



DEPTH SOUNDINGS

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

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2023

“Always, We Begin Again”



Some of us gathered to celebrate 25 years of Contemplative Community. Mike Flanagan led us in singing some of his original songs.

Angie Gage, Jill Minasi, Mike Flanagan, Allison Greene, Carrie, Tim and Samantha Crumbliss, Matt Rollins, Janet Yusi, Tim and Madeline Blackwell, Molly Wilkes, Tom Faulkner, Catherine and Skeeter Powell, and faithful dog Chief (Photographer, not pictured: Rolyn Rollins)



“The Next 25 Years, One Year at a Time”

By Catherine Powell

So, we begin again with an abundance of ideas for the next 25 years. We are aware of our need for technical help and some younger leadership so please pray with us. Our articles are full of God's grace! Praying God speaks to your heart in them!

Jerry Fonte and Susan Allen both have lived beautiful lives with and for our holy and gracious God. Enjoy their articles. The article by Susan Rice is easy to miss: She is **leading our December Desert Day** with an Advent flair, and this gives you a flavor of who she is.

(Cont.'d on page 3)

“Always We Begin Again”

By Jerry Fonte

I have pondered the resolution of St. Benedict all this year since introduced as a contemplative theme for The Anchorage by Catherine. I take it as a quote from the founder of cenobitic Monasticism who left us with his “Rule” for contemplation in community. I also re-read his “Rule” as I implement it in everyday life of rhythm with God and others. The Abbot instructed his disciples that each day, each moment, is a new beginning with Jesus Who lives in the midst of the community of faith.

My wife Ginny had a second bout with cancer and a mastectomy with wound infection in 2020 and had healed up and was protected from COVID that raged that year. “Always we begin again.” In August of 2022 we celebrated our 50th anniversary. This was after I had my own bout with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2021 and weathered chemo and radiation treatment. From then to now I am in remission. After a leave of absence on temporary disability, I was able to return to my Chaplain work at the hospital. “Always we begin again.”

In 2022 I had a good return to ministry until the hospital system retired me due to cutbacks. In my “semi-retirement” I had been able to complete 42 years of Ministry in pastoral and chaplain work. In 2023 I have done volunteer work at the cancer center that treated us, and at another hospital where I had volunteered before. God also opened a part time business Chaplain position with a friend. I have also enjoyed rest, and teaching the Word in my local church, facilitating a grief group, and continuing many friendships and over the year. “Always we begin again”.

It was told to me once that “all the great saints have been great repenters”. Spiritually, this is what “re-pentance” is, to “begin again”. Abbot Benedict understood this and taught it to his disciples. Likewise, Jeremiah the “weeping prophet” during the final demise and destruction of Jerusalem, witnessed the darkest hour of Judah, much like the days in which we live. With them Jeremiah as a sinner “mourned his afflictions”. In his Lamentation, however, he gave us the basis of a “new beginning” that gave them hope. They needed and we need this “ray of hope” in the darkness as contemplatives. “This I call to mind, therefore I have hope. The LORD’s loving-kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him.’” (Lam. 3:22-24). We “begin again” because God’s mercies are new every day, the God of new beginnings, our New Beginning moment by moment. “Always We Begin Again”.

(Thanks to Jerry Fonte for this article and for his friendship and support of The Anchorage over many years. He serves as a volunteer chaplain with Lexington Medical Center and South Carolina Oncology. He has been in ministry all his life and recently has been the one needing ministry! His love for God and God’s people is evident in all he does.)



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

*(Board of Directors)
Madeline Blackwell
Carrie Crumbliss
Angie Gage, Chair
Linda Keel
Jill Minasi
Mike Smith*

The Anchorage

*P. O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604
(864) 232-LOVE (5683)
www.theanchorage.org
cpowell@theanchorage.org*

“Always, we begin again.” St. Benedict Reflection

By Susan Allen

When it's time each morning to begin again - O Great Glorious One, what joy and relief to come running to You - again. This new day - to rest at Your feet, to review past moments of yesterday, releasing all to You, to load up Your altar with these fresh bouquets of sincere thankfulness and profound gratitude, (Ps. 50:14) as You said You want on Your altar of sacrifice. No more bloody animals but the sincere praise and glorious thankfulness of a heart, of our hearts, filled to overflowing with gratitude as we gaze on Your greatness. Your goodness. Your majesty. Your splendor. Your triumph. Your wonders. Your mighty works. The beauties of Your creation. Every blossom. Every bloom. Every vine. Every green radiant blade. Keep us ever mindful of Your wonders. (Neh. 9:17).

