009, and occupants took residence in December 2010.

Volunteer service is a key element of the Kairos Program and each member serves based on his gifts and abilities. Kairos Members escort Christ House patients to medical appointments, staff the clothing room, work in the kitchen, and assist with mailings and other administrative activities. They too are a sign of hope and healing.

Christ House has had over 9,273 patient admissions in the last 35 years. Over the years, both the organization and staff have won countless awards for the critical work they carry out every day. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that in this time of great need, those who are sick and experiencing homelessness in DC still have somewhere to heal and find hope. Christ House is committed to supporting patients during these stressful times, and for many more years to come.

**To learn more about Christ House and its mission, visit [www.christhouse.org](http://www.christhouse.org).**

When Christ House opened on Christmas Eve, 1985, there was no other 24-hour care facility for people experiencing homelessness in the United States. By choosing to live and work in the same building, the original mission group envisioned a place where the most vulnerable among us, the sick and homeless, could rest and recuperate.

# Bread of Life Fund Helps With Settlement Costs

In late 2019, MANNA launched the Bread of Life Fund to cover unanticipated settlement costs for low-income homebuyers. Funded initially by a gift from the Bread of Life Church, this fund is especially important right now when mortgage rates are low but requirements to get a mortgage can prevent qualification. The Fund has already helped 12 families secure loans. Mike Little, speaking for Bread of Life church, said, "Historically, the church has mostly focused on immediate need, but I would like to do more around long-term needs like building equity. For us, giving to MANNA is about justice and equity."

Rev. Jim Dickerson, President and CEO of MANNA, reported that over the past 38 years, MANNA has completed over 170 projects, served over 1,500 families, invested \$300 million in neglected DC neighborhoods, and preserved over 550 affordable rental units. "We change lives, neighborhoods, and history," he said.



*Rev. Jim Dickerson, President and CEO of MANNA*

"Here at MANNA, we work hard every single day to bring the dream of homeownership and other types of affordable housing to the citizens of Washington DC. Over the past three decades and counting, we have seen amazing success, having developed almost 1,200 homes for low and moderate-income individuals. "



*Mike Little, Bread of Life Church*

"MANNA is not just about housing; it is about changing people's lives for the better by giving them financial literacy skills, creating hope within. Most of all, MANNA is allowing them to see the power and possibility they have within themselves to achieve their goals and realize their dreams. This has a tremendously positive ripple effect on their children and community."

To learn more about MANNA and its latest projects, visit [www.mannadc.org](http://www.mannadc.org). To learn more or donate to the Bread of Life Fund, contact Joshua Galvez, Director of Corporate Development, at [jgalvez@mannadc.org](mailto:jgalvez@mannadc.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 • 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



# Dayspring Continues Steps Toward Reopening



Earthen Hands has been awarded seed grants by both the local Presbytery and the National Presbyterian Church (USA). Spirit has guided me to take a leap of faith and resign from my job as Chaplain and pour myself into shaping this new ministry.

—Jean Brown

You can now arrange for individual retreats at Overlook and Silent Retreat

To make arrangements, contact:

[overlook.retreat@gmail.com](mailto:overlook.retreat@gmail.com) or

<http://dayspringchurchmd.org/ministries/21>

For individual silent retreats, contact

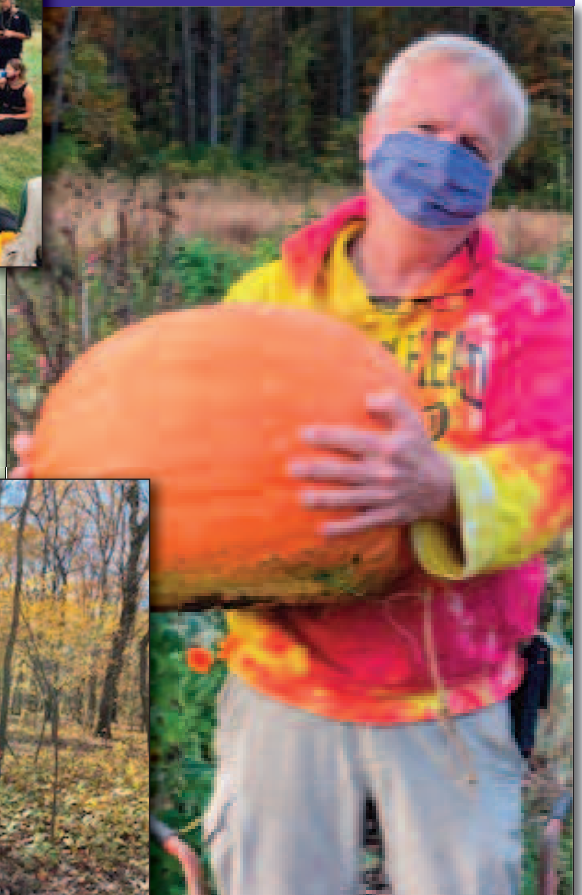
[office@dayspringretreat.org](mailto:office@dayspringretreat.org) or

