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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

September 2017, Number 4

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

Stories of Reformation To Be on Display in Downtown Pittsburgh

500 years ago, the Reformation began as Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This fall, doors and windows of downtown Pittsburgh will tell stories of personal reformation in a public art project sponsored by the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium with support from Christian Associates.

The project, titled *Always Made New: Formed and Reformed*, features portraits by photographer Sean Carroll taken during on-the-street interviews conducted this spring and summer. Prisoners, artists, bishops, homeless veterans, and many others tell stories of a time they experienced significant change.

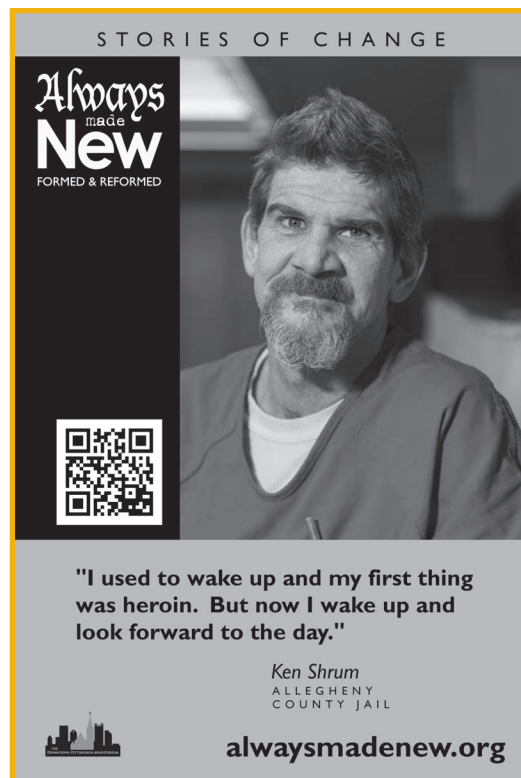
More than fifty of the portraits will be on display in storefront windows and doors throughout downtown during the month of October. Each poster will link to a Web site, www.alwaysmadenew.org, which will feature a full transcript of each interview and a map of all the art locations.

Catholic Charities' Susan Zubik Welcome Center at 212 Ninth Street will display several images. The Center will be a featured stop on the Cultural District Gallery Crawl on **Friday, September 22 from 5:30-10 p.m.** Visitors will be able to use computers at the Welcome Center to see the full set of portraits.

The posters will be on display throughout the month of October, culminating on the afternoon of Sunday, **October 29**. That day the public will be invited to join a walk to each of the downtown installations, followed by a **4 p.m. ecumenical prayer service at First Lutheran Church**.

Worship leaders include Bishop Kurt Kusserow, clergy of the Downtown Ministerium, and the Pittsburgh Compline Choir.

At right, one of the *Always Made New* posters that will be on display Downtown



"I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me": Sermon Collection to Share Work of Local Preachers



A sermon from Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will be among those included in the sermon collection.

"Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both," said Swiss theologian Karl Barth. "But interpret newspapers from your Bible."

Preachers around our region heed Barth's advice as they craft sermons and homilies.

This month, Christian Associates is celebrating the voices of our local clergy as we publish the first in a series of sermon collections. "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" includes sermons on the topic of welcoming immigrants and refugees.

The sermons come from clergy across our member judicatories, as well as from our

interfaith partners. The book also includes information about organizations working to serve local immigrants, with suggestions for ways that congregations can become involved.

The book makes its debut during National Welcoming Week, September 15-24.

Visit www.welcomingamerica.org to find a map of local Welcoming Week celebrations, which include naturalization ceremonies, film screenings, and many more.

To download your free copy, visit www.casp.org/sermons. To order paper copies, please contact our office at 412-688-9070.



REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

With hate-filled demonstrations on American streets, and 40 hate groups operating in Pennsylvania alone, people of faith must act. One of the first steps is recalling our identity as followers of Christ and as ministers of the Gospel.

