



The Anchorage
A Contemplative Ministry
Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2014

Intimacy with God



*anchor
deep*

View from my prayer chair

“Intimacy in Many Forms”

By Catherine Powell

Our theme for “Depth Soundings” this year is Intimacy with God. I agree with my systematic theology professor, who argues that it is a cop out to say words fail us when we try to describe this intimacy – we are at least to try! So all four issues will contain articles, and we will also include art, photography, prayers and poetry, all with the hope of pointing us toward this ineffable encounter.

The cover photograph is the view I see when I sit in my prayer chair (cover Feb. 2014). God has graced that room with a quiet not found anywhere else in the house. If I look to the left I see trees and sky through a 3-panel window we added around 1992 when the room officially became my prayer room. It feels safe and full of God in the silence.

The painting on page 4 was requested of Claire as an expression of Intimacy with God. Richard gave me permission to use one of the poems he had given me recently. I made two columns of it to fit the page, so if you decide to print it, let it flow down the page all on the left. The prayer on the back was a gift and I cannot recall from whom! If you know, please tell me? Lastly Aynn’s article paints word pictures that are lovely. May I invite you to take a few moments in a quiet place with these offerings? You may want to begin this way: **“Behold God beholding you in love.”**

“Costly Giving”

Reflections on Mark 14:3-9

By Richard Greenfield

Listening for You
In this quiet moment
Gentle expectations
A kindly touch
A warm embrace

Vigilant
You stand for Your own
You know every need

Tirelessly
You pray
For my entering
Into Your grace
And
My abandoning
Of all else

Patiently
You wait
As
All other voices
And desires
Subside
There is Your silence
You are there
Speaking beyond words
To my heart

Does not faith allow me to enter into
Your word’s heart and soul?

A costly jar of ointment is a small price
Compared to the giving heart
Presented upon Your altar

You invite me to come
Like Peter
Out of the boat
Faith undergirds
Every step
On the sea of new life

Keep your eyes focused on Me
And do not be afraid
After your burial
There is a resurrection
No one can take away from you

Enter My rest
Be at peace
Eternity is dawning
Enter my Life
Living waters overflow
For My Name’s sake

Amen

(Thanks to Richard Greenfield for this article and for his participation with The Anchorage. He has been in spiritual direction with Catherine Powell for over 10 years, and sees it as a privilege. Aware that he still has far to go in giving his whole self, especially the hurt part, to our Lord, he serves as a counselor with the Rescue Mission. He and his wife live in Columbia and they have 5 daughters, scattered around the south.)



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, book studies, 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.

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The Anchorage

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“A Day of Intimacy with God”

by Aynn Gehron

I wake to the morning light sparking through the woods, throwing leaf shadows on my windowpane; to sunlit patches of honey on my hardwood floor; to oak boughs lifting in gentle greeting; to diamonds shooting from the enthusiastic fountain, to a still life of five live deer grazing on the lawn...good morning, God! Another night wrapped in prayer and peace, another day given full of expectation. The blessed silence I constantly live with now is a backdrop, peopled with those God sends to me.

From the Spirit's earliest presence in my heart, he's become my "go to" perspective for everything. My finite mind requires it! Swept from the abyss into God-breathed life, the very horrors of our front page news become grief made bearable only through dialogue with the Incarnate Word. There is so much beyond what we know and understand darkly (Col 1:13-17).

But who is this Christ who asks things of me I wasn't prepared to give... telling me not to fear, not to worry but to forgive, to pray, to give my body as a living sacrifice, to die to self, to carry a cross, to renew my mind, to gladly serve, to be thankful in all things, to be salt and light, to love the unlovely, to obey? God came to me in Spirit, but the gospels put flesh on him. Christ's vivid parables and miracles and admonitions all point me to his humanity: Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, who at one auspicious moment in history constrained himself to live with us as a human brother, teaching us all about relationships, intimacy with the Trinity, and with one another (Jn 1:16-18). I see. There is nothing Christ asks of me that I'm not able to perform through his strength, even in the dying to self that's required of me. He mastered our humanness, willing us to be in relationship with him, to see him, hear him, know him, love him and others, just as he loved us...sacrificially. Jesus intentionally lived in close proximity with the twelve, calming their storms and those of many beloved others. When Jesus bequeathed the Spirit to them and to us who would follow, he called us all to intimacy and fulfillment, as deeply as we dare to go (Jn 14:15-17). It was a promise! As a result, the Spirit is a lively fire within me, clearing out the detritus that gathers with regularity, slowly clarifying, purifying, transforming, and creating new depths. (II Cor. 5:17).

