



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

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*"I've said these things to you so that
my joy may be in you, and so that
your joy may be full." Jesus
(John 15:11)*

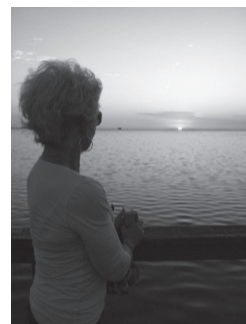
"Difficult..."

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4. We will continue to discern together how best to communicate with The Anchorage family, using the website, email, as well as USPS.

5. We will cut costs everywhere we can, hoping to use your donations wisely, with the conviction that this ministry is of value to God and God's people. Thank you for praying with us and for sharing your resources as God leads you.

In closing, let me say a word about this article title. When times are difficult, we tend to depend more on God than on ourselves; God is always faithful, Emmanuel, God with us, therefore JOY fills the air. Deep inner joy seems to come when it is no longer about us. It comes when we know God's love again for the first time and love God in return just for being God. Our decision will not be made by finances alone, but by God's leading.



"Aynn Gehron, faithful retreatant and supporter of The Anchorage, enjoying the earth turn during our retreat with The Anchorage at Crystal Beach, FL, May, 2012. That day we arose early at St. Augustine to watch the earth-turn (sunrise) in silence over the Atlantic with hopes of seeing the rest of the earth turn (sunset) in silence over the Gulf of Mexico. A glorious day! The sunset fits with the theme, "Thanks for the past."

Financial Status

Because we are in-between a mission and ministry plan with a salary, and one without, comparing actual to budget doesn't make sense. We can report that income is staying about \$500 ahead of expenses. We will provide a full financial status update in our March "Depth Soundings." Thanks for your understanding. And another thanks to those of you who continue to give so generously! We need you now more than ever!

Receiving Depth Soundings

As you might imagine the printing/ mailing of this newsletter to our 2500 person mailing list is our greatest expense. We are glad to send it IF those who are receiving it want it.

Please fill out and return the enclosed card with your preference: how do you want to receive "Depth Soundings" by USPS or by email? (Thank you to the 200 who already opt for email. You received a trial run this week to see if your email is still correct. If you think you are getting this by email and did not receive "Prayer Matters" last week, please send us your correct email.)

The only downside to sending this by email is that you have no small envelope! **HOWEVER Online donation/registration is available all the time!**

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry
Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2012

"For all that has been..."

Thanks!

Now Here

For all that shall be...

Yes!"

Dag Hammarskjöld



*anchor
deep*

“The Wetness of Water”

By Catherine Powell

The theme for the year of “Depth Soundings” (July, November and March), is the Dag Hammarskjöld quote on the front. The insert of the “now here” comes from a fun use of words that has been around a while: without the open space in the middle, the “now here” becomes “nowhere.” This concept relates to Jo Ann’s article on page 3.

My journey with cancer over the last 2 years has brought me the gift of being forced into more open space. In December, 2010, because of my need for more ‘sitting with God’, I knew I had to let go of the leadership of The Anchorage. I still honor that need for more quiet and here’s how.

A year ago March, during my prayer, I sensed an ‘invitation to the desert’ from God. Without a clue what it meant, I knew that if God was inviting, I would go. By June, I realized I was already in the desert, with a significant amount of loss over the last year. I also knew that one doesn’t go to the desert for the oasis. One goes for the starkness, the quiet, the absence of distractions. About that same time, feeling led by God, I asked a monk at Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist Monastery about four hours away, to be my spiritual director. I wasn’t sure how it would work, but I asked, wanting to be faithful to God’s leading.

A few months later, Bill Dietrich, former Executive Director of Shalem, led a retreat for The Anchorage called “Living in the Light” using the life and writings of John Woolman, an 18th century Quaker. I was most thirsty in my desert place and when he read these words, “the wetness of water” I didn’t hear anything else after that. God had given me a phrase that drew me like a magnet. That was all I wanted. Recall a time in your life when you were very thirsty, and ask yourself, “What it is about water that makes you crave it?” It isn’t the appearance, the container or even the taste. It is the wetness! God WAS the very wetness of water, wetness for a thirsty desert pilgrim.

With God’s continued nudging, I asked the monk again, and we began meeting in October. In November, reading *The Cistercian Way* by Andre Louf, I read that one doesn’t go into the desert without an invitation and one does not go without a guide. There I was, with both an invitation and a guide, and a thirst for God that would not quit.

Now, a year later, as I reflect back on my time in the desert, I am grateful beyond words. As the lyrics to a song go, “If it weren’t for the storm, I never would have known you as I do now.” A friend asked me, “Isn’t it time to leave the desert, cross over into the promised land?” Only then did it I recall the other desert story, when the Israelites wandered for over forty years in the wilderness. That is not my desert. My desert place, my new home, is for ordinary people who are easily distracted by the busy world, like the desert mothers and fathers of the early 4th century.

The desert is another way to say, “Come away, anchor deep.” The meaning is the same, without water. (yes, I know camels are called the ships of the desert!) So as God leads listen for your invitation. Where is God calling you? You can trust God, just what you desire most will be provided, and you will be thankful.

“Difficult Times Are upon Us; Joy Must Fill the Air”

The above quote shared by Anne Bosch at a September retreat, says well where The Anchorage is now. This phrase became a hopeful cry for the six of us charged with the task of listening for God’s leading now.

We begin with this past August. After two months of serving as Executive Director, Sue Perrin astutely saw that there were not enough funds to pay an Executive Director as well as other expenses so she turned in her notice. Margaret Vincent, Office Manager since January 2009, followed her lead wanting to ease the burden. Sue, with kindness and sadness, suggested The Anchorage close September 30.

