

# THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

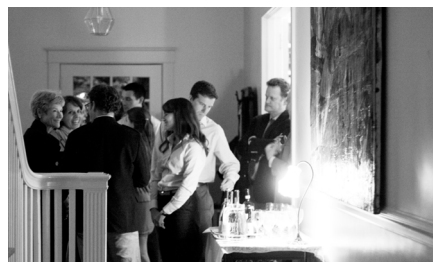
## ON THE SIDE

» "We are seeking the Word exposed in the words."

— KARL BARTH

» "We are a generation that yearns for wisdom figures, heroes and heroines, ammas and abbas who will show us the way. While maintaining fierce independence, we desire interdependence and community. We want our lives to have depth of meaning and purpose. We want to be connected. We secretly want someone to challenge us toward the transcendent."

— LAURA SWAN



## OLD WISDOM, NEW WISDOM: UNEXPECTED MENTORS

### *The Vintage Life*

Each week at Vintage, forty students read and discuss the writings of Vintage Christians over a home-cooked lunch in the Bonhoeffer House living room. Christian writers we've read recently include the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, medieval Julian of Norwich, and the Quaker Thomas Kelly. Christians who lived centuries ago or across the globe might seem irrelevant to us today, but as we explore their writings, we find that their wisdom is fresh and challenging.

Karen Marsh begins each discussion by introducing the week's Vintage Christian through stories of their loneliness, fears, and doubts as well as their hopes. Students meet these writers in a personal way, as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who speak into our lives and questions today. Third year Jonathan McMann describes his experience: "The approach at Vintage makes the authors more relatable, and breaks down the barriers of time and space. Ultimately, the Vintage experience allows us to be encouraged in our present contexts, knowing that Jesus is moving in our lives in similar ways to the saints of old."

Inspiring Christian writers have become faithful guides through our own difficulties and struggles. Third year Elizabeth Bickley talks about the impact these Vintage Christians have had on her life: "Before Vintage, Martin Luther King and Amy Carmichael were distant, iconic figures whose steadfast faith and leadership inspired me. But reading their personal narrations during their moments of doubt and praise, they became close. They became human and relatable mentors, who could hold me accountable in my moments of doubt and could celebrate with me in my moments of praise."

Share students' insights as they post on our blog weekly. You'll find the readings, too, in the Members area of our website. Find both at [theologicalhorizons.org](http://theologicalhorizons.org).

## # WHO WE ARE

### THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS, INC.

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## # QUICK LINKS

- » Access our Members Only resources:  
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# PRO FILES

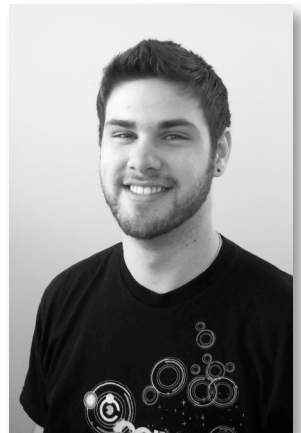
## Caroline Parsley

"Of all the Vintage Christians we've read, I've been most inspired by Amy Carmichael. Before reading excerpts from her devotional book, we learned about Amy's incredible life as a missionary in India. Despite physical illness and other hardships, this woman never lost sight of her purpose or God's sovereignty. Her story is one of unwavering devotion and sacrifice. Carmichael wrote that 'we are where we look.' She urged others to 'look from the top,' for this is when 'we see as the Lord sees; He sees not what is only, but what shall be.' After learning about Amy's difficulties, I admire her eternal perspective even more. Amy Carmichael's life is a great example of what it looks like to engage in the world with love and interest while maintaining a heavenly perspective."



## Reilly O'Hara

"I am a third-year Religious Studies and Foreign Affairs double major. Of the many incredible people about whom we have read, the most impactful for me was Mother Teresa. We read some of Mother Teresa's letters to a spiritual confidant in which she writes of a deep ache of loneliness and a strong sense of abandonment by God. While this intense spiritual disconnect shouldn't serve as an absolute of the Christian walk, it's nevertheless comforting to see our trials reflected in the lives of truly inspirational, and convicting, lovers of Christ. For years Mother Teresa heard nothing from God yet asked for prayer that she 'keep smiling at Him in spite of everything.' This appeal is for me a daily reminder of the dedicated life that we, as Christians, are called to live on this earth."



