



The Anchorage:

A Contemplative Community for All

Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2016

"Circle"

(Sung by Barbra Streisand on "Higher Ground" CD)

*Some say the walls between us stand so tall
They don't see there's just one sun
shining on us all.
I say we each choose roads to call our own,
But none of us is traveling through this
universe alone.*

*And this circle just goes on and on.
It began before us, it will be here
when we're gone.
And this circle just goes on and on and on
Connecting our humanity, joining me to
you and you to me.*



*Seasons keep spinning on the wheel of time
We stand, we fall, we struggle up the mountains
we must climb.
Different dreams, may color what we see ahead
But our lives are strung together on a
common thread.*

*Round and round and round and round we go,
Around and round and round we go,
Laugh and learn and change and grow.
Round and round and round we go.*

*And this circle touches everyone
As it crosses every boundary underneath the sun.
And this circle just goes on and on.
It began before us, it will be here when we're gone.
And this circle just goes on and on and on.
Some day we will come to see, I'm joined to you and you to me.*



*anchor
deep*

“Bear with One Another”

By Catherine Powell

Our theme for this year seems to be God-inspired and my hope is that this issue of Depth Soundings will help with the healing that we may need.

Last month I began reading a book that was like a glass of cool water on a hot summer day, and it soothed my parched soul. As I read, it became evident that contemplative community is an antidote, or better, a healing balm to disable the power of this onslaught to our souls.

In the *School of Contemplation* by Andre Louf, Abbot of a Trappist Monastery in France (1963-1997), is a compilation of his talks and letters. He said, “Christian community is built upon human weakness; and is a place of forgiveness and healing.” My hope is that our communities of faith are places where we can claim our brokenness and our need for God. God’s grace and mercy abound!

Andre Louf says, “In a community that lives the Gospel, it has been granted us to enter with our weaknesses, indeed almost because of them. We have been accepted just as we are as a gift from God. Every weakness reveals something of the strength and love of God.... Jesus came for those sinners that we in fact are, and not for the righteous that we thought we were, that we hoped to become or appear to be, secure at the heart of Christian community.” Until we can grasp our weakness and our need for God, we will keep trying to do it all ourselves. I think God wants to help!

In March I wrote a piece for the local paper. In it I said we were entering a time when we would need God’s help. A friend had bought a newspaper with the headlines, “Primaries Come to SC” and the sales clerk said, “God Help us All.” I said our best hope was to ask God for help and suggested that we pause before speaking - to weigh our words. We need to ‘bear with one another’ in our brokenness, for healing. God dwells in each of us; it is our call to look for God in each other. Our Triune God is our Source of Love! God is giving us all we need. Just ask God for help.

The articles here are rich! Please don’t miss the article tucked away on the back of the appeal letter. It didn’t fit and is worth your time!

“Christian Community”

By Lance Renault

Is a Christian community different from a secular community? Should Christians seek community as opposed to living independently of like-minded people? And does it make any difference? Our creator seems to think so. Speaking of his new creation, Adam, God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable to him.” [Gen. 2:18] So from the beginning it seems that we were designed for relationship, destined to be social people. The individual is not complete living in isolation.

Broadly speaking, Christians can demonstrate community at a number of levels, but our western culture, particularly American individualism, works against it. Many of us grow up believing that we must make our own way, “make a name for ourselves,” and that the accumulation of material wealth is the measure of individual and societal success.

The ideal Christian community, however, in addition to eschewing wealth as a measure of success is distinguished by three important empowering characteristics. The first characteristic is how the Apostle Paul sees community as fundamental to our faith. He sees believers - the Body of Christ - as an interdependent group that draws on and expresses the unique gifts and strengths of each member so that the community in Christ can be light and salt to the world.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [Romans 12: 4-5]

So here we have a community of believers - local, national, and international - who function at a unique individual and community level. Each member of the community is giving and receiving from every other member so that their combined spiritual and material resources fulfill the mission of the community, i.e. the Church.

The second defining characteristic of Christian community is what holds it together. Yes, leadership is important, but it’s

(Continued on page 4)



The Anchorage

Vision

A Contemplative Community to encourage all people in a mutual love relationship with God.

