

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



April-May 2018, Number 2

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

Pastoral Care Conference Convenes Community for Learning and Inspiration

Pastors, social workers, therapists, drug and alcohol counselors, and others who care for souls will come together at the 18th annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference on **Friday, May 11** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's gathering will feature Bishop **Cynthia Moore-Koikoi** of the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church as keynote speaker; her address is titled, "Can't We All Just Get Along?" and speaks to the role of the faith community and pastoral care providers in healing the wounds of division in our culture.

Ellen Mady of the Secretariat for Parish Services of the Roman Catholic Diocese

of Pittsburgh will offer opening remarks focusing on the Christian call to mercy.

Following the plenary, participants can select workshops on a diverse array of pastoral care topics, including addiction and recovery, strengthening marriages, coping with hoarding, and clergy sabbaticals. Rev. Liddy Barlow, Christian Associates' Executive Minister, will offer a preaching workshop, inviting participants to consider upcoming lectionary texts through a pastoral care lens.

The conference takes place at **Christ Church at Grove Farm, 249 Duff Road in Sewickley**. For more information and to register, please visit the Conference website at www.pghpc.org.



Keynote speaker
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference
Friday, May 11 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christ Church at Grove Farm



The Rev. Carl Johnson,
new Dean of the North American
Lutheran Church's
Mid-Northeast Mission District

Mid-Northeast Mission District, NALC, Elects New Dean

At their annual meeting in fall 2018, the Mid-Northeast Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church elected and installed a new Dean: **the Rev. Carl Johnson**.

The mission district includes 32 congregations in West Virginia, western Pennsylvania, and western New York. As dean, Rev. Johnson will work with congregations experiencing pastoral transitions, help to mediate conflicts dividing churches, and represent the mission district in regional ecumenical conversations – including serving on the Christian Associates Council of Bishops and Executives.

The North American Lutheran Church was established in 2010. "We're a church that left the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) on theological

grounds, but at the same time we feel deeply called to ecumenical cooperation," Rev. Johnson said. "We feel a connection with all Christians, because we belong together in the body of Christ."

"All Christians need to cooperate and do our best to provide a credible witness to Christ," he continued. "In the midst of all our differences, what matters is that we are seeking to be faithful to Christ."

Rev. Johnson has served for nearly 22 years at his "dream job": Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Kittanning.

Rev. Johnson and his wife Nancy have two grown daughters. He describes himself as "a wood-butcher hoping someday to be a woodworker"; in the meantime, he's collecting tools and hoping to find time to spend in his shop.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

The strangest things I've ever carried through airport security? A container full of ashes, and a sandwich board sign reading "Ashes on the Fly." On Ash Wednesday, Rev. Natalie Hall and I set ourselves up in the chapel at Pittsburgh International Airport. We prayed with travelers, pilots, flight attendants, and airport employees, before marking them with the sign of the cross. "*Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return,*" I repeated. "*Turn away from your sin, and hear the Good News.*"

In my role at Christian Associates, I don't often have the opportunity for this kind of face-to-face ministry, and that morning I was reminded of its beauty and power. As they left the chapel, people thanked us sincerely, sometimes with tears. In a world of glitzy falseness, we found that they were hungry for the gritty truth of repentance and mortality.

Most of all, I was struck by the power of liturgical speech, which uses simple words to create a new and tangible reality. *Remember you are dust. I pronounce you husband and wife. Receive her into the arms of your mercy. I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread ...*

So much of what we do at Christian Associates is rooted in words, whether in the conversations around the Council table, the sermons published in *The Word in Our Voices* series, or our statements on issues of public concern. Our experience at the airport reminded me that such words, too, can make things real, can rebuild and strengthen the ties between us. We left the airport in early afternoon, giving thanks for the priceless gift of serving Christ's church, even in the most unusual of settings.

Then I looked at my phone.

The first few reports of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida were beginning to appear. By evening we'd all seen the photo by AP photographer Joel Auerbach that became an iconic symbol of that terrible day: a woman with a cross of ashes on her forehead, her face crumpled with grief, holding a wailing friend.

In the face of such terror and sorrow, my blithe conclusions about the power of words seemed painfully naïve. The "thoughts and prayers" usually tweeted by public leaders after such tragedies seemed woefully insufficient, like clanging gongs and clashing cymbals. Even the most thoughtful and theologically-sound statement seemed impotent. What good could words do in times like these?

