



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry

Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

February 2008



*anchor
deep*

HOPE

“Hope – an Anchor of the Soul”

By Cathie Powell

“Sold into Slavery”, the cover story of The Christian Century magazine (Nov. 27), wrenched my heart. Women and girls, some as young as five, being trafficked for profit. The horror of it sounded like a James Bond plot; something from a less developed nation, but the United States is one of the top 11 destination countries. I ache for them all – women, girls, men and boys - each one so precious to God. I know it breaks God’s heart.

After reading the article and feeling nauseous, I asked God what I was to do. The only response I sensed was, “pray, and get others to pray.” I began praying in earnest, often throughout the day. I prayed for them all: victims, sellers, buyers and agents working to bring an end to this atrocity. At times, I asked others to pray too. I asked often in my prayer if there was more for me to do. I was willing, and open. However, for now, it just seemed I was to pray. Feeling discouraged, I asked God for a clear sign of hope.

After about two weeks, our local Greenville, SC newspaper cover story gave me hope. There had been a “bust” in Greenville of a trafficking ring. It was an 8-month combined effort of the Greenville County Sheriff’s Department, the FBI and Immigration and Customs. Walt Wilkins, from the U. S. Dist. Attorney’s office, told me today that the girls were given help by many charitable groups, and are now home. Though the problem still exists, God provided a sign of hope, an anchor for the soul.

In an earlier article in the same magazine, John Wimmer said, **“We wait, and hope that our faith is enlarged into the largess of God’s great love.** We hope to be enlarged enough to bear injustices and sorrows and we dare to hope for a glimpse of a more just and merciful world.” Please join us, as a community of prayer, for all involved and action as God leads. God is moving in this.

“From God’s Abundance”

by Peggy Dulaney, Stewardship Chair

Over the past 1½ years, The Anchorage Servant Leaders have spent time prayerfully listening to discern God’s leading for the future of The Anchorage. We know that this ministry fills a need and offers unique opportunities for people to “come away...anchor deep,” to soak in God. We believe that **our work is to provide the setting and that God does the work, meeting people where they are.** Over the almost ten years of ministry, we have been privileged to see lives changed.

As we collectively listened, we discovered God leading us in new paths of ministry and outreach. In a planning session last winter, we identified and prioritized eleven initiatives for the next three years. To cover ongoing ministry and the top 5 new initiatives over 3 years will require \$153,000.

These initiatives include funding for program space, reaching a younger age group, celebrating our 10th Anniversary with meaningful programs, and serving the clergy with quiet retreats. As we offer more programs, space has become an issue. We have already been looking for just the right location to rent program/office space. We believe that once the funding is assured, God will lead us to the place.

We also realized that most participants are baby boomers and older. There is a large group of 30-something folks who are hungry for that deeper experience of God. We have already offered a “pilot” book study aimed at this age group with a very positive result. More needs to be offered for them. The clergy are another group that The Anchorage serves in a special way by offering opportunities for ecumenical gatherings with other clergy as a time of renewal and deepening their walk with God.

Last summer we launched our first ever “friend and fund-raising” effort, which we call **“From God’s Abundance,”** by approaching some long-time friends and donors and inviting them to pledge their financial support over the next

(Cont.’d on page 3.)



The Anchorage

Vision

For all people everywhere to see God more clearly, love God more dearly and follow God more nearly. For when just one person moves toward living out of that graced space, there is a ripple effect which is our best hope for the healing of our world. The Anchorage wants to contribute to that hope.

Mission

The Anchorage provides a setting in which women and men may come away to be with God, as revealed in Jesus the Christ; and to come to love more deeply, through spiritual direction and contemplative retreats, this God who loves us beyond measure.

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.

Servant Leaders

Francina Bardsley
Peggy Dulaney
Mike Flanagan
Donna Meyer
Robert Miles
Cathie Powell, Exec. Dir.
Molly Wilkes, Chair
Camp Wynn

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“Hope”

By Barry Lemons

“I certainly hope so.” You may have spoken or thought those words lately. Did you mean them like the father whose son was in trouble again? Forgetting his self-inflicted troubles from his own past (and present), his wife reminds him that tomorrow is coming. Another sunrise will bring new possibilities. But the father, in losing touch with his own past (and present), cannot remember God’s graceful/forgiving presence in his life. So, when his wife’s encouraging words come they are met with a sigh. It’s as if he is saying, “I certainly hope so, but don’t count on it.”

Perhaps the phrase, “I certainly hope so,” can mean something far greater than a note of sarcasm. The same words in our context could mean that our discouraged father does remember his own less than perfect past (and present). It is easier to be hopeful about our loved ones when we acknowledge that we have also made some questionable choices. When we come clean with our idealized lives, we see the truth of these words: *“Happy are those whose hearts do not condemn them, and who have not given up hope.”* (Ecclesiasticus 14:2) When we come clean with God and each other that none of us is perfect, then we can begin to rely on the grace of God. Then we can testify about a **Father who waits patiently** for his children to return to him and to sanity, because we’re nuts if we think we’re perfect.

That is the basis of hope, the essence: Waiting Patience. “For you alone, O God, my soul waits in silence, for my hope is in you.” (Ps 62:5)

The sooner we learn that we cannot control the way things turn out, the sooner we will become satisfied with something we can do – with something we are called by God to do. We are called not to control, but to influence. To hope does not mean inaction. Inaction is just as tragic as over-control. Control leads to rebellion on the side of the one we try to control. Control leads the one trying to control to rage. On the other hand, inaction leads those we are concerned about with the idea that we are apathetic. And inaction can lead the inactive one to conclude that life has no meaning outside of self.