Convened by Christian Associate and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, clergy gathered on August 28 to endorse this statement:



A Declaration from the Religious Leaders of Southwest Pennsylvania

Gathering today in the midst of Mr. Rogers' neighborhood, we seek to be good neighbors, to love our neighbors, and to work for justice alongside our neighbors. On the anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *"I Have a Dream"* speech, we too sense the *"fierce urgency of now."* As our nation's divisions become ever more visible, we reaffirm our calling to the tasks of religious leadership:

As religious leaders, we are called to interpret the scriptures.

In the Torah, we hear the commands *"love your neighbor as yourself"* and *"do not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds."* In the New Testament, we read, *"love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."* In the Holy Qur'an, we hear, *"Those who believe and do good deeds — the Gracious God will create love in their hearts."*

Our sacred texts all agree: every human being is created and beloved by God. Every human being has worth and deserves dignity. From every minbar, bimah, and pulpit, we will continue to preach this message of love and compassion.

As religious leaders, we are called to speak moral truth.

This moment demands that we speak with clarity and courage. Together, we declare that white supremacy is evil. Anti-Semitism is evil. Islamophobia is evil. Racism is evil. We reject bigotry and intolerance of all kinds; we condemn all forms of hatred.

We call ourselves, our congregations, and our institutions to repent from our own historic and ongoing complicity in structures that oppress. With God's help, we recommit ourselves to the building of the beloved community: a world where all God's children know peace, hope, and joy.

As religious leaders, we are called to care for the vulnerable.

As tensions rise, we turn with compassion toward those in our midst who have the greatest cause for fear. We stand in solidarity with all marginalized and minority communities, especially those who have been targets of hate. We will work to strengthen the ties of friendship among us so that we can be even more effective advocates for one another in times of need.

As religious leaders, we are called to seek justice for the oppressed.

Our voices must not ring out in sanctuaries alone, but on the streets and in halls of power. We will work to make our values more visible in public life. Empowered by our faith, we will seek a just world for all.

We rely on one another for mutual support and admonition.
Together, we rely on God's help that we might prove worthy of this high calling.

These words are just a beginning. Let's continue to speak and pray and act, so that the ultimate victory of love and compassion might be made visible in our neighborhoods.

Your sister in Christ,

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

As *The Call* went to press, over 50 local religious leaders have added their names to this statement. You can sign on by visiting www.casp.org/declaration.

Fox Chapel Pastor Takes an “Ecumenical Plunge”: A special report for *The Call* by the Rev. Scott Shaffer, Faith United Methodist Church

“Maybe we will reach unity in five years, or five hundred years, or five thousand years, but we will one day reach unity.”

I will never forget these powerful words, spoken by Archbishop Job of Telmessos, during a recent visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambesy. This was one of many unforgettable moments that I experienced as part of The Ecumenical Plunge, a two-week immersion into the world Ecumenical movement, sponsored by United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Each destination on our pilgrimage provided a unique perspective on the purpose of ecumenism, while introducing us to leaders from very different backgrounds who shared a common passion for unity in faith and action.

Archbishop Job provided the historical context, eloquently narrating the history of schisms since 1054, and the significant role Orthodox churches have played in the Modern Ecumenical Movement.

Father Lawrence, a Roman Catholic Priest from Nigeria and Biblical Studies professor at Bossey, provided

the interpersonal context, explaining the challenges and breakthroughs that students experience as they live, study, and pray with people from different cultures and faith traditions.

The staff members at the WCC provided the global context, detailing the work for peace, health, and justice that is made uniquely possible when people of faith join hands and speak with one voice. And the Brothers of Taizé provided the context of prayer, showing that welcoming young people with radical hospitality and inviting them to join in prayer three times each day, may just be the most productive strategy for reconciliation the world has ever seen.

While the great institutions we visited in Switzerland and France each had a unique role to play in the world Ecumenical movement, every site that we visited had the same work of art prominently displayed: Rublev’s icon of the Trinity.

