

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

Summer 2008

On the Side

» **"The mind is a gift from God. It may be used for his glory, neglected to its waste or abused idolatrously... Christians recognize that the mind may bring praise to its Maker. To 'think Christianly' and to act for Christ in daily existence on the basis of that thinking is high calling."**

— MARK NOLL

» **"God is the one who satisfies the passion for justice, the longing for spirituality, the hunger for relationship, the yearning for beauty."**

— N.T. WRIGHT

QUOTABLE

"What is Theological Horizons?

A place for Christians to gather and discuss what it means to live out their faith in academia as well as in the community."

— MARY ELIZABETH WARREN STONE



University of Virginia students in the Bonhoeffer House living room.

Is God Silenced on College Campuses?



A recent *USA Today* headline asks this question. Surprisingly, the article answers: No, God speaks. What's more, students are listening. College campuses have the reputation of being secular bastions of atheism and extra-curricular vice. Yet a recent study by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA finds that the majority of college juniors say that "integrating spirituality" into their lives is very important. In addition, 67% of these juniors pray and 41% believe in following religious teachings in their everyday lives. It's not just beer pong and parties after all; most university students are open to religion and want their faith to be an integral part of their day-to-day lives.

Within this context, Theological Horizons provides teaching and support from a Christian perspective. In Christian theology, students find the problems they grapple with today—whether they're considering the needs of the poor, distressed over our ravaged environment, or struggling with human frailties—are all addressed in the Bible. Young people may be more radical than their elders, yet they need God no less. Through Theological Horizons we bring thoughtful faith, rich tradition and challenging discipleship to the passionate students of today.

To view the *USA Today* article, visit: www.theologicalhorizons.org/ontheshelf.htm

WHO WE ARE

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS, INC.

Charles Marsh &
Karen Wright Marsh
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Director of Communications
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Theological Horizons Fellow

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information:

www.theologicalhorizons.org/events.htm

- » Welcome Lunch for new UVa students
Thursday, August 28, 12-2pm
rsvp: karen@theologicalhorizons.org
- » Vintage Lunch for all UVa students
All welcome at the Bonhoeffer House!
Friday, September 5, 12-2pm
rsvp: karen@theologicalhorizons.org
- » Capps Lecture in Christian Theology
The Dome Room of the Rotunda
The University of Virginia
Wednesday, October 15
- » Karen and Charles Marsh visit
The Lovett School in Atlanta
as Theologians in Residence
October 1-3

» PROFILES

The next generation: theologian Jennifer McBride

This summer marks the end of an era for me—the conclusion of the long and arduous journey of earning a Masters and Ph.D. in Religious Studies and the culmination of my time on staff with the Project on Lived Theology. In August I move to Atlanta, Georgia, for a postdoctoral teaching and research fellowship in “Religious Practices and Practical Theology” at Emory University. As I prepare to teach in Emory’s Candler School of Divinity, I cannot help but be reminded of a generous Theological Horizons grant I received for the 2006 Centenary Study Tour of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Life and Legacy in Germany and Poland, a trip that has better equipped me to recast Bonhoeffer’s story and witness in terms that may encourage North American churches towards costly discipleship, rich theological thinking, and a faithful public witness. Throughout my time in the MA/PhD program, I have been particularly encouraged by events at the Bonhoeffer House that gather Religious Studies faculty, graduate students, visiting speakers, and community members together for thoughtful exchange in the comfort of a beautiful home.



“The best hour...” Karen Marsh and Vintage

My husband Charles and I founded Theological Horizons in 1991 to renew Christian thinking and discipleship. Through our ministry we’ve discovered that university students are eager to know God and to live as followers of Christ. As we meet their real-life needs with age-old truths, it’s been my joy to lead the Vintage study group for the past six years, both online at the Bonhoeffer House. At Vintage we combine classic readings from believers like St. Augustine and Julian Norwich with the NOOMA DVD series by contemporary pastor Rob Bell. Vintage offers timeless theology in an accessible and relevant format.

The best hour of my week begins at noon on Fridays when I gather with students in the living room. Students also value our time together. As one recently said, “In high school it was almost cool to be a Christian. Now we have all of these other forces—social and school—and it’s kind of nice to find God in quiet places, which is what we do here.”

After seventeen years of ministry, Charles and I are heartened to see Theological Horizons alumni live out committed, thoughtful faith in the arenas of teaching and missions, filmmaking and fashion, business and law. Theological Horizons is here to provide mentoring, sanctuary, resources and a forum for intellectual exploration—whatever university students need as they find their path and listen for God along the way.



Salon Evenings: A New Tradition



As I make my way up the brick walkway, the front door of the Bonhoeffer House opens and I am welcomed in from the cold. Smiling greeters hang my coat and offer warm coffee from a table with sparkling candlelight and a bounteous array of dried fruit, cheese, and truffles. Clusters of people are grouped around the table as I say hello to old friends and am introduced to new connections.

