

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

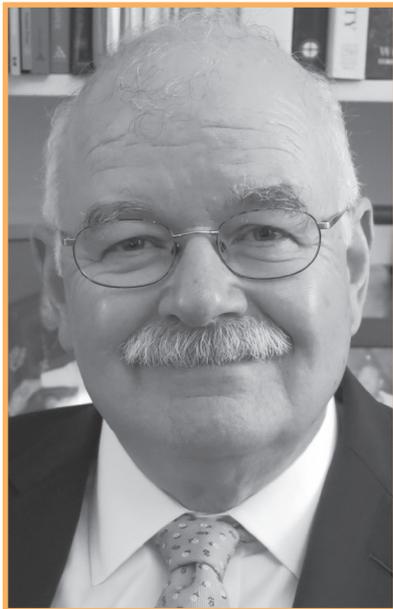
to be one in Christ



October/November 2017, Number 5

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

500 Years Later, Southwest Pennsylvania Remembers the Reformation, Moves Forward in Hope



Dr. John Borelli
of Georgetown University

We've been waiting 500 years for this!

Commemorations of the fifth centenary of the Reformation will culminate this month. Even as Southwest Pennsylvania recalls the events that fractured the church, we will be actively working to repair these breaches, as Protestants and Catholic gather together to remember the Reformation.

On October 28, at the Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg, the SWPA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, and the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will sponsor "A Lutheran/Catholic Day of Commemoration of Hope."

This third event in the series of joint Lutheran/Catholic Reformation commemorations will begin at

9 a.m. with a keynote address from Dr. John Borelli of Georgetown University.

Borelli, who serves as Georgetown's Special Assistant to the President for Catholic Identity and Dialogue, has been active in ecumenical and interreligious work throughout his career.

The day will also include talks and breakout sessions with local clergy and a joint prayer service in St. Vincent Basilica.

Advance registration for the day is required. Visit www.dioceseofgreensburg.org to register online, or contact Sherry McQuaide at 724-552-2598.

Thanks to Rev. Kimberly Rapczak for assisting with this article.

Holy Land Peacemakers To Speak in Pittsburgh

A Palestinian activist and a Zionist settler will share a stage in Pittsburgh this month to discuss their unusual friendship and their mutual work for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Antwan Saca and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger represent Roots/Shorashim/Judur, a grassroots dialogue organization in the West Bank that promotes "mutual recognition and respect for both peoples' historic belonging to the entire Land."

Rabbi Schlesinger is an Orthodox rabbi who has lived in Israeli settlements in the West Bank for over 30 years. Mr. Saca, a Palestinian Christian born in Bethlehem, also serves as Program Director for the Holy Land Trust.

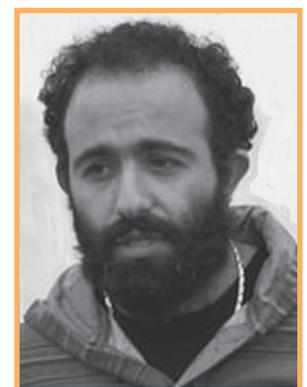
Rabbi Schlesinger and Mr. Saca will speak at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25.

Registration for the free event is available at www.pts.edu/roots-of-peace-2017.

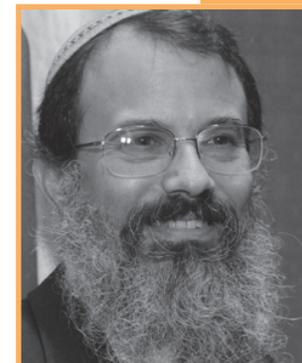
They come with no ready peace plans in hand, but with conviction that human understanding and trust are the prerequisites for lasting justice, freedom, and peace in the Middle East.

"I had the privilege of visiting Roots when I journeyed to Israel in 2015," said Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates. "This event will not only enrich your understanding of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, it will inspire you to re-examine the longstanding conflicts and divisions in our own country."

Sponsors for the events include Christian Associates, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.



