



The

VOICE

SPRING 2026

THE MAGAZINE OF KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



KCU Ascend

**CHRIST-CENTERED
ONLINE EDUCATION**

**KCU LAUNCHES
INNOVATIVE
ONLINE PLATFORM**

(see pages 7-8)

From the President



Dear Friends,

There is a lot of exciting activity at KCU! I hope you enjoy reading about what God is doing at your University. We are blessed to have enrollment up 15% from last spring, and fall enrollment was up 12% from the previous fall.

We are also pleased at the growth in the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry. There are 112 of our students seeking some type of credential from the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry (certificate, associate, bachelor's, double major, or master's degree). In addition, there are 43 students in the Worship Collective. Twenty-seven of them are preparing to lead worship but are enrolled in programs outside of the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry. If you add these students to the 112 students above, there are 139 students training for some type of ministry role at KCU! Please continue to pray that God will continue sending us students to be trained for ministry.

We are also pleased that the response to the "For the Good of the Cause" Capital Campaign has been so positive. To date, we have received over 95% of the \$7 million goal in gifts and pledges. This generous support allowed us to pay off our debt last spring, and it is opening the door for significant program expansion. We are excited to announce the launch of KCU Ascend, a greatly expanded online suite of programs including doctorates in the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry and in the Yancey School of Nursing!

You will also want to be involved in the events that we are hosting on campus and in the area. Be sure to plan to bring your youth group to Summer in the Son, come to the Summer Concert Series, and plan to attend the gala in the fall.

We are also hosting an event at Cane Ridge to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Cane Ridge Revival. You will not want to miss this day on the very grounds where the actual revival took place!

We hope to see you on campus soon!

And Go Knights,

Terry

Terry Allcorn

President, Kentucky Christian University



Capital Campaign Progress

The "For the Good of the Cause" Capital Campaign continues to move steadily toward its \$7 million goal. As of the end of January, more than \$6.5 million has been raised through cash gifts and pledges, reaching 95% of the target.

Thanks to the generosity of alumni, churches, and friends, Phase 1 focused on debt elimination and has been completed, strengthening the University's financial foundation. Phase 2, the expansion of the online program, is nearing completion, with an anticipated launch in August, opening up new opportunities for students beyond the campus.

Attention is now turning to Phase 3, which includes campus improvements. Plans are underway for upgrades to residence halls, enhanced IT security, and improvements to the library and cafeteria, all designed to serve current students better and prepare for future growth.

With the goal in sight, we are hopeful the full \$7 million will be reached by the close of the fiscal year on May 31. Supporters are encouraged to share the campaign with friends who may be interested in helping KCU continue its mission. Those who would like to learn more or explore giving opportunities are invited to contact the Office of Community Outreach at dkstamper@kcu.edu or 606-474-3282.



MISSION MINDED

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Hosted by **Kentucky Christian University & Business Cultivation Foundation**

Leadership is not just about a title. It is about influence. It is about making a difference where you are planted. On April 15, 2026, Kentucky Christian University will host the Mission Minded Leadership Conference. This one-day event is designed to encourage, equip, and challenge leaders from business, education, athletics, ministry, and our local communities.

The purpose of this conference is simple. We want to help people lead with purpose. Every leader faces pressure. Every leader makes hard decisions. Many leaders feel tired and stretched thin. This conference is a chance to step away from the daily routine and refocus on what truly matters. It is a day to grow personally and professionally.

The Mission Minded Leadership Conference is rooted in a Christian worldview. At Kentucky Christian University, we believe strong leadership is built on Christ-centered values, character, and integrity. At the same time, this conference is for anyone who wants to grow. The leadership principles shared will apply to believers and non-believers alike. The focus will be on practical teaching that can be used right away in real life.

This year, we will welcome experienced and respected speakers who lead in their fields. They will share lessons on building strong teams, developing a healthy culture, overcoming adversity, and leading with confidence. Our speakers are not just talking about theory. They bring real-world experience and stories that connect.

There will also be time to connect with other leaders from across the region. Networking and shared conversations often lead to new partnerships and fresh ideas. Many who attend leave encouraged and energized, ready to go back and lead better in their own settings.

Leadership matters. When leaders grow, organizations grow. When organizations grow, communities become stronger. Kentucky Christian University is honored to host this event and invest in leaders who want to make a positive impact.

If you are ready to grow as a leader and lead with greater purpose, we invite you to join us on April 15, 2026 for the Mission Minded Leadership Conference.

You can find more information and register at www.kcu.edu/mission-minded-leadership-conference/

**SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE
YOUR TICKETS TODAY**





SUMMER IN THE SON INVITES YOU TO STEP AWAY FROM THE NOISE...

JULY 12-17

BY DR. JOANNA YATES & JAKE RATLIFF



Learning to Hear God in the Stillness

Life today is loud. From buzzing phones and packed schedules to the overwhelming urge to fit in and compare ourselves to others, society is telling us who we should be and what we should be pursuing. There is constant pressure and stress. The noise never seems to stop. In the middle of the noise and chaos, how are we supposed to develop a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God? How do we quiet the noise in order to have a calmer, clearer voice calling us forward? This year, Summer in the Son at Kentucky Christian University is inviting you to step away from the chaos and discover something different. Our 2026 theme, “Noise,” explores how the world constantly competes for our attention, to transform our identity, and how Christ calls us to something that is deeper, steadier, and more meaningful.

If we are being honest with ourselves, much of what fills our days is just noise. Expectations, comparisons, distractions, and stress all clamor for control of our minds, our thoughts, and our lives. Yet, throughout Scripture, God consistently speaks not through chaos, but rather through stillness, presence, and relationship. Summer in the Son will focus on how to recognize that truth and learn how to block out the distractions that drown out God’s voice. While we can’t pause relationships like school, family, sports, or work, we can learn how to invite Christ into every part of our lives, allowing Him to bring peace and purpose into the middle of our busyness.