And yet, it is with words that change begins. With a young woman "calling B.S." on the systems that make weapons of war readily available to troubled teens. With a tweeted invitation to fill the streets of Washington, DC and Pittsburgh and Beaver and Greensburg. With hosannas, loud hosannas, as the children waved signs instead of palms, reclaiming the Hebrew meaning of that acclamation: **Save Us Now.**

As we come into Eastertide, with Jesus freed from death's bounds, may we set the powerful words of our scriptures and our liturgies loose on a world sore in need of justice, righteousness, mercy, and grace. May we feel in our words the power of the Word, a power that speaks new realities into being. May all our words be for healing, for peacemaking, and for reconciliation.

Your sister in Christ,



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



Rev. Liddy Barlow (left) and Rev. Natalie Hall
at Pittsburgh International Airport on
Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018

**As we come into Eastertide,
with Jesus freed from death's bounds,
may we set the powerful words of our scriptures
and our liturgies loose on a world sore in need
of justice, righteousness, mercy, and grace.**

Hunger Advocacy Workshop Equips Disciples For Action



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

As a crowd of hungry listeners gathered on a hillside, Jesus turned to his disciples and said, “*You give them something to eat*” (Matthew 14:16).

Today, in our own communities and across the globe, people still face food insecurity. As disciples, it’s our task to ensure they can be fed.

Bread for the World is an ecumenical, non-partisan organization that advocates

in the U.S. Congress for just and merciful hunger policy.

It’s easy for you and your congregation to get involved and begin making a difference.

The Southwest PA Bread for the World Team is sponsoring the **2018 Hunger Advocacy Workshop on Sunday, April 15** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary** (616 N. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh).

Keynoting the workshop will be Margaret Tran, Bread’s Regional Organizer, who will introduce the themes of Bread’s 2018 Offering of Letters.

We will also hear about statewide advocacy from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Participants can choose from several breakout sessions to learn more about strategies for effective face-to-face meetings with legislators and opportunities for congregations to help hungry kids during school vacations.

To sign up for the workshop, visit <http://bit.ly/bread2018>.



Tele-Town Hall Focuses on Advance Care Planning

What kind of measures should my doctors take when I’m not able to communicate my own wishes?

Whom should I trust to make decisions if I’m no longer able to care for myself?

Clergy often hear questions relating to advance care planning: the processes that allow people to make their preferences about their medical care known while they are healthy, before they become unable to make or communicate such decisions.

To help religious leaders learn more about advance care planning, the Wolff Center at UPMC is sponsoring the **UPMC Day of Conversation: Faith, Values, and Advance Care Planning**: a telephone conversation, or “tele-town hall,” at noon on **Tuesday, April 17**.

You can dial in to hear from a panel of doctors, nurses, chaplains, and local clergy. You’ll be able to pose your own questions and receive resources to help you begin these important conversations.

To register, call 412-802-6560. To join the call on the day of the event, call 877-228-2184 and enter the PIN 111835. For more information, visit www.UPMC.com/StartTheConversation.

New Sermon Collection Features Varied Perspectives on Mary

The second volume in The Word in Our Voices, Christian Associates’ series of collected sermons by preachers in our region, is now available.

Blessed Art Thou Among Women
Southwest Pennsylvania Preaches on Mary, Mother of Jesus



Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania
The Word in Our Voices, Volume II

Blessed Art Thou Among Women: Southwest Pennsylvania Preaches on Mary, Mother of Jesus can be downloaded for free in PDF format at www.casp.org/sermons. Printed copies are available at a cost of \$12 each.

“I’m thrilled by both the quality of these sermons and by their diversity,” said Rev. Liddy Barlow, who edited the volume.

The book, 96 pages long, features sermons and essays by 19 different authors, representing Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions.

“This would be a fascinating selection for church book clubs or local clergy groups to read together,” Rev. Barlow said.

“No matter what your own theological background, you are sure to be intrigued, informed, and challenged by the included

perspectives. Across all our differences, our shared respect and admiration for the Mother of God is clear.”

The One Movement

True View Ministries

<http://www.trueviewministries.org/events>

Date: Saturday, April 14

Time: 9:30am-12:00pm

Location: Mount Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 255 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Cost: \$10 at the door, RSVP online

Join True View Ministries and women's ministry leaders from throughout the greater Pittsburgh area for the "The One Movement" mini-series events which we will be hosting in the north, south, east & west side of Pittsburgh, PA in 2018. This event will consist of teaching from God's Word by Toni Turner, guided discussion time for attendees to build relationships, live worship, and an opportunity for intimacy with God and reconciliation with one another.



