

# Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

*Serving 10 Counties, 25 Christian Faith Traditions, 2000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members*

## The Call...

On the Web: [www.casp.org](http://www.casp.org)

*to be one in Christ*



Jun. 2009, Number 3

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

## Orthodox Church in America Welcomes New Bishop

The consecration of the next ruling hierarch of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, Orthodox Church in America, Archimandrite Melchisedek will occur on June 26 and 27 at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, McCandless. On Friday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. there will be the Rite of Nomination and Proclamation; it will be followed by Vespers. On Saturday, June 27 at 8:30 a.m. the Rite of Consecration and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated. His Beatitude,

Metropolitan JONAH, the Archbishop of Washington and New York and the Metropolitan of All America and Canada for the Orthodox Church in America will preside over the consecration. A Grand Banquet follows at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh at 2:00 p.m.

Bishop-Elect Archimandrite Melchisedek succeeds Archbishop KYRILL who died in June 2007 after serving the Archdiocese for 29 years, as well as being hierarch of the Toledo (Bulgarian) Diocese. The Bishop-Elect was born Thomas Pleska in Dayton, Ohio on August 20, 1942. He is a graduate of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in Crestwood, New York and was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1986 by Metropolitan THEODOSIUS. During his priesthood, he was the pastor of churches in Pottstown, Old Forge, and Simpson, Pennsylvania; and Meridian, Connecticut. In 1998, he entered into the monastic life in Greece. In 2004, he was tonsured to the Great Schema by his Abbot Archimandrite Dionysios and raised to the rank of Archimandrite and Spiritual Father by the local Metropolitan in Greece.



Archimandrite Melchisedek

On November 15, 2008, Archimandrite Melchisedek was nominated to the Holy Synod by an Extraordinary Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania to be the next Bishop of this historic Archdiocese. On April 2, 2009, at the OCA Chancery in Oyster Bay Cove, New York, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America acted upon the Archdiocesan nomination and canonically elected Archimandrite Melchisedek as the next Bishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.

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# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY



**Dear Siblings in Our Lord,**

One of my favorite icons is of St. Peter and St. Paul embracing. As we know from scripture, these two had a confrontational relationship with each other over how to accomplish their common mission of evangelizing the world. Yet, the iconographer writes them as reconciled in Christ despite their differences. It is a beautiful icon of overcoming conflicts and living with sometimes difficult and hard-to-understand people and issues for the sake of the unity of the Church, the Body of Christ. Oh, how we need to pray that icon's message today!

A registration form was submitted for a recent conference. The anonymous sender commended the planners on the theme, proposed speakers and workshops, but noted that they would not participate because of the facility where the conference was to be held. The site had been chosen because of the spacious facility and the generous hospitality of the staff, not as a theological statement endorsing that church's mission or theological stance. I grieve for that colleague and any others who denied themselves the opportunity to grow because their perceived differences with the facility's owners were stronger than their commitment to reconciliation in Christ and the unity of the Church.

Similarly, two devout believers were asked to serve on a committee. Both confess their love for Christ and are exemplar servants in their respective congregations. Yet, one declined to serve because of the presence of the other on the committee. They were on opposing sides of a divisive ethical issue facing our society and how "true" believers should respond. Apart from reconciliation in Christ with our neighbors, none of us can claim to make appropriate "Christian" moral and ethical decisions. Oh, that these two could embrace as writes the iconographer!

I will be challenged personally this summer as my Lutheran denomination considers its social teaching and standards for rostered leaders. I know that I will be a partisan in defense of what I believe to be faithful to scripture and catholic tradition. But I also pray that the Spirit will keep me and my sisters and brothers on the other side of the issue reconciled in Christ amidst our differences. We all need to learn from Peter and Paul about the primacy of reconciliation in Christ with our neighbors, if we are to be authentic and effective in our witness to the world.

*"Veni Creator Spiritus!"*

**In Christ's love and transforming grace,**

*Pastor Don Green*

## Health Care: Human Right and Moral Imperative

In cooperation with the Presbyterian Church, USA (PC-USA), the Western PA Coalition for Single-Payer Healthcare will host a conference at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Sunday, June 14 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (complimentary light lunch at 1:00, program begins at 2:00). The program is one of ten regional conferences being conducted by the PC-USA following its General Assembly action to educate and advocate for national, universal, single-payer healthcare reform.

