

Recovery Café DC Celebrates “Bridging the Gap”

Kim Montroll and Jacqueline Conerly

We're so grateful for the deep spirit at Recovery Café DC's November 2nd Bridging the Gap Friend- & Fund-raiser, hosted by Adas Israel community. Our work is bridging the gaps in access and opportunity, and the gathering embodied this.

About 175 attended from all parts of DC. Thanks to Dixcy Bosley-Smith, every table had beautiful flowers from her garden. Our Co-Founder/CEO Jacqueline Conerly, and Operations Director, Elizabeth McMeekin, coordinated every part of Bridging the Gap.

Co-Founder Donald Conerly gave special thanks for some of our volunteers, including Carol Martin (Bread of Life) and Jeanne Marcus (Seekers). RCDC member leaders Quinntez Washington and Felicia Lewis expressed profound transformation, as did Board members Jim Knight and Rev. Joseph Deck III.

Jacqueline Conerly shared:

It's been 5 years since Donald and I birthed RCDC... and its only by grace that as a small new nonprofit, we raised \$3 million to purchase a property on Good Hope Rd, SE, in Ward 8. Grace came and keeps coming through staff, board members, volunteers, supporters, each bringing unique gifts, skills, experiences, resources, connections.

As a young girl, my family lived just a few blocks from there, in the Linda Polin Projects. Full of violence, crime, drugs and trauma. No one wanted to cross the bridge into Southeast.

Fast forward... ***What images come to mind when you hear the words Ward 8 or Southeast DC? Hold that thought.***

Last year, I was recommended for Leadership Greater Washington...the premier leadership incubator in the region, a 10-month Signature Program with diverse leaders with social, cultural and professional backgrounds. Cream of the crop leaders in housing, politics, government, public safety, health, transportation, etc.

I'd heard it usually takes 2-3 times before you're selected so I didn't give it much thought. ***Until... I found out I was selected for the 2023 cohort! Are you kidding me!? But the cost was \$7,500, so "thank you, but not in our budget." I didn't give it another thought. Then I learned - someone had nominated me for the inaugural Lyles Carr Scholarship - my tuition was covered. Are you kidding me again!?***

Me, from across the bridge, working to help transform



Rev. Joseph Deck and Jacqueline Conerly

people's lives. What did they think I brought to the table?? At the opening cohort retreat we had to share our stories. I was shaking in my boots! Facing my insecurities - I volunteered to share. I was stunned as people cheered and told me how amazing I was!

I learned EVERYONE was shaking in their boots because we're all carrying something in need of deep healing. Over the 10 months, I developed relationships with people I never would have crossed paths with - people who will be in my life, for the rest of my life. People of different races, faiths, political views, socio-economic backgrounds. Phenomenal people! Some are here supporting me and RCDC today.

PERSPECTIVE is everything. What lenses do you view through?

Some see Southeast DC only negatively. As Black founders, we see our community as a place of hope and beauty, where we're building human capital and recovery capital.

RCDC members have experienced many traumas....Navigating these towards recovery involves healing-oriented work; rebuilding a community of support and accountability; building skills and

continued on page 3

Editor's Corner | Winter Birthing



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Winter birthing is never easy. Turn on the news and we are plunged right into the Advent biblical story of wars, famine, storms, and human anguish. This is a curious season of commercial ads about happy families and apocalyptic scriptures right up to the birth stories at Christmas. Even that is surrounded by human cruelty and oppression as Mary and Joseph are turned away from the Inn where she might have given birth – followed by their flight to Egypt as homeless refugees.

Birthing Recovery Café DC (RCDC) has been an exciting and exhausting effort, conceived at the Potter's House, carried by Jacqueline and Donald Conerly, and midwifed by a mission group of Bread of Life Church. In partnership with the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, their new building in Southeast DC will include deeply affordable rental housing (administered by AEDC) and 8,000 sq feet on the ground floor for RCDC. As you can see on page 3, RCDC joins a burgeoning network (now 66) of Recovery Cafes around the country, thanks to the founder, Killian Noe. That is good news indeed!

In this issue, we are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of both the **Wellspring Conference Center** at Dayspring and **Jubilee Housing**. Back in 1973, when both of these ministries were started, Church of the Saviour was still a single congregation, bursting with new mission groups forming in response human needs laid bare after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. As CoS divided into smaller congregations in 1976, Wellspring remained a ministry of Church of the Saviour and Jubilee Housing incorporated as a separate 501c3 non-profit, able to solicit funds from a variety of sources.

Today, **Jubilee Housing** has given birth to many other support structures for low-income residents along Columbia Road: Jubilee Jobs, Jubilee Jumpstart, Good Shepherd Ministries, Life Asset Credit Union and others. Amid the gentrification of Adams Morgan, Jubilee Housing's newest project will add 52 new units of low-income housing along Kalorama Rd. You can watch videos from their 50th anniversary celebration on their website: jubileehousing.org.

