



The most strategic ministry in America?

1 message

Consortium of Christian Study Centers <comm@cscmovement.org>

Thu, Oct 1, 2026 at 4:09 PM

Reply-To: comm@cscmovement.org

To: "\"Karlee Rene Bowlby\"" <comm@cscmovement.org>



Consortium of Christian Study Centers

PERISCOPE

October 2026 Newsletter

Dear Karlee,

One of our primary objectives at the Consortium, in addition to helping our member centers thrive and new centers get started, is to promote or “champion” the movement to a broader public audience. Although it’s not always the easiest objective to measure, we are encouraged by the clear uptick in coverage of centers and of the movement. In addition to the recently mentioned piece in [Christianity Today](#), please also find below new articles by Mary Eberstatdt in the *National Review* plus two significant Substack posts—one by Trygve Johnson that calls Michigan Study Director Rick Ostrander a mensch, and one by Nicholas McDonald that calls the Christian Study Center movement “the most strategic ministry in America.”

Also, don’t miss mention of the many amazing upcoming events at member centers featuring the likes of Leah Libresco Sargeant, Mary Hirschfeld, Christian Miller, Ian Hutchinson, Marilynne Robinson, Jennifer Frey, Miroslav Volf, Kevin Rowe, and others. We’ll say it again: despite the headlines, it’s a great time to be a Christian student at many colleges and universities.

In Christ,

Karl E. Johnson
Drew & Marie Trotter Executive Director

This Month's Highlights

- Register to attend an online conversation about starting new centers happening later this month!
- Check out the many exciting center events taking place across the country in October
- Browse our curated list of recently published articles and interviews related to the SC movement
- Take a look at the list of jobs available at several of our member centers and partners

CCSC News & Events



"Starting a Study Center" with Madison Perry & Karl Johnson

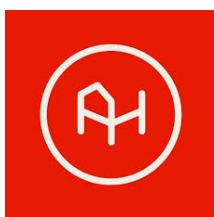
Online

Wednesday, October 28 at 2pm ET

If you are interested in starting a study center, we welcome you to join us for an open discussion with **Madison Perry** and **Karl Johnson** on this very important topic. Please click below to register.

[Register now](#)

Study Center Events



Placemaking for Design & Dignity

Sara Joy Proppe

October 1 at 12:20pm

Minneapolis, MN

[Learn more](#)



Imago Dei in Genesis

Carol Kaminski

October 2 at 4pm

Williamsburg, VA

[Learn more](#)



The Revival of Humanism

Ana Siljak

October 5 at 7pm

Gainesville, FL

[Learn more](#)



Struggling To Find Love*Brad Wilcox*

October 6 at 7pm

Lexington, KY

[Learn more](#)**Is the Bible Credible?***Michael Kruger*

October 8 at 5:30pm

Chapel Hill, NC

[Learn more](#)**Becoming a Person of Welcome***Laura Baghdassarian Murray*

October 9 at 6:30pm

Columbus, OH

[Learn more](#)**Schaeffer Center**
for Christian Studyoetel
COLLABORATIVE**What is an Evangelical?***Aaron Griffith & Michael Utzinger*

October 14 at 7pm

Farmville, VA

[Learn more](#)**Family & Feminism – Leah***Libresco Sargeant & Emma Waters*

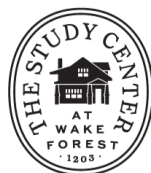
October 14 at 6:30pm

Charlottesville, VA

[Learn more](#)**What Is Wealth Actually For?***Mary Hirschfeld*

October 15 at 5pm

Cambridge, MA

[Learn more](#)**A Malaysian Journey of Faith***Sharon Wilson*

October 15 at 6:30pm

Blacksburg, VA

[Learn more](#)**The Honesty Crisis***Christian Miller*

October 15 at 7pm

Winston-Salem, NC

[Learn more](#)**Faith, Science & Doubt***Joshua Puzey*

October 16 at 4pm

Williamsburg, VA

[Learn more](#)**Dallas Willard Lecture on "Knowing"***Ian Hutchinson*

October 16 at 7pm

Madison, WI

[Learn more](#)**An Evening of Poetry
with Poet***Forester McClatchey*

October 17 at 6pm

Pittsburgh, PA

[Learn more](#)**Pulitzer Winners Speak on Hope***Marilynne Robinson*& *Nicholas Kristof*

October 19 at 7pm

Iowa City, IA

[Learn more](#)



Faith in the Academy

Panel

October 21 at 7pm ET

*Online

[Register](#)



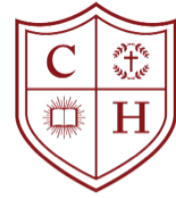
Revelation & Archaeology at Sardis

Nicholas Cahill

October 21 at 6:30pm

Madison, WI

[Learn more](#)



Lecture with Guest Speaker

Jennifer Frey

October 22 at 5:30pm

Ithaca, NY

[Learn more](#)