The Servant Leaders were stunned. At the September meeting they asked if a small group might listen together for God’s leading. It was agreed, to take a year, while letting The Anchorage lie fallow. I, Catherine, was grateful to be included in the listening and agreed to step back in as Executive Director in a limited role, without pay, to keep the 501c3 alive.

From the founding of The Anchorage in May, 1998, I was clear that when it was time to let The Anchorage die, if God led us there, I would let it die. I would grieve, but not for long. What we needed was clarity that it was indeed God’s leading to close. Servant Leaders were given the option to continue their service or not since now the dynamics were different. We would be meeting monthly this fall, and I would be back.

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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

Anne Bosch
Peggy Dulaney
John Hever, Chair
Lance Renault
Molly Wilkes

Other Support

Camp Wynn, Treasurer

Staff

Catherine Powell, Founder,
Executive Director

The Anchorage

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“Ponderings”

Jo Ann Hoffman

The past. The future. Isn’t it odd that the only way we can access either one of these states is from the perspective of the present? Only *now*! To complicate matters further, we gradually realize that neither the past nor the future really exists except in memory or imagination. We never truly inhabit a past or a future. It is always and only the eternal *now* of our God, as Paul the Apostle tells us, “in whom we live and breathe and have our being.”

Yet here we stand, frail humans that we are, who must rely on the powers of reflection and anticipation to help order and explain our lives. I struggle mightily in prayer to become truly present, truly mindful, for even a moment. It’s so difficult! In our humanness, we seem compelled to revisit the past and project ourselves into the future. If only it were easier to understand that the present moment contains all that was and all that will be.

So, here we stand with Dag Hammarskjöld, smack on the semicolon between looking back and looking ahead. And that’s not a bad place to be in this month of Thanksgiving, the time to be grateful for the feast of all that has been. From the same vantage point, we look forward to Christmas and the birth of all that is possible. And we pray for the grace to be open, to say *yes* to what will come.

We often find ourselves in this very same “space between” at the end of a year, a month or even a day. It can apply to a milestone, a century, a lifetime, a transition. In fact, it is where *we* stand right now, as sisters and brothers somehow united by The Anchorage, as the organization itself faces a crossroad. Like most of us, I am filled with gratitude for graces brought to my life through The Anchorage. Her future is uncertain. But as Catherine so often says from her particular space between, whatever the dilemma: “Let’s wait and see where God leads.” Will we say *yes*?

Is that perhaps what the present is? The place where we stand and wait for the circle of God’s time to close around us? Where we can be eternally grateful for what *was* – whether pain or grace -- and eternally receptive to what *will be* – whether joyful or fearful? Simply because all of it *is*, and where we stand can only be *now*.

I’m not sure my mind will ever wrap around these concepts. Or whether the vocabulary even exists to express them. I only know through the *yes* of faith that God and we are together in this eternal Now that includes both past and future. So . . . *yes, God, yes!*

(Thanks to Jo Ann Hoffman for this article, and for her long involvement with The Anchorage as a participant and generous donor. She has authored two books and has numerous other publication credits, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. She and her husband, Bill, live in Cary, North Carolina.)

“Difficult...”

(continued from page 2.)

Four agreed to continue and Anne Bosch agreed to join us for these few months. We have met twice and will meet again in January to evaluate year-end giving.

Our discernment so far has been clear:

1. The Anchorage will remain alive, but lying fallow this year, cancelling all events except those with participants signed up by September which are Mepkin Directed Retreats, Beach Retreat and ongoing monthly spiritual direction. We apologize to those of you who hoped to be part of our Quiet Days, the Advent Retreat, and the Creative Spirits Retreat and ask for your understanding as we regroup.

2. Catherine will stay on as Executive Director with no salary. As long as the Directors are meeting from time to time, and the ministry is offering spiritual direction and contemplative retreats, we are honoring our tax-exempt status, and can retain the 501c3.

3. “Depth Soundings,” this (hopefully) encouraging and inspirational newsletter of The Anchorage, will continue to go out to our mailing list because we see it as a large part of the ministry, communicating God’s love and care for us as we attempt to live the contemplative life, as well as to cope with these uncertain economic times.

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Upcoming Events

2013

Jan. 25-27 Beach Retreat XV “Pray Always” at

Springmaid Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC with ample time to walk on the beach, to be quiet, to be with God. Single rooms/bath. Food by Margaret Hardy. Led by Sr. Caroline Smith, PhD

Feb. 8-11 Directed Retreat at Mepkin Abbey, Moncks

Corner, SC In silence, using the Ignatian method, meeting daily with the director, joining the monks for prayer. Single rooms/may share bath. Led by Catherine Powell

The same description applies to all 4 directed retreats:

Mar. 18-22 Directed Retreat

May 3-5, 15th Anniversary Celebration Mark your calendars everyone! (Details TBA)

Oct. 7-11 Directed Retreat

2014

Jan. 24-26 Beach Retreat XVI

April 7-11 Directed Retreat

Advisors:

Elizabeth Canham, Episcopalian
Black Mountain, NC

Hardy Clemons
San Antonio, TX

William Dietrich, Quaker
Bethesda, MD

W. Travis Ellison, Presbyterian
Greenville, SC

Kathryn M. Fitzgerald, Catholic
Wernersville, PA

E. Glenn Hinson, Baptist
Louisville, KY

Merwyn S. Johnson, Pres.,
Charlotte, NC

Carl McKenzie, Lutheran
Hendersonville, NC

Kent Satterfield, Episcopalian
Charlotte, NC