What to Expect at Summer in the Son 2026

This year, Summer in the Son challenges youth to ask an important question: What is God calling you to do? From July 12-17, youth will gather on the campus of Kentucky Christian University to explore that question together. For just \$190 per student, attendees will experience powerful morning and evening main sessions led by the KCU Worship Collective, with engaging lessons being taught by Justin Butler, Senior Pastor at Highland Christian Church, Maysville, KY, and special guests.

Creativity and expression will also take center stage as KCU alumnus Cody Sabol shares his passion and art throughout the week, reminding students that calling comes in many forms. In addition, we are thrilled to host special concerts featuring Patrick Mayberry, Natalie Layne, and KCU’s own Chris McQuiston, with outside ticket sales available for the concerts.

Beyond main sessions, students will participate in KCU’s well-loved workshops led by faculty, staff, and alumni. These sessions are designed to encourage growth, spark curiosity, and build faith in practical ways. Housing and meals are provided on campus, creating a space for connection, rest, and meaningful community.



SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION
AND TO REGISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS



SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS



Summer Concert Series Artists Announced

by Danny Stamper, Director of Community Outreach

Kentucky Christian University is thrilled to announce the lineup for this year's Summer Concert Series at Nash Chapel. This marks the third year KCU has hosted the series.

The series opens on **Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m.** with **Dailey & Vincent**, bringing their signature blend of bluegrass and gospel music to campus. Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent are seasoned bluegrass

veterans with decades of experience performing alongside legends such as Doyle Lawson and Ricky Skaggs. Their rendition of "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" reached No. 1 on the Prime Cuts of Bluegrass chart, inspiring them to perform together regularly. Both are members of the Grand Ole Opry and host a weekly show on RFD television, delivering music that is both inspiring and deeply rooted in tradition.

The series continues on **Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m.** with **Patrick Mayberry and Natalie Layne**, as part of Summer in the Son. Patrick Mayberry is a singer, songwriter, and worship leader whose Billboard-charting songs, including "Lead On Good Shepherd" and "Holy Spirit Come," encourage audiences to connect with God through heartfelt worship. Natalie Layne is a soulful singer and pianist whose joyful, piano-driven music has led to national touring with artists like Chris Tomlin and Jeremy Camp, bringing energy and warmth to every performance.

Tickets for both concerts are available at www.kcu.edu/concerts or by scanning the QR code above. These concerts offer unforgettable evenings of music, worship, and community.

A Knight to Remember Gala 2026

by Danny Stamper, Director of Community Outreach

The 2025 **Knight to Remember Gala** was truly a night to remember! The event sold out well in advance as **Mark Lowry and Friends** entertained guests with their signature blend of humor, storytelling, and uplifting music.

The Gala's impact on KCU is tremendous. It provides significant support for student scholarships, helping students pursue their education while focusing on learning, growth, and service. The evening also highlights the generosity and dedication of KCU supporters, showing just how much can be accomplished when a community comes together for a shared mission.

Looking ahead, KCU is excited to announce **Kirk Cameron** as the featured guest for the **2026 Knight to Remember Gala**, set for **Saturday, November 7**. Cameron, an actor, author, and speaker, is best known for his role on television's *Growing Pains* and for inspiring audiences with faith-based messages. Tickets go on sale **July 15** and can be purchased at www.kcu.edu/gala or by scanning the QR code.

Now entering its third year, the Knight to Remember Gala remains a signature event for the University, celebrating KCU's accomplishments while raising vital funds for students.



Each year, it serves as a reminder of the power of community and the lasting difference we can make together in the lives of students and the future of the University.

Chapel Renovations

by Danny Stamper, Director of Community Outreach

Recent upgrades to Nash Chapel have significantly enhanced both the worship experience and the learning environment for our students. A new laser projector now delivers brighter, clearer images, and the back wall has been transformed into a 33x45-foot projection screen, creating a more engaging and immersive setting for services and campus events.

New lighting trusses were installed to support spotlights, LED beam fixtures, and moveable wash lights, giving the chapel greater flexibility in presentation and design. Computer systems were also upgraded to better support our livestream capabilities, allowing

students to gain practical experience in digital ministry and media production. New keyboards were also added for use in music classes.

For students, especially those preparing for careers in worship ministry, these upgrades provide valuable, hands-on experience with the kind of technology they will use in churches and ministry settings after graduation.

We are grateful to our maintenance department for their skill and dedication in completing this project. Funding was made possible through a generous grant from Rise Christian Church and through the faithful support of our alumni and friends.



Top: Students lead worship in Nash Chapel following recent upgrades, including a new laser projector and enhanced lighting system that create a more immersive environment for chapel services and campus events.

Left: Members of Kentucky Christian University's maintenance team install new lighting trusses in Nash Chapel as part of recent upgrades designed to enhance worship services, campus events, and student learning.

Strengthening the Future of Nursing:

KCU Receives \$124,816 Grant for Simulation Lab

Kentucky Christian University has received a \$124,816 grant from the Sisters of Notre Dame Eastern Kentucky Foundation and UK St. Claire HealthCare to enhance its Wise Clinical Simulation Lab. The funding will provide the lab's third high-fidelity simulator, a specialized labor and delivery manikin designed to strengthen maternal-child nursing education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The award is part of the Wise Clinical Simulation Lab Enhancement Project, which will add a total of four advanced simulation manikins. These tools allow nursing students to practice complex clinical skills in a realistic but controlled setting before stepping into hospitals and clinics.

High-fidelity simulators respond like real patients, helping students build confidence, sharpen critical thinking, and learn how to make sound decisions as part of a healthcare team. The new manikin will expand training in women's health, obstetrics, newborn care, and maternal emergencies, areas that are increasingly vital across the region.

"...the addition strengthens the program by better connecting classroom learning with hands-on clinical preparation."

- DR. CAROL BRICKEY

Dr. Carol Brickey, Dean of the KCU Yancey School of Nursing, said the addition strengthens the program by better connecting classroom learning with hands-on clinical preparation. She noted that simulation has become central to modern nursing education as healthcare systems expect graduates to be practice-ready from day one.

by Danny Stamper, Director of Community Outreach

Doctoral Milestones at KCU

by Calvin Lindell, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Kentucky Christian University celebrates two significant faculty accomplishments that reflect its deep commitment to academic excellence and Christ-centered leadership.

