

Spring Term at The Servant Leadership School

Potter's House for a suggested donation of \$6.00, between late afternoon and evening classes. During this supper hour, various speakers who are currently practicing compassion in DC neighborhoods and working for justice throughout the world will be presenting messages both to inform and challenge us. All are welcome to attend, whether or not they are taking a class.

On Saturday, May 30, 10am to 4pm, a workshop on *The Food Crisis: Haiti and Washington, DC - Making the Connection* is being presented, co-sponsored by Faith and Money Network (formerly Ministry of Money) and the Servant Leadership School, with direction from World Neighbors and others.

A Retreat - Earth, Economy and Us, has been scheduled by SLS, at Wellspring Conference Center and Dayspring Earth Ministry, to be held Friday, June 12 through Sunday, June 14.

For further information about any of these opportunities go to www.slschool.org

Creative Aging, a most relevant subject for many of us, is taught by Margie Ford of Festival Church, who is pastoral counselor and also volunteers with Hospice. Perennial SLS teacher, writer and spiritual counselor Dennis O'Connor is leading a class on *Prayer and Contemplative Stillness: Thomas Merton and Taoist Spirituality*.

The above four courses run for eight weeks, until June 9th on Tuesday nights. A fifth class on that night, *Following Jesus with Little Children*, is led by Ann Barnet, a pediatric neurologist, founder of The Family Place, and member of Eighth Day; Licensed Clinical Social Worker Susan Bell, and Joe Collier, Chair of Jubilee JumpStart, both with Friends of Jesus Church. All three are founders of Jubilee JumpStart, a new model child care and education center. This class will be held for the first four weeks of the School.

After a brief respite following the well-attended Winter session, the Servant Leadership School at The Festival Center started its Spring classes on April 21. The focus is on cultivating a community which can see Jesus in its midst, hear his call, and respond with **Justice, Mercy, and Humility**.

David Hilfiker, founder of Joseph's House and member of 8th Day Faith Community, is teaching a course on *History of an Injustice*. Jim Knight, Executive Director of Jubilee Housing, and Barbara Moore, who helped found Jubilee Housing and Good Shepherd Ministries, offer a class on *Sustaining Essence in Organizations*. They are both members of Friends of Jesus Church.

On Wednesday evenings starting April 22nd, Tim Kumfer, coordinator of our Servant Leadership School, (until he leaves in August for Duke Divinity School) and a member of two spiritual Support Groups, leads a class on *The Apostle Paul's Radical Message and Mission*. Also offered that evening is a course on *Exploring God's Call Now*, facilitated by Marjorie Zoet Bankson with Seekers Church, an author, artist, retreat leader and seminary teacher.

Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30, Hope Hodges, a member of New Community and their Prayer of Embodiment mission group, an artist, massage therapist, and part of an intentional community, leads a class on *Prayer of Embodiment*.

On Tuesdays, at 6:00 p.m., a simple dinner of soup, salad and sandwiches is provided by the

Christ House Poetry 2009



Poetry As Journey A Gift from Christ House

by Sunny Branner
Volunteer Poetry Leader

Poets both old and new give inspiration to patients attending our roundtable chat and discussion of poetry at Christ House each Thursday. Since 1985, when Christ House began its ministry to the homeless ill population of Washington, DC, it has been my privilege to hear their stories and memories these last 27 years. Over this period, more than 6,000 patients have been ministered to at Christ House.

We gather in the sunroom overlooking Columbia Road, NW, most patients with mobility aids. Since poetry gives access to emotions and feelings, we laugh, we cry, and sometimes break into song. There are poems that elicit a winding road to self-discovery - akin to what the poet-philosopher Kabir wrote:

*The Beloved is inside you.
And also inside me,
The sprout is hidden in the seed.
Inside "Love" there is
More joy than we know.*

The poems of two residents appear below:

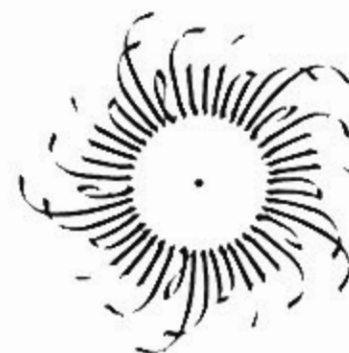
OF TIME'S FRUIT PARED

Michael R. Schneider

Days, months and years
of time's fruit pared.
All I have are my fears,
surrendered to those years.

Can it be too late to tell,
to determine how I've fared?
Could it really be God's will
to wish upon me ill?
My heart says, "Not a chance,
I should heft again life's lance."

Trust the Lord above
rejoicing in His love.
I'll be again God's warrior
of time's fruit *not* pared.



A BEND IN THE ROAD

Anonymous Christ House Patient

Sometimes we come to life's crossroads
and view what we think is the end.

but God has a much wider vision
for He knows it's only a bend.

The road will go on and get smoother
and after we're stopped for a rest,

the path that lies hidden beyond us
is often the part that's the best.

So rest and relax and grow stronger.
Let go and let God share your load

and have faith in a brighter tomorrow.
You've just come to a bend in the road.

This free booklet is available at Christ House, Potter's House & Festival Center.

The Mission of Christ House is to provide comprehensive health care for sick, homeless men and women and assist them in addressing critical issues to help break the cycle of homelessness.

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