

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 28 Church Bodies, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . .

On the Web: www.casp.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Hicks Memorial Chapel - lower level

616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

to be one in Christ



February-March 2019, Number 1

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

Can a cup of coffee change your ministry? Let's find out!

The building blocks of unity are relationships between Christian leaders. Those relationships are formed two cups of coffee at a time.

To build trust, to make friends, to collaborate, Christian leaders need to get to know one another. This year, Christian Associates' *300 Cups of Coffee* project will help you meet your colleagues, connecting across our differences to make our unity more visible.

The project is simple. Start by identifying a colleague you'd like to get to know: maybe someone you don't know well, or someone you don't really know at all. It's even better if this person is different from you, perhaps in tradition, theology, politics, age, race, or gender. If you're not sure whom to invite, we'll have a matchmaking tool available at the project website, www.casp.org/300cups.

Next, invite him or her to meet you at a local coffee shop. Share a beverage and maybe a snack. Chat about whatever you choose: maybe the joys and challenges of ministry, or the needs of your neighborhood. If you'd like some ideas, you can download a Coffee Kit from the website with some questions to spark your conversation.

Before you part, snap a selfie, and upload it to www.casp.org/300cups, where you can also answer some quick and easy questions about your experience. We'll share your picture on our social media (watch for the hashtag #300cups), and then we'll send you \$10 to reimburse your expenses. That's right: your coffee date is on us!

At the end of the project, once we reach 150 of these coffee dates, we'll invite everyone who participated to join us for a free lunch gathering, where we can share what we learned and think together about best ways to build ecumenical relationships for the future.



We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to meet a new friend and see what two cups of coffee can do.

300 Cups of Coffee is generously supported through an Innovation Grant from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, a non-degree-granting initiative of Duke Divinity School funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and based in Durham, N.C.

Stories from the Sanctuary: Learn Pastoral Responses to Domestic and Sexual Violence

Domestic and sexual violence affect every church. As a pastoral caregiver, are you equipped to address these issues in your congregation?

On February 19, join Christian Associates and Southwest PA Says No More for *Stories from the Sanctuary*, a morning of true stories and expert commentary. Through listening and conversation, you'll deepen your understanding and enhance your skills.

Three local clergy, who bring decades of pastoral experience, will offer a personal story about a time when they provided



Fr. Thomas Burke



The Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady



Rev. Tracy Cox

pastoral care and leadership in responding to domestic and sexual violence.

Fr. Thomas Burke is the Administrator of the Catholic Community of the East End of Pittsburgh. **The Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady** is Senior Pastor of Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church in East Liberty. **Rev. Tracy Cox** is Senior Pastor of First

United Methodist Church in Shadyside.

Following each story, a panel of expert respondents will explore the broader context of these issues and share further strategies for responding well. Our panel includes **Rev. Dr. Susan Cherian**, **Rev. George Fleming**, and **Rev. Janet Scott Mace**.

The program takes place on **Tuesday, February 19 at 10 a.m. at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**, 616 N. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh 15206.

Please reserve your place by February 15 at www.casp.org/endviolence.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

People actually read this column.

That came as a surprise to me, five years ago, when I started filling up this space. A newsletter appears in your mailbox, often unbidden, and you actually open it up and read what I have to say? But it's true, I know, because sometimes you tell me so. You mention it when you see me, or you send me an encouraging email, or you even write a long letter.

I like the long letters best, even though they're rarely full of glowing praise: typically, quite the opposite. To receive a long, careful letter of criticism is a gift, albeit sometimes a hard one to receive. After all, it would be easy for you simply to dismiss a perspective of mine that you don't agree with, to set this newsletter aside and choose not to pick up the next edition. To instead devote time to crafting a response – that's meaningful.



Often, I'm asked if what I write in this space is a declaration of the beliefs of Christian Associates. The answer is decidedly no – not because I have any intention of venturing beyond the boundaries of our spacious tradition, but rather because Christian Associates, as an entity, has only the briefest of creeds. Indeed, there's only one statement of faith required of our member churches, according to our bylaws: ***Jesus Christ is Divine Lord and Savior.***

Only that! Just seven words. We can – and we do – differ on everything else: our sacramental theology, our liturgical practices, our understandings of atonement and sanctification, our anthropologies and eschatologies. We share only those seven words.