Dr. Joanna Yates recently earned the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership from the University of the Cumberlands.

Her dissertation, “Exploring Experiences and Perspectives on How to Support Underprepared College Students to Improve Student Success and Retention Rates,” examines strategies to strengthen student achievement and persistence in higher education.

Her research is especially valuable to Kentucky Christian University as it continues to foster student growth, retention, and persistence to graduation.

Dr. Yates previously earned a master’s degree as a reading and writing specialist and has additional graduate work in school counseling. She spent 12 years teaching at the elementary level before joining KCU.

Currently, she serves as Assistant Professor of Reading, teaching reading lab courses and contributing additionally to the

Counseling/Psychology and Education programs.

Dr. Jason McGlone also recently earned the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership from the University of the Cumberlands. His dissertation, “Faculty Digital Leadership: A Qualitative Study in Online Teaching and Engagement Practices,” explores effective faculty engagement strategies in online learning environments—research that is both timely and mission-aligned.

Since July 2024, Dr. McGlone has served as Dean of the Keeran School of Education at Kentucky Christian University. He brings 27 years of experience in public education, including six years as a classroom teacher, two years as an assistant principal, and 19 years as principal of Prichard Elementary School in Grayson.

In addition to his academic leadership, he serves as Associate Preaching Minister at Gregoryville Christian Church, modeling the integration of faith, scholarship, and service.

These achievements highlight Kentucky Christian University’s continued investment in faculty scholarship, instructional excellence, and servant leadership.



KCU Faculty Member Brittany Bryant Awarded Appalachian College Association Summer Fellowship

by Calvin Lindell, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Kentucky Christian University proudly recognizes Assistant Professor Brittany Bryant as a recipient of a 2025–2026 Faculty Fellowship from the Appalachian College Association (ACA), supporting her ongoing doctoral research and scholarly development. The ACA Faculty Fellowship Program is the organization’s longest-running initiative and serves 35 member institutions across the Appalachian region.

For the 2025–2026 academic year, 31 fellowships were awarded, representing 23 member institutions. Of these awards, 28 support post-doctoral research projects, while only 3 fellowships—including Bryant’s—were granted as pre-doctoral awards to assist faculty completing terminal degrees.

Bryant received a Summer Research Fellowship to advance her dissertation titled, “A Qualitative Exploration to Identify Which Andragogical Concepts in Online Undergraduate Course Design and Institutional Practices Positively Influence Student Engagement and Achievement in Colleges in the Appalachian College Association.” Her research seeks to strengthen online learning practices and better meet the needs of KCU students as the University continues expanding its online academic presence. Assistant Professor Dr. Joanna Yates will assist with data collection, while Assistant Professor Ryan Jarrell will support data analysis.

Bryant has 12 years of teaching experience, including 3 years at KCU, where she teaches English Composition and Literature, as well as Introduction to KCU courses. She is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at the University of the Cumberlands and anticipates graduating in 2026. Brittany and her husband, Lesley Bryant, a fellow KCU employee, have been married since 2011 and are raising four children together.

Dr. JOANNA YATES



Dr. JASON MCGLONE





KCU Ascend
CHRIST-CENTERED ONLINE EDUCATION

What is KCU Ascend?

KCU Ascend is Kentucky Christian University's Christ-centered online education platform. KCU Ascend allows students to earn undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees from anywhere while remaining rooted in biblical truth, academic excellence, and career preparation. At KCU Ascend, you don't just complete a degree. You rise above and prepare to serve.

Doctor of Arts in Theological Leadership

by Dr. Rob Shoaff, Dean of the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry

The Keeran School of Bible and Ministry is excited to announce a first ever for KCU, Doctor of Arts in Theological Leadership (DATL) which will launch in the Fall of 2026. As a new academic program of Kentucky Christian University, the DATL will seek to further develop technical leadership competency in order to cultivate an approach to adaptive leadership, strategic thinking, and ethical decision-making that can address emerging challenges being faced by individuals in executive-level roles in congregations, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, local communities and beyond.

The last decade, and especially the past five years, have witnessed seismic shifts in culture, ranging from a global pandemic to increasing political instability, to decline in religious affiliation, and has resulted in the proliferation of adaptive challenges that require complex and innovative solutions. Leaders who will provide effective leadership in the current moment and beyond must bring their training and experience to bear in a time when one can no longer assume that trusted answers and solutions will continue to be effective.

The Doctor of Arts in Theological Leadership will equip individuals who serve, or desire to serve, in leadership positions. The advanced skills and knowledge gained through this program have the potential to translate into higher-earning potential and better job prospects, and enable leaders to drive positive change in Christian organizations and communities at large.

As such potential exists, KCU DATL graduates become catalysts for change,

influencing decisions and leading systems change for Kingdom purposes in congregations, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, and in the local community. Furthermore, with a pedagogical component embedded into the Leadership Core coursework, the DATL will prepare individuals for academic careers, further allowing doctoral recipients to contribute to the body of knowledge in disciplines related to leadership and ministry.

The program is designed to bridge the gap between leadership theory and practice, equipping Christian leaders with the skills to apply their knowledge and expertise in real-world settings. The research skills developed in this DATL can be used in markets that analyze problems, identify solutions, and implement effective leadership strategies. With these practical skills in place, doctoral recipients can assess and implement change and development initiatives, as well as reform existing organizational, institutional, and social efforts.

A DATL from KCU is unique in that it seeks to foster and promote the academic and personal development of Christian leaders that seem to be in high demand. The DATL stands out from other leadership programs at other institutions in that it would achieve effective, quality training and engagement in a convenient online format, at a fair and reasonable price-point for candidates seeking to engage in leadership from a Christian worldview.

The Association for Biblical Higher Education will visit campus in April for accreditation approval.

Executive Masters in Business Administration

by Todd Maynard, Dean of the School of Business and Leadership

The Executive MBA (EMBA) is a 30-hour graduate degree designed to develop strong, confident leaders. While the program is a great fit for working professionals, it is not limited to them. It is open to anyone who has completed a bachelor's degree and is ready to grow in leadership, strategy, and business knowledge.

