Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 27 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 - Iower level 616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

to be one in Christ



April-May 2017, Number 2

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

This new directory uses

contemporary technology to

make this information more

accessible than ever before.

Find Your Neighborhood Ministerium with Our New Local Ecumenical Directory

Within the ten counties served by Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, there are scores of local ecumenical expressions, such as neighborhood ministeriums, community social service agencies, and clergy support groups.

This month, Christian Associates is

publishing a freshly updated online

these local groups. You can visit the

www.casp.org/localecumenism.

new directory at

database to help resource and connect



Using a Google Map, the directory shows the location and contact information for ecumenical organizations throughout our region.

Dean Baldwin, Christian

Associates' new student assistant, is leading

Associates' new student assistant, is leading the project. A native of New York state, Dean is currently completing his MA in Religion at Trinity School for Ministry. This summer, he will be traveling to the Solomon Islands on mission with SAMS-USA.

"I see the map as just the beginning," Dean said. "Next, we can gather qualitative data to discern best practices for local Christian partnerships, and eventually we can convene local ecumenical leaders to share ideas. The hope is that this data and assessment can help CASP to be a better resource to local ecumenical expressions."

To add your local ecumenical expression to the database, or to make any corrections to the information you see posted online, contact Dean: dean.baldwin@tsm.edu or 315-806-8940. After May 31, please call the Christian Associates office at 412-688-9070.

Pastoral Care Conference Equips Healthy Clergy, Congregations, and Neighborhoods

Healthy congregations need healthy pastors.

That's the theme of this year's Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, which has invited **Pastor Dave Kornfield**, an international leader in the field of clergy wellness, to serve as keynote speaker.

Pastor Kornfield, is the founder of MAPI (Mentoring and Accountability for Pastoral Integrity), an interdenominational ministry in Brazil that has grown to provide pastoral care for thousands of pastors in Portugal, Bolivia, Paraguay, Venezuela, Colombia, and Western Africa. He works with the World Evangelical Alliance as the coordinator of the Pastoring of Pastors task force.

Now in its seventeeth year, the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference brings together clergy, counselors, social workers, and others who are interested in care for persons in our region. Christian Associates is among the diverse organizations represented on the planning team.

In addition to plenary presentations, conference participants will also select three workshops, which include sessions on:

- the opiate epidemic;
- care for the incarcerated;
- coping with trauma;
- ministry with teenagers;
- dementia;
- eating disorders, and
- spiritual direction, among other topics.

The conference will take place on Friday, May 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Christ Church at Grove Farm, 249 Duff Rd, Sewickley.

For registration and more information, visit the Conference Web site, www.pghpc.org.



Pastor Dave Kornfield, keynote speaker for this yearr's Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference

Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference Friday, May 5 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christ Church at Grove Farm

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard. When evening comes, the workers who began their labors earliest – spending hours in the sun on their feet, hauling heavy baskets of grapes – receive the usual daily wage for their efforts. But the workers who started in the late afternoon receive the very same compensation.

Christian Associates is beginning to look toward our 50th anniversary in 2020. It's been a long day in the hot sun for us, reaping an ecumenical harvest. We have worked diligently for decades to make the unity of the church more visible in our region. We have built relationships and established programs. We can be justifiably proud of our efforts and their results.

But we are not the only laborers in this vineyard any more.

In recent months, new voices have come into the ecumenical conversation in our region. Bishop David Zubik of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and Reid Carpenter, founder and President Emeritus of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, have been convening local Christian leaders in the "Reunion" project, a series of

The Holy Spirit is stirring up a new movement toward unity here in our region. It springs up in new and surprising places.

worship and fellowship gatherings. Pastors of independent churches have prayed side by side with denominational leaders. We've been encouraged to knock on the door of a church we've never entered before, to introduce ourselves to its leaders, to ask, "How can I pray for you?" and to invite those new friends to the next Reunion meeting. The circle has expanded. New relationships are underway.

In February, I was pleased to meet Julie Van Gorp and Jamie Shaver, hosts of "True View," an evangelical television ministry, who feel led to work for Christian unity. Their genuine curiosity and openness, and their deep prayerfulness, have already been a blessing to me. On November 4, Julie and Jamie will be launching "The One Project," a

movement to bring women of faith together across racial and denominational barriers; you can learn more at www. trueviewministries.com/events.

