



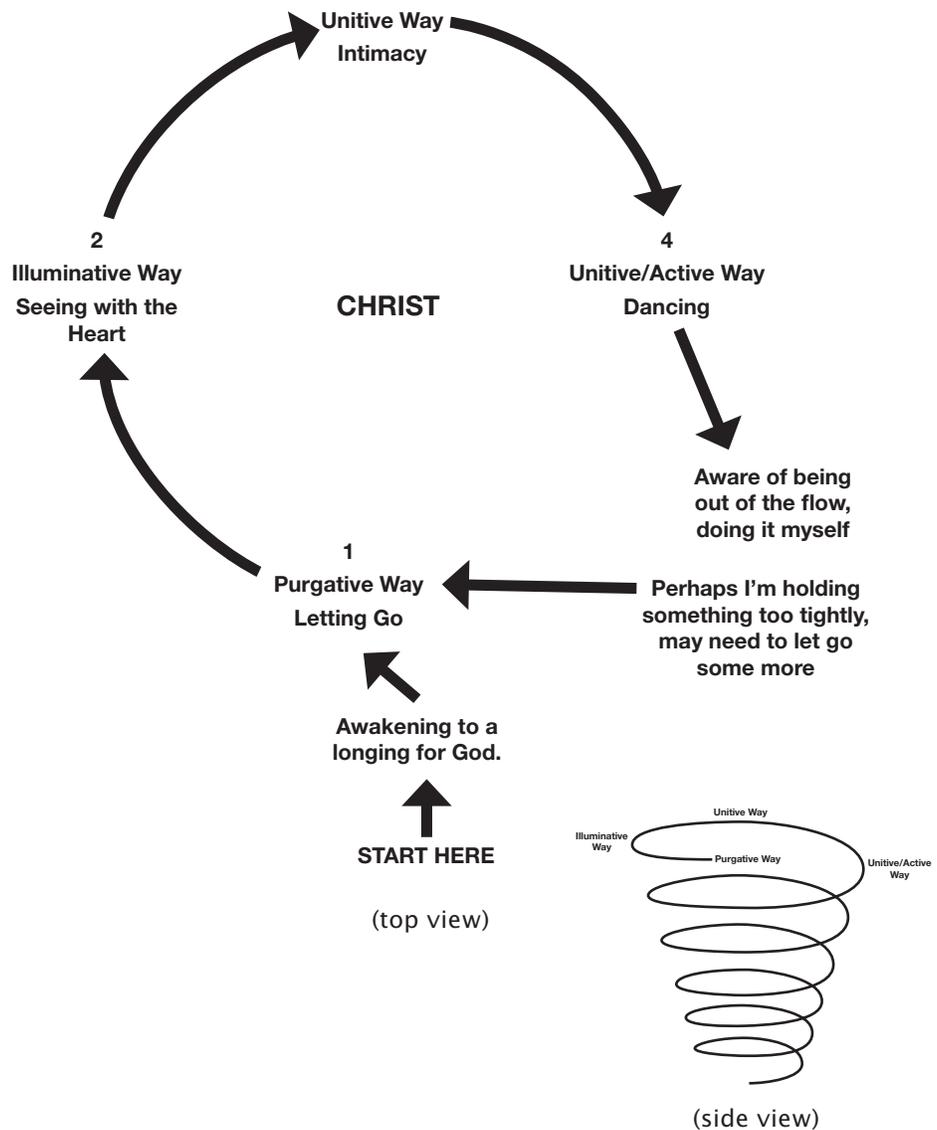
The Anchorage:
A Contemplative Community for All
Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

August 2022

“Celebrating 25 years of
 Learning to Dance:
 God Leads, We Follow”



anchor deep

“25th Year ALL Year”

By Catherine Powell

It is a new fiscal year, and our 25th year in existence! We invite you to celebrate our 25 years all year with us, unabashedly grateful for all God has done. We begin a new theme for our quarterly issues of Depth Soundings. The theme this year is “*Celebrating 25 years of Learning to Dance: God Leads, We Follow.*”

We are SO delighted to say that we are offering a few more events this year, coming back to before pandemic times. I’m personally excited about the two book studies, one in the fall and one during Lent. A brief article reflecting on our 25 years, will be the first of many throughout the year. If you would like to contribute a memory in the form of a short article, or paragraph, please know you are welcome. (by email or thru the website)

Robert Miles had fun with the “dance” idea. His Desert Day will have an Advent twist. Three Servant Leaders, Christina Auch, Jonathan Jones, and Susan Leaphart completed their 3-year terms this summer. Pictures of two are on page 6. Susan will provide a picture for our next issue.

