

# 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](http://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*



June/July /August 2018, Number 3

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

### Overdose Awareness Day Commemoration Planned for August 31

In 2017, drug overdoses, primarily from opioids, caused the deaths of 5,260 people in Pennsylvania. 735 people perished in Allegheny County alone.

For the fourth year, the Southwest Pennsylvania community will gather at **Trinity Cathedral** in downtown Pittsburgh at **noon** on **August 31** for an ecumenical commemoration of **International Overdose Awareness Day**, co-sponsored by CLEAR, Christian Associates, and the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium.

The service has included scriptures, prayers, testimonies, and the chiming of a bell to represent lives that have been lost to overdose, with leaders representing a variety of Christian traditions.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held every August 31 to raise

awareness of overdose, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends of those who have died by overdose.

All are welcome to participate in planning and leading the service. To learn more and share your ideas, join us for a planning meeting at Trinity Cathedral on Wednesday, June 27 at 10 a.m. RSVP for the meeting by contacting Liddy Barlow, [lbarlow@casp.org](mailto:lbarlow@casp.org), or Karen Plavan, [karenplavan@gmail.com](mailto:karenplavan@gmail.com).

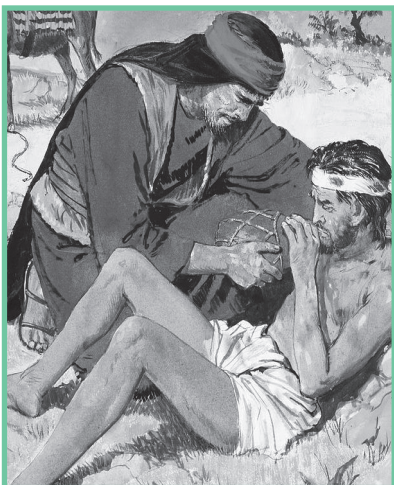
The Pittsburgh commemoration will be just one of many such services throughout our region. If your congregation or ministerium is planning an observance of International Overdose Awareness Day, be sure to alert our office so that we can help publicize your service through our e-newsletter and social media.



Bishop Dorsey McConnell offers prayers and blessings at the Overdose Awareness Day service in 2015.

### Christian Associates Seeks Sermons on Race in America for Publication This Fall

#### *Who is my neighbor?*



The lawyer's provocative question in Luke 10:29 inspired one of Jesus' most famous parables: the story of the Good Samaritan. Today just as then, we too often fail to see all humanity as neighbors, a struggle made especially clear by continued racial inequity.

Christian Associates is now preparing the third volume in our series "The Word in Our Voices". Who is My Neighbor? *Southwest Pennsylvania Preaches on Race in America* will draw together sermons, essays, and other writings by religious leaders throughout our region.

Your contributions are needed! Perhaps you've preached on the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Perhaps you've written about mass incarceration or the Black Lives Matter movement. Maybe you thought of race when you read Paul's

words to the Galatians that "in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, but all are one in Christ Jesus."

We invite you to share your reflections with our broader community, so that all of us might wrestle with the legacy of racism together.

You may submit your sermon as manuscript, transcript, or by audio or video recording. Be sure to note when and where it was preached or first shared, and the scriptural texts that were read with it. All submissions should be emailed to [lbarlow@casp.org](mailto:lbarlow@casp.org) by August 15.

The two earlier volumes in The Word in Our Voices series are available for free download by visiting [www.casp.org/sermons](http://www.casp.org/sermons). Print copies for purchase may be ordered by calling our office.

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

When Christians think of the year, we can imagine three different calendars overlapping one another:

- † First, there's the **liturgical calendar**. In the Western church, the year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, building through Lent into the intense drama of Holy Week and celebrations of Eastertide, then dissipating after Pentecost into the long green season of Ordinary Time. The Eastern church's calendar has a similar pattern but a different place to begin: in the East, the new year starts on September 1.
- † We also follow the **secular calendar**, a January to December affair: in this schedule, the summer is a time for cookouts, baseball, fireworks, and vacations.
- † Churches also tend to follow the **academic calendar**. The "program year" of many churches begins, like the school year, in September and wraps up in early June. During the summer, many choirs, committees, and Sunday Schools take a break.



