



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

# DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

May 2018



## THE ANCHORAGE

*come away - anchor deep*

1998-2018

### Alchemy at Mepkin Abbey

On laconic riparian glens,  
Where verdant sylvan branches reach  
From ancient oaks, monks rise to preach  
on flaming tongues --- sermons of silence.  
Like hawks on wing their soaring prayers ascend,  
To boundaries beyond the heavens;  
While on the river dolphins breach  
Waves deeper, and even stiller bend,  
Tidal flows that pull to far distant shores  
And tap unfathomable soundless stores  
Of fire in the unsoundable surging sea  
of Love previously unknown -- God's alchemy.

— Mike E. Fleenor, Easter, 01 Apr 2018  
Inspired by a silent retreat at Mepkin Abbey,  
May, 2017)

*(Thanks to Michael Fleenor for this poem and for his support of The Anchorage as a Servant Leader. He is a retired physician from Asheville, NC. After missionary service in Macau, China and Lisbon, Portugal and a several year stint in internal medicine practice in AL in the early and mid-80's, he spent 25 years in public health practice in Birmingham, AL. He is a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in North Asheville. He is married to Betsy and is "owned" by their rambunctious Boston terrier, Roxie.)*



*anchor  
deep*

## “For the Past, Thanks; for the Future, Yes”

By Catherine Powell

We have Celebrated God this entire 20th year of The Anchorage and it has been a joy. It seemed important that our May 4-6 retreat theme (see p. 3 right column) be what The Anchorage is all about – a mutual love relationship with God. Every event we offer has time for the retreatant, for you, to be in solitude with God for reflection, to let God love you and give you a chance to love God in return.

God seems to long for this mutual love relationship even more than we do, and offers it, to everyone. It is not equal because God is God, but it is mutual. It is the main point of the last discourse of Jesus in John's Gospel culminating in the prayer of John 17. When we love God back; when we return God's love, we join the dance with the Trinity that then overflows to others in abundance.

This image has been central to The Anchorage since our beginning in May 1998 and was the main reason we sensed God's leading to become a place to “come away – anchor deep.” The best part is that all are invited by God to the dance, to take part fully. At the top of the reflection page in the suggestions as retreatants begin their solitude time with God are these words, “Behold God beholding you in love.” Many of you have commented that those words were enough for the entire retreat, indeed for a year or more. And what's so great – is that it is true at each moment. All gift.

So “Make Your Home in My Love: Invitation to Intimacy” is our theme for our retreat. (See full paraphrase of the passage from *The Message on the back*.) Over the next 20 years, or more, we will be even more intentional to invite all to this journey deep into God's love, as God leads.

**God knows you and loves you; I hope that undoes you!**

## “A Prayer of Gratitude”

By Dave and Kelly Strum

Koinonia of Columbia CELEBRATES GOD with you, The Anchorage! As you pause this 20th year milestone to testify to the Presence of God at work in and through you as a contemplative ministry, we join with you to do the same at this 1st anniversary for us by offering this prayer.

Oh, God, how the lyrics to the song ring through my soul, “You have been so, so good to me ... You have been so, so kind to me.” I lift these words to You on behalf of our brothers and sisters whom You have drawn together through the community development work of Koinonia. You have been so, so good to us ... giving us “life together” as Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it. Whether at the Community Leaders' meeting table discussing our hearts for the community or gathered at the mothers' support group table discussing our hearts for our children, You – the Living God – show up! Whether working side by side to construct and plant our community garden or preparing Eau Claire Baptist Church's (ECBC) 3rd floor space for community use after 30 years of vacancy, You – the Living God – show up! We are living, moving and having our being in you (Acts 17:28) and what radiates from this is peace and reconciliation and cooperation and worship of You, the Living God!

You have called us to the same work, Kingdom Work, giving us this same vision and love for those pushed to the fringes of society – the outcast, the orphan, the widow – the “least of these” by society's standards. Yet, we know because of the transformed worldview by which You have shaped our souls, that the last shall be first – and that it is through these whom You wish to show us more of who we are and who You are! Oh, for this Kingdom work to which You have called us in which all are giving and all are receiving – all are standing at the level ground at the foot of the cross – we give You thanks!

How exciting it is to be a part of a team of people who long to work for and see Your Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. To know that we are not alone in this good fight for justice gives us such energy, courage and hope for a future. We are just in awe of the way You are moving among us, bringing just the right people to embody Your dream.

(Continued on p. 4)



## 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

Starla Revels

Angela Sudermann

Holland Webb

### **Other Support**

Susan Leaphart, Volunteer Coord.

Camp Wynn, Treasurer

### **Staff**

Catherine Powell,

Founding Servant Leader

### **The Anchorage**

P. O. Box 9091

Greenville, SC 29604

(864) 232-LOVE (5683)

www.theanchorage.org

# “A Silent Retreat at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA in 2013”

By Molly Wilkes

My first introduction to The Anchorage was in 2003. Since then I have been blessed to experience many opportunities through this ministry for spiritual growth, inspiration and practicing the presence of God.

One unique experience was a trip to the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Wernersville, PA, for a 7-day silent retreat with Catherine as my Spiritual Director. I had gone to Mepkin for a 3-day silent retreat, but this would be more intense. I felt drawn to get away from worldly distractions and cultural pressure and to hear a fresh word from God.

It was in March and snowing in Pennsylvania. I went alone for a nine-hour drive going to an unknown place for an unknown journey. This all served the purpose of surrendering to the providence and care of God, trusting God in it all. What I knew for sure was that God is faithful and I felt God's pleasure in giving this time to grow deeper in my spiritual life and listen to what God had for me. I felt I was moving into a desert place where Jesus would be my constant companion.

