



THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

supports Christians and seekers in academia by providing a welcoming community for engaging faith, thought and life.



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.

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time." As the calendar turns to August, Abraham Lincoln's words hold a sweet poignancy. I long to savor each slow summer day before a new academic year begins. That future, for all of its terrific promise, challenge and blessing, will arrive soon enough.

To help you look ahead, this newsletter features words of wisdom from good friends,

along with glimpses of new things that we're preparing just for you. Be encouraged. God knows the plans God has for all of us: plans to prosper us and to give us hope. (Jeremiah 29)

Karen Wright Marsh, *Executive Director*
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Preparing to send a child off to college? We know how you feel.

Susan Alexander Yates, experienced UVa parent, grandparent and supporter of Theological Horizons, offers four practical tips just for you:

1. Encourage your son or daughter to seek healthy relationships. Statistics show that the first days of college life are crucial. So before you go, research the **Christian campus fellowships**; find out when and where they meet. (Theological Horizons' Vintage Lunch is every Friday at 1:00!) Ask your son or daughter to visit two at least twice and then join one---within the first two months. The same thing applies to church. This should be a clear expectation, similar to going to class. You are likely financing some of their costs and it's your privilege to make this a condition.

2. Many college fellowships have **move-in day welcome events**. Sign up to attend one. You and your child will meet other believers and hear about opportunities on campus. The Center for Christian Study in Charlottesville, VA, has a lunch that my daughter Libby and I helped start nearly 20 years ago!

3. When you move in, **wear a t-shirt with a logo** from a Christian camp or group. When our daughter moved into her dorm, she had on a Young Life t-shirt. Another girl moving in recognized this and the girls realized they were both believers. This was a huge connection for their first day!

4. Be positive, even if you are sad and your child is too. Communicate that your child is about to begin a great adventure and it is good! Continue to pray daily for your child and for his or her friendships.

P.S. Barbara Rainey and I wrote a book addressing challenges of the empty nest: loneliness, redefining marriage, letting go of your child, etc. Consider inviting some friends to join you in an *Empty Nest* book club!

— adapted with permission from
www.susanalexanderyates.com

Incoming First Year Students: Here's what you need to know!

Visit us often at www.theologicalhorizons.org. Beginning on August 10, we'll be posting insights, advice and practical tips from the alumni who remember college oh so well and will tell you what it's like! Here is a taste of good things to come:

"Be open and patient. Your college experience will be unique and take time to unfold."

– Emilia Gore, CLAS 2015, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC

"Don't stress about fitting into every social group or finding your life long friends right away. There are so many different communities (clubs, ministries, orgs) to explore - you'll find your people. Trust!"

– Meredith Berger, Batten 2016, McIntire 2017, Account Executive at Bloomberg

"Spend extravagant time with Jesus and fall in love with Him. It will help you weather any storm that will come your way."

– Carter Fleck, CLAS 2018, Campus Ministry Intern with Chi Alpha @ UVA

"Have an open mind! What you imagined for yourself in college may not actually be the best thing for you... walk into every new place, conversation, and class asking, 'Do I see myself here? And guess what? It's ok if the answer is 'No.'"

– Maggie Rossberg, CLAS 2017, Washington, DC

"Sure, you'll have lots of homework and class will be totally different than in high school, but don't worry too much about it. Spend your first year meeting new people, trying new clubs and activities, and don't be afraid to try something new. But never lose track of who you are and what you believe in - don't compromise yourself just to make new friends. Also (and I can't stress this enough) go to every single sporting event in the fall: you'll thank me when basketball season rolls around and you're sitting courtside. Go Hoos!"

– Hunter Sheldon, Biomedical Engineering 2017, Owner, Hunter and Sarah Photography, Charlottesville

"Struggle, failure, and suffering really are unavoidable, and their presence in our lives don't always have to mean we're doing something wrong per se or even that we're not doing enough. In light of that, it is essential that we see community not always as an opportunity to actively seek to do something good for someone else but to anticipate simple mutual sharing in each others' day to day struggles."

– Cameron Strange, CLAS 2016, with a local church, transitioning to work with an insurance company, Richmond

"Take classes for the professor, not the topic! Don't get caught up in the competitive, status-based rat race. And find people who are critical yet hopeful, who ask questions and are open-minded to new ideas."