In all three of these calendars, the summer offers a different rhythm: a relaxation of the tyranny of datebooks and deadlines. After the mania of spring, summer provides a little breathing space, the opportunity to sit back and take stock. I find that it's the only time of year when I can do any filing (unless the stacks of paper on my desk count as files), or when I can take a long view of planning and strategy.

*Will you join me in taking time to invest in relationships this summer?*

This summer, there's another goal I'd like to take on: I'd like to fill these quieter days with conversation. Whether it's the "one to one" meetings on which community organizing is built, the networking sessions recommended by coaches, or simply grabbing coffee with a bestie, we all know that big projects begin with simple conversations. So, this summer, I'd like to make new friends and make new connections, to reinvest in familiar relationships and dream with partners about what the future may bring.

With that in mind, I'm blocking off time on my summer calendar for one-on-one meetings throughout our region: with bishops and judicatory executives, with clergy, with community leaders, with directors of partner organizations. I want to meet new people, thank our supporters, find out what's new and interesting in our area, and think aloud through some new ideas.

I wonder if you'd like to join me. And by that I mean not only that you might call my office and find a time for us to get together, but also that you would pursue this goal in your own neighborhood. Perhaps the church down the road has a new pastor whom you have not yet met. Perhaps you'd like to chat with your local police chief, or the director of your community food pantry. Maybe you have a close friend who needs to get back on your calendar, for renewed laughter and mutual support. Will you join me in taking time to invest in relationships this summer?

Let's pray that our summer connections might yield abundant fruit in the months to come. I suspect that as we meet our neighbors, we'll find there is nothing ordinary about this season of Ordinary Time.

Your sister in Christ,

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





## Clean Air Council Recruits Leaders for Groups of Ten to Reduce Air Pollution

*"We need to find ways, as churches, to support sound programs which seek to preserve from pollution the air, the water, and the land around which we live. To speak of the reintegration of creation today is first to speak words of repentance and to make commitments of stewardship, commitments toward the formation of a new way of living for the whole of humanity."*

-- Christian Associates Council of Bishops & Judiciary Executives, "Statement on Creation and the Environment," February 27, 2007

The American Lung Association recently ranked Southwest Pennsylvania as having the tenth worst air quality in the United States. This air pollution can cause respiratory and heart ailments, and even cancer.

To respond to this menace, people of faith from many Christian traditions are stepping up to join in the SWPA Neighbors for Clean Air Campaign, sponsored by the Clean Air Council, by leading or becoming a member of a Group of Ten.

A Group of Ten is a gathering of ten (or more) concerned community members who meet once a month for about two hours.

In this meeting, members will review a curriculum together to learn about air

pollution and other environmental issues. Then, leaders will present a suggested action step that members can take to address the issues at hand.

Group of Ten members will simply attend the monthly meeting and pursue the action step, for no more than a three hour monthly commitment.

Group of Ten leaders must be able to commit four hours per month to recruiting members and organizing and facilitating the group.

The Clean Air Council will train leaders and provide leaders with the curriculum, action steps, and facilitator notes.

If you are interested in joining or leading a group, contact Dave Smith, 412-954-8494 or [dsmith@cleanair.org](mailto:dsmith@cleanair.org).



**Southwest Pennsylvania has the tenth worst air quality in the United States**

## Growing Up Ecumenical: Introducing Our New Student Assistant

Hello, everybody! This is Gary, the new Student Assistant at Christian Associates. I thought I would give you some background as to what led me to be so interested in this position and in the work of Christian Associates. In doing so you will also learn a little more about my own background and faith journey.



**Gary Glasser**  
**Student Assistant**  
*"You might say that I was born into ecumenism!"*

I like to tell people that I grew up in a bi-religious household, as my father was Episcopalian and my mother Roman Catholic. They married in an Episcopal Church (St. George's Astoria in Queens, New York), and I attended worship there with my father.

After Vatican II, my father and mother were married again in a Roman Catholic church and my mother attended Mass there. Even though my mother didn't attend worship with us, she was very supportive of my faith and both my parents respected each other's beliefs.

I never felt that one way of worshiping our Lord was better than the other. You might say that I was born into ecumenism!

All through my life, then, I have been interested in ecumenical work, which is one reason I chose to attend Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

As a "cradle Episcopalian," I wanted to create an opportunity to be in conversation with other Christians from different denominations, and attending PTS has accomplished that.

