



Consortium of
Christian Study Centers

PERISCOPE

April 2024 Newsletter

Dear Kim,

One of my responsibilities as director of the Consortium is to “champion” the movement—to help make it better known and appreciated by a broad, public audience. Toward this end, I am embarking on a barnstorming tour of the US this month, visiting numerous states to give talks and meet with various groups of alumni interested in seeing centers at their respective alma maters.

I love doing this, and in some ways it’s a task that others are making easier for me all the time. For example, as I write I have three recently published books on my desk that mention the Consortium and/or the Christian Study Center movement. The first is Todd Ream and Jerry Pattengale’s [*The Anxious Middle: Planning for the Future of the Christian College*](#) (Baylor, 2023), featuring a forward by Mark Noll. The second is Rick Ostrander’s [*Academically Speaking: Lessons from a Life in Christian Higher Education*](#) (Eerdmans, 2024), complete with forward by George Marsden. (Rick, as many of you know, is the Executive Director of the still new Michigan Christian Study Center.) And the third, a collection of essays edited by Perry Glanzer, Ted Cockle, and Jessica Martin, is [*Christian Higher Education: An Empirical Guide*](#) (Abilene, 2023).

Especially notable in this third volume is a chapter by Karen Melton and Andrew Hansen entitled “A New Vision for US Christian Higher Education: Centers for Christian Thought.” Christian Study Centers, they say in the concluding sentences of the article, help students “reimagine the ‘soul’ of the university” as they navigate their otherwise “criterionless” campuses, thereby equipping students “to pursue education and research that is animated by Christian faith, even on secular campuses.” Several of the abovementioned authors are

affiliated with the [John Templeton Foundation's 2.7 million dollar grant](#) to study virtue formation at study centers. Also well worth mentioning along similar lines is Andrew Hansen's excellent article "[A Christian college in a food truck? Christian study centers and moral formation.](#)"

Whether you have time to dig into these resources or not, I hope you'll take a few minutes to read on below to see some of the wonderful work these centers are executing on their various campuses. And if you are interested in hosting an event in your hometown to learn more about the movement, please don't hesitate [to reach out](#).

In Christ,



Karl E. Johnson
Executive Director

This Month's Highlights

- [Make a gift](#) to support Christian higher education—participate in the Consortium's \$40,000 matching grant challenge!
- We invite you to share the [online presentation](#), "What is a Christian Study Center? And Why Do We Call it a Movement?" on April 11 at 8 pm ET.
- Read [The Raised Hand's March essay](#), "The Pastoral Professor: Leading Students Toward the Good Life in the Countercultural Classroom," written by Katherine Jo.
- There are just a couple positions left for the 2024-2025 Internship Program! Please [share this great opportunity](#) with interested candidates.
- Study center staff: Register for the [2024 Annual Meeting](#) at the North Carolina Study Center in Chapel Hill!

\$40,000 Matching Challenge!



*SUPPORT CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY,
HOSPITALITY & LEARNING*

During the month of April, we are asking God to provide more than \$80,000 toward our Annual Fund goal of \$715,000. A few generous partners have offered a match of \$40,000. All gifts, of any amount, will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$40,000.

We invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to sustain this ministry and support the Christian study center movement.

[Make a Gift](#)

CCSC Virtual Event



**What is a Christian
Study Center?**

What is a Christian study center? And why is it called a movement? How do Christian study centers fit into the landscape of campus ministries? What are the latest developments in the

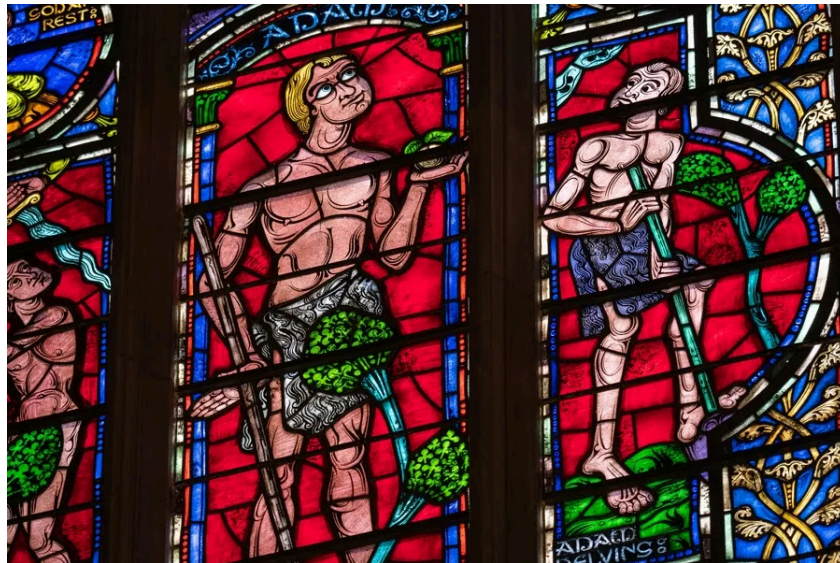
movement, and in what ways are Christian study centers a new model of Christian higher education?