**Palestinian
Christian
Antwan Saca**



**Orthodox
Rabbi Hanan
Schlesinger**

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

The history of the Reformation is usually told as a story of moral clarity. Some tell it from the perspective of Luther, boldly proclaiming his loyalty to scripture alone. Others take the side of Rome, faithfully refusing to break with tradition. Either way, we shape our Reformation narratives around conscientious stands for the theological high ground.

But for many, the Reformation experience was not such a heroic story. For an ordinary parish priest, it may not have been a momentous decision of conscience at all. It would have come down, instead, to very practical concerns: the demands of a bishop or the perspective of a king; the opinion of a patron or the balance of the parish accounts. And even as he fell in line on one side of the division or the other, I can easily imagine him looking over his shoulder, missing the colleagues who went the other way.



As our commemorations of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation culminate this month, I wonder about the men and women stuck in the middle as the church divided around them. Instead of seeing their ambivalence as weakness, I'm beginning to see it as courageous. As the divisions became ever more bitter, even violent, I imagine them refusing to speak ill of one another. I imagine them seeing some good on both sides. As the divides became entrenched and institutionalized, I imagine them praying together or reading one another's books. They might even have fallen in love. (I myself am, after all, the result of a first-in-their-families marriage between a Protestant and a Catholic.)

Refusing to take sides can be an act of love: love that cares more for human relationships than human politics.

It's no secret that many churches in the United States – many of our churches here in Southwest Pennsylvania – have been rent by schism in the past decade. For many, these divisions, too, seemed to be struggles for moral right, with “Once to Every Man and Nation” as their guiding hymn. Whether zealous about upholding the authority of scripture, or passionate about defending the rights of the GLBTQ community, many found it easy to claim a side, without looking back.

But for others, choosing sides was not so simple. They knew good people in each camp. They believed that each of them loved Jesus and sought to follow him as best as they knew how. The thought of a splintered church grieved their hearts.

Even now, years after the divides began, there are clergy and laity who sit astride the schisms. Some belong to one communion but sometimes worship with another. Some continue to meet their former colleagues for Bible study and prayer. At funerals, clergy from across the divisions come to pay respect to mentors and friends.

Standing in the breach is not wishy-washy. It's not the result of a lack of theological clarity; it's not a betrayal of eternal values. Instead, it can be a brave repudiation of the sinful pride and anger our divisions can yield. Refusing to take sides can be an act of love: love that cares more for human relationships than human politics. Maybe, through all these small acts of stubborn relationship-keeping, we will one day find the reconciliation that we seek.

There's courage in “*Here I stand, I can do no other.*” But as we remember the Reformation, I hope we can also see the integrity it takes to say, “*Here I stand ... but if things were different, I could also stand over there instead.*”

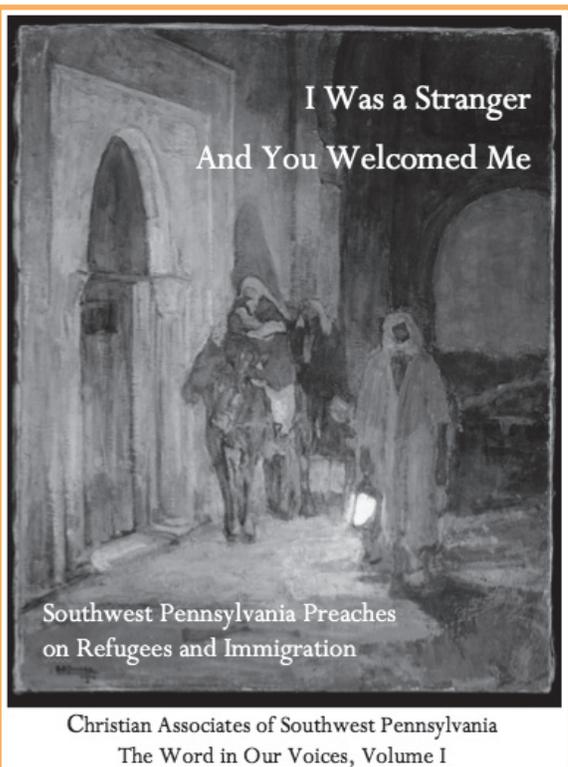
Are you standing in the breach? You are not a coward; you are a champion.

Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister

“Here I stand . . . but if things were different, I could also stand over there instead.”

Sermon Book, Interfaith Event Help Churches Extend a Faithful Welcome



The first volume in Christian Associates' "The Word in Our Voices" series of sermon collections is now available for download.

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: Southwest Pennsylvania Preaches on Refugees and Immigration brings together the work of 13 local Christian and Jewish clergy who address immigration from a Biblical perspective. It is available now for free download at www.casp.org/sermons.

You will be able to meet some of the authors and discuss their sermons at "Faithful Responses to Strangers, Immigrants, and Refugees: A Pittsburgh Conversation" on

Thursday, November 2 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's Robinson Building in Squirrel Hill.

Immigrants and refugees will offer their first-person experiences at the event, and representatives of local organizations will share how you and your congregation can help extend welcome to all.

The event is sponsored by the JCC's Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement, All for All, and Christian Associates.

Pre-registration for the free event is appreciated, though not required, by visiting www.casp.org/immigrantconversation.

After Thanksgiving, Fill Your Spirit at Amen to Action

Inspired by the converging milestones of 2017 – the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement – Bishop David Zubik and Mr. Reid Carpenter, Director Emeritus of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, began a series of prayer meetings to discern a vision for local reconciliation and unity in the Body of Christ.

That vision will take shape at *Amen to Action*, a community-wide ecumenical event on Friday, November 24 at the Pittsburgh Convention Center. Gathering at 9 a.m., Christians from diverse traditions will come together for worship, and then work together to pack one million healthy meals for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank with Meals of Hope.

Worship leaders will include members of the Christian Associates Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives, the Heritage Gospel Choral, and Duquesne University ensembles.

All ages are welcome to participate; pre-registration is requested at www.amentoaaction.com.

The organizers hope that this event will demonstrate that our region's spiritual power is greater than "*all the coal in the hills and steel in the mills... and that Pittsburgh will become a spiritual power plant for the rest of the world.*"

Panel to Address Challenges of Life After Incarceration

Rebuilding a life after serving time in jail or prison is far from easy. Returning citizens face challenges in finding housing and employment. They need to rebuild relationships with their families, while avoiding the social connections that led them into trouble.

On Saturday, November 18, a panel of returning citizens and leaders in the re-entry field will share their experiences and strategies. "The Re-Entry Experience" will take place at Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, 6111 Rodman Street in East Liberty, at 6:30 p.m.



J. Jondhi Harrell

Headlining the panel, J. Jondhi Harrell serves as Executive Director of the Center for Returning Citizens in Philadelphia, an organization that offers re-entry, pre-entry, and advocacy services for people who have been incarcerated. He is himself a returning citizen, having spent more than 20 years in federal prison before devoting himself to community service.

Earlier in the day, Harrell will offer a Leadership & Speakers Bureau Training for formerly incarcerated people at the Friends Meeting House in Shadyside from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you know of a returning citizen who might be interested in participating in the training, contact Scilla Wahrhaftig, scillahw@gmail.com.

Both events are sponsored by the Southwest Pennsylvania Healing Communities Collaborative, which works to equip congregations to care for individuals affected by incarceration.

“One Movement” Will Convene Women to Pray for Unity

Prayer and praise will fill a Pittsburgh hotel this November as women gather for “The One Movement,” an event to promote Christian unity and reconciliation across racial and denominational divisions.

The event’s organizers, Jamie Shaver and Julie Van Gorp of *True View Ministries*, say that the event is designed to:

- ignite revival by bringing together Christian women from all walks of life to expose the root cause of prejudice and division;
- reveal God’s heart and purpose for unity;
- provide an opportunity for intimacy with God and reconciliation with one another; and
- encourage the Body of Christ to live in unity with love for one another for the glory of God.

