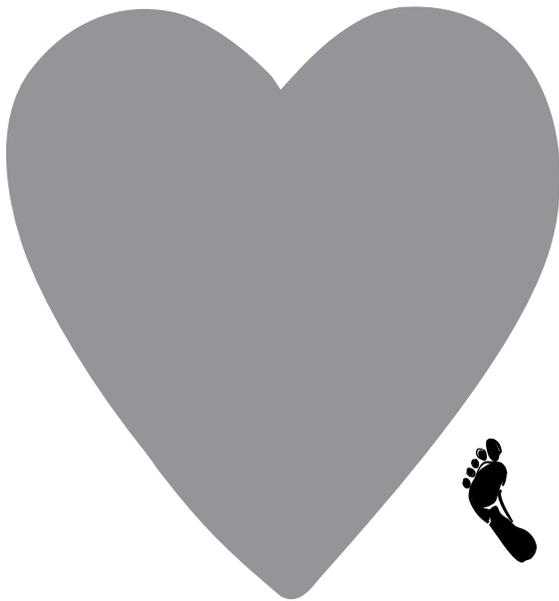




The Anchorage

A Ministry of Spiritual Direction and Contemplative Retreats

May 2007



Loving God
by Following

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

“Follow the Leader”

by Cathie Powell

Our theme for the year, “Ways to Love God,” began with the suggestion that we already do love God, because God creates us with that longing. Then we looked at two postures of loving God: “receiving” God’s love with open arms and “listening” with all of who we are. In this issue, we focus on the posture of “following.”

Take a moment to consider some ways we follow such as following directions? Often when we are asked to follow directions, they are given in writing on a form, or in a memo. The one giving us directions to follow is not present, not seen and often not known. Very impersonal.

“Keep your eyes on the leader”

Another way to follow that was FUN as a child, is in the game “Follow the Leader.” Do you remember? In order to follow, you had to keep your eyes on the leader. If you looked away you could miss the next move. Often we needed to listen, too, as the leader might sing or shout. This following is personal – we saw and heard – and knew the Leader.

There is another kind of following that is also personal. Remember the words of Jesus in John 21 when Peter asked Him about John? Jesus was very clear. “What is that to you? You follow me.” Jesus knew He would not be there forever in body, yet He still told Peter to follow Him.

Two more “follow me” Gospel passages relate to teaching about dying to self. In John 12:26, Jesus says that the grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die, for new life to grow. And in Luke 9:23, Jesus says, “deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me.” My understanding of the cross is that it always means death; death to the old self. The following we are called to is just this personal – in relationship with the One we follow.

In summary, we can love God by believing, receiving, listening and following. The order seems important, yet all are ongoing. And they all are daily, hourly, moment to moment, loving this One who knows us and loves us.

“Your Feet”

by Butch Green

Your feet were there, before there was;
Your feet walked in the Garden of Eden;
Your feet were behind the voice the prophets heard;
Your feet kicked in Mary’s womb;
Your feet ran and played as a child;
Your feet ached after a hard day’s work;
Your feet squished in the muddy Jordan;
Your feet led the way as they followed;
Your feet walked on water;
Your feet encountered the “unclean” sinners;
Your feet were anointed with oil;
Your feet were the ones not washed that night;
Your feet carried the iniquity of us all;
Your feet stumbled up the Via Dolorosa;
Your feet received the nails;
Your feet pushed up for that one last breath;
Your feet died;
Your feet began to tingle on that third day;
Your feet moved with new life;
Your feet convinced Thomas to believe;
Your feet touched this earth one last time promising to return;
Your feet may be scarred but they stroll on the golden streets;
Your feet now rest at the right of the Father;
One day all will fall at Your feet to worship.



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, 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

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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“My Feet”

My feet were known before they were even formed;
My feet were knitted together in my mother's womb;
My feet moved then kicked then crawled then walked then fell;
My feet led me astray until you found me;
My feet struggled and strained to remain on the “way”;
My feet dangled from your strong shoulders through the rocky places;
My feet bring the “Good News”;
My feet follow the Spirit's call;
My feet must slowly decay and die;
One day my feet will run and walk and never tire;
One day my feet will step into your glory and dance before your throne.

(Thanks to Butch Green for these poems. They were written during a Four-Day Directed Retreat at Mepkin Abbey with The Anchorage last month. Butch and his wife Nell are missionaries who have served on several continents over 20 years, and now are with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in North and South Carolina.)

“God Leads, I Follow”

by Rosaleen Feeser

“You lead, Lord, and I will follow.” This was my prayer in 1997 when I was going through radiation treatment for breast cancer. When I allowed God to be in charge of my life changes began to occur. I was drawn nearer to God. When we love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength we hunger for more and we seek a deeper, more intimate relationship.

