

SEPTEMBER 2013

peachyTM the magazine

nurturing an abundant life



Art | Architecture | Gardens | Interiors | Food | Style | Health | Fitness | Books | Inspiration



Patty Simpson (left), owner of Granville at Phillips Place, with Anne Neilson. Photo: [Lisa Turnage](#)

On the Go... with Anne Neilson

We sat down with nationally acclaimed artist and author [Anne Neilson](#) to talk about what inspires her art, her favorite places around Charlotte, and her big splurge.

Tell us a little about your art. In 2003, I was volunteering at The Harvest Center and left there wondering how I could do it all...be a wife, a mom, paint, and serve. I heard God speak to my heart—"paint and give back." This ignited my desire to use my talent to give back to those in need. I painted

my first angel when I wanted to create something that reflected my faith. These paintings—the Angel series—are featured in my coffee table book *Angels In Our Midst*.

A few years later I began holding art shows and donating a large portion of proceeds back to charities. This grew

into my annual “Strokes of Compassion” art show where I donate 50% of the proceeds to a local charity. The art, especially the Angel Series, grew in success almost overnight with collectors including Oprah Winfrey, Kathie Lee Gifford and the author of *Bones*, Kathy Reichs. The response to my art has truly been incredible and I consider it a blessing to use my art to give back.

What inspires you? Faith and Family.

What you can't live without... My Bible, iPhone, and computer plus CHOCOLATE and an occasional glass of Pinot Noir.

What philanthropies have your art and book supported? The most recent charities include The Harvest Center,



Angels in our Midst by Anne Neilson

The Allegro Foundation, Presbyterian Hospice and Palliative Care, and Camp LUCK’s Parents Camp (formerly Levine Cardiac Kids).

What is your favorite spot for lunch out with friends? *Dean & DeLuca* at Phillips Place or *Reid’s Fine Food* both have delicious salads and a great atmosphere!

What is your favorite spot in the Southend? I love the *Common Market* for lunch—you really get the flavor for a local hang out and I can walk there from my studio.

Night out on the town with Clark? We love *The Wine Shop at Foxcroft*. It has a huge wine list and we can go any night and are guaranteed to run into friends!

Splurge? I SPLURGED and hired a personal organizer from Simplicity. I could not live without them! With four teenagers and a husband I believe that I need to simplify my life in order to do all the things that I want to do!!

What are the stores you like a round town? Some of my local favorites are *Monkee’s of Morrocroft*, *Scout and Molly’s*, *Sloan*, *Splurge*, and *Fresh*.

Where do you take the kids for a treat? For my three teenage girls, it would be

somewhere they could shop! For my son, it would be Dairy Queen — he is so easy!!

Do you have a weekend getaway? Clark and I love the food and history of Charleston, SC.

What is your favorite spot for seeing artwork in Charlotte? *The Bechtler* and *The Mint Museum Uptown*.

Have you met any interesting people recently? OH WOW — I have met so many! I think that is what I love most about life is how God connects us all together for a higher purpose. During a trip to France last year, Clark and I were invited to tour and visit well-known sculptor *Paul Day* whose work includes The Queen Mother Memorial



in London. We became fast friends and co-workers and I hope to get some of his monument work to the US.

In March, I had the privilege of meeting Kathie Lee Gifford. I had sent her a copy of my book and she immediately emailed saying “We have to meet THIS side of Heaven — how?” We met at one of my art shows in Essex, CT and the following week she mentioned the book on *The Today Show* as one of her ‘favorite things.’

I also recently met “Sister Schubert” of Sister Schubert’s Rolls at the Atlanta Gift Mart. We shared our passions and I will be getting her to Charlotte soon for a book signing and cooking demonstration!

What is planned for the future? I am very excited about opening Anne Neilson Fine Art gallery in South End in late fall. We will carry nationally and internationally renowned artists including Jove Wang, Ken Auster, and Paul Day. I will host my annual Strokes Of Compassion show I at the gallery and know that it will be an inviting place for corporate and individual collectors to find incredible pieces of fine art.

I am also chairing the annual fundraiser for The Harvest Center on October 24, featuring Kathie Lee Gifford. ■