Unity truly is a gift. A gift of hospitality from Sarah and Abraham to three strangers. A gift of God’s own self—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—which simply needs to be received.

Maybe we will reach unity in five thousand years. Or maybe we will receive the gift in my lifetime. May it be so.



The Rev. Scott Shaffer at the Taizé Community in France

Sound The Alarm! Help the American Red Cross Save Lives



The American Red Cross is hosting a community event on **Saturday, September 27th** to install over 1,000 smoke alarms in local homes.

The event will be held in the Homewood and Knoxville areas from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At least 200 volunteers are needed. Round up a team from your congregation and join the effort.

Training, equipment, supplies, and detailed assignment maps will be provided, in addition to breakfast and a community BBQ afterwards.

There is still time to sign up for this great way to help our neighbors. For more information or to register, visit www.redcross.org/wpahomefire, or contact Jennifer Bailey at 412-522-9512.

Sustaining Vocation Over the Long Haul: Continuing Education Event Addresses Clergy Burnout



Vocation: it’s more than just your job. It’s a call—a summons from God to leverage who you are and what you have for the sake of a world that needs your gifts. Join Christian Associates, PPI, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on **Wednesday, October 4** for breakfast and a lively morning of enriching conversation.

The ability to sustain a lively and relevant sense of vocation over time can be challenging in the best of circumstances. But what about when the landscape is dramatically changing?

In this event, educator Helen Blier, Anglican priest the Rev. Shari Hobby, and psychotherapist Martha Selleck will share what they have learned about the continuing effort of keeping our vocations vibrant through the years.

The event takes place at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**. Registration is \$25, and includes a buffet breakfast served at 8:30 am. Register online at www.pts.edu/Vocation_2017. With questions, call 412-924-1345 or e-mail ConEd@pts.edu.

Byzantine Catholic Seminary

3605 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
412-321-8383
www.bcs.edu

Seminary Seminar Series: Insights on Married Priesthood

Date & Time: Wed., Sept. 27, 7-8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: Fr. Jason and Presbyter Halyna Charron
Cost: Free; all are welcome.

The presenters will share practical and theoretical insights gained from their experiences of balancing their domestic vocation as a married couple raising a houseful of daughters with their vocation as workers in Christ's vineyard. What to do if your three-year old daughter walks through the Holy Doors during Liturgy to be with daddy? How to respond when your 18-month old pulls the fire alarm in a packed church? Should the priest's kids be given different treatment? Does marital love detract from priestly service? When two duties conflict, is there a roadmap to follow in making good choices? RSVP to the seminary as soon as possible.



Garden City United Methodist Church

500 Laurel Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146
412-373-0391

Such a Time as This: Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast

Date: Sat., Oct. 7
Time: 9 a.m. - Noon; Price: \$25

Speakers include Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates; Nancy Jones, author of *From Touched to Exalted*; and chairperson Lynn Howell. Special music, door prizes, and catered breakfast. For tickets call the church or contact Lorraine Lewis-Burke, 412-856-7127.



Bread for the World Sunday

Bread for the World has prepared resources to help congregations observe Bread for the World Sunday – a day to pray and work for a world free from hunger – on October 15 or a date of your choosing. A free resource guide and

bulletin inserts in English or Spanish are available on paper or by download at www.bread.org/Sunday. This year's resources include reflections by Fr. James Martin of America magazine and prayers by Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, co-author of *Faith-Rooted Organizing*.



St. Mary on the Mount Roman Catholic Church

403 Grandview Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15211
412-381-0212
www.smomp.org

Peace Like a River: A Three Rivers Celebration of the International Day of Peace

Date & Time: Thurs., Sept 21, 7 p.m.

Symbolically located above the Golden Triangle, a public space formed by Pittsburgh's three rivers, the peace event invites a gathering together of the wonderfully diverse members of our regional, international, and interfaith communities. Together we hope to continue the peace process by learning more effective

ways of beating our swords into plough shares. Above all we plan to celebrate the ways to drink deeply from the cup of peace - to our good and the good of all the world.



