



THE BURNING BUSH

A Newsletter for College Age Students

Bush Hill
Presbyterian
Church

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2007

News from Bush Hill:

- Tuesday, February 20 Bush Hill hosted its first Mar di Gras Party!
- On February 10, our dear friend and teacher, Linda Waitschies passed away. A memorial service was held on February 17.
- February 18 we celebrated Presbyterian Women's Sunday. Kathy Newbold was the preacher.
- The youth will take their annual ski trip February 23-25 to Whitetail Ski Resort.

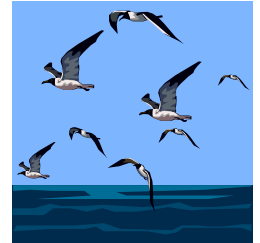
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New Horizons

Ashley Felter, Student Lead for College Age Ministries

As college students, we all know what it means to be anxious and stressed. Whether it is over upcoming exams, roommate drama or budgeting time and money effectively, there certainly is no shortage of anxious and uncertain thoughts flooding our brains on any given day. As most of you know, I am blessed to go to school by the beach. Over the past two years I have found a great peace in sitting along the shore, just clearing my head from time to time.



Recently, during one of my routine "beach sits," I found myself staring intensely at the farthest edge of the ocean. I could not help but wonder what was just beyond the depths of my sight. Over the next few minutes, I became so engulfed in thoughts of the mysteries over the horizon, I failed to notice the seagulls that had began swarming right in front of where I was sitting. The seagulls were huddled together, pecking at the sand, and some were simply soaring through the air. These birds didn't seem to have a care in the world. As I watched the birds fly, I began to realize how pointless it was for me to sit there anxiously thinking about what is to come next.

God loves us enough that he wants to do the worrying for us. No matter how hard we stare at the other side of the ocean, it will never get any closer. Even if we stay awake until four in the morning worrying, our accounting exam will not magically disappear. Instead of losing sleep and giving ourselves ulcers, we should challenge ourselves to lay our burdens down at the foot of the cross. Avoid the natural tendency to hold onto your stresses and remember that God is bigger than any problem we will ever face. As we pray and let go of our anxious thoughts, we can be reassured that God has already thought our lives through over and over again. In the meantime, just think about the birds.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" - Matthew 6:25-27

The Burning Bush Debut!

If you are reading this article, you are among the lucky people who were fortunate enough to receive the *first* edition of The Burning Bush. This is a college age newsletter, written by college age students, for college age students. If you ever have something you'd like to include in the newsletter, please contact Jen Reiff in the church office. We hope you will enjoy reading all the articles and will use this as a vehicle to connect with each other. If you'd like to add someone to our mailing list, please let us know.

Each newsletter will provide you with a suggested Bible Study reading. Please take the time to read the suggested readings and also participate in the online discussion through our new Facebook Group.

We look forward to connecting with you over the next few months and years through The Burning Bush!

Getting Inside the Word—Colossians

Colossians is arguably the most Christ-centered book of the Bible. In it Paul writes of the resounding theme of the preeminence and sufficiency of Christ in all things. In other words, we are complete in Him alone and lack nothing because He is at the head of our lives. Read the book of Colossians over the next few weeks and join our online discussion. Use the questions below to help guide your reading.

1:23 - What does it mean to truly build a foundation on Christ? Think about a house in a hurricane, what happens to everything but the foundation during a storm?

2:6,7 - How can we live in union with Christ? What do you think Paul meant by keeping our roots in Him and building our lives on Him?

3:5-17 - Think about the quote "If God is on your heart, please notify your mouth." How can we use our physical beings to honor and testify the message of Christ?

4:5 - What gets in the way of following through on these instructions?



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

"...we reflected on how we are each lights and how we can live out this life as college students."



Winter Service Trip '07

Winter Service Trip to Philadelphia

Karen Murray, Lafayette College

Coming from both north and south, seven of us college kids and three advisors met up in Philadelphia for the first weekend in January. We convened at Aid For Friends (AFF), a ministry for homebound elderly persons of the greater Philadelphia area. Before we got down to business we met Jen's parents, who treated us to hoagies (not subs, we were in hoagie territory!). Then the work began. AFF provides free home-cooked meals to shut-ins in the community. We prepared these meals by packaging previously home-cooked food into meal trays that would be frozen and later distributed to AFF's clients. We had fun in our aprons, gloves, and haimets under the direction of Jen's mom. Holly learned of squirting water when cutting up ham, it can squirt in your eyes. Plus we learned that mash potatoes could be frozen as individual scoops, a discovery that intrigued us all!

