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"This is my strategy of love, to lead you into the wilderness, But once there, to speak tenderly to your heart."

(Cont.d from p. 2)

that you can put in your pocket. The word itself seems to invite a process of thinking about it – just being with it – savoring it with both the head and the heart – listening for God in it all.

These words of Gerald May express it well:

"The contemplative way happens by being present in love: being appreciatively and responsivley present right here and now."

The thought above and quote on our cover by Thomas Merton reveal two different ways to talk about contemplation - and we have only just begun. (Note: Glenn Hinson is leading a 10th Anniversary Retreat in Nov. relating how Merton impacted his life. See listing on page 3.)

"God-Inspired Leadership During Significant Two Years"



In May, 2008, we presented Molly Wilkes, Chair (left) and Peggy Dulaney, Stewardship Chair and former Chair, service awards for completing their 3-year terms as Servant Leaders with The Anchorage. We are grateful beyond words for their significant contributions.

Financial Status as of July 31, 2008 (Fiscal Year is July 08 - June 09)

Total gifts hoped for Received \mathcal{FGA}^* \$ 4,539 Other gifts received \$ 578 Balance needed \$ 30,383 Total income budgeted Total received \$ 63,380 Balance needed \$ 57,166

*From God's Abundance

Thank you donors and participants! Because of you our 5 new Initiatives are happening

Update on \mathcal{FGA} Progress

3-year Goal: \$153,700 Pledged: <u>131,920</u> Remaining: \$21,780

We invite you to prayerfully consider joining the \mathcal{FGA} family! For example, a 3-year pledge of \$1800 could be paid \$600 a year or \$50 a month - as God leads. Any amount is great!



Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

August 2008

"What is the use of my complaining about not being a contemplative, if I do not take the opportunities I get for contemplation?

I suppose I take them, but in the wrong way.

I spend the time looking for something to read about contemplation – something to satisfy my raffish spiritual appetite –

instead of shutting up
and emptying my mind
and leaving the inner door open
for the Holy Spirit to enter
from the inside,
all the doors being barred
and all my blinds down."

-Sign of Jonah, by Thomas Merton



LABEL HERE

"The Contemplative Way"

by Cathie Powell

Every year we select a theme for our quarterly "Depth Soundings" newsletters and this year it seems important to offer some thoughts about the word "contemplative" since that is THE word that seems to describe us best. The Anchorage: A Contemplative Ministry. You will be wise to let go of the hope for a clear definition (Cont.d on page 4.)

"Living with a Contemplative Heart"

By Martha Campbell

Our hearts are restless, O God, until they rest in you.
-St. Augustine

There is restlessness in the human spirit. We might feel it as an urge to "do something" or a desire for "more" in relationship, in job satisfaction, in the need for greater balance between work and leisure. St. Augustine tells us that the restlessness that is at the root of our longing is really a restlessness for God. The mystics, those who have had an experience of God and trusted it, tell us that our restlessness is really an experience of God's longing, God's restlessness for us. The meaning that we give to our experience of restlessness can open us to living with a contemplative attitude.

"This is the place, my contemplative heart, where my longing for God and God's longing for me find a meeting place." What is a "contemplative attitude?" At the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation we speak of the contemplative attitude as "a loving quality of presence in which I am open to things just as they are in the present moment." This is an attitude that can be cultivated with practice. Walking through my day, I might notice my restlessness perhaps as I sit in traffic. If I stop to ponder my situation "in this present

moment" I might discover a quality of irritation or perhaps a sense of regret that I took this particular route, or even anger that my tax dollar has not yet solved the inadequacy of proper roads, or perhaps anxiety about the meeting that is beginning without me. Irritation, regret, anger, anxiety ... all of these feelings are part of my present experience. The contemplative attitude would have me orient to love in the midst of this awareness. If I open to my present situation in a loving way, everything softens. If I notice this precious present moment in the context of love, my heart becomes gentler toward myself, toward the traffic, toward others.

Living with a contemplative heart is another way of describing the contemplative attitude. It's about learning to live lovingly in this present moment, accepting "what is" just as it is with all its frustration, with all its wonder. It's about waking up to all the dimensions within my ordinary experience, stepping back and taking a "long loving look" to see what's there, what is real and what I have imposed or fabricated.

If I am graced with an awareness of my longing for God in such moments, I come to wake up to the reality of God in all things ... yes, even in my frustration and impatience. In essence, living with a contemplative heart is really a gift of the Spirit. It's a gift I can ask for and expect to receive since this is the place, my contemplative heart, where my longing for God and God's longing for me find a meeting place. Take a moment now ... and notice everything within and all around you. Be in wonder at what you experience ... turn to God and then open your heart in trust. Ask God to infuse your awareness with love. Many such moments in the day may lead to an awesome discovery. You may find that your own restless heart is slowly being transformed by God's presence and activity into a place of rest, refreshment and peace. You may be waking up to the gift already given, to the reality of living with a contemplative heart!

Thanks to Martha Campbell for this article. She is the Director of the Spiritual Guidance Program at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Bethesda, MD. She is leading our first 10th Anniversary Retreat, at Bonclarken Retreat Center in Flat Rock, NC, Aug. 22 – 23. (space for 4!) See listing on p. 3.



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, 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 spiritual direction and contemplative retreats, this God who loves us beyond measure.

Metaphor

Come away to a safe harbor and 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.

Servant Leaders

Francina Bardsley Barbara Borom Mike Flanagan, Chair Margaret Hardy Donna Meyer Robert Miles Cathie Powell, Exec. Dir. Camp Wynn

The Anchorage

P.O. Box 9091 Greenville, SC 29604 864-297-5308 www.theanchorage.org

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Upcoming Events

July 2008- June 2009

Aug. 21, Thurs., 7 – 8:30 Info Session "Retreat in Everyday Life" led by Donna Meyer and Cathie Powell (space for 2 more)

Aug. 22 – 23, Fri. – Sat., "The Living Flame of Love: Life in the Spirit: according to St. John of the Cross" at Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC led by Martha Campbell

Sept. 4, Fri., 9:30 – 3:30 "Fall Clergy Day: Is it an Intimacy Issue?" led by Mike Flanagan

(space for 4 more)

Sept. 18, Thurs., 6:30–8:30pm Caregivers' Dinner: "Calm in the Chaos" First Baptist Greenville, led by Peggy Dulaney

Oct. 10, Fri., 9:30 – 3:30 Clergy Quiet Day Series (2) led by Mike Flanagan

Oct. 24 - 31, Fri. - Fri.

"Fall Directed Retreat" at Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner, SC led by Cathie Powell (room for 2 more)

Nov. 18, Friday, 9:30 – 3:30 "Fall Quiet Day: Resting in the Way of Love" led by Francina Bardsley

Nov. 21 - 23, "Thomas Merton My Brother," at Kanuga, Hendersonville, NC, led by Glenn Hinson (space for 4 more)

Dec. 4, Thursday, 6:30 – 9pm "Making Room in the Inn (XII): an Advent Retreat" on Comfort and Joy led by Cathie Powell

Jan. 25 – 27, "Beach Retreat: Discernment and Dreams" at the Litchfield Inn, Pawleys Island, SC led by Caroline Smith

Jan. 27 - 29, Sun. - Tues., "Praying the Hours" at the beach, led by Cathie Powell

(\$10 reserves your space!)