CENTRAL PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THECORNERSTONE

March 2022 Volume 18 Issue 3

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Last November, we made the decision to move our annual Anniversary Dinner, to Palm Sunday due to COVID. That Sunday worked very well, so this year we will continue with this new tradition.

As we begin preparations for the dinner, here are some details you need to know.

When: Sunday, April 10th (Palm Sunday)
Where: CPCC Fellowship Hall
What time: 5:30 p.m.
What to bring: The main dish will be provided, please bring a dessert or side to share.

Watch for a sign up form in the Sunday bulletins beginning in March. We ask that you sign up in advance so we may plan accordingly. Thank you!

www.centralparkcc.org

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Provoke Me, Please!

The faith journey for all believers carries a great deal of weight. The longer I have been a Christ follower the more I have seen this weight divided. To begin with we have the weight of simply being a believer and what is called of us which is the magnitude of the gospel message and the command that first, we are saved by Jesus, and second, we are to give others the same opportunity to come to this same thought (Evangelism).

The other part of the weight is the found in maintaining a good and healthy lifestyle. This is the idea that we actually do become new wineskins (Matthew 9:16-17), no longer carrying on with our old rituals and lives. C.S. Lewis addresses this thought in his book, The Weight of Glory...

"It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

In our culture there are many things that need to be addressed as believers. In fact, the Christian subculture calls us to take a stand on many social issues. In his book, Counter Culture, David Platt is very vocal about this thought. He writes,

"If you ask practically any popular Christian leader in the public square to make a statement on poverty, sex trafficking, or the orphan crisis, that leader will gladly, boldly, and clearly share his or her convictions. However, if you ask the same Christian leader in the same public setting to make a statement on homosexuality or abortion, that leader will respond with either nervous hesitancy or virtual heresy, if he or she responds at all."

The idea behind the book is that we must see that countering culture will always prove to be costly to us. But I want to take this one step further in thought. What about countering our Christian subculture? This is simply the safe house or bubble that we have created in the church - projecting that we have it all together and that our sin lives have all but vanished.

It becomes all too natural for us to come, sit, enjoy, benefit, receive, appreciate, profit, and gain a plethora of personal satisfaction, but never feel a sense of personal responsibility for responding to the needs within our midst. I want to be clear here, I am not talking about social needs that surround us in the community. I am talking about the brokenness that surrounds us in our place of worship. I know this may push some people to think I'm promoting an attitude of self but, in essence, if we are not healthy inside the church, then what good are we to the world around us?

The result of Christian indifference to social issues is heavy. The outcome would make our world seem even more bleak than it already does. But the result of Christian indifference in the church body, specifically in our personal walk, will lead to the death of any church.

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR continued

Provoke Me, Please!...continued from page 2

I know, cheery article, right? The author of Hebrews challenges this thought when he writes in Hebrews 10.

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Clearly the walk of all believers is important. However, to pretend that we can do it alone, or that we have it in the bag and don't need assistance is only setting us up to fail. We all need community. It allows for this spurring on. The word spur in the text could also be translated as provoke. The idea of provoking might lead you to think that I am telling you to be pushy. I am, sort of, but in the most caring of ways. In my most obvious sin issues I find that most people don't want to engage me, even though the issues are painfully obvious. Therefore, I challenge those closest to me to point out my blind spots.

When we are open to being provoked in that way, we allow Christ to mold us and shape us like never before. I say this after seeing so many who were not open to this...the young bride and groom who are ready to call it quits, the pastor who threw in the towel because of his doubts, the seminary student who lost track of his own journey and no longer has a relationship with Christ, and the church leader who throws up his hands in frustration because of the apathy that surrounds him and chooses to walk away.

All of these hold two things in common. One, I am walking with them now in these things, and two, many of these could have been staved off had they been opened to being spurred on or provoked...community. My challenge to you is to inwardly ask God to reveal to you blind spots before they catch up to you, and for you to ask those closest to you to help point them out to you (provoke you), so that you are encouraged to continue in love and good deeds.

²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.
²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

- Swimming in the deep end,

Derek

STUDENT MINISTRY



Jeff Martens

High School & Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 6:00.

High School Youth Group meets Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Pastor Jeff's house. Lunch is served.

> Contact Jeff at 785-845-4131 with questions.

The Blood of the Lamb



"A rattlesnake bit one of my sheep in the face about a week ago. Deadliest snake that lives around here. The sheep's face swelled up and hurt her terribly.

But the old rattlesnake didn't know the kind of blood that flows through the sheep. Anti-venom is most often made from sheep's blood. The sheep swelled for about 2 days but the blood of the lamb destroyed the venom of the serpent.

I was worried but the sheep didn't care. She kept on eating, kept on drinking and kept on climbing because she knew she was alright.

