



JUBILEE PARTNERS REPORT

Spring 2020

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
—Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

Reading Paul’s words at this moment in history, we might add “nor war, nor climate change, nor coronavirus pandemic...” We can be certain that, as great as these challenges are, none of them are able to separate us from the love of God. Paul and other writers in the New Testament echoed Jesus when they insisted that there is joy to be found by the faithful when they reach out to put their love into action, responding to the suffering brought on by problems like these. We must not be paralyzed by fear. “There is no room for fear in love,” says the writer of 1 John, because “perfect love banishes fear.”

Examples of people reaching out to their neighbors in love are all around us these days. We see healthcare workers working long shifts and accepting personal risk in order to care for the sick. We see people bringing food to families who are short on money and groceries. We see people sewing masks in their homes. We see people finding new ways to offer friendship and support to one another even from a distance. We see people making joyful music on city balconies for their neighbors to hear.

Here at Jubilee, like everywhere else, our pattern of life has been altered quite a lot by the pandemic. Normally, we eat community meals together on a daily basis, but now all our meals are taken separately in our various houses. We are not able to meet together indoors for worship and fellowship as we normally would, though we are still able to see one another outside in the fresh air. We miss seeing our friends who live nearby, and we miss receiving visitors from other parts of the country.



In March when we could still get together, Spring Festival saw some serious fun: bubble-blowing and catching by Bu May, Jamie and Felix.

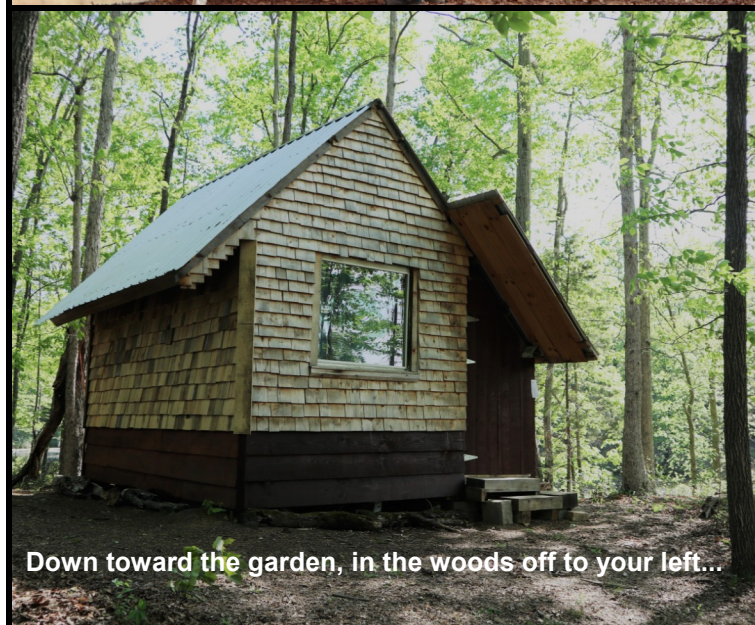
The extra time that we are spending outdoors, though, is giving us a deeper appreciation for the beautiful land in which we are privileged to live and work. For example, one of our places of worship lately has been under a

natural cathedral in a grove of hardwood trees with limbs that arch together high above our heads. The weather has been beautiful most of the time, but when it's a bit cool we have a bonfire in the center of the circle. It's better in a lot of ways than being indoors!

Even with the need to maintain physical distance, we are still able to offer a safe place and hospitality to immigrant families who are fleeing situations of violence. These days, most of these families consist of women and children from Latin America in need of a place to stay after leaving emergency shelters or immigrant detention centers. We are very grateful for the opportunity to provide this kind of hospitality.

At the same time, we are thinking of other people in our neighborhood and around the world who have few financial resources and are now unable to work because of the pandemic. We think in particular of undocumented immigrants in this country, who are not eligible for any kind of government assistance. We also think of people in poorer nations around the world whose livelihoods are being disrupted by the pandemic. The economic shutdown in the U.S. has severe consequences in places like Central America that are dependent on the U.S. market, and where many households are supported by money sent home from those who have emigrated to the U.S. to work.

As a community, we're choosing to donate the economic impact payments that our members receive from the March 27 coronavirus stimulus package towards relief for people in these groups. Some of the money we will send to organizations in other countries whom we know and trust, like those in the Walk in Peace network which many of you on our mailing list have supported generously for years. The rest of the money we are giving through our partners at the Athens Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition to help pay rent and grocery bills for some of the many undocumented families in our neighborhood who are out of work.



