

### 25th Anniversary

# THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

## Summer Stories

Before another active academic year begins, we take some time to reflect on what Theological Horizons means to us. Here are stories of ministry—in the words of students, alumni, parents, volunteers—from friends whom God has brought into our sphere of influence and blessing!

### THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

supports both Christians and seekers in academia by advancing theological scholarship and by providing a welcoming home for engaging faith, thought, and life.

### Actual People with Actual Experience *Lee Stephenson, Alumna*

The relationship between faith and work is widely misunderstood and causes a good deal of pain for many in the modern workforce. As someone who has indulged herself in one too many books with titles like *Strengths Finder* and *Tilling Your Personal Zen Garden: The Comprehensive Guide to Unfettered Work Bliss*, I suspect that one source of faith and work confusion comes from a deafening cultural focus upon individual professional identity as the font of personal meaning and happiness.

The Darden Faith and Work Dialogue series delivers a fresh and different message, a departure from the dominant emphasis on seeing strengths inventories as the key road map to passion-filled careers. Faith and Work Dialogue speakers present meaningful work as inextricable from a community of faith and a relationship with Christ. Conversations with actual Christian people with actual business experience bring the faith-work relationship out of abstraction and into tangible reality. It's a cause for celebration!



### A Launchpad for New Faith Adventures *William Boyce, Graduate Student*

### BONHOEFFER HOUSE

Theological Horizons is centered just steps from the University of Virginia at the Bonhoeffer House. The Bonhoeffer House, home to the Marsh family, 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.

Simply put: Theological Horizons is integral to the mission of Christ in Charlottesville. As a men's group leader, I can confidently say that students describe it, in turns, as a refuge in the chaos of college, a home for spiritual growth and maturity, a meeting place for Christian fellowship, a destination for intellectual seriousness, and a launchpad for new adventures in the journey of faith. I cannot overestimate the vital ministry Theological Horizons provides for students through your prayers and support!



# Beyond Traditional Boundaries

## Margaret Merrick, Undergraduate Student

Theological Horizons has done a great job embracing diversity. There are a variety of denominations, ideas, and backgrounds represented by the students who attend Theological Horizons, creating an inviting and accepting environment where everyone can learn from each other. Theological Horizons also does a great job of making its ministry individualized. Most people that I have talked to know Karen and Christy and they talk about how welcoming the leadership at Theological Horizons is.

I love the concept of the Fellows Program, and I am so impressed with the way Theological Horizons has and continues to connect students with other members in the Charlottesville and UVa community. These formed connections really enable the community of God to extend beyond traditional boundaries.

# Shared Seeking

## Helen Jamison, Volunteer

I have always been impressed with the ongoing energy displayed at Theological Horizons—it is inclusive and remains true to the truth of our Triune God.

One of the many strengths I continue to see in Theological Horizons is the quality of students drawn to this ministry. They are intelligent, thoughtful and genuinely seeking a deeper understanding of how to live out their faith at college. I am so grateful for the students I have gotten to know.

I think Karen and Charles deserve to be celebrated! They are uniquely called by God. They have abundantly given their time, home, energy and love to the students and community for the glory of God—always bringing gifted people to Charlottesville to inspire others.



# PROGRAMS

**Vintage Lunch-** A weekly Friday afternoon Bonhoeffer House luncheon with homemade food and engaging conversation about the best writers of our Christian tradition.

**The Horizons Fellows-** The Fellows Program mentors up to twenty students as they wrestle with concepts of Calling through Constraints and Commitments, reflecting Theological Horizons' commitment to discover Christ at the intersection of faith, thought, and life.

**Faith and Work Dialogue-** Provides guests with intellectually rich conversations about authentic faith in a complex world. Forum speakers address a wide range of topics: relationships, missions, business, politics and more.

**Capps Lectures in Christian Theology-** An annual series that brings eminent Christian thinkers to the heart of the university with public lectures that explore the relationship between faith and social responsibility.

**Ground Up Bible Study for Guys-** A student driven guys' group interested in ethical, academic, theological, personal, devotional, spiritual and/or skeptical questions about God and humanity.

**Evening Prayer-** An early evening gathering for students, faculty and friends to pray together and share Scripture and song, ending in group time for personal petitions.

**Goodwin Prizes for Excellence in Theological Writing-** Three annual Goodwin Prizes are given to graduate students in recognition of essays that demonstrate creative theological thinking, excellence in scholarship, faithful witness to the Christian tradition and engagement with the community of faith.

Karen Wright Marsh, *Executive Director*

Christen Borgman Yates, *Associate Director*

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## Fitting the Pieces Together

### Peter Hartwig, Past Intern

Theological Horizons is about the intersection of faith, life and thought. I think Theological Horizons lives in that place more gracefully than anyone else. The programs Theological Horizons offers manage to capture all of those so poignantly: Vintage, the Darden Faith & Work Forum, and Ground-Up, the guys' Bible study. There is no better place for people to go if they want to learn how to fit all of these important pieces of their lives together. Theological Horizons is an open invitation to live the life God gives more completely—it gives you hope.