## Camille Loomis

I am a third-year majoring in Religious Studies and Art History, with a minor in Medieval Studies, exploring the intersections of art, faith, and cultural interpretation. My favorite elements of Theological Horizons are the discussions following a Vintage reading. For Valentine's Day, Karen shared the writings of Aelred of Rievaulx, a 12th century Scottish monk. Aelred's ideas on the spiritual qualities of friendship stuck with me and inspired conversations later that day and week on the nature of selfless love. Vintage discussions connect me not only with the spirituality and theology of Christian historical figures, but with their humanity. The freedom to explore doubt, faults, musings, theological theories, and aspects of prayer within each Vintage reading is an invaluable university experience which is unique to my Friday lunches at the Bonhoeffer House.



# HORIZONS NEWS #

## ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

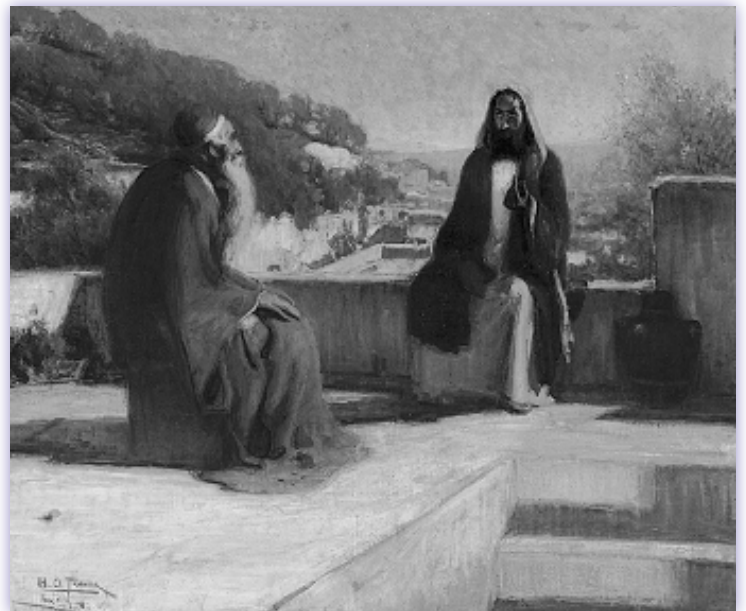
### *Nicodemus*

We are all seekers. The question is: what is it that we seek? On Wednesday mornings during Breakfast Bible Study we are studying Jesus' encounters with individuals. Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the dark of the night with questions — questions about the source and meaning of Jesus' actions. Nicodemus is curious, longing for something more than the religious status quo he has been living. Jesus engages his questions in ways that offer Nicodemus a new perspective on who God is. As their encounter ends in John 3, we aren't sure what will happen next. Yet Nicodemus reappears in John 7, begging his fellow leaders give Jesus a chance, saying, "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" Then again, and most poignantly in John 19, we see that the Nicodemus who once came in the dark with whispers, now stands in grief and honor alongside Joseph of Arimathea, bringing 100 pounds of burial spices to bury the crucified Jesus.

John Indermark, the author of our study guide, *The Way of Grace*, writes, "Consider in your own experience how possibilities in life abound to reshape us, to birth us spiritually from above, again anew. God's forming us, heart, mind and soul, does not end...at any one point of conversion. Indeed, there is no end to spiritual growth in this life. So whether we have been on the way for a short time or a very long time, Jesus still says to us, 'You must be born again, and yet again.' Nicodemus demonstrates for us the deep human need for new birth and the marvelous divine provision of Christ our Savior."

The news is that God's wind is blowing.  
It may be a breeze  
that cools and comforts.  
It may be a gust  
that summons you to notice.  
It may be a storm that blows you where you have  
never been before.

Whatever the wind is in your life,  
pay attention to it...  
and the blessing of God,  
Creator, Son and Spirit,  
will abide with you always.



## THE CASE *For* THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

I am an unusual case for Theological Horizons. I walked through the front doors of the Bonhoeffer House my first year as a UVA student with little exposure to traditional Christianity and no formal religious education. On the other hand, my experience within the welcoming and inclusive spirit of the Bonhoeffer House is precisely what makes the work of Theological Horizons so successful. A newcomer to the faith scene at UVA, I felt cherished, safe, and inspired. The challenge to explore faith has been eagerly accepted by students from all possible backgrounds. The integration and intersection of academic inquiry and faith is a unique and fruitful stage upon which to develop thoughtful friendships!

The work at Theological Horizons is growing broadly and deeply. Vintage lunches have grown to accommodate between 40 and 50 students each week. Morning Worship and Wednesday Bible Study continue to grow, embracing the wider Charlottesville community, and we estimate that about 650 individual students have walked through our doors in the past year alone.