Calamities will come, but hid in Christ, I now receive them and deal with them as one (Jn 15:1-5). Like a branch rooted in the vine, I may flail in the winds and even break; but being one organism with Christ, I am pruned and heal. God in Christ matures us to reproduce perfect fruit for those also in unimaginable need! Unencumbered, I enter into a collaborative intimacy with the Godhead (Jn 17:22-23). I'm seeing that the whole purpose of God's willingness to love and to know us utterly is to prepare and protect a seamless conduit that goes both ways. Through it, the Spirit takes all our devotion, and empowers us to bless the storm tossed world. How graced and grateful I am that the Spirit came to stay to reveal Christ to his disciples' hearts and minds (Rev 3:20, Lk 24:27). In faith I now pray to obey that familiar voice, offering God my humble praise, expectant before him. The Spirit graciously lights the way through the labyrinth of my forgiven sin, and we begin afresh this day.

(Thanks to Aynn Gehron for this article and for her participation with The Anchorage over the years. She is grateful for the tumultuous storms in her life that have directed her to seek our Lord. A contemplative, she treasures God's multiple mediums of speech! Now retired from NCDC, Young Life, raising children, and executive "hat wearer" at Reformed Theological Seminary, she continues to audit classes which she puts to practical use as a shepherdess, Christ Covenant, PCA. A graduate of UT-Knoxville, she's learned especially to treasure memories, grandbabies' toes, the high places, family, friends, Mepkin Abbey retreats, art, books, laughter, poetry set to music or not, travel and the South.)



Upcoming Events

2014

Fri., Nov. 13, 9:30 – 3:30

Fall Quiet Day: An Invitation to the Desert. Letting go of the many things that distract us; finding the Something in the nothing. Led by Catherine Powell

Thurs., Dec. 4, 7 – 9pm

Making Room in the Inn: Advent Retreat. Being attentive to God, becoming more still, to empty some space in us for the One who comes to us in Jesus the Christ. Led by Madeline Blackwell

2015

Jan. 23-25 Beach Retreat XVII Praying with the Holy Spirit.

Using Romans 8:26-27; the desire to live contemplatively is the work of the Spirit, giving priority to silence cultivating openness to listen to the Spirit. Led by Sr. Caroline Smith

Jan. 25-26, Praying the Hours, still at the beach! Vespers through Lauds. Led by Catherine Powell

Thurs. Feb. 19, Mar. 5 & 19 9:30 - 11:30 am Contemplative Lenten Book Study, using *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer. Led by Stephen Clyborne

Mon. Mar. 9 – Tues. Mar. 17 Jesuit Center 7-day Directed Retreat using the Ignatian method of entering into Scripture with the imagination, meeting daily with the director, in the hills of Wernersville, PA. Led by Catherine Powell

Thursday, April 9, 9:30 – 3:30 Spring Quiet Day: Merton's Quiet Place Within. Honoring God's presence within us using Merton's writings, celebrating his birth 100 years ago. Led by Catherine Powell

April 20 – 24 Mepkin Abbey 4-day Directed Retreat same as 7-day above, except we may join the monks for prayer. Moncks Corner, SC. Led by Catherine Powell

July 13 – 17, 17-20, Mepkin Abbey 3, 4 and 7-day Directed Retreats (See April 20 above)

Greenville, SC is the location if none is listed. More details online.

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



The Anchorage

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*“from (Christ’s) fullness we have all received
grace upon grace. The law indeed was
given by Moses; grace and truth came from
Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God.
It is God the only Son, who is close to the
Father’s heart, who has made (God) known.”
John 1:16-18*

“Discernment Prayer”

Lord God,

Please help me discern your will in this hour.

Be it spent in devotion to you, service to others, or in the maintenance of my self: keep me in balance.

May I love you in each person I encounter, accept you in all you allow, and embrace you in the center of my being.

Conform me to the image of your Son, transforming my every thought, word and deed, by the power of your Spirit, for the sake of the world.

I cannot do this in my self. Nor will you do it without me.

Empower me to want what you want.

Thank you for the Secret Place of your presence. May I always nest there; loving you; giving birth to you in my self, and in the world.

Anonymous

(Thanks to Claire Bateman for sharing this painting and for her involvement with The Anchorage over many years. When asked to write an article about intimacy with God, she said she expressed herself better in poetry and art, so here is one painting, “Botanica.” She is a writer, editor and teacher of writing who lives and works in Greenville, SC. She is the poetry editor of the St. Katherine Review.)



Financial Status as of October 14, 2014 (Fiscal Year is July 14 – June 15)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 16,620
Total received	\$ 2,220
Amount needed	\$14,400

Total income budgeted	\$ 33,480
Total received	\$ 5,320
Amount needed	\$28,160

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

Plea for Pledgers

Could you consider making a pledge to help with our planning? Any time frame/ amount, allows us to make decisions based on facts. Currently we have 35 generous pledgers! THANKS – it really helps!

**Next Annual Friend Raiser:
February 10, 2015**

Gifts for Printing

Thanks for your fantastic response last year to our request for funds to print “Depth Soundings” for those who prefer/ require a printed copy. Of course it is an ongoing need as we send out 4 issues a year. Thank you for your generosity for others!

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.