Epiphany Academy

820 Crane Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-341-7494

www.epiphanyassociation.org

Spiritual Direction-in-Common: Gratefulness

Dates: Wednesdays: April 16 and 25, May 2, 9, 16, and 23

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. Susan Muto

Cost: \$60

Participate in group spiritual direction-in-common. Participants will be asked to commit themselves to all six sessions as they meditate on selections from Dr. Muto's book, Gratefulness: The Habit of a Grace-Filled Life. Bring a brown-bag dinner. Register by April 10.

Summer Institute: Women Doctors of the Church

Dates: June 11-14, 2018

Times: 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Cost: \$40

Spend time with four remarkable saints and Doctors of the Church: Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Hildegard of Bingen. These women of deep prayer and amazing fidelity are bright lights on the horizon of our 2,000 year treasury of spiritual wisdom. Participants are invited to bring a light brown-bag dinner. Refreshments and dessert provided! Eight CEUs awarded upon completion of all four sessions. Please register by June 1.



National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education

Seton Hill University

1 Seton Hill Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

(724) 830-1033

After Charlottesville: Hate in the Past and the Present

Date & Time: Sun., April 22, 2 p.m.

Location: Sicilian Hall, Seton Hill University

Cost: Free

Lecture by Dr. Tim Crain, Executive Director of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education, followed by a panel discussion.

Co-presenters include the Westmoreland Diversity Coalition and Temple Emanu-El.

Refreshments will be served.



Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

4600 Old William Penn Highway

Murrysville, PA 15668

724-327-0061

www.newlonsburgchurch.org

Opioid Addiction: Road to Hope

Date & Time: Mon., April 23, 7 p.m.

Fee: Free.

A panel representing Westmoreland County Drug Overdose Taskforce, Westmoreland County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Greenbriar Treatment Center, UPMC Peer Support, Faith Forward Community Care Center, and Angel Arms will present the facts of opioid abuse and treatment, followed by discussion and questions. A prayer service and a light reception will follow.



Heinz Chapel

5200 Fifth Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

A Luther Hymn Festival

Date & Time: Sun., April 29, 7 p.m.

Cost: Free.

Commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, diverse Lutherans will gather to sing hymns authored by Martin Luther. Seven choirs, totaling over 100 voices, will participate, and the congregation can join in singing hymns such as "All Praise to You, Eternal Lord," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," and "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice."



Our Lady of Grace Church

310 Kane Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

412-279-7070

www.olgscott.org

Pentecost Sacred Arts Festival

Dates: May 16-20

Visitors enjoy a unique encounter with the arts in the Judeo-Christian tradition as interpreted by painters, iconographers, sculptors, musicians, poets, and authors. The festival includes concerts, readings, lectures, and a juried exhibition of 50 sacred artworks, and culminates with the "Mass of Hope" composed and presented by Joe Negri's jazz ensemble at 11 a.m. on Pentecost, May 20, followed by an Artists' Reception and Awards Ceremony.



Byzantine Catholic Seminary

412-321-8383

www.bcs.edu

Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture

Date & Time: Weds., May 16, 7 p.m.

Location: St. John Cathedral Center, 210

Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120.

Fee: Free.

The 18th annual Saints Cyril & Methodius Lecture will feature Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin) speaking on "The Place of the Presence of God: Aphrahat of Persia's Portrait of the Christian Holy Man." Registration requested by April 30 online or by phone.



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 17, 10 a.m.

Suggested donation: \$25, includes lunch

Join the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers as they welcome Rev. Elizabeth Platz as keynote speaker at this third annual celebration. In 1970, Rev. Platz became the first woman to be ordained by a Lutheran church body in North America. RSVP to Rev. Jennifer McCurry at jpm@flcpittsburgh.org.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

45 E. Steuben St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Building Bridges of Love

Date & Time: Sat., May 19,
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cost: \$25 before May 19, or \$30 at the door. Group rates available.

Do you desire to help heal the racial division in the body of Christ? Do you want to see women from all backgrounds, cultures and denominations embracing and celebrating each other? If this describes you, come be a part of "Building Bridges of Love" sponsored by Sisters Celebrating Diversity. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sisters-celebrating-diversity-building-bridges-of-love-tickets-44417583187> or call (412) 983-6637.



Free Camp Serves Grieving Girls



For 16 years, Circle Camps for Grieving Children has provided weeklong overnight camping programs for bereaved girls in Maine and, more recently, West Virginia.

The camps serve girls ages 9-15 who have experienced the death of a parent.

Circle of EKC in Morgantown, West Virginia, will welcome campers August 13-18. The camp is offered at no charge to campers, including transportation to and from camp from central meeting places in Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Morgantown.

Circle Camps offers traditional overnight camp activities and opportunities for campers to explore their grief in a safe and caring setting.

Under the guidance of licensed bereavement staff and surrounded by supportive peers, campers share stories and remember the parent who died.

