

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

Spring 2010

On the Side

» **“Man desires to praise thee, for he is a part of thy creation...We should delight to praise thee, for thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee...”**

—ST. AUGUSTINE

» **“We... are obliged... to make known the presence of the Savior to the ends of the earth... Every day of our mortal lives must be His manifestation, His divine Epiphany, in the world which He has created and redeemed.”**

—HENRI NOUWEN

QUOTABLE

“Any path... on which I can approach You... must lead through the very middle of my ordinary daily life.”

— KARL RAHNER



Students find nourishment for body and soul at the Bonhoeffer House

Making A Life in the Way of Jesus: Good News for the Whole Person



aint Augustine famously writes in the first chapter of *Confessions*, “Thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee”. We are not unfamiliar with restlessness. In our frenetic lives, we all yearn for wholeness, vitality and health. It is in the Gospel of Jesus that we find true rest, and that is good news for the whole person.

Each Friday, we gather at the Bonhoeffer House for Vintage, a time to share homemade soup and to study the writings and teachings of thoughtful Christians who have come before us.

During Vintage this spring, we are discovering the good news of salvation that Jesus proclaimed throughout his life. Jesus lived in a way that made God's love real. He was companion, artist, healer and mystic. Jesus invites us to become apprentices and learn from him. Writings from Origen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Dorothy Day, Dallas Willard, Augustine and Eugene Peterson all reveal how living in the way of Jesus rescues us from fragmentation and moves us toward integration and peace.

—Saranell Hartman, Theological Horizons Fellow

WHO WE ARE

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS, INC.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information:

www.theologicalhorizons.org/events.htm

» » "Bonhoeffer in America: 1930-31"
Lecture by Charles Marsh
American Academy in Berlin
March 11, 2010

» » "From the Mountains to the Shore:
Immigrant Labor in Virginia"
a lived theology forum
The Bonhoeffer House
March 18, 2010, 7:30pm

» » End of Semester Lunch
The Bonhoeffer House
May 5, 2010, noon-2pm

» PROFILES

Saranell Hartman, Lived Theology Fellow:

I enjoy leading the Vintage conversation each Friday this semester. Entering into discussions about faith and life with inquisitive students in the company of saints—both ancient and modern—is a privilege and a joy.

My family and I moved to Charlottesville from Baltimore last summer so that my husband could pursue a Ph.D. in Theology, Ethics, and Culture at U.Va. We are both ordained Presbyterian ministers and spent the last five years starting and co-pastoring a new faith community for people between 20 and 35 who are interested in God, but not interested in church. My son Simeon is 4½ and loves to play, dig, run, and build. My daughter Elliana is 2½ and loves birds, stickers, cupcakes, books, and chasing her brother.

As the child of missionaries, I have lived all over. I was born in Jamaica and spent my teenage years in Madrid. After graduating from Wheaton College with majors in Psychology and Christian education and working in a church, I felt God's call to pastoral ministry and to Fuller Seminary.

I love good conversation and good coffee, enjoy being outdoors, running half-marathons, shopping at farmer's markets and reading (in my rare quiet moments).

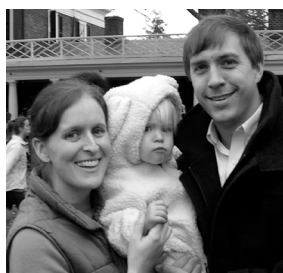


Russell and I moved into the Bonhoeffer House with our daughter Ramsey in the middle in January.

Soon after, we were slammed with one snowstorm after another. We lit fires in the fireplaces and invited students and friends over to enjoy the snow from the cozy Bonhoeffer House living room. Since then, we've also hosted evenings with the New City Arts Initiative, Trinity Presbyterian Church City Parish, and the Reformed University Fellowship at U.Va. The Vintage group and The Project on Lived Theology have also continued to meet here, hosted by Tim and Saranell Hartman.

Our daughter Ramsey enjoys feeding the guinea pigs and chasing Sandy, the very patient Bonhoeffer House dog. The Bonhoeffer House will welcome a new little addition, our baby boy due on April 4. We are so thankful to live here and are already mourning about moving out in July!

Katherine, Russell, and Ramsey Edwards are the Bonhoeffer House Family in Residence while the Marshes are at the American Academy in Berlin, Germany.