Hope is the alternative between over-control and inaction. Hope simply recognizes that God rather than we is in charge. **So hopeful people wait. But it is not idle waiting. It is waiting in prayer.** They wait while they pray and they pray while they wait.

Augustine said, “Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not.”

Keep hope alive by keeping prayer alive. While praying, try to influence. Influence is not manipulation, but acts of love undertaken for the good of another. And then leave it all in God’s hands.

“That’s why I think there’s no comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times.” (Rom 8:18, *The Message*) Do you think and feel the same way?

I certainly hope so!

(Thanks to Barry Lemons for this article and for his participation with The Anchorage. He serves as the Pastor for Fairfield United Methodist Church in High Point, NC.)

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three years. As this goes to press, we have \$87,000 pledged. We invite you to prayerfully consider if God might be inviting you to become a part of these exciting new endeavors. If you give as God leads, it will be just the right amount. Please be sure to indicate the amount for 3 years.

(Thanks to Peggy Dulaney for this article and for her involvement with The Anchorage. She has served twice as Director, once as Chair. She is a Nurse Consultant/Educator and is active at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Powdersville, SC. Notice the events she’s leading, to the right.)



Upcoming Events

February – June 2008

Feb. 21 to Mar. 20, 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9 – 11, Lenten Contemplative Book Study of *Having a Mary Spirit: Allowing God to Change Us from the Inside Out* led by Peggy Dulaney

Mar. 3, Mon., 9:30 – 3:30, “Spring Clergy Day: The Biblical and Contemporary Character(s) of Encountering God” led by Jeff Rogers

Mar. 25 to May 13, 2nd & 4th Tues., 6:30 – 8pm, Spring Contemplative Book Study of *The Sacred Way*, led by The Anchorage Community

Apr. 4 & 5, Fri., 5pm – Sat., 3pm, “Windows into the Soul II” retreat led by Peggy Dulaney, in cabins at Solitude Pointe, Cleveland, SC **Space for 12**

Apr. 18, Fri., 9:30 – 3:30 “Spring Quiet Day: Give Your Agenda to God,” led by Francina Bardsley

May 2, Fri., 9:30 – 3:30 “A Sailing Retreat: The Heaven’s Are Declaring” led by Norma Lefler, on Lake Norman, NC (near Charlotte) **Space for 6**

June 1 – 5. Sun. – Thurs., “4-Day Directed Retreat for Clergy” led by Cathie Powell, at Diakonia Spiritual Center, Salem, SC **Space for 4**
Will open up to non-clergy if not filled as time gets closer

June 12, Thursday, 9:30 – 3:30, “Summer Clergy Day: Fear and Worry” led by Mike Flanagan.

All events are at The Anchorage unless otherwise noted.

To reserve your space, send \$10 payable to The Anchorage. Thanks!

Coming soon! Info about our 10th Anniversary events in May and August, 2008.



The Anchorage
 A Contemplative Ministry
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“We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered.”
 Hebrews 6:19, 20

“Hope Or ‘So What?’”

by Mary Frances Thompson

From time to time, I have bouts of depression. During one such bout, I found myself saying, “I know God is with me. I know God loves me. So what? How do those facts help me pay my bills and take care of day today responsibilities?” Fortunately, I was wise enough to present my questions to God. Slowly God drew me out of my depression and showed me that my questions were not wrong; they were asked with the wrong attitude and focus. I wanted to know “what’s in this relationship for me right now to help me with problems that I want to go away?” God wanted me to see a much bigger picture. Yes, God is concerned about my day-to-day needs and showed me that concern by overwhelmingly reminding me the many ways I have received the provisions I need. God also reminded me that the things most of the world considers important and signs of success are really unimportant. God showed me that my questions could be, “So what does my relationship with God mean to those I encounter, to how I live my life, to God and to God’s kingdom?” God reminded me of my source of hope and well-being - a relationship with God that transcends earthly limitations and problems, that gives me a focus and a sense of purpose.

God showed me that my problems were not what mattered. I was WHO mattered. God showed me that faith in God’s Love, God’s incomprehensible, unconditional passion for my ultimate good and well-being, gives me hope regardless of what this world tries to put in my way. It gives me hope that the hardships that may come my way will draw me closer to God, will make me stronger, and will help me to better incarnate God’s presence in the world.

(Thanks to Mary Frances Thompson for this article and for her involvement with The Anchorage. She lives in Greenwood where she teaches second and third graders in Sunday School at First Baptist. She is in a discernment process regarding God’s plan for her vocation.)



Financial Status as of January 31, 2008 (Fiscal Year is July 07 - June 08)

Gifts hoped for	\$ 46,500
Received <i>FGA</i>	\$ 29,932
Other gifts received	\$ 10,033
Balance needed	\$6,535
Total income budgeted	\$ 68,950
Total received	\$ 55,536
Balance needed	\$13,414

Now we are able to begin funding our new initiatives! We increased our budget to cover them, and to show our incredible God-inspired donation income!

THANK YOU, DONORS AND PARTICIPANTS!

We invite you to prayerfully consider, is God nudging you to partner with us, to fulfill our exciting new vision? A 3-year pledge of any amount does it!

We are glad to send you our mailings at no cost to you. If you no longer wish to receive our mailings, please let us know.

THANKS!