

THE CORNERSTONE

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

December 2020 Volume 16 Issue 1

www.centralparkcc.org

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You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance. Psalm 65:11

Blessing our Children & Youth at Christmas!

Every Christmas, Central Park members work with our Student Ministry Pastors to make Christmas special for the boys and girls attending Wednesday and Thursday night activities. In the past, the congregation has pulled together to donate items for shoe boxes and blankets to be given to our youth. This year, several ladies worked together on a project called, "Sew Happy" a community service project of making pillowcases for our Thursday night children. These pillowcases were nothing short of spectacular and were simply adorable! Along with a pillow (donated by Walmart) and a pillow case, the children received a bible, a hand-knitted stocking cap and candy.

Thank you to the following people for making the Christmas celebration for our youth an exciting and special night!

The following ladies made 100 pillowcases:

Rhonda Bell	Cheryl Smith
Kelly Vawter	Sue Spilker
Dawn Harris	Stacy Spilker
Sherry Holmes	Dena Force
Ruthy Sherrer	Lori Hylton
Jena Yoakum	Deaune Maddock
Dena McWilliams	Serenity Yoakum
Mary Pat Ward	Allison Crow
Doris Davidson	Judy Cox

Stocking Caps were made by: Judy Cox

** A special "Thank You" to the Walmart Foundation for suppling CPCC with a generous donation to assist in the purchase of the 100 pillows.

a message from
OUR OUTGOING SENIOR PASTOR



Tim Maddock

Why I Am Excited that Derek Is Our New Senior Pastor!

When we began looking for a new senior pastor, we used several resources to help us determine the best candidate, including the scripture, our job description, a pastor profile, and a church profile. I have to admit, in addition to those, I had a few more things on my list:

1. I asked God to bless us with someone who has had a great history of goodwill in the churches where he has pastored. Typically when pastors are looking to move, it is due to friction and lots of drama. Derek has been blessed (and the churches he has served) with much affection, a history of cooperation, and a reputation for living out faith in practical ways. He pastored healthy churches!
2. I asked God to bless us with someone who would be able to follow me and not be intimidated with the fact I have been here 15 years. Statistics show that it is difficult for new pastors who follow long tenured pastors. Derek has pastored both in Hoxie and Rossville, following pastors who served long tenures, and thrived. It takes a well-grounded (and God-grounded) pastor who can do that well, and Derek has done it admirably!
3. I asked God to bless us with a pastor who is both a great preacher and has deep passion for outreach. Let's face it, CPCC is not your typical church. Most churches are filled with folks who have been believers for years, sprinkled with a few folks trying to find their way. CPCC is truly a blend of those who are saved and those who are on the outside looking in. All of us are broken in one way or another, and Derek's gifts will help minister to all. I have listened to him preach, and I have seen his heart in regards to outreach – it blends beautifully!
4. I asked God to bless us with someone who has enthusiasm and vision for the future. When I was 45, my energy was strong and my vision was clear. Over a span of years, both began to diminish to the point I knew in my heart it would be best for CPCC and the kingdom to pass the baton on to a younger pastor. When I spend time with Derek and hear his heart and passion, it gives me great hope for the future of CPCC. He is so excited to minister among us, and I will be among his best supporters!

What can you do to help Derek as he starts and for years to come? Pray for him faithfully...encourage him often...spend some time with him (he loves to drink coffee and talk!) ...find a ministry and engage in it with all your resources!

I love our new Senior Pastor, and I know you will come to trust and love him too.

Heading Home,

tim

a message from
OUR INCOMING SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Unique, Unified, and Nourished

1 Peter 3:8 ⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Psalm 139:13-14 ¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

I still can't believe that I am writing my first article for CPCC! Coming into this situation it is fair to say that we are all kind of figuring each other out. Outside of spending some brief moments with several of you, we don't know you and you don't really know us. So how do we move forward from here? As if I can hear Julie Andrews singing the song herself (Yes, I think in musical references all the time), I will be "*Getting to know you, getting to know all about you.*"

While our stories may look different in how we have been called into the Kingdom of God, we all have been called into His incredible Kingdom, amen? While our story may be "knitted" together differently, the call to be unified remains.

