CHAMPION
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VIST WWW.LIBERTY.EDU/CHAMPION

Spiritual weather
Opinion discusses revival and being constantly in season. A4

Chucky B comes back
Billingsley returns to Liberty for more music. B5

GLTC and LU go off campus
By Eric Fish

From now on, Liberty students can leave their cars and walking shoes at home for some off-campus trips. The buses that have been col­
ciling campus are now serv­
ing Ward Road shopping, hot spots such as Wal-Mart, E. 10th, Target and Best Buy.

Chocolate could be the new Ward Road Line from 2 a.m. to 2 a.m. on weekdays and
10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Sa­
day. Sunday will operate on an abbreviated schedule, with services starting just before noon and ending around 9:30 p.m.

Please see TRAFFIC, page A3

Civic Center proposed
By Dave Allison

Recently, there has been a lot of talk about the possibil­
ity of Lynchburg, getting a civic center that would be jointly operated by Liberty University and the city of
Lynchburg.

Local officials of a Lynchburg Civic Center were sparked after reading about the Lynchburg News & Advance ran a story about the idea of a civic center to donate land and become the primary tenant of such a facility, if it were to be built by Lynchburg or Campbell County.

According to the article, the facility could be built close to one of the two pro­
tected tunnels behind the Liberty baseball field or near the intersection of Avis and
29 south.

In an interview with the

James MacDonald sends convincing message to students at SEW
By David Thompson

The musicians played softly in the back­
ground. The students stood for the closing of Monday's convocation. The subdued strains created a sweet atmosphere of worship as he offered his final steps to the platform.

"By God's grace, I've kept my promise — being constantly in season. A4

By Amy Field

When workers cleared the area for the monogram, they cut all the trees by hand because of the extreme slope of the mountain. The initials of the univer­
sity does not build a civic center."

Please see CIVIC, page A2

Monsen b monogram on schedule
By Amy Field

Over the past few months, Liberty students have watched as a mosaic, piece by piece, appears on a nearby mountain. As several students decided when we cleared out and has now evolved to an I, and a U designd, an announcement was made that "what is the work of the Lord is going on up there."

What you see are the letters for the monogram, they come to us as the showers, as the spring wind. The process making the initial design of the mono­
gram in the same way the challenging process prayer Liberty has embarked upon recently.

Please see MONOGRAM, page A6

James MacDonald really impressed me in the first (convocation), where he said, 'I don't care if you guys remember who I am, this message is from God,' she said, MacDonald's message of personal revival centered around Romans 8-9, in which the prophet exhorts believers to come back to God. In part, it says, 'Come, let us return to the Lord, he has torn us, that he may heal us... (this) going out is ease as the dawn, he will come to us in the darkness, on the spring rains that water the earth' (KJV).

In his opening message, MacDonald laid out a blueprint of what his messages and the entire tone of Spiritual Emphasis Week would be.

Monday night's message, entitled "God on the Throne: A Picture of Power," saw MacDonald speaking on the holiness and the set-apart nature of God.

By Joanne Tang

Last week seemed to be the most tempestuous since, as absences Meredith Andrews, who led worship during her time at Liberty and now sings for MacDonald's church, announced on Wednesday night that her brother came to know the Lord fol­

James MacDonald's messages found a welcome home in the hearts of many of the students in attendance. Sophomore Ashley Gillman talked about the impact that the week had on her.

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Please see CRW, page A2

A CUP OF THE FACTS
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dict a "wintry mix," and school is delayed because of it.
Continued from page 1

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"I definitely was filled (Wednesday night). I felt like my cup has been filled to the top again," said Gillman. "I don't want it to be an emotional thing. I want it to be..."

Liberty sophomore quarterback Brock Smith, who also attended the Wednesday night session, was particularly impressed by the way MacDonald addressed the spiritual realm. "A lot of people don't really believe in...spiritual warfare," he said. "I'll be interesting to see how people react to what he said."