Featured keynote speaker will be U.S. Representative Eric Massa (NY-Corning), co-chair of the HR 676 caucus who are supporters of “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All.” Other invited presenters include Walter Tsou, M.D., former Health Commissioner of Philadelphia; U. S. Representative Mike Doyle; and PA Senator Jim Ferlo. The event is open to the public. To register go to [www.WPaSinglePayer.org](http://www.WPaSinglePayer.org) or call Hal Sanders at 412-241-2792.

## Addressing Violence, Poverty and Disasters: Utilizing Psychological First Aid

Recent disasters and serious incidents, such as violence and poverty in our communities, have increased awareness of the important role the faith community has in disaster/critical incident response and recovery from emergencies, as well as in helping the community to prepare for the possibility of such events. Clergy, religious and lay leaders are invited to a one-day workshop on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Allegheny Center Alliance Church, 801 Union Place, Pittsburgh. Presenters include Pastor Don Green, Christian Associates’ Executive Director; Sr. Marguerite Kropinak, Director, St. Joseph Spirituality Center in Baden; and Dr. Mitchel Nichols, New Kensington. Psychological First Aid Training will be presented by John Weaver, founding partner of Eye of the Storm, Nazareth, PA. To register for this free training go to [www.geneva.edu](http://www.geneva.edu), then click on Events. Or, call 1-800-576-3111.

### Clinical Pastoral Education

Join one of the few CPE programs in the nation to offer training in ministry to the terminally ill. Family Hospice and Palliative Care is one of the largest hospices in Western Pennsylvania and its CPE program is accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

The CPE unit is a part-time extended unit beginning in September, 2009 and completing in May 2010. Participants complete 12 hours each week in didactic sessions, supervision, and direct care with hospice patients.

For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich at [epehanich@familyhospice.com](mailto:epehanich@familyhospice.com) or 412-829-2818.

### A Place Where Spirits Soar! **BISHOP WILLIAM G. CONNARE CENTER**

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**Route 30 East, Greensburg**

FOR INFORMATION, VISIT OR CALL 724-834-7350

### Spiritual Direction & Leadership Program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

*Pneuma*, a two-year, graduate certificate program in spiritual direction and spiritual leadership, offers educational and supervised training of pastors and laity in an ecumenical context.

*Pneuma*



Dr. Martha Robbins, Director  
412-441-3304 ext. 2126  
[mrobbins@pts.edu](mailto:mrobbins@pts.edu)  
[www.pts.edu/pneuma](http://www.pts.edu/pneuma)



# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## Tabor House of Prayer

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis  
146 Hawthorne Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15209  
412-821-1149  
[www.millvalefranciscans.org](http://www.millvalefranciscans.org)

## The Word Among Us!

Dates: Fri. June 12 – Sat. June 13  
Time: Begins 7:00 p.m. Fri. and ends Sat.  
with supper  
Presenter: Jan Schmitt, OSF  
Fee: \$55

Bring three of your favorite scriptures,  
and a photograph that tells us about you  
or someone who touched your life pro-  
foundly and an open heart.

## The Spirituality of Icon Writing

Dates: Thur. July 9 – Sun. July 12  
Time: Begins Thur. at 6:30 p.m.  
Presenter: Rosaire Kopczenski, OSF  
Fee: \$350, non-refundable deposit of \$50

This opportunity is most profound and  
provides a deep transformational experi-  
ence that expresses itself in the comple-  
tion of "the writing".

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## Music in Pittsburgh

### "Organ and Brass" with Organist Ken McGeary

Date: Sat. June 13  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
250 Highland Ave., East Liberty 15206  
412-361-7788  
No admission charge

### Cathedral Organists in Concert: J.R. Daniels, Kenneth Danchik, Donald Fellows

Date: Sun. June 21  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

### Joan Lippincott, organist from Princeton, New Jersey

Date: Thur. Aug. 27  
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Both recitals performed on renovated  
and restored Beckerath organ  
St. Paul Cathedral  
108 N. Dithridge St., Oakland 15213  
No admission charge