Over the next few months I will be sharing a little bit of who we, "The Slack's" are. I will give you a peek into who we are as a family, and as individuals. What we have in common is this. We love Jesus and we are uniquely made. While Shawna, Jonah, and I are all redeemed by the blood of Christ, each of us play a different and unique role in the church and the Kingdom. So, this month I begin with me. I am Derek, preacher, teacher, Kingdom advancer and in constant need of nourishment.

A pastor once said in a conference I was at, "The key to being a better preacher (pastor) is to be a better person," followed by, "You are what you eat." Then he asked this, "Have you ever wondered what part you play in the lack of faith that sits in your church each week?"

I didn't know how to respond. Based on the silence in the room, neither did any other pastor. The truth is that most of us probably don't think about that. And then he sealed the premise of his thoughts with this quote, "Malnourished souls produce malnourished souls." In other words, if I am not feasting on God, then how well am I pouring out God into others?

Friends, I need constant nourishment in God. In fact, when my life has been out of balance the most, I can almost always pinpoint where it began ... a lack of nourishment in His Word and time with Him. Look, there is nothing wrong with "Me time", but when my life is unbalanced you can almost always look back and see where I started skidding off the mark. Malnourishment.

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STUDENT MINISTRIES



Jeff Martens



Miranda Bohlander

Sunday Mornings:

Sunday School classes

9:15 to 10:15 for all
students from

Preschool-12th grade.

K-motion - 10:45 a.m.

Kids attend church during
opening worship, offering &
communion and are released
to go across street with Jeff or
Miranda during the sermon.

Preschool Classes and a
Nursery are available during
Sunday School & Worship.

Reflecting on His Faithfulness

The year 2019 has come to a close. As I look back on 2019, I can certainly see how God was working in the hearts and lives of our youth. Jeff and I were able to baptize a few of our high school students after a week at CIY, doors were opened for deeper connections and conversations and opportunities for us to speak truth into our middle school and elementary aged kids throughout the year. We even noticed God purposely moving in some of our students' parents as well. All I can say is, God is so good and so faithful and His passion for us, makes me want to worship Him with everything that I have.

We actually talked about worshipping Jesus the last Thursday night we had with our elementary aged students before Christmas break. We had been talking about the "Mystery of Christmas" with them the whole month of December. We first discussed the messengers and their very important role in spreading the news of Jesus' birth. The first ones were the prophets who wrote about His birth way before it even happened. It's amazing that the details they foretold about Jesus' birth were accurate and true. The second group of messengers we talked about were the angels. An angel not only appeared to Mary about His Jesus' birth but to Joseph and the Shepherds as well.

The second part of the "Mystery of Christmas" we discussed was the manger. Most people would expect the Savior and King would be born in a beautiful palace with a nice comfy bed...but Jesus wasn't. The first place He slept, on this earth, was in a manger.

The last lesson in this series focused on worshipping Jesus. We discussed that God gave us a choice to either worship Him or not. When Jesus was born, the angels worshipped Him (Luke 2:13-14). The three wise men also worshipped Him by offering up gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I asked the question what makes you want to worship Jesus? Some of the reasons the students and adults gave were: He is good all the time, He is faithful, He is there through the bad and good, He loves with No Limits, and He gives grace upon grace.

So, what makes you want to worship Jesus?

As we ring in 2020 we will experience a change in the Church. It's quite possible many of you will experience change in your personal lives also; some of this may be good change and some may be bad. If you find yourself struggling or dealing with a hardship this upcoming year, remind yourself of the angels and the wise men worshipping at the birth of our Savior. Maybe these images will help you find a reason to celebrate and worship Him.

~ Miranda

STUDENT MINISTRIES

During the Week:

Monday After School Program

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

This program will resume on September 9th.

Kids T.N.T.

Every Thursday Evening

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

In the CPCC Fellowship Hall

Dinner is served to all

kids and helpers at 6:00 p.m.

This is an evening of dinner, worship, small groups, games, crafts & more!

