



# THE BURRINO BUSH

A Newsletter for College Age Students

Bush Hill  
Presbyterian  
Church

Volume 1 Issue 2

Summer 2007

## News from Bush Hill:

- Bush Hill will host its Third Annual Kickoff to Summer Festival on June 16 from 9-3.
- Over 60 "Friends of Linda" team members participated in Race for the Cure on June 2 in memory of Linda Waitschies
- The youth mission trip will be to New Orleans this summer during the first week of August.
- The Summer 10:00 service schedule will begin on June 17.

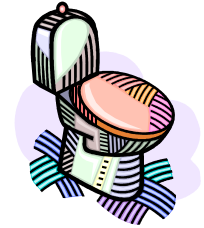
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## Toilets

Ashley Felter, Student Lead for College Age Ministries

Over the course of the week that the College Age Fellowship spent with Crystal Coast Habitat For Humanity, we were all fortunate enough to have extensive time to mingle and bond with the dozens of donated toilets. Prior to the trip, I had no idea there were so many different variations of this humble household essential. Honestly, who *really* needs an oversized yellow toilet with a sparkly plastic lid? After all, we *are* talking about toilets here. On the other hand, maybe that is exactly the reason that sparkly gem wound up in the re-sale store; because someone decided it just didn't fit or maybe it was simply time for something more appealing. I also started thinking about why someone would want to buy a "gently used" commode (is that possible?) that has been sitting outside for weeks filling up with all sorts of grime and treasures inside. Though I am sure the small price tag for these little wonders is a huge enticement, personally, I think I would still have a hard time cozying up to a world traveled toilet.



After rearranging and organizing the toilets so they looked as pleasant as possible for their future adoptive families, I could not escape the thought that every single one of those toilets had a story. Thinking about where they had come from, why they were donated and where they might eventually wind up, made me rather curious. This might be a ridiculous statement, but maybe in a sense we are all God's little toilets. Throughout our lives we will likely see many different homes, all types of people, and without a doubt we will eventually get dirty and need some reorganization in our lives. Thankfully, God is there with us through it all. He finds great worth in every single one of our lives, regardless if we are brand new, shining and spotless or if we are full of dirt, chipped and broken with our lids falling off. Not only does God uncompromisingly find value in us, but we can also find peace in the fact that He knows what we've been through, and also exactly where our journeys will take us from here. Obviously, the toilets are unable to worry about their future or feel ashamed of how they wound up at the re-sale store, but if I were a toilet, I would find hope in the idea that no matter where we wind up, we have a permanent home with God.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11



## Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to our graduating college seniors!

Matt Keegan	BA, Double Major: History & Religion	Williams College
Steven Stobbe	College of Business Marketing Degree	James Madison University
Andrew Watson	BA in Economics	University of Virginia

*If you graduated and we don't have a record of it, please contact Jen Reiff.*

We also congratulate our graduating high school seniors and welcome them to College Age Fellowship! We hope to see all of you at a college age event soon.

Daniel Dzuiban (St. Stephens/St.Agnes) , Lizzie Elsberg (Edison HS), Joey Fields (Edison HS), Alexx Hall( Edison HS), Amanda Koons (Edison HS), John Motley (West Potomas HS), Daniel Rogers (Hayfield Secondary), Rachel Rudebusch (Lake Braddock), Laura Scott (Edison HS), and Kim Stanfield (Edison HS).

## Thoughts about Virginia Tech

Phillip Boone, Virginia Tech '10

Nearly two months have passed since April 16th. I thought I'd never want that day to replay in my head ever again, a day in which I felt and lived every emotion of the spectrum, each with an intensity I never could have imagined. Once considering myself as a real-life depiction of the Brawny paper towel guy, I fell subject to the wrath and turmoil of what the day did to me. In the past two months, I've struggled to feel anything but negative deriving from that day. It wasn't until I was on the long drive back home on that Tuesday did I feel something I know I never want to leave me: God is great.

