

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a dense canopy of green trees against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The perspective creates a sense of height and growth.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
AND A LOOK INTO 2018...

CORACLE

INTHECORACLE.ORG



CORACLE

Spiritual Formation for Kingdom Action

"I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!" - St. Paul
"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth..." - Jesus

Dear friends and fellow pilgrims,

2017 has been a remarkable year for the ministry of Coracle. You'll see that in the following pages. The only explanation is that God is with us, leading us, leading people to us, providing for us, and blessing us. Many people now are enabling this to happen.



Our passion and focus on spiritual formation—Christ's people becoming more like Jesus and being his presence in the world actually—has sharpened and intensified. And more people are being shaped.

Our passionate desire of bringing God's Kingdom—where what God wants done gets done—more fully into the world and to more people has found greater focus. And it's taking more and more tangible forms.

Our original mission statement remains true and is deepening, maturing, and intensifying. **Coracle exists "to inspire and enable people to be the presence of God in the world by offering spiritual formation and Kingdom action."** And it keeps on happening, more than we can keep up with. Thanks be to God.

There's so much we're excited about that you'll see in the following pages, and we're amazed and delighted by the introduction of the Coracle Fellowship spiritual formation program. The conviction to move ahead with this came with the clarity of a lighting bolt literally just a year ago, and 12 months later we've just graduated our first class of Fellows, 20 of them. And the Coracle Fellows for 2018 will be almost 30 men and women! Thanks be to God.

And thank you. The image of a coracle—a bunch of disciples in a boat together with Jesus going where God leads—also has deepened in meaning and significance for us. We're glad for those in the boat already, and those who will join, and to quote Brody from *Jaws*, "We're gonna need a bigger boat..."



Executive Director

On behalf of the Coracle Board: Richard Dean (Chair), William E. Deiss, Katherine Lundstrom, Katherine Harris, Kendrick Curry, and Robert Krech

By the Numbers

Spiritual Directors	17
Directees	97
Coracle Fellows	20
Individuals on Retreat at Corhaven	152
Overnight stays at Corhaven	345
Group Retreats at Corhaven	27
Group Retreats and Events Elsewhere	13
People on Pilgrimage	48
Number of People Served	so many

Who We've Served in 2017

Through group retreats, personal spiritual retreats, speaking, and offering spiritual direction, just in 2017 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 Vision (DC and Albania)
 International Justice Mission
 The Human Trafficking Institute
 New Canaan Society (DC)
 Faith and Law (DC)
 Food For The Hungry
 The ONE Campaign
 Young Life (Harrisonburg, VA)
 Anglican Relief and Development Fund
 Theological Horizons (Charlottesville)
 Perkins Fellows (Charlottesville)
 InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (DC)
 Matthew 25 Initiative of the ACNA
 The Anglican Diocese of Singapore
 The Anglican Church of Nepal
 The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic (ACNA)
 Rock Recovery (DC)
 The Telos Group
 Arrabon (Richmond, VA)
 The law firm of Baker & McKenzie (DC)

The Falls Church Anglican (VA)
 Restoration Anglican (Arlington, VA)
 The District Church (DC)
 Christ Church Vienna (VA)
 Paoli Presbyterian Church (PA)
 Church of the Resurrection (Baltimore)
 Church of the Advent (DC)
 All Soul's Church (Charlottesville, VA)
 St. Luke Home Fellowship (Woodstock, VA)
 Bethany Community Church (Laurel, MD)
 Redeemer Anglican Church (Richmond, VA)
 Early Church (Harrisonburg, VA)
 Church of the Incarnation (Harrisonburg, VA)
 Incarnation Church (Williamsburg, VA)
 Holy Trinity Church (McLean, VA)
 Center for Justice & Peace Building - EMU
 Massanutten Regional Governor's School
 Stonewall Jackson High School

...and many others through group and individual retreats...

We are grateful for our three key partner churches—**The Falls Church Anglican**, **The District Church**, and **Restoration Anglican**—and hope and expect our church partnerships to keep growing.

CORACLE FELLOWS

The Coracle Fellowship is a yearlong process of spiritual formation, learning, experience, and deepening in community, for Kingdom Action and the sake of the world.



Coracle Fellows Class of 2017



Vocation retreat in Washington, DC



A Fellows retreat at Corhaven

RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND PEACEMAKING

Racial divisions and the lack of peace continue to shake our country and our world. Part of our efforts at Kingdom Action is to help others be reconcilers and peacemakers.