I never felt the silence was awkward. It took me away from the expectation to be anything but in communion with this One who was always with me. It was a beautiful setting to feel safe to journey with other souls who were also experiencing the quiet and stillness with a similar desire to surrender to God's will.

We had Mass everyday where we worshiped and sang together. Also, individual spiritual direction daily where there was inner reflection and Ignatian imagery to let the Spirit guide us to what God was saying through the Scripture for our own life. I was invite by Catherine to pray for a grace each day to know how much I was loved. As I walked around the beautiful grounds I sang to God as my soul poured out gratitude and I felt deep peace. I learned again about the tenderness of God, knowing there is nothing to fear in this relationship, rather there is joy and aliveness in God.

What the experience meant for me was a time to focus on Being rather than Doing, helping me to open my heart more fully to God's grace and to be more responsive to loving guidance. The words of Thomas a Kempis became mine, "I do not ask for gifts, but for Thyself."

The hospitality and warmth of the Center gave me a feeling of safety and space to explore my own intimacy with God. The Spiritual direction opened me up to Scripture in a life giving way, passing other pilgrims in the hallways, not speaking but knowing we journey together, made me feel even more deeply connected to God and to others. All in all, it was a gift that I will always remember that renewed my heart and refreshed my spirit. The big question I took home for me to ponder was, "How can i best express my love for Christ?"

*(Thanks to Molly for this and for her significant participation with The Anchorage over the years. Not only did she serve as a Servant Leader for a 3-year term, she served as Chair her last year. She also stepped in at the last minute to lead our Annual Beach Retreat when Sr. Caroline could not be there. She is a retired UMC Pastor, with 3 grown children, and 11 grandchildren. She lives in Landrum with her husband Tom, also a retired UMC Pastor.*



## Upcoming Events

**\*Fridays, June 8, August 3, Oct. 5, Dec. 7 9:30-2:30 Desert Days** "Leaving everything, following Christ into the desert." Reflection alone & together.  
Fee: \$30 (\$20 if BYO lunch)  
Led by: Catherine Powell

**\*Thurs. May 3, 6- 9pm 20th Anniversary Celebration of God!** Mini-retreat begins at 6:45. Come earlier for snacks and fellowship. FREE!

**Friday, May 4 – Sunday, May 6, “Make Your Home in My Love: Invitation to Intimacy”** 20th Anniversary Weekend Retreat.  
**Location: Kanuga Conferences,** Hendersonville, NC. Lovely mountain lake setting, ample free time.  
Fee: \$395 includes single room, private bath, 6 meals, materials.  
Led by: Clarence Fox, Cindy Orr, Catherine Powell, Harriette Sturges and Duke Walker

**May 28 – June 1, Mon. – Fri. 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, a Trappist Monastery in Moncks Corner, SC.  
Fee. \$350  
Led by: Catherine Powell

**Aug. 13 - 20, Mon.- Mon. (7-day - \$600), Mon. – Fri. (4-day - \$350) or Fri. – Mon. (3-day - \$300) Praying Scripture Retreat, Mepkin.** (See May above)  
Led by: Catherine Powell

**\*THEY'RE BACK** (because you asked for them) **CLERGY QUIET DAYS** **Fridays Sept. 14, Nov. 9, Jan. 11, Mar. 8, May 17 9:30-2:30**  
Led by: Catherine Powell  
Fee: \$30 (\$20 if byo lunch)

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

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

## THANKS TABLE SPONSORS, 2018 FRIEND/FUND RAISER!

*Bradshaw, Gordon & Clinkscales, CPA*

*Crosswinds Animal Hospital*

*David's Table*

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# The Anchorage 20

A Contemplative  
Community for All

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*I am the vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relationship intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated you can't produce a thing. I've loved you the way the Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. I've told you these things for a purpose; that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature."*  
John 15,5,9,11 (The Message)

## “Gratitude” (continued from page 2)

From the mom who came to participate in the support group who clearly You have brought to help facilitate it - to the seminary employee next door who saw to it that their land be shared for our community garden - to other non-profits You are sending our way through the work of Your Spirit for us to partner together - to the retired principal who wishes to lead our Summer Enrichment Program this year as a volunteer - to the families who are interested in worshipping at the church who opened its space to their children this past summer, integrating ECBC even more beautifully to look more like Your Kingdom - You are the One who is doing ALL of this, reconciling us one to another, regardless of our differences and BECAUSE of our differences! May we always give You infinite praise and love each other deeply as You so love us. - Amen

*(Dave and Kelly Strum are the proud parents of 2 children whom they adopted at birth, Malachi and Kamryn. In 2017, after years of prayer and discernment, they began the faith-based non-profit, Koinonia of Columbia (An Asset-Based*



*Community Development) in partnership with Eau Claire Baptist Church. Dave is a CPA and semi-retired from a career in business/finance. Kelly earned an M. Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Columbia (Baptist Studies Program) and was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 2007. With fullness of joy, they celebrate their love, their family and their calling to community development work with a team of kindred spirits in North Columbia! The Anchorage has committed to be their prayer partner.)*



## Financial Status as of April 20, 2018 (Fiscal Year is July 17 – June 18)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 27,700
Total received	\$ 19,634
<b>Amount needed</b>	<b>\$ 8,066</b>
Total income budgeted	\$ 54,800
Total received	\$ 43,201
<b>Amount needed</b>	<b>\$ 11,599</b>

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

**Thank you!** Your financial gifts provide programs, scholarships, the ordinary running of a ministry, all essential parts of what we're about: **Undistracted time with God.** And God keeps encouraging us to 'give it away.'

Please **prayerfully consider** what is that encounter with God worth? However God leads you, it will be just the right amount!  
**You are a blessing!**

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