– Megan Helbling, CLAS 2018, Denver

While They're in College: Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

Our Fellows Programs continue to grow under the leadership of Associate Director Christy Yates, with a diverse community of students who desire vocational discernment and discipleship. Our **twelve Horizons Fellows** are Fourth Year students who enjoy a fall retreat, monthly group gatherings and the intentional friendship of a community mentor.

We also welcome **ten Perkins Fellows** to pursue Christian community development and holistic

ministry. They meet for "urban plunge" retreats and serve weekly at non-profits like Abundant Life Ministries and International Neighbors.

We are most grateful to the Lilly Endowment Inc. for funding ministry with these young, faithful leaders.

Meet our Fellows and their Mentors at www.theologicalhorizons.org/fellows.



Coming to Your Ears Soon: The Vintage Saints and Sinners Podcast.

The conversation premieres this fall! Each episode features the lively retelling of a sinner-saint's story followed by Karen's conversation with a guest. The podcast brings ancient wisdom to bear on today's puzzling questions. Be the first to know when the podcast launches! Sign up: theologicalhorizons.org/get-involved



Book Club? Sunday School Class? Small Group? We've got Free Guides for you.

Karen has collected her favorite quotes and discussion questions to create 25 small group reading guides, all ready to print and go. There's one Vintage Session for each chapter of *Vintage Saints and Sinners: 25 Christians Who Transformed My Faith* (IVP, 2017). Free at karenwrightmarsh.com/vintage-sessions.

FEATURED HORIZONS EVENTS

- August **Gatherings** in Virginia Beach, NoVa/Washington and Atlanta. Join us! Email info@theologicalhorizons.org
- UVa **Move In Days Comfort & Cookies Welcome**, Aug. 23 & 24
- Perkins Fellows **Urban Plunge**, Aug. 26
- **Wahoo Welcome Lunch**, Sept. 6
- **Vintage Lunches** each Friday
- Horizons Fellows **Fall Retreat** at Corhaven Farm, Sept. 13-14
- **Karen Marsh speaks** at King University, Bristol, TN, Sept. 30
- **Faith & Work Lunch** with Ian Baucom, Dean, UVa College of Arts & Sciences, Oct. 3
- **Evening Prayer on the Lawn** each week
- Perkins Fellows and House to Christian Community Development Association **Conference** in Dallas, Oct 9-12
- **"God on the Big Screen"** with Terry Lindvall, Oct. 24, Virginia Film Festival
- **"C.S. Lewis Onstage: The Most Reluctant Convert"** at the Paramount Theater, Charlottesville, Nov. 14

Follow our calendar at
www.theologicalhorizons.org/events

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(not shown: Taylor Harris, Matt McFarland and Bobby Woodard)



Gifts in Honor and Memory

In honor of Karen and Charles Marsh by Joshua Humphries
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In honor of Mark Byrd by Betty and James McCaa
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In honor of Christy Yates by Fran Cade
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In honor of Christy Yates by Joan Alexander
In memory of Chaz Heron by Anonymous
In honor of Lacy Quarles by Betsy Quarles
In honor of Kathy and Richard Lee by Penny and Billy Peebles

YOU did it! The 2019 Matching Gift Campaign

Great news! Through *your* generosity, we reached our goal for the spring 2019 Matching Gift Campaign. Every dollar you invest in Theological Horizons blesses real people--students, scholars, believers, seekers. God is calling us to do even more to serve him in the world. Your provision makes it possible. Thank you!

GIVE to Theological Horizons

How very uncommon it is: an honest, thoughtful, heart-felt conversation about God. Yet each and every day, Theological Horizons creates what seems impossible—an open invitation into the life of faith, extended to anyone and everyone.

Will you support our Christ-centered witness among students and scholars, seekers and believers, church people and community people? Ours is an active work of the Holy Spirit, sustained by your financial generosity and fervent prayers. Thank you!

GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.THEOLOGICALHORIZONS.ORG

Sign up for easy monthly giving, too.

GIVE THROUGH THE UVA FUND at www.theologicalhorizons.org/giving. 100% of your gift to the University comes to TH! A perfect way to make your parent, reunion & class giving.

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

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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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