Soundings Seminar on "Race in America"



Soundings Seminar on "Peacemaking as Discipleship"



Honoring the enslaved at the Corhaven Graveyard

THE
Repentance
PROJECT

HOME

INTRODUCTION

WEEK I

WEEK II

WEEK III

WEEK IV

WEEK V

WEEK VI

WEEK VII

CONCLUSION

APPENDICES



"Slavery didn't end in 1865. It evolved." — Bryan Stevenson

We helped launch The Repentance Project and the online tool "An American Lent" for reconciliation and healing

PILGRIMAGE

From years of travel, we know that one of the most powerfully formational experiences is that of pilgrimage - "a journey with God to meet God together".

We introduced this line of ministry this year.



Israel/Palestine Pilgrimage with The Telos Group



Pilgrimage to Nepal with ARDF



On the Camino de Santiago in Spain

CORHAVEN

A vital and early ministry of Coracle, our retreat center Corhaven continues to be "a place to meet God and a place to be met by God", for many individuals and groups. And God always seems to know how to show up powerfully to them.



June 9, '17

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: Sara

What did you find most helpful about your time here?

I love the "free-range God" aura here. Having come through quite a lot of church trauma, I'm overly sensitive to any attempt to make me meet God in a certain way. Here, that pressure was absolutely gone. I felt as if God were close no matter where I was or what I was thinking about. →

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

It feels real. Granted, I particularly love the country-rustic-home style, but nothing here feels artificial, as if you're trying to make a certain feel.

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

I constantly need reminding that God likes me, and that I don't have to do things "right" for him to accept me. Here, I could relax and know that is true.

Also, as mentioned, I'm working on a novel about racial reconciliation. →

What could we have done or provided to make your experience better? What suggestions do you have for us?

Nothing really spoiled my time here. I was a bit uncertain of where to go or who to see when I arrived, so possibly a sign or directions. Or possibly you emailed me directions and I just didn't go. →

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?

This place is a refuge for me and many of my friends who love God but find church very hard. It's what so many of us ^{people} crave. I would love to see ~~more~~ of my age and younger (I'm 40) be able to enjoy it — plus engage with the racial issue which is very important to my circle. Please don't move toward a model that tries to create an experience for someone. Your welcome, no-pressure approach is valuable and not often found. →

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

One of our original ministry offerings, spiritual direction - one coming alongside another to help them hear God - continues to be a core of ministry of Coracle.

And God keeps bringing trained spiritual directors to us. Some of them are below.



BALTIMORE AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA/DC

Through small groups, group retreats, spiritual direction, seminars and other events in Baltimore and Northern Virginia, Coracle continues to be a lot more than Corhaven.



Our Baltimore Team



Baltimore Lent Retreat



A group retreat at The Falls Church Anglican



Serving together in DC

CREATION CARE

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1),
and so we seek to be good stewards of creation as Kingdom action.
It is a glad stewardship, blessing many, and of course the earth too!



The Garden at Corhaven



Snap Peas, photo by Kathryn McIvor



"Lunch by Tara"



"Farm" Garden Boxes from Corhaven

COMMON GOOD THINGS

Kingdom action includes the vocations and also good business done right. CGT is our way of incarnating this belief by running a business that blesses people (both makers and consumers) and the planet too. We introduced new products in 2017 and went online.



COMMON GOOD THINGS

SHOP FARM NEWS ABOUT CONTACT PRODUCTS



A few testimonies from the year

"I've felt like I've been having an awakening over the last few years as the Lord has prepared my heart and stretched me in many areas in order to be ready for what He has been speaking to me about in the Coracle Fellowship. He just karate kicked the door that was just barely ajar in my heart... and the light is flooding in." —Coracle Fellow, '17

"Corhaven has restored me and given me the opportunity to meet with God." —Retreatant

"Thank you for this space, your prayers, and your ministry. I am leaving more rested and encouraged and will continue meditating on God's love for one as His beloved daughter." —Retreatant

"The Sounding Seminar on 'Race in America' was really thought provoking, with a lot of information for me to consider and ponder. I appreciated that it was not an anger filled evening...This Seminar helped me realize I need to take some steps to become more educated and find more opportunities to bridge a gap I wasn't paying attention to..."