My testimony derives from three main events that have shaped me into who I am today. In just one day, I was lucky enough to feel God's safety and comfort which he has for each of us. The first event happened to me that morning when I found myself outside of West Ambler Johnston at 7:15 that morning, walking back from the parking lot to my dorm with four other students. For reasons I still find difficulty in understanding, I left the warmth of my jacket and braved the fierce wind of Blacksburg, Virginia, all to take a glance at the people around me. I saw the four people in front of me as we all walked in a makeshift single file line, and a man leaving the dorm twenty feet to our right. I remember looking at each of them hustling and braving the wind and thinking to myself, "Everyone here is miserable." The man passed us each, walking in the direction we had just come. I stopped to grab breakfast in the diner next to West AJ only to see cops and ambulances arrived right when I had seated. Being a lazy and uninterested 19 year old, I paid no attention to it and walked back to my dorm.

The second event happened later that morning. My Macroeconomics class started at 9:30 in McBryde hall every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, a class I never missed. Every morning I battled with myself, forcing myself to wake up and go to that class. "Come on, Phillip. You have a C+ in this, get up you idiot." That morning, my alarm went off at 9 and I turned it off, without any second doubt. There was no internal conscience battle; I knew I wasn't going to that class. This class that I missed is located directly next door to Norris Hall, with 600 students in one section of the building, compared to the 100 in Norris. I woke up to the ambulances outside my window loading injured.

In these two instances, never have I been so sure that God protects us. As lazy as I am, I never should have been outside of West AJ at 7:15 in the morning, Never do I make quick judgments about the welfare of fellow walkers, especially when doing so would make me leave the warmth of my jacket. But I was protected from the evil that walked past me that morning. I was protected from being in McBryde hall that morning

The last event is the reason I still have every inch of my sanity. Not a day goes by that I don't thank God for giving me such a strong connection to him. As the news unfolded of this evil, I saw each and every friend of mine being torn apart inside. These people that I have spent every moment of everyday with for the past eight months were all so unbelievably sad, and for the first time I couldn't do anything about it. Nothing I said or did could make their pain go away. Working off of two hours of sleep, I stopped at a local Subway to try and eat before embarking for home. Sitting at a seat next to a window which overlooked downtown Blacksburg, this quiet and little town which I have grown to call home was now overpopulated with satellite news vans and never ending questions from strangers who just wanted the story. I found myself questioning human-kind, how anyone could ever have so violently taken so many innocent. These thoughts further led to my not just thinking, but truly feeling that this place is filled with terrible, terrible people. As this 'realization' came to me, a man sat down next to me. Dressed in subway attire, he wasn't any of the three employees who I had met when ordering. This man laid his arm on my shoulder and asked, "Is your sandwich good, son?" I responded with a simple nod. The conversation after this is now a blur in my mind. I have no recollection as to what was said or what I responded with, but what I do know is in my moment of being ever so fragile, this man came and saved me by just showing me love. With dozens of other customers sitting by themselves, he chose to come and sit next to me. Maybe my demeanor screamed for comfort, maybe it didn't. Or maybe, with God seeing one of his own losing everything, he blessed me with a situation where I felt nothing but love.

In this day, which I will always struggle to make sense out of, I have been able to gain something ever so positive from it. Any tiny doubts I might have had I now can look back and laugh at, as now I fully know how great our God is. I do believe every one of us has an awakening to God's grace, I just hope yours comes much easier than mine did. However, in whatever way He chooses

*"It wasn't until I was on the long drive back home that Tuesday did I feel something I know I never want to leave me: God is great."*

*"Not a day goes by that I don't thank God for giving me such a strong connection to him."*

# College Age Beach Week



Althea Huggins, Amanda Cartwright, Holly Crane, Kelly Craven, Ashley Felter, Jen Reiff, and Will Hicks