The main text of the message was Romans 7, in which Paul shows the struggle of nature that still lives within him. Even so, several other verses were explored, including Ephesians 5:18, which advocates believers to be "not drunk with wine, wherein..." MacDonald offered a prayer to follow the message. MacDonald as the minister of Spiritual Empphasis Week was Wednesday's conversation, was very much impressed by MacDonald.

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Contact Dave Thompson at dthompson@liberty.edu.

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OPINION

Drawing closer to Christ

The need for spiritual emphasis every week

Karim Mitchell

Spiritual Emphasis Week ended, and a number of students made a commitment to follow Christ. It was beautiful to see so many of God’s children kneeling at the throne, surrendering their hearts and their lives to the King of Kings. There was a revival at Liberty last week. Here, we call it Spiritual Emphasis Week.

But shouldn’t there be an emphasis on our spirits every week?

According to dictionary.com, a revival is the restoration to life, consciousness, vigor or strength. When it is used in reference to a church, it means an awakening. As Christians, why do we allow our spirits to go dormant, in need of an awakening? I think revival is needed for at least one of three reasons.

First, we allow ourselves to be captivated by sin. In the book of Romans, Paul tells us of his struggle. His heart delights in the law of God, but his flesh is captivated by the law of sin. We must be aware of this conflict so that we do not give into sin and allow it to have dominion in our heart.

Another reason we need revival is because we are bored and have become lukewarm Christians. In Revelation 3:16, God said that he will spew us from his mouth when we do not give into sin and allow it to have dominion in the law of sin. We must be aware of this conflict so that we do not give into sin and allow it to have dominion in our heart.

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COMMENTS

DNA speaks truth: gender cannot be redefined

In the beginning, God created man and woman. While the two genders can easily be distinguished by anatomical differences, God also blessed each gender with uniquely different chromosomes - genetic material that tells the story of who we are as individuals. Recently, the transgender community has attempted to blur what it means to be a man or a woman by labeling themselves as a separate gender. Such an agenda has the potential to pervert the concept of gender and fuel consequences of an unforeseen magnitude. It is critical to require transgender people to stick with their God-given gender.

Transgender individuals do not feel that their gender identity matches with their assigned gender. Many transgender people undergo so-called 'sex reassignment surgery' in an attempt to match their anatomy with their gender identity. However, the surgery can never alter the chromosomes that tell whether an individual is a man or a woman. A transgender individual may feel that he or she has swapped genders after the surgery. However, the presence of chromosomes will always set us as God's safeguard against those who attempt to alter His creation.

Despite the ability of chromosomes to reveal the true gender of an individual, transgender groups are persistently pushing the notion that gender identity supersedes all other gender discarnations. A Florida district court said in the case Santa Rosa v. Pentland that 'chromosomes are only one factor in the determination of sex and they do not override gender or self identity which is the true test or identifying mark of sex.' The court's decision is preposterous - how a transgender person feels about their gender is not any type of identifying mark.

The Transgender Law Center recently published a massive guide designed to help transgender people defend themselves against discrimination in public bathrooms. Christopher Daley, director of the TLC, stated in a press release that 'public bathrooms are the place in society in which we are most segregated by gender.' The very idea that Daley has just recently been struck with the fact that gender is segregated is mind-boggling. Daley will be shocked to learn that genders have always been 'segregated.' In fact, there are two of them - male and female.

The TLC press release also stated, 'Transgender people, including people whose gender expression isn't stereotypically aligned . . . simply because they are prevented from using the correct bathroom or because they are harassed while doing so.' Since when has being a man or a woman been a segregating factor? Gender is not a fashion trend that loses popularity with every passing decade. The transgender community is attempting to bend the 'norm' in the gender roles by labeling men and women as old news, and the worse part is that America is beginning to fall for their act.