Ambition About the Right Things

Miroslav Volf

October 23 at 3:30pm

Chapel Hill, NC

[Learn more](#)



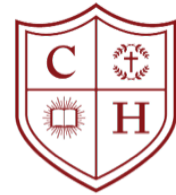
The Age of Burnout

John Ehrett

October 27 at 7pm

Columbia, SC

[Learn more](#)



Lecture with Guest Speaker

Kavin Rowe

October 29 at 5:30pm

Ithaca, NY

[Learn more](#)

Partner Organization Opportunities



FPA Fall Campus Tour

This fall, Fellowship for Performing Arts is bringing two acclaimed C.S. Lewis productions to four campuses. *The Screwtape Letters* is playing at Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (Oct 29), Rutgers' New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (Nov 5–6), and Purdue's Loeb Playhouse (Nov 11). *C.S. Lewis On Stage: Further Up & Further In* is playing at Virginia Tech's Center for the Arts (Nov 19). All performances begin at 7:30 PM, with student tickets just \$5–\$7 and faculty/staff tickets priced at \$20. To learn more or purchase tickets, visit FPA's Campus Initiative page at the link below.

[Learn more](#)



THE CICERONIAN SOCIETY

Fall Symposium & Spring Conference

The Ciceronian Society encourages and equips Christian scholars who serve the Church as a center of cultural and civic renewal. It's not too late to register for their Fall Symposium taking place later this month (October 22-24 in Holland, MI). The deadline is October 5. Registration is also now open for the Spring Conference (March 11-13 in Virginia Beach, VA). Click below to learn more and to register for one or both of these events.

Register

the Center
for Christianity
& Public Life



Apply for The Public Life Fellowship

The Public Life Fellowship Program is a nine-month program serving an intergenerational class of Christians interested in intensive, community-based learning about the intersection of faith and public service. Fellows come from diverse sectors, are serious about their faith, and are committed to public service. The program is designed for folks in the thick of demanding careers and has no cost (all lodging and accommodation are covered for the retreats). Applications close on October 18. Click below to learn more and apply.

Apply



CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE

Apply for The Hatfield Prize

The Center for Public Justice (CPJ) is currently accepting applications for the Hatfield Prize. This prize is awarded annually to three Christian student-faculty pairs to conduct research on a social policy that impacts the well-being of children, families, and communities. This semester-long research project culminates in a policy report published by CPJ and includes a \$5,000 award for students (faculty advisors receive \$1,500). Please share the link below with anyone you think might be interested, and note that applications are due November 1.

Apply

Recommendations



Mike Sacasas on "All Things Considered"

Michael Sacasas (the Director of the Christian Study Center of Gainesville) was recently featured on NPR's "All Things Considered" to discuss what we can learn from earlier generations when it comes to managing anxieties caused by dangerous new technologies. Click below to listen to the 3-minute clip with host **Sacha Pfeiffer**.

Listen now



Review of Charles Cotherman's New Book

Charles E. Cotherman has published a new book entitled [Strip Mine Jesus: Hope for the Rural Church, Small Towns, and Overlooked Places](#) that is particularly of interest to the SC movement because of its focus on vocation and theology of place. The book was recently reviewed by **Byron Berger** on his *BookNotes* blog, where he mentions the study center movement in discussing Charlie and his new book. Click below to read the review.

Read now



National Review Article on the SC Movement

The National Review has recently published an essay adapted from the keynote speech given at a conference organized by Chesterton House in Washington, D.C. this past summer. In it, **Mary Eberstadt** writes with hope about the religious revival and moral renaissance that she sees gaining momentum in academia.

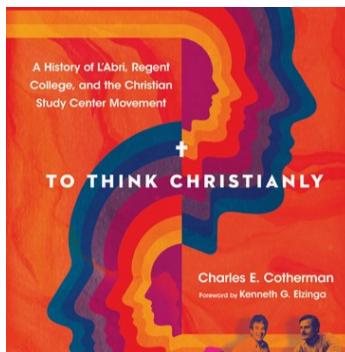
[Read now](#)



Substack Post on the Michigan CSC

The Kingfisher Study (a substack by **Trygve Johnson** that dives into the life of ministry and leadership) recently published a post about a visit to the Michigan Christian Study Center. Click below to read Trygve's thoughts on the "unsung heroes" at work at this center in particular and in the larger movement.

[Read now](#)



Substack Post on the SC Movement

The Bard Owl (a substack by **Nicholas McDonald** that investigates thoughtful evangelical engagement) recently published a post on **Charles Cotherman's** *To Think Christianly* that calls Christian Study Centers "the most strategic ministry in America." Click below to read more about his praise of Charlie's book and the movement.

[Read now](#)

Job Openings



ANSELM
HOUSE

Food Service Manager

Director of Student Formation

Director of Digital Technologies & the Human Future Initiative

[Apply here](#)



Facilities Assistant

Payroll and Benefits Administrator

[Apply here](#)



CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE

Civitas Fellowship Manager

[Apply here](#)



The Christian Study Center Movement

Have you seen the Consortium's 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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