

THE BURIED BUSH

A Newsletter for College Age Students

BUSH HILL
PRESBYTERIAN

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

WINTER 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!

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Vending Machines

Vending Machines

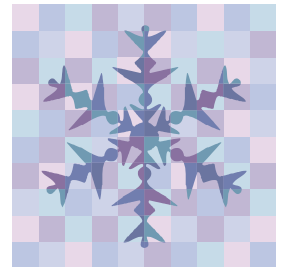
Ashley Felter, Student Lead for College Age Ministries

The snow falls in Northern Virginia sporadically enough, that my fascination with it as a child continues to grow. I can remember nights spent racing back and forth to the window as a child, checking for any glimpse of hope for a two-hour delay. During some quality (and I do mean quality) time spent with my shovel and the powder, I have been aware enough to take a moment to truly absorb the magnificence of snow.

The individual crystals are fine and delicate, melting upon contact with even a morsel of warmth. Yet despite their frail structures, snowflakes have an incredible ability to completely blanket entire cities and regions in a matter of hours. Snowflakes fall on any and all surfaces, no matter how rugged or smooth. During the winter months when all the greenery is yellow and brown, snow can make even the ugliest of yards look uniformed and spotless.

In writing about snow, I'm reminded of the lyrics of one of my favorite songs in which the chorus reads "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow". These lyrics remind me of how snow can blanket the unsightly lawns just as Jesus' death on the cross blankets our unsightly sin before God. Because of Christ's payment for our sins, our lives are clean slates; untainted by the failures and mishaps of this world. Though most of us would attest that we do a pretty good job at mucking up our own lives, God still looks down on us as if a fresh coating of snow has covered our imperfections.

The LORD says, "Now let's settle the matter. You are stained red with sin, but I will wash you as clean as snow. Although your stains are deep red, you will be



Philly Trip '08!!!

I can't believe our Philadelphia trip is less than a month away. I am so excited! If you haven't signed up for the trip yet, there is still room, but please let us know ASAP so we are sure we have enough drivers going. We will be leaving from Bush Hill on Friday, January 4 @ 9:00am and will return on Sunday, January 6 @ 3:00. We've got a great weekend in store for you. Here are some things you should bring:

- work clothes for Friday and Saturday and church clothes for Sunday
- your Bible!
- Some spending money—Friday's lunch, Saturday's dinner, and all breakfasts are covered. We'll hit Pat's Cheesesteaks on Friday night at that will run you about \$7!
- We sleep on quite comfortable air mattresses, but you'll need sheets or a sleeping bag.
- Your medical form and \$35! You can fill out a form at the church.

Top 10 (or 14) Things I've Learned as a Freshman in College

Amanda Koons, William & Mary '11

In response to the article from last edition written by Karen Murray, senior—"Top Ten Things I've Learned in College."



*"Christmas lights
aren't just needed
in December..."*

*"Try to set an ice
cream rule like I
will only eat it if
there are gummy
bears AND
chocolate sauce."*

1. Don't ever take an 8am class even if you're a morning person. Especially 8am Calculus!
2. Try to go out to eat as much as possible because you WILL get sick of dining hall food.
3. Christmas lights aren't just needed in December- you can have them up the whole year.
4. It isn't logical to eat ice cream every meal. Try to set an ice cream "rule" like I will only eat it if there are gummy bears AND chocolate sauce.
5. Keep junk mail in your mailbox so that you will have mail every day no matter what!
6. The library is a great place to study as well as see everyone you know.
7. Intramurals are the most fun thing ever (especially when you're the only girls team to sign up for basketball and then you automatically get free t-shirts!)
8. Make sure your air conditioning is the first thing you put in place in your dorm room upon arriving at school; it makes unpacking a lot more comfortable.
9. It's important to learn all of the campus abbreviations as quickly as possible so that you know what people are talking about (ie. the Caf, MEWS, the UC, DOG street, sororities, etc.)
10. Take advantage of everything your school has to offer in terms of events especially the free concerts!
11. It's ok to take a nap at all times of day and whenever you're bored just take a nap!
12. Ellipticaling is so much fun; I mean you can read a magazine and watch tv at the same time!
14. It's so easy to see all of the blessings God has given you especially when you're walking around campus before anyone else is awake and you think "What a beautiful place!" or when you see tour groups around campus and you think "That was me last year!"

Christmas Blessings from Pastor Carl

Carl Rush, Pastor

Dear Friends,

I am thinking about you during this stressful time. Whether you are preparing for finals or waiting to hear about last semester's exams this can be a very tough part of the year. My prayer for you is to ask God to protect you physically as you travel and emotionally as you approach the Christmas holidays. I know you will be extremely busy over Christmas break. From the moment you stuff that dirty laundry into the trunk until you pack up all your Christmas gifts to go back to school there will be demands on your time. Friends to catch up with, family time, and maybe even special stuff you have been planning for all year. So, knowing all that, I still want you to know, if you are coming home to spend time near Bush Hill Presbyterian Church I would count it a special honor and a true gift if you want to drop by and decompress or just talk. More than anything else I could wish for you, I hope you experience a taste of how much God likes you this Christmas. I hope God's deep warm affection for you will bring you more than sufficient strength for all your experiences of sharing and giving and receiving this Christmas. Don't forget to play and laugh during this break and please take seriously the need to care for yourself. I hope it snows here this Christmas, and I hope the snow energizes you and makes you smile the way it does me. Every good thought to you, and I promise you will remain in my prayers.



Pastor Carl Rush with his wife, Stacy and best friend, Sully.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Carl

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

Monica Voigt
George Mason University
December 5

Ashley Bradfield
NYU
December 20

Kristen Casey
Clemson University
December 23

Andrew Stevenson
McNeese State University
December 24

Will Hicks
Art Institute of Washington
January 27

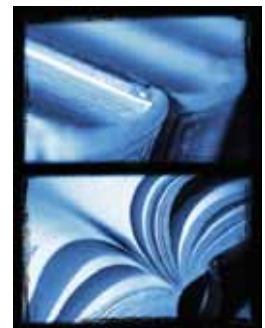
Daniel Rogers
Alexandria, VA
January 31

Stephanie Conant
Luther College
February 5

Alexx Hall
Old Dominion University
February 19

Daniel Shifflett
Liberty University
February 21

Ashley Felter
Coastal Carolina
February 23



College Age Ministries

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Check us out!

10 Tips for a Simpler More Meaningful Christmas

1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving.
2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Three Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
3. Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, not from commercial importers, so that the artisans receive a fair price for their work.
4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been.
5. Draw names rather than everyone giving something to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient.
6. Give appropriate gifts. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy.
7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what you spent last year to the needy... individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally.
8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas.
9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.
10. Give of yourself, not just "stuff" - a coupon book for future services (such as baby-sitting or an "enchanted evening"); something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.; or a family service project, such as working together at a soup kitchen.