My personal mission of contributing to ecumenism was so much in alignment with the mission of Christian Associates "to promote ecumenical relationships and activities among pastors and congregations" and "to speak, whenever possible, with one voice proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ" that I jumped at the opportunity to be part of that effort.

I look forward to building relationships with all members of our community and doing the work of our Lord, Jesus Christ, together!

Yours sincerely,  
Gary Glasser

### *Editor's Note:*

*Gary's work with Christian Associates begins this summer and will continue throughout the coming year. We're glad to have him on board!*

## Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden

4905 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-621-6566  
[www.biblicalgardenpittsburgh.org](http://www.biblicalgardenpittsburgh.org)

### Abraham the Shepherd: The Search for Grains and Grasses

Dates: June 1-Sept 15  
Times: Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Weds.  
also 7 p.m.-9 p.m. through August; Sat. 12  
p.m.-1 p.m.

Each season we focus on a special theme  
of ancient Near Eastern horticulture  
or religious concerns and add plants  
appropriate for that exhibit. No admission  
charge and handicapped accessible. Group  
tours (eight or more) by appointment.



### Abraham Jam

[www.abrahamjam.com](http://www.abrahamjam.com)

Date & Time: Thurs., June 14, 7:30 pm  
Location: Passavant Center, Thiel College,  
Greenville, PA  
Cost: Free will offering

With a collective resume of dozens  
of albums and thousands of concerts  
worldwide, three musicians representing  
Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith  
backgrounds have teamed up to offer  
and evening of song, story, laughter,  
and inspiration generated by their own  
relationship across lines that sometimes  
divide us.



### St. Paul Cathedral

108 N. Dithridge St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-621-4951  
[www.stpaulpgh.org](http://www.stpaulpgh.org)

### 2018 Summer Concert Series

Date & Time: Sundays at 4 p.m.  
Cost: Free  
Featured performers:  
July 8 – Nick Capozzoli  
July 15 – Douglas Starr  
July 22 – Mark Pacoe  
August 5 – Joe Balistreri  
August 12 – Peter Gonciarz  
August 19 – Benjamin Cornelius Bates

## Faith Night Athletics

### Pittsburgh Pirates

PNC Park  
115 Federal St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
[www.pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com](http://www.pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com)

Date & Time: Fri., July 27, 7:05 p.m.  
Price: \$18-\$35

Come out to PNC Park for the fifth annual  
Faith Night and root for the Pirates as they  
play the New York Mets. Following the  
game, hear your favorite Pirate players and  
coaches share their personal experiences with  
how their faith has impacted both their lives  
and their careers in baseball.

### Washington Wild Things

Wild Things Park  
1 Washington Federal Way  
Washington, PA 15301  
[www.washingtonwildthings.com](http://www.washingtonwildthings.com)

Date: Sun., July 8  
Price: \$5-15

Pregame concert by Red Letter Hymnal starts  
at 3:30. First pitch vs the Evansville Otters  
is at 5:35. Following the game, players will  
offer testimonies.

### Pittsburgh Riverhounds Soccer Club

Highmark Stadium  
510 W Station Square Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
[www.riverhounds.com](http://www.riverhounds.com)

Date & Time: Wed., Aug. 1, 7 p.m.  
Cost: \$11-39

Join the Riverhounds Soccer Club as they  
take on the Richmond Kickers for the  
2018 Faith and Family Night, presented by  
Cornerstone and K-LOVE.



### Soul Shop

3524 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
814-758-2056  
[www.soulshopmovement.org](http://www.soulshopmovement.org)

### Ministering to Suicidal Depression

Date: June 27  
Time: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Venue: Excelsa Square at Latrobe, 100 Excelsa  
Health Dr., Latrobe, PA 15650  
Organizers: Greater Latrobe Ministerial  
Association  
Cost: \$20, includes lunch and refreshments  
Add \$10 for 6 CEU's, Act 74 Compliant

## Soul Shop

(continued . . .)

Soul Shop explores the incidence of  
suicide, self-injuries, and people impacted  
by the death of another. It offers a simple,  
conversational approach to talking about  
suicide that can save lives and teaches  
concrete ways of integrating suicide  
prevention into pastoral care, teaching,  
training and more. For more information  
and to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soul-shop-for-leaders-ministering-to-suicidal-depression-registration-44926422138?aff=es2>.