Middle School Youth

Sunday School Classes

9:15 to 10:15 AM

Class meets in the

South Balcony Classroom

Wednesday WYLDLife

Youth Group

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

In the CPCC

Fellowship Hall

High School Youth

Sunday School Classes

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Class meets in the

Community Center

Sunday Youth Group

Meets every Sunday afternoon

from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

In the CPCC Fellowship hall.

Lunch is provided!



Pictured left Jett, Bill and Timothy enjoy a game during our Kids T.N.T. Christmas party.

Pictured below, our High School youth group enjoy a Christmas celebration at GreatLife North.



Pictured above, Keillor plays with some of the kids during the Kids T.N.T. Christmas party.



Pictured left, Jimmy takes cover during a round of lazer tag at GreatLife North during the High School Youth party.

Unique, Unified, and Nourished

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Paul warned Timothy of this at the end of 2 Timothy 3. He said, ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

I think Paul was pointing out to this young preacher that if this becomes your job, you're missing the point. If your goal is to just get the words out and not feast on them yourself, then what impact do you expect it to have on others? If you plan on teaching, rebuking, correcting and training with it, then you better be feasting on it.

I have learned that no matter how long I have done this I must remain humbly faithful and nourished by His Word. This is can be difficult, even for this pastor of 20 years. Don't get me wrong, I LOVE THE WORD OF GOD, but life loves to sidetrack us, amen?

So, here is what I want to give to you...permission. I give you permission to hold me accountable to this. Ask me if I am being nourished by God and in what ways. Some days will sound grand, and other days will sound simple, but if ever you hear, "I don't know" then please call me into balance. You have my permission.

While in the end you will be held accountable for your life, I will be held accountable for not only my own life, but also to how well I brought the truth to you. That conviction has changed me as a pastor, but even more as a man of God.

You are not completely off the hook though. Before you start pointing the fingers at the pastors in your life, you need to do a self-evaluation too. While we as pastors might be failing you from time to time, what are you feasting on? Are you feasting only on self or are you feasting on the nourishment of God? A well-nourished soul lines up with the truth of the Gospel.

While there are many other things about me you will get to know more on a day to day personal level, I wanted to make sure you know my calling first and my passion around it. While I love vinyl records, humor, and the Chicago Cubs, I love Jesus more.

One last thing. You will hear me say the words, "I love you" a lot. Get used to it folks. I kind of feel like we are going to hear it a lot when we all get to Heaven, so consider it training for your future. Try it, you might actually like it.

Much Love,
Derek

a message from
OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



CHRISTMAS EVE 2019

Women's Ministry

Women's Winter Tea
"Putting all the pieces together."
COMING SOON!
Details To Follow!

Ladies Bible Studies

Wednesdays - 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

The Book of James
by Kay Arthur, Led by Barb Gray
Group meets in the CPCC Parlor

Thursdays - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Beginning January 9th

The Book of 1st John
Group will meet at the
home of Allison Crow.

*contact church for address

Childcare is not provided.

43rd Annual • Woman's World Conference
Adventure Awaits
February 28-29, 2020

Woman's World, sponsored by Manhattan Christian College, is held in the K-State Student Union.
Grab a friend and check it out! You can register online at www.mccs.edu

Deaconess Meeting
The next Deaconess meeting is
Saturday, January 4th

Prayer Shawl meeting Thursday, January 16th
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Judi Cox's home,
3511 SE Island Circle
(Please call Judi for
directions at 272-9803.)



Monthly Bible Verses

²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ~ Lamentations 3:22-23

News and Notes

JANUARY CROSSING GUARD

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

January 5th
Dan Force

January 12th
Lynden Landholm

January 19th
Charles McWilliams

January 26th
Roy Hannon

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

January 5th
Steve Horton
& *Cody Kelly*

January 12th
Jimmie King
& *Randy Smith*

January 19th
Richard Murray
& *Tim Barnes*

January 26th
Jim Reser
& *Dan Johnson*



WEEK ONE

Week one of Advent - Hope - was ushered in by Pastor Tim with the reading of Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7 and Romans 15: 12, 13. Pastor Tim lit the first candle.



WEEK TWO

Week two - Preparation - the Vinsonhaler family read John 3: 19-27 before lighting the second Advent candle.