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## Mount Aloysius College

7373 Admiral Perry Highway  
Cresson, PA 16630  
814-886-6404

### Summer Contemplative Workshop for clergy, pastors, and church leaders: "Praying and Preaching the Gospel of Mark"

Dates: Tues. June 16 – Thur. June 18  
Presenter: Dr. Bonnie Thurston  
On-site accommodations, more informa-  
tion available, call number above

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## Calvary United Methodist Church

971 Beech Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
412-231-2007

[www.calvarymethodistpittsburgh.org](http://www.calvarymethodistpittsburgh.org)

## Urban - Suburban Partnership Workshop

Date: Sat. June 20  
Time: 8:30 a.m. registration, 10:30 a.m. –  
1:00 p.m., lunch included  
Cost: \$10/person or \$50 /congregation  
(5 or more)  
Registration: on the website or call  
412-231-2007

Dr. Al Tizon, Director of Word & Deed  
Network and Community Editor for  
Holistic Ministry will present a workshop:  
\*Where we do partnership, \*Why we do  
partnership, \*How we do partnership—  
the dos and don'ts and the practical steps  
to getting it done.

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## Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

5244 Clarwin Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229  
412-931-9766

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

### Inter-Community Conference Retreat (Silent): "The Transitional Prayer Life of Saul to Paul"

Dates: Sun. June 21 – Sat. June 27  
Time: Begins Sun. at 7:00 p.m. and ends  
Sat. with brunch  
Presenter: Fr. Mark Gruber, OSB  
Offering: \$360; registration requested

Change and transition are one of the con-  
stants of life. How does this affect us, our  
prayer life, our relationship with God?

### Eight-Day Directed Retreats (Silent)

Dates: Sun. July 12 – Sun. July 19 or  
Sun. Aug. 2 – Sun. Aug. 9  
Time: Begins Sun. at 7:00 p.m. and ends  
the next Sun. with brunch  
Presenters: July: Sr. Carole Riley, CDP, PhD  
and Fr. William Petro; August: Fr. Lester  
Knoll, OFM Cap  
Offering: \$410; registration requested

These Scripture-based retreats offer an  
extended time for prayer, solitude, and  
appraisal of Spirit-guided directives in  
one's life.

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## Community of Reconciliation Church

100 N. Bellefield Avenue at Fifth  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-682-2751

[www.communityofreconciliation.org](http://www.communityofreconciliation.org)

## Gospel & Soul Line Dancing

Line Dancing  
Dates & Times: Fridays, 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.  
\$1 donation, light refreshments served

## Summertime Dance Nights

Dates: Fridays: June 26, July 31, Aug. 28  
Time: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
\$5 per person





# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

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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  
Registration: Sr. Donna Marie Tahaney,  
724-869-6520  
[www.stjoseph-baden.org](http://www.stjoseph-baden.org)

## Five-Day Directed Retreat

Date: Wed. July 8 – Sun. July 12  
Time: Begins Wed. at 7:00 p.m.,  
concludes Sun. at noon  
Retreat Directors: Sr. Donna Marie  
Tahaney, CSJ and staff  
Fee: \$250 includes meals, lodging and  
individual direction

A directed retreat is an opportunity for  
Scriptural-based prayer in a contempla-  
tive mode.

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## Church Women United of Pittsburgh

To be held at  
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
5700 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (Squirrel Hill)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Celebration

*Seeking Shalom*  
Date: Sat. July 18  
Time: 9:30 a.m. registration, 10:00 a.m. –  
12:00 noon, program with lunch  
following  
Cost: \$10  
Speaker: Mrs. Scilla Wahrhaftig, Program  
Director, American Field Service

Church Women United invites all to at-  
tend. This annual celebration includes giv-  
ing Human Rights Awards to local persons  
who are working in their communities for  
peace. Contact Barbara Simpson for in-  
formation or to register: 3224 Orleans St.,  
Pittsburgh, 15214. Phone: 412-322-6419.

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## Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

941 Laurelville Lane  
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
724-423-2056 or 800-839-1021  
[www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org)

## Retreat for Families, Friends & Persons with Disabilities

Dates: Wed. July 22 – Sun. July 26  
Times: Begins Wed. at 4:00 p.m., ends  
Sun. with lunch at noon  
Fee: Please call for registration and lodg-  
ing costs; \$50 deposit  
Scholarships are available for children  
and/or persons with disabilities.

