



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

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

February 2020

“Make Your Home in My Love”

Launch Party

Sat., Feb. 8th
11:00am-1:00pm

FREE Launch Party & Signing
at Fiction Addiction

Make Your Home in My Love
by Catherine Skinner Powell



Greenville author Catherine Skinner Powell will celebrate the launch of her new book, *Make Your Home in My Love* (paperback, \$16.00), a good resource on spiritual formation. This event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

For more info, visit www.fiction-addiction.com
or call Fiction Addiction at 864-675-0540

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Please RSVP to the link at www.Fiction-Addiction.com

“The Birth of a Book”

By Catherine Powell

In December of 1990, through an Intensive 3-week retreat in Gig Harbor, Washington, I found the words “God is love” to be so true as if I’d never heard them before. And experiencing God’s love in such a profound way was so healing, I knew that God’s love was enough. I sensed God’s invitation to offer this healing to others and I longed to do so. Realizing it was not a cognitive process; it was existential, experiential time with God for deep healing, I knew I’d need to live into what I’d learned.

In 1991, I was drawn to a 5-day Silent Winter Retreat with Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Bethesda, MD. When I applied, one of the questions on the application was, “Describe your history of prayer.” I wrote that I had experienced God’s love in a way too big to describe, coupled with a sense of my own neediness. “I sense a call to full time ministry of some kind. Whatever it is I know that my most important job is to live in God’s love to the extent that it overflows to others.”

This retreat was also where I first heard the words “Spiritual Direction.” I began going for spiritual direction myself – asking my spiritual director to help me discern if this might be a calling for me. We discerned together that it was a call, and in 1993 I began the 2-year Shalem Spiritual Guidance Program. Spiritual Direction seemed that it might serve as a good platform from which to offer something like the Intensive.

“I feel like a sponge being soaked in God’s Love as I read your book. I’m only up to chapter 2 as I read, underline and contemplate! It thrills my heart as I am so blessed by God’s Grace. I’ve studied the New Testament for years and felt so disappointed in myself for not living up to what I thought was expected. I boiled down my expectations to Jesus’ two commandments. I, like you try to surrender daily, hourly and moment to moment. By His Grace am I able to return His Love. So, thank you Catherine for putting into words what is feeding my heart and soul.”

Shirley Bowes Johnson

Over the years, as I prayed about the timing of moving into this retreat and spiritual direction work full time, I only heard the word, “Wait.” Finally, in December 1996 I heard, “Get ready.”

The next December 1997, I heard “now.” I went to the beach the end of January 1998, to spend time with God listening for what was next. When I came home, I turned in my notice to leave my 30-year career as a computer programmer the end of March. In May I graduated with an MDiv and founded The Anchorage. (Squeezed that 3-year degree into 12 years!) Aware that the story of The Anchorage is entwined with the story of the book, I’m separating them for the sake of space. However, this wants to be included: Written in 1998, one Mission Statement goal for The Anchorage, was to write a book to get this idea of God’s love out to more people. God has been nudging me for a long time.

In 2001, I made the 30-day Ignatian Retreat at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA. It provided a format that was like the Intensive. Years later I learned that the Ignatian Retreat was the basis for the Intensive.

After ten years of offering spiritual direction, in 2003, I was aware of how often my directees spoke of burnout in ministry both as clergy and lay ministers. I asked God to lead me if the DMin would help me get the book on paper. In 2005, I noticed a class on Medieval Spirituality taught by Dr. Phil Krey, offered at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (LTSP). A wise friend, Ginger Barfield, suggested I go ahead and apply for the DMin degree program. Someone else suggested I might be able to use a paper from each class as a chapter in the book.

For the Medieval Spirituality class, I wrote my paper on Bernard of Clairvaux and his *Sermons on the Song of Songs*. The next class was on Augustine. The class on Reformed Spirituality provided my Calvin chapter. During this time, I often asked, “why am I driving to PA with so many good seminaries closer to home?” My number of trips increased as in 2006 I began the training program at the Jesuit Center to offer 8-day retreats.

