



*From left to right: Henry Jones, Fernando Robinson, Lawrence Bush, and Gerald Henderson.*

## Leading With Experience

**Kairos members serving on the Christ House Board of Directors offer invaluable insight and leadership.**

Dignity, empowerment, and responsibility are among the core values of Christ House. Living this out includes having the feedback, input, and leadership from the people Christ House serves.

During weekly Community Meetings, patients are given the floor to share feedback about how our services can

be improved. These facilitated conversations promote patients' ownership and pride in their own healing journey and provide valuable input into how Christ House can continually meet the needs of our patients.

At the three weekly Kairos Program meetings, members provide both input and feedback on the program and living in

community. Since 1992, the Kairos Program has provided a permanent residential community for former patients with chronic illnesses who are committed to a life of sobriety and fellowship. From active engagement demonstrated at these meetings, members may be invited to join the Kairos Leadership group.

Valuing and honoring the gifts of everyone at Christ House includes having Kairos Program

*Continued*



The mission of Christ House is to provide comprehensive and compassionate health care to sick and homeless men from the District of Columbia, and to assist them in addressing the critical issues to help them break the cycle of homelessness.

representatives on the Christ House Board of Directors. Today the 17-member Board of Directors includes four Kairos members: Lawrence Bush, Gerald Henderson, Henry Jones, and Fernando Robinson.

Henry Jones, a founding member of the Kairos Program, was the first Kairos member to join the Christ House Board of Directors. He most enjoys learning what it takes for the organization to keep running. “It’s very interesting to hear about the donors who give and keep the doors open. I like to learn about spending, donors, and things like that.”

Along with policies, the oversight of finances, and other organizational matters, the Kairos board members bring a unique perspective as leaders who are also past patients and current program participants.

“At first I turned (the Board) down, because I’m not the type of guy who likes to be in that leadership. I’d rather lead by example where I’m the lay-low, behind the scenes kind of guy. But once I started going and learning what (the Board) is all about, I started enjoying it very much. It’s all about helping the guys, especially the Kairos Program, and I’m a part of that,” says Lawrence, a new Board member this year.

***“It’s a learning experience. I’m learning more about the intimate, administrative parts of Christ House.”***



### **Meet the newest Christ House Board member!**

Fernando joined the Kairos program ten years ago. With his signature laugh and infectious energy, he lights up wherever he is in the Christ House community whether it’s preparing the dining room for patients’ lunches or welcoming them into Thursday evening Table Fellowship with some good-natured teasing. When he was invited to join both the Kairos Leadership team and the Christ House Board of Directors, he eagerly accepted without hesitation.

“I never thought I’d be in this type of (leadership) position anyway with my background and how I came up in my life,” says Fernando. “I’m looking forward to putting in my two cents. Everyone has seniority so right now I’m just trying to learn from them. I’m just looking to be a help.”

### **Leadership as Service**

Having members of the Kairos Program on the Board ensures that the views and experiences of the people Christ House serves are included at all levels.

From making face-to-face connections as they encourage new patients, to being at the table when making policy and budget decisions, the engagement and leadership of Kairos members is a gift to the Christ House community and part of our on-going success

in caring for some of the most vulnerable people in DC.

“When new patients come in, I often introduce myself and welcome them into Christ House,” says Henry. “I tell them they’re in a good place and they’re going to get the help they need.”

Fernando adds, “I’d say (to new patients), this is the best place. There’s no other place like it. We’ll take care of you and will love you until you love yourself.”



# Wishing the Bebber Family a Fond Farewell

**After a combined 22 years of excellent service, Lizzie and Eric are answering a new call.**

Their Christ House story is truly one of family. Lizzie began her journey here as the Director of Volunteers in 2008 and Eric joined the staff in 2010 as the Kairos Program Director. The following year, Lizzie and Eric felt a growing call to go deeper with the Christ House mission and joined the residential community. For the past nine years, they have lived at Kairos House, where they have welcomed two children and had the privilege of raising them in an environment of incredible love and support. Their children, Eli and Annette, refer to the Kairos men as their “uncles” who, according to Lizzie and Eric, “are some of the most courageous and incredible role models we could wish for our children.”

Since 2016, Lizzie has served as the Executive Director of Christ House, a role that she says has been “such a joy to share in leadership and vision on behalf of the patients, staff, volunteers, and supporters of Christ House.” In early March, Lizzie, Eric and their two children will be moving to Greenville, South Carolina, as they follow a call to the work of racial and economic justice in



the South. Lizzie will begin as the new Executive Director of United Ministries, a non-profit dedicated to serving homeless and low income individuals and families, and helping them access the resources they need to thrive.

“We are grateful beyond words for the gift of being a part of a radical, vibrant, and compassionate approach of service to men who are sick and experiencing homelessness,” Lizzie and Eric said.

“The incredible gift the Kairos men have given us of seeing the world with new eyes and the deep insight and modeling this community has given us of work that is postured in mutual respect and great love are values we will take with us wherever we go.”

## Continuity of Leadership

As Christ House enters its 35th year of caring for persons experiencing homelessness, the Board of Directors has chosen Dr. Janelle Goetcheus, Medical Director and cofounder of Christ House, as Chairperson of the Board. Janelle continues to see patients throughout the city in her role as Director of Homeless Outreach Services with Unity Health Care.

Mary Jordan was selected by the Board as the next CEO/ Executive Director of Christ House. Mary has worked at Christ House since 1986, first as a Registered Nurse, then after getting her Master’s Degree, as a Nurse Practitioner. Mary has served in a leadership role as the Clinical Director for the past 25 years.

We are grateful for both Janelle’s and Mary’s commitment and faithfulness to the work of Christ House these many years and in the years to come.





## #superbowlGOALS

Christ House turned into a stadium on Super Bowl Sunday as patients, staff, and volunteers cheered their teams onto victory! Thank you to the volunteers who pitched in and to Duccini's Pizza for providing the delicious game day feast!

*Interested in volunteering at events and parties at Christ House? Check out our website at [christhouse.org/volunteer](http://christhouse.org/volunteer) for volunteer opportunities!*



**67%** of patients discharged to more stable housing than before coming to Christ House

**3,125** volunteers gave **29,387** hours of service



**9,228** patient-days of care



**223** individual patients



**37 days** average length of stay



**48,236** healthy meals served



**150** participants in New Day recovery program

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