



THE BURNING BUSH

A Newsletter for College Age Students

Bush Hill
Presbyterian
Church

Volume 2 Issue 1

Fall 2007

News from Bush Hill:

- Bush Hill is starting a new Church School ministry called "Sunday Seekers."
- Twenty youth and chaperones participated in the New Orleans Mission Trip this summer.
- Jen and Jeff Willard gave birth to a healthy girl, Elizabeth Beverly, on July 14.
- We have reached the million dollar mark in raising money for our new church building!

Inside this issue:

- Brooks' Summer Vacation 2
- Top 10 Things I've Learned at College 3
- Getting Inside the Word 3
- Philadelphia Winter Trip 4

Vending Machines

Ashley Felter, Student Lead for College Age Ministries

Recently, while I was waiting between classes, a man getting a drink from a vending machine caught my attention. When he first approached the machine, he simply began pushing buttons, as if to think that the drink would come out without any money. Once he seemed to figure out he'd have to try plan B, he got out his wallet, fed the machine and tried again. When the drink popped out of the machine, a pleasant string of mumbled obscenities came from his mouth. As he walked past with his drink, he looks at me and comments, "I push Green Tea and I get *this*." Due to a mix-up in the stocking of the machine, the Green Tea he had hoped for turned out to be a purple Gatorade. Once he passed, he opened the Gatorade and seemed to calm down instantly as he drank it. It was if the prior two minutes never happened.



Witnessing this man's frustration with the vending machine reminded me of my occasional frustration with God. How often do I pray for one thing, thinking it's what I want, yet God chooses another? Maybe sometimes I get ahead of myself and ask God for things when I haven't been pulling the weight on my end. There are also times I feel I'm doing everything within God's will, yet I still get the purple Gatorade. Regardless of my own shortcomings or achievements, God is pretty good at whipping out some incredible surprises I couldn't have dreamed up on my own. Sometimes they might not seem so incredible, but whatever God figures out, eventually resolves the situation at hand, whether it's the way I envisioned it or not. When it all boils down to it, the man was thirsty and needed a drink. God delivered, and that is all that matters.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:7-8



Welcome Back!

Jennifer Reiff, Director of Family and Adult Ministries

Another year has already begun and by the time you read this newsletter, I am certain you will be well into your classload and workload. I, myself, am taking classes this fall in pursuit of a theological degree and am enjoying the feeling of going back to school with all of you! I also understand how this change in lifestyle—back into the piles of readings, mounds of papers, and hours of research—can be challenging. I encourage all of you to continue to take time for yourself and for God daily. You need to be physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy to do your best work at school. I continue to pray for each one of you as you start this new year.

We are always looking for articles for *The Burning Bush*. If you have something you would like to share in this newsletter—a description of a trip or experience, something that has touched you, or anything else—please let me know, we'd love to include you!

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

Brooks Plummer, NYU '09

Let me start off by saying that in the three weeks I was on the Vans Warped Tour this summer, I showered a total of three times. This included one stretch of seven days straight without ever seeing a bar of soap, followed by another span of eight consecutive showerless days. I worked out in the sun approximately 12 hours a day, which, if my math still serves me correctly, adds up to about 84 hours worth of dirt, dust, sweat, and grime that was caked on pretty much my entire body. A fresh Wet One, when used to wipe down an ankle or an arm, would turn a very solid brown after just one swift pass over my exposed skin. At the end of each day I would return to the bus dirty, exhausted, hungry, sore, and sleepy. After being on just three weeks of this two-month-long tour, we had experienced multiple 105-degree days, stifling humidity, blinding dust, a frustrating language barrier in Montreal, the worst hail storm I've ever seen in my life, and some of the most "interesting" kids this nation has to offer. I made approximately \$16 a day. And I would do it all again in a heartbeat.

This was, in fact, my second summer being a part of the traveling punk rock circus known as the Warped Tour. And despite the obvious hardships, it remains one of the best experiences of my life.

For those who aren't familiar with Warped, it's the largest, longest running touring summer music festival, featuring some of the best bands in punk and alternative music. This year the headliners included Bad Religion, Underoath, Paramore, New Found Glory, and Hawthorne Heights, just to name a few. The band I was selling merchandise for was called Valencia, an up-and-coming band on the record label I work for in New York, who played on one of several smaller stages. We traveled in a tour bus, which we shared with a band from Scotland called Biffy Clyro, and while it was nice to have the luxury of a bus for sleeping, we didn't get to enjoy its amenities during the day. Because Valencia is not that well known, we literally had to hustle CDs to kids all day long to make it worth the band's while to be on the tour. By the end of our stint I had become quite skilled at convincing kids to spend their parent's money on things they maybe didn't need.

