

**'Thus Far and Forward'**

**Coracle Annual Report 2016**  
**...and a look into 2017**



**C O R A C L E**

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



Erin Clifford and Bill Haley with an Orthodox bishop in Tirana, Albania



TFC Young Adult group retreat at Corhaven



Tara with Corhaven garden bounty for CGT: Farm



Coracle Baltimore team, from left to right: Dan Denton, Wanda Bickers, Kit and Greg Elmer, Scott Buresh.

***“In Christ, all things hold together...” St. Paul***

December 2016

Dear friends and fellow-pilgrims,

We’ve been at this five years now, having set out on this journey on February 12, 2012. Much has happened through Coracle since then, so much growth, as you’ll see in these following pages. And so much that has happened, is going on, and what’s coming seems wildly diverse. This is because the Kingdom of God in all its impact and implication is wildly diverse. As Abraham Kuyper so famously said, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”. Indeed, as diverse as our interests, commitments, and activities may seem, it is precisely because the theology and worldview of Coracle has a place for it all. Indeed, in Christ all things hold together.

Still, five years in and only growing forward, we’ve been able to identify what it is that we actually and deeply provide. There is a deep coherence to it all. Most deeply, Coracle is...

- providing spiritual direction for those who don’t where to get it, particularly from the evangelical community, and very often for leaders amongst clergy and executive leadership in the non-profit sector and other vocations. ***We help the mature mature.***
- providing an introduction to classic Christian spiritual practices to those with interest but without easy access or much exposure; and celebrating, exploring, and living the unity within the Great Tradition. ***We help those longing for More find it.***
- providing places to encounter God, including Corhaven, for those who wouldn’t otherwise know where to go, or for those for whom some guidance on retreat is needful. ***We help those looking for God find God and be found.***
- providing a connection between contemplation and action and holding them inextricably together, and offering spiritual formation for ‘activists’ and for ministries of justice and mercy. ***We help those on the front-lines of the brokenness of the world stay there, and even thrive there.***
- providing efforts towards peace-making, reconciliation, justice, and creation-care. ***We help the Kingdom come, like so many others.***
- and providing a way for a great number of individuals to more freely and broadly offer their gifts in the world. ***We help people be who God has made them to be for the good of all and the world.***

It’s been a surprising and exciting journey **thus far, and forward** looks even more so, and comes with no small intimidation. But we are committed, and called. Read on to see the amazing things that God has done in 2016, and get a sense of what’s coming in 2017 and beyond.



Rev. Bill Haley  
Executive Director



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## People We Serve

Through group retreats, personal spiritual retreats, speaking, and offering spiritual direction, *just in 2016* we've been delighted and humbled to serve these churches and organizations, in many cases regularly serving their founders, directors, senior pastors, and executive leadership.

World Relief	The Falls Church Anglican (VA)
World Vision (DC and Albania)	Restoration Anglican (Arlington, VA)
International Justice Mission	The District Church (DC)
L'Arche (Arlington VA)	Christ Church Vienna (VA)
The Human Trafficking Institute	Paoli Presbyterian Church (PA)
DC127	Illuminate Church (Orlando, FL)
The ONE Campaign	Church of the Resurrection (Baltimore)
Young Life (Harrisonburg, VA)	Church of the Resurrection (DC)
Ad Fontes Academy	Church of the Advent (DC)
The Henri Nouwen Society (Toronto)	Winchester Anglican (VA)
Anglican Relief and Development Fund	All Soul's Church (Charlottesville, VA)
Sojourners	Redeemer Anglican Church (Richmond, VA)
Theological Horizons (Charlottesville, UVA)	Christ our Shepherd (DC)
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (DC)	St. Brendan's in the City (DC)
Matthew 25 Initiative of the ACNA	Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, VA)
DC Micah Group (Fuller Seminary)	National Community Church (DC)
The Porch (DC)	...and many others through group retreats
The Anglican Diocese of Singapore	
The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic (ACNA)	
Rock Recovery (Arlington VA)	
Blue Ridge Ministries (Harrisonburg VA)	
Eastern Mennonite University campus ministry	
Duke Divinity School (Durham, NC)	
The Telos Group	
Regeneration Ministries (Baltimore)	
Cuirim Outreach	
The law firm of Baker & McKenzie (DC)	

Also in 2016 we created a new opportunity of churches to partner with us and us with them. Together we hope to see more people grow more deeply in Christ for the sake of the world. So far we have developed such **Church Partnerships** with The Falls Church Anglican, The District Church, Restoration Anglican, and Christ Church Vienna. We hope to establish 3-5 more church partnerships in the coming year.