In the past 16 years, over 1,100 grieving girls have attended a Circle Camp. Over the years, the Circle program has grown from the Camper Program for girls ages 9-12 to include a Teen Program, ages 13-14, and a five-year Leaders In Training Program (LIT) for campers who "graduate" from the Teen Program.

Circle is now accepting applications for summer 2018 programs. For more information, email info@circlecamps.org or visit www.circlecamps.org.

Play Wrestles with Doctrine of Discovery

What happens when we find out there is a problem with the ground under our feet—when we acknowledge that the land we love was violently and unjustly emptied of indigenous peoples?

What is our role, as people of faith who are inheritors of a system of land ownership based on theft?

A play that wrestles with these questions is coming to Pittsburgh on **Sunday, April 15** at 7 p.m. **Discovery: A Comic Lament** will be presented at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**, 616 N Highland Ave, sponsored by Pittsburgh Mennonite Church and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The Doctrine of Discovery is a legal framework, inspired by Christian theology, which justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples. In recent years, several American churches have formally repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery,

including the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ.

Discovery: A Comic Lament, starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, and produced by Ted & Co, finds unexpected humor at the crossroads of justice and land use.

A show about love, and loss of land, *Discovery* nudges us to question our stories with honesty and integrity.

Tickets will be available at the door for a suggested donation of \$10-20.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE) is specialized training in the pastoral care of the terminally ill along with bereavement counseling is available to clergy, seminary students, and those involved in pastoral ministry.

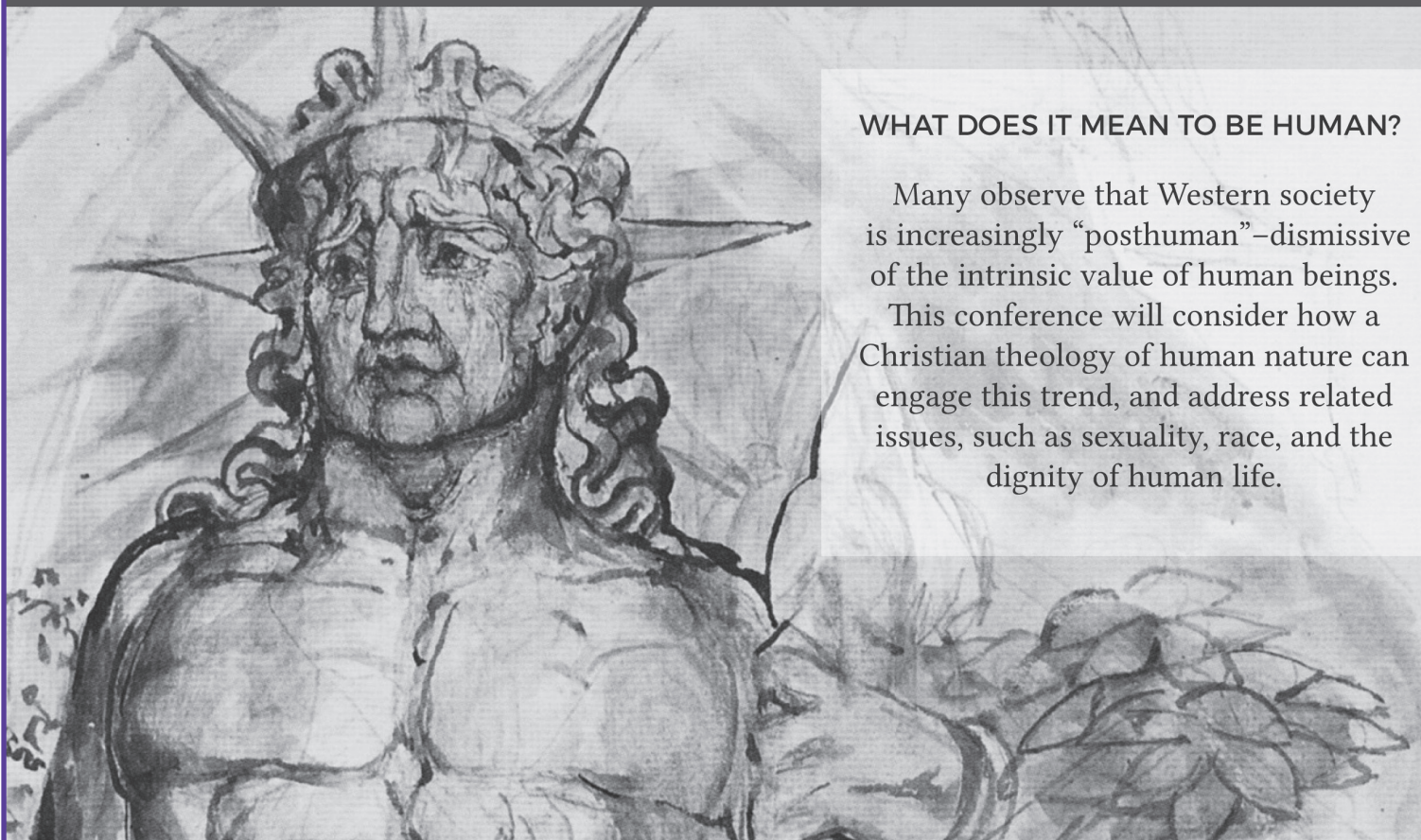
Program begins in September, 2018 at Family Hospice and Palliative Care accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP).

