THECORNERSTONE

"Mobilizing Disciples to fulfill God's passion to save and transform lives"

March 2023 Volume 19 Issue 3

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Coming Up...

Women's Movie Night ~ March 5th ~ 5:30 PM - 8 PM

All ladies are invited to join us for March Movie Night. We'll be watching the Christian movie, In-lawfully Yours, and enjoying some snacks. We'll eat, laugh, and socialize. Come as you are and bring a snack to share.

Men's Ministry Event ~ **Capital City Carnage Demo Derby** Saturday March 4th ~ 10 a.m. ~ Stormont Vail Events Center Ticket prices: Reserved (all ages) \$18 or GA (all ages) \$10 Contact Bill White for more details.

Men's Ministry Event ~ Topeka Tropics Arena Football Saturday, March 25th ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Cost \$12 Contact Bill White for more details.

Church Anniversary Celebration ~ Sunday, April 2nd ~ 5:30 PM

Our Anniversary Dinner will take place on Sunday, April 2nd at 5:30 p.m. The main dish will be provided, those attending will bring a side dish or dessert to share. Watch for a sign-up form in the Sunday bulletins. We ask that you sign up in advance so we may plan accordingly. Thank you!

Easter Celebration ~ Sunday, April 9th

Easter Sunday will start with a Sunrise Breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. followed by one adult and one children's Sunday School class at 9:15 a.m. Our celebration service will begin at 10:45. Nursery will be available during Sunday School and Worship Service. Begin thinking now about who you could invite.

a message from

OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

On Mission

Jesus told us to go into the world and make disciples. Here's where the church has dropped the ball. Instead of employing his "go and do something" strategy, we've settled for a "come and see" appeal.

We've said, "Here we are. Here's our building. Here's an entertaining worship service. We have a band and flashy graphics on a big screen and a good preacher So come and see us."

Our weekend services are important, but that's not all there is to it. We are called to serve others - this community and the world around us. We're called to be missionaries. We're called to be a missional church.

Missional is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the "come to us" invitations with a "go to them" life. A life where 'the way of Jesus' informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others. It speaks of the very nature of the "Jesus follower."

What defines a missional church? A missional church is made of missional people. That means it's made up of missionaries. When enough of us capture the missional mindset, it influences everything we do - the way we design our services, the kind of programs we develop, the types of ministries we pursue, and how we approach the world outside.

Developing a missional mindset means you work with the end in mind; you have an idea what you're trying to accomplish in your ministry. We're called to the serve the poor and the purpose of our service is to help them come out of poverty.

We're called to minister to those with broken lives; the purpose of our service is to help them put their lives back together.

We're called to reach the lost; the purpose of our service is to help them become fully stable in their walk with Christ. Having a consuming desire to minister to others comes with a vision for what you want to accomplish - you work with the end in mind.

This much I know: while we are pursuing the vision for CPCC, we are not leaving behind the Great Commission and the sharing of the Gospel with all those who are around us and with whom we do life with. Paul said in Romans 8:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

The gospel -- the good news of Jesus Christ -- has the power to change lives. It is the hope of the world. This is where Paul received his boldness. He knew what the gospel could do. He had seen too many changed lives and had witnessed too many miracles to be timid about his faith.

OUR SENIOR PASTOR continued

On Mission...continued from page 2

Really, when it comes down to it, the question of timidity versus boldness often comes down to how fully convinced one is in the power of the gospel. The more convinced you are, the less timid you tend to be.

Paul subjected himself to hardship and suffering throughout his entire ministry. In 2 Corinthians he talks about being beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked. Why would he subject himself to such difficulty? Because he was convinced of the power of gospel. He knew it could save people. He knew it could change lives.

Most people don't mind sacrificing for a winning cause. Do you know what our problem is? Some of us aren't sure the ministry is a winning cause. Some of us wonder if we're doing any good. Some of us wonder if we're wasting our time. That often happens when we don't get immediate results.

When a person -- or a church -- decides to adopt a missional lifestyle, they soon discover that it is not as easy to live as it is to talk about. There's hardship to face and opposition to endure. Sometimes you give more than you get back.

If you're not absolutely convinced of the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ -- if you're not convinced that the work you are doing will change lives for all eternity -- you'll be tempted to throw in the towel during the lean times.

But if you are convinced of the power of the gospel, you will experience a boldness in your efforts. You'll find the strength to continue. Difficulties won't deter you. You'll keep pressing on. Let's be the Church, the people who keep pressing on. Let's be missional with the authority that has been given to us. Let's make disciples!