New York is currently considering the addition of a rule that would allow transgender people to change the gender on their birth certificates. A New York Times article discussed the dilemma of Mariah Lopez, who was born a man, but requested a new birth certificate after deciding to become a woman. "The thing is, I don't even remember what it's like to be a boy," Lopez told the New York Times. The fact that she is now a woman does not mentally feel like a man, he is still a man. Simply amending a word on a birth certificate cannot change the concreteness of something as permanent as gender.

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The code goes on to define gender identity as "an individual's sense of being either male or female, man or woman, or something other or in-between." Could someone please define "something other or in-between?"

The following public service announcement might just rock your world - there are no "in-between" chromosomes.

Gender is not a choice, so why should we let transgender people say that they are not? Mr. Daley, a witless agitator with a sickened John Hancock? Demanding that transgender individuals redefine themselves with their true gender is not discrimination. It is common sense.

Contact Arnet Thurman at jhurman@liberty.edu.

Parents should have the right to discipline children

The sweet land of liberty will soon need to combat a bill in order to protect all of its current freedoms. California lawmakers are considering a bill that would encourage a person to practice spanking on a child. When a topic surfaces which has never before conflicted with the general morality of the country, why are officials suddenly prying into such a personal issue? Why is it necessary to create a new definition for abuse?

"I have yet to see adults who were appropriately spanked in their younger years emerging to complain about the negative physical and emotional outcomes."

Perhaps the legislature will agree with the sentiment that it does not take a village to raise a child. Many gentle and loving parents spank their children.

I have yet to see adults who were appropriately spanked in their younger years emerging to complain about the negative physical and emotional outcomes. Hopefully the popular state on the West Coast will be able to maintain all of its current freedoms and liberties for at least a little longer - despite what its children may prefer.

Contact Claire Riemel at crieremel@liberty.edu.

Readers, please send your comments and responses in a Letter to the Editor. email: libertyonlivelaw@gmail.com

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Continued from page 1.

"It's a process that includes different staging areas, places where dump trucks will haul their loads of rocks and unload them," said Beaumont.

"Workers with machinery take the rocks from the staging areas and move them to the Beaumont," said Beaumont.

"Conditions must be perfect in order for workers to continue their construction of the monogram," said Beaumont.

"That's why it takes so long, because it has to be extremely dry. If it rains once, it takes days and days of sunshine and warmer weather since the wetness freezes at that altitude.

When university officials began planning the renovation project, benefiting students.

Although the process might sound simple, it's extremely complex to make the project the best that it could be.

"We deliberately picked the steepest part of the mountain facing the city, because that gives you the best view," said Beaumont.

"You look at it from the Warp's (freeze) parking lot; you can see it head-on. You get a great view of it.

"The monogram will also be part of a new trail system," said Beaumont. "We're going to improve existing logging trails — we're going to make a Liberty Mountain trail system," said Beaumont. "We might gravel a few roads, but we'll create mountain bike trails and running trails.

"Young trees will be planted when the rest of the monogram is complete, staggered around the perimeter of the monogram," said Beaumont. "Just to fill things in a bit more so you can still see it.

"The diameter of the monogram is 500 feet, almost twice the size of a football field. The L and U are both 550 feet long.

Jerry Richaud Jr. was inspired by the other university's mountain monogram he saw while in Utah last summer.

In Salt Lake City, a huge "V" for Brigham Young University is etched on the face of the Wasatch Mountain Range overlooking the city," said Richaud Jr. He is pleased with the progress of Liberty's logo and how the monogram looks.

"Dome lights are installed and the plants have matured. I think the monogram will become the identifying landmark for both Liberty and the Lynchburg area — just as the Mill Mountain Star is for Roanoke.

"Contact Amy Field at qfield@liberty.edu.

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For questions and further information

Liberty University Army ROTC Department

LEPPING: 434-592-3828
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Never snowboarded or skied? The resort has a learn to ski/snowboard school (Tuesdays and Thursdays) all season. For just $45 you get you rental, lift pass, and a one-on-one lesson for a full day, or $35 for the whole day.

