

Sojourn with Us

At **Theological Horizons**, we believe that Christians have a vital role to play in the forums of intellectual life. With a vision for renewing Christian thinking and discipleship right at the heart of culture, we witness to the good news that all truth belongs to God

Theological Horizons is raising up a new generation of Christian thinkers, providing resources for their impact upon our society. After fifteen years of ministry, Theological Horizons has mentored hundreds of young men and women who are now doing God's work in the world: teaching in colleges, serving the church and witnessing in the marketplace, part of a new community of Christians engaged in ideas and discipleship.

We invite you to be a member of this Horizons community.

We absolutely rely on the faithfulness of you, our partners, to financially enable this work, so that we can carry out all of Horizons' programs, teaching, communications and administration.

Theological Horizons is truly a pilgrimage for us: perilous and risky yet abounding with promising vistas. Please sojourn with us as we discover what God has around the next bend!

In the name of Christ,
Karen Wright Marsh and Charles Marsh, Directors

We welcome your tax-deductible gifts through online contributions at
www.theologicalhorizons.org/giving

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

On The Bookshelf

JUST RELEASED IN PAPERBACK!

The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, From the Civil Rights Movement to Today by Charles Marsh (Basic Books)

"Half a century ago an underground army rallied around a vision in order to change the moral landscape of America. Part historian, part raconteur, and part preacher, Charles Marsh calls us to keep alive that vision and to fulfill its promise. I found myself both moved to nostalgia and stirred to action as I read his gripping account."

---Philip Yancey

"Marsh is a theologian concerned with 'lived theology', and here he provides a resource for those yearning to put their faith more fruitfully into action."

--The Christian Science Monitor

If you would like a signed copy of *The Beloved Community* for yourself or a friend, please contact us at info@theologicalhorizons.org or 434.244.2839.

Splintered Light, a wonderful Christian bookstore owned by Horizons friends Byron and Rie Harris, has just launched their website, www.splinteredlightbooks.com Check out their fine selection of books for your pilgrimage!



Upcoming Speaking Events with Charles Marsh

Massanetta Springs, VA: PCUSA Conference, Aug. 1
Bluffton University, Ohio: Fall Convocation, Aug. 29
San Fernando, California: C.U.R.E. the City Conference, Sept. 22-24
Nashville: Christ Church Cathedral, Fall Symposium Oct. 20-22, Preaching on Oct. 23
New York, NY: Virginia Seminar, Nov. 2
Washington, DC: American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nov. 18-19
Speaking at various college student ministry organizations throughout the fall.

Theological Horizons
Christians Engaged In Ideas and Action



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OUR MISSION

To renew Christian thinking and discipleship.

OUR VISION

Church

Theological Horizons seeks to bring the rich resources of the Christian faith to bear in the church's distinctive identity and its engagement with culture.

Academy

Theological Horizons seeks to witness in the forums of intellectual life, communicating the good news that all truth belongs to God.

Community

Theological Horizons seeks to demonstrate the power of the Christian faith to heal and transform society.

"The Lamb who is at the heart of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to the springs of the water of life; and God will wipe all tears from their eyes."

Revelation 7:17



*In loving memory of dear ones
Jennifer Slocumb Ewing
and
Dana Goodwin Smith*

Far from Home: An Invitation for UVa Students

Theological Horizons is centered at The Bonhoeffer House in Charlottesville, less than half a mile from the Central Grounds of the University of Virginia. The Bonhoeffer House is a place offered in the name of Christ for conversation, for food, for study, for rest. The Bonhoeffer House is a home, as well, so family life provides a personal context for Horizons' hospitality. Between the discussions of ideas and theology there is a space for grace and for comfort, for a sense of belonging and Christian community.

We invite incoming students to the University of Virginia to join us at the Bonhoeffer House—to discover it as refuge and source of strength and growth during their time at the University. Please contact us at info@theologicalhorizons.org and we will add you—or a student you know to our email list. Students will be invited to the fall lunch, the weekly Friday Reading & Reflection group, the Bonhoeffer House Book Club and other upcoming events.

