

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 26 Christian Faith Traditions, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . . to be one in Christ



On the Web: www.casp.org

September 2015, Number 4

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

Bishop Edward Malesic Becomes Shepherd to Diocese of Greensburg



Christian Associates welcomes
Bishop Edward Malesic to its
Council of Bishops

With ancient ritual and vivid pageantry, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg ordained and installed its fifth bishop, the Most Rev. Edward Malesic, on July 13.

With his installation, Bishop Malesic became the newest member of Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judiciary Executives.

Bishop Malesic grew up in Enhaut, PA and was ordained in the Diocese of Harrisburg, where he served most recently as Judicial Vicar for the diocese and Pastor of Holy Infant Parish in York Haven. He is an alumnus of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and also received a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America.

As a parish priest, Bishop Malesic participated in monthly breakfast gatherings

of ecumenical clergy in his neighborhood, as well as several diocesan ecumenical initiatives. His interest in intra-Christian conversation, however, dates back even farther.

"The best religion class I ever had was the back of my trigonometry classroom in high school," Bishop Malesic remembered. *"It was me, a Methodist, a fundamentalist, and an atheist."* Through this informal group's questions and discussions, exploring and challenging each others' beliefs, Bishop Malesic said his own faith was strengthened and nourished.

Bishop Malesic told *The Call* that ecumenism will continue to be an important part of his ministry. *"I do find strength in gathering with people who see the Christian faith through a different lens. The more we understand each other, the more we can be accepting of each other."*

Interfaith Cooperation Focus of Weekend Class this Fall

Because our region is growing ever more religiously diverse, Christian leaders need to understand other faiths and find ways to work together for the common good of our communities.

To help equip these leaders, this fall, Christian Associates will host 'Interfaith Relations and Religious Pluralism,' a course offered by the Seminary Consortium on Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE) in conjunction with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Using the variety of religious communities of the city of Pittsburgh as its classroom, the course will provide students with interfaith understandings, cultural competencies and practical theology for ministry.

The students will have the opportunity to learn directly from a variety of religious leaders as they visit Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh houses of worship, among others.

They will examine their own theological perspectives, learn the skills of interfaith dialogue, and find avenues of interfaith solidarity that enable them to work together for justice and peace in the city.

The class will be taught by Dr. Lucinda Mosher, an Episcopal scholar and author who serves as Faculty Associate for Interfaith Studies at Hartford Seminary. Western Pennsylvanians may remember Dr. Mosher from the lecture on "Faith in the Neighborhood" that she offered last September at the launch event for the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition.

The class will meet at the Christian Associates office in Lawrenceville, 204 37th St, Suite 201, on three Fridays from 1 p.m.-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: September 18-19 and 25-6 and October 30-31, with additional coursework online between the in-person sessions.

Local clergy and other interested Christians are encouraged to participate in the class as auditors, at a cost of \$450 each, with CEUs available for an additional \$25.

Last-minute registrations are welcome. Participants can sign up at <https://www.scupe.org/course-registration/>.



REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

The summer is a slightly slower time around my office, and so in early July I took the opportunity to indulge in one of my favorite pastimes: *I made a color-coded to-do list.*

When I call it a favorite pastime, I'm not kidding. I've been making to-do lists as long as I've known how to write; when I was a kid, they featured such pressing tasks as "play outside" and "organize sticker collection." In college, I made sure my lists had exactly 100 items, so it was easy to calculate the percentage completed. Today, they've swollen to monster size: each one is a multi-page magnum opus, the perfect blend of productivity and procrastination.

Sorting through my desk and my email inbox, I numbered and categorized every single task necessary for the rest of the summer and beyond. Make a tentative schedule for SPARK Conversations (see page 8). Finalize site visits for the "Interfaith Relations and Religious Pluralism" class (see page 1). Work on our new Web site. Post to our Facebook page. Beside each task, I drew a small colored dot: red for the most urgent tasks, orange for slightly less so, onward through the rainbow to violet ("not time-sensitive").