This program is built to be practical and focused. Courses are structured to connect real-world situations with strong business foundations. Students study leadership, strategic planning, finance, organizational culture, ethics, and decision-making. The goal is simple—equip students to lead well in any setting.

Our EMBA is designed with flexibility in mind. Many students balance work, family, and other responsibilities, but the program is also a strong option for recent graduates who want to accelerate their career path. The 30-hour format allows students to complete the degree efficiently, while still gaining meaningful depth.

One of the strengths of the Executive MBA at KCU is its focus on purpose-driven leadership. We believe leadership is more than titles and positions. It is about influence, integrity, and making a positive impact. Faculty members invest in students and create an environment where growth happens both professionally and personally.

Graduates leave prepared to lead teams, improve organizations, and step into higher levels of responsibility in business, nonprofit, healthcare, education, and ministry settings.

If you are ready to strengthen your leadership ability and expand your opportunities, the Executive MBA at Kentucky Christian University is a strong next step.

The EMBA will launch in August 2026 pending state and accreditation approval.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

by Dr. Carol Brickey, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

The Yancey School of Nursing (YSN) is excited to announce the launch of a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in the fall of 2026! The health care landscape is evolving more rapidly than ever before. The complexities of patients' needs, advancing technology, and the emphasis on increasing efficiency in workflows are reshaping the industry. The role of advanced practice nurses and their educational preparation must also evolve to meet these new challenges.

Offering a DNP program has been a long-standing goal of the Yancey School of Nursing extending back to the development and launch of the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program in 2015. The evolution of health care, the University's strategic investment in expanding distance education through KCU ASCEND, and the success of the MSN program makes this the perfect time to extend our nursing degree offerings to the doctorate level!

Grounded in the KCU mission, the Great Commission, and the scriptural teachings of Acts 1:8, the YSN faculty have prayerfully and intentionally designed a Christ-centered, fully online DNP program that will prepare advanced practice nurses to rise to the highest level of clinical expertise and health care leadership. Consistent with our other distance learning nursing

degrees, the DNP program will offer the flexibility students need to balance their professional and personal commitments.

Our MSN FNP program will continue to focus on the fundamentals of advanced practice in direct-care roles. The DNP program will expand this knowledge by preparing graduates to view the health care environment at the systems-level through the lens of continuous improvement initiatives. The curriculum focuses on practical, translational scholarship that prepares the DNP to design actionable, real-world solutions to clinical problems that will enhance patient outcomes, transform care, and influence health policy.

A study of the Doctrinal Pillars of Kingdom Practitioners developed by YSN faculty is intentionally integrated throughout the DNP curriculum. This study is designed to deepen faith and encourage graduates to embrace their calling with compassion, develop a heart for servant leadership, provide equitable care with mercy and grace, and be commissioned to go into all the world using nursing as their ministry.

For more information on the DNP program, please visit www.kcu.edu/academics-ascend or contact YSN directly at nursing@kcu.edu!

Online Bachelor of Bible and Ministry

by Dr. Rob O'Lynn, Associate Professor of Preaching and Ministry

Ministry preparation, like medicine or education, is best accomplished in an established context like a local congregation, non-profit agency or missionary domain. This is why our residential ministry programs require a fieldwork experience alongside our rigorous Christ-centered, biblically-based curriculum. Yet, what if ministers could train for ministry while actively engaged in local ministry?

The idea of offering ministry training online is not new. I completed my Master of Divinity in 2007 through a program that was largely online and have been teaching online ministry courses since 2010. I believe deeply in online ministry education. Think about it: what better way to train someone for youth ministry than completing their ministry education while they are actively serving in local ministry? One of the greatest strengths of online ministry education is its direct and immediate impact on the ministry context.

The honest truth is that not everyone can attend a residential program. There are men and women called to ministry all over the world who are desperately seeking the necessary training for ministry, yet cannot just move to Grayson. Therefore, KCU is coming to them—maybe to you.

This fall, KCU will launch a fully online version of our undergraduate degree in Bible and ministry! It will include Bible, ministry, and theology courses taught by faculty who have decades of combined ministry experience and will offer emphases in preaching and youth ministry. The fieldwork component will be completed through a residency model, which will connect experienced mentors with our online students. Also, if you are in one of our certificate programs, those courses can count toward this degree.

If you are called to ministry and not able to attend a residential program (or know someone), I invite you to enroll today in this incredible program!

Masters of Arts in Teaching

by Dr. Jason McGlone, Dean of the Keeran School of Education

Kentucky Christian University's Keeran School of Education is preparing to launch its new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program in August 2026, pending state and accreditation approval, offering a flexible, online pathway for adults who feel called to teach. Designed for career changers and recent graduates, the program provides a practical route to both a master's degree and initial teacher certification in Kentucky.

The MAT is offered in an asynchronous online format with 8-week courses, making it especially attractive for working adults. Depending on the certification pathway, students complete 30–57 credit hours and can typically finish in 18 to 30 months while taking one to two courses per term.

One of the program's strongest features is its job-embedded Option 6 pathway, which allows candidates to teach full-time on a provisional certificate while completing graduate coursework and supervised clinical experiences. The program also emphasizes faith-integrated teacher preparation, weaving Christian worldview, servant leadership, and ethical practice throughout coursework, mentoring, and clinical supervision.

Coursework focuses on key areas such as foundations of education, instructional strategies, assessment and data use, and supervised practicum experiences. Graduates will be prepared to design standards-based instruction, support diverse learners, use assessment data effectively, and demonstrate ethical and professional teaching practice. The MAT supports certification in several high-need areas, including elementary education, middle grades, special education, health and physical education, and secondary social studies.



Left: Cole Corey celebrates with his family after performing “Hard Fought Hallelujah” at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena.

Right: Cole joins 115 members of The Choir Room on stage with Brandon Lake and Jelly Roll during the Dove Awards attended by more than 20,000 people.

