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# Living in the Balance

February 2010

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A cold, rainy winter day begs for hot tea and a jigsaw puzzle. I like to prowl around through the stack until I find a box lid that looks appealing. The box lid stays in clear view right beside me while I assemble the puzzle. I would never consider working a puzzle “blind.” Sometimes I am lulled into thinking that I have a box lid for life with all the pieces just laying there waiting to be placed neatly together. And then something comes along that wasn’t included in the box.....an event of nature devastates an entire place on the planet. My ego has to know everything and finds it hard to accept that earthquakes just happen and that nature can just rise up decimating a country already crushed by poverty.

At times of unspeakable tragedy something in me cries the question, “Where was God?” When my senses return, I know that the Divine is ever present and was right there at that first crushing moment, in that unspeakable place, and was the first to weep. And now the Eternal sits with me in the void, the grief, and the pain, not to explain the unexplainable, not to be the Divine puzzle master, but as a Witness while I struggle to understand, to sort, to make sense. I want some answers. I need to know how A fits into B....clearly. And all the while, Wisdom tells me that life is truly a “puzzlement” and that I must live into the Mystery as best I can.

While I try to accept that the Universe isn’t going hand me a Divine box lid, I need to stop kidding myself into believing that I don’t have a clue about the puzzle. How much more information do I need to know that Haiti has been suffering for decades in abhorrent conditions and overwhelming poverty? The truth is that I’ve been busy creating and living my own little box lid.....self-absorbed or distracted.....until an earthquake wallops me in the head and puts the misery of the Haitians in my face.....again. If I “come clean,” part of the problem with Haiti is that I don’t really want to “own” that people live like that or that I have some piece of the Haiti puzzle that is mine to work out.

I am not a rescue worker. I will not go to Haiti. I can send money and write my Senator about ongoing aid. Yes, I can do that, but is that the best I can do? Each day, the Universe sends me messages and puzzle pieces I don’t want. **Look**.....the homeless walking the streets. **See**.....children being abused. **Be aware**.....people without clean water or food. I know that Wisdom is asking me to make a much larger commitment.....to grab hold, to step up and to reach beyond what I think I’m capable of doing. Will I gather up the puzzle piece of “courage” that has my name on it? Will I pick up the piece that asks me to live differently in the world so that others may not suffer? Will I be the “somebody” in the “somebody ought to do something about that?” I don’t know how it all fits together and sometimes I say dismissively, “Oh, whatever I do won’t make a difference.” But I think that can be a copout way to let myself off the hook. I underestimate the power of my small “one” becoming part of an Infinite One. Wisdom requires me to pick up the pieces right here in this moment.....the ones I like and the ones I don’t.....and to work with my part carefully, humbly, consciously.

*Wanda Meade*



## Engaging Faith Conference February 26-27, 2010

Engaging Faith ([www.engagingfaith.org](http://www.engagingfaith.org)) is an annual conference at Furman University that is sponsored by the Chaplain's Office at Furman and the NEXUS Center.

Conference Topic: **Living the Questions**

Speakers: **James Hollis**, Jungian Analyst and Author  
**Marjorie Thompson**, Minister of PCUSA

This conference was not approved for CEU's for professional counselors.

## Anderson School of Theology for Laypersons Spring Lectures, Sunday, March 14, 2010

Theme: **"Seeking a God Sufficient for the Soul's Passion"**

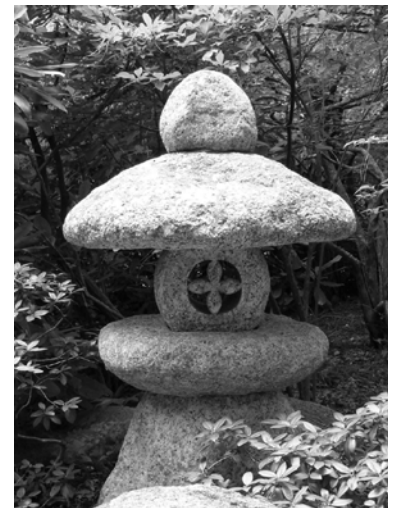
Speakers: **Jerry R. Wright, D. Min.**,  
Jungian Analyst, Pastoral Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor

Times: Session One (3:00 p.m.)      When Our God is Too Small  
Session Two (7:30 p.m.)      God Beyond Reason and Religion

Location: Boulevard Baptist Church, Christian Activities Center (behind the church). The Church is located at the corner of Greenville Street and Boulevard in Anderson, SC

## Quiet Day with Barbara Crafton Saturday, March 20, 2010

St. James Episcopal Church  
Greenville, SC  
Details and registration information will be posted at  
<http://saintjamescenter.org>

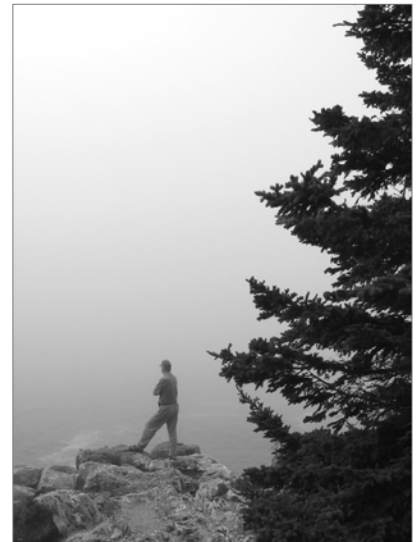




# Seeking Solitude

## Snail's Pace in Saluda, North Carolina

Offering space and hospitality for personal retreats  
<http://www.thesnailspace.org/>



## Monastery of St. Clare in Travelers Rest, SC

The Poor Clare Sisters offer La Foresta  
.....An ecumenical Retreat House  
<http://www.poorclaresc.com/>

## The Hermitages at Valle Crucis Conference Center Valle Crucis, North Carolina

In addition to the many programs offered at the Conference Center,  
there are four hermitages and a small chapel for silence, solitude and reflection.  
<http://www.highsouth.com/vallecrucis/>



## About Spiritual Direction —

- Offers a space and time for you to explore, reflect upon, and deepen your relationship with God.
- Provides a haven from the daily busyness of the outer world and opens a time to be still and to reflect on your inner journey.
- Is a companioning relationship grounded in dialogue and discernment.
- Explores ways you may integrate spirituality into your daily life.
- Is not limited to any one spiritual practice or tradition.
- May involve one or two meetings or multiple meetings over time.

## You may wish to consider spiritual companioning if you are —

- Longing for a deeper relationship with the Divine
- Looking for a place to dialogue about spiritual questions
- Seeking ways to connect with the Spirit in daily life
- Questioning how the Spirit is working in your life
- Discerning ways to live in a more integrated and whole way
- Standing at a difficult crossroads in your life
- Exploring new or fresh ways to be in relationship with God

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For more information about Spiritual Direction, please feel free to contact me by phone 864-246-3960 or via email at [wmeade@meadellc.com](mailto:wmeade@meadellc.com)

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