Following God has created a strong desire in my heart to attend retreats. They have become a regular part of my spiritual journey. I was listening to a CD while driving to the beach retreat in January. My heart rejoiced when I heard the song, “As the Deer.” The words, “You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you,” resonated with my soul throughout those four days. Those meaningful words kept reminding me of the reason I was there. I was experiencing worship in a deep and meaningful manner through the rich balance of solitude and communion with fellow Christians.

Following God has led me to journaling and writing letters to God. When I journal I often experience God speaking to me. One of my entries reads, “I have plans for each and every day of your life. Begin each day with a joyful and grateful heart. Walk with me and talk with me every day. Focus on my presence and be in my presence. Follow me and you will continue to experience the richness and fullness of life with Christ living within you.”

How can we describe God's indescribable love? It is a love like none other. The words of author Dennis Kinlaw reflect my feelings. “I enjoy the work of Christ, but He is so much richer than His work, and it is that personal relationship with Him that is the most important relationship in my life.”

God is the unchanging presence in a constantly changing world. If you have any doubts about God's presence in your life, take a walk along a solitary beach at the break of day. Peace and serenity still exist there.

(Thanks to Rosaleen Feeser for this article and for her participation with The Anchorage. She serves as Pastor to both Rosman United Methodist Church, and Selica United Methodist Church, in NC.)



Next Years Probable Events

June, 2007 – June, 2008

We plan to offer these events again - plus some new ones.

September

Monday, Clergy Day #1,
Morning and Evening Book Study,
Thursday, Caregivers Lunch

October

Friday, Sailing Retreat #1,
Monday– Friday, Mepkin
Retreat #1

November

Friday, Quiet Day #1,
Thursday Evening Advent
Retreat

January

Monday, Epiphany Retreat,
Weekend Beach Retreat
Sunday-Tuesday, Praying the
Hours at the beach

February

Lenten Practice, TBA
Morning and Evening Book Study

March

Monday, Clergy Day #2,
Monday-Friday, Mepkin
Retreat #2,
Friday-Saturday, Solitude
Pointe Retreat

April

Friday, Quiet Day #2,
Friday, Sailing Retreat #2,
Sunday-Thursday, Diakonia
Retreat

Look for details in our July brochure. A \$10 deposit reserves your space.

PLUS:

Directed Retreats at

Solitude Pointe, three to eight days of time with God, driving to Greenville daily for spiritual direction

Monthly Spiritual Direction

Friend and Fund Raiser!

The Anchorage is entering our first “Friend and Fund Raiser” beginning this month. Please pray with us!

10TH Anniversary - 2008!

We will celebrate all year long in 2008! Events will include prayer, music, and more. TBA - stay tuned! Come celebrate with us!

**“Follow me and
you will continue
to experience the
fullness of life”**



The Anchorage

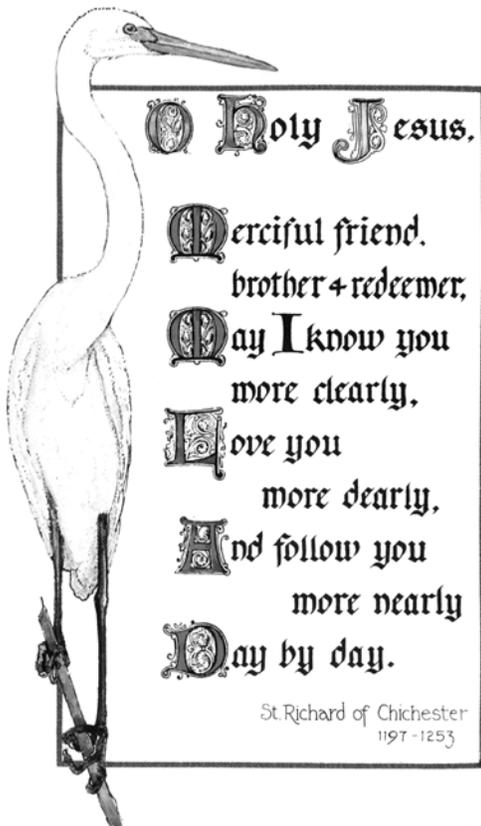
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Return Service Requested

*“What is that to you?
You follow me.”*
John 21:22

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*Artwork shared with the gracious permission of
The Scriptorium, All Saints Convent, Catonsville, Maryland*

Financial Status
April 30, 2007
(Fiscal Year is 07/06 – 06/07)

Gifts hoped for	\$24,500
Gifts received	<u>\$20,191</u>
Balance needed	\$ 4,309

Total hoped for	\$52,250
Total received	<u>\$41,806</u>
Balance needed	\$10,444

**THANK YOU, DONORS
AND PARTICIPANTS!**
The Anchorage Community!

We are praying that with the help of you, our faithful and generous donors, we will be able to fully fund the ministry this year! If 100 generous people would give \$100 each before June 30, we'll make it! Any size gift is fantastic and greatly appreciated.

Thank you again!

We are glad to send you our mailings at no cost to you. If you no longer wish to receive our mailings, just let us know.