A Calling Amplified: Cole Corey’s Journey of Worship, Mentorship, and Faith

by Dr. Joanna Yates, Assistant Professor of Reading

For worship ministry student Cole Corey, stepping onto the stage at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena was more than a musical milestone, it was a sacred moment years in the making. Surrounded by more than 20,000 worshipers and performing alongside renowned artists Jon Batiste, Jelly Roll, and Brandon Lake, Cole experienced what he describes as the most beautiful act of worship he has ever witnessed.

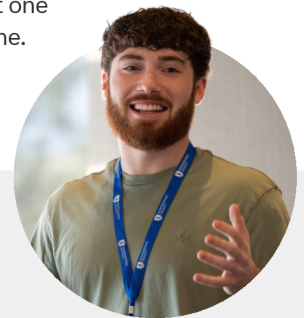
The opportunity came through Corey Earnst, Campus Minister at Mountain Mission School in Grundy, Virginia, whose mentorship has played a formative role in Cole’s life since Cole arrived at the school in 2022. While Earnst was unable to attend the event himself, he encouraged

Cole to pursue the opportunity through The Choir Room, believing in his passion and calling. Though the referral did not guarantee participation, Cole applied and was selected, an outcome he credits fully to God’s providence.

Cole’s mentorship under Earnst extended far beyond musical development. While learning how to lead from a platform, Cole was also challenged to grow spiritually, grounding his gifts in humility, devotion, and a clear focus on glorifying God. That foundation proved essential when performing before such a massive audience. What might have felt overwhelming instead became a powerful, unified worship experience.

In early October, Cole traveled to Nashville for rehearsals and the performance, which closed the event. Alongside 115 members of The Choir Room, he performed “Hard Fought Hallelujah,” blending professional excellence with deep spiritual meaning.

For Cole, the experience reaffirmed his calling—not just to music, but to worship ministry in all its forms. Known for his work ethic, humility, and faith, Cole’s journey reflects how mentorship, obedience, and dedication can open doors far beyond what one might imagine.



Schindler Attends Next Gen Preacher Search

by Dr. Rob O’Lynn, Associate Professor of Preaching and Ministry

Aaron Schindler, a junior Bible and Ministry major with an emphasis in preaching, joined an illustrious group in February after being selected to participate in the Next Gen Preacher Search (NGPS). Hosted by Pepperdine University’s Youth Leadership Initiative and directed by Jeff Walling, the NGPS encourages young Christians (ages 16–22) who feel called to preach to further develop their passion for preaching that is rooted in both clear exposition of Scripture and creative communication.

Aaron reflected on the experience, saying, “Taking part in the Next Gen Preacher Search was a great experience for my future ministry. It was an unexpected blessing that turned out to be one of the most memorable experiences of my life so far. One of the best parts of the event was getting to share fellowship with so many other Christian brothers and sisters who all share the love of preaching and teaching God’s Word. It was especially beautiful to

see the diversity of God’s children, as I got the privilege of meeting people from all over the U.S., and hearing their stories and perspectives on faith. Additionally, the workshops at the event allowed me to greatly improve how I sculpt my lessons and sermons for a long time to come. This event was a great way to hone my gifts and talents as well as help propel me into a loving community of fellow preachers and teachers for a long ministry to come.”

The search began with an open invitation for young preachers to submit sermon videos for review. From those submissions, 20 semifinalists were selected to attend a two-day workshop in Malibu, California, on Pepperdine’s campus. There, participants were paired with experienced preachers who served as instructors and mentors. Aaron is the third KCU student selected as a semifinalist, following participants from the University in 2017 and 2018.

Kentucky Christian University Celebrates Legendary Coach Ron Arnett with Hall of Fame Induction

by Chad Vanderhoof, Compliance & Game Day Operations Assistant


Kentucky Christian University was proud to welcome home one of the most accomplished figures in collegiate athletics as legendary women's basketball coach Ron Arnett was inducted into the Kentucky Christian University Knights Hall of Fame on Saturday, January 31, during halftime of the women's basketball game.

President Terry Allcorn and Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletic Director David Manning announced the induction, recognizing a career that helped define excellence at Kentucky Christian University and across the NCCAA.

Over 26 seasons leading the Lady Knights, Coach Arnett built one of the most dominant programs in collegiate

basketball history. His 646 career victories stand as the most in NCCAA history, a remarkable achievement that reflects sustained excellence, leadership, and vision. Under his guidance, Kentucky Christian University captured multiple NCCAA Midwest Regional Championships, advanced to the NCCAA Division II National Tournament Final Four every season, and secured an extraordinary 14 National Championships.

Coach Arnett's legacy extends far beyond championships and banners. He developed student-athletes of the highest caliber, mentoring 12 Players of the Year, 40 First-Team All-Americans, and 45 Scholar-Athletes, setting the standard of excellence on the court, in the classroom, and in life.



Coach Ron Arnett holds his Knights Hall of Fame induction plaque as former players and family surround him during the January 31 induction ceremony at Kentucky Christian University.

A seven-time NCCAA Coach of the Year and 2012 NCCAA Hall of Fame inductee, Coach Arnett was also a trusted leader within the national coaching community. His service on the NCCAA Women's Basketball Board and his mentorship of coaches across the country further cemented his impact on the game.

At the heart of Coach Arnett's success was an unwavering commitment to faith, character, and relationships. He challenged his teams to compete with purpose, to love the Lord, and to serve others — creating a culture that continues to shape lives long after the final buzzer.

KCU Athletics Recognizes Students with All-Academic Honors

Kentucky Christian University Athletics would like to recognize the following students for achieving All-Academic Honors in the River States Conference:

- Jeremy Alig
- Gage Bowling
- Andrew Butler
- Alexander Deems
- Jesse Heiser
- Louvensky Loudior
- Samuel Miller
- Taylor Allen
- Sofia Friend
- Ellaina Hutchinson
- Brandalyn Lewis
- Aubrey Logan
- Shianne Manley
- Sallie Robbins
- Samuel Van Huss
- Drew Napier
- Xarek Sarakatsannis
- D'Angelo Stoxstill
- Mikyra Caudill
- Aubrey Daulton
- Chloe Dunn
- Kaylee Gibson
- Hannah Kidd
- Madilyn Meade
- Kelsee Simpson
- Bell Sparks



River States Conference Requirements:

- Post a 3.25 cumulative grade point average as listed on the eligibility certificate for their current term of attendance/participation.
- Have completed not less than two semesters of attendance at their conference institution immediately prior to the most recent term of attendance/participation.
- Competed in a conference-sponsored sport during the season of submission, which means they record a season of eligibility as defined by the NAIA.