Often the serpents of this life will reach out and bite us. They inject their poison into us but they cannot overcome the blood of the Lamb of God that washes away the sin of the world and the sting of death. Don't worry about the serpent or his bite, just make sure that the Lamb's blood is flowing through your veins."

Stolen from Facebook, Kelley Kupiec

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7

RENT-A-YOUTH THIS SPRING

Need your flower beds prepped? What about your house cleaned or a room organized? Rent a youth from CPCC to do any odd job, and you'll help send them to summer camp in 2022. All jobs need to be arranged through Jeff and all earned money given to Jeff to be applied to the student's account. Contact Pastor Jeff at 845-4131 for more details!

Working hard! CPCC youth, Julie and Tarryn, help Cammie Landholm with housekeeping to earn money to attend summer camp.



STUDENT MINISTRY

Summer Camps



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

Middle School Camp (6-8th Grade) JUNE 20 - 24

Re:New June 20th-24th 6th - 8th Grade \$225

PRETEEN CAMP

5th and 6th Grade

Re:New June 27th-30th 5th - 6th Grade \$200

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP



Cost will be around \$450

Kid's Evening Program

Kids Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us on Wednesday nights for Kid's Night from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Dinner is served

> Contact Jeff at 785-845-4131 with questions.

a message from OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Anxious for Nothing

Lately I have noticed that I am in a strange place in my prayer life. I have always prayed; prayer is just a part of me. Being raised in a good Christian home and in the church laid a foundation of prayer that I have always carried with me. Throughout my life my habits of intentional, deliberate prayer have varied. Stronger at times and lacking at others, but near-constant, conversational prayer has always been a part of what makes me who I am.

Lately I have been thinking about a specific type of prayer, a type that can occur in both conversational and deliberate settings. I have been thinking about petitioning, asking God for things that we want or want to see happen. I have noticed that recently I haven't spent a lot of prayer time asking God for things.

About a month ago, I was up for a promotion at my other job. It was a competitive process with several people applying for the same promotion. I am at a place in that job where I don't necessarily need to be promoted. I am at a very good, comfortable stage in my career and I could be content with that for quite a while. At the same time, there were some definite positives to getting that promotion and advancing in that job. Let's just say I was "on the fence" about it. During my prayer time, I brought this situation up to God. During this prayer time I started thinking about how often (or how little, really) I petition God during prayer. I took a lot of comfort from not being too invested in any particular outcome of this situation. I was able to ask the Lord really, truly to simply do His will. That got me thinking...if I noticed I stopped petitioning, maybe I have gotten to a point in my life where I am able to trust Him and His will a lot more than I ever have. It isn't just in this particular situation either. I have decreased the amount of times I specifically ask God for a particular outcome on things because I am confident that whatever outcome He has in His plan will be the right one.

That got me thinking about Philippians 4:6, "*Be anxious for nothing but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.*" He wants us to ask for what we want, He allows us to make our own requests. It is His perfect prescription for our human anxiety. Specific instructions to ask for what we want and thank Him for the outcome, whatever it may be. Now yes, I realize that in the above example, I wasn't particularly anxious about that promotion, but what about things that do cause me stress?

This morning I prayed for what is happening in Ukraine. I prayed for God's protection for the people of that country and for every life involved in that conflict. And then I petitioned God to not let World War III happen. But what if it does? I could almost audibly hear the Father reminding me to trust Him. I could feel a demonstration of Philippians 4:6 right there on my knees as I asked Him to not let the unthinkable happen. His will is perfect, His plan is perfect. No matter what happens, whether this conflict just becomes a paragraph in history textbooks or whether it changes the world as we know it, He has it all in His hands. I was suddenly "anxious for nothing."

I encourage you all to pray for peace, pray for the leaders of the world making important decisions that could potentially impact every person of this planet. Pray for the men, women, and children directly involved and impacted by what is happening in the world right now. Petition your Lord and Savior to protect them and to protect us all. And then... rest in that petition, trust in His perfect will.

Love you all, see you Sunday.

a message from OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

With the beginning of March, we are in the final month of the first quarter of 2022. The first quarter of each year is important to success in any organization, and churches are no different. The major difference is, in a church, success is measured by the growth of the Kingdom of God rather than financial or technical. To that end, we faced some challenges due to illness in our congregation. Jeff did a fantastic job filling in while Derek was out and we want to take another opportunity to say how proud of Jeff we are: Thank you Jeff, we are so thankful for you! We are also grateful that God still has work for Derek to do here on earth. When you have the opportunity, be sure to let our pastors know how much you appreciate them.