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## Meeting God at Corhaven

We continue to be amazed at how deeply God is meeting people through the various ministries that we offer, as seen through this small sampling of testimonies from our retreat offerings. Remarkably (thanks be to God) these sorts of experiences for people are normal and common.

*Wow! What a precious and sacred place you have here in Virginia...I am overflowing with gratitude. Thank you for the ministry that is bringing restoration and offers retreat and recreation to draw people deeper in their relationship with God and grow in Christ as well as dance with the Spirit. What a gift it was to spend time at Corhaven. God used that time to nourish, encourage and speak his love to me.*

*Today Corhaven was an answer to prayer in finding a place to be in solitude and quiet after a hectic and demanding past month; my time here was much needed - to just sit in stillness with the Lord and to be able to pray with no agenda or time constraints. This place really is a haven and I'm so grateful.*

*I felt pressure on the way here to "make this time count." But from the moment I got here, I sensed Him encouraging me to "stop striving." So I did...I was with Him. No performing or producing — Just with Him. I experienced His presence in some exciting, tender ways. I can't imagine a more restful experience than I had.*

*God opened my eyes to see and comprehend ways He'd been loving me, but of which I was or had been unaware.*

*Corhaven was amazing! Thank you so much for your hospitality and wisdom. The escape was needed and the solitude was something I am growing in my appreciation for. I loved the chance to pause and reflect in God's presence.*

*Your hospitality, service and wisdom were an incredible blessing and we were incredibly thankful for your time and letting us use Corhaven in seeking solace, silence and intimacy with Christ which is exactly what we got.*

*Corhaven is truly a shelter for the heart, I was inspired and strengthened. Thank you for creating such a soul-filling space.*

*As always it was great to be at Corhaven. I had a great drive out enjoying the beauty of God's creation. My time there was just the kind of day I needed away from the distractions of life....I now have some clarity and excitement about what is coming. And my hope and faith have been renewed in deeper ways. I woke this morning with energy and a list of positive steps and possibilities I have not had in some time. To our God be the glory.*



October 28, '16

# As You Leave

Thank you so much for coming to Corhaven! We trust, and know, that you had the experience that was right for you this time. Would you help us by taking a few minutes to respond to the questions below? Thank you!

Name:

Email Address:

What did you find most helpful about your time here?

It was so nice to come in to the Cottage to a burning candle and this kind of all the information one could need to best enjoy a retreat at Corhaven. Having the freedom to be in stillness in the cottage and on the grounds was extremely helpful to my Day of Solitude here.

What did you appreciate most about the setting, space, or provisions?

Everything was perfect — the cottage space is simple enough to promote good time of prayer, stillness & reflection, yet had every accommodation one might need. The grounds are absolutely breath-taking and the various spaces for rest and reflection along the trail were just wonderful. Thank you for creating such a special place. As someone who spend the bulk of their time

How do you feel that God met you while you were here?

I came to Corhaven expectant and ready to hear from God, choosing to take this deliberate pause from a life that can be very hectic and stressful. I communicated about slavery and trafficking, being here was extremely refreshing and just what I needed.

Though it is hard for me as an extrovert to be still, I was intentional about being still to hear what He might be trying to tell me. And He showed up, delivering the simplest of messages that resonated through my time here: "I'm so glad you are here, and I need you."

What could we have done or provided to make your experience better? What suggestions do you have for us? The whole experience was wonderful! I will be praying fervently for the expansion of the mission of Coracle and Corhaven. I will be need you to trust me.

This is critically important...what do you see for this place? What ideas do you have that would make this place even more suitable for rest, retreat, and being with God?

I see this ministry expanding in size and scope, not just in terms of the physical property, but in terms of the people that Corhaven seeks to serve. In being so close to a city like Washington that can be stressful and breed disconnection from God, I can see Corhaven as the re-charging station where activists, professionals, entrepreneurs and all those trying to advance God's Kingdom in their individual spheres can come to be together in community and in solitude with God. I am excited for what is in store here! Thank you & grateful to God for you, Bill & Tara!

P.S. I did not use the bed so left the linens on!



CORACLE

## Core Ministries

### Corhaven

Our retreat farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, continues to be a significant place of ministry for us and for many, whether they come for a personal spiritual retreat, a public group retreat, or for a private group retreat. Once again this past year we experienced much growth in the number of people taking advantage of the place to encounter God, while we may be hitting the ceiling of our current capacity. The increase in group retreat participants is due in part because of now offering retreats in northern Virginia and Baltimore. The slight decrease in day retreatants is due to the increase in retreatants staying overnight.