We are alive and well and grateful! It seems God wants us to keep offering these contemplative opportunities to “come away – anchor deep.”

“The Classic Three Ways Plus One”

By Catherine Powell

The Classic Three Ways date back to about 500 CE so there isn’t space to do the history justice here. The diagrams on the cover will be the topic for the August 5 Desert Day coming up soon. For the intent of this article, let’s relate it to the theme: “*Learning to Dance: God Leads, We Follow.*”

The Classic Three Ways are the Purgative, the Illuminative, and the Unitive. (After several years, I started calling it PIU – just too cumbersome to say all those syllables.) My husband would comment about how difficult the words were to grasp. Making meaning of them took some effort. And he was right. I found that whenever I shared my ideas with friends about this concept, it was not unusual for their eyes to glaze over and look for an opportunity to change the subject or leave.

It was still too valuable to me to let it go, and I knew it was what God wanted communicated. So, I prayed for help with the terminology, a way to make it more palatable. These words came: “Letting Go”, “Seeing with the Heart” and “Intimacy.” Those are a bit more familiar even though they still need some interpretation in our relationship with God.

In a nutshell – the 4th Way, the NEW way that I added, was the natural moving into action from the place of intimacy. And it can’t just be called the “Active” way and you may already know why? It is not acting from a self-centered ego-driven place of my agenda and my resources. The whole idea is to participate WITH God in life, meaning it is God’s interests and God’s energy at work, even God’s resources, which do not run out! It may look the same from the outside, but it is a different awareness from within. The word ‘unitive’ must be kept and call it the “Unitive Active” way. We don’t leave God to ‘go do ministry’ and then come back to get replenished. No. Isn’t God wherever we are going anyway? We make our home in God’s love, and together we minister. Now we need a more familiar word for the 4th way. How about “Dancing?” Isn’t that the perfect metaphor for a life of ministry lived with God leading?

It is effective because it is God’s love in the creature providing the power, the life. Loving the neighbor from that place of union reminds us of a challenging passage in Scripture. In John 15:5, Jesus says, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me, you can do nothing!” Our quarterly Servant Leader meetings begin with reading that scripture.

The descriptions and definitions are a good starting point to better understand this graced process but lest the reader miss the main point, it is all about God. To be with God, in God, being a branch attached to the vine, grateful moment by moment for whatever it is that God wants to do with us. It is not that we are instruments in God’s hands to get the work done, but that God chooses us, as individuals, to participate with God, as God’s chosen, in the work God wants to do in us and in the world. All gift!



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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*Catherine Powell,
Founding Servant Leader*

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The Anchorage

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“The Story of the Feather”

By Catherine Powell

Every year at the beach retreat I tell the story of the feather and it has never been written down before. Perhaps it's time?

In January of 1998, I went to the beach to discern what God was up to! Asking if God wanted me to quit my computer

programming career of 30 years, to start a ministry of spiritual direction and retreats. Here's one way God gave me confirmation.

I was walking on the beach and passed some ladies who were picking up feathers. I noticed there were SO many feathers, I decided to pick up some too, wondering if maybe God might want to use them somehow. Our paths crossed again walking back the other way, and one said, 'You've got enough feathers there to make a whole bird.' I agreed. Told them I was praying about starting a ministry that would include a winter beach retreat and I might use them. One woman held out the 'mother of all feathers' and said, "here, I want you to have this for your ministry." I was overwhelmed. I asked her to tell me her name so I could tell people who gave me such an incredible feather. She replied, "my name is Theo."

I blinked and almost dropped my feathers. A woman named "Theo", which means "God's gift" in Greek, gave me a feather for the beach retreats. (How many women named Theo do YOU know?) That was all I needed.

On returning home, that Monday I turned in my notice for the end of March after the next big 'go live' so I didn't leave them in the lurch.

Since 1986, seminary classes had been just for fun, to help me teach Sunday school better, but when I discerned God's call in 1990 I decided to go ahead and get the M. Div. one or two classes at a time. I graduated in April and founded The Anchorage in May of 1998.

Every year at the beach retreat I have told that story and give each retreatant a feather. After 24 years, we have not run out, but I must say that from time to time I have added to the collection. I've found two more huge feathers so we now have a trinity!