Mission

The Anchorage provides a setting for women and men to come away and be with God, as revealed in Jesus the Christ; and to come to love more deeply, this God who loves us beyond measure. Spiritual direction, “Depth Soundings” (quarterly mailing), Desert Days and a variety of contemplative retreats, are some of the ways we encourage and inspire.

Metaphor

A safe harbor in which to anchor deep in still waters as a respite from the wind and waves; where pilgrims may enjoy prayerful grace, honor the rhythm of Sabbath and open more fully to the mystery of God’s love.

Core Focus

Encouraging contemplative community anchored in our Triune God.

Servant Leaders

(Board of Directors)
Rosemary Goodall
Jason Loscuito, Chair
Juan Ortiz
Starla Revels
Angela Sudermann
Holland Webb

Other Support

*Susan Leaphart, Volunteer Coord.
Camp Wynn, Treasurer*

Staff

*Catherine Powell,
Founding Servant Leader*

The Anchorage

*P. O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604
(864) 232-LOVE (5683)
www.theanchorage.org*

“Seeing”

By Caroline Smith

I wonder if, like me, you sometimes feel the daily news overpowering these days. Night after night I'm tempted to turn the TV off or put the newspaper down, but I believe what a holy woman taught me many years ago, that a true follower of Jesus must always keep the Word of God in one hand and the newspaper in the other. "For God so loved the world," this world of 2016, "that He sent His only Son" to save it. This world is saved. It matters, I think that despite my temptation to remove myself and not to see, not to look, not to witness the heart wrenching situations and faces that fill my living room in any given newscast, my care matters. Although quite powerless to change most of what my eyes see, the very seeing gives witness to the care in my heart.

Jesus often asks, "do you see?" "do you want to see?" Seeing in the Scripture is both gift and call. Teilhard de Chardin puts it this way, "Seeing. One could say that the whole of life lies in seeing... to try to see more and to see better is not, therefore, just a fantasy, curiosity, or a luxury. SEE or PERISH." (the Human Phenomenon, 1999)

True seeing, the kind that keeps us from "perishing" in our helplessness each evening at the news, can only come from a deep looking both at God in quiet contemplation and at the hundreds of faces that come before us night after night. It's a slow process, to accept the gift of seeing truly, with the eyes of our hearts and of assuming the responsibility that that entails. John Moffitt gives us some guidelines for this kind of deep seeing.

*To look at anything,
If you would know that thing,
You must look at it long...
You must BE the thing you see...
You must enter in...
You must take your time
And touch the very peace
They issue from.*
(excerpted from To Look at Anything by John Moffitt)

We need faith-eyes to see this way, faith eyes to be searching in every newscast and in every newspaper, for the Face of God, who is revealed to us in each human face; those we live with, or work with, or build community with as well as those faces we may never see again. Each one holds the mystery we are longing to see, we only need the faith-eyes to see, deeply and truly. We shall not 'perish' however confusing or chaotic or senseless our everyday world may be. No, the promise of our God is sure. **"You shall see the Face of God and LIVE."** (Rev. 22:4, Mat, 5:8)

*****Please note:**

Sr. Caroline is leading our beach retreat again this year on this very theme. All our welcome. Community at its best!

(Thanks to Caroline Smith, for this article and for her leadership support of The Anchorage over many years. She served as Vice Provincial and then Provincial of the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur in Buffalo, NY for 12 years. She currently serves St. Benedict Parish in Buffalo, NY in part time pastoral counseling. She also volunteers at an enrichment center for women who have been trafficked and are rebuilding their lives. She holds an MA in Theological Studies, with specialization in Spiritual Direction from the Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, a Ph. D. in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola College, Baltimore, and received additional training in Ignatian Retreats at Guelph Spirituality Center in Ontario, Canada. A licensed counselor, she has worked extensively in Jungian dream work and the integration of the spiritual and psychological. She has been leading retreatants through the 30-Day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius for over 30 years.)