**“Thank you for
THIS DAY! Our
gaze and our
hearts are fixed
on You.”**

LORD, we wait in your presence at earliest day, before the dawn starts singing, we are transfixed, feasting in Your atmosphere. Oh, glorious one, You are so good and we are so overcome in these early moments of the day. His day of new beginnings. This new day in Your eternity. You have planned another glorious day for us. Your beloved ones. Your children. Your trainees. Your special treasure. (Mal. 3:17)

LORD, we are all longing to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, to follow those bloody footprints. Daily. Moment by moment. Oh God, we are so weak. So broken. So desperately in need of Your help. Your empowerment. Your breath. The aroma of Your person. Oh Lord, I am strengthened. Your breath gave Adam divine life that day. That's the breath I crave, Lord. In order to begin all over again.

Thank You Father, that You are indeed, the all-sufficient source. You are our glorious comfort and our empowerment and our vision. TODAY. A FRESH START. All over again. Indeed, joy comes in the morning! Your mercies are radically new each day. We wear our crowns of loving kindness and tender mercies which You have given. We adjust our robes of righteousness and our garments of glory and praise. Thank You for THIS DAY! Our gaze and our hearts are fixed on You. We seek Your will, oh God, as we go, in PEACE, having met with You TODAY. *(Thanks to Susan Allen for this Prayer (article?) and for her recent encouragement for The Anchorage Community. She is a seeker with no retreat credentials, experience or certifications. She was saved at six because of Child Evangelism Fellowship and a Good News Club! (God bless you forever, Mrs. Strom!) She has been listening ever since trying to put the pieces together of God's TRUTH, our earth life and heavenly realities. Blessings to all, in The Anchorage family. I am very blessed because of this contemplative community. I feel like I have found "My tribe." This GOD IS SO GOOD!)*

(Cont.'d from page 2)

A big answer to prayer: You can watch an interview about The Anchorage on YouTube, as Eric Barnhart invited us to be one of his first guests on Storytime, his new show. He is a spiritually gifted musician who writes “gentle piano music to calm, heal and relax the soul.” He served as a Servant Leader until he moved to Kansas. Our interview aired Oct. 11 at 7pm. You may tune in at EBLounge.com, click on “view on YouTube,” and support his show! Ours has Kristen Alley in the title. Eric reaches folks all over the world! He called just as our board was praying about a way to get the word out since what we offer is needed now more than ever! We all need hope and healing, space to breathe, as we become more still, aware that we are loved and held by our gracious God. “Quiet. Still. Be. Let your God love you!” (E. Gateley)



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:

Dec. 1 - Susan Rice

Feb. 2 - Robert Miles

Apr. 5 - Angie Gage

June 7 - Carrie Crumbliss

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

Location: Gower Estates,
Greenville, SC

26th Annual Beach Retreat January 26-28,

Ample time for listening for God with our theme “Always, we begin again.” Overnight silence.

Leaders: Catherine/Cindy Orr

Fee: \$395 Single ocean-front room, (does not include food)

Location: Grande Shores,
Myrtle Beach, SC

5-week Lenten Book Study, Living in God: Contemplative Prayer and Contemplative Action by Nicholas Amato.

**Feb. 20-Mar. 19, Tuesdays,
10 -12.** Will include some contemplative practices.

Fee: \$75 (does not include \$14 book, you may find it for less?)

Location: Gower Estates,
Greenville, 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

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



The Anchorage

A Contemplative
Community for All

P.O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Greenville, SC
Permit No. 1070

Return Service Requested

*"So above all, guard the affections of
your heart, for they affect all that you
are. Pay attention to the welfare of
your innermost being, for from there
flows the wellspring of life."
Proverbs 4:23 (TPT)*



Susan Rice receives her Service Award for completing a 3-year term as a Servant Leader with The Anchorage, 2020-2023. The writing on the anchor award is:

"Thank you for your willing spirit to step in when needed, your faithfulness to take part even when "across the pond," your wise and gentle spirit, and your love for God and God's people."

Financial Status (as of October 15, 2023) (Our Fiscal Year is July 1 – June 30)

Total gifts budgeted	\$ 26,000
Total received	<u>\$ 8,595</u>
Amount needed	\$17,405
Total FY income budgeted	\$ 38,000
Total received	<u>\$ 10,657</u>
Amount needed	\$27,343

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENCOURAGING GENEROSITY!!

Our 2024 Friend Raiser will be in February with worship and dinner for our donors and participants - to say THANK YOU to our GOD and to our community – YOU!!!

Mission Increase, an organization that helps non-profits at no charge, is leading us in strategic planning. We would appreciate your prayer as we listen for God's input. We may hire someone to provide technical expertise and another to share the load of leadership. Takes support!

BIG gratitude for Christina Auch! The website was hers for the last few years. And to Susan Rice who is covering it now. **THANK YOU!**