At **Wellspring**, a harder winter birth seems to be happening. Wellspring was conceived to give church leaders from afar an experience of how Church of the Saviour was "doing church differently," with direct exposure to silence (at Wellspring) and missions (along Columbia Road). Wellspring was an incubator, but the actual births took place elsewhere when these groups returned home. And when we gathered to celebrate its' 50 years, some felt it was more like an ending than a new beginning. We told stories of past experiences in the gathering darkness and silently lit candles to represent where the Spirit was aflame in us. Adam Greene, the new Director, named it when he said, "The baby is *crowning*, but not born yet." Do pray for the winter birthing there.

On the back page, where we usually list events at Dayspring, you will find an invitation to volunteer at Christ House. That is because all the winter events at Dayspring Retreat are full. Another sign of good news.

During covid, we also passed the 75th anniversary of Church of the Saviour but we did not gather to celebrate. Although some say CoS no longer exists, others know that the charism is being carried by the CoS Council churches and in the many separately incorporated ministries that are still giving birth today, so there are plans to celebrate that 75th milestone next spring. Watch this space and our website, inwardoutward.org, for what, when and where. Meanwhile, watch closely for winter births near you!

Blessings for the new year,

Marjory

Marjory Bankson
Chair, Church of the Saviour Council
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The Church of the Saviour is an ecumenical Christian community, made up of seven 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.

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continued from page 1

knowledge that will sustain recovery; and accessing a range of services addressing immediate challenges to wellbeing. As a trauma-informed community, we recognize the symptoms of trauma in ourselves and others and begin to see the real person underneath the behavior and the trauma.

With Stan Jackson/Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, we'll develop and co-own a new four-story building on Good Hope Road, SE. AEDC will manage the top three floors with 42 affordable units. Our 8,000 square foot café-style space will include a commercial kitchen, art space, computer lab, recovery circle rooms and multi-purpose spaces, all on the main and lower levels.

We anticipate Groundbreaking in January 2024, you're invited! And a Grand Opening by January 2025.

How can we each be part of healing of trauma in our community, that so many of us carry? What are the experiences, connections, resources that you feel inspired to share?

Kim Montroll is Chairman of the Recovery Café DC Board; Jacqueline and Donald Conerly are the founders of RCDC. To contact Jacqueline Conerly: jacqueline@recoverycafedc.org

Six New Cafes Join the Recovery Café Network

Twice a year the Recovery Café Network welcomes a new Cohort of Cafés—led by people passionate about building communities of healing and belonging. Our most recent Cohort, made up of these six new Cafés, joined the Network in mid-November

- Core Recovery Café Marysville—Marysville, WA
- Ray of Light Recovery Café—Haverhill, MA
- Recovery Café Bellingham—Bellingham, WA
- Recovery Café Camden—Camden, NY
- Recovery Café Cape Cod—Falmouth, MA
- Recovery Café JoCo—Greenwood, IN

We are honored and overjoyed to welcome each of these Cafés and are grateful for the dedication and love each one brings to their community! With these six new Recovery Cafés, the Network is now 66 Cafés strong!

Wellspring Celebrates 50 Years: What Has Been and What is Being Born Anew

Ann Moczydlowski

Some of the founding members of Church of the Saviour, Gordon and Mary Cosby, Dot Cresswell and others, were mentors of mine while I attended seminary in the late 90's. Through them and the many amazing people I met at The Potter's House, the Womb of CoS, I found my way to Wellspring in July of 1999. By then, Wellspring Conference Center had about 25 years under its belt.

In The Beginning

In 1973, Wellspring's call was issued by Pat Davis, David Dorsey and Don McClanen, to be the teaching arm that shared how Church of the Savior "did church." David was selected as the first Director and because of their other commitments, the group met at 5 am in Washington!

Don McClanen, well-known as the founder of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, had applied for a Lilly grant to build the new facility at Dayspring. The \$450,000 Lilly grant came through in 1973, to be disbursed in three equal payments. The first Wellspring building was the cottage adjoining the Farmhouse at Dayspring and Myra Thompson (later Flood) moved in with her toddler daughter, Lisa, as the first Wellspring host.

Myra remembers that CoS author, Elizabeth O'Connor, helped to launch the mission through sharing contact information with the mission group from those who had written to her seeking a way to learn how to be a vibrant, life-giving church like CoS. When David resigned in the mid-70s, Myra became the Director and she ran the operation with help from the Wellspring Mission Group until 2007.