On April 11th at 8 pm ET, Karl Johnson will address these questions and offer insight into where the movement may be headed. This session is designed specifically for those who either may not be familiar with Christian study centers, or who may only be familiar with a single center and are curious to learn more about the national movement.

Please invite friends and colleagues in your network who may be interested in learning more about the study center movement.

[Register](#)

The Raised Hand



The March essay from *The Raised Hand* is written by **Katherine Jo**, the Director of Program Development and Design with The Purpose Project at Duke University, where she develops courses and programs that engage students in the question of what it means to live a good life. As an educator and philosopher of education, she works to translate our highest educational ideals into effective practice. She is the creator of Teaching on Purpose, which prepares doctoral students across disciplines to be educators who help students flourish, and she frequently leads workshops for faculty within and outside of Duke.

This essay is titled, "The Pastoral Professor: Leading Students Toward the Good Life in the Countercultural Classroom."

[Read the Essay & Subscribe](#)

Internship Application




Paid, One-Year
INTERNSHIPS
 at Christian Study Centers

APPLY NOW!

Recent college graduates are encouraged to apply to this one-year, paid internship. Interns will receive mentoring and vocational training while developing a better understanding of their vocational goals and their place in God's kingdom.

Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year will be accepted on a rolling basis until the positions are filled. Consortium interns will be hosted at Theological Horizons and the Center for Christian Study (University of Virginia), Anselm House (University of Minnesota) and Chesterton House (Cornell University). Currently, there are open positions at Anselm House and Chesterton House. More information, including position descriptions, may be found on the website via the button below.

[Learn More](#)

2024 Annual Meeting



JULY 15-17



CHAPEL HILL, NC

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be hosted at the North Carolina Study Center in Chapel Hill, NC from July 15-17. **Registration is open!** Join the Consortium and dozens of study center directors and staff for a time of fellowship, sharing of best practices, and engaging keynote presentations. NCSC recently completed a \$3.5M renovation on its 180-year-old historic

home that is a 5-minute walk from the center of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. The 6,500+ sq. foot NCSC home and other on-campus buildings will provide Annual Meeting attendees with a taste of southern hospitality and community.

Featured speakers include **Greg Jones**, President of Belmont University, **Christopher Clemens**, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at UNC-Chapel Hill, and **Mia Chung**, concert pianist and Executive Director of the Octet Collaborative.

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

Featured Study Center Events



LEWIS HOUSE
LEXINGTON, KY

Democracy of the Dead: The Missing Piece of Diversity

Tuesday, April 9th at 7 pm ET
In-person: Lexington, KY

Ben Myers's recent book on the Apostles Creed explores why this almost 2,000-year-old statement of faith is still around today. He explores questions such as: Do we really need voices from the past? Shouldn't we focus on the diverse voices speaking today? As a theologian, Myers insists that diversity must include the dead.

[Learn More](#)



Chesterton
House

The Rise of Christianity in Modernizing China



NORTH CAROLINA
STUDY CENTER

Is There a Way of Medicine for Christians?

Wednesday, April 10th at 5:15 pm ET
In-person: Chapel Hill, NC

Join the North Carolina Study Center for a conversation with **Farr Curlin**, co-director of the Theology, Medicine, & Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School. Curlin will invite participants to consider what Hippocrates, science, compassion, and justice have to do with Christian practices of hospitality toward those who are sick and injured.

[Learn More](#)



Living in the Light 2024

Friday, April 12th – Saturday, April 13th

Thursday, April 11th at 7 pm ET
Virtual & In-person: Ithaca, NY

Does Christianity have a chance of surviving the age of modernization? The rise of Christianity in China is one of the biggest stories of religious change in the modern era. According to the dominant secularization paradigm, Christianity and other organized religions should be shrinking in modernized countries like China. But today China is proving this paradigm to be wrong. Join Purdue University Professor **Fenggang Yang** to explore this topic.

[Register](#)



Is the Old Testament View on Justice & Punishment Compatible with Christianity?

