



DEPTH SOUNDINGS

*The Anchorage 20:
A Contemplative Community for All
Come away...*

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2017



THE ANCHORAGE

come away - anchor deep

1998-2018

"Psalm 139"

By Michael Fleenor, NC

O Lord, you wove upon my frame,
And wrought with weaver's skill
The colored threads of Thy kind will
Designed me in Thy name.

Search me, O Lord, and know each thought;
Guide Thou my wayward heart.
Remove from me each tangle knot,
Give me a brand new start.

With Gentle Hand, you weave the loom
A lifelong tapestry.
The warp and weft from womb to tomb;
My work of art for Thee.

*(In appreciation to my "soul midwife"; and
in honor of our dear Christian brothers and
"soul friends" the monks of Mepkin Abbey.
And their canine abbess, Abbey, who guided
me each morning to the labyrinth. March
30, 2017. It may be sung to the tune "For
40 Days")*



*anchor
deep*

“Celebrating God T-Shirt?”

By Catherine Powell, SC

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration of providing settings for women and men to ‘come away – anchor deep’ is off to a great start thanks to many of you! Your stories of God are wonderfully encouraging to us and our readers. Thank you! If you’ve not sent yours in yet, and you would like to, please let me know, we have two more issues. And thanks to all who have sent these articles for this issue. God is truly doing life-changing work here, wouldn’t you agree? Sometimes in spite of us, sometimes because of us, always with us!

So here is our thank you offer: If you would like a t-shirt celebrating 20 years of God’s work, we would like to order one for you. Please send the enclosed envelope with your size. The shirt will be a soft blue background with the front cover “Celebrate God” circle, in soft golden hues on the front. We keep sensing God’s nudge to “Give it away” whenever we prayerfully listen for God’s leading about this celebration. We are not celebrating what we’ve done, because we hear Jesus saying, “For apart from me you can do nothing,” (the verse we read together at the beginning of each Servant Leader (Board) meeting.) (John 15:5)

Our Celebrate God t-shirts will be given to All donors and participants at our **Monday, February 26 Friend/Fund Raiser!** (Picture, page 4)

“An Anchorage Moment”

By Steve Doughty, SC

It’s no compliment to say she had one of the ugliest faces I’ve ever seen, but that was what I saw first. The hyperactive ten-year-old boy must have been a grandson. He had her wide-spaced eyes, thick brow, and puffed cheeks. His mother, holding a baby in her arms, was the largest of the crew and looked as washed out as my wife and I were feeling after driving all day in 90-degree heat. The boy raced back and forth. The grandmother glared.

We arrived at the Bob Evans counter at the same moment, the two of us to pay, the family to get a table. The waitress behind the counter turned to the family. The harried mother said in a voice that didn’t hide her fatigue, “Do them first.” I resisted and said, “No. Please do them.”

WHACK! We all jumped. The sound emanated from near the matriarch. “You heard my daughter,” she rasped at the waitress. “Do them first!” I still hesitated. WHACK!! The wide-spaced eyes now locked onto me. “You go first! I’ve got a cane and I’m going to use it!” She raised the cane and rattled it in my direction. It was at that moment I caught a marvelous glint in her eyes.

I went first.

Was it as I paid at the counter that I realized beneath the fatigue of the younger woman’s voice I’d heard a kindness that even exhaustion could not smother? Perhaps that realization came later. I do know what my wife and I saw as we walked out the door. We turned. The family was heading to their table. They were close together, almost leaning on each other. They felt good. They’d done something funny, something kind.

The words popped out from both of us at the same time. “What a beautiful bunch!”

* * *

Without contemplation, without learning the God-directed awareness that abides within even when we’re too tired to think of it, I would have seen no more than an ugly face. Instead, right there, in that unforgettable bunch, God’s beauty!

“What Has God Done in My Life Through The Anchorage?”

By Lance Renault, SC

For well over 10 years I have been receiving spiritual direction from The Anchorage. I am a member of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, an Anglican religious order, where spiritual direction is required of all

(continued on page 3)



The Anchorage

Vision

A Contemplative Community to encourage all people in a mutual love relationship with God.

Mission

The Anchorage provides a setting for women and men to come away and be with God, as revealed in Jesus the Christ; and to come to love more deeply, this God who loves us beyond measure. Spiritual direction, “Depth Soundings” (quarterly mailing), Desert Days and a variety of contemplative retreats, are some of the ways we encourage and inspire.

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.

Core Focus

Encouraging contemplative community anchored in our Triune God.

Servant Leaders

(Board of Directors)

Michael Fleenor

Rosemary Goodall, Chair

Alan Kinsey

Juan Ortiz

Starla Revels

Angela Sudermann

Holland Webb

Other Support

Susan Leaphart, Volunteer

Coord. Camp Wynn, Treasurer

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Catherine Powell,

Founding Servant Leader

The Anchorage

P. O. Box 9091

Greenville, SC 29604

(864) 232-LOVE (5683)

www.theanchorage.org

“The Gift of Compassion”

By Caroline Smith, NY

Next time you're at the Mall stop for a minute and just look around. Although we are all wired together on the internet, our i-phones, video screens etc. our culture today seems to be marked by a certain anonymity. We see people desperate to be identified as unique with their sculpted green hair, their piercings, their odd dress. All saying, “look at ME”, “I'm a person.” The faces all say “We belong together...I need you.”

The feeling of love that fills us as we look a little beyond the faces we see is, I believe the gift of Compassion. Compassion rends the veil of the stranger and unites one human to another, heart to heart, right there in the Mall or wherever.