	People at a Group Retreats/Events	Group Retreats and Events	Over-Night Stays for Retreatants and Guests	Days with Day Retreatants	People in Spiritual Direction	Spiritual Directors & Associates	Soundings Seminars attendees
<b>2013</b>	325	20	85	60	40	7	0
<b>2014</b>	400**	24	300	85	60	11	105
<b>2015</b>	541***	30	420*	76	81	17	175
<b>2016</b>	<b>690***</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>618*</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>90+</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>

\*includes 40 nights of intern staying with us \*\*includes 100 folks for one-off Field to Fork meal

\*\*\*includes major slave cemetery events

This past year's public group retreats at Corhaven have included retreats during Advent and Lent, and retreats on Spiritual Formation for Kingdom Action, Redemptive Suffering, Abandonment to God, The Love of God For Us, An Introduction to the Contemplative Life, Creation Care, Discerning God's Voice, and others. We offered just one Soundings Seminar in the spring.

### Spiritual Direction

This classic Christian ministry of spiritual companionship, where one person comes alongside another and helps them be able to discern the voice of God, continues to be one of our core ministries and we continue to be a vehicle for more trained spiritual directors to offer their ministry for the benefit of many. As seen in the graph above, we have experienced significant growth in the number of spiritual directors offering their ministry through Coracle, **increasing to 13 (up from 8 last year)**. Some of our newest spiritual directors are relatively new to this ministry and so the number of people they are seeing are not quite as many, though this will only increase. One of our Associates has now joined on staff, and another Associate has become a spiritual director with us.

### Sacramental Ministry

In the past year, we have done weddings, a baptism in the creek at Corhaven, heard confessions, and regularly offered the sacrament of the Eucharist at our retreats to individuals, and in church settings.



## Around the World

This past year we have ministered with World Vision in Albania, gone to Nepal with the Anglican Relief and Development Fund to prepare for a mission in 2017, and worked with Curium Outreach in Nogales, Mexico exploring partnership opportunities there. We have been developing and announced a new ministry line through Coracle called Pilgrimage.

## Soundings Seminars

These evenings are times set aside to consider together topics that are important for our society, for the Church, and for our own spiritual journeys. This year we offered a Soundings Seminar in partnership with World Relief on the topic of “A Christian Response to Refugees”.

## Organizational Development and Communications

In the past year we have successfully accomplished the often tedious work of infrastructure development, including acquiring appropriate insurance coverage for the property, general liability, as well as for the Board and Officers. We have also been able to obtain appropriate trademarks and copyrights for some of our distinctive language and nomenclature. We have also developed a significant amount of new marketing and promotional material and information documents, continued to develop and enhance our web presence and added websites for Common Good Things and the Corhaven Graveyard. Our distribution for **e-communications has grown 26% percent with an average open rate of 40%percent each mailing**, a very high rate for non-profit organizations, and 50% for our dedicated lists in Northern Virginia and Baltimore.

## Key Staff Additions

This past year, several people joined us in key roles.

**The Rev. Erin Clifford–Senior Minister:** Erin is a long term friend and colleague, and is taking on more speaking and leading and helping manage our team.

**Dr. Scott Buresh–Community Minister for Baltimore:** Scott is leading our team in Baltimore to offer regular opportunities for spiritual formation through small groups and group retreats.

**Sarah Kohrs–Director of the Corhaven Graveyard:** Sarah is not only managing the ongoing development and maintenance of the cemetery at Corhaven, but also facilitating a variety of experiences to help people engage its meaning and continue to honor those laying there.

Reports of other key areas of ministry follow from our staff members.



# COMMON GOOD THINGS

Common Good Things officially launched with our first collection of products in December of 2015, so for the better part of 2016 everything we did was new. It was wonderfully exciting, full of learning and considerably successful. We began the year with products on the newly constructed shelves at Corhaven and continued to offer them to retreatants and visitors throughout the year. We brought our goods to Northern Virginia by way of a pop-up shop at Restoration Anglican Church and offered a hand-selected batch of items to participants of Silence & Spiritual Practice meetings.

The garden at Corhaven tripled in size early in the year in anticipation of a new offering, and the results were delicious. In early Summer we introduced Common Good Things: FARM: boxes of garden produce and other fresh items that come directly from Corhaven for pickup in Falls Church. The products were stunning, due to Tara's impressive work in the garden and Gail Scherer's beautiful fresh floral bouquets. The FARM line allowed us to partner with The Local Market of Falls Church as our pickup location and boosted sales during a time of year that would otherwise have been a bit slower.

We entered September ready to execute on an idea that had been percolating. That idea became what is now Common Good Things: MAKERS, our recently launched online pop-up shop that allows us to offer a selection of our original products alongside handmade items from our "makers." It has been exciting to move into online sales and partner with our talented friends. We are eager to see what is in store for each of them as we introduce their beautiful work to a larger audience and are pleased that we can offer a way for them to be supported in their work and gifts.

