



OCTOBER 2007

## THE ANCHORAGE

### “Come away...anchor deep”

Cathie Powell spent nearly a lifetime getting ready for what she now does.

Cathie is founder and director of The Anchorage, an ecumenical Christian ministry providing contemplative settings for encounters with God.

“I want to provide space for God to be front and center,” she said. “Of course God is not limited and can encounter us anywhere anytime, but it is the intentionality that we offer.”

Cathie’s own desire to learn more about spirituality began years ago when she and her husband Skeeter were engaged in what would be years of marriage counseling. In the early 90s as her two sons finished high school, she began more formal study and is now working to complete a D.Min. in spiritual direction.

“God met me in a setting similar to what we offer, and provided some significant and much needed healing,” she said. “I sensed God inviting me to offer such space for others so that God could meet them there too — and help them find who God is calling them to be.”

“I think of spirituality as what we believe about God or gods – basically faith,” she said. “Our spirituality has the potential to inform, even shape, everything else about us.”

Cathie believes that people today are spiritually thirsty. “I think one force behind the increase in interest in spirituality is that our culture is spinning out of control, getting faster and noisier, and folks are looking for something to make sense of it all,” she said.

“However, the BIG force behind it all is God. God longs to be with us – and for us to be with God,” she said. “I believe that if we just open up a chink, God’s light will flood in. And I think what people are wanting is to respond in love to God – and God’s people.”

People come to The Anchorage, Cathie said, “seeking authenticity with God, space and time to soak in God, to be real and honest – to honor their relationship with God – to give God center place in their lives.”

“What a joy this is!” she said. “To be able to be with them as they listen for God’s leading.”



The Anchorage was founded in 1998. In the beginning Cathie counseled eight people per month on spiritual direction. Now she works with 25 every month. She started by offering four events per year, now she offers 25. She started with 25 donors and now has 700.

The Anchorage is for anyone with a desire to grow deeper in relationship with God: Baptist to Roman Catholic, teenagers to elderly, all races, all economic groups, all education levels.



Cathie Powell spent most of her growing up years in Presbyterian churches in Florida, mostly in Clearwater, and has been a member of First Baptist Church Greenville since 1970. Among her first experiences with spiritual formation were a retreat she attended in 1990 in Washington where she found the words ‘God is love’ to be “so true as if I’d never heard them before” and a five-day retreat in Maryland the next year where she first heard the term spiritual direction.

Cathie earned a B.A. degree in psychology from the University of Florida; completed the two-year Spiritual Guidance Program at Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Bethesda, MD, in 1995; earned an M. Div. from Erskine Theological Seminary in 1998; and was ordained by First Baptist Church Greenville in 1999. She is halfway through the course work for a D. Min. in Spirituality at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

Cathie and her husband Skeeter have two grown sons and two grandchildren.

“I love being by the water and music feeds my soul,” she said.

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Web Site: <http://www.theanchorage.org/>



## The 'homeless' youth of Seneca

The writer of this article, Darren Williams, and his wife Jessica were married in December 2000. After starting their married life as biology and history teachers, they decided they were being called to church ministry and attended McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta. Darren began work at Trinity in March and was ordained on Sept. 16. Jessica is working with Tim Willis as campus ministry intern at First Baptist Church in Clemson. They continue their study at McAfee, commuting two days a week.

# HOMELESS: Our restless night

By Darren Williams, Minister of Youth, Trinity Baptist Church, Seneca

Not long after I arrived at Trinity, church member Dan Laird asked me if our youth would partner with the Daily Rest Homeless Shelter in Oconee County to emphasize the need for the shelter.

"Oconee County has a homeless problem?" I asked. Dan was not surprised by my question. He said that Seneca is not like bigger cities such as Atlanta where people are sleeping on the sidewalks. The homeless here are more elusive and many times you may see them and not even realize that they are homeless.

Dan's idea was that the youth spend a night outside to see what it is like to be homeless. I began meeting with the board of directors for the homeless shelter on a monthly basis. We wanted the experience to be ecumenical so we invited all the churches that were represented on the homeless board to participate. This included Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, an African-American congregation, and of course, Baptists.

We described the event as *Our Restless Night*. Because it was close to the beginning of the school year, many of the churches already had plans or were reluctant to participate but St. Mark United Methodist Church in Seneca did join us. So, we had about 30 youth participate.

The night began at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 25. We met at St. Mark UMC where we were given a bag lunch for our supper.

My main strategy of working with youth is to open their minds and allow them to discover God's purpose in life. My goal is to help them see that life isn't all about them. Christ has called us to be servants not to be served.

— Darren Williams

After giving the kids some time to introduce themselves we started walking to the campsite about a mile and a half away — the vacant lot where the new homeless shelter is to be built. The temperature that night was in the upper 80s.

The only things the kids could bring were a sleeping bag and a pillow, which they had to carry along with their bag lunch to the campsite. We used Coleman lanterns for lighting and brought in portable toilets for restrooms — two luxuries homeless people may not have.

We divided into groups and rotated to different stations led by the adult leaders to discuss the following topics:

1. What agencies are available to help the homeless?
2. What does the Bible say about social justice and our responsibility for the homeless?

3. How do you complete a job application when you're homeless?

4. How much does it cost to live? The youth completed a budget based on the monthly salary of someone with a poverty level income.

5. How can you afford healthcare?

6. Why are people homeless? What can we do?

Many of the students commented that the budget was an eye-opener. They realized they could not have everything and that it was a struggle just to afford the things they needed. A couple of the creative students decided to com-

bine incomes as if they were room-mates. They saw how advantageous it was to have a dual-income household.

We also emphasized to the kids that it is not always laziness that causes people to be homeless. Mental illness, depression, job loss, sickness, injury, and even hurricanes can cause people to be out of work for months.

