PEACE HILL CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNITY

Winter 2023 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE—*Registration Opens Soon*
Peace Hill will be kicking off the new year at Avila
with some events you might need to mark on calendars now.

A Day with Howard Thurman
Saturday, February 11, 2023
led by Dumas Harshaw and Phil Mathews

The Practice of Mindfulness
Friday, March 24, 2022
led by Ron Vereen

Awakening to Celtic Spirituality
Friday and Saturday (overnight) April 21-22
led by Terry Allebaugh

Avila Courtyard

AVILA OPENING CELEBRATION

Beverly Scarlett leads opening blessing

150 people gathered at Avila on a beautiful fall day on Saturday, November 5th, for an opening celebration of the center. The event included a blessing of the land by Beverly Scarlett of Indigenous Memories; remarks by Martin Eakes, founder and CEO of Self-Help; brief presentations by Avila partners; music by Alexandra Vallardares; and a reading of a dedication poem written for the event by NC Poet Laurate Jaki Shelton Green.

Read poem: http://bit.ly/3Uf4WAc

Peace Hill worked alongside its Avila partners, United for a Fair Economy, Fight for 15, and Self-Help to host the event. Peace Hill Founder and Board member Mel Williams noted the history of Avila, first as a monastery, then as a Catholic retreat center, and now as a training and support center for community organizers.

Mama Cookie and the Fight for 15

Jaki and Deborah Williams

DESIGNING OUR HUMAN MUSEUMS: A WORKSHOP WITH JAKI SHELTON GREEN

Our North Carolina Poet Laurate led 30 people in a daylong Peace Hill retreat at Avila in October to silently review and then portray their individual histories. Participants constructed their unique life stories on posters using colored markers and pens, and cut-outs from magazines. The afternoon focus was spent touring the "museums" with each person presenting their stories to the group, noting commonalities and differences. As one participant noted, *"It was a rich experience for the group in a peaceful, beloved setting. What more could we ask for?"*