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20 ESV

Swimming in the deep end,

Derek

a message from

OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

Spiritual Growth and Fresh Veggies

I love fresh veggies. Some of my favorites are peppers, squash, and zucchini. There's just something special about the vegetables that grow in your backyard. I would love to look out my back window and see a bountiful harvest ready and waiting. But simply wanting and wishing won't make it so. I've never taken the time to get started, let alone follow through with all the hard work. Standing in front of my window and claiming a summer harvest won't bring in the fresh vegetables. Looking out the window and praying, "Jesus, send those peppers," won't make it happen.

If I want fresh vegetables, I have to make a concerted effort. I have to till the ground, plant the seeds, water the garden, spray the squash, and stake up the plants when they get too large to support themselves. And eventually, I'll have to pick the vegetables, wash them, and slice them if I want to enjoy the harvest.

What's true of growing vegetables is true of spiritual growth. We can't stand around wanting and wishing and hoping we'll get results. And if we're doing things that inhibit spiritual growth, we can't continue with the status quo and expect different results. Instead, we have to do what it takes to grow spiritually by taking intentional, conscious action.

Experiencing connection with God is not about making a one-time decision, praying a prayer, or being dunked in a baptismal pool (though those are all good things). Connecting with God, pursuing a life He rewards, is a marathon, not a sprint. We commit to grow, to pray, and to read the Bible, no matter what season of life we're in. We commit to honor God in our home, to work with integrity, and to teach the younger generation. We commit to forgive, to participate with the Holy Spirit, and to live generously. And we commit to finishing well.

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Search Me....

One good thing I have picked up being married to a former Catholic is the observation of Lent. Even though many Protestants do observe Lent as well, I was not raised in a household that did. When Megan and I started dating, we decided together that it was a tradition that we would continue and it has always been a blessing for us. While it is fairly traditional to give up some pleasure or comfort during Lent, the past few years I have been more focused on increasing and enriching my prayer life in addition to fasting or some sort of temperance. I also usually try to find a theme or focus, a part of my life that could use a readjustment or a specific biblical principle to pursue. As we approached the Lenten season this year, I started praying and looking for that focus, and God hit me right in the face with a big one. One morning as I opened my "verse of the day" I found myself standing face to face with Psalm 139:23-24.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

That verse stuck with me all day, the Lord kept bringing me back to it over and over again through the following few days even. It struck me just how valuable...and at the same time how frightening, this verse really is. If this verse doesn't scare you on the face of it, try reading it in the NIV Reader's Version:

God, see what is in my heart. Know what is there. Test me. Know what I'm thinking. See if there's anything in my life you don't like. Help me live in the way that is always right.

Is that something we really want God to show us??? I mean obviously it should be, but when you really think about what you're asking Him to do in you, to show you about yourself, and then to carry out in the follow-up... wow, that's a pretty scary thing. I struggled with it for days, in fact I'm still struggling with it as I move into my Lenten journey of really pursuing it. Do I really want God to show me the worst parts of me AND show me what I need to do to fix them??? My selfish, human animal brain says "No, absolutely not! I'm pretty comfortable being a mess." But in my heart of hearts, I just can't avoid or deny my true, deep desire to go through that upheaval, and I welcome it into my life.

If you have started into observing Lent and haven't found a focus, or even if you are just ready to clean out the closet of your heart and mind... in fact, even if you're not ready... I urge you to say Psalm 139:23-24 as a prayer, and then hold on for what He does with it.

STUDENT MINISTRY



Elijah White

Elementary School Youth Group

Pre-K to 5th grade activities are held on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 5:30.

Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 5:30.

High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group meets Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the church. Lunch is served.

Am I saved?

Salvation. How do we receive salvation? Scripture is very clear on it, despite it being a hot topic of debate among believers. Can I lose my salvation? Do I deserve salvation? What must we do to earn salvation? These questions are constantly being raised and constantly being mulled over.

Let's start with a simple question: What is salvation? Salvation in our environment as believers is always referring to our being saved from the consequences of our own sin.

Now a big question is, "How do I earn salvation?" The good news is, you can never earn your salvation. According to Ephesians, salvation is a gift. Not by works but by the faith of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, *not by works lest anyone should boast.

What's a gift? It is something given to you that you didn't earn. If I hired you to rake my yard and told you when you finish I would give you one hundred dollars; but when you finished, I came running out flashing a hundred dollar bill and telling you it was a gift, you would think I was crazy, and rightfully so.

But if I hired you under the same circumstances and you only raked a square foot of my yard before calling it quits, then I came out and gave you a hundred dollars, you would be blown away, and rightfully so. Salvation is the gift of God, not earned by works lest any man should boast.

Good news! You cannot earn your salvation. Why is that good? Because if it was up to us we would never hit the mark. Only Jesus can hit the mark, and He did. Jesus lived a perfect life, Jesus died on the cross, and Jesus was resurrected from the dead after three days in the tomb. Jesus is the only way to salvation.

