



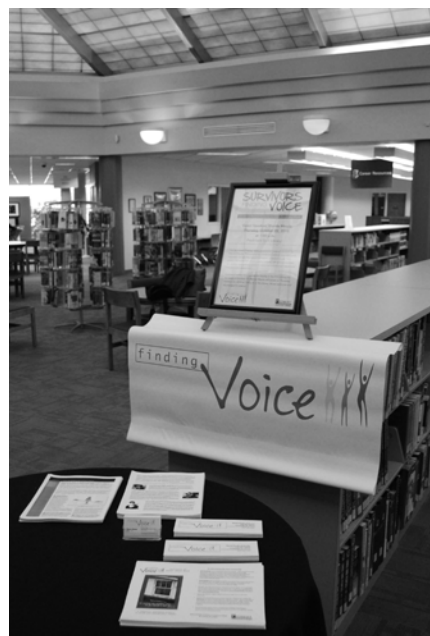
# Living in the Balance

## November 2015

The wound is the place where the Light enters you.

*Rumi*

I just held the first exhibit of the second series of my **Survivors Finding Voice** project about sexual abuse. This series has 11 new survivor stories and was hosted by the library at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC. I had the opportunity to speak about the project and the stories to a group of students and community folks. After the program was over, I came around the exhibit and saw a very shy, very young woman taking photographs of the panels. I spoke to her and she said, "I am O and I am working with S (a counselor) at Beyond Abuse (the local advocacy center). I study photography here." Her voice was a whisper that told me that she was very early in recovery. I asked her if she had heard me speak and she replied that she had. I said, "Remember that all of these survivors did a lot of work and they have lives and jobs and families and friends and joy." She looked deeply into my eyes with her eyes holding pain and doubt as she said, "I hope I will." She asked if we could have a photo made together and we did. She collected all my handouts and clung to my arm like a life line. If she had been the only person there at the exhibit or at the talk it would have been more than enough.



### Moments

There are moments that cry out to be fulfilled.

Like, telling someone that you love them  
or giving your money away, all of it.

Your heart is beating, isn't it?  
You are not in chains, are you?

There is nothing more pathetic than caution  
when headlong might save a life  
even, possibly, your own.

*Mary Oliver*



*anda Meade*



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## *Calendar considerations.....*

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### **Southern Dharma Center**

Seeing Clearly, Opening Up, November 15 – 20

Buddhist Wisdom on Preparing for our own death, December 9 – 13

New Year's Retreat, December 28 – January 3

For more information [www.southerndharma.org](http://www.southerndharma.org)

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### **The Sophia Institute, Charleston, SC**

A Role is Just a Coat, November 13 – 14

Mindful Living, Mindful Working, November 20 – 21

Liberate your Creative Life and Soar, January 8 and 9, 2016

Sacred Crossroads, Connecting with your next Yes! Joan Borysenko, February 19 – 21

A Day with David Whyte, March 19, 2016

The Art of Living the Contemplative Life, Kathleen Norris, April 1, 2016

[www.thesophia institute.org](http://www.thesophia institute.org)

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### **Kanuga Conference Center**

Icon Writing November 15 – 21

Iconography: The Gospel in Line and Color, February 13 – 19, 2016

2016 Christian Formation Conference, June 13 – 17, 2016

[www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org)

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### **Retreat Center**

Peace Conference, November 12 – 15

Lake Junaluska Conference Center, North Carolina

[http://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual\\_enrichment/signature\\_series/](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual_enrichment/signature_series/)

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### **Awakening Soul Offers**

Circling the Fire with Walter Brueggemann and Valerie Tutson

November 5 – 8

Lutheridge, near Asheville, NC

[www.awakeningsoulpresents.org](http://www.awakeningsoulpresents.org)

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### **Cathedral of St. Philip**

Sacred in the City with Margaret Silf

November 14

Atlanta, Georgia

[www.stphilipscathedral.org/spiritualityconference](http://www.stphilipscathedral.org/spiritualityconference)





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## *Calendar considerations.....*

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### **Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat**

Eight Day Intensive and Post Intensive, November 29 – December 6  
Valle Crucis Conference Center, Valle Crucis, NC  
Contact Becky Hannah 828-702-3518

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### **The Anchorage**

Desert Day, Friday, December 4 in Greenville  
Praying the Scriptures, January 18 – 22, Mepkin Abbey  
January Beach Retreat, January 20 – 31 and February 1  
For more information see [www.theanchorage.org](http://www.theanchorage.org)

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### **Mepkin Abbey Crèche Display**

November 16 – 22 and November 17 – December 5, 2015

At the Abbey in Moncks Corner, SC

The display is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

<http://mepkinabbey.org/wordpress/2015-mepkin-abbey-creche-festival/>

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### **John Philip Newell**

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Hendersonville, NC  
June 26 – 28, 2016  
[www.fcchendersonville.org/ashley-lecture-series](http://www.fcchendersonville.org/ashley-lecture-series)

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### ***Nothing Is Too Small Not To Be Wondered About***

The cricket doesn't wonder  
if there's a heaven  
or, if there is, if there's room for him.

It's fall. Romance is over. Still, he sings.  
If he can, he enters a house  
through the tiniest crack under the door.  
Then the house grows colder.

He sings slower and slower.  
Then, nothing.

This must mean something, I don't know what.  
But certainly it doesn't mean  
he hasn't been an excellent cricket  
all his life.

- Mary Oliver, from her collection *Felicity*

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## 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 a more intentional way
- Discerning ways to live in a more integrated and whole way
- Standing at a 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  
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*The photos are my work. The photos on the opening page were taken at the Survivors Finding Voice Exhibit at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC. The exhibit was there for the week of October 19. The other photos were taken in Savannah, GA, the week of October 6.*

