



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry
P.O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604

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*"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15: 4-5*

(Cont.d from page 3)

Or that warm, comfy pair of pajamas that remind you that just being, being still, experiencing daily the stillness of contemplative living, is just exactly what you need to wear each day.

Clothes sometimes define who we are. I pray that the spiritual clothes we wear will even better define us in this new season of the year.

(Thanks to Sharon Decker for this article and for her participation with The Anchorage over the years. Sharon lives in the foothills of western North Carolina and is a student at Gardner Webb's Divinity School. Note that Sharon is to lead our retreat "The Greatest Silence You Will Ever Hear" at Montreat, NC. It will be a treat! There is still room.)



"Solstice"

by Henry Mitchell

The road to my Love's house is strewn with stones.
The path down by Her garden, lost in leaves.
Alone upon my winter way to warm
At my Love's heart and hearth, I've trod them both:
The sundered stones, in brokenness still hard,
Each unforgiving of misguided steps,
And untreed leaves, all yielding up their stuff
To green on branches of an unborn year.

(Thanks to Henry Mitchell for this poem and for his participation with The Anchorage over the years. He is an artist, a sculptor, a constructionist.)

Financial Status as of October 31, 2010 (Fiscal Year is July 10 – June 11)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 54,680
Total received	\$ 8,637
Amount needed	\$46,043

Total income budgeted	\$ 89,700
Total received	\$ 16,348
Amount needed	\$73,352

Praising God for you, our awesome donors and participants!

From God's Abundance
(2008-2011)

3-year Goal	\$157,700
Pledged:	\$143,420
Remaining:	\$ 10,280

Please join our From God's Abundance donors by pledging. The remaining pledge amount (\$10K) needs to be completed by May, 2011. THANKS!

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Online donation and registration available soon on our website.

www.theanchorage.org



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry

Come away...



*anchor
deep*

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2010



"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Luke 22:42

SURRENDER

“Surrender is Not a Popular Word”

By Cathie Powell

Continuing with our “S” words as our theme this year, having begun with “Suffering” we now move to “Surrender.” Surrender seems to naturally follow suffering at times. When we come to the end of ourselves in difficult situations, surrender becomes our only option. We fall on our knees before the only One who might be able to help.

But surrender does not come easy, even in the most difficult times. We keep thinking we can do it! It is the American way! And we have become a country full of people walking around with broken bootstraps.

Let’s try to unpack that word surrender because our first image is often of waving a white flag, resigning ourselves to defeat. Maybe some other words would help here, though I’m not giving up surrender; it is too good.

In 1994 during my first residency of the Spiritual Guidance Program with the Shalem Institute, we were to select little cut out words from a large table full of words to create a page that spoke of our faith journey. I was near two women I admired a lot, a Catholic sister and an Episcopal priest, both with a great sense of humor and depth of spirit. At the same time both of them reached for the word “yield” – and then both pulled their hands back to let the other one have it. They both yielded - they both illustrated the word they were going for and then they laughed. Later on I thought about the word ‘yield’ as it was not a term I valued yet.

Is yield a better word for you? It brings up the question: What is it to which we are yielding? What is it to which we are surrendering? That makes all the difference.

Now there are many situations when surrendering or yielding would be wrong. For instance, a battered woman or child, staying around for more abuse, would not be what God would want. Many other unfair situations come to mind that need our compassion for those who have no voice, and require us to step forward and never surrender in the fight against poverty and our cruelty to each other.

So where is this word important for our faith journey? Our best example is on the cover, as Jesus knelt in tears at Gethsemane, telling God what he wanted, then humbly adding that he was willing to do what God wanted instead of what he wanted.

“are we willing or willful?”

That may be a better word: willing. Are we willing or willful? I confess that I have a lot of both in me – and pray that God will keep helping me see my willfulness so that I can unclasp my tightly held fist – open my hand to let God take me wherever God wants. I think our tight grasp on things, on life, comes from our survival instinct that is so essential in our childhood. But as we mature, probably by midlife, we can begin to choose to loosen our grip, to open our hands and trust that God might know better what is best for us. This kind of opening of ourselves, this willingness, this surrender, grows as the trust grows. In truth, God may be the ONLY One we can truly trust, the only One who deserves our surrender.

Here’s the gist of an article that blew me away entitled, “Why I’m Not a Committed Christian (And Why That’s a Good Thing)” by Bob Butler, after hearing what Josef Tson said. The key point of the article is the use of the word “commitment” that is so full of my control; it is what I choose to do. It is an inadequate replacement of an older Christian teaching: Surrender. Surrender is different, and speaks to our root issue of control. My commitments seek to gain the blessing of God without giving up control. Surrender begins by saying God has already won and I am not even a junior partner. God is my creator and Lord. Surrender is distasteful because it exposes the core issue of our sin: pride. Gone to meddling here!

So whatever word you prefer it is a concept we cannot ignore; it is central to our relationship with our Lord. Can we surrender? Can we trust this One who knows us and loves us? God may be the ONLY One we can trust. So even if you don’t think you can trust anyone else, try trusting that God will be with you come what may, giving you exactly your deepest needs at each moment, knowing you and loving you, fully in each moment.

