



Consortium of  
Christian Study Centers

# PERISCOPE

## December 2024 Newsletter

Dear Elaine,

I recently attended a conference where we heard from the director of the new film *Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin*. I was intrigued. During my tenure as a study center director, there were few Christian scholars I turned to more often than Bonhoeffer. *Life Together* was a go-to text for our residential retreats.

Although the film project struck me as promising, I see that it is receiving some fairly critical reviews from *Christianity Today* and others. Part of the controversy, which even the Bonhoeffer family has weighed in on, comes down to an historical question: Did he or did he not participate in an assassination attempt on Hitler?

I was always under the impression that he had, but now I see that I shouldn't be so sure. It's an important question, because on it hangs the matter of whether he exchanged his pacifism for a more pragmatic or "tragic" view of ethics. Which in turn is related to current events—is there a "Bonhoeffer Option" that can provide us with guidance in our fraught political moment? Simply put, What would Dietrich do?

My interest in mentioning this is not to answer these questions but rather to call attention to an event, hosted by [The Beatrice Institute](#), entitled "Thou Shalt Not Kill? Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Conflicted Pacifism." The event, which you can read more about below, is in person (Pittsburgh) and so not accessible to most readers of this newsletter. Nevertheless, it's worthy of note because it highlights what study centers do and (imho) do so well.

The title of the talk is a question, suggesting an openness to pursuing truth wherever the evidence may lead. The question is a Big Question—philosophical and not merely pragmatic or technocratic. Four panelists are featured, which will offer multiple perspectives on a question that has no easy answers. And, not to be missed, "heavy hors d'oeuvres" are provided, creating a context of hospitality for this potentially difficult discussion on some of the things that matter most. *At a time when conversation has become constrained, higher education politicized (from all angles), and truly open-ended explorations hard to find, this event is a vivid example of how Christian Study Centers serve to remind their host universities of the better angels of their nature.*

Those who desire a deep dive into the life and work of Bonhoeffer may wish to consult

Charles Marsh's [Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#). Charles and Karen Wright Marsh live at the [Bonhoeffer House](#), a project of Theological Horizons—also a member center of the Consortium.

Thanks to Christian Study Centers on three dozen campuses, “Thou Shalt Not Kill?” is just one of many, many exceptional events taking place at our nation’s universities this month and every month. As we enter the season of Advent and approach the end of the calendar year, we invite you to support and help sustain the good work of your local study centers as well as the Consortium.

In Christ,



Karl E. Johnson  
Executive Director

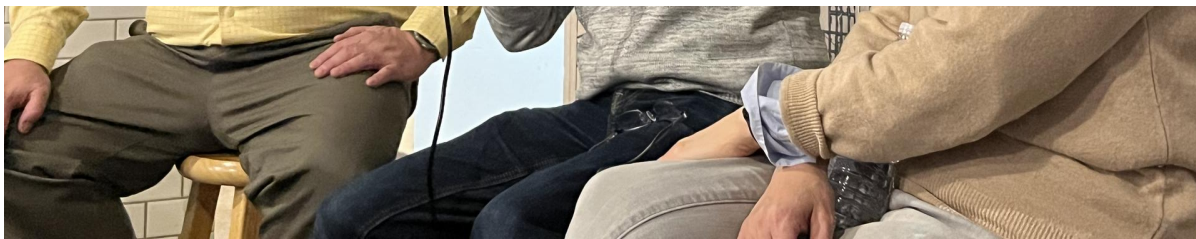
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## This Month's Highlights

- The Consortium is now [accepting applications](#) for the 2025-2026 intern cohort!
- Register for events hosted by Christian study centers and Consortium partners.
- Listen or watch past lectures hosted by Christian study centers and Consortium partners.

## Director's Gathering





In October, several Christian Study Center Directors gathered in Chicago to review the results of the John Templeton Foundation grant studying character development at member centers. That same week, CCSC director Karl Johnson gave a talk on study centers for those interested in seeing a center get started at the University of Chicago, and member center directors Mike Weaver, Vivek Mathew, and Mia Chung-Yee (above) served as panelists.

## Internship Application

A promotional banner for the 2025-2026 Internship Program. The left side features a dark blue background with white text: "2025-2026 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM" and "Now Accepting Applications". The right side shows a group of diverse young adults smiling, with a city skyline in the background. A logo of three blue columns is in the top right corner.

The Consortium is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 intern cohort! During the next academic year, Consortium interns will be hosted at the Alcuin Center (Ball State), Anselm House (University of Minnesota), the Bradley Center (Virginia Tech), Chesterton House (Cornell), Center for Christian Study (UVA), Center for Christianity and Scholarship (Duke), and Upper House (University of Wisconsin). More information, including position descriptions, may be found on the website via the button below.

Through this paid, full-time, one-year internship, interns will receive mentoring and vocational training while developing a better understanding of their vocational goals and their place in God's kingdom.