Unfortunately, the focus of the night became fire ants. It didn't take the ants long to find our leftover supper. They infiltrated the concrete pad on which we slept, getting into sleeping bags, our pillows, and no place was safe. Even the ant spray that we brought was no help.

The kids woke up with ant bites all over them. Those that managed to get away from the ants said they actually felt safe and slept okay. But I asked them to think about how they would feel if they were by themselves and did not know they were going home the next night. They said that one night was not bad but one night was enough.

I slept very lightly throughout the night. We were awakened at least three times by freight train and once by a pack of dogs roaming through.

The following morning we walked back to St. Mark and attended the church's worship service in the same clothes we had slept in — knowing that homeless people may not get a chance to change clothes before coming to church. It was a great experience for the kids and the adults.

Postscript: When I came back a couple of days later to clean up some trash we'd left behind, I saw the bag had been moved and rummaged through; that our cardboard had been laid out to form a bed; and that our left over bottled water had been drunk and food eaten. So, someone after us had called that same place home for at least one night. When I lifted up the trash bag, ants were every where. I am sure who ever slept there also had ant bites.

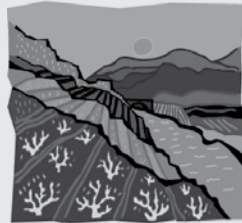
# Church names

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina consists of individuals and congregations with names that fascinate me. I pray for each of our partner congregations by name. I pray for the staff members of these contributing churches by name, also. I don't know the names of all the laity in the churches, but I pray for them, too. I figure that God knows them and their needs.

Some people may find place names boring. But, I love words, and the pictures they generate in my mind as I pray. Church names are made up of words:

Certain themes keep popping up, e.g., woods, fields, dales, parks, trees, views and lawns:

Allendale  
Chesterfield  
Clearview  
East Park  
Edgefield  
Fernwood  
Greenlawn  
Greenwood  
Indigo Pines  
Kathwood  
Lakeview  
Oakland  
Palmetto  
Parisview  
Timberlake



Or, mountains and hills:

Augusta Heights  
Belmont  
Holly Hill  
Mountain Bridge  
New Heights  
Piedmont

Or, water:

Cedar Spring



Dean Swamp  
Edisto Beach  
Heath Springs  
Lake City  
Lake View  
Ocean View  
Overbrook  
Rivertown  
Shaw's Fork  
Swift Creek  
Tidal Creek  
Timberlake

Or, roads:

Augusta Road  
Boulevard  
Earle Street  
Pelham Road  
Pendleton Street

Or, colors:

Blackville  
Greenlawn  
Greenville  
Greenwood  
Orangeburg

Or, theology:

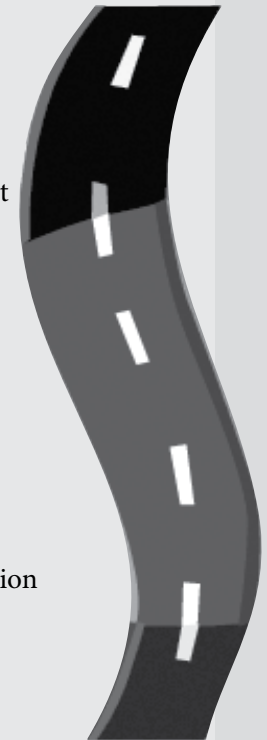
Emmanuel  
Fellowship  
Grace  
Great Commission  
Hope  
Metanoia  
Providence  
Trinity

What's not to love about the names of churches? Of course, this list is in no way exhaustive in naming our contributing and partnering churches. Would you join me in praying for these congregations as they minister in their communities and around the world? You and they would receive a blessing.



By Marion Aldridge  
Coordinator

Coordinator's  
Column



## 2008 Women's Conference at the beach

Speaker: Diana Garland, Dean, Baylor School of Social Work

Clergy Conference — Feb. 28-29. Registration fee, \$40; hotel, \$115 per night.

Laity Conference — Feb. 29-March 2. Theme: "Spring Cleaning: Making Room for God" – Conference Fee, \$30; hotel, \$115 per night

The Hilton at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC

Contact Christy McMillin-Goodwin at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill for more information. [cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com](mailto:cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com).

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# NEW BAPTIST COVENANT

## Event seeks to bring Baptists from varying backgrounds together

### WHEN AND WHERE AND WHO

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2008 in Atlanta

20,000 Baptists from more than 30 organizations

The New Baptist Covenant is being organized by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. It is an informal alliance of more than 30 racially, geographically, and theologically diverse Baptist organizations from throughout North America that claim more than 20 million members. Representatives of these Baptist organizations have reaffirmed traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality, as well as their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the

homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

Sponsoring organizations include groups connected to the North American Baptist Fellowship, a 20 million-member regional affiliate of the Baptist World Alliance.

#### SOUTH CAROLINIANS INVOLVED

##### Program Committee

Terry Brooks, Chapin  
Jim Wooten, Greenville

##### Communications Committee

George Bullard, Columbia  
Johnny McKinney, Anderson

##### Prayer Network

Ginger Barfield, Columbia  
Beverly Greer, Belton

### CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Charles G. Adams, Pastor of Hartford Baptist Church in Detroit

Tony Campolo, professor emeritus at Eastern University and founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education

Former President Jimmy Carter

Former President Bill Clinton

Marian Wright Edleman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund

Former Vice President Al Gore

Joel Gregory, professor of preaching, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham

U.S. Senator Charles Grassley

Bill Moyers, author and journalist

Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas

William J. Shaw, pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Philadelphia and president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

"We hope to recertify our common faith without regard to race, ethnicity, partisanship and geography." — Jimmy Carter

For details and to register: <http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org>