Compassion is the thread that draws together the deepest centers of life beyond the borders of race, gender, religion or culture. Donald McNeill writes:

*“The word Compassion is derived from the Latin words **pati** and **cum**, which together mean “to suffer with”. Compassion asks us to enter into places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. ...Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.”*

Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life, p.4

The medievalists taught us that what makes us most like Christ is our frail and fragile humanity. If we truly loved our own frail and fragile humanity, we would love the frailty of others as well. The gift of compassion draws us into the river of love that finally overflows into the immense ocean of love that is eternal life.

Love transforms our hearts because love unites. Love seeks to be one with the other, way beyond the piercings and the green hair. We all long for this oneness of heart and mind and soul but we sometimes withdraw in fear that unity will be too painful. And we get comfortable in our isolation.

Compassion transcends this isolation, recognizing that the other person is truly and deeply a part of oneself...brother or sister to me. Our hearts cry out for this love to be real in our everyday lives.

What is compassionate love? Can we learn it as a way of life? What moves us to compassion? Contemplation and Compassion? These are some of the questions that will guide our Beach Retreat this year.

Come with an open heart.

We would love for EVERYONE who has ever attended to come back for our **20th Beach Retreat** to celebrate all that God has done!

(Continued from page 2)

members, and thank God for that requirement! Quite honestly, I can't recall how I found The Anchorage, but it has been a blessing to me. Regular meetings over the years have awakened in me a deeper awareness of who I am as a child of God.

This growing awareness has not been a straight line for me as circumstances beyond my control have introduced twists and turns to my life. But this is where the name “Anchorage” is so appropriate. I have learned the need to be anchored in the promises of the Gospel that produce the fruit of the Christian walk: love, joy, and humility.

Finally, spiritual direction at The Anchorage has been particularly good for me because:

- my commitment to the Franciscan Way that includes a life of disciplined prayer, study, and work is understood
- I am listened to actively, what I am saying and not saying
- both a theological and applied knowledge of prayer are drawn from my words
- the welfare of all creation and my response to its needs are seen as important

If God's guiding hand has been on me during these years of spiritual direction from The Anchorage, and I believe it has, then it is all part of God's generous, unconditional outpouring of love and provision. “To God be glory, great things He hath done.....”



Upcoming Events

Nov. 13-17, Monday – Friday 4-day Praying Scripture Retreat

Using the Ignatian method of entering into scripture with the imagination, companioned by a spiritual director in daily meetings, and joining the Trappist monks for prayer. The grounds are beautiful at **Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner**

Fee: \$350 Led by Catherine Powell
STILL SPACE FOR 2 MORE

***Fridays, Dec. 2, Feb. 2, Apr. 6, June 1 9:30-2:30 Desert Days**

“Leaving everything, following Christ into the desert.”
Fee: \$30 (\$20 if BYO lunch)
Led by: Catherine Powell

***Tuesdays, Dec, 19, Mar. 20, June 19 7-8:30pm Desert**

Evenings, Same purpose as Desert Days, just in the evening.
Fee: \$10 Led by Catherine Powell

Feb. 9-11, Friday – Sunday, 20th Annual Beach Retreat,

****SEE ARTICLE TO THE LEFT****
The Litchfield Inn, Pawleys Island, SC. Oceanfront single room.
Fee: \$395 Led by Caroline Smith
(bio for her online under events.)

Feb. 16-19, Friday – Monday, 3-day Praying Scripture

Retreat at Mepkin. See November for details.
Fee: \$300 Led by Catherine Powell

May 3-5, 20th Anniversary Celebration of God!

Details TBA
**May 21 – 25, Monday – Friday,
4-day Praying Scripture
Retreat Mepkin.** See November for details.
Fee: \$350 Led by Catherine Powell

Aug. 13 – 20, Monday- Monday, (7-day), Monday – Friday, (4-day) or Friday – Monday (3-day) Praying Scripture Retreat, Mepkin.

See November for details. Fee: \$600, \$350, \$300 respectively.
Led by Catherine Powell

*Unless otherwise noted, events are at Gower Estates, Greenville, SC.

***If \$10 is all you can pay,
then that's all you pay!***



The Anchorage 20

A Contemplative
Community for All

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Greenville, SC 29604

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being, in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." John 1: 1-5, 14

"A Huge Reason to Celebrate God"

By Catherine Powell, SC

Perhaps our greatest reason to celebrate God is the **incarnation**. Our next Depth Soundings comes out in February, so it is timely to say a word about Advent, the beginning of the Christian year. May these days of standing on tiptoe in preparation be mostly about making room in the inn. Making room for Jesus in our full, and sometimes fractured, lives. (Our December Desert Day and Evening will honor Advent.)

Notice the verses above from the Gospel of John, and recall what our God had to give up to become one of us, so well described in Philippians 2:6-11. May God prepare us for the coming of Christ, his birth in us and the second coming, with awareness of our need, our desire, our hope.

The pictures here are an invitation! Would you prayerfully consider the two open spaces for our next "Praying Scripture Retreat" at Mepkin Abbey. It is during their Annual Creche Festival so we as retreatants may enjoy it too. We will immerse ourselves in Scripture and use many Advent passages as God leads. Could this be a gift for the Christ child? Four days to listen for the living Christ in a place that is saturated with years of prayer. Selah.



Outdoor nativity scene(s) from the Mepkin Abbey Creche Festival. (check dates online at www.mepkinabbey.org.)

Financial Status as of October 16, 2017 (Fiscal Year is July 16 – June 17)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 27,700
Total received	\$ 6,815
Amount needed	\$ 20,885

Total income budgeted	\$ 54,800
Total received	\$ 12,800
Amount needed	\$ 42,000

***Praising God for YOU,
our donors and participants!***

***Also "Like" us on FaceBook
and share with your friends.***



The worship service for our fundraiser last April. Join us for February 26!