Although hustling merchandise is a great life skill, it's not what I really love about Warped. What made me want to come back and sign up for a second year was really the people involved with the tour. That and the chance to see some of my favorite bands perform everyday from onstage. But really the tour is like one, big, happy, dirty family. The people are some of the most genuine folks that you'll ever meet, and they're all passionate about what they do. Everyone is eager to teach and to help out and to answer any question that you have about anything. I think one of the main reasons for this camaraderie is that Warped Tour makes everyone equal. Everybody is in the same boat. We all suffer in the same 105-degree heat, we all deal with the unpredictability of the elements, and we all even wait in the same catering line for lunch-bands included. When everyone is dealing with the same issues and experiencing the same things you are in the same conditions, a bond is formed between everybody involved, and all of a sudden you have an army of friends with which to face your obstacles. And, to me, Warped has proven that friendship can overcome any hardships, that love can truly conquer all.

And so I come away from Warped Tour each summer armed with new friends and new knowledge about my skills and myself, as well as a heightened understanding about what really matters in life: showers.

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Top Ten Things I've Learned in College

Karen Murray, Lafayette '08



- 10. Shower shoes are a must. The showers may be cleaned but you never know who else is using that shower.
- 9. A little green in the dorm room makes it livelier. Just remember to water the plant.
- 8. www.pcusa.org and www.bushhill.org are quite useful websites. As are www.google.com and www.wikipedia.org.

- 7. There is no need to ever buy a school t-shirt. Somehow they seem to appear in your drawers over time.
- 6. While a fan is necessary on a hot day, it will never be as good as central air. A fact that makes going to class attractive.
- 5. Finding a Christian group is essential. Just do not get caught up in the politics and drama; rather, make friends and have fellowship.
- 4. It is fun to put pictures up around the room, but it is tons more fun to make those memories.
- 3. Good friends are not necessarily hard to find; rather, it is finding the time to be with those friends.
- 2. It is always possible to make time. Whether the time is for that 10-page lab report due tomorrow, devotions, friends, going to class or personal hygiene (yes, showering takes time!), if you want to do it you will have time.
- 1. Relax, God is in charge.

Getting Inside the Word

Everyone loves a good book. Here are some suggested readings on spirituality that we think you might enjoy!

Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller

In Donald Miller's early years, he was vaguely familiar with a distant God. But when he came to know Jesus Christ, he pursued the Christian life with great zeal. Within a few years he had a successful ministry that ultimately left him feeling empty, burned out, and, once again, far away from God. In this intimate, soul-searching account, Miller describes his remarkable journey back to a culturally relevant, infinitely loving God.

The Organic God by Margaret Feinberg

An emerging popular writer for culture-savvy evangelicals, Feinberg challenges 20-somethings and older Christians to trade in their current relationship with God for an "organic" one. Feinberg's quirky personality shines forth on every page, making her text a delectable treat.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Connor Sturgill
September 12
Radford University

Caitlin Messinger
September 15
University of Mary Washington

Beth Knight
September 20
UVA

Patrick Mandeville
September 20
UVA

Daniel Dziuban
September 25
William and Mary

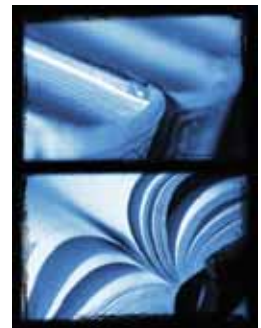
Rachel Rudebusch
October 4
William and Mary

John Motley
October 19
James Madison University

Sam Connelly
October 20
SCAD

Laura Goodwyn
October 30
James Madison University

Kelly Craven
November 21
College of Charleston



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lowship.

College Age Ministries

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

4916 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

Phone: (703) 971-117

Email: office@bushhill.org

Website: www.bushhill.org

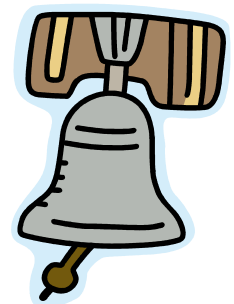
Check us out!

Save the Dates!

College Age Philadelphia Service Trip January 4-6

On the fence about going to Philly this year? Here are some reasons why you should sign up today!

- Philly Cheesesteaks get a run for their money with the amazing hoagies from Mom and Dad Reiff.
- Germantown Presbyterian Church has a laminating machine. Need we say more?
- Holly Crane. Participant. Survivor.
- It is Karen Murray's last year to attend the Philly Trip. She's going to go out with a bang. Don't miss it.
- Shoulders.
- There is nothing better than Althea getting worked up and in a laughing frenzy. You have to experience at least once to say you've truly lived.
- I hear Midge and the Cheetwatos might be making an appearance.
- It's the most fun weekend of the year! You don't want to miss it!



*The City of
Brotherly Love
Awaits!*