And yet, such rich words they are. That brief statement is an eloquent summary of the heart of our shared faith. While others around our table may read and understand those words in differing ways, here's what they mean to me:

- † ***Jesus Christ is Divine.*** This is the key uniqueness of our faith, the affirmation that differentiates Christians from our interfaith neighbors. The statement implies the Trinity, our understanding that God's very essence is to be in relationship. Because God became incarnate through Jesus of Nazareth, we live on what Madeleine L'Engle calls "a visited planet," a place where material things like human bodies can be precious and holy.
- † ***Jesus Christ is Lord.*** This is the most ancient of creeds, and in Roman days it implied its corollary: ... *and Caesar is not.* Our loyalty as Christians is not to any political party, any tribe or faction, not even to any particular denomination. Jesus Christ is Lord, above all, and his dominion is one of love, mercy, and justice.
- † ***Jesus Christ is Savior.*** In a world torn asunder by sin, evil, and death, we need not fear. Jesus is saving us: living, dying, rising, and reigning in power for us, redeeming this hurting world and all of us broken people. Because Jesus saves, we can live as people of hope.

That simple seven-word declaration, Jesus Christ is Divine Lord and Savior, is all that brings us together. It's all that we share. It is, perhaps, all that we really need.

So the rest, in this space? Just a few thoughts from a fellow believer, offered in good faith. Thanks for reading it, friends. Thanks for agreeing and for disagreeing, but most of all, thank you for staying in conversation. It's by connecting with one another that we find our unity, even in the midst of our diversity.

Your sister in Christ,

The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister
Christian Associates of Southwest PA

*That simple seven-word declaration,
Jesus Christ is Divine Lord and Savior,
is all that brings us together.
It's all that we share.
It is, perhaps, all that we really need.*

Bringing Interfaith Spiritual Leaders Together: A Conversation

Since the shooting at Tree of Life on October 27, Christian Associates has been working with the Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement at the Jewish Community Center to bring interfaith clergy together to build a unified response – not only to that terrible incident, but to all the ways our communities are affected by hatred and violence. Spiritual leaders from two dozen Christian denominations and seven world religions have taken part in a series of conversations and planning sessions so far, and new voices are always encouraged and welcomed. Here, Rev. Liddy Barlow and Rabbi Ron Symons chat about the purpose and intention of this work:

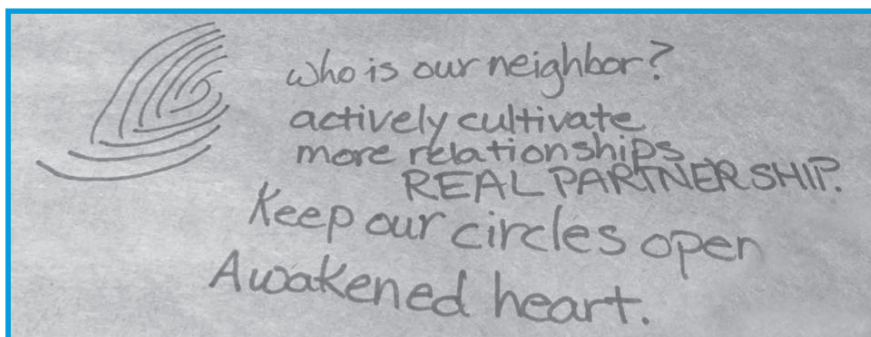
Rabbi Symons: There's so much that we share in our foundational values and how we believe they should be lived out. And there's so much we have to learn about each other. We have a moral responsibility to be together as spiritual leaders, in order to strengthen ourselves so that we can strengthen the community around us.

Rev. Barlow: We don't know all the forms that this work is going to take. That's up to the creative imagination of the clergy that we're working with, that's up to the power of the Holy Spirit, that's up to the ways that our community grows and changes in the future. But what we're saying through this work is that we have to be in it together.

Rabbi Symons: In Judaism we have the concept of *olam ha ba*, the world to come. For us, it is our responsibility to make sure that tomorrow has a taste of the world yet to be, because of the work that we are doing. And we will not accomplish that unless we do it together.