## Lunch with Fellow Pilgrims

### Nancy Rooker, Parent Volunteer

*“Vintage: (adjective) of lasting interest and importance; venerable; classic.” (Collins English Dictionary)*

Vintage luncheons take place on Fridays in the Marshes' home, but it's not just a culinary feast that awaits students, it's warm enthusiasm and glad eyes. A newcomer to Bonhoeffer House may be a stranger upon arrival, but never when he leaves.

Karen passes around copies of a simple one-page handout and, while everyone eats, she begins to read and ask questions. She picks a theme for each semester and includes prayer requests at the end, but what I most love, during those thirty minutes of discussion, is how she opens up a window onto our shared experience with the saints of old and today. By giving students just a weekly sampling of writings by fellow pilgrims like Augustine, Henri Nouwen, Therese of Lisieux, or Bonhoeffer himself, Karen reveals to them how needy our human condition has always been and how its remedy is found only in the person of Christ.

## Is Theology Worth Our Time?

### David Berka, Past Goodwin Prize Winner

At the end of much study and writing, students like me can often feel overwhelmed, even defeated, and perhaps left wondering whether or not studying theology is worth our time. The work of Theological Horizons and opportunities like the Goodwin Prizes for Excellence in Theological Writing for graduate students allow us the chance to present and publicly share our research, thought, and work, with the hope that it will be beneficial to those who engage with it.

It's encouraging to receive a graduate student writing award from Theological Horizons, whose work focuses intently on how the work of theology makes a difference for how Christians live, move, and have their being in the world.



## Constructive Tension

### Carter Fleck, Undergraduate Student

Theological Horizons is true and real; there is no faking it with them.

I have been extremely impressed by the strength of the organization's diligence and also with the tension. Martin Luther King Jr. said it best: "there is a type of constructive tension

that is necessary for growth." There is a constant and constructive tension that makes those who participate less able to settle, and more likely to grow. I am constantly pushed to go deeper and love better when I am surrounded by the amazing community and profound talks on Fridays (the food is amazing as well). And on Tuesdays, I am humbled by the vulnerability of my brothers over coffee and bagels.

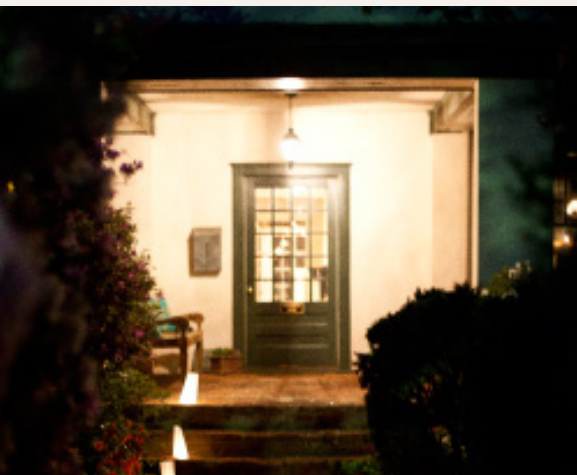
# Gifts in Honor and Memory

In memory of Joy Roberts's brother, D.T. Beard, by Alice Provost.  
In honor of Molly McFarland by Mim and Steve McFarland  
In honor of Rachel Prestipino and Gillian Breckenridge by Tina and Louis Prestipino  
In honor of Garrett Trent by Elizabeth and Jimmie Massie  
In honor of Hannah Grace Martin by Hilary and Steve Martin  
In honor of Katarina Gray by Tricia and Philip Gray  
In memory of John C. Black, Jr., by Patti and Dan Wright

## Shepherding Care

### Elizabeth Bickley, Alumna

Theological Horizons has uniquely touched me from head to toe. Every time I step foot into the Bonhoeffer House, I am received by radical hospitality, and I'm not just talking about the dog Ginger's friendly greetings at the door, the family photos on the wall, the dining room table set for a meal, and the shepherding care. Through the readings and programs at Theological Horizons, I feel invited into a family with generations dating back centuries—the history of faithful men and women who searched to understand and love God just like I am trying to do today.



## 25th Anniversary THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

1841 University Circle  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
434.244.2839  
[www.theologicalhorizons.org](http://www.theologicalhorizons.org)  
[info@theologicalhorizons.org](mailto:info@theologicalhorizons.org)

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We depend upon word of mouth to invite students into our community. If you know of a student entering UVA, please let us know and we'll reach out to them! Email [info@theologicalhorizons.org](mailto:info@theologicalhorizons.org) with any names or other information.

**Theological Horizons serves and blesses in Christ's name—thanks to the generosity of individual partners like you. Will you sustain this ministry with your financial gift?**

### GIVE ONLINE AT [WWW.THEOLOGICALHORIZONS.ORG](http://WWW.THEOLOGICALHORIZONS.ORG)

Sign up for easy monthly giving, too.

**GIVE THROUGH THE UVA FUND** at [www.theologicalhorizons.org](http://www.theologicalhorizons.org). 100% of your gift to the University comes to TH! A great way to make your parent, reunion & class giving.

**WRITE A CHECK** & send it to 1841 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

**DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK.** Email [info@theologicalhorizons.org](mailto:info@theologicalhorizons.org) for simple instructions and enjoy extra tax benefits.

**INCLUDE THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS** in your will or estate plans. Let us know of your intentions so that we may welcome you into our Legacy Society.

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