Good book: Abandonment to Divine Providence by Jean-Pierre de Caussade



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
John Hever
Janice Jennings
Henry Mitchell
Carroll Page
Priscilla Pearce

Cathie Powell, Executive Director
Margaret Vincent, Office Manager

Peggy Dulaney, Stewardship Chair
Susan Leaphart, Volunteer Coord.
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“Cartoon Clothes”

By Sharon Decker

On Tuesday of this past week, I wore my favorite clothes. It was that first, cool, sunny day of fall and I was feeling great. So I wore my linen shirt, just off white enough to still be passable after Labor Day and my black linen pants, the ones with the elastic waist and straight legs. They fit just right without fitting too much, if you get the idea. They are made by a company called Flax and I love wearing these clothes on days that I want to feel free yet nice. Tuesday was just that kind of day.

When I walked into my three o’clock class, just in time to take the first test of the semester, my friend Heather said, “I love what you are wearing. You look great.” And suddenly I didn’t care about the test. I just had to tell her about how much I loved these clothes, clothes I never could have worn in my corporate life and clothes that just make me feel great. “Thanks, I said, I love these clothes too.”

She smiled and said, “Are those your cartoon clothes?” I am then thinking, do they look that funny?! Asking for an explanation, she said, “You know, the clothes you would wear if you were a cartoon character. You know, they wear the same thing all the time. They don’t change clothes.”

Looking a little quizzed, she said, “You know. What did Charlie Brown wear? A zig zag shirt, of course. What did Lucy wear? A simple little dress I remembered.

“I pray I never stop surrendering to love.”

What does Marge Simpson wear? Well, I didn’t know the answer to that question. But you get the idea. What are your cartoon clothes.....literally and spiritually?

I ask the kids around me the same question. Everyone could name their favorite clothes.....a special t-shirt.....a special pair of jeans.....What would be your cartoon clothes?

If you wore the same thing everyday, what would it be?

And what would you wear spiritually, everyday, if you were conscious of it? What would you not want to be without?

My friend Sherry replied, “I would want to live by the mantra I learned as a teacher, everyone deserves our respect.” What about you? What would you want to never be caught without, every single day?

My colleague Amy said, “laughter”. I want to always have laughter in my day. I thought of how I want people that I love and can love in my life everyday.

I want a spirit of joy in my life everyday. Brett said it was prayer that he wanted to wear everyday.

I want to wear clothes of love, daily...with all it’s pain, joy, laughter, wins and losses. I pray I never stop surrendering to love.

However, I am reminded that I choose to wear my cartoon clothes, rarely. They somehow don’t seem appropriate on some days, they make me look fat or I think they aren’t dressed up enough or they are a little too middle aged hippie somehow.

So, I wear the clothes that are less comfortable, more fitted or appropriate perhaps. And I do the same thing spiritually. I get caught up in my own stuff. Get angry or disappointed or preoccupied or just too busy. Sometimes I am too worried and sometimes I am just too lazy and I don’t wear love, don’t fall in love, don’t share love, don’t show love....the cartoon, everyday, always wear them, clothes I want to wear.

It is a change of season. Fall is here and a seasonal change is a perfect time to make change, personally and spiritually. I want to suggest that we all wear our cartoon clothes a little more often. Be comfortable, be relaxed, be yourself. And that everyday, we choose to put on the spiritual clothes that we most desire to wear. What will it be for you?

A pair of ruby red slippers that carry you to love someone more?

A warm wool sweater that has been worn, nubby through the years, so that you might share the warmth of your home, your hospitality with that friend that needs to feel your love and compassion?

Or is it a flannel shirt of brown and green and shades of grey that reminds you that working for the cause of your neighbor or offering a hand to that older person in your life that needs a something done just for them, is just exactly what you need to do, often and in love.

(Cont.d on page 4)



Upcoming Events

Clergy Quiet Day Series
1st Fridays, 9:30 – 3:30

Fri., Nov. 12 9:30 – 3:30
Fall Quiet Day: “Time for Listening” Garden Room at Furman University. Led by Margaret Hardy

Thurs., Dec. 2 6:30 – 9:00
“Making Room in the Inn: An Advent Retreat” The Anchorage, Downtown Greenville, led by Peggy Dulaney

2011

Tues., Jan. 11 6:30 – 9:00pm
“Suscipe: Spiritual Exercises Reunion” Downtown. Led by Donna Meyer/Cathie Powell

Fri – Sun., Jan. 21 – 23
“Contemplation in a Busy Life: Beach Retreat” (Thomas Merton) Springmaid Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC, led by Sr. Caroline Smith

Sun. – Tues., Jan. 23 – 25
“Praying the Hours” at the beach, led by Cathie Powell

Fri. – Sun., Feb. 18 – 20
“Tending the Soul: Annual Artists and Mystics Retreat” at Snails Pace, Saluda, NC, led by Ashlyn Mengel/Cathie Powell

Thursdays, March 10 – April 7, 6:30 – 8:30pm, “Lenten Book Study: The World is My Cloister: Living from the Hermit Within” by John Michael Talbot. Led by Cathie Powell

Fri. – Sun., March 25 – 27
“The Greatest Silence You Will Ever Hear: Weekend Retreat”, Montreat, NC, led by Sharon Decker

Fri., April 8 9:30 – 3:30
“Spring Quiet Day: Being Present to Presence”, led by Cathie Powell

Thurs., May 19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
“Spring Caregivers’ Dinner: Seeing God’s Love and Care” 1st Baptist, Greenville, led by Peggy Dulaney

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