For more information go to www.wintergreenresort.com or call 434-322-1100.

Directions from LU

460 East - 590 miles to Wintergreen Resort. Allow just 50 minutes away from LU. With 19 runs and 7 lifts, as well as a terrain park, Wintergreen is a great mountain for beginner (6 green runs), intermediate (4 blue runs), and expert skiers (9 black diamond runs).

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By Eric Brown  
SPORTS REPORTER  

The Liberty Flames basketball team had six players score in double digits as they defeated VMI on Tuesday night. The Flames dominated the game, winning 84-57.

The Flames were led in scoring by senior Larry Blair with 16 points, followed by senior Kyle Matichak with 15 points. Freshman B.J. Jenkins also had a strong performance with 14 points.

The Bulldogs were led by junior Jordan Wilkes with 19 points, but their efforts were not enough to keep up with the Flames.

The Flames won the first half 40-20 and maintained their lead in the second half, leading to a decisive victory. The team is now tied for first place in the Big South Conference.

Please see WIN STREAK, page B4

By Mitchell Malcheff  
SPORTS REPORTER  

The Liberty Flames hockey team continued their winning ways on Tuesday night, defeating the Asheville Bulldogs 5-4.

The Flames got off to a slow start, scoring just one point in the first period, but they dominated the second period, scoring four goals and winning the game.

Sophomore Ryan Hoefler scored the first goal of the game on a tap-in, followed by a goal from freshman Kyle Langabeer to tie the game. The Bulldogs responded with a goal, but the Flames scored three more goals to take the lead.

The Flames continued their strong performance in the third period, scoring two more goals to win the game.

The Flames are now riding a four-game win streak and are off to a great start in the Big South Conference.

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By Will Luper  
SPORTS REPORTER  

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Liberty started the second half strong, taking a 35-25 lead with 16:18 remaining. Senior Michelle Parker split a pair of free-throws at 15:32 to give the Lady Flames a two possession edge. Neither team would score again until a Bulldogs lay-up with 15:12 remaining. Parker came through for Liberty with a pair of free-throws just a second later and the Lady Flames went on to win by four. The team was again led by star forward Megan France. The sophomore had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Seven straight points by the Bulldogs cut the lead to 52-45 with 8:12 remaining. Tosses cut the lead to 64-62. Art Shell, hired by Al Davis before the 2002 NFL Draft which was held on June 26, 2002. After finishing 15th in the league in yards per game, the team's offense would finish 10th in the league in yards per game. Williams averaged 10.5 points and 7.2 rebounds per game during his senior season. In their last visit to the Vines Center as a member of the Big South Conference — were not available at press time.

Asheville managed to stay within striking distance due to a spectacular second half from the Lady Flames. Seven straight points by the Bulldogs capped off the senior Jamie Johnson. It then took just over a minute for Asheville to cut the Lady Flames lead to 51-45. Neither team would score again until a Bulldogs lay-up with 19.7 seconds remaining.

The Bulldogs made 15 of their 16 free-throws of the second half. A pair of Rachel Williams charity-shots cut the lead to 52-45 with 8:12 remaining. The Bulldogs would get no closer until a late seven-point surge out the Flames lead to 60-40 with 1:35 remaining. Senior Michelle Parker split a pair of free-throws at 12:10 to give the Lady Flames a two possession edge. Neither team would score again until a Bulldogs lay-up with 15:12 remaining. Parker came through for Liberty with a pair of free-throws just a second later and the Lady Flames went on to win by four. The team was again led by star forward Megan France. The sophomore had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

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Track and Field sets more records on way to victory

By Jennifer Schmidt

This weekend, Liberty's track and field team divided their efforts and traveled to two different meets, coming home with personal records and more conference titles.

