



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

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

August 2021

“Comfort and Joy”



Words on the award:

“With gratitude and love for you

PEGGY DULANEY

for your significant contribution of time, talent, and treasure to

The Anchorage:

A Contemplative Community for All

Throughout all 23 years so far, from the beginning!

(1998-)

You have been the ‘right arm’ for the ministry.

*Thank you for your eager hands and heart,
and for your love for God and God’s people.”*



*anchor
deep*

“Odd Couple?”

By Catherine Powell

It is a new fiscal year, so with this issue, we begin a new theme for our four quarterly issues of Depth Soundings. The theme this year is “Comfort and Joy” found throughout scriptures. These words struck me as odd years ago one Christmas as our choir sang “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.” It did not make sense to me that comfort would be paired with joy. An odd couple indeed.

But now as I’ve looked up “comfort” passages in my concordance, every occurrence is paired with joy in the same verse, an earlier verse, or a verse that follows. They go together – always. When comfort is needed and it comes, there is joy. So my prayer is that you enjoy this theme of much needed comfort – and the joy that is always with it.

“Tidings of Comfort and Joy”

By Holland Webb

When I hear “comfort and joy,” I think of Christmas music, which in turn makes me want Christmas cookies so it’s a dangerous mental path to start tracing. The line repeats 15 times in “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” a hymn that dates at least as far back as the 16th century.

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” has appeared in a host of hymnals, in a Dickens story, and even on a Garth Brooks CD. So most English-speaking people probably know the phrase about comfort and joy even if they don’t recognize the context. Fewer people know where the line got its origins, though. An angelic being declared most of it to shepherds in Luke 2 as a prelude to the announcement of Jesus’ birth. “I bring you good tidings of great joy.” Notice, though, that the angel only says the tidings are of joy, not comfort. But the hymnwriter(s) added the word “comfort.”

Why?

Why is the news that God is coming near-- so close that we can touch God and feel God’s breath on our faces-- a message of comfort?

We usually associate “comfort” with alleviating pain or distress. It’s a theme Jesus picks up on, saying “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted” in Matthew 5. He also told His disciples that He would not “leave them orphans” in John 14. Paul seizes the idea in II Corinthians 1:3-4 where he uses the word “comfort” four times to describe who God is, what God does, and what we should do for each other.

I have never liked the idea of “comforting.” If you need to be comforted, you’re in distress or pain. Why not avoid the original distress (and the subsequent comfort) altogether?

Because it’s in comforting and being comforted that we draw close-- closer to God and closer to each other.

Researchers have found that young apes comfort each other with hugs when they’re in distress. The apes that are most likely to offer comfort? Those raised by their parents. Orphaned apes will scream far longer than their peers with parents, unable to comfort themselves or each other.

But we are not left orphaned according to Jesus. We have been given tidings of joy to comfort ourselves and each other.

What words of comfort do you hear God speaking to you? What tidings of comfort is God giving you to speak to someone else?
(Thanks to Holland for this article and for his friendship and support of The Anchorage over the years. He is a former Servant Leader with The Anchorage. He works as a freelance writer and editor and is co-author of the 60-day devotional Adventures in Fatherhood. Holland lives in Simpsonville, SC.)

“What words of comfort do you hear God speaking to you?”

“Unusual Cover Picture and Story”

By Catherine Powell

If you’ve been on our mailing list for a year or more, you probably have noticed that our August issue usually includes a picture of any Servant Leaders who have completed their 3-year terms for The Anchorage, as they hold their awards. Usually, it is on the back page. Often the cover picture is of an inspirational icon or statue, often of Jesus. So, I did hesitate before
(cont.’d on p. 5)



The Anchorage

Vision

A contemplative community to encourage all people everywhere to live in a mutual love relationship with God.

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.

Core Focus

Encouraging a love relationship with our Triune God, especially in contemplative community.

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Founding Servant Leader*

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Dorothy Kelly, by Sarah McCraw

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“Comfort & Joy”

By Kathleen McCombe

God's comfort is coupled with joy for a reason. Our joy in the Lord is meant to be as full as our comfort in God. There is wholeness and a sacred place in heart for the both/and. The Holy Spirit dwells in the tension of the both/and. There is a holy place in soul for those who know in Spirit the truth that at times, God “comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comforted.”

