

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 26 Christian Faith Traditions, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . . to be one in Christ



On the Web: www.casp.org

February 2011, Number 1

A Unifying Voice in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities

Local Talent Featured at National Workshop on Christian Unity

When Christian Associates hosts the **National Workshop on Christian Unity, May 9-12**, a wealth of local clergy and scholars will be on the agenda.

One of the featured plenary speakers will be the **Rev. Canon Harold T. Lewis**, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside. Dr. Lewis will address how racism is an impediment to a full expression of the catholicity of the Church. At a luncheon following Dr. Lewis's address, a panel will respond. The panel will be composed of **Rev. John Welsh (PC-USA)**, Dean of Students at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; **Rev. Dr. Eric Brown (AME)**, Presiding Elder; and **Ms. Gretta Stokes-Tucker (RC)**, Director of Black Catholic Ministries for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Seminar presenters will include **Dr. Susan Muto**, **Dr. Scott Sunquist**, **Rabbi James Gibson**, **Rev. Cynthia Bronson-Sweigert** and **Fr. Bogdan Bucur**. Dr. Muto, co-founder and executive director of the Epiphany Association, and an expert in formative spirituality will speak about Spiritual Ecumenism which is grounded in prayer and focused on God's presence in our world and in the unity we share in Christ. Dr. Scott Sunquist, professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will address the topic of Global Christianity. Sunquist will share his knowledge

TOGETHER with **Glad** and
May 9-12, 2011
Sheraton Station Square **Generous Hearts**

of Christianity in the global context, especially his recent sabbatical experiences in Malaysia.

Rabbi James Gibson, Temple Sinai and **Rev. Cynthia Bronson-Sweigert** will address The Church and the Holocaust. *What was the churches role in the Holocaust? What are we teaching our seminarians and congregants about the Holocaust?* The presenters will share their experiences as partners in interfaith dialogue, social justice and service. Fr. Bogdan Bucur, theology professor at Duquesne University and an Orthodox priest will speak about Orthodox Spirituality.

Local judicatory leaders and clergy will participate in the opening Prayer Service on Monday, May 9 at Smithfield United Church of Christ. The Ukrainian and Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic judicatories will host the Vespers for the Catholic attendees on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00p.m. at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church, Southside. Hosted by the Pittsburgh Presbytery the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Sixth Street, downtown Pittsburgh at 6:00p.m. Tuesday, May 10. Preaching at the Eucharist

will be the **Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes**, Sr. Pastor, Shadyside Presbyterian Church and Homiletics professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

A complete brochure including all speakers and events, and online registration can be obtained at www.nwcu.org.



The logo of the National Workshop on Christian Unity affirms the cross as central to Christian unity. On either side of the cross is the outline of a chalice, which represents the existing unity (although not complete) and the anticipated full communion, which is the goal of the ecumenical movement. The space between the chalice and cross suggests the hands of prayer embracing the reconciling cross.

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REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

"I request you take me off the mailing list. ...it appears from the newsletter that the organization (Christian Associates) is no longer a distinctive Christian organization wanting to promote the kingdom of God as proclaimed by our Lord Jesus."

Ouch! None of us likes to hear sharp criticism, much less criticism of a vocation that one takes so seriously. But, I have acceded to the pastor's request, and wonder how many other readers harbor similar feelings. I'd love to have a conversation with the writer about their understanding of what it means *"to promote the kingdom of God as proclaimed by our Lord Jesus."*



I can only respond by stating that I believe that promoting the kingdom of God includes both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Whether it is *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."* (Mark 1:15) Or, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn*

I believe that promoting the kingdom of God includes both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17) Both are the good news which we are called to proclaim so that people might come to faith, be baptized, and become disciples of our Lord. I believe that Christian Associates is witnessing to Christ in our TV ministry and jail chaplaincy, to name but two distinctively Christian ministries.

But I also take seriously the Great Commandment as essential to promoting the kingdom. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it; 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* (Matt. 22:38-39). For me loving my neighbor isn't something that has to be done exclusively by and with other Christians in order to promote the kingdom *"as proclaimed by our Lord."*

Do we not witness to God's love for the world in how we work with all of our neighbors, regardless of their religion or lack of any faith, to assure the common good of all?