In May 2010, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, with treatment lasting through September 2011. Both programs were gracious and gave me two years of medical leave.

**“Live in God’s love
to the extent that
it overflows to
others.”**



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 beloved community anchored in our Triune God.

Servant Leaders

(Board of Directors)
*Christina Auch
Peggy Dulaney
Michael Fleenor, Chair
Jonathan Jones
Alan Kinsey
Susan Leaphart*

Other Support

*Susan Leaphart,
Volunteer Coord.
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*Catherine Powell,
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The Anchorage

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(cont.’d on p. 3)

(The Birth, cont.'d)

One God-thing was that my DMin advisor lived in Robeson, a town next to the Jesuit Center. He approved two advanced standing credits for the program I was doing at the Center because he knew the value of their programs. Then it became clear why I was driving to Pennsylvania for seminary. I doubt any other seminary in the world would have given me credit for the course at the Jesuit Center. Who knew? God knew. Sadly, my advisor died a month later. He was a cancer survivor and it came back. You can imagine my hesitation to mention his agreement to give me advanced standing when my new advisor was mourning his passing as they were close friends. Eventually I got up the nerve to ask her, and he had written it down for her.

Another God experience that was life-changing and related to the book, is written in the first chapter of the book, so I won't retell it here, but the basic gist is that God longs to help us, if we would just ask. I completed the Jesuit program in 2012, and in 2013, I graduated from LTSP with the DMin. I squeezed my 3-year Ignatian program into 4 years, and my 4-year DMin into 7 years. Seems to be my pattern by God's grace.

"While I have only just started reading Catherine's book, Make Your Home in My Love: Live in My Joy, it is quite apparent that the book will raise questions to make the reader think deeply about his/her relationship with God. I loved one statement from the introduction: "as God leads, take a deep breath, and ask for the grace to learn how to love God." I believe that this book will challenge me to do just that."

Peggy Dulaney

Once I brought the book home, thinking I would publish it, I became aware that I did not have the interest. I figured I had written it; it was in the archives at the seminary and perhaps I was done. At that time, I also contacted Wipf and Stock, a publisher who had been recommended because they published academic and spiritual works. They sent me their form to complete and I tucked it away for another day.

Out of the blue (Holy Spirit nudge?) I invited Dr. Krey, part of my team of advisors for my project, to be the speaker at our 2017 Fund Raiser and lead a retreat the next day for local clergy. Not only did he do a great job, but during his visit he encouraged me to reconsider doing something with the book. Seemed the Spirit was nudging again. I began using the chapters from the book for The Anchorage Desert Days, every two months.

This chapter invites the reader on retreat, as a way of staying in the dance, letting God lead."

In late 2018, I sent the form to Wipf and Stock to see the possibilities. They accepted my proposal much to my surprise and asked when I would be sending the manuscript. I told them the end of August 2019 all the time asking myself, "what idiot sets a date that will control her life until then?" My working title was *Deeper into Christ: Learning to Love God*. But we are already as deep into Christ as we can be; it's our awareness that grows. So I changed it to "Make your home in my love," the Eugene Peterson version of "abide in me" (John 15:5, *The Message*.) The invitation is from Jesus.

Wanting another chapter on a woman, I replaced Bonaventure with Catherine of Siena. As I finished each chapter, I sent it to Dr. Krey for his input. His replies were gentle and insightful.

Pondering what to use for the last chapter, for closure, I came across notes from a retreat I led in 2003 for Oakmont Baptist Church in Greenville, NC. It seemed to fit well as a helpful way to remain in that unitive/active place – the "plus 1" that I added. It was good material from *Sabbath Time* by Tilden Edwards. However, I had used it almost word for word, so needed to revise it to avoid plagiarizing. A diagram I had made years ago seemed to fit. This chapter invites the reader on retreat, as a way of staying in the dance, of letting God lead.

In order to make the August date, I set an internal date for completion of the content for the end of June and made it. July was the month for the Bibliography, acknowledgements, footnotes, to fit the publisher's Author's Guide. In August I completed the manuscript and marketing questionnaires. Book sales depend on the author's networks, so I had a responsibility not only to the publisher, but to myself, and to God, to help this book get into the hands of those for whom it was written.