We encourage you in our network of friends to consider joining us in this, by giving to organizations in your own neighborhood that support undocumented families or others who are vulnerable economically. If you would like to make a donation through Jubilee to organizations overseas, you can make a note that your donation is for International Relief and we will be very happy to pass along 100% of the donation to our partners, Batahola Norte Cultural Center in Managua, Vida Joven Nicaragua, CEPAD Nicaragua, and a few other organizations in Africa and the Middle East where we have trusted connections. In addition, please join us in praying for the health and safety of people in prisons, immigrant detention centers, and refugee camps around the world.

Also among the sorrows and the joys of this spring has been the passing of our beloved Coffee Worth, whom we profiled in our last newsletter. Coffee's death leaves us with a sense of sadness and loss, but also with a deep gratitude for the faithful witness of her life, not to mention a great many memories and stories which are a delight and an encouragement to recall. We close this newsletter with a tribute to Coffee from Don and Carolyn Mosley, two of Jubilee's founders, who knew her for more than 50 years.



Coffee Worth was one of the most inspiring demonstrations we have ever seen of the power of love put into action in all kinds of situations. Growing up in North Carolina she became very upset with the racism she saw around her, and while still a student she began to reach out compassionately and make friends with her young black neighbors. As she did this, she met George Worth, a young man who had been the son of missionaries in China and who shared her concern about such things. They married. In 1954 they became Presbyterian missionaries in South Korea, a country still staggering from the war.

A book could be written about the many ways they reached out with love and joy to those suffering people! We met them there in 1968. Among other things, Don had the great privilege of working with George on the Peace Corps staff. Then - thank the Lord! - the Worths joined us at Koinonia in South Georgia in 1974. More years of love put into action, creating joyful friendships regardless of race.

At Jubilee we were then privileged to have Coffee with us for her final 20 years, constantly reaching out to refugees from all over the world, attending women's groups and worship services in predominantly black churches and enjoying special friendships at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens. Covenant hosted a beautiful celebration of her 100th birthday, and some 200 people from all kinds of backgrounds came together to thank God for demonstrating through Coffee Worth the power and the joy of putting love into action in this world! Her son David led the sharing of inspiring memories about her.

On March 25 in Florida, attended by her loving daughter Evelyn, Coffee passed peacefully on to her reward.

Throughout her long life, Coffee moved from one challenging situation to another, always smiling, working against racism, helping children in all kinds of circumstances, and demonstrating that great joy that comes from putting love into action and bringing light into darkness. If Coffee had been on one of those balconies in Italy recently, she would have been singing vigorously with the rest of them - just as she always delighted in telling about the people singing in war-torn Korea when she and her husband, George, arrived there as missionaries in 1954:

*This is my Father's word. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet!*

— from the people of Jubilee



Above: February brought Mr. Snowman who lasted for several days! Above right: Collaborative artwork directed by Tracy, painted by many participants and designed by Sara Boggs Rowell, *A is for All of Us* could be a Jubilee circle before meals.

Our Sabbatical Month of February 2020: Prescribed by our friends and mentors, Sally Youngquist and David Janzen of Reba Place Fellowship, time and space for communion, prayer, worship, and retreat gave us much to reflect upon. On the lighter side, an appointed “Fun! Committee” made certain we spent some time laughing and enjoying delicious food, doing art, playing games, including an evening of bowling—imagine that! Weekly community work projects during February were productive and enjoyable. A timber frame chapel (photos page 3) was gifted to Jubilee by Sage and Samuel Frese. Work days put siding on the chapel as well as accomplishing other painting, landscaping and clean-up projects.



Common fig/*Ficus carica*



A fig sapling graced a month of library meetings. At sabbatical's end, we planted it next to the Easter Cross.



Margaret Alice Hussey joined Matt and Elizabeth on February 24th. We enjoy watching her grow!



Rebecca, Nathanael and Merly Kelly welcomed Galilee Grace Craig Kelly on March 23rd.

New babies have been a joyful part of our 2020 Spring!

Along with our people babies, 2 calves and 8 goat kids are keeping us smiling in the “Covid Era”. Fruits are promising more abundance than usual, including blueberries—full and heavy on their branches.



Who we are

Jubilee Partners is an intentional Christian service community in north Georgia. Our primary ministry is offering hospitality to newly arrived refugees. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; donations are thus tax-deductible. Your donations and support of our work are most appreciated.

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GIANT DUTCH BLITZ! It was a chilly evening in March with the long shadows of a spring sun. Anna Dybdahl and Simeon Bjork enjoyed some fierce competition while their teammates (im)patiently waited their turns.