Along with Wellspring orientations and events, Wellspring provided hospitality for numerous groups that shared the values of CoS for call, discovery of gifts and a common mission. In the early days, Myra reported, they were doing Wellspring gatherings almost every week. "We were exhausted," she said, "but oh how



Trish Stefanik and Ann Moczydlowski

invigorating it was to hear back from people about how their few days with us had transformed their lives, and often the lives of their churches and wider communities as well."

In the Episcopal Church, we talk of a faith-based 3-legged stool of Scripture, Tradition and Reason, but at Wellspring, I was blown away at the power and simplicity of seeing the life of faith as a different trio: the inward/outward journey in community.

The inward journey combines our relationship with God and deeper self-knowledge. The outer journey begins when Spirit shows up, when She moves us out of our comfort zones into a world that aches for renewal, for compassion, respect, kindness, and healing. The third leg was about doing what made us *come alive with others* who were similarly called. The tricky part of this was that we didn't always see things the same way. But the commitment to a common mission and practices to keep us grounded in God's love helped us to learn how to work together, have fun together, work through conflict with one another, and experience the grace of doing our small but important part in responding to God's call – together.

Wellspring remained a mission of Church of the Saviour as Dayspring Church took on stewardship of the rest of the 200-acre property in the mid-90s. When I came, Janet Hudson and Myra urged me to visit Waco Texas to see The Gospel Café and Talitha Koum center for children. Both of them were missions of CrossTies Church which modeled its life after what they'd learned here. They serve people from a federal housing project several days a week, with dignity, friendship and hospitality to all. It's one of the most inspiring places I've ever witnessed.



Ann Dean and Ann Barnet



Billy and Kate Amoss

Then there was the group from Michigan: young people who were largely tradesmen and loved God and wanted to be agents of healing and friendship in their community back home. They took what they had learned here and applied it to their lives. One Sunday a month, they got a babysitter for all of the kids and the adults went to someone else's home to spend an hour in silence together. The next week, they did some home repairs for a neighbor who couldn't afford a carpenter, plumber, etc. Another week, they took the children to a park to play because they wanted the kids to grow up knowing that God believes in fun with others. They also gave back to us in a huge way. After Janet and Margaret Schoap sealed all of the wood, these young people said thank you to us by putting in a new ceiling...right above our heads!

Then, not long after Myra moved to be near her daughter in 2007, the Wellspring Mission Group set down its call and there was a period of discernment that lasted for several years. After decades of service to the Christian Church as the teaching arm of the Church of the Savior, Wellspring's first season of mission ended with a beautiful ritual by Cheryl Hellner.

Interfaith Seeds of New Life

After a season of fallow, Dayspring Church decided that Wellspring was too great a treasure to not share with others. Kent Klopfenstein was hired to run Wellspring as a hospitality mission from 2014 to 2021. Groups whose mission was consistent with the values of the church rented the center and cabins. During this time, a relationship was formed with a Jewish Day Camp, Camp Ramah, which brought the laughter and energy of children to the land.

It was not an easy time – as pregnancy is often not easy: swollen ankles, nausea or heartburn, exhaustion and so much more...the dream for the next phase of Wellspring's life was gestating. And then Covid. Eventually, like many other businesses and non-profits, the Wellspring Center was closed.

When things loosened up a bit and Kent retired, Janet Hudson asked the church if she could reopen Wellspring to honor some of the commitments that others had made to us via deposits. And so gestation continued. The staff demonstrated sacrificial love during this time of turning toward the birth of a new mission for this place, a mission as yet unknown even as God continued to speak.

New Mission Group

As the new mission: **Healing, Arts and Nature** was born and affirmed by Dayspring Church, we became keenly aware of not only Wellspring and Dayspring Staff who labored long and hard, but also the many people of good will who have nurtured love and peace, justice and joy through praying, sharing, learning, drumming, and dancing into the shadowy and painful places of life, transforming sorrow into joy, hopelessness into a new future in and around this place.

Where the first call of Wellspring was to teach, guide and shed light for churches, offering a way to live the faith with gusto, this new call is intentionally broader and deeper, recognizing the truth of Rumi's words:

*All religions,
All this singing,
Is one song.
The differences are just
Illusion and vanity.
The sun's light looks a little different
On this wall than it does on that wall.
But it's still one light.*

After a significant time of search, we were delighted to call



Janet Hudson completes her call to Wellspring.

someone whose cover letter said: "I think I may be uniquely suited for this position." Adam Greene joined us as Director and joined us as a passionate member of our mission group. In the months to come, look to a new articulation of Wellspring's vision by members of the Mission Group.

The service, punctuated by lovely musical offerings both "old and new" ended with the invitation to all gathered there "to share the light of our Wellspring candle by lighting one of the tea lights from it as a sign of our deep connection to one another in the work ahead – your blessing to us, offered in silence.

Ann Moczydlowski is an Episcopal Priest, Spiritual Director and Bach Flower Practitioner.