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## Taizé Services

## Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park  
[www.christumc.net](http://www.christumc.net)  
First Wed. of each month, 7:00 p.m.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206  
[www.cathedralofhope.org](http://www.cathedralofhope.org)  
Every Wed., 7:00 p.m.

## Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue at Braddock Road  
Hope@Lutheran.com  
First Fri. of each month, 7:00 p.m.

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## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

105 Gateshead Drive  
McMurray, PA 15317  
724-941-7467  
[www.ourredeemer-peters.org](http://www.ourredeemer-peters.org)

## Joyful Noise Worship - Worship for those with Autism

Dates: Second Sun. of each month  
Time: 1:00 p.m.

A worship service designed for people on  
the autism spectrum, their families, and  
anyone else who might benefit from a  
service in which noise and movement are  
the expectation, not an interruption

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## Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden

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

## Lookin' Good – Plants Used for Personal Care from the Bible to Our Day

Dates: June 1 to September 15  
Times: Sun. thru Thur. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Wed. also 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Sat. 12 noon – 1 p.m.  
Free admission, handicapped access  
Reserve a free tour for your group of  
8 or more

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## Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

Pittsburgh Presbytery  
195 Taggart Road  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
724-792-4022  
[www.crestfield.net](http://www.crestfield.net)

## Summer Camp for Children, Preschool through High School

We have a variety of 4 to 6 day camps.  
Besides the traditional Residents Camps,  
there are Little Ones & Loved Ones,  
Pioneer Camp, Night Owls, a new Horse  
Camp, and Counselors-in-Training Camp.  
Our accredited camp highlights Bible  
study and worship and gives campers  
age-appropriate activities with other  
Christians and trained counselors, such as  
a climbing wall, canoeing, swimming, clay  
pit, high & low ropes, and zip line. Check  
the website to find the right camp for  
your children.

# The Duquesne University Annual Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium

*Whose Sins You Shall Forgive ... The Holy Spirit and the Forgiveness of Sin(s) in the Fourth Gospel* will be the theme of the Holy Spirit Lecture at Duquesne University's Power Center Ballroom on Friday, June 12, 2009. Sandra M. Schneiders, I.H.M. Professor Emerita, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, CA will be the featured speaker.

Sandra Schneiders' professional interests include New Testament literature, particularly the Gospel of John; biblical hermeneutics; and Christian spirituality, particularly

biblical spirituality, feminism, religious life, and the theory of the field of spirituality.

She has authored several books among which are the first two volumes of *Religious Life in a New Millennium* (2000 and 2001), *Written That You May Believe: Encountering Jesus in the Fourth Gospel* (2003), and *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture* (1999).

For more information, call 412-396-6526 or email [holyspirit@duq.edu](mailto:holyspirit@duq.edu).



Sandra Schneiders

## UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

26TH ANNUAL  
TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

### CONNECTING WITH GOD IN THE SCRIPTURES

September 26, 2009  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Karen Tye**  
Professor Emerita  
Eden Theological Seminary,  
St. Louis, Missouri



### McCLURE LECTURES IN WORLD MISSION AND EVANGELISM

September 28, 2009  
11:30 a.m., 4:15 and  
7:30 p.m.  
September 29, 2009  
11:30 a.m.

**Diane Obenchain**  
Professor of Religion  
Calvin College,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

### CALLED TO WELCOME: FURTHER ALONG THE WAY

October 19, 2009  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Erik Carter**  
Assistant Professor,  
Rehabilitation Psychology  
and Special Education  
University of  
Wisconsin-Madison,  
Madison, Wisconsin