“The One Movement” takes place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Coraopolis. It begins with prayer and worship on Friday, November 3 from 7-9:30 p.m., and continues with a day of teaching, discussions, and fellowship on Saturday, November 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Most of the speakers are leaders of women’s ministries in their churches, including the Rev. Toni Turner of Covenant Church of Pittsburgh, Joni Cranston of Allegheny Center Alliance Church, Love Collins of Greater Miracle Ministries in Aliquippa, and Flo Demas of Greater Works Outreach in Monroeville.

Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates will also be one of the

morning speakers. *“For too long, we have allowed differences in theology and culture to estrange the mainline church from our evangelical kin,”* she said. *“I sense in the One Movement organizers a true openness to welcoming women from all traditions.”*

For more information and to register, visit www.TheOneMovementEvent.com.



Don’t Think Small, Give Big!

You ate big on Thanksgiving Day. You shopped big (or, alternatively, packed meals at Amen to Action; see page 3!) on Black Friday. You shopped online big on Cyber Monday. What’s next? It’s time to GIVE BIG.

“Giving Tuesday,” the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, will be Give Big 2017, sponsored by Pittsburgh Magazine.

givebig
PITTSBURGH

Christian Associates will be one of many local charities accepting donations through the Give Big Web site: www.givebigpittsburgh.org.

All donations made through Give Big on Tuesday, November 28 will make us eligible for a share of a \$50,000 prize pool provided by the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Of course, you can also support the work of Christian unity by donating at any time by mail (P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206) or online (www.casp.org/donate).

If you would like to be included in the annual list of our supporters in the December issue of *The Call*, be sure to send in your gift by November 15.

Whether big or small, all gifts will go to sustain our ministries that bring diverse Christians together to work for the common good. Thank you for your support!



Allow us to be a resource for you!

We warmly welcome you to stop in at our bookstore, located on the main campus of Trinity School for Ministry. Open to the public, we offer a cultivated collection of Christian resources, from beloved classics to popular and new!

Visit us at 311 Eleventh Street, Ambridge, PA or online at <http://bookstore.tsm.edu>

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REFORMATION 500 Commemorative Events

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-661-1245
www.standrewspgh.org

20th Annual St. Andrew's Lecture: Tradition and Change – Revisiting the Reformation at 500

Date & Time: Fri., Oct 13, 8 p.m.
Cost: Free

Lecture by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professor Rev. Dr. Kenneth Woo will consider the relevance of early modern Europe's religious divisions for the church in today's increasingly ecumenical and secular context.

Old Economy Village

270 Sixteenth St.
Ambridge, PA 15003
(724) 266-4500
www.oldeconomyvillage.org

One in Christ: God's Grace Unites

Honoring the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Date: Sat., Oct. 14
Cost: Free

Praising God with Song & Prayer

Time: 3-4:30 p.m.
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church,
1320 Church St, Ambridge, PA
Music from the Beaver County Choral
Society Chancel Choir and joint choirs.

Celebrating God's Community

Time: 4:30-7:00 p.m.
Location: Old Economy Village
Speaker: Dr. Byron Curtis, Professor of
Biblical Studies, Geneva College
Prayer Walk, children's activities, art
exhibit, local musicians, refreshments.
Closing prayer at 6:45 p.m. in the Feast
Hall.

The Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau St.
Washington, PA 15301
724-222-0190
www.churchofthecov.org

Reformation Celebration

Date & Time: Sun., Oct 29
Time: Procession 2 p.m., Worship 3 p.m.
Cost: Free

Join Washington Presbytery and ecumenical guests to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 300th anniversary of the Synod of the Trinity. Gather at the Washington County Courthouse to process with bagpipes and drums to the Church of the Covenant for a worship service to include a massed choir and brass quintet. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Allen Foster, preaching a first person sermon of George Wishart, Scottish Reformer.

First Lutheran Church

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

Always Made New: Formed and Re-Formed

Date: Sun., Oct. 29
Time: Pilgrimage, 2 p.m.; Vespers, 4 p.m.
Cost: Free

Join a pilgrimage walk through downtown Pittsburgh to visit photographs from the Always Made New art project and pray for

the concerns each image suggests. Then, join in a vespers liturgy with the Pittsburgh Compline Choir and Bishop Kurt Kusserow, preaching. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Downtown Ministerium. Reservations requested for the pilgrimage at www.alwaysmadenew.org/events.