John 14:6 - I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

STODENT MINISTRY

Am I saved?...continued from page 6

Can you lose your salvation? No, you can not. If you could lose it, that would mean you would have had to earn it to begin with. There is nothing you can do to earn salvation and there is nothing you can do to lose salvation.

How do we receive salvation? When a gift is offered but not received, it becomes dead on the end of the receiver. You have to receive it. You can't earn it but you must receive it. In order to receive salvation you must confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him three days after His death. In Romans this is made very clear.

Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

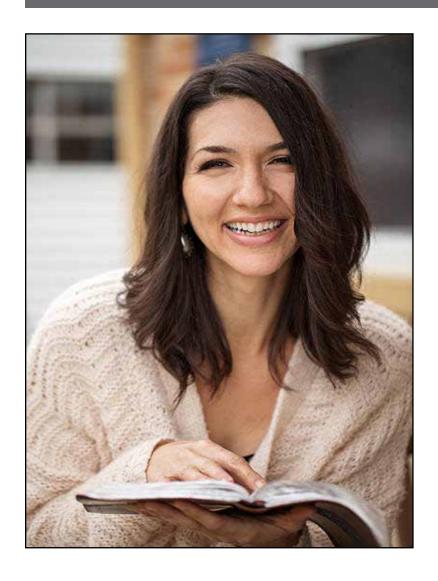
That's how you receive the gift of God. You can't earn it, but you must receive it.

One Truth, Elijah White

Rent-A-Youth this Spring A FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

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 2023. All jobs need to be arranged through Elijah and all earned money given to Elijah to be applied to the student's account. Contact Elijah at 785-861-5868 for more details!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Women's March Movie Night



MARCH 5th ~ 5:30 PM - 8 PM

All ladies are invited to join us for March Movie Night. We'll be watching the Christian movie, In-lawfully Yours, and enjoying some snacks. We'll eat, laugh, and socialize. Come as you are and bring a snack to share.



Ladies Bible Study

<u>Wednesdays</u> <u>6:15 to 7:30 p.m.</u>

Genesis

Led by Barb Gray. Group meets in the 2nd classroom off of the fellowship hall.



Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is Saturday, March 11th

from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church.

Prayer Shawl Meetings Tuesday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Judi Cox and Thursday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Judi Cox. Contact Judi at 272-9803 for more information.

Monthly Bible Verse

Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. ~ Hosea 6:3

a message from OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

The elders have been working mostly behind the scenes this month; however, one very noticeable action taken is the replacement of the van. A fifteen-passenger people mover was purchased for nearly the same amount as the insurance adjuster's valuation of our old van. Rides are, once again, available on Sunday mornings for those who need it.

The less conspicuous work being done largely centers around visioning for the church. A committee of elders has been meeting regularly to set the long-term vision for Central Park Christian Church. This is different than our vision statement (Discipling together in the heart of the city for freedom in Christ). This visioning process is focused on the application of our vision statement and will be used to guide us in carrying out our vision, mission, and core values with actionable steps. We plan to roll out the first part of the vision by the end of March.

Regarding finances, some funds were also moved from the church's money market to a CD paying a better interest rate than the money market. The funds in the CD can be withdrawn without penalty if a need should arise prior to the end of the 11-month term. This was done in an effort to be good stewards of our resources. The funds that were transferred account for about six months' worth of expenses if giving went to zero. Speaking of giving, it should be noted that giving for the month of January was just over \$6,000 behind the budgeted pace. This is not an ideal way to begin the year and we will be monitoring the situation closely.



IN THE KNOW

MARCH CROSS GUARD

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

March 5th
Steve Horton

March 12th

Andrew Swickard

March 19thBrad Broadbent

March 26th Rick Fischli

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. - Noon

March 5th

Tim Cunningham Ray DeMoss

March 12th

Tyler Crow Tristan Webb

March 19th

Dan Force Charles McWilliams

March 26th

Daniel White Keneene Archuleta-Leupold

MARCH DEACONESS

Cyndie Rexer Vivian Vinsonhaler

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

Our card ministry team would like to celebrate your birthday and wedding anniversary with you! If you are willing to share these special dates, please email Stacy in the church office at stacy@centralparkcc.org. This information will be shared with Alison Crow and her team. Thank you!

Doorstep Needs

Doorstep is in need of the following items to help our neighbors in need:

Curtains & Drapes
Blankets & Comforters (All Sizes)
Men's Jeans (esp. sizes 32-34)
Toasters & Coffee Pots

Items may be placed in the basket in the Foyer marked "Doorstep" or taken to Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Ave., Monday – Friday 9am – 2pm.

Young Adult Sunday School

Young Adults (age 18-29) are invited to join Pastor Jeff in Derek's office during the Sunday school hour. Topics vary and discussions are fun! For more information, contact Jeff.