As we reflect on the challenges of the past couple of years and look to the future of Central Park Christian Church, we can see God's providence and grace. We know that our God is bigger than any virus, fear, or attack from the enemy. We continue to take reasonable precautions for the health and safety of the body of CPCC. We have sealed communion cups available for attendees, our deaconesses practice good food safety protocols while preparing the regular communion elements, the deacons wash/sanitize their hands prior to passing them, attendees are welcome to wear a mask, and we continue to offer an online service option for those who are unable to attend in person either due to illness or travel. However, as Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:6-7):

For this I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

We must continue to fan into flame the gift of God through continued study of the Word, worshiping together, and building one another up in fellowship. The enemy will do all he can to prevent unity in the body and sidetrack the plans of the Lord. We know he is defeated, but he will thrash around like a shark in a boat (as Derek mentioned in his sermon on 2/20 as a phrase coined by Eric Cook to describe how Satan attempts to take others down with him) to destroy as much as possible.

A sub-group of the elders continues to meet regarding the pastoral needs of the church. We are reviewing and revising job descriptions to continue working towards the vision, mission, and core values of CPCC to advance the Kingdom of God for His glory. We ask that you continue to pray for this process and for God's wisdom to fill us. If you would like to pray with other members, you are invited to attend weekly prayer meetings held at the church (and on zoom) on Sunday mornings at 8:30am and Monday evenings at 6:00pm.

LEAD LIKE JESUS

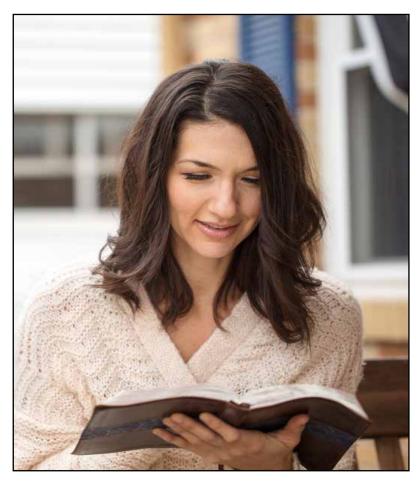
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

What do you want to do?

It's been pretty quiet on the Women's Ministry front for awhile now with Covid, and with just all of the craziness in the world today. Sometimes it's hard to come up with engaging ideas and even harder to implement them! But ladies - it's time to get back in the saddle and we need your help!

If you have fellowship ideas, a talent you would like to share, or something you would like to learn - let us know and we will try to put things into action. If you're willing to help implement your ideas that's even better, so make sure we can contact you.

Blessings and glory to the King. Sherry Holmes, Women's Ministry Leader





The Book of Acts Led by Barb Gray. Group meets in the CPCC Parlor.





Saturday, March 5th 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Monthly Bible Verse

⁸ "As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause, ⁹ who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number: ¹⁰ he gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields; ¹¹ he sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety." \sim Job 5:8-11

IMPORTANT INFO

Young Adult Sunday School

Young Adults (age 18-29) are invited to join Pastor Derek in his office during the Sunday school hour. Topics vary and discussions are fun!

For more information, contact Derek.

Birthday Blessings

Our card ministry team wants to recognize you on your birthday! If you are willing to share the date of your special day, please email Stacy in the church office at stacy@centralparkcc.org. This information will be shared with Alison Crow and her team. Thank you!



An evening of focused teaching on the Word.



Please pray for Agnes Cox and her family, as her husband, Robert, recently passed. Prayers also for Carey Dennis on the passing of his wife, Michelle, on Sunday, February 27th. May our Lord comfort them and give them peace.

New Sunday School Class

Beginning March 6th, the Sunday School class taught by Randy Spilker and Tim Maddock will change topics from "Heaven" to "The Life and Teachings of Jesus". This is a continuation of a topic they previously studied, but everyone is invited to come and learn more about Jesus in a deeper way. Please consider joining them!

MARCH 26TH-27TH

24 hour prayer vigil ending with an hour of Worship on Day 25

10:45 a.m March 26th ~ 10:45 a.m. March 27th Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print Monday, March 28th. Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Sunday, March 20th.

NEWS AND NOTES

<u>MARCH</u> CROSS GUARD

Sunday School <u>9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</u>

> March 6th Dan Force

March 13th Lynden Landholm

> March 20th Ray DeMoss

March 27th Steve Horton

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. - Noon

March 6th Gary Burks Tim Cunningham

> March 13th Dan Johnson Tyler Crow

March 20th Charles McWilliams Tristan Webb

> March 27th John Cantrell Ron Booth

<u>MARCH</u> <u>DEACONESS</u> Stacy Spilker Cheryl Wathen



Thank you to everyone who donated soup and crackers during our Souper Bowl Sunday collection! We know that a can of soup can be a meal or two, and your generous donations helped stock our pantry, and provide meals for your neighbors in need!

We are now firmly in the second half of Doorstep's 55th Anniversary year, (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022)! If you haven't heard we are raising funds for our 55th Anniversary Fund, specifically to replace the 60+ year old HVAC system in our building! We received our original bid just after the beginning of COVID in our country, and our estimate was \$150,000. Unfortunately, with all of the changes COVID has brought, we now need to raise at least \$180,000!