Our lives have been upended by COVID-19 over the past year.

“The face of God... is available for comfort and joy to us at all times and in all places.”

The joy at times has been taken from the everyday experiences of living. Lockdown has its bitter taste when we have not been able to be comforted by another's hug or comforted by the tears or the smile which are on a loved one's face because of a mask worn on the face. No joy awaits when finding the grocery store shelf is empty of toilet paper! We have yearned to step outside the house with gladness and enter into a friend or family member's hospitable home.

What God does with that discomfort is provide a flip side to the bitterness (and any bitterness for that matter) so that we can taste God's Love afresh. God in Love desires nothing less than to comfort our souls and bodies so that we can transform them with the joy of the Lord. Isaiah 40:1 reminds us that God wills both our joy to be complete and our Way comforted: “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.” (NRSV)

The joy God gives is indeed that this comfort and joy are not only for this life, but eternal life. The face of God is a constant discovery and is available for comfort and joy to us at all times and in all places!

(Thanks to Kathleen for this article. She earned an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. She was one of the first women ordained in her United Methodist Conference, and the first clergywoman in her first parishes. She finds in retirement new joys are coming first: sharing her love of piano and harp, singing with the Greenville Chamber Singers, directing the church children's choir, and finding comfort in new friendships as she knits together with others who are discovering their own firsts.)



Chronological Listing of Events

“Desert Days” 1st Fri. even months, Aug. 6, Oct. 1, Dec. 3.

“Comfort and Joy” is the theme. Opening prayer, varying content, reflection time in solitude, lunch with conversation, similar afternoon. Begins at 9:30, concludes by 2:30.

Fee: \$20 for Zoom, (\$40 in person) Dep (\$10) due a week ahead.

Led by: Catherine Powell (Aug/Dec.), Jonathan Jones (Oct),

Location: Gower Estates – (hopefully by December!)

“Taste and See” Dates TBA. We hope to be able to provides these tastes of the contemplative way by late fall or early winter. Stay tuned.

“Ignatian Retreats” Dates TBA The hope is to offer Ignatian Retreats in 2022 at retreat centers. I've enjoyed companionship retreatants one-on-one on Zoom for 3- to 5-day directed retreats. You would need to have quiet space for this daily; 45 minutes with me on Zoom, about 1 hour for prayer at 3 different times. Be in touch; we'll find a date. I recently directed a woman on Sabbatical! All gift!

Fee: \$100 for 3 days, and \$150 for 5 days.

Led by: Catherine

24th Annual Beach Retreat: “Hope in God in Contemplative Community” Jan. 28-30, weekend. We will focus on Hope, how essential it is and the importance of contemplative community. Plan to arrive between 3 and 4:30, we will begin at 5. We will conclude by 12:00 Sunday. We will have ample time to walk on the beach, nap, renew our souls with God and each other.

Fee: \$495 (includes oceanfront single room) Dep. (\$10) by Dec. 29th

Led by: Catherine Powell and Cindy Orr. Music also by Cindy.

Location: The Litchfield Inn, Pawleys Island, SC

Spiritual Direction is offered monthly. First session is always free as we discern together if what I'm offering is what you are seeking.

Fee: \$60 – or if that is not doable, we'll find an amount that is.

With: Catherine.

If \$10 is all you can pay, then that is all you pay!
(Donations are always welcome for scholarships)

LEADERSHIP

Father Jonathan Jones, is a priest with The Progressive Catholic Church International, where is currently attending seminary. Jonathan is an active volunteer at Triune Mercy Center and is the founder of an outreach ministry called Fellowship of Mercy. His work is aimed primarily at those who are disenfranchised or left behind by mainstream society and views.

Cindy Orr has been active in music ministry most of her life. She has served in her church music program, taught Sunday school classes and served on various committees through the years. In the past she has been in the music ministry group, RainChild, with two other ladies. They performed concerts at churches, fairs, festivals, sporting events, retreats and dinners where they also led praise and worship. Cindy felt led to embark on a solo adventure in music ministry and served as the worship leader at Russell Community Church in Greenville, SC. Guitar in hand, Cindy will provide worship that glorifies God and encourages God's people.

