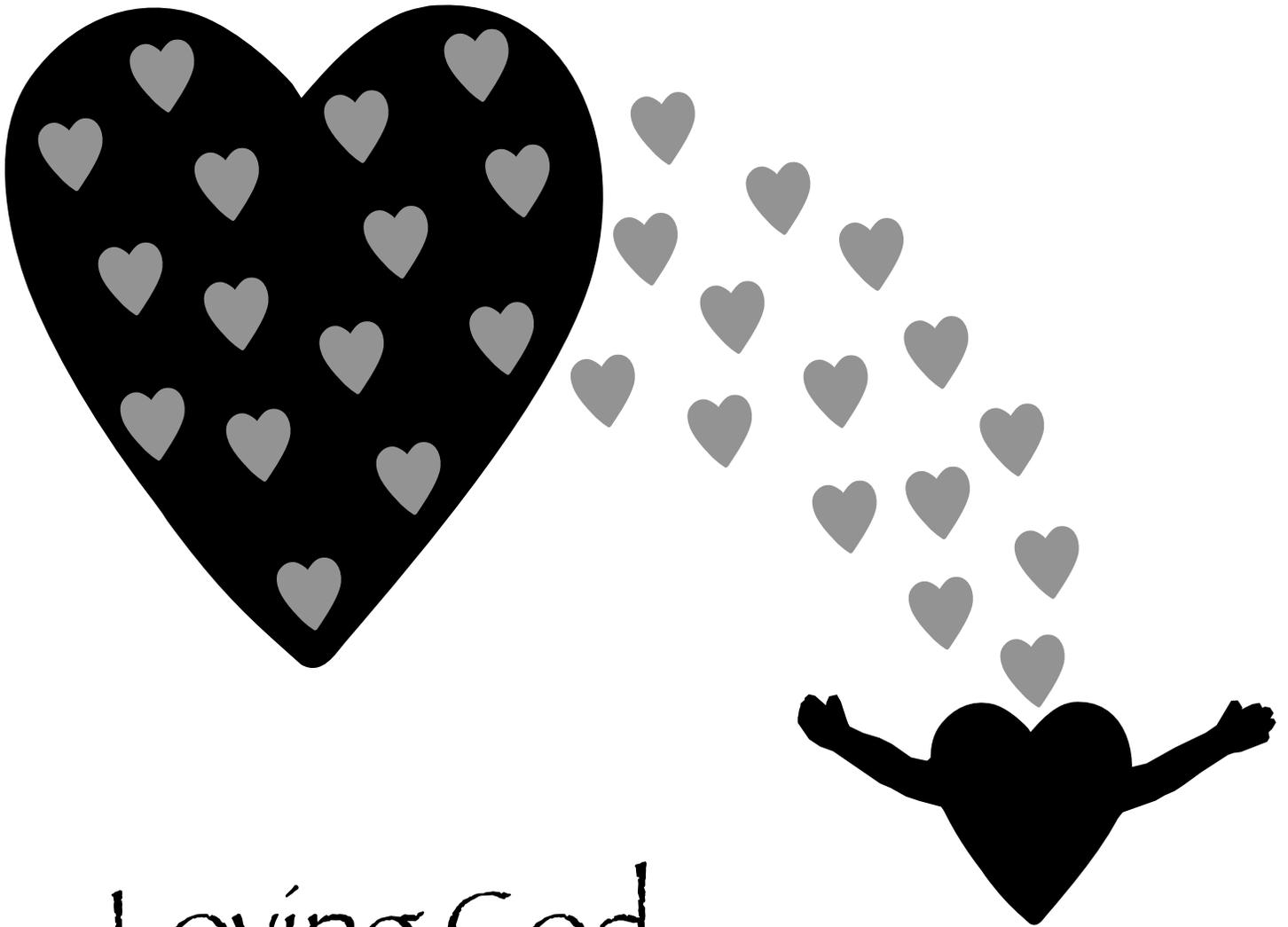




# The Anchorage

A Ministry of Spiritual Direction and Contemplative Retreats

November, 2006



Loving God  
by Receiving

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

# “How Much Am I Enjoying a Gift I Have Yet to Open?”

by Cathie Powell

Continuing our annual theme of “Loving God,” having suggested in our August issue that we already do, because God creates us with a longing for God, we will now consider “postures” of loving God. Postures are about what we do, but more about ‘how’ we do what we do. The first posture I suggest is one of “receiving” with open arms. It may seem upside-down, (and the Christian faith is often experienced that way), but one way we can love God best, is by receiving God’s sheer gift of love.

