



Living in the Balance

May and June 2017

The Gates of Hope

*"Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of Hope—
Not the prudent gates of Optimism,
which are somewhat narrower.
Not the stalwart, boring gates of Common Sense;
nor the strident gates of Self-Righteousness,
which creak on shrill and angry hinges
(People cannot hear us there; they cannot pass through)
Nor the cheerful, flimsy garden gate of
"Everything is gonna' be all right."
but a different, sometimes lonely place,
the place of truth-telling,
about your own soul first of all and its condition.
The place of resistance and defiance,
The piece of ground from which you see the world
both as it is and as it could be
as it will be;
The place from which you glimpse not only struggle,
but the joy of the struggle.
And we stand there, beckoning and calling,
telling people what we are seeing
asking people what they see."*

Victoria Safford

Perfection! Perfection!

I have had it with perfection.
I have packed my bags,
I am out of here.
Gone.

As certain as rain
will make you wet,
perfection will do you
in.

It droppeth not as dew
upon the summer grass
to give liberty and green
joy.

Perfection straineth out
the quality of mercy,
withers rapture at its
birth.

Before the battle is half begun,
cold probity thinks
it can't be won, concedes the
war.

I've handed in my notice,
given back my keys,
signed my severance check, I
quit.

Hints I could have taken:
Even the perfect chiseled form of
Michelangelo's radiant David
squints,

the Venus de Milo
has no arms,
the Liberty Bell is
cracked.



Calendar considerations.....

Center for Spiritual Wisdom

Spiritual Practices Conference, June 16 – 18, Brevard, NC

Short Introduction to Centering Prayer, August 19 and 20

At Valle Crucis Retreat Center, Valle Crucis, NC

This and other offerings <https://center4spiritualwisdom.org/about/>

National Day of Prayer Event in Greenville

Thursday, May 4 from noon until 1:00

Special music at 11:30

First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Silent Retreat Weekends

June 2 - 4, October 6 - 8 and December 1 – 3, 2017

Order of Saint Helena, North Augusta, South Carolina

<https://www.osh.org/events.html>

The Anchorage in Greenville, SC

The Grace of Our Mortality: Opening to the Fullness of Life with Bill Dietrich, May 5 –7

Kanuga, Hendersonville, NC

For this and other offerings go to <http://theanchorage.org/events.htm>

Lake Junaluska Retreat Center

Listening for the Heartbeat of God, John Philip Newell,

June 30 – July 2

Interfaith Peace Conference, November 16 – 19

http://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual_enrichment/

Southern Dharma Center

Death as a Spiritual Teacher, May 4 – 7

Zen Mind/Body Zen, May 17 – 20

A Marriage of Yoga and Meditation, May 24 – 29

Unfettering the Natural Mind, June 3 – 10

Breaking Through Barriers, June 24 – 29

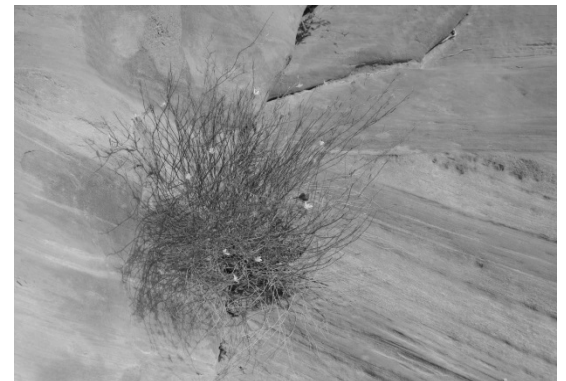
Intimate with All Things, July 8 – 12

www.southerndharma.org

Greenville Interfaith Forum

Annual Interfaith Dinner Dialogues

Thursday, October 19





Calendar considerations.....

Haden Summer Dream and Spirituality Conference

May 28 – June 2, 2017

Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

<http://www.hadeninstitute.com/summer-dream-conference>

St. Mary's Retreats

Eight Day Silent Centering Prayer Retreat, June 4 – June 11, 2017

Art Workshop...The House as Metaphor, August 11 – August 13, 2017

St. Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee, TN

<http://www.stmaryssewanee.org/about/events/2017/06/04/eight-day-centering-prayer-retreat.2268432>

Advanced Centering Prayer Retreat

Valle Crucis Retreat Center, Valley Crucis, NC

November 26 – December 2, 2017

Contact Becky Hannah for more information (828) 702-3518

Center for Action and Contemplation with Richard Rohr

CONSPIRE 2017, July 7—9, Albuquerque New Mexico

<https://cac.org/events/conferences/>

Barbara Brown Taylor

Spirituality Conference

Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, GA

Saturday, October 28, 2017

<https://www.stphilipscathedral.org/Learn/Prayer-and-Spiritual-Formation/Spirituality-Conference/>

The Sophia Institute, Charleston, SC

The Way Under the Way: The Place of True Meeting, Mark Nepo, May 19 – 21

Becoming Fearless: Feeling Safe within yourself and within the World, Connie Numbers, June 23 – 24

See the website for these and other one day events. www.thesophiainstitute.org

Kanuga Conference Center

Faith, Art and Creative Expression: A Liturgical Arts Conference,

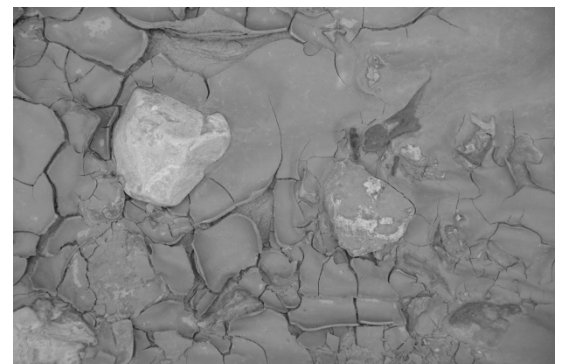
August 20 – 24

Lansing Lee Conference, October 22 – 29

Enneagram, October 26 – 29

Icon Writing with Teresa Harrison, November 13 – 18

www.kanuga.org





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

For more information about Spiritual Direction, please feel free to contact me by phone
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The photos in this journal are my work. They were taken in the Southern Utah National Parks. Part of the beauty of that area is the way that the rocks have worn away.....the cracks and striations show the centuries of change.