Nine Flame athletes traveled with Track and Field Assistant Head Coach LTE Zelinskas to the New Balance Collegiate Invitational held in the Armory in New York.

Senior athletes Zelinskas continued to improve her standings in the Big South as she set a new conference record in the 60-meter hurdles with a personal best of 8.64.

Arlene stumbled a bit in the beginning of the race, but she ran one of her best.

Senior Arlene Zelinskas also performed well in the high jump as she nailed a 5-6.25 but she ran one of her best.

I set personal records of my background in gymnastics, I have a strong body awareness to help me improve with these events.

Junior Jon Hart held his own in the weight throw competition with a personal best of 6-8.5, which placed him third in the event. Sophomore Mante Parker andZELINSKAS also had personal bests, as Parker had a 6.8 in the 60-meter hurdles.

Leuverse also added to his personal best in the 400-meter dash, a time which now ranks him second overall in the Big South Conference.

"Phil isn't very smart, it's a crowded race. It's not always about running as hard as possible, but also finding a good strategy and sticking to it," coach Brant Tolsma said.

The rest of Liberty's track and field squad proved to be as successful as their Relay's held in VMI's Commonwealth Fieldhouse.

"That was a good tune up for us before our trip to track and get to our people ready for the Big South competition that's coming up in the next two weeks," said Head Coach Brent Toleman.

For the men, there were several first place finishes in sophomore Andy Brandt won a personal best 45.79 in the 400-meter. Junior Claudine Hender- son also recorded a personal best, as he registered a 54:57 in the weight throw. In addition, f freshman Donald Manns was able to throw a jump of 4:45.77.

Liberty's women also recorded multiple first place finishes in both field and running events. Senior College Digital Fredericks and freshman Lacey Cuming- ham each took first and second place, respectively, in the shot put.

Clearing 9-5.75, sopho- more Brie Chestner took first place finishes in both field and running events. Senior College Digital Fredericks and freshman Lacey Cumingham each took first and second place, respectively, in the shot put.

The second period was enter- prised, a miracle goal by Flames captain Jon Ziegler gave the Flames a 7-0 lead. Former Allegheny teammates, and had great communica- tion on all sides as tempers began to boil over.

"They're all developing doubles.

"We had no problem bringing them in the process of using athletes to be paired up with 1-0.

The upcoming Big South Championship will be held at Carolina A&T Aggies, winning the doubles while sophomore Christine Pettit drove the final point," said the team captain.

Prior to the game and Langabeer continued to dominate on all sides as tempers began to boil over.

"I think winning this first match was very important (as far as confidence goes)," said Kadlec. "The girls worked harder all last semester and at the beginning of this semester, I was not surprised to see them take care of business in their matches."

"I think winning the first match was very important (as far as confidence goes)," said Kadlec. "The girls worked harder all last semester and at the beginning of this semester, I was not surprised to see them take care of business in their matches."

According to Kadlec, the women's tennis team carried over their winning momentum into their matches.

"It was a good tune up for us before our trip to track and get to our people ready for the Big South competition that's coming up in the next two weeks," said Head Coach Brent Toleman.

Her family was in attendance and got a chance to speak with the team after the game. The Flames (6-3) will travel to Appalachian, Maryland, to participate in the Navy Tournament on February 10-11.

Contact Will Layser at wla- yer@liberty.edu.

Women's Tennis dominates NC A&T

By Adam Trent

Although the weather was foul, the Lady Flames tennis team had no problem bringing the heat against the North Carolina A&T Aggies, winning 7-0 on Saturday night.

That proved not to matter, however, as Langabeer scored a hat-trick to help the Flames win the doubles.

After easily taking the doubles point, the Lady Flames moved into singles action, where each match quickly turned into a rout.

At number one singles, freshman Jamie Fosberg rounded out her perfect 6-0, 6-0, 6-0.

In regards to his new line of sweaters, Brink said, that they were "working well in the con- text, and had good communicati- on.