Office of  
Continuing Education  
616 N. Highland Ave.  
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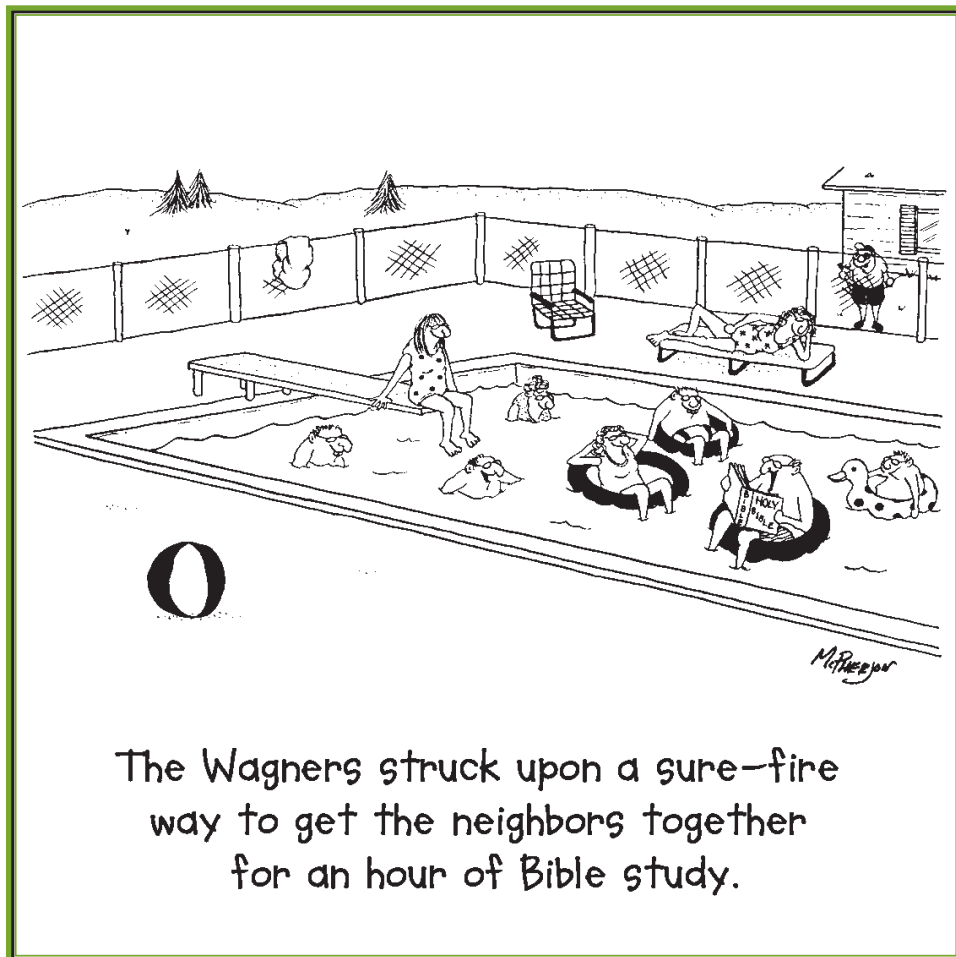
## New Options at Trinity School for Ministry

Beginning in September 2009, Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge will offer the ability for students to complete a Master of Arts in Mission, or MAM degree, through a combination of distance courses and residential intensive courses. Students will be able to complete the MA – with concentrations in church planting, global mission or pastoral ministry – without having to move to Ambridge. The program will be 60 credits (20 courses) and the course rotation will be such that a student could complete the entire program within four years. Also beginning this fall, Trinity will be offering courses that will allow students to earn an MDiv with an emphasis in church planting.

More details are available at [www.tsm.edu](http://www.tsm.edu). Trinity is an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition.

## North American Festival of Wales

The St. David's Society of Pittsburgh will host the North American Festival of Wales at the Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh, on September 3-6, 2009. The four-day event will include seminars, trips to the Frank Lloyd Wright designate houses and the Welsh Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh, and much singing. The Welsh are known for their musical and poetic strengths, and a large number of hymns in Protestant hymnals are Welsh folk tunes, or hymns composed by Welsh ministers. A public hymn sing will be free and open to the public on September 6. For more details contact Garnet Roth, [rothgarn2@verizon.net](mailto:rothgarn2@verizon.net) or [www.wngga.org/NAFOW](http://www.wngga.org/NAFOW).



## Pittsburgh Against Torture

June 26th is United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. A few years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the United States declared the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month as a way to provide greater visibility to this issue and provide an opportunity for coordinated actions across the country. The National Religious Coalition Against Torture web site ([www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org)) makes materials available for congregations to use as they consider the morality of the use of torture.

Pittsburgh Against Torture will host a coffee house discussion entitled "Taking Off the Hood" on Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 4836 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh. The event is open to the public. For additional information contact Claudia Detwiler, [cdetwil@earthlink.net](mailto:cdetwil@earthlink.net).

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Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania  
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