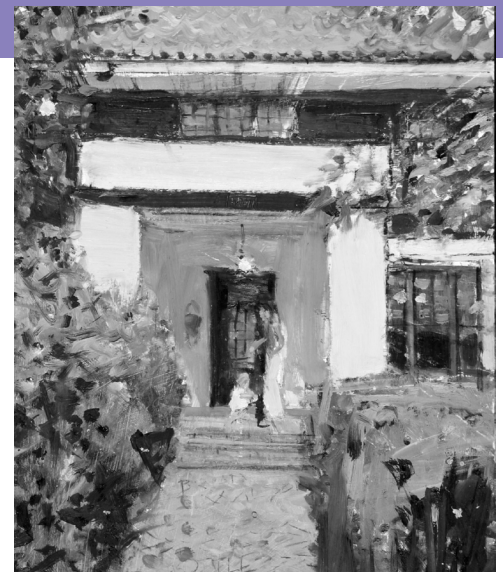
Upon mentioning the Bonhoeffer House to my fellow students, I get one of two responses: "Oh, I love that place," or "That sounds fascinating! Can I come?" Theological Horizons is recognized here, and expanding every day. We invite you to become part of our family. One way to stay in touch with the work of Theological Horizons is to become a financial supporter. Join our spring matching gift challenge campaign, or pledge your support for 2013! Help us feed students who arrive for Vintage lunches to explore God's great questions. Support us in hosting our annual Capps Lecture. Partner with us to provide ministry. Thank you for your partnership - we are grateful!

Most importantly, we invite you inside! The doors at the Bonhoeffer House are always open.  
Camille Loomis, Spring 2013 Intern



## SPECIAL GIFTS TO THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS IN MEMORY/HONOR

*In memory of Kay Cropper by Leah and Michael Sumner*  
*In memory of Malcolm Duden, Rev. Gerald Troutman, Larry Gillian,  
Dr. James Bryant and Joe Hailes by Leah and Michael Sumner*  
*In memory of Harold Elliott Barrett by Louisa Barrett*  
*In memory of R. Allen Koehler by Margaret Koehler*  
*In honor of Jane Branch by Bob and Myra Marsh*  
*In honor of Bob and Myra Marsh by Dorothy Owens, Marion and  
Milburn Poston, Peggy and Jim Lientz and Powell Brewton*  
*In honor of Karen and Charles Marsh by Penny and Bill Peebles*  
*In honor of Joy Roberts by Alice Provost*  
*In honor of Anna McQuitty by Mary Chris and Phil McQuitty*  
*In honor of Betty Li by Maureen and Peter Garner*  
*In honor of Saranell K. Hartman by Jeremy Kracht*  
*In honor of Lee Stephenson by Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers*  
*In honor of Carolyn Harris by Linda and Hank Harris*



### 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.

### THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS



**THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS**  
SUPPORTS  
CHRISTIANS IN ACADEMIA

by advancing theological scholarship

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

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## CATCH UP WITH US ONLINE!

It's easy to catch up with Theological Horizons! With the expansion of our Facebook page, Twitter account, email lists, our blog and a **Members Only** area, staying in touch has never been easier! Check out and "like" our **Facebook** page, and join the 600+ other friends who enjoy our inspirational quotes and links, blog posts, and info on upcoming events. Follow us on **Twitter** along with almost 200 followers.

Dread checking your email? Add some spiritual spice to your inbox with our **Online Prayer Circle** e-letter, a monthly compilation of shared prayers and devotionals. Sign up here: [karen@theologicalhorizons.org](mailto:karen@theologicalhorizons.org)

In addition to keeping all our social media outlets buzzing, Theological Horizons is experimenting with **video sharing!** Keep an eye on our **Vimeo** and **YouTube** channels for upcoming posts!



## From the Bonhoeffer House Kitchen

### Breakfast Bible Study Baked French Toast Casserole

#### Ingredients:

About 1 and 1/2 loaves cinnamon swirl bread  
8 large eggs  
2 cups half-and-half  
1 cup milk  
2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Maple syrup

#### Directions

Arrange bread slices in a buttered 9 by 13-inch baking dish in 2 rows, overlapping the slices. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, half-and-half, milk, sugar, vanilla, and salt. Pour mixture evenly over the bread. Spoon some of the mixture in between the slices. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

The next day, bake for 40 minutes in a preheated 350 degree oven.  
Serve with maple syrup and toasted pecans.