That evening we got to check out real cheesesteaks (the Philly is just understood!). My "provolone with" (translation: cheesesteak with provolone cheese and onions) from Pat's was excellent. This taste of Philadelphia was followed up with shopping on South Street. Friday ended with a Bible Study in which we reflected on how we are each lights and how we can live out this life as college students. It was really nice to talk with each other. I know our studies, both Friday and Saturday night, got me thinking.

Saturday morning we went to Trevor's Place, a shelter for mothers and children. Jen discovered a new television show ("Dragon") while Mike, Brooks, Daniel and Phillip discovered some intense basketball (dunking included!) with the kids from Trevor's Place. Ashley, Emily and I brushed up on our playground skills, joining some kids on the swings, slides and in jump rope. The spring-like weather made this outside fun quite enjoyable, not to mention seeing the fun the kids had playing with us. Questions of "will you be back tomorrow?" and "when are you coming back?" made it hard to leave. I know I look forward to coming back again next year. Saturday afternoon was filled with Villanova vs. DePaul Men's Basketball. Even though Villanova did not win, we enjoyed sitting in the Villanova student section and cheering for Wildcats. WHOOSH! GO!

Sunday morning brought our time in Philadelphia to a close, but not before joining our hosts in First Presbyterian Church of Germantown in worship. We enjoyed a time of worship where we celebrated the magi's visit and in the meditation by Rev. Nancy Muth, we were reminded of the light Jesus shines into our lives. The whole weekend was a great time of fellowship, worship, study and service.

Mission Trip to New Orleans

Beth Knight, UVA



Group from Westminster Presbyterian

Early in January I was fortunate enough to travel to Pearlinton, MS to aid the Katrina Relief effort with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) organization. I set out with ten members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, the church I attend when at school in Charlottesville, VA.

We arrived in our camp on Saturday, not knowing the work we would be doing the following week. We ended up sanding, "mudding"

(spackling dry wall), and painting the interior of a house that was being built for a woman named Pauline Davidson. She had lost her entire home to Katrina and was currently living in a FEMA trailer, with two other trailers nearby holding five generations of her family! The work was tiring and at times very frustrating, but it was a constant inspiration to have the family nearby as we worked.

They, as well as everyone else we encountered, were very gracious and thankful we were there. By the end of the week, we were exhausted, but we had painted the entire interior of the house. Ms. Pauline was ecstatic, but we were all sorry to say goodbye.

On Friday, we were able to travel to New Orleans and take a tour of the city. The tours were organized and run out of a church by a woman named Michelle Baker. Our tour guides drove us around the city for over 2 hours, taking us through neighborhoods, showing us the places where the levies broke and the infamous 9th ward. Throughout our tour, our guides poured out stories about family and friends. It was an incredibly intense, emotional experience. Despite the fact that we were still getting the "sanitized" version of Katrina, it made the reality of the hurricane all the more real to us.

Going on the trip, I was the only student in the group, the youngest member by over 20 years, and I did not know anyone. I left with a special connection to the ten other people in my group. I also left with a sense of a larger world in need of both prayer and action. I saw God in many people and places during my time in Mississippi, and I saw places where there was little hope and much despair. It was a truly transformative experience. I plan to return there with Westminster next year.

"I saw God in many people and places during my time in Mississippi... It was a truly transformative experience."

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Steven Stobbe
January 6
James Madison University

Will Hicks
January 24
College of Wooster

Andrew Souser
February 1
Alexandria, VA

Daniel Shifflet
February 21
Liberty University

Michael Moehlenkamp
February 23
Lewes, DE

Ashley Felter
February 24
Coastal Carolina University

Emily Brown
March 7
Lafayette College

Phillip Boone
March 8
Virginia Tech

Will Rush
March 20
UNC

Holly Crane
March 21
James Madison University



Staying Connected

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Bush Hill College Age Fellowship Facebook Group

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First Edition!

Summer Trip Opportunities!

Summer Beach Service Trip
May 20–25, 2007
Emerald Isle, North Carolina

Travel with other college age youth to Emerald Isle for a week of service mixed in with plenty of beach time. We are still finalizing the details for the trip, but mark your calendars today and let Jen know if you are interested in attending. The cost of the trip will be around \$175, including transportation, lodging, and food. You don't want to miss our first annual SUMMER service trip!

Creation Music Festival
June 27–July 1
Mt. Union, Pennsylvania

Every year thousands of Christians gather in Mt. Union, PA to praise God through music and song. Four packed days of rockin' music (including bands like Kutless, Reliant K, Casting Crowns, Switchfoot, Third Day, David Crowder, Newsboys, Toby Mac, and many more), thought-provoking speakers, and outdoor camping make up the entire Creation experience. Cost is \$130 and includes the price of the ticket, transportation, and food. You can check out more information at www.creationfest.com or talk to Ashley—their #1 promoter!



*What will YOU
be doing this
summer?*