Then, before actually doing anything on the list (after all, what would be the fun in that?) I took a quick break and headed downtown to the daily noontime Eucharist at First Lutheran Church. The Rev. Brian Evans, First Lutheran's senior pastor, opened the Bible and read from Matthew's Gospel:

Jesus said to his Apostles:
"As you go, make this proclamation:
'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
Cure the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse the lepers, drive out demons."

All of a sudden, my collection of color-coded tasks seemed far from the mark. Long ago, Jesus wrote us the only to-do list we need: to proclaim the kingdom, cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. This is our calling – a high one, to be sure, but nothing is impossible with God.

As you read this, the fall will be upon us, with the gathering energy of a new school year, the re-start of Christian education programs, and the startling realization that Advent begins in only a dozen Sundays. In this busy season, as your own to-do list grows long, do not lose sight of the list that Jesus made for us. Drive out the demons of racism and greed. Restore the shunned and despairing – the lepers – to fellowship and grace. Bring new life to communities and congregations once left for dead. Heal ailing relationships and broken spirits. And in everything, in words and in deeds, let the world know that the Kingdom is at hand. Now that's worth color-coding in bright red!

Your sister in Christ,

Liddy

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



Join us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/christianassociatesswpa;
sign up for our e-newsletter, "Unity N'At",
at <http://signup.casp.org>.

***In this busy season,
as your own to-do list grows long,
do not lose sight of the list
that Jesus made for us.***

Opportunities ABOUND to Study Solitary Confinement, Mass Incarceration

*"Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them;
those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured." - Hebrews 13:3*

This fall, people of faith will have several opportunities to build understanding of the challenges faced by incarcerated people in our nation and ways to assist them through advocacy.

On **Saturday, October 3** at 6 p.m., the Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture will be speaking at **East Liberty Presbyterian Church** (116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh) on **"Witness to End the Torture of Solitary Confinement in U.S. Prisons."**

Tens of thousands of prisoners – including children – experience prolonged solitary confinement, at a great cost to their mental health; NRCAT has been at the forefront of the movement to end the practice.

Later in October, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches is re-launching its annual conference with a multi-day event addressing the American criminal justice system from a moral perspective.

"Lord, Let Our Eyes Be Opened: Breaking the Chains of Mass Incarceration" will take place at the **Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg East** from Friday evening, **October 23 through Sunday, October 25.**



Tens of thousands of prisoners – including children – experience prolonged solitary confinement, at a great cost to their mental health.

Participants may also choose to attend a "Healing Communities" training on Friday or to participate in a lobby day at the State Capitol on Monday, October 26. Learn more about how poverty and racism affect incarceration and hear from experts such as Glenn E. Martin and Harold Dean Trulear. More details and registration information are available at www.pachurches.org.

Pennsylvania Network Against Torture (PANAT) is presently making available for free NRCAT's short film, **"Breaking Down the Box."** This is an excellent tool for congregations to understand the extent of the harm that prolonged solitary confinement has on people, especially juveniles and those with mental illness.

For further information on the work of PANAT, any of these events, or to order a copy of the film, contact Scilla Wahrhaftig, scillahw@gmail.com or 412-361-1581.



12 Steps, Happiness Will Be Focus of CLEAR Lecture

In commemoration of National Recovery Month, CLEAR (the Coalition for Leadership, Education, and Advocacy for Recovery) is hosting a lecture by Dr. John MacDougall at Christ Church at Grove Farm on Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m.

Dr. MacDougall is the Spiritual Care Coordinator at The Retreat, an addiction treatment center in Wayzata, MN. From 1994-2013, he was the Director of Spiritual Guidance at the Hazelden Foundation. He is a United Methodist minister who served as a parish pastor for 17 years in New Jersey and New England.