After the story, we gather for a Greek circle wedding dance in silence to honor this One who blesses and provides so generously.

“How many women named Theo do YOU know?”



Chronological Listing of Upcoming Events

“Desert Days” 1st Fri. even months, Aug. 5, Oct. 7, Dec. 2. Theme is **“Learning to Dance: God Leads, We Follow”**. Opening prayer, varying content, reflection time in solitude, lunch with conversation, similar timing for the afternoon. Begins at 9:30, concludes by 2:30.

Fee: \$40 in person (\$30 if BYO lunch) Deposit (\$10) due a week ahead.

Led by: Catherine Powell-Aug, Matt Rollins-Oct, Robert Miles-Dec

Location: Gower Estates, Greenville, SC

Fall Book Study, *Turn My Mourning into Dancing: Finding Hope in Hard Times* by Henri Nouwen. Ever practical, never pat or simplistic, it gently points toward a way of life that is grounded in God’s constancy and rooted in eternal hope, a life that can dance even in the darkest night.

4 Tuesday mornings from 10:30 – 12noon, Sept. 27 - Oct. 18

Fee: \$60 (deposit \$10) due a week ahead at latest.)

Led by: Catherine Powell

Location: Gower Estates, Greenville, SC.

Tues., Nov. 1, 6:30 – 8:30 “Taste and See”. Enjoy a taste of The Anchorage, a brief introduction to the contemplative way and a little history about our beginnings.

Fee: FREE

Led by: Catherine Powell

Location: Gower Estates, Greenville, SC

“Ignatian Retreats” Dates TBA Companionship retreatants one-on-one in person or on Zoom for 3- to 5-day directed retreats is my deepest sense of calling. You would need to have quiet space for this daily: 45 minutes with me on Zoom or in person to process your prayer and about 1 hour, at 3 different times, for prayer on suggested scripture.

Fee: \$150 for 3 days (4 sessions), \$195 for 5 days (6 sessions), \$250 for 7 days (8 sessions).

Led by: Catherine Powell - on Zoom or in Gower Estates

25th Annual Beach Retreat: “Come to Me And I Will Give You Rest”

Jan. 27-29 weekend. We will focus on this welcoming passage spoken by Jesus. Plan to arrive between 4 and 4:30, we will begin at 5 and conclude by 11:00 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. Music by Cindy Orr.

Location: TBA, Myrtle Beach area, SC

Lenten Book Study, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*, by Dane Ortlund. Christians know what Jesus has done, but who is he? What is his deepest heart for his people, weary and faltering on their faith journey? Jesus said he is “gentle and lowly in heart.” This book reflects on these words, opening a central truth about who he is. We will enjoy some quiet and conversation.

6 Tuesday mornings from 10:30 – 12noon, Feb. 28 – Apr. 4

Fee: \$80 (does not include \$20 book)

Led by: Catherine Powell

Location: Gower Estates, Greenville, 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 (If that is not doable, we’ll find an amount that is.)

With: Catherine Powell

Location: Gower Estates, Greenville, SC or on Zoom

If \$10 is all you can pay, then that is all you pay!

(Donations are always welcome for scholarships)

LEADERSHIP

Robert Miles – Note: Robert is leading our December Desert Day. (Please see bio info below his article on page 5)

Cindy Orr - Cindy has been active in music ministry most of her life. She has served in her church music program, taught Sunday school classes, and served in other various ways. She was in a group, RainChild, that performed often, then felt led to embark on a solo adventure in music ministry, serving as Worship Leader at Russell Community Church, in Greenville, SC. She has led music for beach retreats and Friend Raisers for The Anchorage. This year, Cindy will do some teaching at the beach as well as lead worship that glorifies God and encourages God’s people. Guitar in hand, Cindy will provide worship that glorifies God and encourages us.

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 the Spiritual Guidance Program of The Shalem Institute, The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and training at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA to lead 8-day retreats. Her passion is one-on-one spiritual direction, both monthly and when leading Ignatian retreats. She enjoys time with her husband Skeeter and their pets.

The Rev. Dr. Matt Rollins, a Greenville native, serves as the Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach at First Baptist Greenville. He earned a Doctor of Ministry at Gardner-Webb. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Rolyn, for 25 years, and they have three children. His favorite things to do in his spare time have not changed since high school - basketball, reading, and crossword puzzles - although serving God and the Greenville community through the church and being with his family are the most important things in his life. Matt currently serves as the Chair of The Anchorage Board (servant Leaders). **Note: Matt is leading our October Desert Day.**

“May I Have This Dance ?!”