Beginning February 16th and running through April 15th Doorstep has a Matching Funds Challenge for you to take advantage of, and to help Doorstep meet our goal!! We have a generous couple who has pledged \$20,000 towards Doorstep's HVAC replacement fund. They understand this type of 'fundraising' is not perhaps the "tug at your heartstrings" type of need, but for a non-profit like Doorstep, who owns our building, it is very necessary!

Donate to Doorstep between February 16th ~ April 15th and for every \$2 you donate, our matching funders will add \$1 to that donation!

Help us turn \$20,000 into \$60,000 towards our 55th Anniversary HVAC Fund. Be a part of this exciting one-time, project specific ask to keep our building in good shape so we can continue providing emergency, basic needs services to your neighbors in need.

Make sure to note your donation as part of the 55th Anniversary, HVAC Matching Fund! As of 2/10/22 we have secured almost \$93,500 towards the updated goal of \$180,000. And, anything we raise over what is needed to replace the HVAC system, will go towards rent and utility assistance for those families and individuals who are struggling, and need a little help, and a hand up!

If you have already donated towards our special project fund, "Thank You"! Please keep in mind this is a new tax year, with another opportunity for you to help out, and have your donation matched!

Doorstep, Inc. is located at 1119 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66604. You can also visit our website: www.DoorstepTopeka.org, and donate through PayPal. Make sure to note the HVAC fund on any donation you send for this challenge.

MISSIONS



Abigail White: Joining Youth With A Mission Staff



I'm so excited to announce that I am officially on staff with Youth With A Mission!

I want to inspire others to follow God into missions. I'll be moving to New Zealand in June to join staff with a commitment of three years. God has used YWAM to move and mold my heart over the past few years. I've watched people come to Christ. I've seen healing. I've

grown in trusting the LORD and I've seen others grow as well. I'm overjoyed to be following God into missions full time and long term. I know this won't be an easy road, but I can't wait to see all the new works God is doing.

I want to thank everyone who has been walking this journey with me! As you know this isn't the beginning of the story, merely the beginning of a new chapter. I will forever count Central Park Christian Church as family and, just like family, we will never be truly apart. I know that we will continue to walk together and I don't have words to say how much that means. The next few months will be filled with preparation, conversations, and joy.

I'm excited to share the next few months with you as well as the next few years.

If you would like to partner with me financially or by committing to prayer I would love to answer any questions. You can contact me at 785-861-5882 or email me at hpwntr@gmail.com.

Prayer & Praise

Be Anxious For Nothing

but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

And the

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which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in CHRIST JESUS PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

bibleversestogo.com

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...

Agnes Cox *Currently living with her daughter, Juanita.*

Darlene McCarter *McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident*

> **Jim & Shirley Wolf** Atria Hearthstone Resident

Sandy Darnall Ruble Ranch Assisted Living Resident

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting

Join others at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings for 30 minutes, to spend time praising the Lord, praying for His leading and blessing, and asking Him to move powerfully in our classes and worship time. The prayer meetings are held in Derek's office and are also available via Zoom. zoom.us/j/2029856144 - passcode cpcc1535

<u>Monday Prayer Meeting</u> <u>& Elders Meeting</u>

All are invited to gather together on Monday evenings, at 6:00 at the church, to pray for our church, our city, our state and the nation. The prayer meetings are also available via Zoom. zoom.us/j/2029856144 - passcode cpcc1535 *An Elder meeting will take place on the 2nd & 4th Monday immediately following the prayer meeting. (*See calendar on page 13 for dates)



Monthly Events at CPCC...

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		11:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the church 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	2 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	3 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	4	5 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i> 9:30 AM Deaconess Meetiing
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	11	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at Judi Cox's 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	18	19 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i>
20 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	23 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	24 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	25	26 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service "Day of 25" 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	28 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	29 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	30 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	31 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church		

CPCC Pastoral Staff, Sapport Team & Leadership



Derek Slack Seníor Pastor derek@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens Student Ministry Pastor jeff@centralparkcc.org



Linda Bohlender Media Specialist Ibohlender@centralparkcc.org



Stacy Spilker Accountant/Office Administrator stacy@centralparkcc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1535 SW Clay St. Topeka, KS 66604 Phone: (785) 234-5963 Fax: (785) 234-0538 www.centralparkcc.org



Jayme Green Worship Leader jayme@centralparkcc.org

Trustees:

Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

Elders:

Eric Cook, Geoff Gray, Victor Hercules, Hank Hylton, Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler, Bill White



Prayer Time - Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service & K-motion - Sundays at 10:45 a.m.
SIAFU - Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
High School Youth Group - Sundays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Prayer Time - Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Grade School Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.