



CHRISTIAN
STUDY CENTER

2024 Annual Report

A home for the University of
Florida community, facilitating
encounters with a Christian vision
of life, learning, and hospitality.



112 NW 16th St. Gainesville, FL 32603



From the Director

Looking back at 2024, there's so much for which we can be grateful. The same year we celebrated its 20th anniversary, Pascal's Coffeehouse continued to establish itself as one of the most popular places for coffee and conversation in Gainesville. We've had excellent attendance across our core programs. We have launched a series of new initiatives, including the Walker Percy Fellows program and new faith and vocation seminars. We also grew our staff, adding a part time Director of Hospitality, Hospitality Assistant, and Admin Assistant, as well as our first full-time Director of Advancement. By many measures, God has been good and has seen fit to bless our labors in the university community.

But as I consider this past year, my overwhelming sense is not that we have arrived but that we have been preparing to grow and deepen our work so that we might faithfully respond to the opportunities with which God presents us in the coming years.

I hope you are encouraged by what you read in this report. And I pray that you will join us in the journey ahead as we continue to contend for Christian vision of life and learning, embody Christian hospitality, and encourage the integration of faith with every dimension of life.



Mike Sacasas
Executive Director

Mike has served as the CSC's Executive Director since 2022. From 2019 to 2022, he served as Associate Director for Educational Programming.

Staff

Anabel White
Director of Advancement

Sycora Perlin
Coffeehouse Manager

Vicki McGavran
Administrative Assistant

Rachel Grey
Communications and
Event Manager

Rachel Barrios
Director of Hospitality

Ruthie Jo Popp
Accountant

Christian Studies at the University of Florida

Celebrating UF

We reside across the street from the University of Florida as a community of faith and learning where we explore the riches of the Christian tradition, embody the spirit of Christian hospitality to the university, and equip students and faculty to integrate their faith with their life at UF and beyond.

Cultivating Conversation

We are a place where faculty, students, clergy, and community members come together to cultivate an on-going conversation about how the Christian tradition might contribute to the life of the university in ways that are both challenging and enriching.

Creating Community

We many never know all of the amazing things that take place at our tables. Whether it's to finish a dissertation, read a passage of scripture, or meet a great friend for the first time, people gather at our tables for many of life's meaningful moments.



Campus Snapshot

Ranked #4 Public University by
Forbes and #6 by U.S. News in 2024

- 35,000 Undergraduate Students
- 20,000 Graduate Students
- 32,000 Faculty & Staff

**Data from Fall 2022 Headcount-UF Institutional Profile*



Our Programs



**Pascal's
Coffeehouse**



Lectures



Classes



Reading Groups



Fellows Programs



**Faith and
Vocation Cohorts**

Loving God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength.

The life of faith involves the whole person, and the whole of our experience should be integrated by our love of God. However, we live in a society that encourages us to keep our minds and our work and our faith in separate compartments.

This isolation of faith from some of the most important parts of our lives has resulted in fractured identities and a culture that has lost its way. Situated within the community of one of the top-ranked state universities in the country, we humbly perceive a call to meet this situation with the rich resources of the Christian tradition, which offers an integrated view of the human person and a vision for cultural renewal.

More specifically, we have perceived a need among graduate students and faculty at the University of Florida to have a place to explore how faith in Christ shapes their life and their work. At the Christian Study Center, we are uniquely equipped to respond to this need and plan to do so by launching additional programs to equip graduate students and faculty to pursue a life of wholeness as they learn to unify their work, their relationships, and the rest of their life with their faith in Christ.

OUR SEVEN KEY AREAS OF INQUIRY



Self and Society



**Faith and
Vocation**



**Moral and Spiritual
Formation**



**Creation Care and
Sustainability**



**Higher Education
and the University**



**Creativity and
the Arts**



**Technology and
the Human**



Stories from Students

Caroline Morris

UF Sophomore, Barista Fellow

"Being part of the CSC has been the most impactful experience of my college life. It has prompted me to explore the Christian life and tradition in a way that I never have before, alongside a diverse group of individuals who each give new insight into every conversation. The CSC is a little pocket of warmth and joy in a bustling college town. This place has become my home, and the people within it, my family."