Rev. Barlow: Yes, and we don't all have to be engaging in exactly the same ways. No matter what your perspective, or your role in the community, we want there to be a place for you to fit in.

Rabbi Symons: On the condition that you buy in to our foundational values: respect, love, a community that allows for pluralistic expression, and that does it in a way that uplifts everyone, without putting down any part of the community at all.



To stay abreast of the latest developments in this partnership, please sign up for our Interfaith Spiritual Leaders email list: www.casp.org/interfaithemail.

*And, plan to attend **Hopeful Responses to Mass Incarceration**, the next installment in our shared "Hopeful Responses" series of community conversations, at the JCC in Squirrel Hill on March 21.*

More information and RSVP available here: www.casp.org/massincarceration.

Special Thanks to Our Judicatory Supporters

Christian Associates is deeply grateful to all our member judicatories, but we wish to offer particular recognition to the church bodies who contributed to our financial needs in 2018:

Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania,
Orthodox Church in America
Bruderhof Communities of Southwest Pennsylvania
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Kiskiminetas Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Metropolis of Pittsburgh, Greek Orthodox Church
Mid-Northeast Mission District, North American
Lutheran Church

Penn West Conference, United Church of Christ
Pittsburgh Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Redstone Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg
Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh
Southwestern PA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America
Third Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Washington Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Western Pennsylvania Conference, United Methodist Church
Western Pennsylvania Division, Salvation Army

If you see your judicatory's name on the list above, please express your appreciation to your bishop or judicatory executive. And if you would like to support our ministries yourselves, as did many of your neighbors during our winter appeal, we invite you to do so. You can mail a check to **Christian Associates, PO Box 5241, Pittsburgh PA 15206**, or give online at www.casp.org/donate. You can even join our Circle of Unity and give automatically each month.

Thank you for helping our ministries to thrive, so that we may be a witness of unity to the world!

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

610 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-227-4802
www.ulpgh.org

Urban League Sunday

Date: Sun., Feb. 10; Time: 3:30-6 p.m.
Location: Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2001 Wylie Ave., Pittsburgh 15219

Each year, the Urban League celebrates with its religious partners in recognition of the common goals that are shared in providing spiritual, economic, and socially responsive leadership to the community. This year's preacher will be Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers, with gospel music by Dr. Alton Merrell and Impact.



Byham Theater

101 6th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
<https://trustarts.org/production/61682>

C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters"

Date: Sat., Feb. 16; Time: 4 p.m.
Cost: Tickets starting at \$41

Set in an eerily stylish office in Hell, one of Satan's senior tempters, Screwtape, schemes meticulously to capture the soul of an unsuspecting human on earth. An international smash hit, this stage adaptation of C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters satiric masterpiece creates a morally inverted universe that reveals unseen spiritual powers and principalities in humorous, vivid and surprising ways.



Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute

(412) 661-1239
www.ppi-online.org

Embracing Spirituality: Behavioral Health Treatment for Addiction

Date: Mondays, March 4-April 1
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Crossroads Presbyterian Church, 2310 Haymaker Rd, Monroeville, PA 15146
Cost: \$145
Presenter: Sean T. Burns, M.Div., LCSW

Studies show that behavioral health issues are commonly co-occurring with chemical dependence. This course is designed to provide behavioral health providers techniques to use and topics to discuss with

Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute

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their clients who either have co-occurring disorders or are influenced by someone who is. Participants will be equipped to offer spiritually informed treatment that will help speak to the whole person.



Mosaic Anglican Church

140 Imperial Plaza
Imperial, PA 15125
724-695-3129
www.mosaicpgh.org

Coaching 101 Workshop

Dates & Times: Fri., March 15, 6-9 p.m. and Sat., March 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost: \$80, includes Coaching 101 book by Dr. Robert Logan, materials, snacks, and beverages. (Lunch not included.)

A coaching relationship helps clergy and other ministry leaders to be more effective and reach their goals more quickly. Coaching 101 participants dig deep into the coaching process, explore techniques for asking powerful questions, practice being an active listener, and leave prepared to coach others at a basic, and effective, level.