MODERN Idolatry: A U.Va. Student's Thoughts

"Making an idol out of something means giving it the love you should be giving your Creator and Sustainer."

--Tim Keller



The angry calls instantly hushed as hands were silently raised towards the sky. It was hard to imagine that the athletes playing on the court were our peers. In that instant it seemed as if, for the students in the arena, those players had become gods worthy of worship.

In my four years at the University I had never been to a basketball game, so I was curious. In passing, a friend of mine described the worshipful attitude that fell upon the people in the arena, most evident whenever a U.Va. player was at the free throw line.

'Idolatry' is a word we might associate with backwardness, and in extreme cases, with images of human sacrifices. As Christians we are quick to recollect stories from the Bible (the golden calf, anyone?) whenever 'idolatry' is mentioned. But our narrow understanding of what idolatry comprehends may find us in a situation where we have idols in our own lives but are unaware of them.

So what is idolatry?

Put simply, idolatry has *nothing* to do with any particular physical objects yet *all* to do with the emotional attachment that is formed to any object. This means that there may be a lot of things in our lives that are idols yet we fail to recognize: a friend, an activity, even a family member. Issues of



Spectators at a basketball game Julien Manyong attended

idolatry relate to how we view the objects of our affection.

This is not to say that things we like are not *good*, but like all good things (including U.Va. basketball!) there is a fine line that shouldn't be crossed where these things become 'gods' to us.



Julien Manyong is a fourth-year at the University of Virginia and is a regular at Vintage, our Friday Bible study. Theological Horizons encourages students to think theologically about their everyday lives. This essay grew out of Julien's comments during a Vintage discussion.

2010 WRITING PRIZE

Now with higher prize levels, our Goodwin Prizes for Excellence in Theological Writing are awarded to graduate students from around the world, recognizing essays that demonstrate exceptional scholarship and faithfulness to the Christian tradition and community. Awards of \$2000, \$1000 and \$500. Submissions due June 1, 2010.

On the Bookshelf

40-Day Journey with Martin Luther

by Martin Luther, (Gracia Grindal, ed.), Augsburg Press, 2008

Encounter profound truths about faith and life through forty short passages selected from Luther's sermons and other works, along with an introduction to Luther's life, journal-writing exercises, Scripture and daily prayers. This book is one in the 40-Day Journey series. In each book, a classic Christian writer serves as your own spiritual guide and mentor. A rich resource for personal meditation or small group discussion.



Giving to HORIZONS

Special Gifts to Theological Horizons

A gift has been given in honor of Polly and Sidney Waits by Betty Teem

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Board Voices

As someone fortunate enough to have been impacted by the ministry of Theological Horizons as a student, and currently serving as a member of the board, I can't help but reflect on the first decade of Theological Horizons' work at the University of Virginia with extreme gratitude for God's provision.

As a student, I was part of the first group to benefit from this distinctive ministry. I witnessed firsthand the fruits of Charles and Karen's vision for incorporating both intellectual and spiritual nourishment into the lives of Christians in academia.

As a board member, I have been privileged to see the ministry grow and take root in the community. The Bonhoeffer House has continued to be a model of Christian hospitality, but has expanded to be a locus of important conversations and events. Theological Horizons has also continued to advance theological scholarship with the Goodwin Graduate Writing Prize, the Capps Lectures in Christian Theology, publications, grants, fellowships, mentorship and vocational direction.

Please know that as a ministry we are humbled by your generous support over the past decade. As Theological Horizons begins the next decade of ministry in Charlottesville and beyond, your support will help to promote the theological scholarship and provide a welcoming home for engaging faith, thought and life.

--Peter Andres, U.Va. 2003



Students enjoy lunch each week thanks to a generous grant from The M.E. Foundation.

Theological Horizons
Christians Engaged In Ideas and Action

**THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS
SUPPORTS
CHRISTIANS IN ACADEMIA**

by advancing theological scholarship

by providing a welcoming home for engaging
faith, thought, and life

BONHOEFFER HOUSE

Theological Horizons is centered just steps from the University of Virginia at the Bonhoeffer House, the home of Professor Charles Marsh, Karen Wright Marsh and their family. The Bonhoeffer House is a gathering place for students, professors, community members, and church leaders who come together for rich conversations about integrating the practices of theology into everyday life.

Stay in TOUCH

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