—Soundings Seminar Participant

"My retreat at Corhaven was a time to step back from my responsibilities and constant feeling of 'lost to myself' service as a mom and really soak in the peace and calm and quiet whispering that surrounds God's presence and to just know it as it is and where it is." —Retreatant

"Tara's lunch is truly sacramental." —Retreatant

"I know this is a safe space so I feel completely at ease. God simply was with me in silence - we didn't need to talk, we simply existed together. It was beautiful. I felt secure in Him. In myself, I feel ready." —Retreatant

"He led me to commit even more to live a life trusting God in a way that is new and exciting." —Retreatant

"I felt His presence as soon as I stepped through the door. He took me on a journey that ended in praise for His faithfulness." —Retreatant

"It might sound odd, but the Coracle Fellowship program has helped me to stop trying to live a good Christian life. I'm experiencing instead what it's like to allow God to transform me into a "little Christ" by his grace and power for my own wellbeing and for the sake of others. Too often I exchange the Spirit's power for self-generated toil to live "a good Christian life" that may pass muster in outward appearance but feels hollow on the inside. I've also discovered that I'm not alone in this quandary." —Coracle Fellow, '17

"My day retreat at Corhaven was a really sweet time in God's presence with a lot of refreshment and peace. I feel like there is a special anointing on the place for freedom and joy in God's presence as people realize that they are His beloved." —Retreatant

"There were various places to be alone and quiet, inside the cottage and woodshop and outside. The large clearing in the woods was like an image of Eden for me: walking with the Lord God in the cool of the day.....That particular setting helped me to call out to Him. He imparted to me needed wisdom through spiritual direction in a relatively very short period of time." —Retreatant

"God allowed me to rest and begin to unwind in order to be more present with him. He quietly sat with me in silence and enjoyed the little things with me, the wood stove, the sounds of nature, the creek running past. All to say "Come to me and you will find rest for your soul."" —Retreatant

"God did exactly what Coracle intends—He met me here, knowing He was already here and that He was already with me. It's like He let me see Him seeing me. It was delightful and surprising and humbling." —Retreatant

"The fellowship program has been a tremendous blessing to me." —Coracle Fellow, '17

Into 2018

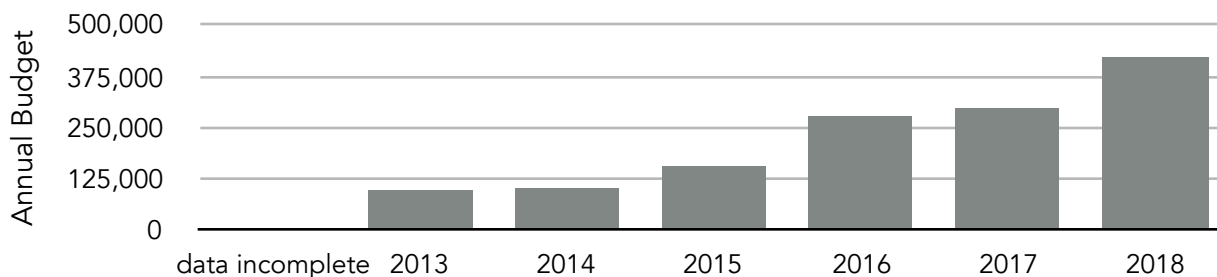
Words that could easily capture 2018 is "More" and "Maturing". We expect to offer **much "More" ministry in all of our key areas** including individual and group retreats, spiritual direction, creation care, Corhaven, spiritual direction, racial reconciliation and peacemaking, pilgrimages, Common Good Things, in Baltimore and the DC metro area and other cities, and the Coracle Fellows program, which is at capacity at almost 30 people.

We also plan to take very significant strides to **the "Maturing" of our ministry** by adding at least two full-time staff and some other key staff roles over the course of the year, creating the organizational systems to support this growth, and redesigning our web and communication presence for more uniformity and greater impact and reach. We also expect that this year we will find a property in Northern Virginia to serve as a base and place for more ministry there and the deepening community that Coracle is becoming.

Again we're reminded of that prayer of the Cape Breton fisherman, "Dear God, be good to me; The sea is so wide, and my boat is so small."

Finances and a Final Word

To be faithful with where we think God is leading us and to 'build a bigger boat', our budget in 2018 reflects a significant jump from last year and years past. At the same time, it is intimidating and feels very right. It is a budget that will be met by prayer, the generosity of our current donors, new donors, and income streams from our various programs.



As we mature and grow in the coming year and years, we need and are most grateful your involvement, your prayers, and also your financial support. God is doing this, and we are convinced that God will keep doing it through you and many more, and especially through your prayers. Please find ways to get more involved in Coracle in our next season. As we sometimes invite folks with the phrase "Get in the boat", we're building it so that you can! 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...



inthecoracle.org

commongoodthings.com

corhavengraveyard.org

therepentanceproject.com



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@inthecoracle



CORACLE



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 listserve to receive updates or contact us via email at inthecoracle@me.com

You can learn more at: www.inthecoracle.org

COMMON GOOD THINGS

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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