Left: Dr. Rob Shoaff, Dean of the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry, speaks with local minister Barry Long before the kick-off dinner.

Right: KCU Campus Minister Jake Ratliff shares about campus ministry and discipleship opportunities during the meeting.



PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

Beginning in Our Judea: Ministers Gather for Acts 1:8 Initiative

by John Penrose, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing

On the evening of February 3rd, in the midst of heavy snow and winter weather, ten ministers and youth ministers from Restoration Movement churches across Carter, Lewis, and Boyd counties gathered at Kentucky Christian University for a special Acts 1:8 Recruitment Plan Kick-Off Dinner. Their presence, despite the weather, was a powerful reminder of the shared commitment between KCU and our local churches.

The evening began with a warm welcome from KCU President Dr. Terry Allcorn, who greeted the pastors, expressed gratitude for their partnership in ministry, and

blessed the meal. The spirit in the room reflected the heart of the Acts 1:8 framework, beginning in our “Judea” by strengthening relationships with the churches closest to us.

Jeremy Miller, KCU Reach Co-Director, introduced KCU Reach, highlighting how the program equips KCU students to serve in local congregations through ministry placements, service opportunities, and hands-on leadership development. Ministers were encouraged to view KCU not only as a university, but as a ministry partner ready to send students into their churches to serve and grow.

Jake Ratliff, KCU Campus Minister, shared about the many faith-building opportunities available to students, including chapel, life groups, discipleship pathways, and campus ministry leadership. He emphasized KCU’s commitment to developing students spiritually as well as academically.

Admissions Counselor Braden Long concluded the evening with a presentation of the new Faith and Family College Planning Guide, demonstrating how ministers can use this resource to walk alongside families as they plan for college while reinforcing the value of Christ-centered higher education.

The evening marked a meaningful first step in strengthening partnerships and advancing the Acts 1:8 recruitment vision, beginning right here at home.

KCU Board Recognized for Excellence in Governance

by Vicky Madden, Director of Assessment

Kentucky Christian University was presented with the Excellence in Board Governance Certification by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) on February 13, 2026, during the ABHE Annual Meeting. The recognition honors KCU’s engagement in the Board Governance Training Program and the Board’s completion of five Strategic Action Steps for continued development.

In the fall of 2024, four members of the KCU Board of Trustees participated in a one-day virtual governance training and later attended ABHE’s 2025 Annual Meeting for additional in-person sessions. Throughout 2025, the Board incorporated this learning into its regular work, engaging in development efforts designed to strengthen governance practices and clarify strategic priorities.



These efforts culminated in a three-hour board development training led by Dr. Jim Barnes during the Fall 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. The session provided time to examine governance roles, responsibilities, and overall effectiveness.

“This recognition reflects the seriousness with which our trustees approach their responsibility,” said President Allcorn. “Strong governance is essential to a strong institution, and I am grateful for a Board committed to continual growth in service of Christ and the mission of Kentucky Christian University.”



Alumni Spotlight – Ellie Otake

by Vicky Madden, Director of Assessment

When Kentucky Christian University celebrates alumni faithfulness, Eleanor “Ellie” Otake stands as a beautiful example. A 1962 graduate of then Kentucky Christian College, Ellie has spent her life pouring into others with quiet consistency and humble service.

Living and serving in Hawaii, Ellie devoted 50 years to Sunset Beach Christian School as a teacher and administrator, investing in generations of students from 1962 to 2012.

Throughout her life, she has remained deeply connected to the church, reflecting a steady commitment to serving wherever she is needed.

In January, KCU had the privilege of issuing a Proclamation of Appreciation in honor of Ellie’s 90th birthday. Those who know her speak of her kindness and gentle spirit. Her life reminds us that the most enduring influence is often the quiet, faithful kind.

Ellie’s Proclamation of Appreciation was presented by fellow alum, Dee Yoshimura ('84)



Honoring Dr. Mitch Marshall: For the Good of the Cause

In 1984, Dr. Mitch Marshall agreed to teach biology for one term at then Kentucky Christian College. What began as a one-semester commitment became 42 years of faithful service to Kentucky Christian University.

When enrollment unexpectedly surged that first semester, Dr. Marshall adjusted without hesitation, balancing early morning lectures and evening labs while maintaining a dental practice. Within a few years, he made the decision to leave dentistry and devote himself fully to teaching. That decision would shape generations of KCU students.

Over four decades, Dr. Marshall taught 17 different courses and played a significant role in strengthening academic programs, including contributions to teacher education, nursing, and biology/pre-professional pathways. Yet those who know him best would say his greatest impact was not in course development, but through his relationships with the students.

Reflecting on his journey, Dr. Marshall shared, “I soon understood the meaning behind ‘For the Good of the Cause.’ I too had fallen in love with the University, the school’s mission, the students and faculty. After starting with a one-semester commitment in 1984, 42 years later I

have decided to retire. I will always cherish the memories and relationships God and KCU have blessed me with through this journey.”

President Allcorn commented, “I am constantly amazed at the caliber of men and women God calls to teach and serve at KCU. Dr. Marshall was recognized as the outstanding senior of his class in dental school and was even recruited to return to teach there shortly after he started at KCU. I actually had the honor of being in that first class that he taught for KCU. Dr. Marshall was a blessing to me then and has been an encourager to me since I returned as president.”

Dr. Marshall’s legacy is written in the lives of those he taught, mentored, and encouraged. We are deeply grateful for his steady devotion and the example he has set for our community.