(cont.'d on p. 4)



Upcoming Events

***Desert Days: First Fridays, even months, Feb. 7, Apr. 17 (exception), June 5, 9:30-2:30**

"Leaving everything, following Christ into the desert." Teresa of Avila and a Rhythm of Work and Rest. Reflection alone & together. Fee: \$40 (\$30 if BYO Lunch)
Led by Catherine Powell

BOOK LAUNCH! Sat., Feb. 8, 11:00am – 1:00 pm

Everyone is invited
Fiction Addition (details on cover)

***Clergy Days: Second Fridays in odd months, Mar. 13, May 8, 9:30 – 2:30**

"At Home in God's Love"
Reflection alone & together.
Fee: \$40 (\$30 if BYO Lunch)
Led by Catherine Powell]

March 6-8, Lenten Spring Weekend Retreat,

"Make Your Home in My Love" at Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC
Fee: \$495

Led by Catherine Powell, Clarence Fox and Cindy Orr

March 30 – April 3

Mon. – Fri. "4-day Lenten Praying Scripture Retreat"

Using the Ignatian method of entering scripture with your imagination, companioned by a spiritual director daily and joining the Trappist monks for prayer.

Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner
Fee: \$400

Led by Catherine Powell
(Space for 2 more at print time)

July 5-10, Sun. – Fri., "5-day Praying Scripture Retreat" at Ignatius House, Atlanta

Same format as Mepkin Abbey retreat but with no monks.
Fee: \$690

Led by Catherine Powell

Scholarships are available!

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

**events in Gower Estates, Greenville, SC*



The Anchorage

A Contemplative
Community for All

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*"Do not be grieved for the joy of
the Lord is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10b*

(The Birth, cont.'d)

Confession time: I was consumed with August 31 and became a basket case. I prayed, "Help me – what do I need to do?" God's clear response seemed to be, "read our book." Feeling sheepish and grateful, I remembered what we had written: when we move out of that dependency on God, and begin to flounder, it is good to ask this question: "what am I holding onto too tightly?" It was clear instantaneously. It was the book! I had been calling it "my book." Right then I stopped. Within minutes I felt a calm. Since then I have called it "the book." It is not mine. If it belongs to anyone it belongs to God. The thrill of pressing the SEND button with all the files on August 28 still makes me smile. God and I did it together.

For the cover, when I asked my husband about an image of fire that was not burn-out, he replied, a burning bush. I asked my friend Miyoung Paik if she had any paintings of a burning bush and she did! I sent it in with a few other ideas, trusting the publisher. Wipf and Stock provided needed wisdom in my copywriter, Emily Callihan, as she helped me say what I meant to say, and in my cover designer, Shannon Carter.

In November the demo copy arrived, and I was blown away by its beauty. It was not at all what I had envisioned. I saw God's hand in it. I exclaimed to my husband, "Look, it looks like a real book! It has an ISBN and everything!" To which he replied, "It IS a real book."

I'm aware that God led each part of the way, so the timing is right.

**In November 2019 it was born!
To God be the glory!
Let's Celebrate!**



Financial Status

as of January 20, 2020
(Fiscal Year is July 19 – June 20)

FY gifts budgeted	\$ 27,500
Total received	\$ 10,730
Amount needed	\$ 16,770
FY income budgeted	\$ 52,100
Total received	\$ 22,293
Amount needed*	\$ 29,807

***Grateful to God for you,
our donors and participants!***

Thank you for your financial gifts! They provide scholarships along with covering the essential ministry needs to provide:

Undistracted time with God.

And God keeps encouraging us to 'give it away.' Lack of funds will never keep someone away.

Please **prayerfully consider:**

***What IS that encounter with
God worth?***

However God leads **you**, it will be just the right amount! **Thank you!**

Visit our **new website** thanks to Christina Auch! And "Like" us on Face Book, Instagram, Twitter, and **review the book** on Amazon!