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Join today so that your current and retired educators at all levels can participate in our fall activities!

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Banquet Hall, 363 W. 11th Avenue Extension,
Homestead, PA 15120

September 23 | 9:00 - 11:00 am
Inaugural Educator Forum

"Faith & Personality Development in Children"
with **Dr. Randall Hoedeman**,
Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute

October 21 | 9:00 - 11:00 am
2nd Annual Prayer Breakfast
Keynote Speaker **Dr. Keely Baronak**, Chair,
Department of Education, Carlow University

To join BBE or for more information, please contact
Mary Ann Hvizdos, Program Director, at
mahvizados@verizon.net or 412-807-1611.

Debbie is at home at Emmaus



The Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh is a non-profit organization which provides residential homes, non-residential services, and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. At Emmaus, everyone has a gift to share!

Do you have questions about Emmaus and its mission? Please give us a call or contact us at info@emmauspgh.org or visit our website at www.emmauspgh.org!

We would love to share more information about our services, ways to support Emmaus, and volunteer opportunities!



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www.EmmausPgh.org
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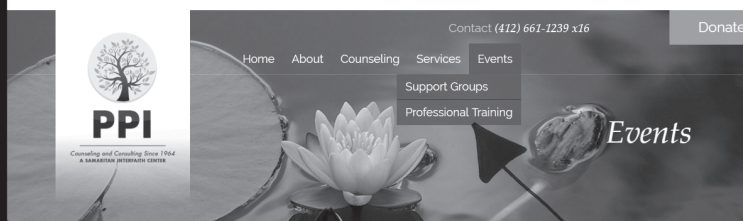


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at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

**Brew Like a Monk:
Spiritual Practice as
Fermentation**

A Spiritual Formation Elective

Sept. 17-20, 2017

B.J. Woodworth,

Lead Pastor,

The Open Door

**In the Heights and Depths
with C.S. Lewis**

Online Course

Sept. 18-Oct. 13, 2017

Edith Humphrey,

William F. Orr Professor

of New Testament,

Pittsburgh Theological

Seminary

**The Spirit's Mission of
Hospitality in a Pluralistic
World**

W. Don McClure Lectures in

World Mission and Evangelism

Sept. 25-26, 2017

Amos Yong,

Professor of Theology and

Mission, Fuller Theological

Seminary

**The Wonder of Science
Curiosity and Wonder:**

Conversations and Community

Series

October 18, 2017

Jim Downey,

Vice President for

Planning and Institutional

Effectiveness, Pittsburgh

Theological Seminary

**Discerning a Call to
Spiritual Direction and
Spiritual Leadership**

A Spiritual Formation Elective

Nov. 8-11, 2017

Martha Robbins, Director,

Pneuma Institute,

Pittsburgh, PA

**The Art of Transitional
Ministry, Week 2**

Guiding a Congregation

Through Change and Transition

Nov. 13-17, 2017

Paul Rhebergen, Interim

Pastor at Wallingford

Presbyterian Church,

and Janet Nolting Carter,

Transitional Pastor,

PC(USA)



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Christian Unity Needs You!

Christian Associates is currently seeking volunteers to assist in our office and out in the wider community. Are you interested in sharing your gifts in the service of Christian unity? You might choose to ...

- Contact neighborhood ministeriums to build up our database of local ecumenical and interfaith groups.
- Assist in scanning historic documents in preparation for our 50th anniversary.
- Reach out to clergy seeking sermons to include in an upcoming compilation.

We can tailor your responsibilities to your interests and availability.

Contact Liddy Barlow at lbarlow@casp.org or 412-688-9070.



Give a warm welcome to the newest ecumenists on the block: **Cabhan Michael** and **Shannon Catherine**, the twin babies of our administrative assistant, **Michele Perry** and **her husband Jay**.

The babies were born July 16. All are healthy and thriving! Michele will be on maternity leave through early October; in the meantime, our office is in the capable hands of Pam Block.