In 2017, we will spend considerable time improving upon the many things we began this year with an eye toward more efficient processes and growth. We also plan to introduce a collection of products that lend themselves particularly to contemplation, prayer and abiding. In short, we have much to learn and much to celebrate as we wrap up our first year providing these tangible goods that carry the love of God, the Maker of all things.

## JAN '16 - NOV '16

### TOP ITEMS BY GROSS SALES:

1. enamelware mug: \$1455
2. corhaven coffee: \$1146
3. garden box: \$950

GROSS SALES: \$8000

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$6654\*

YEAR END BALANCE: \$1090\*

*\*does not include staff*

[commongoodthings.com](http://commongoodthings.com)



- HIGHLIGHTS from 2016:
- garden expansion
  - product sales at Corhaven
  - pop-up shop in Northern Virginia
  - FARM launch
  - MAKERS launch

- LOOKING FORWARD to 2017::
- new line of products (ABIDE)
  - another garden season for FARM
  - more MAKERS online pop-ups (and more Makers)



## The Corhaven Graveyard by Sarah Kohrs

God works in amazing ways. This is most evident in the past months at the Corhaven Graveyard, the final resting place of 25 enslaved people from a very painful period of our country's past. After several years of discerning how we should honor these men, women and children, and almost a year and a half of community preparation and work to restore, protect, and dedicate the cemetery, we did so on April 30, 2016. Here are some details from this past year, worthy of great thanksgiving:

- Over 200 people gathered to dedicate the Corhaven Graveyard and open it to the public.
- The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners (MG) have volunteered approximately 320 hours to this project. A poster covering the MG work at the Corhaven Graveyard won second place in Virginia and was entered into an international contest.
- The Corhaven Graveyard was represented at 3 conferences: Coming to the Table, Master Gardener College, and Preservation Virginia.
- Eleven tours and presentations have been given since the dedication, which include The Bridge D.C. Team, Valley Black Heritage Project, Lion's Club, local schools, etc.
- At least seven different newspapers and magazines, including *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Mountain Courier*, and *Shenandoah Living*, have provided news coverage concerning The Corhaven Graveyard.
- Two community awards have been awarded for the work at the Corhaven Graveyard: The George W. G. Stoner & John Melville Jennings Research and Education Award, given by Preservation Virginia; and The 2016 Distinguished Community Appreciation Award, given by *The Shenandoah Valley Hit*.
- Because of the Corhaven Graveyard, many have been moved to consider the importance of recognizing this legacy in our region and country, and considered ways they can be a part of the racial healing our country so desperately needs.



God has moved in remarkable ways in this thin place. Visitors often give comments on how they are deeply impacted by the Corhaven Graveyard. Some of these reflections, and photographs and videography related to the dedication, historical and archaeological information about the site, and so much more are included at [corhavengraveyard.org](http://corhavengraveyard.org). While what God has done far exceeds our expectations, we expect even more to come. This project has turned into something more and bigger than any of us could have seen coming.

# If Stones Could Talk

by Hannah Zachman, Theological Horizons Fellow

In early September, the Horizons Fellows drove out through the rolling hills and harvest-ready fields of the Shenandoah Valley to experience a weekend of reflection, renewal, fellowship, and prayer at Corhaven Farm. Rev. Bill and Tara Haley, who live and work at the farm with their family, welcomed us as strangers into their home, fed us a wonderful meal freshly harvested from their garden and the surrounding land, and shared with us the story of Corhaven, a safe place for the heart.

While the weekend was full of many wonderful conversations, times of worship, and new connections, I will most remember the 30 minutes I spent in a mosquito-infested field squinting through late summer sun at two dozen weathered stones of various sizes peaking out from amidst tall grasses. These unassuming chunks of rock mark the graves of the slaves who once worked the fields of this fertile, beautiful land.

Just the night before, we had eaten our fill of the fruit of this sacred land and we had spent the day soaking up the beauty of the rolling hills. It wasn't until I found myself standing over the graves of these forgotten slaves that I fully felt the tension of my own peace and prosperity at the expense of the lives of thousands of Americans. This realization is extremely difficult to come to terms with, and yet it is completely true and completely necessary for the reconciliation we desperately need right now.

Just before sending us out to see the graveyard, Bill shared with us how he had stumbled upon the stones while walking around the border of his property one day. He reminded us never to forget that our country was not only founded on the principles of faith, liberty, and courage, but also on the forced subjugation of one people group and the genocide of another. My heart can hardly handle the grief of this story.



