



The Anchorage

A Contemplative
Community for All

P.O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604

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The Anchorage:

A Contemplative Community for All

Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

February 2026

Return Service Requested

*"And we all, with unveiled faces,
beholding the glory of the Lord, are
being changed into His likeness from
one degree of glory to another: for this
comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."
2 Corinthians 3:18*

Behold God Beholding You in Love

"Safe within Your Arms, Lord" by Mark Hayes is worth listening to!
(Nicholas Hawkins sang this at Christ Church Episcopal; Thanks, Nick!)

Whether I'm right or whether I'm wrong
Whether I'm weak or whether I'm strong
Whether I'm sure or maybe confused
Feeling loved or feeling used
I know a place where I can go
Somewhere that winter winds don't blow
There I am warmed by loving arms
Held with care, next to Your heart

CHORUS

**And I'm safe, within Your arms, Lord
I've become a child again
I've come back to the source of love
Where healing can begin
Though the world would say
I must be strong and prove my worth
By what I do**

**I will rest, assured in Your embrace,
And find my strength in You**
Whether I'm walking in the light
Or whether I'm stumbling through the night
You are a God, whose promise endures
Though undeserved, Your love is sure
When I am tempted to pursue
Plans that may lead me far away from You
Gently You call, "My child, come home
I will never let go of one of my own"

CHORUS

And find my strength in You

Grateful for God's Loving Gaze

By Catherine Powell

While there is much to say, the bottom line for me lately is learning how to trust God. I recommend the song on the cover as well as the song by Pat Barrett "Better Hands." It has kept me company, no better, kept me aware of God's care for us all. SO grateful. Ever since the month before my knee replacement, (May 2024) through Hurricane Helene, which hit Greenville pretty hard, including us, then through my husband's knee replacement and much more! Praising our God who is worthy of our trust. Not that everything will work out the way we want it to, but that God is WITH us! Emmanuel! We are not alone!

Chorus:

*Learning how to let it go, I'm learning how to trust you,
Cause every time I trust you, I'm never more sure
That this is in better hands,
This is a better plan
This is in better hands than my own.*

And don't we all really know that deep down inside? That God can handle whatever – better than we can? This seems to be a central truth of our faith, it certainly is said often at The Anchorage. I often quote the former abbot at Mepkin Abbey, Fr. Stan Gumula. When I told him it was so difficult to let go. He replied "That is the whole spiritual journey in a nutshell. More and more letting go – until the final letting go! And aren't we blessed to have enough years to prepare for it?"

There will be more news about letting go in our next issue. As I've mentioned before, I'll be stepping away as Executive Director the end of June, but The Anchorage is stepping up! I'm thrilled to say that our Board of Servant Leaders has worked very hard the last few months to pull together a great plan! Best news, God has answered our prayers for a new director! Thank you for your prayerful support.

Financial Status

(as of January 12, 2026)

(Our Fiscal Year is July 1 – June 30)

Total FY gifts budgeted	\$ 22,800
Total received	\$ 14,167
Amount needed	\$ 8,633

Total FY income budgeted	\$ 34,606
Total received	\$ 18,031
Amount needed	\$16,575

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ENCOURAGING GENEROSITY!!**

**Be on the lookout for our
2026 Friend Raiser!**

Our hope is that you were in-
spired and encouraged by God in
your daily walk, by this mailing!

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
BOTH PRAYER AND
FINANCIAL,
YOU ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE
FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD
HERE ON EARTH!**



*anchor
deep*

“God Beholding Us in Love”

By Linda Keel

About 30 years ago, my life was completely out of my control. My husband had lost the business, we had 4 young children, 3 houses with payments overdue and no job in his near future. I had chosen a career path with no pay, an at home mom and wife to my amazing husband! My world was falling apart. I was desperate for God to save me from all of it (anxiety attacks, depression and hopelessness in the world) but not trusting Him to do it.

My friend Chris Anne Lucky invited me to her sister's church in NC. A special healing service was going on that weekend. It was a spirit filled, praying in tongues, laying on of hands kind of church. I grew up in a very traditional Lutheran church. I was skeptical. I was desperate for more of God. So off we went. I was prayed over by several ministers speaking in tongues for a very long time. At the amen I was given a prophecy for my future, “I was being called to be a worshipper.” Later in the service there was an invitation to receive the gift of tongues. I went down front. I wanted it all!

On the ride home I thought to myself, (I hope) the tongues thing was a big hoax, that was for the Bible story in Acts. But, oh how I hoped God wanted my life as a worshipper to be in music. I have always loved music! Just maybe it was of God? The excitement left when I was back home and settled into the reality of our lives.

I still had no control over any of it; hopeless feelings beginning to rise again. As soon as I desperately began praying to ward off these feelings the Holy Spirit took over. I lay prostrate on the floor praying loudly, rhythmically with a mighty voice that was not my own. I had absolutely no control over what was happening. Yet it was calming.

I was no longer a skeptic. My Abba Father heard my prayers. All of them. He wanted to assure me of this. He loves me so much that He wanted me to know how extravagant His love for me really is. He wanted me to know that He is the one in control and I don't have to be. I never again experienced my own praying in tongues.

Seeking to figure out my call I promptly joined the worship team at our little church. Singing songs of praise to our great God filled my soul with so much joy. My focus was no longer on our circumstances but on Him.

Not too long after, Todd got a job that moved us to Greenville. As soon as we found a church here, I joined that choir, too. I needed to know what “I” was supposed to “DO” with this call. For the next 15 years I marveled at who God is every time I sang! Sunday morning worship was my happy place. I must be doing what God wants me to!