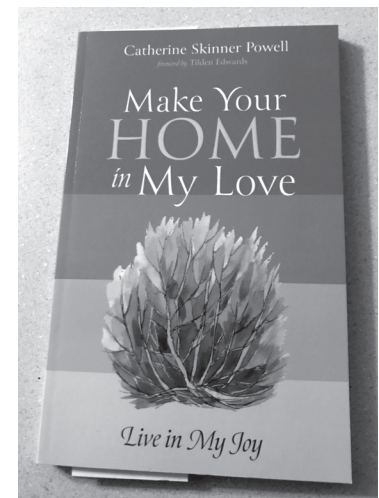
The Rev. Dr. Catherine Powell, Founding Servant Leader of The Anchorage, earned a Doctor of Ministry from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Her formation also includes a transformative 3-week spiritual psychological process, the Spiritual Guidance Program of The Shalem Institute, The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as well as training at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA to lead 8-day retreats. She was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1999. She is married to Skeeter, a man after God's heart. They live in Greenville, SC with their pets.

“A Book for Our Time”

By Catherine Powell

Thanks to those of you who purchased the book I was privileged to help write back in 2019. God was the instigator! Several events were cancelled in 2020 that were to help get the word out, so I'd like to use a bit of this open space to let you know there are still copies available, at Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, Fiction Addiction in Greenville, SC and other booksellers can get it. I'm glad to sign a copy for you.

I'm delighted to have used it as a main resource for the Spiritual Formation class I was asked to teach at The United Lutheran Seminary (combined LTSP and LTSG) in their MDiv program. What a joy to have students preparing for ministry read it and respond. They are the men and women for whom it was written!



“Even in the Weeds, YOU Are There”

By Robert Miles

I spent a lot of time this Winter and Spring digging turf grass out of flower beds. Good things in the wrong place become weeds. Its hard work, and dirty if you do it right – but it prepares the way for new things.

Six months after I retired from 39 years of serving as a parish pastor, the global pandemic closed the world. It was a harrowing experience – scary and frightful and confusing. But my hermit self was happy to be home and able to focus on long-delayed projects. One of those was clearing turf grass – which spreads by running roots underground – from flower beds. This also is harrowing – the agricultural process of preparing the soil for a new crop.

“It’s hard work and dirty if you do it right. But it is also holy.”

The more I cleaned the soil, the more God cleaned from me. It became a spiritual exercise. This is not unlike the “harrowing of hell” which the early Church understood to be Jesus’ work on Holy Saturday. Throughout the Spring the Holy Spirit’s synchronicity of readings and reflections and repeated digging reinforced again and again the

work God was doing in me – clearing out the tangle of a beautiful old identity; preparing the soil for whatever new thing God is going to do in my life and in my relationships (Isaiah 43:19); cleaning out the identity of pastor and discovering again the shadow-self which has been waiting for this opportunity. It is hard work, and dirty if you do it right. But it is also holy – holy work – because God is in it and God works beside us as we do these things.

“In His hand are the deep places of the earth” (Psalm 95:4) – and you, and me. “Deep calls unto deep . . .” (Psalm 42:7). Here God has something to teach me – and you – and all of us. Here God keeps calling you and me and us to listen. *Beautiful* things in the wrong place become weeds. God cannot do God’s new thing (Isaiah 42:7) until we have removed the old things. It is hard work, and dirty if you do it right. But it is also holy!

With apologies to John Updike (*Seven Stanzas at Easter*; www.inallthings.org), if there is to be a resurrection let it be harrowing – earthy and physical and dirty and filled with promise and thus all-the-more holy.