The week at.ejbay.com

Contact Adam Trent at jen- nifer.schmidt@liberty.edu.

Tips For Staying Warm in the Cold Weather

Wear a hat, because 40 percent of your body heat can be lost from your head.

Try to stay dry and out of the wind.

The key to the match against North Carolina A&T was preparation," said Liberty Head Coach Chris Johnson.

"The girls worked much harder all last semester and at the begin- ning of this semester, I was not surprised to see them take care of business in their matches."

The courts at the Eagles' new home will be open to the public for free and heading into our next tournament.

The men's and women's tennis teams will both host their next matches at Norfolk State on Wednesday and Thursday, starting at 11 a.m.
WIN STREAK: After four straight conference wins, the Flames look to maintain top-four spot in tournament

Continued from page B1

Baker, the Flames’ leading scorer, picked up two early fouls, causing him to sit out the majority of the game. However, Liberty stood its ground as Baker and Brewington hit back-to-back pointers.

A foul from High Point guard Tim Burns sent Slim to the foul line where he capitalized on a 3-point play of his own, giving the Flames a 22-13 lead over the Panthers.

The Panthers answered the Flames’ score with a 15-0 run of their own, which was led by Reid.

"They came back, but we still came at them," said Brewington. "We did not take a step back. We just kept on going forward."

Liberty came out of halftime with a 33-32 lead over the Panthers. The defense played a huge role in the second half as they held High Point to only 39 percent shooting in the period.

The opening minutes mirrored the first period as both teams traded points. The Flames decided to turn things up a notch midway through the second quarter, scoring straight points, giving Liberty a 47-42 lead.

Blaire would later cap off a 10-0 run with a jumper of his own as the Flames looked to pull away from the Panthers.

"We knew we had to put them away," said Junior Bell Porter. "We had to shut them down, get a lead and run."

The Panthers stayed within striking distance in the first part of the second half. However, Liberty went on a 13-0 point run and took an 84-63 lead with just 2:32 remaining in the game.

During this run, Blair made two key free throws, becoming the number two all-time scorer in Big South history. With time winding down, the Panthers could not contain the Flames’ explosive offense, which scored 34 points in the second half, giving Liberty a 97-79 victory and extending its winning streak to four games.

Brewington once again led the team with 48 points followed by Blair with 20 and Junior Alex Mclean with 16.

"Tonight was Brewington at the best that I have seen him on the floor," said Duason.

"He was athletically blocking shots, getting rebounds and rebounding and doing the things I believe he can do in night and night out."

The Flames (12-5, 5-4 Big South) now head home and carry their four-game win streak on the road against the Winthrop Eagles tonight in Rock Hill, S.C., in the Winthrop Coliseum at 7 p.m.

Contact Eric Brown at eqbrown@liberty.edu.

WRESTLING PUTS ON SHOW FOR SPECTATORS IN SCHOLLING

By Jake Petersen

Head wrestling Coach Jesse Castro described the most exciting match of the meet as the opening match between King College and Liberty.

What he was alluding to was the electric atmosphere in the Scholling Center that was created by hundreds of fans at Tuesday’s wrestling match against the Tornadoes of King College.

With many fans in the stands cheering on the Flames, the team responded by returning all their first seven weight classes.

The only match that the King College’s Derek Harrison won in the 184-pound weight class over freshman Jonathan Campbell.

"It would be the only win for the Tornadoes as Liberty won the next three matches, including dominating performances by the freshman duo of Chris Daggett and Rory Bosck.

Bosck won his match by fall. Daggett wrestled in the 184-pound weight class, pinned Josh Goodson at the 2:17 mark.

Casto felt Bosck, who previously wrestled at 187 pounds but has since been moved up to the 197-pound slot and was 3-2 in the season before his win, was instrumental in the Flames success with his impressive victory.