Dr. MITCH MARSHALL



A Legacy of Service: Celebrating Greg Richardson’s Retirement

by Daniel White, Vice President of Business Operations

After more than three decades of dedicated service, Kentucky Christian University bids a bittersweet farewell to a cornerstone of its technical infrastructure: Greg Richardson. Since August of 1994, Greg has been the quiet engine behind the scenes, ensuring the University’s digital heartbeat remained steady through eras of immense technological change.

Greg began his journey at KCU as a Systems Programmer for the University’s administrative systems. To put his tenure into perspective, he joined the team during the dawn of the public internet, navigating the transition from legacy systems to the complex, interconnected campus of 2026.

When reflecting on his 31-year career, Greg noted that the road wasn’t always easy. He identified his greatest challenge as maintaining and supporting campus technology and personnel with limited resources. In an industry where “doing more with less” is a constant, Greg’s ingenuity and

persistence ensured that KCU students and faculty always had the tools they needed to succeed.

However, for Greg, the rewards far outweighed the hurdles. When asked what he cherished most about his time on campus, his answer was rooted in community and calling:

“Being able to work in a Christian environment close to home with a wide variety of technology to support.”

Greg’s legacy is not just found in lines of code or server racks, but in the stability he provided to the KCU family. As he enters this new chapter of retirement, we thank him for his tireless work ethic, his problem-solving spirit, and his commitment to the mission of the University.





Ice-covered thorns stand in the foreground outside the Lusby Center following a January 26, 2026 winter storm on Kentucky Christian University's campus.

GIFTS

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO JANUARY 31, 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS

Andrea Damron Scholarship Oak Grove Church of Christ, Grayson, KY

Carole Phillips Scholarship Oak Grove Church of Christ, Grayson, KY

Dr. Charles R. Gresham Scholarship M/M Charles Mitchell
Oak Grove Church of Christ, Grayson, KY

Chuck Perry Memorial Scholarship Sharon Thomas Ellis
Mission Journeys/Teen Mission USA, Inc, Lexington, KY
David Perry
M/M Wallace L. Rendel

Clarence Mansfield & Vince Mansfield Memorial Scholarship Barbara Masters Hooker
Southeast Christian Church Sojourners Class,
Louisville, KY

Dr. Donald "Dick" Damron Scholarship Berea Christian Church, Bowling Green, KY
Oak Grove Church of Christ, Grayson, KY

Dr. Lewis Snyder Scholarship Gerald E. Arnold, Jr.

Eggleton Scholarship M/M Paul Eggleton

Essick-Reedy & Mozelle Memorial Scholarship Jack W. Strother, Jr.

H & K Taylor Scholarship Oakmont Operations LLC, Flatwoods, KY

KCU Scholarship Kathleen Manor
William C. Rousey
Sharon Stanley
Rowena Johnson Walker
Cheryl Walter

Dr. L. Palmer Young Scholarship M/M Jerry Provence

Norman Quentin Heckel Endowed Scholarship McComb Church of Christ, McComb, OH

Ray Snowden Memorial Grant Kara Horton

Strother Family Scholarship Fund Commercial Bank Foundation, Grayson, KY
Jack W. Strother, Jr.

Thursa Horton & Phoebe Horton Huff Memorial Scholarship Jane Horton Wilhoit
M/M Will Wilhoit

William Peebles Scholarship William D. Peebles

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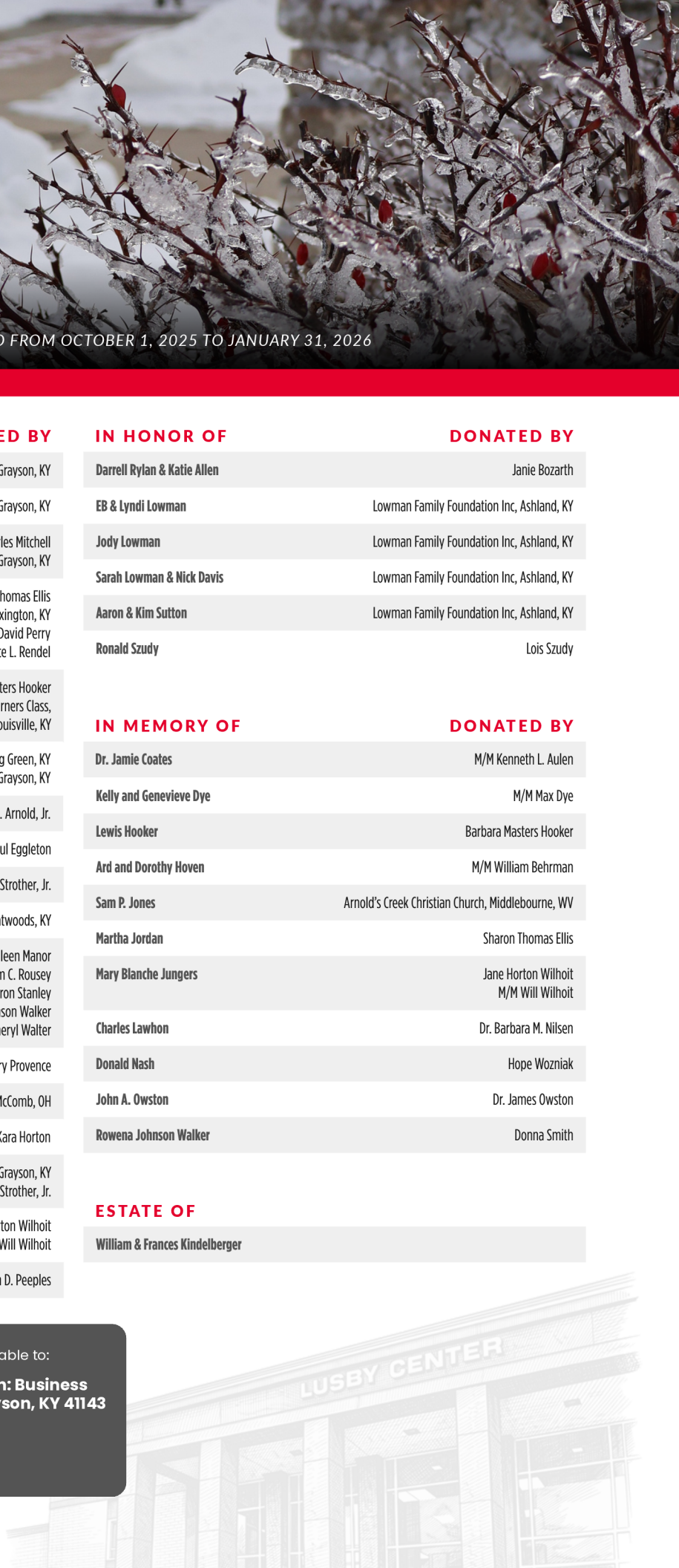