And again John Updike (“Hoeing” www.poetry-fromtheheart.blogspot.com): *I sometimes fear the younger generation will be deprived / of the pleasures of hoeing; / there is no knowing / how many souls have been formed by this simple exercise . . . Ignorant the wise boy who / has never performed this simple, stupid, and / useful wonder.*

If there is to be a resurrection, let it be harrowing! May it be so. For us all. (Thanks to Robert for this article and for his faithful support of and participation with The Anchorage over many years. He served as a Servant Leader from 2007-2010 and was Chair his last year. Robert served as a Lutheran parish pastor in South Carolina from 1980 to 2019. He and his wife Debbie live in Clemson and enjoy the blessings of their grown children and grandchildren.)

Unusual Cover (Continued from page 2)

deciding to put Peggy’s Service Award picture there. Then I realized her picture is also a picture of inspiration. Here’s why. She is not Jesus, but over the last 21 years of enjoying her help with The Anchorage and even more years of friendship, she has lived a life of “foot-washing” for many of us. I see Jesus in her and it’s Jesus in her that I want to praise and He is the one to whom she gives credit. Her favorite verse is Phil. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Our friendship began when we both worked at GHS (now PRISMA) in the early 90’s. She was an encourager to me to start The Anchorage in 1998 and came on board as a Servant Leader in 1999 when she retired from full time at GHS and began her parish nurse ministry in her church. Just a few highlights need to be mentioned. In 2009, I asked for a 3-month sabbatical in the fall of 2010. She agreed to fill my role with the help of Margaret Vincent our office manager. All plans were on go until May of 2010. Because Peggy has a medical background, I asked her to join me and my husband, Skeeter, to hear the results of a breast cancer biopsy. I somehow knew it would be positive

and was already preparing for the “ride” of cancer treatment. Sabbatical time became chemo time. We were aware of God’s providence in already having The Anchorage covered before the diagnosis. They didn’t miss a beat taking care of business.

About a year after treatment was over, I decided to step away and we hired a new Director. By the time of the first meeting, she was aware that The Anchorage needed to close, for insufficient funds. Peggy was there and told me about the decision. I realized the work it was to get the 501c3 designation and decided to come back without salary so we could take more time to discern what to do. We took 6 months to listen for God’s leading, while lying fallow for a year. Thanks to Peggy we are still here 10 years later, offering hope and contemplative space to those who seek it.

Besides these big moments in our history, Peggy was there for lots of little ways of helping, her specialty. Such as getting table-clothes for an event and using her RV as a place for retreatants to sleep. It goes on and on.

Peggy has just completed another 3-year term as Servant Leader (her 3rd) and is moving to Cary, NC, so this tribute seems in order. Please note the wording on her award does not have an ending year for her service, as we are grateful that she plans to continue as an Advisor.



“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9



The Anchorage

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*"Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains into singing! For the
LORD has comforted his people, and will have
compassion on his suffering ones."
Isaiah 49:13*

"Seek Peace"

By Catherine Powell

What drew Peggy and me together, our common link, from the beginning was the love of God. Those of you who know her know how she gets that twinkle in her eyes when speaking of God's love. She loves selflessly with God's love. This little coaster was a gift from her for our birthdays (mine is the day before hers) and the cat picture looks just like my cat, Cassie. She knew I was in a place of needing healing, and that seeing the coaster would bless me. Please join all of us with The Anchorage as we pray for peace – inner and outer - for ourselves and for our needy world.

"Keep turning your back on every sin, and make "peace" your life motto. Practice being at peace with everyone." Psalm 34:14



Financial Status

as of June 30, 2021

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 20,800
Total received	<u>\$ 22,623</u>
Amount OVER!!!!	\$ 1,823
Total income budgeted	\$ 39,000
Total received	<u>\$ 31,316</u>
Amount needed*	\$ 7,684

**Significant lack of income (about 20%) is attributed to the pandemic. Desert Days on Zoom are better than nothing, but of course we don't charge as much because folks are printing their own materials and buying their own lunch. Some have chosen not to meet for spiritual direction on Zoom, preferring just to wait until the pandemic is over.*

Our Friend/Fund Raiser "Hope in God in Contemplative Community" was even on Zoom. Thank you so much for believing in what we are about. Thank you for your generous gifts. We give all the glory to God with grateful hearts for those who listened for God's leading about how much to give.

**All gifts are fully tax-deductible.
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donation/registration!**