



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Greenville, SC
Permit No. 1070



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry
Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

July 2013

Return Service Requested

*"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage."
Jesus in Matthew 6:6, The Message*

(Cont.'d from page 2)

anytime, but often we are too busy and distracted to experience it. A Scripture verse comes to mind, "Sit here while I pray." (Mark 14:32) Jesus said this to his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane just before he was betrayed. Could it be that one reason for sitting quietly is to be nearby while Jesus prays?

A verse used by Fil Anderson in a June prayer email says it well, from Peterson's *The Message* (see above). Just you... sitting with God. To sit in God's presence, to be open and available, to be aware of receiving God's love, giving love in return, is a gift to yourself, to God and to the world. It also honors Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Our becoming more still, within and without, reminds us that we are not God. Sometimes in the quiet sitting with God we are aware of how far we are from being God, from being Godly, and it moves us to gratitude for God's mercy. It reminds us of our need for God and I think God loves to be needed.

A favorite devotional book, new to me this year, *Come Away My Beloved* by Frances Roberts, has these words, "Drink in the silence – it will teach you. I am in it." Believing that God is in the quiet makes all the difference.



Our next three issues this year, in November, February and May will highlight pictures of more favorite sitting places, and the writings of other travelers on the journey who are hearing the same invitation from God, perhaps in different words, "sit here with me..." Are you listening?

Financial Status as of June 2013 (Fiscal Year is July 12 – June 13)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 22,700
Total received	\$ 16,200
Amount needed	\$ 6,500
Total income budgeted	\$ 38,700
Total received	\$ 29,200
Amount needed	\$ 9,500

Praising God for you, our awesome donors and participants!

New gifts will be credited for fiscal year 2013-14 beginning July 1. We expect our budget to be similar to this past year.

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Online donation/registration is available all the time!

If you are wondering why you got this mailing when you didn't send in a yellow reply card, we sent it to donors and participants. We hope you still want to receive it. Thank you for your support and encouragement!



anchor deep



sit here with me...

"Bench looking east, with Jesus, at Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA"

Sit Here with Me

By Catherine Powell

For months I've known that the theme for this fiscal year, all four issues of "Depth Soundings" was to include pictures of benches, but it wasn't until today, pushing the time frame for this article, that I realized the words that accompany the benches. Catch God's humor in this: This past week as I felt the time closing in and asking God to help me hear the words for Depth Soundings, all I heard was "Sit here with me." I felt a bit frustrated but trusted as I have in the past, that in the sitting the words would come. Then I realized God WAS giving me these words – for Depth Soundings! "Sit here with me..."

My sense is that God has been saying these words to me since December 2011, "Sit here with me." It feels most unproductive, and often a waste of time, but when you sense an invitation from God, and trust it, there is a sense of God smiling and that in itself is worth the discomfort.

The picture on the cover is one of my favorite places to sit, high on an overlook facing East, at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA. The picture on the back is a close up of the Sacred Heart statue of Jesus, with a heart emanating rays of love. It is my heart connection with the heart of Jesus that gives sitting meaning for me. This mutual exchange of love that God desires can happen
(Cont'd. on page 6)

Sacred Space

By Amy Dills Moore

As a chaplain, I work at creating safe space for people to share their stories, vent their pain and frustration, express their doubts and hopes. Chaplains practice "holy listening," without judging or fixing or advising. By offering a listening presence, we allow others to be present to the events of their lives and to be present to the movements of the Spirit in the midst of those events.

The first time I experienced that kind of holy listening myself was in spiritual direction years ago. When someone first recommended that I visit a spiritual director, I wasn't even sure what spiritual direction was, but the grace of God led me to try it anyway. I remember walking for the first time into the cozy room on the lower level of Catherine Powell's home, the home of The Anchorage, and it was as if my soul let out a huge sigh. I felt spiritually at home in a way that I never had before and I realized much later that I had found the intimacy that I had been longing for in my journey with God but didn't have the words to express. The space I encountered there felt like a sanctuary in the truest sense of the word. It felt physically like safe space, warm and inviting, but more than that, it was space, as Parker Palmer puts it, "designed to welcome the soul and support the inner journey." There in that space, with a cup of hot tea in my hand, I began to explore my inner life, my sense of calling, and new ways to experience God's presence. I began to experience for the first time the depth of God's love for me. Once you have heard the voice of Love calling your name that way, your life will never be the same.