The Christian Associates Council went on retreat in early March at Kearns Spirituality Center in Allison Park. As part of our ongoing conversation on membership, we invited a panel of leaders from independent churches, and church bodies not currently involved in Christian Associates, to join us, sharing their perspectives on Christian unity. We were all edified and encouraged by this conversation, and even surprised by what we heard.

Of course, sometimes these new connections can feel uncomfortable. Too often we think of one other as competitors, fighting for our own share in the shrinking market of church. Sometimes we are not sure if our own theological stances and liturgical practices – or even our own identities (of gender, race, orientation) – will be fully welcome in these conversations. Sometimes these encounters remind us of painful schisms affecting our own churches.

But if we push beyond discomfort, we can find amazing grace. The Holy Spirit is stirring up a new movement

toward unity here in our region. It springs up in new and surprising places. It seeks to reach true healing, not superficial connection. If we can come along, it may bring us closer to the oneness Jesus desires for us.

Panelists at the Christian Associates Council of Bishops & Executives Retreat greet Council members. From right to left, Rev. Glenn Hanna of Allegheny Center Alliance Church, Rev. Brandy Randall of Orchard Hill Church, Pastor Frank Rondon of Iglesia Cristiana Sion, Pastor Denise Samuels of W.H.I.P Ministries.

At the end of the day, whether we've been working in this vineyard for fifty years or for fifty days, God will reward us for our labor. But we might also see a reward even in the midst of our efforts, as we turn toward the strangers who are our fellow workers and ask, "How can I pray for you?"

Your sister in Christ,

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



Workshop Equips Christians to Work to End Hunger

In today's political climate, it is crucial for Christians to advocate effectively on behalf of the most vulnerable in our communities. The Western Pennsylvania chapter of Bread for the World has designed this year's hunger advocacy workshop to prepare us for this challenge.

The annual workshop will take place in the Kadel Dining Room at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary** (616 N. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh) on **Sunday**, **April 23 from 1-4 p.m.**

Bread for the World's Regional Organizer for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Sheena



Rolle, will speak about Bread's plans to advocate for a "zero hunger budget." Ms. Rolle will help us decode the federal budget process so that we can most effectively

advocate for people facing food insecurity in our own communities and around the world.

A plenary presentation, "Innovative Strategies for Food Insecurity," will show us how advocates are working to end hunger in rural areas, high schools, and universities. Participants can also choose from three workshops that will teach how to organize an "offering of letters" in your congregation, how churches can participate in summer food programs for children, or how to effectively communicate with your Congressional representatives in this polarized political landscape.

The workshop is free of charge. Advance registration is strongly preferred; participants can visit the Eventbrite site at http://bit.ly/Bread2017 or by calling Christian Associates at 412-688-9070.



Author To Speak on "Spiritual Work of Dying"





Hospice chaplain and author, Kerry Egan

Hospice chaplain Kerry Egan, author of *On Living* (Riverhead, 2016), will be the featured speaker at a luncheon for clergy and lay leaders on **Thursday**, **April 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Family Hospice Auditorium**, **50 Moffett Street**, in Pittsburgh.

Ms. Egan will speak on the "spiritual work of dying" – the work of finding or making meaning of one's life, the experiences it's contained, and the people who have touched it. She will explore the role of clergy and lay leaders in working with people at the end of life.

The Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Hall, a general surgeon and Episcopal priest, will respond to Egan's remarks.

The \$25 registration fee includes lunch and a copy of *On Living*. The event is sponsored by Family Hospice and UPMC.

To register, contact Lynn Helbling Sirinek at 412-572-8874 or lhsirinek@familyhospicePA.org, no later than April 20.

"Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters ..."

The River Jordan. The Sea of Galilee. The flood. The desert rains. The waters of baptism.

The image of water suffuses the scriptures, and the importance of this imagery spurs Christians to action. With rising oceans, dirty drinking water, and polluted watersheds all in the news, how should Christians think about water theologically? And how do we move into action?