For more information contact the Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich: epehanich@familyhospicepa.org.

Being Human in a Posthuman Age

The Promise of Christian Anthropology

Ancient Evangelical Future Conference | June 7-8, 2018



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

Many observe that Western society is increasingly “posthuman”—dismissive of the intrinsic value of human beings.

This conference will consider how a Christian theology of human nature can engage this trend, and address related issues, such as sexuality, race, and the dignity of human life.



MARC CORTEZ



WESLEY HILL



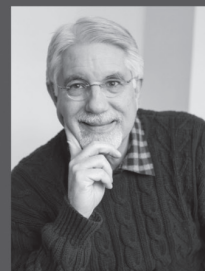
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for an Ancient Evangelical Future
Reclaiming the Christian Tradition for the Life of the Church Today

for more information:

<http://webbercenter.tsm.edu/AEFC2018>



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FALL 2018 APPLICATION
DEADLINE: JULY 20, 2018

CONSIDER A MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY THROUGH BYZANTINE ONLINE



The distance education arm of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary offers a range of credit courses on a rotating basis each Fall, Spring and Summer.

- Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.T) with 4 areas of focus - Chaplaincy, Scripture, Dogmatics or Liturgy - is a 37-credit program which can be completed entirely online, or through a combination of online and residential study.
- Courses mirror residential courses in content and engagement.
- Theologically diverse faculty and students engaged in Eastern Christian scholarship.

For more information, visit online.bcs.edu.

Bishop Connare Center

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

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

**Albright-Deering
Workshop and Lecture**
April 12, 2018
F. Douglas Powe, Professor,
Pastor, Theologian

**Workshop for Faith Leaders
Missional Engagement**

Evening Lecture
Re-examining the
Importance of Wesleyan
Anthropology for Racial
Conversations

**A Day with Brian
McLaren Workshop
and Lecture**
April 25, 2018
Brian McLaren, Pastor,
Author, Activist, Theologian

Workshop
Creating Communities of
Spiritual Activism, or, If
I Were 26, What Kind of
Church Would I Plant?

Evening Lecture
How Our Churches Can
Help Heal a Divided
America

**Race, Gender, and the
Imago Dei
Schaff Lectures**
May 2, 2018
Chanequa Walker-Barnes,
Theologian, Psychologist

**Writing the Spiritual Life
Workshop**
May 18-19, 2018
L. Roger Owens, Professor,
Author, and Renee Prymus,
Writer, Instructor

**The Work of the People
Henderson Summer Leadership
Conference**
June 3-6, 2018
Barbara Brown Taylor,
Priest, Professor, Author,
Theologian



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



**PITTSBURGH
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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You're Invited: John 17 Society Reception Celebrates Christian Unity

The members of the John 17 Society, Christian Associates' most generous supporters, will gather at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's McNaugher Lounge on Thursday, May 3 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** At this fun-filled evening,



Society members will learn more about our ministries and enjoy drinks, appetizers, and live music.

There is still time to join the Society in time to attend the reception! All individuals and congregations who have donated \$250 or more to Christian

Associates between May 2017 and April 25, 2018 will receive two complimentary tickets to this event.

You can mail your donation to PO Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 or give online at www.casp.org/donate.

Christian Associates Seeks Student Assistant

- *Would you love to learn more about the diverse Christians of Southwest Pennsylvania?*
- *Would you like to hone your skills in communication, fundraising, and event planning?*
- *Are you experiencing a call to serve a Christian nonprofit organization?*

You might be the right candidate to serve as Christian Associates' next Student Assistant! Our internship program is open to undergraduate and graduate students as well as interested members of the community. We'd like you to work for ten hours each week, but the schedule is flexible and duties will be designed to fit your interests. We offer a small stipend, unique experiences, and a supportive work environment.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; email lbarlow@casp.org for more information.