In a post-Constantinian world, in an ever more religiously diverse America where "no religion" is the fastest growing segment of the population, loving our neighbor needs to be in partnership not only with other Christians, but with anyone who can assist us in modeling Matthew 25. If I need a unit of blood, do I ask whether the donor was a Christian? If my spouse needs a kidney transplant, do we insist that the donor "be saved"? Indeed, do we not witness

to God's love for the world in how we work with all of our neighbors, regardless of their religion or lack of any faith, to assure the common good of all?



Who is our neighbor?

I continue to be committed to the particularity of God's revelation in Jesus the Christ. My preaching bears witness to God's unique revelation in Mary's child, my brother in the flesh and my divine Savior. But my love for my neighbor knows no distinction of race, class or creed either in serving their need or in the folks with whom I partner to love them. Thus, I guess that I'll need to plead guilty to the writers complaint that I am no longer distinctively Christian.

Pastor Don Green

FOCUS North America



A Pittsburgh branch of FOCUS North America is scheduled to open on Orthodox Easter, April 24, 2011. Founded in 2009 FOCUS is a pan-Orthodox organization intended to help parishes in the United States and Canada better express Christ's love for the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, sick and imprisoned.

FOCUS is an acronym for two things. First, it stands for ***"Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve."*** Second, it stands for many of the areas of activity in which FOCUS North America operates and partners with others: ***Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding and Shelter.***

Theodora Polamalu wife of Steelers' Troy Polamalu serves on the national governing board of FOCUS. She recently spoke on "Restoring Living Icons" at a fund raiser at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Mt. Lebanon.



Troy and Theodora Polamalu and son celebrate Super Bowl XLIII.

"FOCUS is a ministry that Troy and I are excited to be involved with since its mission to serve the poor is one that resonates deep within our philanthropy," Mrs. Polamalu said in a statement. *"We chose to get involved with the ministry because as Orthodox Christians we are called to exemplify the commandments of Christ to care for our fellow man in need."*

CORE partners with MOTTEP



The Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) in Pittsburgh is one of 58 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations in the United States. CORE services 155 hospitals in western PA, West Virginia and Chemung County, NY. Recently CORE has partnered with The Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP).

Christian Associates is pleased to assist CORE as they seek to implement MOTTEP's two-fold strategy: (1) to prevent the need for transplantation by implementing disease prevention and health promotion activities, and (2) to increase the number of individuals from multicultural minority populations who become organ and tissue donors.

Minorities make up 52% of the more than 110,000 people waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Health issues related to hypertension, diabetes, and end-stage renal failure put minorities at a disproportionate need for a transplant. Lisa Upsher, MOTTEP Program Director commented, "There are many misconceptions in the multicultural community about organ and tissue donation. It is our mission to educate the community so that those misconceptions do not prevent someone from becoming a donor and do not prevent some from giving the Gift of Life."

To learn more about MOTTEP and how your congregation can become involved with National Donor Sabbath (November 11-13, 2011) contact Lisa at lupsher@core.org.

The Spiritual Leadership Conference

Local religious leaders will host The Spiritual Leadership Conference, staffed by Blackaby Ministries International, **April 11-12, 2011** (Monday and Tuesday, 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.) at **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh**, 320 Sixth Ave. Downtown Pittsburgh.

The Conference led by Henry, Richard and Tom Blackaby and Rick Fisher will help clergy and laity to discover their calling as a leader; learn how God shapes leaders; accept God setting the agenda; avoid pitfalls and temptations; learn how to be a servant and leader; and to find your place in God's plan.

For more conference information and registrations go to: **www.BlackabyConferences.org** or **www.familyguidance.net**.

Parish Nurse Preparation Course

The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program will host a four-day Parish Nurse Preparation Course on **March 4-5** and **April 1-2, 2011**, at Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road in Churchill (Pittsburgh).



The four-day course, which follows the International Parish Nurse Resource Center's approved curriculum, is open to registered nurses, other health care professionals, and lay persons interested in promoting health, wellness, and spirituality; coordinating volunteers; or starting a visitation ministry within their parishes.

For more information about the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, visit **www.pmhs.org**. For more information about the course or an application, contact **Dorothy Mayernik** at **412-232-7999** or email **parishnurse@mercy.pmhs.org**.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Smithfield United Church of Christ

620 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-281-1811

Camp Downtown Ice Fest

Date: Sat. Feb. 26
Times: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Who: Children, kindergarten thru 6th grade
Donation: \$15 per camper, includes t-shirt, lunch, ice skating.

