



The Whetstone

Montreat College's Student Voice

Montreat Now And Forever?

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I always thought Montreat was a cool name anyway.

By: Alanna Vandernoord

The Citizen-Times of Asheville wrote an article on the big m word at Montreat: the merge. Just recently, word got around that there would be no merger to Point University. But

what exactly does this all mean? That's the real question.

The board of trustees met on Saturday, February 1. They decided that \$2 million needed to go to the bank by the 17th. Once the money is raised, Montreat will start looking for a president, furthering their plans for the future. The school has to raise only \$400,000 to reach the ultimate goal.

That is \$200,000 a week. \$28,572 a day.

\$1,191 an hour.

\$20 a minute.

33¢ a second.

Well, that's just some pocket change!

The board is confident in its alumni and donors to raise the money, which means we should be too. There is a lot of planning and praying behind this project along with an incredible amount of support from the community, alumni, and families. As students, that is our job: to support.

All of this financial talk is fairly difficult to understand and can be uncomfortable to those left in the dark on the merger topic. Although you might struggle with it also, I encourage you to at least step into the issue and try to figure out what it all means. This is just a tiny spec on the entire picture Montreat has been painting for years and, with our support, will continue to paint.

Out in the snow and in by the fireside: The Sophomore-Junior Retreat

By Dane Gomez

It was an event I had been excited about for some time, the Sophomore-Junior Retreat. I had been talking about it with Daniel Bennett and Tom Oxenreider for some time and now I got to experience it firsthand. This event was inspiring in two very distinct ways: self-discovery and appreciation of others.

One thing I did not know much about was the Gallop organizations personality profile we would be taking called



StrengthsQuest. I have taken quite a few personality profiles before but this one was a whole level above anything I've tried. My top five themes really fit me well and I grew to understand them more on the retreat. They used the word themes to describe these innate talents that with investment can be brought out as strengths. I liked that intentionality as it gave room for improvement and caution against the abuse or neglect of

these abilities. On the van ride over Colin and I were discussing each others themes. We both thought the evaluations were spot on for each other. The StrengthsQuest profile gave us terms to help us all see the best in each other.

Having words to help see the innate abilities of the people in our retreat group was beyond valuable. Often in OE we talk about creation as being nature and the outdoors, but this weekend was

about marveling in the creation God did when he made all of us. This led to a response of worship that was a big part of the retreat. Knowing our strengths helped the group turn outward to each other and God instead of simply inward. It was a very life affirming weekend as we heard stories from each other giving personal accounts to the characteristics we were learning about.

The faculty made a big impact on the trip; they weren't there as chaperones or because they had to be there. They were honest, present, and real. Whether that showed us in deep talks in workshops or something light and fun like sledding or a snowball fight!

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