## Trip Participants

The week before Memorial Day weekend, seven Bush Hill College Age youth and friends traveled to Emerald Isle, NC. Throughout our days on the serene island, we spent the majority of our time lending our hands to Crystal Coast Habitat for Humanity. We assisted them in the transformation of a former truck garage into their new Habitat Restore facility and offices. Some of our tasks included painting, ripping up carpet, filling dumpsters and tending to some much needed yard work. While some of us disposed of disgusting, wet cardboard full of roaches and other creepy creatures, others of us found great pleasure in smashing non-functioning appliances with a crow bar. One of our larger duties of the week was rearranging a ga-

rage full of toilets and sinks, which we later named “the throne room.” Our incredible strength as a team was confirmed when we spent a day working together laying a concrete slab. The highlight of that day was when the seven of us finished off our labor and laid our handprints in the wet concrete; leaving a little mark of Bush Hill on North Carolina forever.

Not only did we come together through our efforts for Habitat, but our nightly Bible studies helped us grow in our perspectives of our faith and also in our relationships with each other. We learned about putting God first, the importance of trusting Him through life’s storms and truly surrendering to God’s will for our lives. As we dug deeper into our individual journeys of faith, we established open discussions and trusting friendships with each other.

As if moving dirty toilets and awesome faith discussions were not great enough, we also cannot fail to mention the hours we spent laying on the beach and playing board games into the late hours of the nights. Overall, the first College Age Beach Week set the bar rather high for our future adventures as a group. As we return to our lives away from Emerald Isle, we will implement our lessons of humility and selflessness into our daily lives.

*“We learned about putting God first, the importance of trusting Him through life’s storms and truly surrendering to God’s will for our lives.”*

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Michael Dzuiban  
April 7  
Yale University

Wendy Stobbe  
May 4  
James Madison University

Ben Schmitt  
May 7  
University of Kentucky

Morgan Rush  
May 20  
UVA

Karen Murray  
May 24  
Lafayette University

Alison Wagner  
May 31  
Alexandria, VA

Kim Stanfield  
June 12  
Alexandria, VA

Brian Stanfield  
June 25  
Alexandria, VA

Audrey Lewis  
June 29  
Alexandria, VA

## Getting Inside the Word—Rain

Watch Rob Bell’s Nooma Video called “Rain” on YouTube and read the following passages. Log onto our Facebook group for the discussion questions.

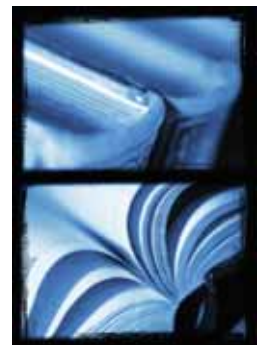
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYTIWcXbYfY>

Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 34:17, 55:17, 72:12, 84:2, 88:1, and Deuteronomy 1:31

What are the storms in your life? Is it raining now? Do you think God intentionally puts us through trials? Isn’t there an easier way to learn?

Do you ever act like everything is okay even when it isn’t? Why do we do this?

When you’re going through really hard times and everything seems hopeless, do you still trust that God knows the way and that you’re going to make it?



Join the online discussion on the Facebook group **Bush Hill College Age Fellowship**.

# College Age Ministries

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Website: [www.bushhill.org](http://www.bushhill.org)

Check us out!

## Summer Opportunities

### GAME NIGHTS!

After some heated and hysterical game nights on our summer trip, we have decided to host several Game Nights throughout the summer to keep the fun going. Please join us Wednesdays at 8:00 this summer!

June 20	Huggins' home (4621 Upland Drive)
July 11	Jen Reiff's home (6478 Brickleigh Court)
July 25	Huggins' home (4621 Upland Drive)
August 8	Jen Reiff's NEW home! (7529 Blanford Court)



*Loaded Questions  
anyone?!*

### Talk Back Sessions

Usually every summer, we host the “Brunch Bunch” for College Age Fellowship on Sundays following the worship service. However, this summer, the Christian Education Committee is hosting **Talk Back Sessions** following each worship service to discuss the sermon and scripture with Pastor Carl Rush. We would like to invite you to join us for this relaxed conversation with other people from the Bush Hill family. It ought to be a great opportunity to learn and grow together. YOUR thoughts and opinions are most appreciated!