



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

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

May 2024

“Always, We Begin Again” St. Benedict



“Light of the world
Lamb that was slain
Lion who rose
Mighty to save
The fullness of God
Won't be kept in a grave
Darkness, your hour is over”

*(Some words from “No Body”
a song by Elevation Worship)*

God's richest blessings this Easter Season!



*anchor
deep*

“Easter Gratitude”

By Catherine Powell

Never have I been more grateful for Easter. My prayer is that you were able to be part of the holy week lead up, that is so very difficult to witness, but so necessary to be in touch with what Easter is all about. My tears of joy on Easter came with the line “Darkness, your hour is over!” Enjoy our last issue with the theme, “Always, We Begin Again.” Our writers offer varying takes on beginning again. May your Easter Season be full of whatever brings you joy!

“Risen Again”

By Daisy Spencer

I am sitting on a bench provided by my apartment complex, somewhere near the base of Paris Mountain, South Carolina. I come here for the sun.

So much is new here. These buildings have only stood for 3 years, this bench the same.

The neighborhood up the hill boasts trees maybe 100 years old. I'm not sure how long the little creek has carried on. The barn at the top of the hill has probably served a few generations.

But the sun- this same sun saw Noah build the ark, and Moses kill a man, and Mary at the tomb.

This sun has comforted and scorched every generation of mankind. As it was with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it is with me-me!

This same sun.

This same sun caused wheat to grow in first century Jerusalem, Victory Gardens in the 1940s and the new wave of the 21st century's determined seed bearers.

I feel the warmth intensify on my skin and pull myself off the bench for a walk.

Ironically, evidence of the sun's ongoing work is so very obvious that it is at great risk of being overlooked. Yet even in this modern complex of rectangular apartment boxes, I turn the corner of a bush in bloom, only to be met again, moments later, by its lingering fragrance-the sun's ongoing work.

A few days later I return to the bench in my apartment complex. I'm worn out from another battle with indecision and tightrope living.

I return again to the sun.

I close my eyes and notice how my eyelids have become a movie screen. I watch as the colors glow yellow and orange.

I remember that God has set me in a spacious place.

I watch the sun rise again.

(Thanks to Daisy Spencer for this article and for her heartfelt desire for the contemplative way. Daisy and her husband Chad came to Greenville in August of 2022 from the Northeast. She has always enjoyed journaling but was recently encouraged to start writing more after joining a poetry group in Travelers Rest. She is surprised at how much she is enjoying the writing process. Daisy works privately as a reading interventionist. She has been teaching since 2009. She and her husband enjoy exploring Greenville and have especially enjoyed ushering together at the Peace Center. Her favorite show to date is Max McLean's adaptation of The Screwtape Letters.)



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.

Staff

*Catherine Powell,
Founding Servant Leader*

Servant Leaders

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Madeline Blackwell
Carrie Crumbliss
Angie Gage, Chair
Linda Keel
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“Being Better than Perfect”

By Holland Webb

Perfection is the enemy of the spiritual life, driving us to performance rather than to belovedness. It gives us red marks on our tests, low grades on our report cards, and disappointed looks from our parents, friends, and supervisors. We can even start to believe that God's perfection also brings slow headshakes and eye-rolls from God when we transgress in some way. We are wrong. The heart of our faith is the conviction that perfection is unattainable outside the grace of God.

I once had a student who earned perfect scores on every assignment during the semester. Then, from his perspective, a tragedy happened. He missed one question on the final, giving him a 99.75% on the test. I said, “That’s still the best score in the class, and it rounds to a perfect 100%.” But he said, “I have failed.”

Perfection isn’t a worthy goal. In Philippians 3, St. Paul seems to contrast perfection with maturity, saying he has achieved the latter but not the former.

Maybe maturity should matter more than perfection.

Perfection seems like a one-time event. I can earn a perfect score or give a flawless performance once or twice, but I can’t do so consistently. Eventually, like my student, I’ll make one error, and my perfect score is marred. Maturity, however, is a process, not an event. I can make many mistakes on the path to maturity, but then, I can begin again without compromising my direction or goal.

For me, the last two years have been all about new beginnings. I buried my mother and married my wife, sold my house and moved across town, put down my old dog, and started life with a new pet. While each transition was not easy, the opportunity to begin again means I continue to be alive in this world where all things are always being made new-- beloved now and perfect later.

(Thanks to Holland Webb for this article and for his friendship and support of The Anchorage over many years, including serving as a Servant Leader. He is married to Mandy and has two children, Geoffrey (24) and John-Paul (23). He has worked for Christian Blind Mission International and Legacy Early College along with a three-year stint in Guatemala. For the last seven years, Holland has served as a freelance and collaborative writer. His latest book is an uncredited collaboration with ESPN reporter Lauren Sisler titled Shatterproof: How I Lost Both My Parents to Opioid Addiction and Found My Sideline Shimmy, coming out this summer.)