It was because of that sacred space that I experienced all those years ago that I was led on a journey where I am able to do that for other people every day now in my job as a chaplain and a spiritual director. Because of one person's willingness to use their gifts to create sacred space for me, the people I work with know that there is a safe, quiet space in my office where they can go when they need to listen for God, or need to be reminded how beloved they are by God. The words of Thomas Merton remind me, "Our real journey in life is interior; it is a matter of growth, deepening, and of an even greater surrender to the creative action of love and grace in our hearts." May this image guide us all into sacred spaces of surrender to God's love.

(Thanks to Amy for this article and for her participation with The Anchorage over the years. Rev. Amy Dills Moore is an ordained minister with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She serves as a chaplain with Presbyterian Homes of Georgia and as a spiritual director in Atlanta, Georgia.)



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 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.

Staff

Catherine Powell, Founder,
Executive Director

Servant Leaders

Madeline Blackwell
Peggy Dulaney
Martha Ebel

Susan Leaphart, Volunteer
Coord.
Camp Wynn, Treasurer

The Anchorage

P. O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604
(864) 232-LOVE (5683)
www.theanchorage.org

Registration and/or Pledge Form



Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I know pledging helps with planning so I will pledge this amount over the year, July, 2013 – June, 2014:

___\$1,800 (\$150/mo) ___\$1,200 (\$100/mo) ___\$900 (\$75/mo) ___\$600 (\$50/mo) ___\$360 (\$30/mo) ___ other _____

I will pray for The Anchorage _____. Comments _____

I'd like to register for: _____ Deposit (\$10) included: _____

For more information see www.theanchorage.org Please send form with payment to: The Anchorage

Or call: (864) 232-LOVE (5683) or email: cathie@theanchorage.org

P. O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604

We welcome all regardless of ability to pay. IF ALL YOU CAN PAY IS \$10, KNOW YOU ARE WELCOME!!!!

**NOTE: Unless there are three (3) participants registered by the due date, we will cancel the event, so please register by the due date if possible. Our suggested fees do not cover our expenses so those who can pay more please do! The \$10 registration fees are non-refundable unless the event is cancelled.

"The Oratory"

There have been several places in my life where I seem to be especially peaceful, where that peace that only God can supply is most active, most in abundance. The Oratory in Rock Hill, South Carolina is one such place. I am not sure how I discovered it but it was a place I returned to often. The Oratory is a spiritual center, an ecumenical place of love that I so love.

I attended a Carmelite retreat at the Oratory some 15 years or so ago. It was a very positive experience and I continued to enjoy the peace of the place. Similar to places of peace, I have also found that the peace of Christ radiates from certain people for me. It is such a wonderful, if infrequent, occurrence. There was a woman there who was very devout in her practice at the retreat. I liked her right off, she radiated that peace of Christ for me, and I introduced myself to Catherine Powell. We have been friends ever since.

I have followed with jealous intensity her contemplative work at The Anchorage. It is a project close to my heart as it successfully combines the simplicity and economy and inclusiveness of the contemplative experience. I must tell you, it has been contemplative retreat experiences that have been sources for major conversions in my life and at times the only place of peace that I could find. Retreat experiences have literally saved my life. The Anchorage continues this saving work.

It is all grace. It was grace that I found the Oratory and grace that I found The Anchorage. It is grace that continues our ministries. The Anchorage is a place where you can go to be alone to meet God, following in Christ's footsteps, prayerfully spending time with Love. Please help us continue this ministry with your prayer, time, talent and treasure. The Anchorage needs your support; this world needs The Anchorage.

La paz,
Mike Ferreira

(Thanks to Mike for this article/appeal letter. He lives in St. Petersburg, Florida and has been a friend of The Anchorage since its beginning. Please join me in praying for his new endeavor to create a Catholic worker ministry, an environment that makes it easy for street kids to do right and hard for them to do wrong. He has a heart for God and God's people.)

Advisors:

Elizabeth Canham, Episcopalian
Teacher, Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader, Black Mountain, NC

William Dietrich, Quaker
Spiritual director, retreat/workshop leader, Bethesda, MD

W. Travis Ellison, Presbyterian
Internal Medicine of Greer, Greer, SC

Kathryn M. Fitzgerald, Catholic
Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader, Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA

E. Glenn Hinson, Baptist
Visiting Prof. Louisville Pres. & Lexington Theological Seminaries, KY

Merwyn S. Johnson, Presby.
Prof. Union Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC

Carl McKenzie, Lutheran
Retired Lutheran Pastor, Hendersonville, NC

Kent Satterfield, Episcopalian
Partner-in Charge, People and Infrastructure, Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, Charlotte, NC

The Anchorage is an ecumenical Christian ministry.