For over forty years, Trinity Episcopal Church in New York has brought together scholars and theologians for the annual Trinity Institute, exploring issues that matter through a theological lens.

On April 28 and 29, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon will be a partner site for this annual conference, known as Trinity Institute. This year's theme is Water Justice.

Speakers at the conference include U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, experts on public policy and climate change, and two Anglican archbishops:



Trinity Institute Annual Conference April 28-29, 2017 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon

Winston Halapua of the Diocese of Polynesia and Aotearoa New Zealand and Thabo Makgoba of Cape Town, South Africa.

Trinity Institute at St. Paul's offers video presentations from the speakers in New York, conversation in small groups, and terrific meals. In addition, those who participate will have access to other materials offered by Trinity Institute throughout the year, including study programs for Lent and Advent, and short films and small courses to share with your congregation.

For more information, or to register, visit http://www.stpaulspgh.org/blog/trinity-institute-2017-water-justice/ To learn more about the conference in New York, visit www.ti2017.org

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau Street Washington, PA 15301 724-222-0190 www.ChurchoftheCov.org

Prayer Summit

Dates: Sundays, April 9 & 23, May 7 & 21

Time: 7 p.m. Cost: Free

The Prayer Summit is a quiet place with gentle background music for listening to pastoral prayers, silently spending time in prayer, joining in corporate prayers. We have seen God's hand move. We have seen answered prayers. We have seen changed lives. Come join us and see the amazing things that God is doing!



New Castle First United Methodist Church

135 Decker Drive New Castle, PA 16105 724-658-5577 www.firstumcnc.org

Family Systems Workshop: "Integrated Leadership: Spirit, Emotions, Intellect, Behavior"

Date & Time: Fri., April 28, 5 p.m. - Sat., April 29, 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25, with lunch provided for an additional \$8.

Presenter: Rev. Bill Selby, creator of the Center for Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies

While offered from a church perspective, this workshop will not only apply to churches and congregations. The Family Systems Theory realities and concepts in this workshop can benefit anyone living and working with human beings professionally, in relationship, and in community. 1 CEU available.



Camp Agapé

72 Agape Road Hickory, PA 15340 724-356-2308 www.campagape.org

Earth Day Celebration

Date: Saturday, April 29 Time: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fee: Free.

Help plant flowerbeds around the camp and pot your own plant to take home, and share lunch with friends! Fun for all ages.

Flapjack Festival and Open House

Date: Sat., May 13 Time: 1 p.m. -4 p.m.

Fee: Free.

Join us for some flapjacks and sausage and then enjoy tours of the camp. There will be a drawing for a free week of summer camp and the first 20 kids will get a free Agapé T-shirt!



First Lutheran Church

615 Grant Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-471-8125 www.flcpittsburgh.org

Laudate Dominum Concert Series: "Music in the Beauty of Holiness" **Andre Bierman**

Date & Time: Sun., April 30, 4 p.m.

Celebrating his 30th anniversary as First Church's Tenor Soloist, he presents a concert of arias and art songs with guest colleagues, accompanied by Sister Cynthia Pock.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation: Hymn Festival, Concordia College of New York, Tour Choir

Date & Time: Sun., May 14, 4 p.m.



International Association of Women Ministers

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon 7501 Church Avenue Ben Avon, PA 15202 412-761-1233

Celebration of Women in Ministry

Date & Time: Thurs., May 11, 10:30 a.m. Suggested donation: \$25, includes lunch

Join the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers as they welcome Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi as keynote speaker at this second annual celebration. The chapter will also present awards to three outstanding women ministers. RSVP to Rev. Jean Henderson at jhhh21942@aol.com.



Byzantine Catholic Seminary

412-321-8383 www.bcs.edu

Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture

Date & Time: Thurs., May 11, 7 p.m. Location: St. John Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120. Fee: Free; registration requested by April 28 by calling 412-321-8383 or emailing office@bcs.edu.

The 17th annual Saints Cyril & Methodius Lecture will feature Very Rev. Peter Galadza, PhD, speaking on "Vatican Guidelines for Church Music: Eastern Christian Prospects and Problems." A reception will follow.