The Horizons Perspective piece, "Keeping the Faith in College", words of experience from Christian students, is available free upon request at info@theologicalhorizons.org.

Notes Along the Way

Summer is a time for growth, for movement, for travel. Here at the Bonhoeffer House, we've received news from university students now scattered far and wide, from faculty members doing research and from family members moving abroad.

What is there about the journey that is both challenging and refreshing? H. Richard Niebuhur has spoken of the "irresistible conviction that we acquire ourselves not in abiding only, but (also) in moving."

For those of us spending the summer in more familiar routines, shuttling children to swim meets or summer school (that's me), or going to work as ever, is there meaning in the quotidian life? Katherine Norris reminds us that "Christianity is inescapably down-to-earth and incarnational...The Christian religion asks us to place our trust not in ideas, and certainly not in ideologies, but in a God who was vulnerable enough to become human and die, and who desires to be present to us in our everyday circumstances. And because we are human, it is in the realm of the daily and the mundane that we must find our way to God."

There is true mystery in our lived reality, there is sanctity in the everyday. Even here there is possibility for movement and discovery. Frederick Buechner writes, "Religion points to that area of human experience where in one way or another man comes upon mystery as a summons to pilgrimage." Paul Elie describes pilgrimage as "a journey in the light of a story." In the light of the Gospel, life is a pilgrimage "new every morning" (Lam. 3:23), "where we can find mercy even in the midst of lamentation" (Norris).

Whether this summer's journeys take you to Taize in France, to your first job in Manhattan, to a new university, or to your daily routine, may your journey become pilgrimage deeper into the truth and mystery of God.

Blessings,

Karen Wright Marsh, CoDirector



Karen,

I just wanted to know how your summer has been. Is Charlottesville still quiet and peaceful? Tomorrow I start my internship in a senator's office. I am feeling a little bit nervous, yet I am still excited. Last Tuesday I got back from my missions trip to Nicaragua with my home church. It was such an eye-opening and humbling experience to be a part of the world outside of the U.S. Hope all is well.

Love, Molly

Expeditions in the World



Lori Bates
UVa '02

Experiencing the Welcome of Christ

After graduating in May of 2002, I stayed in Charlottesville for three years, living and working in the Prospect Avenue community with Abundant Life Ministries. After studying theology, it was a breath of fresh air to simply live it – to experience the kingdom of God through the neighbors I knew and the work that I did. Those three years taught me much about the welcome of Christ, as I had never experienced before the kind of welcome that neighborhood extended to me.

Last August, I moved to Seattle, WA to go to graduate school. I just finished my first year in a Masters of Counseling Psychology program at Mars Hill Graduate School. Leaving Charlottesville was quite difficult, and I had to quickly learn that God is not confined to localized places. He stayed behind in Prospect, was with me when I moved, and was already in Seattle when I arrived. Yet He and the kingdom of God find different expressions, however drastic or subtle they may be. I hope to return to Prospect after finishing my degree to once again, hopefully live out what I have learned - in reference to both counseling and his kingdom.



Matthew Haygood
UVa '05

Serving God in a Tough Place

For the last 11 months now, I have been living in the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer working as a Youth, Family, and Community Development volunteer. It has been an amazing and challenging experience to live in another culture and in poverty, working in community development. I have learned so much but also greatly struggled at times with my situation and also with my relationship with God during my time here. Throughout my time I have often thought about going home due to being extremely lonely and struggling with cultural differences. Although I have several friends in my community, culture, language, and education levels make it very difficult to find deep meaningful relationships. For me, this is very important and when it is lacking it greatly affects my emotional and spiritual stability.

So, why do I stay? Living in such a poor community has made me realize that as an American, or essentially a very rich person in this world, I have a huge responsibility to other people in this world. I feel that if God has blessed me with so much and the sin of the world has kept others from receiving such blessings, I have a responsibility to share those blessings and work to restore God's kingdom on earth. I feel development work or service work is a wonderful way for me to do my part, even if in my time I only significantly impact five or ten people. We are not called to change the world, that's God's work, but to serve Him and others in our own small way, and if all Christians actually fulfilled this command, we would not be in the world we live in today. We can best serve God by serving others with love, and not just friends or family or people we like, but self sacrificial love that hurts just a little bit. Perhaps that is why I feel inspired to stay and continue, because I feel a responsibility to fulfill God's commandment, and no true service comes without sacrifice. Although I fail everyday and am a horrible sinner, God is helping me do my small part.