Sophie Miller

UF Junior, Walker Percy Fellow

"The Christian Study Center and Pascal's Coffeehouse have provided a home away from home on UF's campus. It is a place filled with people from all walks of life who love the Lord and are devoted to excellence and getting to know Him deeper. It is an intersection between academic pursuits and a theological hub of people who want to view their fields and areas of study through a Biblical lens. There is never a time when I'm not running into an old friend or grabbing a coffee with a new one enhancing the atmosphere and culture of family here at the CSC."





Highlights From the Program

Lectures



Spring Open House
Wholeness



Lee Vinsel
AI and Technology



Michael Wear
Faith and
Politics



Max McLean
The life and work
of C.S. Lewis



Fall Open House
Adventurous Thinking



Paul & Emily Pastor
Art and Creativity



Paul C.H. Lim
Faithful Flourishing



Tara Burton
Modernity and Magic

Ongoing Programs



Reading Groups
On Themes of
Creation Care,
Place, Discourse



Faith & Vocation
Medicine, Academia,
and STEM



Director's Class
The Sermon on the
Mount & The
Christian Mind



Fellows
Walker Percy Fellows
and Barista Fellows

September: Exploring Creativity and the Arts

At The Lecturn

“The Holy Hunger: Encountering Beauty as the Engine of Creation”

Public Lecture by Paul J. Pastor on September 12

“The Great Thanksgiving: Befriending Beauty in the Creative Life”

Public Lecture by Emily Pastor on September 13

"In visiting to speak, we quickly saw that the Study Center is truly a center – a center of generous hospitality, rich inquiry, deep conversation, and joyful community. It is easy to set such things as goals, but far more difficult to live them out. We will happily bear witness that these good things are happening here, and in abundance. It is beautiful and inspiring – an antidote to the disconnection and confusion of our times. During our visit, we thought often about the powerful strategic benefit of investing in students and the broader university community. We expect any thoughtful Christian would be inspired by what is happening here – and eager to find some meaningful way to pray for and support it."

-Paul Pastor



In The Gallery



Jenna Horner

Custom painting inspired by Sweetwater Wetlands Park



Emily Pastor

CAIRNS series, featured in our gallery



Reading Together: Wendell Berry's Port William Series

In 2024, Laurie Goddard and Hannah Garcia led reading groups on two of Wendell Berry's novels from the Port William Series. Through discussion of *Hannah Coulter* and *Jayber Crow*, participants were able to explore the themes of place, belonging, and community.



"I enjoyed diving into Wendell Berry's fictional community of Port William through both the *Hannah Coulter* and the *Jayber Crow* reading groups. These novels provided the background for many excellent discussions on belonging, friendship, faith, and building local community. Beyond mere discussions about these important Christian values, the reading groups also helped bring about friendship and community in my own life and have inspired me to approach the world with a renewed sense of wonder and gratitude."

Marlena Cheshire,

Hannah Coulter-Spring 2024 and *Jayber Crow*-Fall 2024

"Being part of the reading group at the Christian Study Center has been a truly enriching experience. The discussions around *Jayber Crow* and *Hannah Coulter* not only deepened my appreciation for Wendell Berry's writing but also fostered a strong sense of community. Laurie and Hannah's thoughtful leadership created a space for meaningful reflection and conversation. The atmosphere at the coffee house, with its warmth and welcoming vibe, made each gathering something to look forward to. Meeting with this group has been one of the highlights of my week, offering both thoughtful and spiritual nourishment. Can't wait for the next one!"

Steve Hedges

Hannah Coulter-Spring 2024 and *Jayber Crow*-Fall 2024



A Year of Celebration

Dr. Jay and Laura Lynch prayed for a place in the university community where people could be encouraged to think deeply about their life and their faith. They had experienced this at the Center for Christian Study at the University of Virginia, and they knew the blessings it could bring to the UF campus. So Jay and Laura gathered an eager group of people that were excited to pray and serve alongside them to turn this dream into reality, and in the fall of 2000 the Christian Study Center of Gainesville opened its doors to the UF community.

Since then, Jay and Laura have served our ministry daily through prayer, leadership, and service. Laura dedicated endless hours to raising funds for the Center and supported the staff in weekly meetings. Jay served faithfully as the President of the Board of Directors and found every way he could to celebrate the work being done at the Center and ensure its success. Jay and Laura also built a program titled “Medicine as a Christian Vocation” as a way to welcome dozens of medical students into their home every summer to consider the role of the physician as one that cares for the whole person.