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

304 Morewood Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-682-3342 www.standrewpittsburgh.org

Faith Forming Faith Catechetical Training

Date & Time: Fri., May 12, 5 p.m. to Sun., May 14, 2 p.m.

Cost: \$75; group rate available. Presenters: Pastor Paul E. Hoffman and

Donna Lynn

This event is designed to assist congregations in enhancing their ministries to welcome persons into a community of faith beginning with baptism. Participants will not only have a rich time of spiritual renewal for themselves, they will return to their congregations prepared to initiate a process of welcome and discipleship in their own communities. Email FaithFormingFaith. St.Andrew@gmail.com to register.



Crestfield Camp & Conference Center

195 Taggart Rd. Slipperv Rock, PA 16057 724-794-4022 www.crestfieldcc.org

Senior Adult Day Retreat

Date: Wednesday, May 3

Cost: \$45, includes transportation and two

meals.

Are you longing to spend a day out in the country? Are you a church leader looking for programming for a Senior Adult Ministry? If so, this retreat is for you! Come spend a relaxing day at Crestfield. We take care of meals, transportation, and activities. All you do is come along for the ride!

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Community of Celebration

PO Box 309
Aliquippa, PA 15001
724-375-1510
www.communityofcelebration.com

2017 Annual Conference: Kingdom vs. Empire

Dates: Fri., June 16 - Sun., June 18 Speaker: Pastor Joel Repic, Crestmont

Alliance Church

Cost: Residential - \$195; Non-residential - \$145; \$50 per person non-refundable deposit.

Jesus inaugurated the Kingdom of God on earth in His ministry, but without ending the kingdom of darkness. This means we live in a time when Kingdom and empire both exist on the earth in proximity to one another. How do we discern the difference between Kingdom and empire in our society, our neighborhoods, our churches, and our own hearts?

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

(CPE) with a specialization in end of life pastoral care and bereavement. Part time extended unit begins in September, 2017.

For information contact: Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich epehanich@familyhospicepa.org 412-651-2587



CAMP AGAPE IS HIRING Summer

Camp Staff counselor positions. Call the camp office at 724-356-2308 today to learn more about becoming part of the Agape' team.



PNEUMA INSTITUTE

invites you to explore. . .

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and Christian Discipleship

with Dr. Martha Robbins at Martina Spiritual Renewal Center, August 20, 5:30 p.m. to Aug.23, 1:30 p.m.

Discerning a Call to the Ministry of Spiritual Direction and/or Spiritual Leadership

With Dr. Martha Robbins and others Martina Spiritual Renewal Center Nov. 8, 5:30 p.m. to Nov. 11, 1:30 pm. For More Information Contact: Martha Robbins, Th.D., Director of Pneuma Institute, mrobbins@pts.edu, 412-924-1423.



VA COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Veterans Affairs hospital in Pittsburgh has initiated a new program called the Community Clergy Training Program which will provide clergy with skills to minister to veterans in their congregations. We will be setting up one-day training events throughout Southwestern PA over the next several months.

If you are interested in hosting, sponsoring, or registering as a participant in one of the upcoming training events, please contact Chaplain Paul Dordal, paul.dordal@va.gov or 412-822-1556.

The first event will be held at Geneva College on Monday, April 17th. Lunch is provided. You must pre-register to participate.





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Rt. 30 E. Greensburg, PA ~ 724-834-7350 www.BishopConnareCenter.org

Camp Agapé

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Summer camps for boys and girls ages 5 - 15. Day and Resident Camps with a Special Summer Focus on Reading & Math Camps.

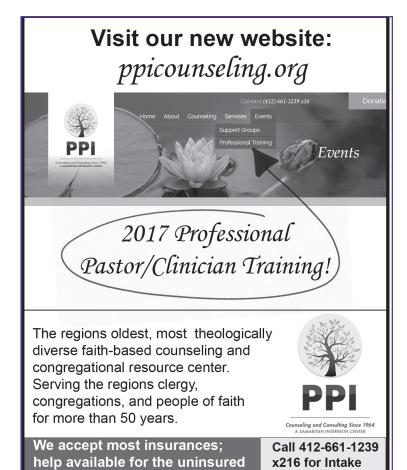
- Classic Camp
- Art & Science Camp
- Music, Art & Drama Camp
- Reading & Math Camps