Camp Lutherlyn

500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler, PA 16001
724-865-2161
www.lutherlyn.com

A Day of Celebration to Commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Date & Time: Sun., Nov. 5, 4-7 p.m.
Cost: \$10

Dinner, activities, entertainment and an opportunity to purchase our unique locally-brewed Reformation Beer: 95 Nails. Presented by Butler Area Lutheran Ministries. Reservations requested by October 22; contact Trinity Lutheran Church in Butler, 724-287-1977.



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State College, PA 16801
814-876-2597
www.paip.l.us

Caring for our Souls, An Advent Series

Dates: Wednesdays, Nov. 29-Dec. 20
Time: 7-9 p.m.
Presenter: Margie Modro, CDP
Fee: \$10 per session or \$30 for the 4 week series.

Morning Retreat: Women of the Old Testament

Date & Time: Sat., Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Presenter: Helenanne Hochendoner
Fee: \$35, inc. lunch. Register by Oct. 31

Using the Christmas Story, this four week Advent series will focus on the continuing birth and maturation of our spiritual life.



Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program

1515 Locust St, Suite 705
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-232-5815
www.pmh.s.org

Celebrating Health Ministry – Our Past, Present, and Future: 25th Annual Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Symposium

Date & Time: Sat., Oct 28
Time: 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
Location: Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Level 2, UPMC Mercy, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219.
Cost: \$40 for registered nurses with CEUs; \$30 without credits; \$20 for undergraduate nursing students, seminarians and religious clergy. Includes brunch and free parking.

This symposium will focus on the history and legacy of the faith community nursing and health ministry movement, the present and how faith community nurses and health ministers serve important roles in their faith communities, and how the future will shape the opportunities for those involved in faith community nursing and health ministry. Marlene Feagan, president of Health Ministries Association Inc., is the guest speaker. To register, visit <http://ow.ly/uB1830etVci>.



Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

500 West Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7149
sistersofstbasil.org

Reading Series: Women of the New Testament

Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21
Time: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Leader: Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Free will offering. Register by Oct. 24.

Women in the Old Testament had significant roles in the unfolding of God's salvation history. By looking at two women in particular, Bathsheba and Tamar, the participant can obtain an understanding of their historical setting, their participation in the development of God's plan for humankind, and the deeper meanings of their stories that can bring us closer to God.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pneuma Spiritual Direction and Leadership Certificate Program

Now accepting applications! Have others sought you out to talk about "soul matters"? Do you have a longing to go deeper in your own spiritual formation and share this journey in community as you learn spiritual guidance and leadership knowledge and skills? If so, consider becoming a member of the 2018 Cohort of Pneuma SDL Program. For more information, see www.PneumaInstitute.com or contact Dr. Martha Robbins, Director at mrobbins@pts.edu.

Volunteer Position: Warehouse Manager

The volunteer Warehouse Manager reports to and assists the Executive Director in managing the operations of the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank's East End storage facility/warehouse.

The volunteer Warehouse Manager receives diaper donations; loads, unloads, packs and distributes diapers and supplies; operates warehouse equipment; and trains volunteers in warehouse operations and procedures. Current need is one day per week with potential to become part-time paid position.

- High school diploma or GED and 2-3 years' experience in a warehouse or big-box store preferred.
- Current non-commercial driver's license.
- Able to lift 50 pounds and stand for significant periods of time.

Email cover letter and resume to Cathy Battle, Executive Director: cbattle@wpadiaperbank.org. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

Interfaith Moral Climate Advocacy Workshop

Date: Sun., Oct. 15
Time: 1:00-7:30 p.m.
Location: Repair the World, 6022 Broad St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.
Cost: \$30, includes supper and snacks; scholarships available.

Participants will develop clear, faith-soaked messages to bring directly to policymakers to support ambitious, legally-binding targets for carbon dioxide and methane emissions, energy efficiency and a just transition to renewable power. Workshop leaders include Justin Wright, mediator and negotiation trainer with Active Neutrals, and Larry J. Schweiger, President and CEO of PennFuture.



Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-366-1124
cdpsisters.org/kearns

Evolution and Faith: What Is At Stake?

Date & Time: Thurs., Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Presenter: Professor John Haught
Suggested Donation: \$20

Georgetown University professor John Haught will explore evolution from a perspective that bridges the divide between faith and science.

Poetry for the Soul

Dates: Tuesdays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28
Time: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Presenter: Karen Lehman, M.E.
Fee: \$15 per session or \$50 for the four sessions. Fee includes all materials and morning refreshments. Registration suggested; walk-ins welcome.

Have you ever turned to soul searching after experiencing poetry? This four part series gives you the opportunity to experience this connection. We will explore several poems and poets for their invitation into reflection. Sessions will involve input, discussion and reflection time.

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Sustaining Vocation Over the Long Haul *A Community Faith Leadership Breakfast*

Oct. 4, 2017
Helen Blier, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Shari Hobby, Priest, and Martha Selleck, Integrative Psychotherapist

The Wonder of Science *Curiosity and Wonder: Conversations and Community Series*

Oct. 18, 2017
Jim Downey, Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Into the Light: Pastoral Responses to the Opioid Crisis

A Breakfast and Workshop for Faith Community Leaders

Oct. 27, 2017
Sue Washburn, Pastor, Reunion Presbyterian Church, and Interim Editor, *Presbyterians Today*, and Bob Hedges, Executive Director, Resurrection Power

Discerning a Call to Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Leadership

A Spiritual Formation Elective
Nov. 8-11, 2017
Martha Robbins, Director, Pneuma Institute

Creating Community Spaces that Evoke the Kingdom of God

Explore Your Creative Potential!

Nov. 10, 2017
Rebecca Blake, Artist and Pastor/Co-Founder of Beacon Church

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, interim pastor, Church of the Pilgrims Presb. Church



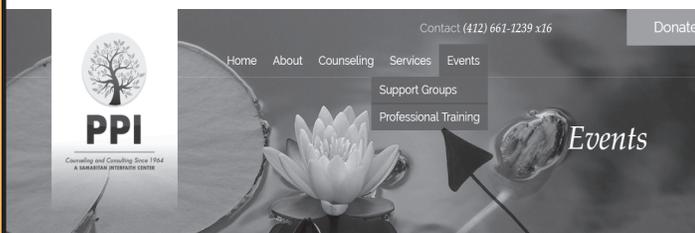
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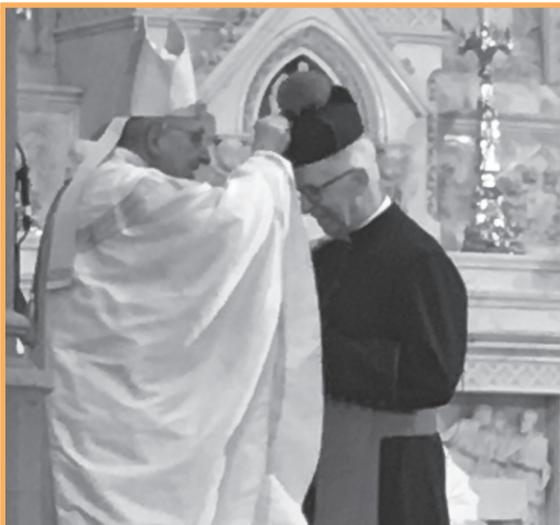
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Photo Finish



Congratulations to Msgr. Ronald P. Lengwin, who was formally named a Chaplain to His Holiness, receiving the title Monsignor, at the Manifesting the Kingdom Awards ceremony at St. Paul Cathedral in September.



Kiskiminetas Presbytery recently welcomed leaders from its partner church Gitarama Presbytery in Rwanda. From left to right, Rev. Mark Phoebus, moderator of the Kiski-Rwanda Partnership Committee; Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates; Rev. Celestin Nsengimana, President of the Gitarama Presbytery; Rev. Rose Ibyishaka, charge of the Women's and Children's Desk of the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda; and Dr. Don Wilson, Executive Presbyter of Kiskiminetas Presbytery.