WEEK THREE

What a blessing it was on week three to have the Wilson family read Luke 2: 8-20 and light the third Advent candle representing Joy.



WEEK FOUR

Week 4 - Adoration - brought Jenny Lewis to light the fourth Advent candle. Jenny read Luke 2:21-38.



WEEK FIVE

Christmas Eve, we were blessed with a special Christmas Eve Program - A Central Park Christmas Carol. The final candle, the Christ Candle was lit, along with the others by various "characters" as we celebrated Christmas Past, Present & Future.



Community Outreach

JANUARY NURSING HOME SCHEDULE

January 4th

Team #4

Bill White

Kim White

Veronica Hercules

Barb Gray

January 11th

Team #5

Charles Rightmeier

Rujira Rightmeier

Sherry Reser

Trish Greer

January 18th

No Team

This Week

January 25th

Team #2

Stan Seidel

Arlene Elliot

Pat Seidel

Colene Fischli



January at Doorstep



The Doorstep staff and volunteers would like to thank everyone who donated to Doorstep during the holiday season, and throughout 2019. Because of your generosity, and the Topeka community, we were able to provide food and gifts to our neighbors in need this past Christmas.

Along with the start of a new year also comes the cold weather and high utility bills. Please remember your neighbors who are struggling to pay those high bills when looking for a place to donate.

Doorstep offers utility assistance to individuals and families throughout the year as funds are available.

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 2nd! Just around the corner!

On this weekend we ask our member congregations to collect soup and crackers to help restock our food pantry. A can of soup can be a meal, and in the past, with a successful collection, we have had soup and crackers to last us into the summer months! Please remember Doorstep when you go grocery shopping, and pick up a few items for your neighbors in need.

Also, mark your calendars for the 17th Annual Operation Soup Line! This year it will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 from 11am – 2pm!

Doorstep is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm for donations.

We are located at 1119 SW 10th Street (10th & Buchanan).

We ask that you do not leave donations outside our building when we are not here. They often become a parking lot mess. Thank you!



Saturday, January 25th

fellowship TABLES

CPCF Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m. / Contact Eric Cook at ecook2@cox.net or (785) 220-2740 to sign up today!

MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT Rachel Huguenin - World Impact in Los Angeles



Teachers and middle school students dance at the Christmas program.



My discipleship group.



Mending relationships.

I've been teaching at Los Angeles Christian School (LACS) for the last three and a half years, and when I look back over this time, the overwhelming memory and emotion is joy. Following God's call to move from home and teach in a new community has not always been easy, but He has always been faithful and steady.

God has placed me here to teach middle school students and teaching them has truly been a blessing! They are honest, funny, awkward, thoughtful, and inquisitive. When they are excited about something their enthusiasm is contagious. Just recently, I taught 20 of my students how to swing dance and we performed in the Christmas program. Their enthusiasm for dancing brought me so much joy! Many of my students' families do not have the time or money to put their children in extra-curricular activities, like dance or sports. So when we do them at school, they are usually excited.

Pictured to the left was my discipleship group for the last three years. They have all graduated LACS middle school and are now attending high school. During middle school, I got to know all of them very well and still see them on occasion. However, I became close to one student in particular and I have been able to walk alongside her during what she could consider, "the worst years ever"! But isn't middle school the worst for everyone?

This student made poor choices during middle school. She was almost dismissed from our school on a couple of occasions. These choices also caused division among her and her friends. As she moved from middle school to high school, she experienced loss of friendships and broken relationships. Because I've seen her through these hard times, she reached out to me because she didn't want those friendships to end the way they did. She wanted to mend these friendships that had been so dear to her.

With lots of prayer and conversations, these students (to the left) have in fact mended their friendship. Of course, things may not be the same as they once were, but there is peace. I am thankful that God is in the business of restoring relationships and giving second chances.

Thank you for all your prayers and continuing support. Thanks for being my home comfort even from far away! Your love means so much!

Love,
Rachel Huguenin

Prayers & Notables

Praying for the Persecuted

VIETNAM: Adding Fuel to a Growing Fire

A Christian worker in Vietnam is doing all he can to add to the growing number of Hmong people who are turning to Christ. He has provided theological training to the Hmong for several years, considering it a wise investment in what God is already doing among them. Nearly a quarter of the estimated one million Hmong in Vietnam have become Christians. "If we add to the fire, the fire will burn faster," he said.