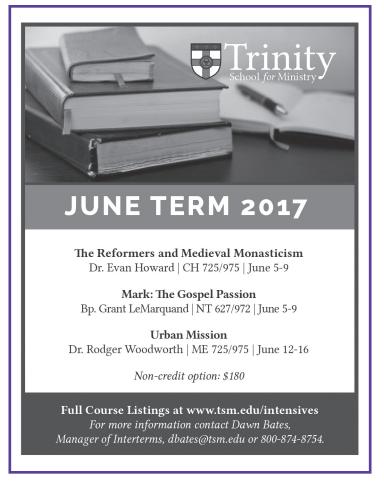
Come & See!

For more information, visit our website,
www.campagape.org
or call the camp office at
724-356-2308













Insurance - Sliding Fee Scale - Evening appointments - 8 Locations

Upcoming Training:

SOUL SHOP™

Ministering to Suicidal Desperation **May 3 • 9AM-3PM • \$40** (\$50 after 4/19)

Crossfire: A Campus of the First United Methodist Church - Butler

Register @ samaritancounseling.net or call 412-741-7430

Co-sponsored by Butler County Suicide Awareness Task Force and Pitt School of Social Work



Thrive2017 is a conference for pastors and church leaders who are doing ministry on the edge of society.

Featured speakers include **Sara Miles**, Director of Ministry at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco and the founder/director of The Food Pantry and Peter Rollins, writer, philosopher and developer of a type of "Religionless Christianity."

When: April 30-May 2, 2017

Double Tree Hotel - Greentree Where:

(Pittsburgh, PA)

\$400 (includes full conference and all meals) Cost:

Topics include:

- Worship Revitalization Dismantling Racism
- Theology and Ecology Social Justice

Come learn new ways of doing ministry for a changing world.

For more information or to register, visit www.thrive2017.weebly.com.

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Hospitality and the Old Testament Extending Hospitality: Conversations and Community April 19, 2017 Jerome Creach

Reading the Bible with Barth Online Course May 1-26, 2017 Angela Dienhart Hancock Forming Faithful Places Schaff Lectures May 3, 2017 Willie J. Jennings

Immersion Experience: An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life May 21-24, 2017

Mary Lynn Callahan and PTS Faculty

Leadership, Conflict, and Creativity Henderson Summer Leadership Conference June 8-10, 2017 Miroslav Volf, Leanna Fuller, and

David Jones

Self-care as a Spiritual Practice: A Holistic Perspective and Approach A Spiritual Formation Elective June 25-28, 2017 Lynn Holden



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

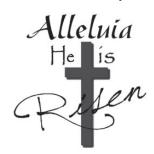


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Raise a Glass to Christian Associates



Imagine a room filled with people who care as deeply about Christian unity as you do. This spring, you can be there!

The members of the John 17 Society, Christian Associates' most generous supporters, will gather at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's McNaugher**

Lounge on Thursday, May 25 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for the annual John 17 Society Reception. Learn more about Christian Associates' ministries; enjoy drinks, appetizers, and live music; and make new friends.

You can still join the Society in time to attend the reception! All individuals and congregations who have donated \$250 or more to Christian Associates between April 2016 and May 20, 2017 will receive two tickets to the event.

You can mail a check to P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, or give online at www.casp.org/donate.

Conference Aims to Help Churches Thrive

Christian Associates is proud to be a co-sponsor of *Thrive 2017*: Ministry on the Edge, a conference that equips clergy to reach out to the marginalized and congregations to work beyond their own walls.



Keynote speakers at *Thrive* include **Sara Miles**, author of *Take This Bread* and *City of God*; **Peter Rollins**, author of *The Divine Magician* and *How (Not) To Speak of God*; **Kevass Harding**, author of *Can These Bones Live: Bringing New Life To a Dying Church*; and hip-hop artist **Drew Smith**.

Thrive takes place April 30 through May 2 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Green Tree. Registration is \$400 for the entire conference, with single-day and group rates available, as well as scholarships for United Methodist clergy.

For more information and to register before April 10, visit www. thrive 2017.us.