### Olmsted Manor Retreat Center

17 East Main St., PO Box 8  
Ludlow, PA 16333  
814-945-6512  
[www.olmstedmanor.org](http://www.olmstedmanor.org)

### Music and Worship Workshop: *Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come*

Date: June 24-28  
Presenter: Don Besig and Nancy Price  
Cost: \$372, includes tuition and room and  
board

Come join us at Olmsted for a retreat  
every church music lover will enjoy. Choir  
directors, round up your members (and their  
friends) and come for excellent teaching,  
inspirational music, and uplifting time with  
each other.

Participants will enjoy sessions in choral  
music, hand bells, organ, and liturgical dance.  
Bible study and prayer times will be offered  
each day. On Wednesday, participants will  
join together in an evening of music offered  
to God and the community at First UMC  
Kane. After the service, we will return to  
Olmsted for our traditional cabaret, a fun  
time to appreciate each other's gifts and  
talents.



### St. Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road  
Latrobe, PA 15650  
724-805-2139  
[www.saintvincentretreats.org](http://www.saintvincentretreats.org)

### Silent Retreat: Rejoice in the Lord Always

Date & Time: Check in 3 to 5:30 p.m. Fri.,  
July 20; Retreat ends at 1 p.m. Sun., July 22  
Leader: Fr. Killian Loch, O.S.B.  
Cost: \$185



## St. Vincent Archabbey (continued . . .)

This retreat will focus on how we can be joyful even in difficult times. We will look at Joy as part of our faith, by reflecting on Joy as a "fruit of the Spirit" and as leading us to surrender to God. This silent retreat will allow us to escape from the noise and busyness that so often surround us and occupy our minds.

### Men's Retreat: The Heart of the Father, The Heart of Every Man

Date & Time: Check in 3 to 5:30 p.m. Fri., July 27; Retreat ends at 1 p.m. Sun., July 29  
Retreat Master: Fr. Isaac Haywiser, O.S.B.  
Cost: \$185

Our Church and culture have seen the increase of absent fathers both physically and spiritually with the resulting loss of the understanding of masculinity, fatherhood, and manhood. We will look to the example of the saints, the teachings of the Church, and submit ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit who forms us as men to be protectors, providers, and leaders.

## Shadyside Presbyterian Church

512 Westminster Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
412-682-4300  
www.shadysidepres.org

### Music for Midsummer Nights: A Miniseries of Midweek Concerts

Date: Wednesdays in June  
Time: 7pm  
Cost: Fees vary. Please check website for detailed information.

June 6-How Can I Keep from Singing?  
An Evening of American Music with the Pittsburgh Camerata, tickets required  
June 13-Happy Birthday, Irving Berlin!  
Lyric Fest: Suzanne DuPlantis, mezzo-soprano; Randall Scarlatta, baritone; Dr. Laura Ward, piano  
June 20-James W. Iman, piano  
June 27- Justin M. Wallace, organ

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE) with a specialization in end of life pastoral care and bereavement

Part time extended unit begins in Sept 2018.