Their leadership is a model of obedience, humility, and trust in God. Although this year marks their retirement from the Christian Study Center, our team will always be shaped by their example and are immensely grateful for the decades of care they have invested here.

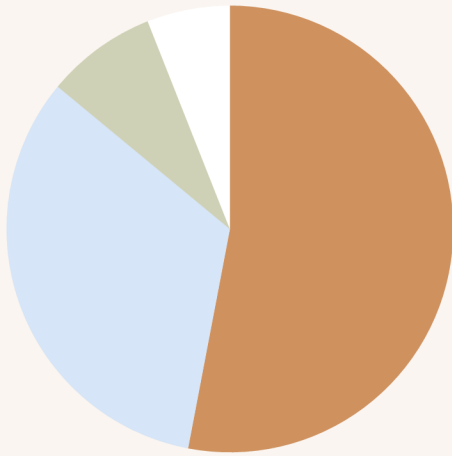


In October, we celebrated the twentieth birthday of our coffeehouse, Pascal's. This momentous occasion marked two full decades of hospitality to the neighborhood, growth in the craft of coffee, and investment in undergraduate baristas.

We celebrated the occasion with a birthday-themed coffee menu, a guest lecture, and the Barista Reunion. We had baristas from each year return for this special event that included a Latte Art Throwdown, Coffee Cupping, and banquet featuring a panel of six of the previous coffeehouse managers.

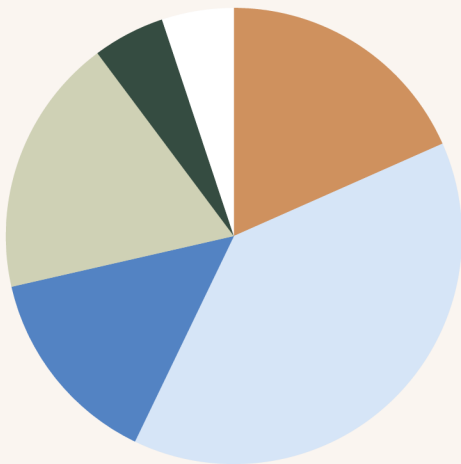


2024 Income



Individual Gifts	\$386,000
Pascal's Coffeehouse	\$246,000
Foundation Grants	\$55,000
Other	\$44,000
Total Income	\$731,000

2024 Expenses



Program	\$124,000
Pascal's Coffeehouse	\$262,000
Building & Operations	\$98,000
Administrative	\$124,000
Depreciation	\$37,000
Fundraising	\$38,000
Total Expenses	\$683,000

Financial Review

This year, we have been reminded of God's promises that he will guide our steps and remain with us. We have reflected on the many ways he has used our Director's Class, our coffeehouse, and our staff to bless the individuals in our community. At the start of the year, we began looking toward the future to consider how we might build up our ministry to serve even more of the UF community.

In 2024, we celebrated some remarkable wins in the organization, including:

1. Renovating our classroom
2. Multiplying our Faith and Vocation Cohorts
3. Launching the Walker Percy Fellows Program
4. Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Pascal's
5. Commissioning a custom painting
6. Refreshing our branding

In the next year, we plan to deepen our ministry and widen our embrace of care by growing our staff. With team members dedicated to lead new programs, we will be equipped to shepherd more individuals and make greater impact on the campus as a whole.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Psalm 127



We invite you to partner with us in this year of growth.

Share about our ministry with your friends and family to invite them to attend our programs or to help make them possible.

Pray for the people we serve and our impact on the university. Ask God to guide our steps as we grow.

Serve as a volunteer in our programs, facility, or hospitality. There are many ways to help!

Give to invest in Christian formation at UF. All of our educational programs and presence in the community are possible because of your generosity. Help us shepherd more Christian faithfulness in the UF community!

Online



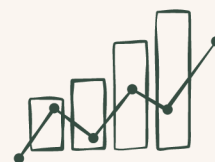
www.christianstudycenter.org/give

Check



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Gainesville, FL 32603

Planned Giving



Contact Anabel White
for more details



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