Explore a Bible story through music, crafts and other activities. After lunch they will go ice skating at PPG Place. Please call Cora Weiland, 412-471-8125 or Rev. Liddy Barlow, 412-281-1811 to register.

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Tabor House of Prayer

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
Mount Alvernia
146 Hawthorne Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15209
412-821-1149
www.ossf.org

Seven Spiritual Powers: Choosing to Use Them

Date: Sat. Feb. 19
Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Fee: \$30, includes lunch

We will examine the gifts within and explore ways they can empower us to move into a deeper relationship with God.

Journeying through Lent with Saint Francis

Date: Sat. March 5
Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Presenter: Craig Maier, PhD

We will stop, look, and listen to where we have been, where we are, and where God is calling us.

Lenten Program: Thursday Evenings with Father Neil McCaulley

Dates: Thursdays, March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 14
Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Free will offering (will be given to the needy)

Tabor House of Prayer (continued)

Be prepared for the Sunday Gospels each week.

Facing Fears With Faith

Dates & Times: Fri. April 1, 7:30 pm thru Sat. April 2, 5:30 pm
Cost: \$50
Facilitator: Eileen Colianni, MSEd

Fear debilitates mind, body, and spirit. Believers have powerful means to counter fears. Learn to face and disarm your fears.

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Music in Pittsburgh

Choir Lite - Sun. Mar. 6, 3:00 pm

The Presbyterian Church
414 Grant Street, Sewickley 15143
412-741-4550
www.sewickleypresby.org

Joint Choral Concert - Sun. Mar. 20, 3 pm Featuring choirs of St. Paul's Episcopal and Mt. Lebanon United Methodist

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1066 Washington Rd, Mt. Lebanon 15228
Featuring choral works of Haydn and Mozart.
Free will offering will be taken.

Organ Artists Series - Sun. Mar. 27, 4 pm

Featuring Jonathan Biggers
Shadyside Presbyterian Church
5121 Westminister Place, Pittsburgh 15232
412-682-4300
Regular admission \$12, student \$5
www.oas-series.com

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St. Joseph Spirituality Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph
1020 State Street
Baden, PA 15005
724-869-6585
Registrations: Sister Ann Francis Hanley:
724-869-6587
www.stjoseph-baden.org

St. Joseph Spirituality Center

(continued)

Lenten Day of Prayer

Date: Tues. Mar. 15
Time: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Presenter: Sr. Donna Marie Tahaney, CSJ
Fee: \$20, includes lunch

This day of prayer is an opportunity for brief presentations, quiet reflection, and prayer together.

Beginning Experience

Date: Fri. Mar. 25 – Sun. Mar. 27
Time: Fri. 7:00 pm – Sun. 4:00 pm
Presenters: *Beginning Experience* Team
Fee: \$160, includes meals, lodging and program materials

Beginning Experience is a program for adults grieving the loss of a spousal relationship through death, divorce or separation, who are ready to move forward with their lives. To register, call Steve Smith, 412-720-8694.

This weekend will be held at Gilmary Retreat Center in Coraopolis.

Women in the Workplace Weekend Retreat

Dates: Fri. Apr. 1 thru Sun. Apr. 3
Time: starts Fri. at 8:00 pm and goes thru Sun. at 12 noon
Presenters: Sisters Marguerite Kropinak, Diane McCalley, and Jeanne Scott
Fee: \$110, includes meals, lodging, and program materials

This is for women who work outside the home with time for input, sharing, reflection on spirituality, Christian values, and prayer.

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Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Blvd
Allison Park, PA 15101
www.divineprovidencweb.org

Book Discussion, Prayer and Faith Sharing

Dates: Wed. Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
Time: 10:00-11:30 am
Facilitator: M. Joan Coultas, CDP, Ph.D.
Fee: \$20 series or \$5 per session, plus book
Registration requested, 412-366-1124

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Kearns Spirituality Center (continued)

The book is "My Life with the Saints" by James Martin, SJ. Martin tells of those who have inspired him in a way that is entertaining and profound. A Guide for Reading Groups is also included.

Lenten Breakfast: Busy Women Cultivating Inner Peace - Part II

Date: Ash Wed. Mar. 9,
snow date: Mar. 23
Time: 7:00-9:00 am
Speaker: Anne Kertz Kernion, MA
Fee: \$25, breakfast included
Registration requested, 412-635-6313

The breakfast and presentation will be followed by an optional distribution of ashes.