Saint Emma Monastery

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

Silent Lenten Retreats for Men & Women

Dates: March 8-10, March 15-17, or April 5-7
Times: 4 p.m. Friday – 1 p.m. Sunday
Cost: \$180
Leaders: March 8-10, Msgr. Roger Statnick; March 15-17, TBA; April 5-7, Rev. Boniface Hicks, OSB.



Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

500 West Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7149
www.sistersofstbasil.org

Bread Baking Retreat

Date: Sat., Feb 16 or Sat., March 16
Time: 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)
Leader: Sr. Carol Petrasovich, OSBM

Mount St. Macrina

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Enjoy making a loaf of Lenten bread in a creative, relaxing and prayerful atmosphere.

Lenten Prayer Morning: The Passion as Told by John the Beloved

Date: Sat., March 23, 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m.
Offering: \$35 (includes lunch)
Presenter: Rev. Don Bolls

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered along with a conference and a prayer service.



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Ave
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-331-1053
www.orthodoxpittsburgh.org

St Nicholas Symposium 2019: Orthodoxy and the Scriptures

Date: Sat., Feb. 16; Time: 2 p.m.
Presenters: Fr. Bogdan Bucur, PhD; Dr. Edith Humphrey, PhD; Andrew Weaver, M.Div.

What do Orthodox Christians believe about the Bible? How do they interpret it? Our speakers for this year's symposium will give practical talks that demonstrate the power of the scriptures and their place in Orthodox worship and life.



Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

1515 Locust St., Ste 705
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-232-5815
www.pmhs.org

Day Retreat: The Spirituality and Science of Self-Compassion

Date: Sat., March 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Location: Martina Spiritual Renewal Center, 5244 Clarwin Ave., Pittsburgh 15229
Leader: Anne Kernion; Cost: \$50

Jesus' command "Love your neighbor as yourself" implies that we love ourselves. But do we? Or are we harshly critical of our mistakes and imperfections? This retreat will draw upon recent findings in neuroscience and psychology, illuminating self-care and spiritual practices that nurture gentleness, kindness, and patience towards ourselves.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Effective Discipline Techniques

Dr. Keely Baronak, Chair
 Carlow University Dept. of Education
 Saturday, March 2, 2019, 9:00 to 11:30am
 Continental Breakfast, Morning Prayer, Interactive Workshop
 \$5 /Pre-Registration; \$10/Door;
 Act 48 Hours Approved

Dr. Baronak will discuss effective strategies to address behavioral challenges in classrooms and out-of-school settings. She will emphasize the role of adult language, shame and empathy research, and discipline models that use mindfulness and trauma-informed care. Sponsored by Blessed Be Educators. Contact Mary Ann Hvizdos, 412-807-1611 or mahvizados@verizon.net.

Central Presbyterian Church

305 Allegheny St.
 Tarentum, PA 15084
 724-224-9220

Concert Series: "A Bassoon Runs Through It"

Date: Sun., March 17

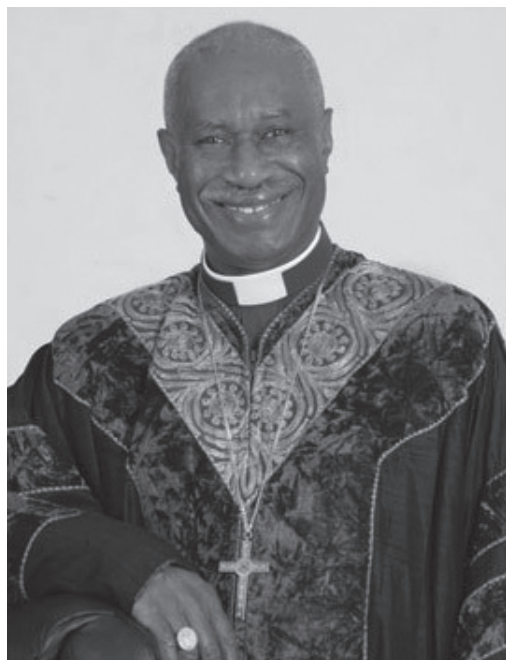
Time: 4 p.m.;

Cost: Free; donations appreciated.