As I write this, protests are raging on the streets of Charlotte over the loss of yet another life and Oklahoma is reeling from a similar tragedy. These incidents are a stark reminder that this history of injustice is not far behind us and that deep healing is needed. I must admit that it is hard for me to believe that any peace is coming. It is much easier to turn off the news and try to maintain a normal, comfortable life in a city that isn't yet plagued by violence, but we are by no means exempt. Our brothers and sisters are mourning the lives of their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. As a Christian, I am called to mourn with them.

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ~Romans 12:15-16*

At Corhaven, I found a safe space for my heart to weep and to enter into my broken history of slavery and injustice even though I don't have a solution. In the midst of this overwhelming mess, there is a strong seed of hope growing in my soul that this epidemic of violence we are facing is creating space for the Gospel to break through. It is reminding us of our need for a Savior. The Gospel of Jesus Christ says that we are created in the image of God, but that we have chosen to follow our own will and therefore experience brokenness apart from God. But because of Jesus's grace and sacrifice on the cross, our broken history doesn't have the final say in our story. We can be reconciled to God and to each other and experience salvation, shalom, and everlasting, abundant life beginning NOW.

Come Lord Jesus. We need you.

Original Posting: <https://www.theologicalhorizons.org/theological-horizons/2016/9/28/if-stone-could-talk-reflections-by-fellow-hannah-zachman-17>

## Coracle Northern Virginia by Wade Ballou

The Lord's guidance is often seen with more clarity through the rear view, and 2016 for Coracle in northern Virginia certainly proves the case. Silence opportunities on a weekly basis proved to be a crucial offering and foundation for hearing the Lord. On each Tuesday (led by myself) and every other Wednesday (led by Melody Reis) a small group gathered to pray silently using the lectio divina method. Attendance at both groups typically varied between 2 and 6 people. This past year we initiated larger group retreats in NoVA, offering a couple.

In addition, we continued contemplative evenings based on events in the liturgical year, offering contemplative services for Lent, Pentecost, and Advent. Participants appreciated these organized opportunities of silence as opportunities to hear from the Lord. Our hopes to develop a four part prayer retreat series in NoVA were put on hold for this year. In the meantime I've been grateful to be able to offer spiritual direction, meeting 16 different people at least once during the year at home or in restaurants, as well as via Skype, Facetime, and phone.

An important part of my year with Coracle has been working with Scott Buresh in beginning Coracle Baltimore, meeting a couple of times together to pray and seek the Lord's intentions with Scott and the Baltimore team.

Perhaps the most significant change for me in this past year is the Lord's leading to a new role at work. In June I was appointed to be the head of my office on Capitol Hill and now serve as the Legislative Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives. Even more significant than that is Karla Petty growing into her role and the arrival of Erin Clifford to the Coracle staff, which will enable us to offer even more meaningful encounters with God in NoVA and DC in the coming year. We are praying into next year to see how the Lord will knit all of this together and continue to lead this little band of pilgrims in a coracle in a big, big sea.

## Coracle Baltimore By Scott Buresh

2016 witnessed the realization of the desires of many in Baltimore to see the richness of Coracle come to Baltimore. Bill and Wade helped us form a leadership team and discern what would be the appropriate way to begin. We began with a leadership team of five: Kit and Greg Elmer, Wanda Bickers, Dan Denton, and myself, and then Wade and Bill came to Baltimore to help us launch with a wonderful gathering in mid-August. Well over 30 folks came out and many more wanted to be there if not on vacation.

We then began in September by offering individual spiritual direction by myself, Kit, and Wanda, and have already added Heather Strube to our Baltimore cohort of spiritual directors.

We also introduced our first Sacred Rhythms regular small group using the DVD curriculum created by The Transforming Center and Ruth Barton. We've been very encouraged by the response to this experience with 15 men and women from 5 different churches joining us, most regularly attending our



bimonthly gatherings. I am humbled by the hunger for deeper intimacy with God that the group participants so readily express.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> we offered our first Baltimore Advent retreat and have scheduled our first Lenten retreat for March 11<sup>th</sup>. Once again we have been humbled by the depth of hunger and gratitude so many have expressed for making retreats like this accessible for them, particularly in this season of Advent.

Lastly we are excited to have added Sam and Leigh Erdman to our leadership team. They bring a unique vision to make contemplation accessible to their peers who tend to be young parents in their twenties and thirties. Sam and Leigh are actively involved in the preparations for the Advent retreat and bring great promise for whom God would have us serve going forward. The surprise of seeing so much happen so soon in Baltimore in 2016 only fills us with glad expectation for what's coming in the new year. We're grateful.

## Creative Care at Corhaven by Tara Haley

The ministry of Coracle's efforts at creation care and hospitality and the interplay between the two continued to take more breadth and depth this past year. A word that encapsulates it all might be 'growth'. As highlighted in Susan Den Herder's report, the launch of Common Good Things had significant impact on our land as we did a large garden expansion to accommodate the additional produce we cultivated and harvested here at Corhaven, more than tripling its prior size. Developing arable land is essentially nurturing healthy soil so I continue to study and practice how best to do that in ways that are natural and sustainable and work with the way the earth works.