We changed churches for good reasons and our new church had a closed worship team. I knew this was the right church for our family so I sang with all my heart to God from the front row. I like to be on the front row so I'm not singing loudly over the people in front of me.

Today, I worship from the front row on Sundays, in my kitchen most days, where I'm known to dance before the Lord, too. And my favorite is not up front as part of a worship team but hosting intimate worship gatherings in my home. The Holy Spirit leads, we sing, dance sometimes, we humbly bow our heads before our Holy God together in worship. (See p. 4 for 2 Corinthians 3:18)

I've finally figured it out! You see it was never about me or what I was supposed to do, it was about what God was doing. As we focus on God's love and glory, we are changed to be more like Him!

(Thanks to Linda! For 15 years she has joyfully served the special needs community, beginning in Young Life Capernaum then with the David's Table team. She has the privilege of serving in the Mosaic ministry with adult women at Grace Church. She joined The Anchorage board and her love for its contemplative rhythm has greatly deepened. She is passionate about spending time with God in worship and delights in hosting intimate worship gatherings in her home. She enjoys spending time with her husband Todd, their children and 6 grandchildren.)



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, 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)

Rosemary Goodall

Rebecca Hines

Linda Keel

Jill Minasi, Chair

David Rice

Mike Smith

Holland Webb

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Behold God Beholding You in LOVE Meditational Prayer

by Susan Allen

Oh, Glorious One, to gaze upon You and see You gazing at me -in Your vast love and echoing adoration, I am undone, overwhelmed. Your gaze conveys You know Your creature is so full of potential and possibility. You know what You put in each one of us and Your great longing as a Loving Parent is to see Your Glory and GRACE manifesting in each one of us as we bloom in our potentiality. As I linger here in Your presence gazing on You, Your hope is that we, Your children, will release ourselves wholeheartedly to Your divine will and purpose – so that our Father-given giftings can be divinely activated by Your “Glory-Touch” for the work of Your Kingdom, that Your complete work on the earth can be fulfilled. As we walk through our dailyness, with You at the top of our thoughts, we are aware of Your continual oversight, probation and companionship. You guide us with Your quickening.

Father, we are aware of You, close by, guarding, leading, speaking and guiding. Our beholding might be interrupted but You continue to sustain us in Your purpose. Then, as I return Your gaze, I am aware You are my strength and my song. Whatever I am facing, you are my exceeding Great Reward. I am here, in the midst of the angels, who serve the heirs of Salvation, who do Your bidding, for us created in Your image. They are quiet but observant and present as we tend to our daily tasks in our sphere of influence, continually in Your loving presence. When we stop and gaze at You, we are flooded again with rivers of loving frequencies coming through the airwaves. As we gaze heavenward, we gaze into the throne room. I realize You are indeed, my pilot. All your names of Triumph run in my consciousness! VICTOR! Majestic ONE! Yours is all the Goodness and Glory! All the splendor is yours! Yours is the overwhelming power! All of the glories of creation span before my heart and head and eyes! It's all Yours! Yes, it is all true, as I look and love You, with my limited mindful comprehension.

However, MY GREAT GOD, it is the knowledge and full assurance of your complete covering love and tender care that so overwhelms my child-heart. As I gaze on You, You whisper; Beloved, MY Beloved, MY precious one, My Treasure, My special Jewel - You whisper all those precious words of comfort and Your special care. I am so undone and overcome. Your love has washed over me. I am new and clean and sparkling.

All because of Your love, Father and the obedient love of Your Son, King Jesus, the Highly Exalted One, who consented to leave glory and Your bosom Presence, to rescue the souls of man, struggling under the curse of disobedience. You, lovely Jesus, came as God's LAMB. Holy One, as I reflect on your truth, beholding your loving gaze this moment, I cannot adequately express my gratitude, thanksgiving. Receive, Holy One, my sacrifices and thanksgiving and intense gratitude. It's all I have to give, except I give You my will. You said it was my free will. But I choose to give it to You, because You are always good and I trust You for good. You, LORD, are my greatest joy. And I heard You say, just now, that “You, my child are My greatest joy.” “You are mine, all mine. Forever. Be encouraged, my child, be encouraged. Be still and know that I AM GOD.”

(Thanks to Susan for this meditation. She said “Yes” to Jesus at six because of a Child Evangelism Good News Club. She worked as a special education teacher and school psychologist. In retirement, she befriends and prays with women inmates in state prisons. Her roots are on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. She was christened Methodist and raised Presbyterian and Episcopalian. She was Baptized in a Baptist service and received the fire of the Holy Ghost (as in Acts 2.4) many years ago. Oh, the Lord's great grace! Oh, the magnificence of His mercies. Nahum 1:7)



Upcoming Events

Desert Days: First Fridays, even months, 9:30-2:30 (Usually – not April)

Theme: “Behold God Beholding You in Love”
Leaders:

Feb. 6, Donna Scott

Apr. 10, Linda Keel

(NOTE: wrote article on pg. 2)

June 5, Mike Smith

Fee: \$45 (\$30 if BYO lunch)

Location: Feb Gower Estates

Apr Simpsonville, June TBD

Lenten Book Study

Feb. 24 - March 31, 10-11:30

Six Tuesdays,

“Triumphing over Sinful

Fear” by John Flavel. To some

degree everyone experiences

fear. The author examines

various fears and discusses

general ways God governs in

this world. He then shows

how a proper fear of God is the

ultimate remedy for all other

fears. This practical book

will encourage you to trust in

Christ's commitment to settle His

people's feeble and trembling

hearts.

Led by Catherine

Fee: \$60, (plus \$10 book).

Location: Gower Estates

“Ignatian Retreats” on Zoom.

3, 5 or more 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), \$270,

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. There

is a sliding fee, based on what is

doable.

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