Upcoming Events

Fridays, Dec. 2, Feb. 3, Apr. 7, June 2, 9:30-2:30 Desert Days

"Leaving everything, following Christ into the desert."

Fee: \$30 (\$20 if BYO lunch)

Led by Catherine Powell

Tuesdays, Dec. 20*, Mar. 21, June 20, 7-8:30pm Desert Evenings, Same purpose as Desert Days, just in the evening.

Fee: \$10 Led by Catherine Powell

*Dec. 20 Led by Madeline Blackwell

Thurs., Feb. 9, 16, 23, 10-12 or 6:30-8:30pm Book Study

Let Yourself Be Loved: Transforming Fear into Hope

By Phillip Bennett, Epis. counselor

Fee: \$10 Led by Catherine Powell

Mar. 10-12, Beach Retreat (XIX)

"You Shall See the Face of God and Live: on Contemplation and Mercy." * *see article* Litchfield Inn, Pawleys Island, SC. All meals and Single oceanfront room.

Fee: \$395

Mar. 12-13, "Going Deeper"

Fee: \$195, Supper and breakfast.

Both led by Sr. Caroline Smith.

Mon., Mar. 27 – Fri., Mar. 31 4-day Praying Scripture Retreat

Using the Ignatian method of entering into scripture with the imagination, companioned by a spiritual director in daily meetings, and joining the Trappist monks for prayer. The grounds are beautiful at **Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner**

Corner

Fee: \$350 Led by Catherine Powell

May 5-7, Weekend Retreat

Celebrating the beginning of our 20th year.

Location: Kanuga, Flat Rock, NC

Fee: \$395 Led by Bill Dietrich

Fri., July 21 – Mon., July 24, 3-day Praying Scripture Retreat.

Fee: \$300 (Same format at 3/27)

Location is Gower Estates, Greenville unless otherwise noted.

**If \$10 is all you can pay,
then that's all you pay!**



The Anchorage

A Contemplative
Community for All

P.O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Greenville, SC
Permit No. 1070

Return Service Requested

"Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."
Col. 3:12-15

"Christian Community" *(Continued from page 2)*

more than that. It's a shared vision rooted in the love of God and neighbor. Selfless love is the glue that unifies this community. And this love of God and neighbor is not an option for the Christian, it's a commandment. But mature Christians don't love out of obedience but out of a transformed heart and mind. They are awake to the Christ that lives in them.

Finally, the Christian community is not limited to the temporal sphere only. The Trinity is our model, again totally giving and totally receiving. The Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit each have unique ministries and yet they are one, completely unified in love. The ideal Christian community, then, will be an expression of our triune God who empowers it.

The Christian community as we know it today is not perfect. It is full of broken people who suffer from broken relationships and sick bodies. But the community, because of the strengths mentioned above, is also a healing, reconciling body that draws on the love of God for renewal and empowerment. The degree to which its individual members can receive all as from God and to give all in the name of God will influence how dynamic the community will be as an expression of God's love.

In summary, the Christian community is unique because its mission grows out of members who don't measure success by cultural individualism and material wealth but who selflessly serve each other, demonstrate unconditional love for God and each other, and because they seek to model the perfect community of the Trinity.

(Thanks to Lance for this article and for his support of The Anchorage for many years. He and his wife Sue have been residents of Greenville and Taylors for 26 years. Lance is retired from American Leprosy Missions where he served as Chief Program Officer. He is a member of The Village Church (ACNA) in Greenville and serves on the church Leadership Council. His favorite leisure time activities are hiking and reading.)

Financial Status as of October 30, 2016 *(Fiscal Year is July 16 – June 17)*

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 19,660
Total received	\$ 4,500
Amount needed	\$ 15,160
Total income budgeted	\$ 37,495
Total received	\$ 9,500
Amount needed	\$ 27,995

***Praising God for YOU,
our donors and participants!***

Gifts for Printing

Thanks for your fantastic response last year to our request for funds to print "Depth Soundings" for those who prefer/require a printed copy. Thank you for your generosity!

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!

***Please visit our FaceBook page for wisdom updates!
On our website,
be replenished by our
Contemplative Coffee Break***