We were grateful over the summer to host as an intern Giovanna Meek, a seminary student from Duke Divinity School, who was so helpful both with the land as well as hosting and ministering to many retreatants. Also from Duke, Abigail Hull, our former Corhaven intern and I led a Creation Care retreat this past spring and were able to help guide people who had never gardened before to cultivate and plant in on our new garden expansion, and learn how to find God by working with God's creation. These events are always great fun for me, especially if there are newbies to gardening. We continue to see the evidence of the impact that the current cultural resurgence of "Farm to Table" eating is having on people. It was thematically present in the responses of why people feel drawn to the creation care retreat. It is a conversation I'm all too happy to have.

Additionally, we continue to welcome people to Corhaven who arrive for all of the different reasons they do, and consistently in their feedback they are ministered to by the access to creation that their visit here affords them. From the land, forest, creek, wildlife, Yates our golden retriever 'pastor dog', star filled skies at night, fires, the sounds-they feel met by God surrounded by all that He has made. Knowing that they will encounter God even the food that comes from this land or nearby motivates us to keep on offering it. I continue to feel privileged that we are caretakers of this sacred place, able to invite so many folks to meet God and be met by Him.



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## The Ministers

This amount of ministry and the number of people being ministered to does not happen because of one or two people. Rather, Coracle is a community of people putting their best efforts towards furthering this calling and mission. We are grateful for such a strong and growing team. We expect to continue to see more people joining in the coming year in each area of service.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rich Dean *Chairman*  
Bill Deiss *Treasurer*  
Katie Lundstrom *Secretary (interim)*  
Rev. Robert Krech  
Rev. Kendrick Curry  
Kate Harris

### STAFF

Rev. Bill Haley *Executive Director & Spiritual Director*  
Rev. Erin Clifford *Senior Minister*  
Tara Haley *Director of Creative Care*  
Sarah Kohrs *Director of Corhaven Graveyard*  
Wade Ballou *Community Minister & Spiritual Director*  
Scott Buresh *Community Minister & Spiritual Director*  
Susan Den Herder *Business Developer*  
Jennifer Custer *Finance & Administration Manager*  
Karla Petty *Communications Manager*

### ASSOCIATES

Kit Elmer  
Bill Deiss  
Christine Koach  
Lucas Koach  
Abigail Hull  
Melody Reis

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Claire-Lise Kelly  
Margot Eyring  
Mary Amendolia  
Joe Riffe  
Desiree Barker

Fran Powell  
Yonce Shelton  
Christine Warner  
Wanda Bickers  
Heather Strube

### ADVISORY BOARD

This past year we created an Advisory Board to enable a way for others who are dear to us and committed to our mission to walk more closely and stay informed. They keep abreast of developments with Coracle, pray, and offer counsel as needed.

Jeff Conway  
Todd and Judi Deatherage  
Max and Kate Finberg  
Aaron Graham  
Ted and Kellie Haddock  
Hans and April Hess  
Steve and Lynnette Hughes  
Soren and Ever Johnson

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Burke, VA*  
*Takoma Park, MD*  
*Washington, DC*  
*Orlando, FL*  
*Carmel, CA*  
*Arlington, VA*  
*Leesburg, VA*

Jeff and Mona Lindeman  
Brad and Lauren Noyes  
David and Emily Powell  
Gail Scherer  
Chris and Christy Shaw  
Tom and Annie Steinle  
Lauren Taylor  
Josh and Molly Yates

*McLean, VA*  
*Annapolis, MD*  
*Falls Church, VA*  
*Mt. Jackson, VA*  
*Minneapolis, MN*  
*Minneapolis, MN*  
*Cyprus*  
*Charlottesville, VA*



We are grateful and excited to continue to offer what we've been doing, seeing it all go from strength to strength. At the same time we are very excited about deeper development and broader accessibility in some key areas and in offering some new ones.

### More prayer

A common feeling since the very beginning, and so appropriate given our name Coracle, has been that prayer of the Cape Breton fisherman, "O God, the sea is so wide, and my boat is so small!" We have increasingly felt the need for much greater prayer support, so we will be building and launching the "Coracle Prayer Team" in January. We expect to start with at least 100 people committed to this, and will provide monthly prayer requests and praise reports, and specific requests as they arise.