Join us for our March concert as Bassoonist Amy Baker joins Dr. Warren Davidson and The Academy Chamber Ensemble for a program featuring music of Mozart and Beethoven, and The Quintet for Contrabassoon and Strings by Willy Hess. Refreshments follow the program.

Remembering Bishop McKinley Young

Christian Associates joins mourners across the Christian world in remembering our Council member and friend, **Bishop McKinley Young**, presiding prelate of the Third Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who transitioned to the church triumphant on January 16.



As the longest-serving bishop in the AME, Bishop Young was elevated to that office in 1992, leading the church in South Africa, then Texas, then Florida and the Bahamas. He came to the Third District, which includes Southwest Pennsylvania, in 2012.

From 1996-2000 Bishop Young served as the Ecumenical and Urban Affairs Officer for the AME Church.

He served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches, USA, the World Methodist Council, the Pan Methodist Commission, the Consultation on Church Union and the Conference of National Black Churches.

As his office was in Columbus, Bishop Young was represented locally on the Council of Bishops and Executives by two of his District Superintendents: the Rev. Dr. Eric Brown and the Rev. Dr. James McLemore.

In this time of grief, our prayers are with Bishop Young's widow, Supervisor Dorothy Young, his entire family, and all our brothers and sisters of the Third Episcopal District.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

Wilberforce University
 c/o Third Episcopal District AME Church
 112 Jefferson Avenue #5
 Columbus, OH 43215

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord
 is the death of his saints. Well done,
 good and faithful servant!"*

Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology

Discover ancient times and places

Excavations sponsored by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary form the core of a significant collection that provides glimpses into daily life in the lands of the Bible from prehistoric times into the Middle Ages.



Free and open to the public!

Wednesday-Saturday
 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Archaeology Lecture
 March 28, 7:30 p.m.**

With Archaeologist and
 Kelso Museum
 Curator Emerita
 Nancy Lapp



412-924-1395 | Group Tours Welcome!

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PREPARING FOR MINISTRY IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Join us for these upcoming events—

Writing as Practice and Revelation

Feb. 23, 2019
Jonathan Callard, Memoirist and Writing Consultant

The Art of Transitional Ministry - Week 1

Feb. 25-March 1, 2019
Paul Rhebergen and Jan Nolting Carter

Staying Anchored in Stormy Times: Bowen Family Systems Theory For Clergy and Clinicians

March 8, 2019
David Jones, Director, Nashotah House Theological Seminary

The Sacred "Can't Not": Vocation and Discernment

March 17-20, 2019
Helen Blier, Director, Continuing Education, PTS, and B.J. Woodworth, Lead Pastor, The Open Door, and Spiritual Director

You may also be interested in these online classes—

The Power of Story: Black Sermon as Dynamic Discourse Online Class

March 11-April 5, 2019
Brian Wells, Congregational Minister

Ministry and Context Online Class

March 11-April 5, 2019
R. Drew Smith, Professor of Urban Ministry, PTS



www.pts.edu/CE **412-924-1345** ConEd@pts.edu



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Bread for the World Hunger Advocacy Workshop **Saturday morning, May 4**

Registration opens in late February at bit.ly/breadworship2019

2019 Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference: *"Healthy Pastors, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities"* **Friday, May 10**

Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley
Speakers include Ellen Mady, Graham Standish, and Hedda Sharapan of The Fred Rogers Company
Registration opens by March 1 at www.pghpc.org

The Big Table Seeks Hosts for Community Conversations

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered at table with his friends. They ate, they prayed, they sang — and they talked, deeper than pleasantries, about what really matters.

This year, during Holy Week in the Western tradition, *Leadership Pittsburgh* is inviting people throughout our region to share a meal together and take our conversation beyond pleasantries: to talk about our values, our hopes, our community's needs.

The Big Table, taking place on **Wednesday, April 17**, is seeking hosts who are willing to invite guests and facilitate conversation in groups of 8-10 people. The conversations might take place in private homes, in houses of worship, or in community settings like libraries and restaurants. While the conversations happen over food, no gourmet meal is required: the important part is the conversation.

Following the event, comments from the conversations will come before community leaders, so that *The Big Table* might be the start of making positive change in our neighborhoods.

For more information about the event, and how you or your congregation might participate as a host, visit www.lpinc.org/bigtable/.