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Theological Horizons witnesses to God's truth at the heart of culture. Fifteen years of fruitful ministry in the university, the church and the community are bearing plentiful opportunities—which bring along an urgent need for harvesting. Your support is critical to our future success.

Your contribution makes a great difference in Horizons' strategic ministry. Your donation is an investment in believers and seekers engaged in ideas and action.

Won't you please join us by making a generous gift to Theological Horizons?

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Shares of stock and corporate matching gifts are invited. Checks may be sent to: 1841 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903

GIFTS TO HORIZONS

*Gifts have been given in loving memory of Jennifer Slocumb Ewing by Douglas and Betty Burch
Judy Burge*

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A gift has been given in honor of Bob and Myra Marsh by Judy Burge

A gift has been given in honor of Sonny and Marion Ellis by Richard and Lynda Courts

"Parish ministry has a tendency to create a very limited horizon for one's vision. The exigencies of life in the parish for a priest are frequently all consuming. The invitation to participate in the online reflective group of Theological Horizons has become a weekly moment of feeling invited into a world beyond the parochial dimensions and demands of my locality. It draws me into a larger conversation of spiritual life and formation. It is a moment for me. That is a good thing."

— Stan Runnels, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Day School, Kansas City, MO

"Being plugged into and supporting Theological Horizons provides me with a source of spiritual and intellectual balance and nourishment in both my professional and personal lives (usually hard to tell apart!). The old cliché goes that religion and politics are the two things you're not supposed to talk about in public. As it turns out, it's what I've been paid to do for the past two years in my work on the ONE Campaign with Bread for the World on issues of global hunger and poverty - and needless to say, the job can be as draining as it can be exhilarating oftentimes. The resources, readings, and more provided by Theological Horizons always provide a healthy reminder that my faith in Christ is the end in itself, not the means to social justice, and that my citizenship and hope for a better world come from above first and foremost."

— Seth Wispelwey, UVA grad '03, Austin, TX



*Long before the child was born,
prayers were prayed for a faith-formed life.
But, who, holding a newborn, really pictures that
day you drive off...leaving that child-now-teen
at her first day of college?
Enter bountiful Bonhoeffer House,
a home away from home,
a home for the heart
a home for deepest questions
a lived out theology within the context
of family and strangers,
mingled amid strands of grace...*

*What more could a parent want than to see
her child become a woman of joyful relational
faith in Christ?
And what better place to see it happen than at the
L'Abri-like setting of Bonhoeffer House?*

*As a parent, as a Christ-follower,
Theological Horizons
sharpens my prayers
widens my vision of intercession,
points me to the throne of grace
for the hearts of the current college generation,
challenges me with readings and interactions, and
pushes me into a deeper faith-formed life.*

— Lane Mathis, alumna parent, St. Simons, GA

STAY IN TOUCH

Between newsletters, we occasionally share Horizons happenings and prayer requests as well as brief readings and devotionals by email.

Do we have your email address? Please drop us a quick note at info@theologicalhorizons.org and we'll include you. :-)

www.theologicalhorizons.org



■ **"I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd." John 10:9-11a**

In Theological Horizons' world of ideas, culture and influence, Christ is the gate. While we go in and out, grazing widely among the fields of the university, the church and the community, it is through Christ alone that we find our grounding truths. It is through Christ that we discover life abundant, even in the presence of the thief.

In this newsletter we hear the voices of many of Christ's sheep. Among them are Kendall, a promising young theologian; Stan, a parish minister; Nellie, a philosophy and German major; Seth, a ONE Campaign organizer, and many more friends for whom Christ is the gate. Together we always return home through the one who laid down his life for us.

As partners in Theological Horizons, it is our great privilege to know the voice of the good shepherd wherever he is heard.

We invite you to listen together with us as Christ the shepherd goes out ahead of us and calls us to him.

Horizons Programs in Focus: The 2006 Goodwin Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing

It is with great celebration that Theological Horizons congratulates Kendall Cox for her essay, "The Trinitarian Dialectic of Creative Fullness and God's Shared Mission of Suffering Love," winner of the 2006 Richard and Louise Goodwin Graduate Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing.