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READY TO DEFEND — Junior Christian Smith prepares for his second match against King College. Smith defeated P.J. Puriefoy by fall in the 125-pound weight class. Liberty’s next match is Feb. 15.
Charles Billingsley returns to LU

By Nathan J. Cooper

February 6, 2007

It is no surprise that Charles Billingsley, a performer of no small proportions, is excited to return to Lynchburg on February 19.

Billingsley's decision to return to Lynchburg was made in large part due to his belief that California was not his permanent home.

"The whole time in California, we were able to accomplish a lot, but in the end I could only accomplish so much," said Billingsley.

"With the students here," he added, "we can accomplish even more.

Billingsley's powerful voice. He has given an estimate of his experience and exposure to the students in becoming worship leaders, allowing students to engage with him in conversation about the specifics of his career, including his music and his work in worship and history of worship.

Billingsley believes that Billingsley, who has an attitude for worship and for people alike, will be able to "train worship leaders to go into the 5,000-member choirs, the 50-member choirs.

"We've got a great, heartful worship attitude," said Billingsley.

"Billingsley, with his wife and children, it feels excited to have him back."
FUN WITH POTTERY—All Fired Up, a pottery painting workshop, is located at 4119 Boonsboro Road, Suite 125 in Lynchburg. The studio has an assortment of pottery pieces that customers can choose from to personalize and decorate.

By Hilary Sutton  
LIFE! REPORTER

I am not an artist. I was never good at copying Looney Tunes cartoons or drawing the faces of classmates. My artistic endeavors never went farther than drawing landscapes in church, and by landscapes I mean a tree, a sun, a butterfly and a bug in the grass—all with smiling faces of course. Because I realized early on that my gifts and talents lie elsewhere, I never really pursued making beautiful things with my own two hands—that is, until I discovered All Fired Up.

All Fired Up is a paint-your-own pottery studio located off Boonsboro Road. Upon entering All Fired Up, you will see walls lined with shelves filled with pottery pieces just waiting for you to decorate. Options go from the more practical—plates and bowls—to the less—frog figurines and statues of small children. They have over 200 shapes to choose from, so you are sure to find something exciting. All Fired Up is the perfect Friday night activity for a group of friends looking for something to do. They do not charge for the time it takes you to complete your piece, so it is a perfect relaxing environment to get creative. In addition, prices are relatively inexpensive. Pieces range from $4-$50 and the firing process is equal to 40 percent of the cost of your piece.

All Fired Up will even host parties. For parties, the host receives a variety of discounts and painters receive 20 percent off any item of $12 or more. All Fired Up also hosts special ladies’ nights, when complimentary chocolate and soft drinks are offered. On these nights, studio fees are half-price, and groups of eight or more can reserve the party room at no additional charge.

If the idea of painting your own pottery sounds a little intimidating, keep in mind that All Fired Up requires no talent. A plethora of stencils, samples, brushes and sponge await your use. This is a fun outing for both the artistically challenged and the next Picasso.

On my first trip to All Fired Up, I chose to decorate a coffee mug. As an avid coffee drinker, I thought it would be useful. After much deliberation, I settled on a palette of Van Gogh-esque colors—blues and gold. I tried to imitate Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” and found that even though my rendition looked more like a child’s finger painting than a timeless masterpiece, I was still having fun laughing and hanging out with friends while I was decorating my new treasure.

After a few days, I returned to All Fired Up and picked up my self-decorated mug. It was not quite as pretty and organized as some of my other friends’ pieces, but it was my own work and I was proud of it. Even now, my favorite mug in the cabinet is my All Fired Up mug that I decorated myself. A fun weekend activity with friends with a reward of my own hard work that I can use again and again—what could be better than that?

All Fired Up is located at 4119 Boonsboro Road, Suite 125 in Lynchburg. For reservations you can call 434-384-0004 or send an e-mail to allfiredup@varah.com. Contact Hilary Sutton at hlsutton@liberty.edu.

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