



The Anchorage

A Contemplative Ministry

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Come away...

October 2013

Dear Friends of The Anchorage,

When Catherine asked me about helping with the annual appeal letter, she said, "I don't want it to be the normal 'we are worth your investment.'" She continued, "My sense is that God is wanting to get the attention of people, to tell them how very much they are loved. For those who love the Lord, it seems God is wanting to say thank you, and to let that mutual love between us and God spill over to the world for healing."

I resonated with what she was saying and was stirred to be a part of this process. But rather than being able to tell you of God's love, this little voice inside me cried, "Yes! I want to know how very much I am loved by God!"

I don't know how true this is for the rest of you, but I know that I continue to struggle with the *feeling* of faith, and particularly the assurance of God's love. This makes no logical sense to me, as I have evidenced God's grace in so many significant ways. Yet somehow, I need to keep being reminded of it through other people.

Particularly through The Anchorage and Catherine's leadership have I felt this love over the years. I used to hope to get the recording when I called The Anchorage so that I could hear her voice saying, "You are the apple of God's eye!" Hearing that always made me smile. Such a small thing, and such a blessing.

And the large things, such as when I was in desperate need of money and, through The Anchorage, went to speak at a tiny rural church for a Valentine banquet. They gave me a \$200 honorarium, and when I returned home, there was a check for \$2,000 from a student in the journaling class I was leading through The Anchorage. That person had heard my need and acted as God led. Time and again I have been blessed with God's gifts, and yet I still doubt, or forget, that God is still caring for me today. The offerings of The Anchorage, many of which I have been privileged to be a part, remind me of God's constant love and care. I have received much more from The Anchorage than I have been able to give.

I believe that The Anchorage does this for so many people, in so many different ways. In its ecumenical, loosely structured approach, the ministry reaches out into the corners that other organizations may miss. Catherine shared one story that I'd like to pass along: a man named Bob at Perry Correctional Institute receives, reads, and shares the quarterly newsletter with other inmates because it encourages them and reminds them of God's love. He recently sent \$5 to The Anchorage to help pay for the printing and postage to send his by USPS instead of email. Or the story about a woman who went to Mepkin in August and says her life is changed forever. She was in a transition time, between jobs, and needed to be reminded that she was not alone. The timing was perfect. Praise God!

Catherine's request to me concluded with, "So many do not know God's love in a deeply personal way. Getting that message out is more important to me than getting donations. But without support, both prayer and financial, we are limited in what we can do."

Please pledge your support to The Anchorage this year. Whether it is to help supply postage or printing for the ongoing expense of this newsletter, "Depth Soundings," or to enable someone to attend a retreat, your gift will be blessed and used, in my experience, as a reminder of God's love and grace available to us all every day.

Praying you will give as God leads,

Allison Greene,

Friend of The Anchorage, former Servant Leader and retreat leader

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Episcopalian
Stephen Clyborne
Baptist
Peggy Dulaney
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