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print Monday, March 27th. Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 20th.

NEWS & NOTES



SAUDI ARABIA:

Government Reforms Result in New Christians

Front-line workers have noticed a new openness to the gospel in Saudi Arabia as a result of government reforms that have limited the oppressive activities of its "religious police." The reforms have given many Saudis more freedom to seek truth and place their trust in Christ. "I have seen huge changes," a front-line worker said. "The people of Saudi Arabia feel more free to search, ask questions and express their thoughts. Many are disappointed with Islam and have started to explore other faiths."

Despite the increased openness to the gospel in Saudi Arabia, it is still risky for Saudi Christians to share their faith there. Ahmed, a Saudi Arabian evangelist, organized small-group Bible studies in his home until his ministry activities were discovered by Saudi authorities. He was eventually arrested and imprisoned for this bold witness before being deported to a neighboring country. Front-line workers are helping him and his family with living and educational expenses.

~ Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs Magazine



Thank you to everyone who donated soup and crackers during our <u>Souper Bowl Sunday</u> collection! And, how great was it that the Kansas City Chiefs won another Super Bowl!! 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!

Doorstep is trying to find our new normal since the pandemic began three years ago! We are working on a plan for returning to all in-person services instead of phone intakes and appointments.

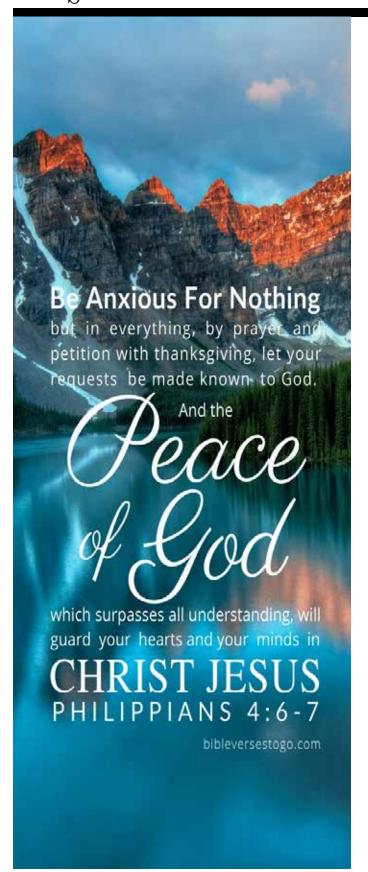
We are planning to have our first **Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing** in four years, and we are excited! Our Annual Banquet celebrates Doorstep, our volunteers and member congregations, and we have a lot to be grateful for and to celebrate! We have several quilts for the drawing this year, so you don't want to miss out on the chance to win one!! We don't have a date set yet, but it will be in April, 2023!

With the HVAC system installed, we will also be having a **55th Anniversary Fund Wrap-Up** reception thanking the businesses, individuals, member congregations, and foundations who donated the funds making this project possible. Once the date is set, likely in June, we will get the word out!

Each member congregation should have volunteers from their congregation serving as their Doorstep board member, and coordinator. Some of our congregations have openings in those positions right now, and our Congregation & Volunteer Development Committee has started making contact with those members. If you are interested in filling one of these positions for your congregation, contact Doorstep (785-357-5341), and ask for Jim or Lisa.

Doorstep, Inc. is looking for a new Marketing Committee Chairperson. If you have an interest and some experience in this area, please contact Doorstep! This position is a member of the Executive Board, so you would need to be available for a Noon meeting once a month.

Prayer & Praise





Agnes CoxCurrently living with her daughter, Juanita.

Darlene McCarter

McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident

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

Monday Prayer Meetings & Elders Meetings

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 *Elder business meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. On the fourth Monday the elders meet for Bible study with minimal business discussions. The business meetings are open to members, so please join us! (*See calendar on page 13 for dates)



Monthly Events at CPCC...

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5:30 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 5:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	3	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 2nd Helpings 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 5:30 PM Women's Movie Night	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W. 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox	5:30 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 5:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	10	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church. 9:30 AM Deaconess Meeting
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Business Meeting	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	5:30 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox	17	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
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CPCC Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Derek Slack Senior Pastor derek@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens Connections Pastor jeff@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

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Jayme Green Worship Leader jayme@centralparkcc.org



Elijah White Student Ministry Pastor elijah@centralparkcc.org



stacy@centralparkcc.org



I inda Bohlender Media Specialist lbohlender@centralparkcc.org



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. **Second Helpings** (formally 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 5:30 p.m. **Grade School Activities** - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Trustees: Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

Elders: Eric Cook, Geoff Gray, Victor Hercules, Lynden Landholm, Randy Spilker & Jason Vinsonhaler