This article has been adapted from Ann's presentation at the 50th Anniversary Celebration on November 18, 2023. To join the Wellspring email list: wellspringconferencecenter@gmail.com.

Jubilee Housing Celebrates 50 Years!

At the 50th Anniversary dinner, Barbara Moore and Terry Flood were honored as founders of Jubilee Housing. Of those early days, Elizabeth O'Connor wrote in her book, *The New Community*, "We began to see with different eyes the boarded up apartment building a few doors from the Potter's House, the ghetto of the back streets, and all the decaying firetrap apartments and row houses where the poor lived in crowded miserable rooms, existing in what one reporter called "Dickensian squalor." Could we be against violence and not against all the covert structures of violence that grind to pieces the lives of people?"



Barbara Moore

Barbara described how they began: "The Thursday night group at the Potter's House got to thinking that something should be done about the housing in the neighborhood, because their housing was not in very good shape, so we got at it." The women decided to purchase two dilapidated buildings which would cost \$600,000. Barbara laughed as she continued, "We didn't know what we were doing, but Jim Rouse was kind enough to lend us the money to purchase those two buildings, the Mozart and the Ritz."

The Ritz, with 60 apartments, and the Mozart, with 30 apartments, became the property of Jubilee Housing on Nov. 1, 1973. "We had 940 housing code violations to correct in 180 days," Barbara continued, "and that was the way we got to know the parents and the children."

As their Christmas project that year, Gordon asked people to give their time and energy to help with renovation of those apartments. Because they were not allowed to move people out in order to begin repairs, families were invited to participate along with volunteers from the church "At first, the people living there were suspicious of us as the new owners, but gradually they realized we were there to help and they began to join us," Barbara said.

From that simple beginning in 1973, Jubilee Housing has developed other support services beginning with a Montessori school and summer programs for the children, job-training and budget counseling for adults, along with 12-step programs and basic healthcare.

Justice Housing

Fifty years later, Jubilee Housing is thriving with leadership by Jim Knight, a long-time member of Bread of Life. Those two original properties are valued at \$16 million and Jubilee now has 18 properties offering deeply affordable and decent housing with greatly needed wraparound services. Jubilee Housing is justice housing!

The latest project, based on property given to Jubilee Housing by King Emmanuel Church, will DOUBLE the size of the Jubilee Housing community. "It will require us to grow and change ... a little bit like when the founders were getting started," said Jim as he concluded the evening: "We have a saying in our community that God doesn't call the gifted. God gifts the called, so when you say YES, you can expect that the gifts will be given."

This year Jubilee Housing was among several local organizations to receive Housing Affordability Planning Program grants from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The \$75,000 grant will aid Jubilee Housing in its pre-development process for the King Emmanuel Baptist Church (KEB) Project. The KEB Project will redevelop the historically Black church built in 1907 and complete the first and only full continuum of housing and services for returning citizens in DC, based on the successful Fortune Society program in New York.

KEB will provide 18 units for women and men returning from incarceration in Jubilee's Reentry Program, which includes weekly meetings, individual case management, support maintaining sobriety and health, employment assistance, and financial empowerment training. Residents also have access to our broader Resident Services offerings and wraparound supports.



Jim Knight

Jubilee's existing program, founded in 2011 following a successful pilot program, has supported more than 450 returning citizens during its tenure. Transitional Men's and Women's Houses



Jubilee Housing Gala at the Cathedral

The grant provides critical funding to advance this project and Jubilee's mission to create diverse, compassionate communities with opportunities for everyone to thrive through Justice Housing® – deeply affordable homes, with onsite and nearby services, in resource-rich neighborhoods.

Adapted from blog entries and videos of the 50th Anniversary celebration on the Jubilee Housing website: jubileehousing.org.

in Adams Morgan each serve up to ten individuals at a time, and onsite staff provide case management, financial education, employment assistance, and recovery programs. Jubilee also has long-term affordable apartments for residents who have transitioned out of the program and are seeking a structured environment and services that support their continued well-being.

Jubilee staff have been fortunate to witness the success and growth of many residents over the years. We have seen the powerful impact that an affordable apartment in a safe and supportive environment with tailored wraparound services can have not just for the recovery and well-being of residents, but for the city as a whole.



The KEB project at 1721 Kalorama Rd.

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 • Earthen Hands at Dayspring • Faith & Money Network • Family Place • Festival Center • For Love of Children • Good Shepherd Ministries • 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 • The Family Place • Wellspring Conference Center

Callings

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Volunteers are a vital part of the Christ House community that help sustain our mission of providing comprehensive and compassionate care for people experiencing homelessness with acute medical needs in Washington, DC. If you would like to be the first to learn about special events and rare holiday volunteer opportunities, then sign up for our newsletter at christhouse.org/volunteer/