Kendall Cox

Kendall graduated from Wake Forest University in 2001, where she studied Religion and earned the prestigious John Allen Easley award for excellence in scholarship. Courses in Christian history and gender studies taught by a Christian professor revealed to Kendall that rather than rob her of the faith of her Christian upbringing, theology gave a thickness to faith, as "Jesus was no longer just a solution to sin" but rather one transformative, incarnational aspect of the trinity, informing both a spiritual conversion and a social challenge to Christians. Thus, these theological questions drew Kendall to seek out more descriptive and deeper means of understanding, speaking about and living within the mission of the church. Essentially, explains Kendall, "I was converted to following Jesus."

Her graduate work in the MDiv program at Regent College in Vancouver presented a unique time for the integration of the life of the church and scholarship, and gave Kendall greater imagination of the church's mission in the world. Encountering the work of Jurgen Moltmann at Regent laid the groundwork for her prize-winning paper and presented Kendall, as she considered the academic vocation and the vocation of ordained ministry, with directives for her own work and life.

As a recent divinity school graduate, Kendall and her husband, Stephan Hitchcock, now live in her native Charlottesville, where Kendall teaches studio art at Covenant School and is applying for PhD programs in Theology. Kendall describes winning the national Goodwin Writing Prize competition as "a huge gift – so exciting, so encouraging. Knowing that what you are writing about and working through matters tremendously."

Theological Horizons is grateful to support the work of young scholars like Kendall Cox, who, because of her great love for Christ and the church, continue to seek ways to challenge the church to proclaim God's love for the world from the place of the cross. We pray that Kendall Cox will continue to endeavor in the pursuit of what the Trinity and the incarnation mean for human flourishing. We pray as a result of her work, and the work of all of our students, the mission and mercy of Christ will move forth from the church with greater courage and fullness. We congratulate Kendall and we wish her the best!

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We joyfully introduce Ashley Diaz Mejias, Assistant Director

Born and raised in Memphis, TN, I received my B.A. from Rhodes College in 2001 with a double major in Religious Studies and Philosophy. Upon graduation from Rhodes, I began working in South Memphis in the fall of 2001 as the educational director of Streets Ministries, a community development organization and youth ministry located in the Cleaborne-Foote housing projects. There, I ran a college preparatory mentoring program and directed Summer Institute, a five week summer school for neighborhood high school students.

Ashley Diaz Mejias

During my years there, the ecclesial community of women and men in that neighborhood gently instructed me that to think theologically, to worship God and to bear imaginative witness to the resurrected Christ could not be separated from the pain and struggle of the world (despite my mistaken ideas that "thinking theologically" seemed very far off from the mess of the inner city!). Thankfully, theology is the very language that speaks crucially transformative possibilities for the Church's participation in the world, and in 2004, I moved to Charlottesville to study with Professor Charles Marsh in hopes of understanding better the Church's missional role in community development. I completed a master's in Theology, Ethics, and Culture in the Spring of 2006, and just got married this August.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to participate in the work of Theological Horizons. I am convinced that Theological Horizons is extraordinarily significant in creating space for Christian scholars to imagine within the academy and, more importantly, to bring forth distinctively excellent scholarship, distinctive in that it is underscored by the commanding hope extended by the cross. Theological Horizons provides much-needed encouragement and resources for students who intuit that Christian theology matters, but for whom concrete forms of support open doors for them to transform ideas into projects that serve the church and bear witness in the academy.

Continued from front page

Words from Goodwin Writing Prize Winner

"I wrote this paper in an attempt to understand the mission of the church. My conclusion is that we have been made bearers of God's mission to bring humanity into communion with the Father, Son, and Spirit and that it is the call of the church to continue incarnating (literally "putting flesh on") God's love and presence in the world. Throughout the Biblical narrative we discern God's persistent and generous mission to establish and renew relationship with us – beginning at Creation, culminating in the Incarnation, and continuing through the indwelling of the Spirit. These acts attest to the fact that God has drawn near to us. In fact, God has drawn so near as to endure all kinds of things normally dissociated from divine nature: time, space, bodily life, and suffering. Truly God has laid down God's life. God has not abandoned the world as it is. It is this example that the church has been given for Christian life and mission. If God has affirmed our humanity and the particulars of earthly living, if God has loved us even to the point of suffering with us, then the mission of the church must also be incarnational: Christian mission means announcing the good news – God and the kingdom come near – precisely by embodying it. What God has done, in dwelling among us, encourages and empowers us to do likewise: to engage the world, to identify with the weak, and to embrace the mundane, specific, and concrete aspects of our lives. It is in our real relationships with one another, in the world, that God's mission continues."

–Kendall Cox, winner of the 2006 Goodwin Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing



Join the Conversation!