[Learn More](#)

## Study Center Events

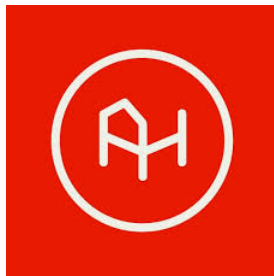


## Winter Salon: Thou Shalt Not Kill? Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Conflicted Pacifism

Thursday, December 19, 6:30-9:30 PM ET  
In Person: Pittsburgh, PA

Our annual Winter Salon invites four panelists with a range of viewpoints to speak about Bonhoeffer's historical context and the theological commitments that swayed both pacifist and activist responses to Hitler's regime.

[Register Here](#)



## When God Shows Up: Global Charismatic Christianity and the Modern University

Tuesday, December 3, 7-8:30 PM  
In Person: Minneapolis, MN

Join us for our inaugural Johansson Lecture in Global Christian Thought featuring **Amos Yong**, Professor of Theology and Mission at Fuller Seminary. Yong draws upon the lived experience of global charismatic Christianity and insights of charismatic scholars to develop a "pneumatological imagination" that resists the modernist divide between the natural and supernatural. By embracing the interrelationality of the spiritual and intellectual dimensions of human life, Yong re-imagines the intellectual life of the

## Stage Adaptation of C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters comes to Virginia Tech

Tuesday, December 3, 7:30 PM  
In Person: Virginia Tech

If you love C.S. Lewis' works, then this is a stage play you don't want to miss! Tickets are almost sold out, so be sure to purchase yours soon.

[Get Tickets](#)



## Wheelock Weekend 2025: Celebrate the opening of the study center at the Wheelock House

Save the Date: April 11-15  
In Person: Hanover, NH

The Wheelock Weekend is an annual three-day conference-style event at Dartmouth offering students and alumni opportunities to engage together on topics of faith and meaning. A reimagining of the former "Wheelock Conference," the weekend includes forums with guest speakers, roundtable discussions, student panels, vocations fairs, and alumni banquets, with many opportunities to make new friends across the decades of Dartmouth. This year, we are also



contemporary university.

[More Information](#)

celebrating the grand opening of the study center at the Wheelock House, which opened this fall.

[Stay Tuned](#)

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## Partner Organization News & Events



[More Information](#)

### Faith and Law Understanding Violent Crime and the Policy Responses

Friday, December 6, 12-1 PM ET

In Person: Washington, DC

Deadly violence dishonors the innate, God-given dignity of all people and brings grave loss to families and communities. In partnership with Prison Fellowship, panelists discuss why policymakers on Capitol Hill and in the states should act to pass criminal justice reforms that prioritize violence reduction, proportional punishment, and rehabilitation.



[View Application](#)

### Veritas Forum Graduate Conference

July 7-10, *The final deadline for applications is January 31*

In Person: Notre Dame, IN

The Veritas Graduate Conference supports promising Christian Ph.D. students considering a career in the academy by connecting you to discipline-based mentorship and support on a national level. Following the conference in July, student participants will be given the option to join a year-long, discipline-based mentoring cohort. We aim to provide continued support throughout the graduate school experience with virtual and in-person touch points.



### Save the Date: Windrider Summit & Sundance Film Festival

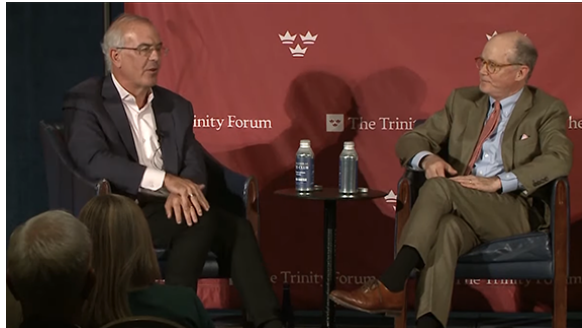
January 26-28, Park City, UT

The Windrider Institute hosts this cultural experience to screen independent films and interact with a community who believes in the transformative power of story. Windrider provides

[More Information](#)

a customized experience, curating the best of Sundance's offerings along with exclusive benefits available to Summit participants.

## Recommendations



### Evening Conversation: Democracy & Solidarity with James Davison Hunter and David Brooks

How do we begin to restore and reweave solidarity and a love for neighbor into our civic fabric? This episode features a recent Evening Conversation with sociologist and author **James Davison Hunter** and cultural critic and author **David Brooks**. Together they help us explore the cultural roots of America's crisis of solidarity, and what it may mean to move together towards a renewed commitment to the common good.

[Watch Video](#)



### The Upwords Podcast: Embracing Failure and Growth: Insights on Creative Leadership with Justin McRoberts

January 26-28, Park City, UT

**Justin McRoberts** is a musician turned author who offers profound insight into the creative process and personal development. In this episode he talks with Daniel Johnson about self-discovery and offers advice for creatives feeling stuck. He is the author of several books, including the 2023 *Sacred Strides: The Journey to Belovedness in Work and Rest*. Explore his website.

[Watch Video](#)



# The Christian Study Center Movement

Did you watch the Consortium's new video about the study center movement yet? View and share the video [here](#).

*As always, keep sending your events our way so that we may distribute them to all who have expressed interest in the good work of the Consortium's members and partners.*

*Did someone forward this newsletter to you?*

Sign Up

Support the Movement



***Cultivating Thoughtful Christian Presence***

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