



**The Anchorage**  
A Contemplative Ministry

# DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

May 2010

*Come away...*



"So, if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet."

John 13:14 from *The Message*

***The Active Way***  
***Or better...***

***The Unitive-Active Way***



# “A Fourth Way: The Unitive-Active Way”

By Cathie Powell

This spring issue is the last of four, developing The Classic Three Ways Plus One. For those who may not recall, and for those who have not read the other issues, we begin on this journey of faith after an awakening to God's love, with the Purgative Way. Because of the enormity of God's unconditional love, we become aware of our need to let go of things we are clutching so tightly, so that we can love God in return, and make room in our hands for receiving what God is offering. Next is the Illuminative Way, a time of seeing with the eyes of the heart, more of who God is and who we are. The last of the Three Classic Ways is the Unitive Way, a time of intimacy with God in love. These are not prescriptive but descriptive of the journey deeper into God's heart.

So now, to add the mysterious “Plus One” that seems essential to complete the movement. Though union with God in love and friendship may be the most highly valued experience of the Christian faith, the purpose of that union is not ONLY to please God and for humankind to be fulfilled. There is more.

Once the creature has tasted the unitive way with the Creator, then as a natural effect the mutual love between Creator and creature overflows to others almost indiscriminately. This fourth way is the Active Way. In order to reflect this truth better, we need to expand the name to be the Unitive-Active Way, because the love that flows over in action in the Active Way is not the love of the creature alone. No, it is life-changing love, effective because it is God's love in the creature for others.

The Active Way may spring from that unitive place, but too easily, as we move away from God's deep wellspring of love, we find ourselves serving with our own strength and love, rather than the strength and love of Christ. When the creature begins to try to do the work, the loving and the serving, from the creature's own store of love, joy, peace, strength, then the work is no longer life-giving or effective, and often results in burnout.

(Cont.d on page 4)

# “Finding True Strength in Troubled Times”

By Janice Jennings

“You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world...If the salt loses its saltiness or if the lamp is put under a bowl they do not serve their purpose.” Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5: 13-16 that we are to be salt and light in the world and to let our good deeds bring praise to our Father in heaven.

Hannah Whithall Smith, in *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, writes that service is a necessity for unity and happiness and that it can be either a burden or a joy. For our work to be a delight rather than make us weary we must put our entire control over into the hands of the Lord. With Him as our burden-bearer we are to lay off every care. In effect, she is reminding us as Paul does in Philippians 4:6-7, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

When I find myself feeling overwhelmed with my work I realize I may be trying to do something that God has not called me to do. Serving on a foreclosure prevention task force has given me firsthand experience of the housing crisis many families are facing in our own community. I am often invited into the personal world of struggling families to hear the heartbreaking stories of loss, anger, desperation, and disbelief. Exploring foreclosure alternatives through proper resources and action is one way to offer hope but I have often found that just listening without judging, offering patience and kindness, and being a calm presence in the midst of their storm renews their strength and turns their hope to the Lord.

***‘I may be trying to do something God has not called me to do.’***

(Cont.d on page 3)



## 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, where we know we are loved, 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 contemplative retreats, book studies, 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.*

### Servant Leaders

Sharon Decker  
Margaret Hardy  
David Leaphart  
Susan Leaphart  
Donna Meyer  
Robert Miles, Chair  
Henry Mitchell  
Carroll Page

Cathie Powell, Executive Director  
Margaret Vincent, Office Manager

Peggy Dulaney, Stewardship Chair  
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### The Anchorage

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# “Delhi Transformation”

By Carroll Page

I would like to introduce you to my friend Santosh. She is a sixteen-year-old girl living in a slum in Delhi, India. It is about 115 degrees when I go to visit her home for the first time. It is little more than a one-room hovel, where Santosh lives with her parents, three sisters, and a brother. There are no windows, just the door, and the heat seems to grow more intense with every passing moment. One bed sits against a wall; the children still sleep on the floor. The cooking is done outside.

Santosh is rising against the odds. Her mother and father cannot read or write. I know that her mother cannot even sign her name. Her older siblings are not much better off. Yet Santosh has caught a glimpse of life beyond the slums. While many girls, who grow up in the slums turn to prostitution or drugs to make a little money, she wants a better life for herself and her family. In the simplicity of her life, she probably has a better grasp of what is valuable than do I.

Since 1998 India has been one of the places I have met Christ. God has used Indians like Santosh to transform my life. I met Santosh the day after I arrived in India last year. She met me at the subway station to help me get to the church a friend pastors. She spoke pretty good English, and she became my guide for several days.

Last fall Santosh entered what Indians call Standard Eleven . . . the eleventh grade for us. Two more years in the government school, but she hopes to go to college. I hope she will be able, and I would like to help her reach that goal. I realize that I can't make a difference in the lives of all the children, but I hope I can make a difference in a few lives.

India doesn't need me, as much as I need India. Jesus was really right in Matthew 25, when he suggested that when we do something for one of the least of these, we meet him. To spend some time with people, who are less fortunate than we are, is transforming. Before you realize it, you find that it is your life that has been changed. It changes your prayer life. It strengthens your faith. Maybe you find that you don't complain as much. And time after time, God challenges me to repent of my littleness.