Welcome to a Salon Evening at the Bonhoeffer House, which Karen and Charles Marsh were inspired to create after their return from Berlin. Each Salon features a different professor introducing a different theme. This year Jamie Ferreira spoke on the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, Kevin Hart reflected on theology and poetry, and Beth Newman talked about Christian hospitality. One participant remarked, “people loved being there... I think the setting is special, [and fosters] more social interaction... There’s something very honoring about being invited to someone’s home.”

There is often a division between intellectual culture and spirituality, between the university and the home. The Salon Evenings bridge those divides. The Salons provide an open invitation for conversation among members of the church, academy, and community.



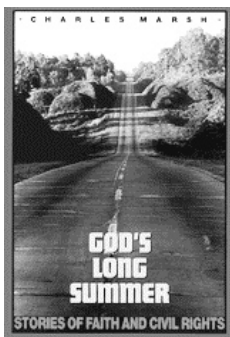
The December Salon Evening at the Bonhoeffer House.

Intellectually vigorous presentations spark talk about life and belief. At a Salon Evening, you may overhear a young South Asian man talk with an elder about the challenges of ordained ministry. A German sculptor might meet a philosophy professor or a carpenter and find common interests. Wherever our guests are on their walk of faith, the Salon Evenings provide a safe and welcoming space for questions. Salon Evenings further Theological Horizons’ mission to renew Christian thinking and discipleship.

THE 2008 CAPPS LECTURE

will be given on October 15 by Dr. Donald Shriver, Jr. Dr. Shriver is a professor, pastor, author, and speaker engaged in the issue of social ethics. He is president emeritus of Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

On the Bookshelf



Princeton University Press has issued a 10-year anniversary edition of *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights*, by Charles Marsh, with a new preface by the author. *God's Long Summer* is the winner of the Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion.

“Original and uncommonly thoughtful... This is a comprehensive, imaginative, fair-minded and perceptive book, a significant contribution to our understanding of those men and women who fought those terrible wars in what seems so long ago but was, in fact, only yesterday.”—Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post Book World*

Pick up a copy at your local bookstore or contact us for an autographed book.

Giving to HORIZONS

Your Partnership

Theological Horizons serves the spiritual and intellectual needs of students, scholars and community members. We nurture spirit and body in the following ways:

- » Guiding, mentoring relationships
- » Welcoming, engaged hospitality at the Bonhoeffer House
- » Strategic grants, fellowships, and recognition for rising scholars
- » First rate lectures and events for the university
- » Classes, seminars, online resources, and books for the church and community

Without the gifts of friends like you, there would be no lectures in the UVa Rotunda, no students gathered by the fireplace, no writing prize. Without your generosity, there would be no Theological Horizons. We treasure each gift, no matter how small or large. Please support Theological Horizons generously. The hearts, stomachs and souls of many will thank you!

Gifts to Horizons

A gift has been given in honor of Joy Roberts by Willodean Hastings

A gift has been given in honor of Myra and Bob Marsh by Marcia and John White

A gift has been given in loving memory of Dana Goodwin Smith and Jennifer Slocumb Ewing by Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Louthan III

Board Voices

“Theological Horizons is so much more than a place or concept. It embodies and captures the heart of who we are as Christians and how we live that out in this day and time—through meaningful exchanges of ideas and studies of past men and women of faith whose extraordinary experiences enlarge our own thinking.” —Kathy Lee

From the Bonhoeffer House kitchen:

Vintage Iced Tea

This iced tea is a favorite of the students at Vintage, our weekly Bible study. It “tastes like home,” so we always keep a cold pitcher on hand for unexpected guests.

Ingredients:

- 3 family-size tea bags
- 1 quart water
- 1 large 12oz pink lemonade concentrate
- 8-12 sprigs of mint (or a bag of peppermint tea)
- 1 cup sugar

Directions:

Bring water to a boil and remove from heat. Add teabags and mint and let steep for 20 minutes. Remove teabags and mint, add lemonade concentrate, sugar, and enough water to make one gallon.



Recent University of Virginia graduates Nellie Black and Lacy Quarles with Nan and Karen Marsh at the Bonhoeffer House.

Theological Horizons
Christians Engaged In Ideas and Action

OUR MISSION

To renew Christian thinking & discipleship

OUR VISION

UNIVERSITY

To impact the forums of intellectual life with the good news that all truth belongs to God.

CHURCH

To bring the rich resources of the Christian faith to bear in the church's mission & witness in the world.

COMMUNITY

To demonstrate the power of Christian faith to heal & transform society.

Stay in TOUCH

1841 University Circle
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434.244.2839
www.theologicalhorizons.org
info@theologicalhorizons.org