Visit the Horizons Online Forum at <http://www.theologicalhorizons.org/blog/>

OUR MISSION

To renew Christian thinking and discipleship.

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This newsletter provides information about the efforts of Theological Horizons, Inc., to foster Christian reflection & responsibility in the church, the community & the academy. It is distributed free to interested parties. Address questions & comments to Karen Wright Marsh.

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Online Reading Group

Join the conversation! It's never too late to jump in, respond online or just read along. Come by the **Horizons Online Reading Group** at <http://horizons-reading-group.blogspot.com/> Email us at info@theologicalhorizons.org to receive notifications of new postings.

A Feast for the Mind and Spirit

We continue the tradition of weekly devotional readings from the Christian classics during Advent and Christmas, beginning Sunday, December 3. Be a part of the celebration. Send your email address to info@theologicalhorizons.org.

International Horizons

CoDirectors Charles and Karen Marsh expand the reach of Theological Horizons to Berlin, Germany. From February till July 2007, Charles will be the Visiting Bonhoeffer Professor at Humboldt University, where he will be doing research for a new book on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Karen will direct Theological Horizons from there and the Marsh children will be along for the adventure. This is a tremendous opportunity to develop partnerships with church leaders and scholars in Europe and broaden the global influence of Theological Horizons. Assistant Director Ashley Diaz Mejias will be on location for Horizons programs in Charlottesville as the Bonhoeffer House welcomes Detlev, Melissa, Melina and Jonathan Knabe, a German family who will keep home fires burning!

Horizons Voices

"Theological Horizons has provided me with a home away from home here in Charlottesville. The weekly Bible Study, semi-semester luncheons, and various evening parties have all been a great way for me to meet others who share in God's love. The Bonhoeffer House has become a place for me to go to take some time off to relax, and think about the more important things in life, amidst a sometimes hectic college schedule."

– Nellie Black, philosophy and German major, UVa '08

"My husband and I have dined at the family table in Bonhoeffer House. What a feast that is! Conversation that focuses on the questions of life, with loving interest in each individual present. Woven into the conversation is encouragement to step deeper into your relationship with Christ, to step further into the world as a Christ bearer, to accept the challenges presented to His people in our times.

Last week I joined a new "table" at Theological Horizons--the Horizons' Online Reading Group--where a wonderful meal is served. With readings from *Spiritual Classics* and Scripture passages, there are discoveries to draw you close to God, exercises to deepen your time with Him. Add to the pleasure imagining the discussion in the den at Bonhoeffer House as Karen leads students through the same discoveries. What a gift of understanding and knowledge to open us to the treasures of living in His truths and in His Presence!"

– Carey Louthan, board member, Atlanta, GA

Bound Tightly to the Hand of Jesus



Jenny Ewing

On July 25, 2006, we lost a precious friend and faithful Theological Horizons partner. Jenny Ewing lived a life of beautifully integrated intelligence, committed discipleship and embracing love. From the earliest days of our friendship, Jenny captured the very heart of Horizons' vision. She engaged the little band of Horizons partners in conversation and questions as we

struggled to discern God's direction for a fledgling ministry. She and Jimmy blessed the Bonhoeffer House when the doors opened in 2000. With wit, warmth, books, prayers and hospitality, she nurtured all of us through fifteen years of ministry. We offer deepest thanks for the life of Jennifer Slocumb Ewing and honor her witness to Christ and His Kingdom.

"If the God who revealed life to us, and whose only desire is to bring us to life, loved us so much that he wanted to experience with us the total absurdity of death, then—yes, then there must be hope; then there must be something more than death; then there must be a promise that is not fulfilled in our short existence in this world; then leaving behind the ones you love, the flowers and the trees, the mountains and the oceans, the beauty of art and music, and all the exuberant gifts of life cannot be just the destruction and cruel end of all things; then indeed we have to wait for the third day."

– Henri Nouwen from *A Letter of Consolation*

"I bear witness to a life well-lived and a family built strong on Christ; the only foundation that can't be shaken. . . Today we feel like a thousand kites cut loose from their moorings. . . but we're not. We're bound tightly to the hand of Jesus; connected to one another in a web of love crafted by my mother."

– Jim Ewing at the memorial service for his mother, Jennifer Slocumb Ewing



Wolfgang Huber, Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg & Henry Marsh



Horizons CoDirector, Dr. Charles Marsh



Around the table at the Bonhoeffer House