Peace Forum Series – Fourth Forum

Date: Sun. Mar. 20
Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Donations accepted

Sponsored by Pittsburgh North People for Peace (412-367-0383). Make your commitment to peace. For information: pnpp@verizon.net.

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Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

5244 Clarwin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-9766
www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com

Lenten Evening of Reflection

"A Gift Freely Given, Freely Received"

Date: Thur. Mar. 24
Time: 5:00 – 9:00 pm
Offering: \$13 includes dinner
Registration requested by March 10th

Includes Evening Prayer, a simple dinner, quiet time, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the celebration of Eucharistic Liturgy.

Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

(continued)

Women's Retreat Weekend

"Dancing In the Kingdom of God"

Dates: Fri. Mar. 25 thru Sun. Mar. 27
Time: begins 8:00 pm Fri. and ends with Sun. brunch
Presenter: Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min
Minimum Offering: \$70
Registration requested by March 11th
Explore Jesus' invitation to make his Kingdom come. What is the Kingdom of God? How do we live as Kingdom people?

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Taizé Services

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park
www.christumc.net
First Wed. of each month, 6:30 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh 15206
www.cathedralofhope.org
Every Wed., 7:00 pm

Faith Lutheran Church

1656 Lincoln Way, McKeesport (White Oak)
www.faithwhiteoak.org or
412-673-2296
Every Wed, 7:00 pm
During Lent they will have Vespers

Community United Methodist Church

3487 Route 130, Irwin
www.ShareChristWithOthers.org or
724-744-3413
Second Wed., 7:30 pm

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue at Braddock Road
Hope@Lutheran.com or 412-241-6668
First Fri. of each month, 7:00 pm

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St. Emma Monastery

1001 Harvey Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-3060
www.stemma.org

Silent Lenten Retreat Weekend - Men and Women

"The Father Who Sees in Secret"

Dates: Fri. Mar. 11 thru Sun. Mar. 13
Time: begins 6:00 pm with dinner Fri. and closes Sun 1:00 pm
Presenter: Rev. Boniface Hicks, OSB
Cost: \$145/person

Men's Retreat Weekend

"Lent, A Time to Shape and Renew"

Dates: Fri. Mar. 18 thru Sun. Mar. 20
Time: begins 6:00 pm with dinner Fri. and closes Sun 1:00 pm
Presenter: Rev. Ed Litavec
Cost: \$145/person

Silent Lenten Retreat Weekend - Men and Women

"Prayer and Fasting - Not Only During Lent"

Dates: Fri. Apr. 1 thru Sun. Apr. 3
Time: begins 6:00 pm with dinner Fri. and closes Sun 1:00 pm
Presenter: Rev. Bill Kiel
Cost: \$145/person

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820 Crane Avenue
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Ten Saturdays per year, 9 am – 12 noon
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UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life

Feb. 10-13, 2011

Betty Voigt, Ordained Minister and Spiritual Director

Mary Lynn Callahan, Ordained Minister and Spiritual Director

Depression and Dark Night of the Soul

Feb. 18-19, 2011

Kathryn Madden, Licensed Psychologist with

Martha Robbins, Professor, PTS

Lin Ewing, Associate Director, WPIC Behavior

Medicine Program, University of Pittsburgh

Rhonda Karlton Rosen, Faculty, University of Pittsburgh

Online Courses

Feb. 28-April 22, 2011

LOOKING AT THE LECTIONARY TOGETHER

Jenee Woodard, Biblical Studies Teacher for CLP Program, PTS

OUR NEED FOR GOD'S BEAUTY: EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS OF GOD

Connie Peake, Interim Pastor

Science, Religion, and Theology

March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2011 /

10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Charles Partee, Professor Emeritus, PTS

Jonathan Partee, Research Faculty, Penn State University Electro-Optics Center

Benedict and Francis: Their Lives and Legacies

March 17-20, 2011

Bernard Tickerhoof, TOR, Institute for Contemporary Franciscan Life

A Workshop Series for Church Educators:

Where is God in the Dry Places?