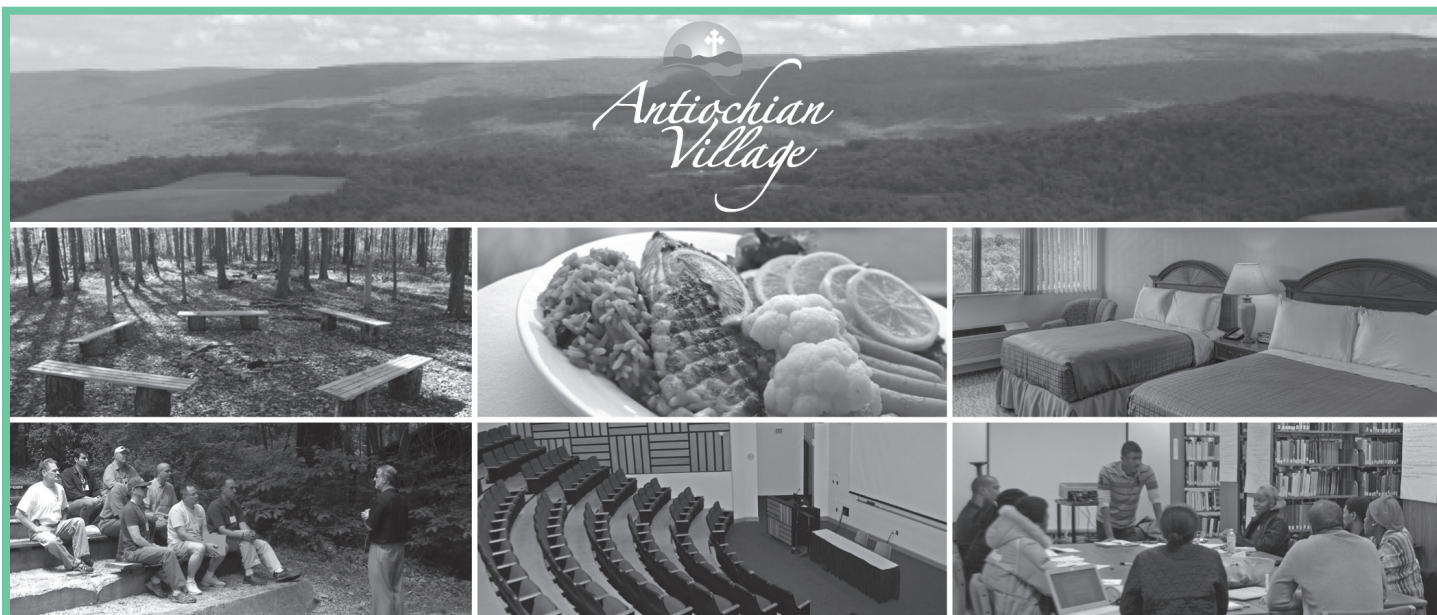
For information contact:  
Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich  
epehanich@familyhospicepa.org  
412-651-2587



### The Pittsburgh Tarentum

**Campmeeting Association**, a Christian community of 23 cottages located in the wooded section of Natrona Heights, will open soon for musical programs, worship services, and cottage open houses. Call Ginny Wellman at 412-826-5789 (home) or 412-841-6089 (cell) for more information and a printed program.

**A restored VICTORIAN cottage is for sale**, located at the PTCA Christian cottage community in the wooded section of Natrona Heights. A 2-story, 2 BR, 2 1/2 bath is completely furnished with new and antique furniture. Asking price: \$25K. Contact Ginny Wellman (numbers above) for details.



## MINISTRY SERVING MINISTRY

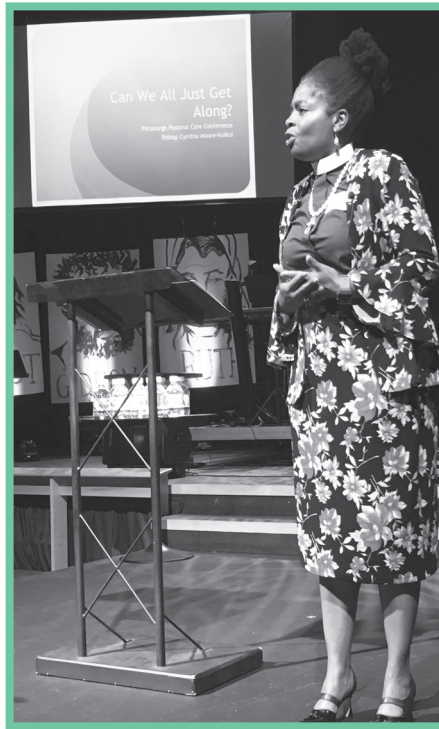
Antiochian Village Conference Center is a peaceful setting in the beautiful Laurel Highlands, on Route 711, just a few minutes north of Ligonier, Pennsylvania. At Antiochian Village, we are committed to changing the lives of people by providing true Christian hospitality in an Orthodox spiritual environment.

Come spend a few days here and you'll understand this feedback from one of our recent guests, "The Antiochian Village is truly a special and unique place, made even better by the people who care so much to make it the highest quality experience, to serve God, and to actively demonstrate striving to be as Christ."

## Spring Events Spotlight Christian Unity

*This spring, Christian Associates sponsored events throughout our region to bring diverse Christians together to serve our communities and make visible the unity of the church. See more photos on page 8!*

**Fr. Jim Podlesny**, Diocesan Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Greensburg, offers a testimony at the **Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives retreat** at the Bishop Connare Center (below). Members of the Council shared personal stories of faith and invited small group conversation in this retreat that combined spiritual renewal with community-building.



**Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi** offered the keynote address at the **18th annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference** on May 11. (Mark your calendars for next year's conference: May 10, 2019).



In a historic event, Lutheran leaders from three church bodies participated in a Martin Luther Hymn Festival at Heinz Chapel. Above right to left: **Rev. Brian P. Westgate**, President of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod); **Bishop Kurt Kusserow**, SWPA Lutheran Synod (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America); and **Rev. Carl Johnson**, Dean of the Mid-Northeast Mission District (North American Lutheran Church).

## Forbes Hospital Launches Compassionate Companions Program

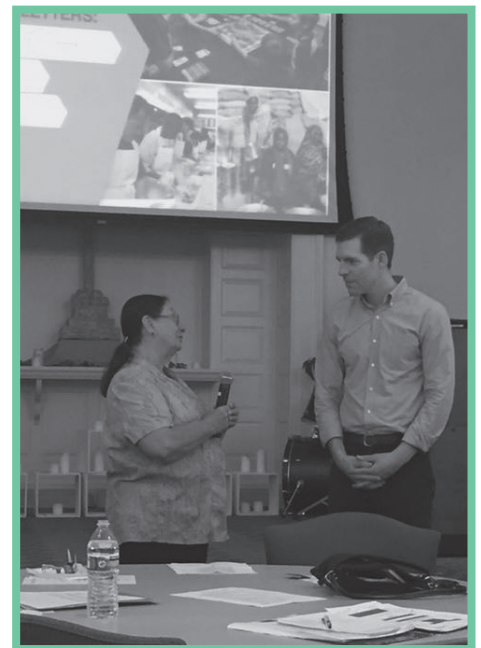
Forbes Hospital, part of Allegheny Health Network, is celebrating the first anniversary of its **Compassionate Companion Program**. Forbes Pastoral Care Department, Clinical Operations Council, and Volunteer Resources collaborated to develop this initiative.

This program provides trained volunteer companions for our dying patients who may have limited, or no, family support. Forbes Care Team believes that every patient matters, and that no one should die alone.

When a patient is nearing the end of life, anxiety and fear may be present. At times such as these, Compassionate Companions are there to hold a hand, say a prayer, or just be a presence.

Forbes staff members have been so inspired by this program that many of them have volunteered to participate. Like these dedicated workers, you too can make a difference.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Father Joseph Wargo, Chaplain of the Pastoral Care Department, at 412-858-2960 or Sue Cox, Director of Volunteer Services at 412-858-3049.



Newly elected **U.S. Representative Conor Lamb** (above) offered his perspective on the Farm Bill at SWPA Bread for the World's annual Hunger Advocacy Workshop in April. More visits with members of Congress are planned for this summer; if you would like to come along; contact Joyce Rothermel at [rothermeljoyce@gmail.com](mailto:rothermeljoyce@gmail.com).



## UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

### Thomas Merton and the Journey to True Self June 10-13, 2018

L. Roger Owens, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and Ministry and Author

### Immersion Experience: An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life

June 24-27, 2018

Mary Lynn Callahan, Spiritual Ministries Director and Spiritual Director, and Lynn Holden, Professional Counselor and Spiritual Director

### The Enneagram: Conversion and Self-Awareness

Sept. 16-19, 2018

Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof, Franciscan Friar and Director of Ongoing Formation

### McClure Lectures in World Mission and Evangelism

Oct. 1-2, 2018

Jehu J. Hanciles, D.W. and Ruth Brooks Associate Professor of World Christianity, Candler School of Theology, Emory University



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### John 17 Society Members Meet for Fellowship

A few members of Christian Associates' John 17 Society met in early May to share a time of informal conversation. Left to right: **Fr. Christopher Bender, Ron Pedersen, Elizabeth Sommer, Bishop Dorsey McConnell, Bishop Kurt Kusserow, Rev. Liddy Barlow.** You can join the Society by giving at [www.casp.org/donate](http://www.casp.org/donate).



### IAWM Recognizes Outstanding Women in Ministry

The Southwest Pennsylvania chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers presented Outstanding Women in Ministry awards to three clergywomen at their spring celebration. Left to right: **Rev. Dr. Jean Henderson; Rev. Elizabeth Platz**, the first woman to be ordained in the Lutheran tradition in North America; and **Rev. Ruth Bosch Becker**,