Anna Li

Anna Li (Johns Hopkins University 1998) recently completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, CA. We congratulate Anna on her new position as an attending physician at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. We have fond memories of Anna from the very early days of Theological Horizons and are thankful for her continuing partnership as we welcome her to the Board of Directors!

WHO WE ARE

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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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Cloud Nine Design (540) 456-7024

Horizons Programs in Focus: Graduate Research Fellowships

Pilgrimage...a journey in the light of a story. A great event has happened; the pilgrim hears the reports and goes in search of the evidence, aspiring to be an eyewitness. The pilgrim seeks not only to confirm the experience of others firsthand but to be changed by the experience...And as they return to ordinary life, the pilgrims must tell others what they saw, recasting the story in their own terms.

– Paul Elie, from *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*

Jenny McBride has returned from her pilgrimage through Bonhoeffer's life and legacy. She joined a study tour through Germany, Poland, visiting sites significant to the life of one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).



With Religious Studies professors James Reimer and Peter Frick, Jenny journeyed to Bonhoeffer's birthplace, the universities he attended, his pastorates, the Confessing Church seminary he directed, the Benedictine monastery where he stayed during his underground work against Hitler, and the prison and concentration camps where he was incarcerated and ultimately executed.

Theological Horizons funded this research travel in support of the doctoral dissertation on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theology which Jenny is writing at the University of Virginia. Reflecting on the trip, Jenny writes, "It really was transformative; it's not too dramatic to say that it was one of the best experiences of my life and PERFECT timing. Truly a pilgrimage!" Research funding is one of numerous forms of support Theological Horizons provides to young scholars preparing to do God's work in the world.

Photo, Left: Jenny McBride sitting at Bonhoeffer's desk at his home in Berlin. This is where Bonhoeffer sat when the Gestapo came to arrest him.

Two Photos, Top Right: The Bonhoeffer Chapel in Zingst, Germany, the initial site of the underground Confessing Church seminary that Bonhoeffer directed. Zingsthoef remains a functional retreat center.

Photo, Bottom Right: Bonhoeffer's home in Berlin



Bread for Your Journey HORIZONS RESOURCES

Exploring Christian Classics Together

✚ The Friday Reading and Reflection Group continues at the Bonhoeffer House. This year we will be reading from *Spiritual Classics*, edited by Richard J. Foster and Emilie Griffin. Each week we'll discuss a brief selection from the Christian tradition, with a range of authors from St. Augustine, Thomas Merton and Frederick Buechner to Evelyn Underhill, Dorothy Day and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Scripture passages will complement the readings.

✚ This fall we are also offering an online discussion of these *Spiritual Classics*, so that partners far and near may take part in the conversation. Join us! We will send a book to you and then post weekly questions for our group's response. Email us at reflections@theologicalhorizons.org if you'd like to take part.

On the Horizons Weblog

✚ To connect with current discussions on summer reading, go to www.theologicalhorizons.org/blog/.

Step into the Prayer Circle

✚ We invite you receive the monthly Horizons Prayer Circle letter and join a vital ministry of prayer and encouragement. Together we share petitions, thanksgivings and devotional readings, encircling one another in prayer. Please contact us at info@theologicalhorizons.org or 1841 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Horizons News by email

✚ While our newsletters come to you by mail several times a year, we send out occasional emails with timely devotional readings, invitations to join weblog conversations and prayer requests. If we do not have your email address, please drop us a note at info@theologicalhorizons.org

Passages

Each spring we bid goodbye to another generation of students as they leave the university for their journey into the "real world." For them, we offer a blessing:

*"We pray the protection
of Christ to clothe you,
Christ to enfold you,
To surround and
guard you
This day and every day,
Surrounding you and
your companions,
'Enfolding you and
every friend."*

– from *Celtic Daily Prayer*