### Towards a clear 'spiritual formation for Kingdom action' program

We will be creating much greater coherence to some of our retreats and other offerings so that they become less 'one-off' experiences and build on each other and actually are much better able to aid in participants ongoing spiritual formation. 2017 will be something of a pilot for this, starting with arranging our retreats in a logical flow, supplementing them with other experiences, and inviting people to join for a "**One Year Spiritual Formation Program**" in a cohort model. This content will be adaptable to a shorter, week-long form, as well as be able to be offered in other locations in the short or long form.

### Diving deeper into race reconciliation towards the 'beloved community'

At Coracle we have always been committed to racial reconciliation and justice, and worked for it various ways. In 2017, we'll offer a series of some experiences and events, including a Soundings Seminar on Race, taking a group to the African American Museum in DC, developing and launching a "Corhaven Graveyard Pilgrimage", initiating partnerships for service projects and relationship development in Washington DC, and engaging cultural products that revolve around issues of race like film and documentaries.

Very importantly, in partnership with others around the country, we will do a soft launch with over 100 people of "**The Repentance Project**", something that we've been developing for almost year and a half. It began at Corhaven on September 3, 2015, and the purpose is this: *'Growing out of deep convictions, real experiences, and personal relationships among black and white brothers and sisters, The Repentance Project aims to facilitate both a common statement of repentance and facilitate responses and relationships to enable a better future together. Our mission is to foster healthy and vibrant interracial communities by clarifying the systemic legacies of slavery and creating opportunities for repentance, healing, and a just future.'* Will do a much more public launch of this in 2018 and call as many people to be involved as possible.

We also expect much greater use of the Corhaven Graveyard for educational opportunities, spiritual experiences, and to be used as a context for conversations about race and reconciliation.

## Journeying with God to be met by God

In 2017 we will launch “**Coracle Pilgrimages**”. Our experience has shown that traveling with a spiritual purpose is one of God’s most potent tools for spiritual formation. So in the coming year we will offer pilgrimages to Nepal in partnership with the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, to Israel and Palestine in partnership with The Telos Group, walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain, and perhaps Iona in Scotland. Plans for future pilgrimages include Rome, Kolkatta, and a Celtic Christian pilgrimage.

## Cultural engagement

Part of enjoying God’s world is to partake in the creative offerings of human beings and allowing them to shape, inform, and inspire us. This past year we began “**Coracle: Culture**” to create opportunities for just that, and took groups to a film (“Birth of a Nation”), a play (“Martin Luther on Trial”), and a concert (the “Oh Hellos Christmas”). We’ll do more such things in 2017.

## More things for the common good

The creation and growth of **Common Good Things** has been wonderful. Through this ‘Business as Ministry’ of Coracle, it is our way to elevate the sanctity of work, create opportunities to talk about vocation, and simply do good business that honors the makers, consumers, and planet for the glory of God. In 2017 we will amplify our core CGT offerings, further develop the product lines of “CGT: Farm” and “CGT: Makers”, and add a new product line of tools to aid people in their devotional practices and encounter God, called “CGT: Abide”.

## More partners

In the coming year we are excited (and hopeful) to add another 3-5 partner churches to the four we already enjoy. Further, we will continue conversations with organizations we’ve worked with already to explore and discern more substantive ways we can assist with the spiritual formation of their staff. Our hope over the long run is that Coracle would be the ‘go-to’ organization for spiritual formation for other non-profits whose focus is on relief and development, justice, reconciliation, and peacemaking, whose work is on the front-lines of the brokenness of the world.

## More spiritual direction

We fully expect to add more spiritual directors in 2017, and that some of our new ones will continue to see more people coming to them as we offer a way for these spiritual directors to become more widely known.

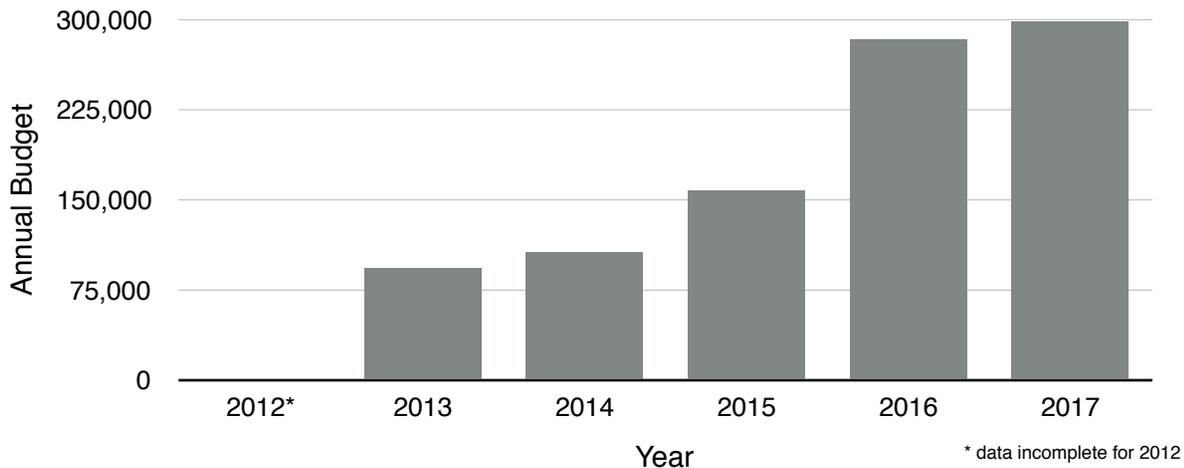
## “That they may be one”