March 22, 2011 / 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Bonnie Thurston, Former Professor, PTS

God and Globalization:

A Christian Ethical Reflection

March 23, 2011 / 11:30 a.m., 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Hak Joon Lee, Associate Professor, New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Office of Continuing Education
616 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-924-1345
ConEd@pts.edu
www.pts.edu



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The Rev. Howard J. Gray, S.J.
Special Assistant to the
President, Georgetown
University, Washington, DC

Friday, March 18, 2011
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh Theological
Seminary

**\$15 / Two persons registering
together \$25**

Dr. Martha Robbins, Director of *Pneuma*
412-924-1423
mrobbins@pts.edu
www.pts.edu/pneuma



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724-834-7350.

Southwestern PA Food Security Partnership



CASP's Church & Community Committee augmented by judicatory representatives with hunger portfolios are working actively to assist in the implementation of the SW PA Food Security Plan.

At a recent meeting attention was focused on children's nutritional needs. Victor Papale, Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank noted the decreased number of sites hosting summer feeding programs for children, and consequently that fewer children are being fed during the summer school vacations.

Churches are eligible to host these federal and state funded programs. The Committee will work with the Food Security Communication's task group to develop bulletin inserts and newsletter articles for use by churches on four Sundays in May. May 8, Mother's Day will focus on Mothers and Hunger; May 29 (Memorial Day weekend) will focus on Veterans and Hunger. Other Sundays will feature Hunger and Education, the Elderly and Work. *"We don't expect clergy to disrupt their Easter preaching, but we do want to provide other means of addressing hunger and nutrition issues among the faithful"* noted Pastor Don Green.

Chatham Baroque will perform and discuss J.S. Bach's St. John Passion

For the grand finale of their 20th anniversary, Chatham Baroque will present its biggest concert ever: the Pittsburgh premiere of the *1725 version of J. S. Bach's St. John Passion*.

Prior to the two concerts, Chatham Baroque will host a Roundtable Discussion about anti-Judaism in the text of the St. John Passion at the **Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill** on Wednesday, **March 23** at 7:30 p.m.

Conductor **Don O. Franklin** will introduce the Passion and have musicians perform selections. **Fr. Dan Valentine**, St. James RC, Sewickley will address the nature of the Fourth Gospel and the use of the term "the Jews" in that gospel. **Pr. Don Green**, Christian Associates, will discuss the relationship between Martin Luther and Bach. **Rabbi James Gibson**, Temple Sinai, will speak to text as a pretext to violence. The Roundtable Discussion is free and open to the public.

Bach's St. John Passion will be performed on **Saturday March 26**, at 8:00 p.m. at Synod Hall, St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland (Pittsburgh) and on Sunday **March 27** at 2:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside (Pittsburgh). To purchase tickets: www.chathambaroque.org or 412-394-3353.



Conflict Resolution and Mediation Training

The Center for Victims of Violence and Crimes (CVVC) will host a 15 hour course on Conflict Resolution in which participants develop fundamental skills for resolving conflict effectively and peacefully. Completion of the course serves as a prerequisite for participation in the 24 hour Mediation class. The course will be held **February 12 and 19, 2011, 8:30a.m – 5:00p.m** at CVVC, 5916 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh.

A 24 hour Mediation Training class assists participants in learning how to support people when they are in conflict and facilitates a constructive conversation. The techniques taught enable participants to support those in conflict in arriving at their own decisions and solutions as how best to resolve the situation. Classes will be held **March 7, 14, 21, 28** and **April 4, 11, 25** and **May 2, 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.** For information and registration go to: www.cvvv.org.

CVVC is committed to healing trauma, resolving conflict and ending violence through three major agency components: *Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Training Services; Crime Victim and Witness Assistance; and the Peace-It-Together Community Initiative.*

Classifieds

"Jesus Interprets His Own Cross," a Lenten preparation event, with Dr. Kenneth Bailey, **February 14-16, 2011** at Olmsted Manor Retreat Center (814) 945-6512. For more information, go to www.olmstedmanor.org and click on 'events'.

"The Wesleyan Way, Rediscovering Ancient-Future Methodism," with Dr. Paul W. Chilcote, **May 15-17, 2011** at Olmsted Manor Retreat Center (814) 945-6512. For more information, go to www.olmstedmanor.org and click on 'events'.

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

204 37th Street, Suite 201

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201-1859

412-688-9070

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Classified Advertisements may be placed at a PREPAID cost of \$10.00 for 40 words or less. The publication of ads/events does not indicate specific endorsement of an organization, ad or event, and is strictly of an informative nature. *The DEADLINE for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the issue the submission is to appear (March 15th for the April issue).*

Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.