So many of the people in our world don't know that they matter to God. It is a transforming experience just to be with them for it reminds me that everyone matters to God.

*(Thanks to Carroll Page for this article and for his involvement with The Anchorage. He currently serves as Chair-Elect for our Servant Leaders (Board). Since 1992, Carroll has been the pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, NC. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Gardner-Webb University.)*

*(Cont.d from page 2)*

Putting ourselves and the outcome of our work into the Lord's hands often goes against our natural instincts but realizing that we are only playing a bit part in God's plan can turn a burden into a joy. I find the simple prayer, "Your will be done" or the reminder "it's not about me" helpful in times when I just want to "fix it". Finding true joy and the secret of a happy life can be found only when we become a witness to what God is already doing in our lives and the lives of others. Our role then becomes to be salt and light as a reminder of God's incredible love and power.

*(Thanks to Janice Jennings for this article and for her involvement with The Anchorage over the years. She is a real-estate agent with Joy Real Estate in Greenville, SC and was the 2009 Greater Greenville Association Realtor of the Year. She is active at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mauldin and is currently in Sursum Corda, a spiritual direction program.)*



## Upcoming Events

**Thurs., May 20, 6:30 – 8:30**  
**“Spring Caregivers Dinner: Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

1st UMC, Easley, SC.  
Led by Peggy Dulaney

**Fri., May 21 – Sat., May 22**  
**“Deeper into the Silence of God”** The Oratory, Rock Hill, SC. Led by Martin Laird

**Sat., July 24 – Sun., Aug. 1**  
**7-day Directed Retreat,** Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA.  
Led by Cathie Powell

**Probable Dates for our '10 - '11 booklet:**

**Fri., Aug. 28 – Sat., Aug. 29**  
**“Listening to God, Oneself, and Others” Summer Retreat**

Led by Patty Levering, Quaker.  
Location TBA, probably NC mtns.

**November 1 – 8**  
**7-day Fall Directed Retreat** at Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner, SC. Led by Peggy Walsh

**Beach Retreat, Jan. 21 – 23**  
Led by Sr. Caroline Smith, Praying the Hours, Jan. 23 – 25  
Led by Cathie Powell

**Feb. 18 - 20**  
**“2nd Annual Artists and Mystics Retreat”**  
Snails Pace, Saluda, NC. Led by Ashlyn Mengel/Cathie Powell

**April 11-15**  
**4-Day Spring Directed Retreat** Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner, SC. Led by Cathie Powell

**A Word to the Wise:**  
The five events above may fill up before our booklet goes out in July.

**Sabbatical: Sept 20 – Dec. 20**  
A Sabbatical Team will lead The Anchorage, as Cathie seeks God's replenishment.

*All events are at The Anchorage unless noted above. To reserve your space, send \$10 payable to The Anchorage.*



# The Anchorage

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Greenville, SC 29604

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*"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,  
because apart from me you can do nothing."  
John 15:5*

*(Cont.'d from page 2)*

So what needs to happen at that point? The creature needs to return to the Creator, to begin the process back to that Unitive place. Often the best place to start is with The Purgative Way. We are usually holding something too tightly that we need to let go. It is our nature to look for love in all the wrong places, to try to quench our thirst from the shallow cisterns of Jeremiah, rather than the deep living water of Christ.

Adding a new "way" to The Classic Three Ways, a Fourth Way, is not a new thought. The idea is implied, if not explicitly stated, in many familiar writings on the spiritual journey. To name just one, in The Interior Castle, St. Teresa of Avila says

***"we are usually  
holding something  
too tightly..."***

that our growing toward union with God, even to the seventh dwelling, is not only to complete God's joy, and ours, but also for to throw us back out to the world to love God's people with God's love. How can we not love whom God loves?

In the Unitive-Active Way we can love our neighbor with the love of Christ in us. Therefore, as we are rooted and grounded in God, we can begin to "love our neighbors and ourselves for God's sake," as Bernard of Clairvaux says, not out of some need to impress others or gain anything for ourselves, and especially not to find favor with God. God already loves each of us more than we can imagine.

Take a moment now, and realize AGAIN how much God loves you. You are so very precious to God. As God fills you to overflowing with love, then let that love flow out to others, with gratefulness.

**Love always**



### Financial Status as of April 30 2010 (Fiscal Year is July 09 – June 10)

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Total gifts budgeted  | \$42,440        |
| Total received        | <u>\$37,700</u> |
| <b>Amount needed</b>  | <b>\$ 4,740</b> |
| Total income budgeted | \$75,058        |
| Total received        | <u>\$62,820</u> |
| <b>Amount needed</b>  | <b>\$12,238</b> |

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

*From God's Abundance  
(2008-2011)*

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 3-year Goal       | \$153,700        |
| Pledged:          | <u>\$138,191</u> |
| <b>Remaining:</b> | <b>\$ 15,509</b> |

#### **IN-KIND NEEDS**

White refrigerator, stackable chairs, coat rack, bird bath, bird feeder.

**All gifts are fully tax-deductible.**

#### **VOLUNTEER AT THE OFFICE?**

If you could help us out a few hours a month it would be fantastic!

Be in touch!