Friday, April 19th at 6:30 pm CT
In-person: Madison, WI

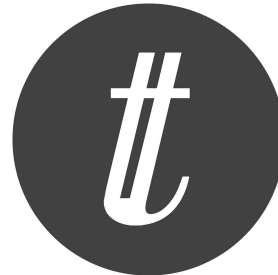
Is the Old Testament law a cruel master over Israel from which Jesus freed Christians? The legal reasoning of the Torah is some of the most misunderstood literature of the entire Bible. Jesus understood these books well and demonstrated keen legal insight whenever he interacted with the legal scholars and critics of his day. Moreover, Jesus considered the OT law in line with the justice and mercy of the coming empire of God. **Dru Johnson**, visiting professor of religion at Hope College, will deliver this lecture.

[Learn More](#)

In-person: Charlottesville, VA

Living in the Light is a two-day, in-person event full of fellowship, learning, food, and fun at the Center for Christian Study and around the Charlottesville area. Living in the Light provides an opportunity for parents, alumni, and friends to experience the faith and fellowship offered through the study center's ministry.

[Learn More](#)



2024 Scoper Lecture

Sunday, April 21st at 3 pm ET
Virtual & In-person: Charlottesville, VA

David Brooks, author and New York Times commentator, will speak on the topic "Know Better: Deepening the Bonds of Communal Life" drawing on the themes of his new book, *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* and exploring his sources in Christian thought.

[Tickets](#)

[See More Events](#)

Partner Organization News & Events



Christians, Climate & Our Culture Around the World

Tuesday, April 9th at 7:30 pm ET
Virtual

Join InterVarsity and **Katharine Hayhoe** as she untangles the complex science behind global warming and highlights the key role our faith and values play in shaping our attitudes and actions on this crucial topic.

[Register](#)



Unlocking Second Chances

Friday, April 19th at 12 pm ET
In-person: Washington, DC

How can churches, businesses, law enforcement, and policymakers better unlock second chances for Americans who have paid their debt to society? Join Faith & Law and the Prison Fellowship for a conversation about the importance of strategies that protect public safety and promote success for individuals with a criminal record.

[Register](#)



2024 Christian Scholars Foundation Legacy Grant

This \$11,000 grant offers funding toward a research project, or academic arts portfolio, of an early career Christian faculty member at a pluralistic university. All field areas are welcome to apply, and funding can be used for a wide range of needs supporting the research project. Applications are due by April 20.

[Learn More](#)



Reading as a Spiritual Practice

On March 1, the Scala Foundation co-sponsored a solemn Vespers, according to the medieval Use of Sarum, at the Chapel of Princeton University. Watch a recording of the three lectures which took place before the liturgy.

[Watch Now](#)

Faculty Theological Collaborative



Faculty associated with any Christian study center or center for Catholic thought are welcome to participate in the **Faculty Theological Collaborative** from July 29 to 31 in Durham, NC.

Christian professors at secular universities are called to glorify God through the life of the mind in a unique way. The Faculty Theological Collaborative exists to support faculty in this calling through advanced theological training, living examples of the integration of faith and scholarship, and rich fellowship with Christian faculty across institutions and disciplines. The three-day workshop is built around a series of dialogues between academic theologians and scholars in the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

This year's special theme is the doctrine of creation. Knowing God as Creator illuminates all of our work, whether it's discerning God's design in the created order, stewarding the creatures he has entrusted to our care, understanding the institutions and technologies humans have created as expressions of our potential as *imago dei*, or participating in God's ongoing work in our own creativity.

Directors are welcome to attend if they bring at least one faculty member from their institution. Questions? Email Kathryn Wagner at kathryn.wagner@duke.edu.

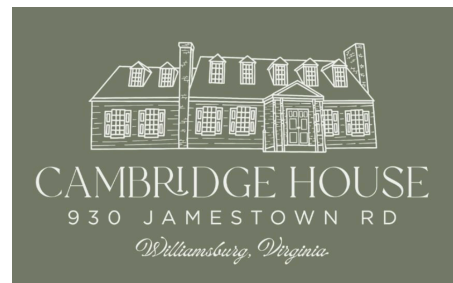
[Learn More](#)

Recommendations



Joseph Was Jesus' 'Real Dad'

Derek King, Scholar-in-Residence of Lewis House, writes for *Christianity Today* about



Personalism & the Black Intellectual Tradition

How do we respond to the increased polarization which seems to be pulling us

his experience becoming a father. In it, he compares his experience to that of Joseph's in the story of Jesus' birth.

[Read Now](#)

apart? The church has not been immune to what is ailing the larger culture. In this recorded lecture, **Angel Adams Parham** explores insights from the life of faith of writers from the Black intellectual tradition, with an emphasis on the work of Martin Luther King, Jr, as we seek insights for today.

[Watch Now](#)

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.

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Cultivating Thoughtful Christian Presence

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