For some of us, receiving is more difficult than giving, so to help us get in touch with the concept, imagine this: You give a friend a gift, a gift you selected especially for her, a gift you hope she will really enjoy. Later, you visit in her home and notice that the gift is still neatly wrapped sitting on the shelf. When you ask, she replies that she didn’t want to tear the beautiful wrapping. She may even say that she doesn’t feel worthy of such a gift.

What is your response? If you gave the gift freely out of a deep love for her, rather than some ego-need of your own, wouldn’t your response be sadness because she is missing out on the enjoyment of the gift? You might be tempted to unwrap the present for her so that she can begin to enjoy it.

We give God a gift when we open our arms wide, and embrace God’s gift of no-strings-attached love. Of course we’re not worthy. God gives because it’s just who, or how, God is. So, if it seems like an invitation, open your arms wide – and receive, really receive – and enjoy God’s love, God’s unwrapped gift, maybe for the first time. What a great way to love God.

## “Choosing to Trust”

by Holland Webb

When I started exploring adoption, I was warned about a pervasive disorder among adopted children. Characterized by rages, triangulation of adults, self abuse, cruelty to animals, unusual fascination with gore, crazy lying, hyper vigilance, and an insatiable demand for control, it is called Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). It occurs very early in life. A baby who cries and cries yet no one comes to change or feed her is at a high risk of RAD. Most folks in the adoption community believe all adopted children suffer from some form of attachment delay or disorder, though not all have full blown RAD.

Thankfully, I dealt with less severe attachment issues than RAD, though even those were exhausting and frustrating. I was pouring enormous amounts of time, energy, creativity, and money into what seemed like two little houseguests who wouldn’t go home ... and who had no idea what it meant to be a family.

So what about us? Galatians 4:4 says, “God sent his Son ... that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, “Papa! Father!” ... And if you are a child, you’re also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.”

The questions arose in my mind: As God’s adopted child, am I attaching well? Do I rest in God’s love, or do I refuse to make eye contact? Do I believe God loves me and so unreservedly stretch out my arms to receive His love, or do I busy myself with another task? When God makes demands of me, do I cry and say I want to go back to the place where no demands were made of me ... the place I never grew?

Can I choose to trust God’s love, no matter how much it may frighten me, to relinquish control?

*(Thanks to Holland Webb for this article and for serving as a Director with The Anchorage. He is Project Manager with Christian Blind Missions International and is active at the Church of the Nazarene.)*



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.*

### Directors & Staff

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Sammy Reese  
Terri Reese  
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**The Anchorage**  
P.O. Box 9091  
Greenville, SC 29604  
864-297-5308  
www.theanchorage.org

# Thank you Donors, Nov., '05 – Oct., '06



## Upcoming Events

**November 2006 - May, 2007**

**Fri., Nov. 10th 9:30 – 3:30**  
**Fall Quiet Day “Spirituality of Imperfection: 12 Steps and Our Journey Home”** with Mike Flanagan

**Thurs., Nov. 30th 7– 9:30 p.m.**  
**“Making Room in the Inn (X): A Nativity Scene Advent”** with Cathie Powell

**Mon., Dec. 4th 9 – 3:30**  
**“Clergy Retreat: Sabbath”** with Jim Caprell

**Thurs. – Sun., Dec. 7th – 10th**  
**“Directed Retreat”** Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC, with Cathie Powell

**1st & 3rd Thurs. 9:30 am OR 7 pm**  
**Jan. 4th - Feb. 15th “Prayerful Book Study, The Impact of God: Soundings from St. John of the Cross”** by Iain Matthew, with Cathie Powell

**Fri., Jan. 5th 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**“Epiphany Retreat”** with Cathie Powell

**Fri. – Sun., Jan. 26th – 28th**  
**“Beach Retreat: Time with The Magdalene”** Litchfield Beach, SC, with Sr. Caroline Smith

**Sun. – Tues., Jan. 28th – 30th**  
**“Praying the Hours”** Litchfield Beach, with Cathie Powell (can stay over 1 day or 2)

**Feb. 22nd – April 5th**  
**Thurs., noon, “Lenten Practice of Contemplative Presence”**, ALM Hdqtrs, downtown

**Fri. – Sun., Feb., 23rd – 25th**  
**“The Lord’s Prayer in Jesus’ Language”** Snails Pace, Saluda, NC, with Theresa Horton