“Oh no, don’t make me be quiet and still”

By Skeeter Powell

I tease my wife, Cathie (probably Catherine to you). “You would be happiest if you could find a cave somewhere and have a raven bring a few morsels of bread each day and collect the dew off the nearby plant for nourishment and hydration AND spend your time in quiet with God and maybe a few devotional books to kinda prime the pump.” Her great desire is to come away and anchor deep.

On the other hand, my best day with God would be with 3,000 or 4,000 friends singing worship songs with vigor, hearing great speakers who would encourage and challenge us, and time together to laugh and play together and share life together – really share the good and the hard. If Disney World was a part of the mix that would be fine. So, how does that work in real time? Well, sometimes it doesn’t. But over time we have learned from each other. I love church worship where I can pat my foot and sing like an opera singer, loud and for me sometimes on key. And folks don’t mind. Preaching through a book of the Bible and dealing with what each verse or chapter says – and being challenged to apply what I’m learning to my life.

Cathie enjoys a liturgical style of worship. Preaching from the Scripture in the Lectionary for that Sunday. Organ music (It can be loud).

(Cont.’d on page 4)



Upcoming Events

Desert Days: First Fridays in even months, 9:30-2:30 “Always, we begin again.”

Content, Reflection on the theme, with God/community.

Leaders:

June 7 - Carrie Crumbliss

Fee: \$42 (\$30 if BYO lunch)

Location: Gower Estates,

Greenville, SC

In August we begin a new theme, “**Learn Unforced Rhythms of Grace**”

Leaders:

August 2 - Catherine Powell

October 4 - TBA

December 6 - TBA

27th Annual Beach Retreat January 24-26,

Ample time for listening for God with our theme “Learn the Unforced Rhythms of Grace.”

Overnight silence,

Leaders: Catherine Powell and Cindy Orr

Fee: \$395 single ocean-front

room (does not include food).

Location: Grand Shores,

Myrtle Beach, SC.

“Ignatian Retreats” on Zoom. 3, 5 or 7-days, to fit your time frame.

You would need quiet space for this daily: 45 min. for Spiritual Direction on Zoom, and 1 hour for prayer with 3 different scriptures. .

Fee: 3-day (4 sessions), \$150,

5-day (6 sessions), \$200,

7-day (8 sessions), \$250.

Led by: Catherine

Ongoing Spiritual Direction Monthly - with Catherine

A time set apart to ponder your relationship with our triune God, with someone who listens with you for God. There is more information on our website: www.theanchorage.org. There is a sliding fee, based on what is doable.

**(If \$10 is all you can pay,
then that’s all you pay!)**



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"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said...'" (Later) "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:5-6, 18-20

(Cont.'d from page 3)

Communion every Sunday. A service with liturgy – words or phrases that come back each week, month after month or season by season. I'm learning, understanding and dare I say enjoying worship with her?

While Cathie is at the beach leading a retreat, I'm going to be in a wonderful little bungalow a few miles south with my dog, Chief, where I will come away and anchor deep. I think it's gonna work! WE BEGIN AGAIN!!!! *(Thanks to Skeeter for this article and for his love for God, and God's people. He is the Founder of David's table, where everyone has a seat at the table (2 Sam. 9), a non-profit that demonstrates the love of Jesus to adults with disabilities and their families by creating community, connecting to resources, and making disciples. He and his dog Chief, share God's love. Skeeter was Young Life Area Director and then a volunteer with Capernaum, their ministry with kids with disabilities. Soon, he saw a need for these his kids when they graduated from high school and David's Table was born. He loves his calling. He is married to Catherine, and they enjoy their 2 grown sons, and their families.)*



*"Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!"*

Financial Status
(as of April 15, 2024)
(Our Fiscal Year is July 1 – June 30)

Total FY gifts budgeted	\$ 26,000
Total received	<u>\$ 20,500</u>
Amount needed	\$ 5,500

Total FY income budgeted	\$ 38,000
Total received	<u>\$ 29,000</u>
Amount needed	\$ 9,000

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ENCOURAGING GENEROSITY!!**

Our 2024 Friend Raiser in April for our donors and participants – was a huge success as God showed up big time and our guests were inspired and encouraged.

We are close to our goal for the year, and with two months to go, would you prayerfully consider helping us end our year well?

**YOUR SUPPORT, BOTH
PRAYER AND FINANCIAL,
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR THE KINGDOM!**