Demonstrated unity of the Church—Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox—has and remains one of our deepest desires and commitments. We hope to offer another Soundings Seminar in partnership with the Catholic Church in northern Virginia in 2017 and remain attentive to other ways we can live more deeply into the truth that God’s people are one in Christ, and that the world needs an undivided witness to him.



## Finances and a Final Word

So far Coracle has been deeply blessed by the generosity of so many such that our financial needs have always been met even while our budget has increased each year for the past five years. This is the grace of God through the grace of his people, and we are deeply thankful to God and to all who have and are making this ministry to many possible. Thank you.



As we go ‘further up and further in’ in the coming years and years, we need and are most grateful for your prayers and also your financial support. We are convinced and grateful that God is using our little and best efforts to form his people more into the image of Jesus so that they can be a powerful, redemptive presence for the sake of a broken world, for their own joy, and for the ongoing revelation of the glory of God. It’s an exciting and humbling privilege. We’d like more people to join us in this work, and trust that God will lead them to us. Now as always, the world needs more Jesus, and needs more people who are like him. We’re grateful to be a part of that, and grateful to all who are making it possible. Thanks be to God!

On the Journey....

To donate online, please visit <https://inthecoracle.org/support/>, or make a check to “Coracle” and mail it to 2883 Quicksburg Road, Quicksburg, VA 22847.

And be sure to visit our websites and follow us on social media...



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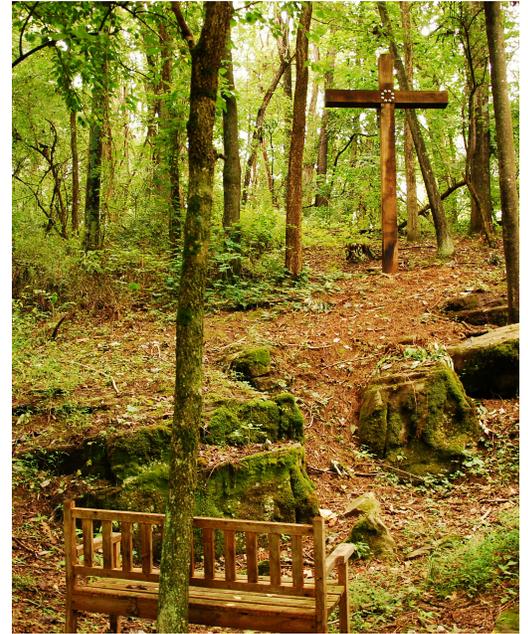


commongoodthings





Sarah Kohrs, Director of the Corhaven Graveyard, leads a student group through the graveyard.



The woods at Corhaven



**Common Good Things:** Farm basket of produce and flowers from this summer.



Front left to right: Rev. Rinzi Lama, Bill Deiss, Pushkar Shresthra, and Bill Haley in Nepal



**C O R A C L E**

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR KINGDOM ACTION**

Coracle is a ministry that exists to inspire and enable people to become the presence of God in the world by offering spiritual formation for Kingdom action. Some of this happens at Corhaven, a retreat home in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia near Mt. Jackson, some of it happens in the Washington D.C. metro area and throughout the mid-Atlantic, some of it happens around the country and around the world. We do this through:

- Spiritual direction
- Individual and group retreats
- Sacramental ministry
- Mission trips and pilgrimage
- Writing and speaking
- Ministries of mercy and justice
- Creation care
- and more...

We invite you to join the journey with us! Sign up on the listserv to receive updates or contact us via email at [inthecoracle@me.com](mailto:inthecoracle@me.com)

You can learn more at: [www.inthecoracle.org](http://www.inthecoracle.org)

## **COMMON GOOD THINGS**

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This booklet is produced by Common Good Things, a business and ministry of Coracle. A good business honors God as much as a good sermon. Creating things that benefit all the makers, consumers and the planet, honors the Maker.

We offer products that carry the love and vision of God for all things. By holding, reading, eating, seeing and sharing them, we are reminded of the goodness of God and the nearness of Jesus who came to restore God's vision to the design that's been there from the beginning. Get things for the common good at:

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