



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry

Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2009



Pier 60, Clearwater Beach, FL, Epiphany, 2006

Finding the water that will quench the thirst

reverence, awe, flowing inner life,
silence, calm, gentleness



The Illuminative Way

“Why Do We Resist Moving On to the Illuminative Way?”

By Cathie Powell

Our theme for this year is an overview of the Classic Three Ways. In our previous issue, we talked briefly about the Purgative Way, the beginning of the journey deeper into God's love. This Purgative Way is a time of shedding, and often comes after an awakening to God's love. It is a response to let go of whatever might get in the way of whatever God is doing. It is often painful and always difficult as we learn to let go some more in this culture that says grab all you can get.

For those who are intentional about a more holistic way of relieving the pain, rather than just the band-aid approach (at which our culture excels with excessive materialism, instant gratification for all desires, expecting things to satisfy), the Purgative Way opens the soul to the next way, called the Illuminative Way. Benedict Groeschel goes into much detail about the darkness in the Purgative Way, describing the struggle and the temptation to turn back. However, those who persevere make it to the second stage.

According to Groeschel, there are two main reasons to stop and not enter the Illuminative Way. One is the fear of a life without self-seeking and the other is a fear of finding fulfillment and real happiness. The old is more familiar even if it is a miserable way to live. The price of change is too high.

Dr. John G. Finch, an ordained Christian psychologist, who created and led an Intensive Therapy model based on the Three Ways, wrote this about the Illuminative Way.

Illumination is not to be confused with rational or cognitive knowledge. It is not the product of a major premise and the minor premise and the resultant logical conclusion. When we are illuminated, it is as though a light goes on inside us. It may excite an exclamation like, 'Oh! I see!' or 'Wow!' It may even provoke an over-awed silence. Whatever words we may use to describe this awareness or illumination, its characteristic difference is that it is visceral! It creates a feeling response. The reality of this experience of illumination is as different from mere head knowledge as reading a recipe is from eating the food.

The Illuminative Way is an opportunity to learn, to grow, and to serve. The spiritual life in this stage flows as a response to the love of God, rather than carrying the chore of duty. Groeschel adds these words:

The prayer life of those in the Illuminative Way is much changed. It flows like a God-given spring from the earth rather than through the valves and pumps of a human-made fountain, says St. Teresa of Avila. The Christian in the Illuminative Way lives on Scripture and is fed on the writings of the saints. Reverence and awe are growing in his inner life and the soul is now seen not so much as a shadow being but as the inner place where the Trinity abides in glory. As the Illuminative Way proceeds, a silence and calm envelop the individual. This is reflected mostly in prayer – 'the prayer of quiet' wherein listening brings more answers than speaking.

Contemplative Outreach, a centering prayer organization founded by Fr. Thomas Keating shortly after Vatican II, has popularized contemplative prayer, or quiet prayer. A great hunger for quiet prayer was demonstrated by the number of people, Christian and non-Christian, who were turning to Zen Buddhism and other Eastern religions. He reclaimed quiet prayer as part of our own Christian tradition, and now there are Centering Prayer groups all around the world, revealing an interest in the illuminative way.

The Illuminative Way is the beginning of a sense of finding the water that will quench the thirst, something (or some One) that will scratch the itch. There is a gentleness about the person, and continued openness to God. So what say you? Is it worth the risk of change? Do you sense God's invitation to you – to come to the quiet?

“The spiritual life in this stage flows as a response to the love of God, rather than carrying the chore of duty.”



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, where we know we are loved, 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 contemplative retreats, book studies, and spiritual direction, 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

Sharon Decker
Margaret Hardy
David Leaphart
Susan Leaphart
Donna Meyer
Robert Miles, Chair
Henry Mitchell
Carroll Page

Cathie Powell, Executive Director
Margaret Vincent, Office Manager
Peggy Dulaney, Stewardship Chair
Camp Wynn, Treasurer

The Anchorage

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“Our Way to God, or God’s Way to Us?”

By Ashlyn Mengel

Walking on the beach just before sunrise, my gaze is focused on the horizon, expectantly waiting for the brilliance of the sun. Instead, I am transfixed by the luminescence of the low-lying clouds, their edges/borders brilliantly back-lit from a light source still beyond my sight. Even though I can’t see the sun, its presence is known by the way it spectacularly illuminates those clouds. This is, I ponder, yet another way God is illustrating faith to me.

As the sun soon appears in full glory, the calm sea with gentle waves rippling reflects a pathway of light across the top of the water- a path that leads directly to me in my place, standing on the sand. “Come to me, all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Walk over the uncertainty, doubt, and fear- in utter calm, on this pathway illuminated by the sun. Christ is inviting me to come to Him. Or He is showing me He has come, and will continue to come to me - to reach me, to illuminate me so that I may reflect God’s light to others. “Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you – for they shall ever walk in the light of your presence.” (Psalm 89:15) How do we learn to acclaim You, God? We seek the “one thing” needed: to dwell in the house of the Lord, to behold the beauty of God...

We will soon hear once again the song of the expectant Mary, “My soul magnifies the Lord...” When we magnify something, we intentionally focus on it using a special lens designed to allow us to see much more than we could have otherwise. We dwell on the object of our attention, beholding intricate details, layers, connections that we didn’t realize were there. Our response is one of awe as we learn to see more of life by magnifying God through the lens of faith, illuminated by God’s love.