By Robert Miles

I don't dance. Perhaps it's repressed memories from Middle School. At special occasions with my wife – yes! With our daughter at her wedding – yes! But generally no I consider myself “rhythmically challenged.”

I don't dance. EXCEPT with children! When our grandchildren – two and four and six – invite me to dance I gladly join them with reckless abandon. It is a joyful freedom. Self-consciousness dissipates in the invitation to be with this beloved grandchild, to join the world of pure wonder which is the life of the child. For me, the invitation must come from outside myself. And when it does, everything changes!

Is it not the same way with God? God's reality is different from ours – far more free and full and joyful and compassionate than we can comprehend. God invites us to join God's dance, to come inside God's new creation, to become part of this party God is hosting for all of us – even and especially for the prodigals who never left. Martin Luther implores us to remember that faith “requires a free surrender and a joyful daring!” This happens when the child invites me to dance.

And I need to be invited. I need to be asked by One who shows me how. I need to be surrounded by others who are learning and encouraging me to join in. This joyful community is the very nature of God's Own Self. This going around together – perichoresis – is what God does. Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier in communion together creating community all around. As Richard Leach writes in his profound hymn: *“The universe of space and time did not arrive by chance – but as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their dance.”*

Salvation (whatever we mean by that word) always comes from outside ourselves. That is the nature of the Gospel. And it has been my experience of The Anchorage. Through this ministry God has been whispering in my ear, tapping me on the shoulder, inviting me to dance, challenging me, encouraging me, and supporting me for the last 15 of its 25 years. It is one of the first places I experienced a community of like-minded contemplatives. *“I'm not the only one!”* It is still more vital today. Because it is a daily challenge to dance this dance when the world all around us believes there is no reason to dance – or all the wrong reasons. God continues to invite and encourage. *“I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black, it's hard to dance with the devil on your back . . . They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in Me – I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.”*

When our first grandchild in her “pre-verbal” phase would look up at me with her bright eyes and abundantly curly hair and pat the seat beside her and invite me into her fellowship, I always stopped what I was doing and sat to see what **she** was doing. It became then and remains for me now a profound image of God's Holy Spirit inviting me into this new world of relationship with God. It carries me back to my childhood – a good thing. It also carries me forward into the new creation which is the life God joyfully intends for all of us.

The music is playing. The party has already started. “May I have this dance?!”

(Thanks to Robert Miles for this article and for his participation with and support of The Anchorage over many years. He was a Servant Leader and served as Chair his third year. He received a degree in English from Davidson College and his M. Div. from LTSS in Columbia. He served as a Lutheran parish pastor in SC from 1980 to 2019. He participated in the LTSS Spiritual Direction Program. He and his wife Debbie live in Clemson and enjoy the blessings of their grown children and grandchildren)

“It is still more vital today... it is a daily challenge to dance this dance when the world all around us believes there is no reason to dance.”

“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!

Trusting God to get the word out. I'm grateful that it continues to speak to all people, but especially those in ministry, clergy and laity.





The Anchorage

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*"You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed
me with joy, so that my soul may praise
you and not be silent. O Lord my God,
I will give thanks to you forever."*

Psalm 30:11-12

"Awards Richly Deserved"

By Catherine Powell

Thanks to Christina Auch, Jonathan Jones and Susan Leaphart for their completed 3-years of service as a Servant Leader (Board member) with The Anchorage. Carl McKenzie, pictured with Christina, is a Lutheran Pastor who served The Anchorage as a Servant Leader several years ago. We will provide a picture of Susan Leaphart with her award in the next issue of Depth Soundings. We are more grateful than words can say for their significant contribution to this Contemplative Community for All offered by The Anchorage.



Financial Status

(as of June 30, 2022)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 26,600
Total received	<u>\$ 23,008</u>
Amount needed	\$ 3,592
Total income budgeted	\$ 41,320
Total received	<u>\$ 35,349</u>
Amount needed*	\$ 5,971

**Our shortfall (little less than 15%) 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 **"Dance of Love: the 2-Step"** was on Zoom again. 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.

Use our convenient online PayPal donation/registration!

THANK YOU for your generosity in both prayer and giving!