[www.dayspringretreat.org](http://www.dayspringretreat.org)

Earthen Hands at Dayspring welcomes students from the Reed Center for Ecosystem Reintegration



Dayspring Caregiver, Brian Higgins, helps bring in the harvest



On November 6, Dayspring Earth Ministry sponsored "A Walk in the Woods" led by Woodland Steward Educator Agnes Kemenecz



# Jubilee Jobs in the Time of Covid-19

Getting a job in this pandemic period is no easy task, but Jubilee Jobs continues to place people and help them find better employment where that's possible. Since the pandemic began, Jubilee Jobs has placed over 87 applicants and they are committed to continuing their efforts, especially for returning citizens.

Their fall newsletter began with the story of a man who came in on August 11, when the company he was working for went out of business. After 58 days, eight applications and three interviews later, he began his new job at Safeway – on the 10pm to 6am shift. In the process, Jubilee Jobs had provided him with a technology lesson in how to use Zoom, job interview coaching, remote application sessions and encouragement for continuing the process.

Jubilee Jobs helps the most vulnerable individuals by providing them extensive support and resources needed to advance. All services are free to both employers and applications. They include: interviews with hiring employers, resume preparation, online application support, community connections, long-term goal-setting, and conflict management. Additionally, the Emerging Leaders program provides support and mentorship around educational opportunities, vocational training, and career development to working applicants under 30.

Since 1981, Jubilee Jobs has been connecting employers across the Washington, DC metropolitan area with qualified and well-prepared candidates. In almost 40 years, Jubilee Jobs has helped over 26,000 individuals find employment through its professional, compassionate job preparation and placement programs.

For example, when the economy was thriving in 2017, 602 men and women entered job preparation process and 365 individuals were placed in market place jobs, including 60 homeless, 135 ex-offenders, 166 people receiving public assistance, and 73 individuals below the age of 30. In addition, Jubilee jobs served 200 parents, and immigrants from 20 nations.

Now the need is even greater. With its long history of success in preparing and supporting people who want to work, Jubilee Jobs continues its work that began so long ago with “a telephone, a desk and two chairs.”

**To learn more about Jubilee Jobs and the important work they are doing, visit their website at [www.jubileejobs.org](http://www.jubileejobs.org).**





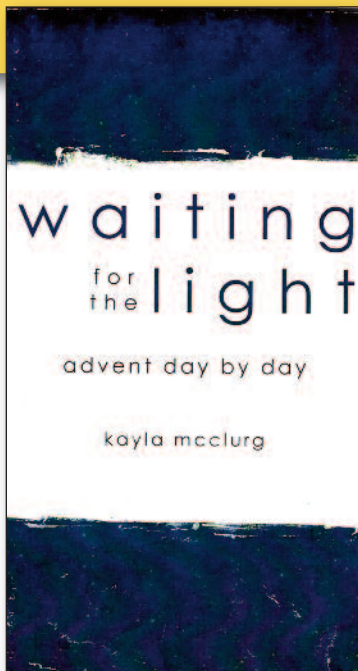
## Seekers Church BLM Vigil

Seekers Church members have gathered each week in front of our building at 276 Carroll St. NW to support the “Black Lives Matter” movement. Situated at a busy intersection near Takoma Park, it’s been an ideal location for a regular witness during the election season AND a chance to see each other in person. With music from the civil rights movement and active response from passing drivers, it’s been a great way to interact with our neighbors. Now, because the Farmer’s Market continues to draw people into town on Sunday, we’ve decided to continue.



You are welcome to JOIN US at 12:30pm every Sunday.

## Holiday Special!



**For a gift of \$30 (or more) to Church of the Saviour, you can receive these four basic Church of the Saviour books by Elizabeth O'Connor along with a bonus by Kayla McClurg**

- Call to Commitment
- Journey Inward, Journey Outward
- Servant Leaders, Servant Structures
- Cry Pain, Cry Hope

Make your donation on line at: [InwardOutward.org](http://InwardOutward.org) or by mail to Church of the Saviour. (No international orders without additional postage)

*Callings*

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Photo by Peter Bankson

Jenny's Tree at Dayspring

"Religious faith is an  
embodied journey, not a  
protected cocoon of beliefs.  
It's a pilgrimage."



Without Oars  
Wesley Granberg-Michaelson