**Mon., Mar. 5th 9:30 – 3:30**  
**“Clergy Soul Day: Our Emptying/ Active God”** (John of the Cross) with Jeff Rogers

**Fri. – Sat., Mar. 16th – 17th**  
**“Windows into the Soul”** Solitude Pointe, Cleveland, SC, with Peggy Dulaney

**Fri., April 20 9:30 - 3:30**  
**“Spring Quiet Day: Julian of Norwich”** with Cathie Powell

**Sun., April 29th – Thurs., May 3rd**  
**“Spring Directed Retreat”** Diakonia Center, Salem, SC with Cathie Powell

*You will find details for all events in our brochure, which is online. Please visit [www.theanchorage.org](http://www.theanchorage.org) Thanks!*

All Saints Episcopal,  
 Concord  
 Fil Anderson  
 Anonymous  
 Duane Ashcraft  
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 Francina Bardsley  
 Joe and Miriam Bare  
 Claire Bateman  
 Tim and Madeline Blackwell  
 Melissa Blevins  
 Ellen Boan  
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**Total Donations: \$16,760**

**Total Donors: 113**

**THANK YOU AGAIN!**

\* Pledgers



# The Anchorage

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P.O. Box 9091 ▪ Greenville, SC 29604

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## “Receiving Our Belovedness”

By Pat Hansen

It was our third major move in 12 years and what I could not part with at the packing end was now ready to be dealt with at the unpacking end. They say 3 moves are equal to a fire. Well the fire in me was lit to deal with the 8 medium size boxes coded as “memorabilia”. What were precious memories from the right coast and left coast was becoming a nightmare with precious little closet space on the lower coast.

Finally I came to the box loaded with cards and notes I had received and tossed into over the years. This would be easy...until I came to Mrs. Dixon’s note. 10 years earlier I had spoken at her 70th birthday party and gave testimony to her role in my life as a mentor, friend, and spiritual guide. She had loved me as a mother and from her I received grace and unconditional love. The next day she was in an auto accident and I gave the same testimony at her funeral 3 days later.



With memories flooding in, I grabbed a chair and got as far as “Beloved Pat”. She had me at “Beloved”. Beloved had become my special name from God and I had told no one. Her note was affirming the deep work of God’s spirit in my life and it was drawing me now to a deeper place. She always had a way of doing that and here I went again. In the silence and with tear blurred eyes clarity came from her handwritten “Beloved

Pat”: my Beloved Pat...be...be loved; **Beloved, be loved.** She was once again calling me to unconditional love.

Could I receive it? Could Beloved Pat now hear and receive: be loved. Having received the name, could I live into the name? To hear God calling me Beloved Pat was endearing; wooing me closer; conjuring up visions from the Song of Solomon. But **“Beloved, be loved”** had another dimension. I was being taken to a deeper, more intimate place where I could “be”; to be loved. I was receiving a gift from the One who knows how to give a child good gifts. This beloved child of God was being asked to be loved. To be loved when she did not love herself; when she had failed; when she was in sorrow and pain; when she doubted, feared and raged in anger.

Dearly Beloved, we are all called Beloved by God. We are Beloved children being asked only one thing: to be loved.

*(Thanks to Pat Hansen for this article and photograph, and for her support of The Anchorage. She and her husband Jack are new to the Greenville area and we are blessed indeed!)*

### Financial Status as of Oct. 31, 2006

(Fiscal year is  
July, '06 - June, '07)

Gifts Budgeted	\$24,500
Gifts Received	\$ 6,850
Balance	\$17,650
Total Budget	\$52,250
Total Received	\$12,792
Balance	\$39,458

## THANK YOU, DONORS AND PARTICIPANTS!

### “Awareness Plan”

Our Directors are creating an Awareness Plan to discern how to grow beyond being a “well-kept secret.” We are clear that what we offer is greatly needed, maybe even a matter of life and death for some folks, in this noisy fast-paced, gotta get more, world.

God is offering us exactly what we need. And perhaps our part is to be present, to really be here, now. That may be the best “Awareness Plan” of all: to be aware of God, of God’s presence and care, so that we don’t miss whatever God is up to!

We invite you to come away, to be with this One who loves you even more than you can imagine, with the hope that you will be more aware - more open to God’s love and light in your life. What a delight - for you – and for God!