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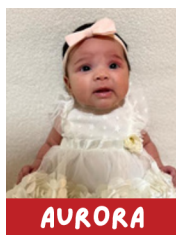
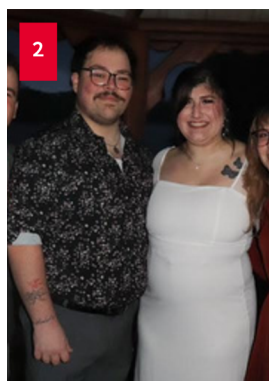
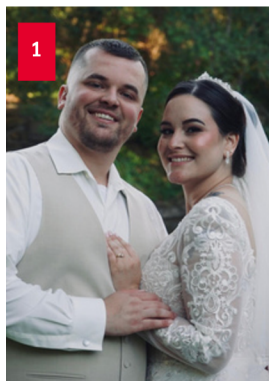
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Alumni Class Notes



AURORA

Knight Weddings

- (1) Jason ('23) and Yilian Mansfield, August 30, 2025 (Correction)
John Kyle and Faith (Fountain) ('11) Valencourt, September 27, 2025
Bryan ('20) and Abby Vanderlyn, October 4, 2025
(2) Cameron ('22) and Skylar Stephens, November 7, 2025
(3) Michael and Daniele (Telfort) ('13) McKerson, January 22, 2026
(4) James and Meredith (Neal) ('21) Jarrell, January 4, 2026

Future Knights

Archie James, son of Joseph (Joey) ('17) and Hannah (Snyder) ('17) Carroll, October 15, 2025
Aurora Leigh-Sage, daughter of Kajika ('23) and Brianna (Powell) ('25) Sarvis, November 25, 2025

Knights We'll Miss

Craig Ott ('78 & '13), Bible and Master of Arts in Christian Leadership, October 15, 2025
Phillip (Phil) Faust ('53), Bible, October 28, 2025
Rick (Russell) Mathena ('71), Bible, December 21, 2025
Rowena (Johnson) Walker ('46), Associate of Arts Degree, January 5, 2026
Amanda (Mandy) (Gorman) Bowers ('04), Psychology, January 26, 2026

Knight News

Raymond (Ray) Jester ('98) was recognized this past October for 20 years of service as the worship pastor of Sarasota Christian Church, Sarasota, FL. Prior to moving to Florida, Ray served as KCU's Campus Pastor.

Betty (Moore) Williams ('82) was elected Mayor of Jamesville, NC in the November 2025 election.

Stephanie Kandray ('06) recently stepped into the Kids Pastor role (birth-5th grade) after 6 years as the K-5th Coordinator at Church of the City-Spring Hill in Spring Hill, TN.

Todd Kirby ('01) wrote three studies named "The Lives of the Patriarchs," "The Life of David," and "The Life of Jesus." You can find more at toddkirby.com.

Randy ('82 & '86) and Marita ('82) Roberts completed a 24-year ministry at Living Creek Christian Church in the south suburbs of Chicago. Randy now serves as the Executive Director of Disciple Heritage Fellowship (DHF) in Decatur, IL.

SarahJo Callihan ('22) is a 7th-grade math teacher at East Carter Middle School in Grayson, KY.

Dr. Keith Wise ('72) was awarded the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Great Lakes Christian College Alumni Association for exemplifying outstanding service in the Kingdom of God and showing boldness, servanthood, and integrity in the home, church, and community. He has shown outstanding talent, leadership, and accomplishment in his field of service. Congratulations, Dr. Wise.

Alexandra (Lexie) Gilliland ('19) is the new Youth Minister at First Church of Christ in Grayson, KY.

Alumni,

We want to hear from you!

Let us know about all of the great things happening in your life!





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Cane Ridge Revival Celebration

HOSTED BY KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Deep in the heart of Kentucky's thoroughbred horse-farming region is an oft-overlooked location that once played a pivotal role in American religious history and the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement in particular. The old Cane Ridge Meeting House is a one-room, hand-hewn log structure that was built in 1791 as a church for pioneer settlers of the region.

Today, the old Meeting House—along with the Barton Warren Stone Museum, an ancient church graveyard, and the curator's house—lies on the outskirts of Paris, Kentucky. In addition to being the church where Barton W. Stone served as minister (1796-1812), it was the site of the Great Revival of 1801. Some historians have described this revival as "America's Pentecost," identifying it as an important event for the history of the Restoration Movement, as well as American Christianity at large.

In honor of the 225th anniversary of the Great Revival, Kentucky Christian University will host a Revival Celebration at the Meeting House and on the grounds. Plans are currently being made for this event on Sat., Sept. 26, from 10:00am-4:00pm. This event will include reenactors, historical lectures, children's activities, food trucks, a 1:00pm service in the Meeting House, and more!

Make plans to join us for the Revival Celebration at Cane Ridge on **Sept. 26**. There's no cost and all are invited!

Upcoming Events on Campus

See what's happening on campus for the next few months!

- April 15 Mission Minded Leadership Conference
- April 18 Spring Golf Outing at Hidden Cove
- May 1 Ozzyfest (An event to raise awareness for DIPG)
- May 9 Commencement
- June 5 Summer Concert Series - Dailey & Vincent
- July 12-17 Summer in the Son
- July 16 Summer Concert Series - Patrick Mayberry and Natalie Layne