The Vietnamese government has long considered the minority Hmong traitors because they supported the U.S. during the Vietnam War, and its suspicions have been heightened by the increasing number of Hmong placing their faith in Christ. The government views Christianity as an American-based faith and accuses its adherents of being CIA spies.

While most Hmong live in rural areas, the Christian worker said he is also seeing more educated people turn to Christ in urban areas, like the large city where he lives. His own church has expanded to multiple congregations meeting in different parts of the city.

One church member is a university professor who had read the Bible years before and discounted it as "full of myths." But after a colleague invited him to church, he was convicted of his sinfulness and need for redemption. Today, the professor is a leader in the church.

Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs magazine



Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...

Topeka Presbyterian Manor Residents
Robert & Agnes Cox

McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident
Darlene McCarter

Operation Rolling Thunder

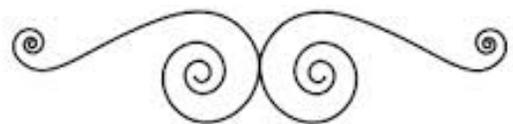
Please take some time on
Saturday, January 4th
and commit to prayer regarding:
**church, education, military, government,
entertainment, health, family and business.**

Prayer is Powerful

Join others to start off your Sunday morning in a great way! At 8:30, a group meets in the middle classroom off the Fellowship Hall 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.
Come join us!

Senior Pastor Prayers

All are invited to join the Elders on Tuesday, January 7th and Tuesday, January 21st, as they continue praying for the members and leaders of Central Park Christian Church. The prayer meetings are held in the CPCC Parlor at 6:30 p.m. Please join them!



Monthly Events at CPCG...



JANUARY

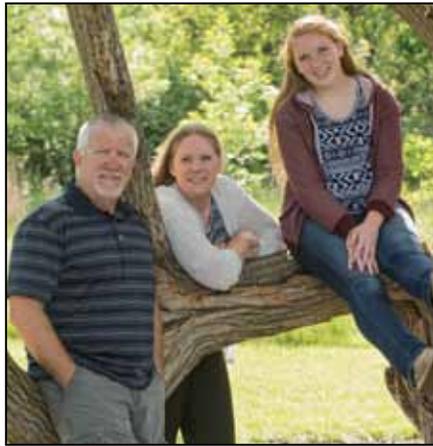


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day <u>NO ACTIVITIES</u> <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>	2 No Women's Study <i>Group will reconvene on January 9th</i> 6:00 PM Kids T.N.T.	3	4 Operation Rolling Thunder 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Deaconess Meeting
5 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group	6 4:00 PM After School Program	7 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T. 6:30 PM Elder Meeting/ Group Prayer - CPCG Parlor	8 6:00 PM Lite Dinner 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Tim's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	9 1:00 PM Women's Study <i>At the home of Allison Crow</i> 6:00 PM Kids T.N.T.	10	11 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
12 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group	13 4:00 PM After School Program	14 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.	15 6:00 PM Lite Dinner 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Tim's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	16 1:00 PM Women's Study <i>At the home of Allison Crow</i> 6:00 PM Kids T.N.T. 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl <i>At the home of Judi Cox</i>	17 	18 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
19 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group	20 M L King Day No After School Program	21 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T. 6:30 PM Elder Meeting/ Group Prayer - CPCG Parlor	22 6:00 PM Lite Dinner 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Tim's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	23 1:00 PM Women's Study <i>At the home of Allison Crow</i> 6:00 PM Kids T.N.T.	24	25 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Fellowship Tables
26 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group	27 4:00 PM After School Program	28 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.	29 6:00 PM Lite Dinner 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Tim's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	30 1:00 PM Women's Study <i>At the home of Allison Crow</i> 6:00 PM Kids T.N.T.	31	

CPCG Pastoral & Support Team



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**JOIN US
DURING
THE
WEEK**

Prayer Time - Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
Fellowship Time - Sundays at 10:15 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.
A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Kid's T.N.T. - Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

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