(Thanks to Ashlyn for this article and for her participation with The Anchorage over the years. She serves on the Music Ministry staff of Christ Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC where she plays organ and piano. She is a 15-month ovarian cancer survivor, and says that God is showing her in a powerful way about living out her faith. She and her husband Chris live in Charlotte with their daughters, Ainsley and Kaitlyn. Note that Ashlyn is co-leading a retreat at Snails Pace in February, “Tending the Soul: A Retreat for Artists and Mystics.”)

“YOU ARE THERE” 125 Broadus

by Robert Miles

You Are There! You are there, at a place most of you have never yet been ... You are there at the new space for The Anchorage at 125 Broadus in downtown Greenville, SC!

You are there, because of your strong support of this ministry through prayer and participation. You are there, because of your faithful giving through our “From God’s Abundance” capital campaign. You are there, because you have been part of The Anchorage and are now part of this new thing God is doing in and through this ministry.

You were there when the lease was signed in September. You were there when we began moving in on October 2. You will be there when we gather to bless the space and the ministry during an open house on November 17 (and we hope some of you will be there in person!).

Most importantly, you will be there whenever God is working there! You will be there when our spiritual directors attend the work of God’s Holy Spirit. You will be there when our clergy quiet days gather. You will be there when those who work downtown gather at lunch to explore the spiritual issues surrounding money in our culture. You will be there when folks we do not yet know gather in this place to settle into God’s great heart. And you will be there each time your Servant Leaders gather to listen for God’s will and God’s way for The Anchorage.

(Cont.’d on p. 4)



Upcoming Events

Clergy Quiet Day Series

1st Fridays, 9:30 – 3:30

Fri., Nov. 20 9:30 – 3:30

“Listening with the Ears of Our Hearts: A Fall Quiet Day,” led by Cathie Powell

Thurs., Dec. 3 6:30 – 9 pm

“Making Room in the Inn: An Advent Retreat,” Isaiah 61:1 & 2, led by Cathie Powell

Mon., Dec. 21 6:30 – 9 pm

“The Long, Dark Nights of Christmas” Honoring our grieving, led by Cathie Powell

Tues., Jan. 12 6:30 – 9 pm

“Suscipe: Spiritual Exercises Reunion,” led by Caroline Smith, Donna Meyer and Cathie Powell

Sat., Jan. 16 9 – 12

“Saturday Series” A variety of contemplative practices, led by Cathie Powell

Fri., Jan. 22 – Sun., Jan. 24

“The Contemplative Activist: Annual Beach Retreat” Pawley’s Island, SC, led by Sr. Caroline Smith

Sun., Jan. 24- Tues., Jan. 26

– “Praying the Hours” at the Beach, led by Cathie Powell

Fri., Feb. 26 – Sun., Feb. 28

“Tending the Soul: A Retreat for Artists and Mystics,” Snails Pace, led by Cathie Powell and Ashlyn Mengel

Thurs., Mar. 4 – 30 12 – 1:30

“Our Relationship with Money: A Lenten Study at Lunch,” led by Robert Miles

Fri., Apr. 16 9:30 – 3:30

“Listening with the Ears of Our Hearts: A Spring Quiet Day,” led by Mike Flanagan

Thurs., May 20 6:30 – 8:30

“Spring Caregivers Dinner: Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” 1st UMC, Easley, led by Peggy Dulaney

Fri., May 21 – Sat., May 22

“Deeper into the Silence of God,” The Oratory, led by Martin Laird

Unless otherwise noted all events are held at **The Anchorage**.

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



The Anchorage

A Contemplative Ministry

P.O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604

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U.S. Postage
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*“And my God will fully satisfy
every need of yours according
to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19*

(cont.'d from p. 3)

Please know that your dollars given in faith are making a real difference here. Please plan to come sometime soon and be with us in this new space. Please join with us in watching and rejoicing at how God shapes us and The Anchorage through 125 Broadus.

Most of all, we invite you to join with us in becoming the answer to our prayer “that God Who began this good work will bring it to completion in Christ Jesus!”

(Thanks to Robert, who is currently the Chair of our Servant Leaders (Board of Directors), for this article and for his participation with The Anchorage over the years. He has served St. Michael Lutheran Church as Pastor since 1988. He and his wife Debbie have 2 grown children

**You are all
invited to join
us for our Open
House and Blessing,
Tuesday, Nov. 17,
from 5 – 8 pm.
From 7 – 7:30
we will ask God's
blessing and leading
for the future of this
new space.**



Financial Status as of October 31, 2009 (Fiscal Year is July 09 - June 10)

Total gifts hoped for	\$42,440
Total received	<u>\$13,779</u>
Amount needed	\$28,661
Total income hoped for	\$75,058
Total received	<u>\$22,014</u>
Amount needed	\$53,044

**Praising God for you, our
awesome donors and participants!**

*From God's Abundance
(2008-2011)*

3-year Goal	\$157,700
Pledged:	<u>\$134,420</u>
Remaining:	\$ 19,280

IN-KIND NEEDS

for office/gathering space: white full-size refrigerator, small tables, table lamps, floor cushions, small chairs, kneeling bench, small desk with chair, outdoor benches for courtyard, stackable chairs, plants, floor mats (front entry).

An option for you: If 100 of you make a 2-year pledge of \$100/year we will make our goal. Or, if 5 of you make a 2-year pledge of \$2K/year. Any amount in-between!

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.