Dr. MacDougall is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and the Theological School of Drew University, from which he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree with a focus in family therapy. He has been clean and sober since July 4, 1989.

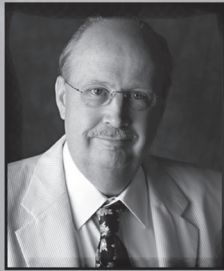
Following the lecture, Dr. MacDougall will sign copies of his most recent book, *Being Sober and Becoming Happy*, which *Kirkus Reviews* called "an original, readable primer for those unfamiliar with AA and a fresh take on spirituality in AA for those who may be struggling with it." Copies of the book are available for preorder at a cost of \$15 each.

Tickets to the lecture cost \$20 each, and CEUs are available for an additional \$15.

Reserve your tickets online at http://clearrecovery.formstack.com/forms/jmd_lecture.

B E I N G
SOBER
and becoming
HAPPY

The Best Ideas from The Director of Spiritual
Guidance at Hazelden



DR. JOHN A. MACDOUGALL



Churches Can Help Alleviate Diaper Need

In Southwest PA, the estimated need of children of families living in poverty is approximately 140,000 diapers per day and growing.

Government programs do not provide diapers. Most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities, turn away children who arrive without an adequate supply of disposable diapers. Cloth diapers are not accepted at most centers. As a result, some parents cannot go to work or school consistently, thereby continuing the cycle of poverty.

Churches and other groups can help year-round or during National Diaper Need Awareness Week, September 28 – October 4, which is an opportunity to focus the community on the growing diaper crisis.

If you are interested in sponsoring a diaper drive during this week or at any time, Diaper Bank volunteers will help your staff to coordinate efforts.

Since the Diaper Bank's founding in 2012, churches of many denominations (including Episcopal, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ, as well as Baptist) have hosted diaper drives. Presbyterian Women of Pittsburgh Presbytery will make the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank their mission project for 2015-16 and will collect diapers in their respective congregations; more details will be announced at their Fall Gathering on September 19.

Visit www.westernpennsylvaniadiaperbank.org or contact Diane Wuycheck, 412-310-4151, to coordinate participation.

Nonprofit Partner Agencies also are needed in surrounding counties. Information is available on the web site.

In Southwest PA, the estimated need of children of families living in poverty is approximately 140,000 diapers per day and growing!

Help absorb the needs of children and parents in our community by partnering with the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank.

The diaper bank, based at New Light Temple Baptist Church in the Hill District, is affiliated with the National Diaper Bank Network and distributes diapers free to families in need through partner agencies throughout the region.

New Administrative Assistant Joins Christian Associates Team

Christian Associates welcomes its newest staff member, Joshua Bullock, who started work this spring as Executive Administrative Assistant.

A native of Pawleys Island, SC, Joshua first arrived in Southwest PA in 2001 as a summer intern at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kittanning, PA. After his Armstrong County experience, he returned to Massachusetts where he graduated with a degree in History at Gordon College.

During his summer in Kittanning, a brief encounter with Dr. Stephen Noll (former Academic Dean of Trinity School for Ministry) would spark the beginning of his first job out of college and discernment of a call into the mission field.

Joshua served as a missionary of The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church working at Uganda Christian University

from 2002-2003, where he laid the groundwork for a study abroad program with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

Returning to the states, Joshua enrolled at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin where he not only participated in the daily communal life of the institution, he also served as a board member and president of the Jackson Kemper Missionary Society.

In 2007, Joshua graduated with a Master of Theological Studies. He decided to head back east, settling in Baltimore where he landed a job at working in patient care/administration at Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Joshua brings all his varied experiences to Christian Associates. *"I fulfill the duties of office manager, human resource specialist, and bookkeeper,"* he explained. *"I keep us organized and well maintained so that we can minister as a voice of unity to the best of our ability."*

Stop by our office and welcome him to the team!



Christian Associates welcomes Joshua Bullock as its new Executive Administrative Assistant

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Rd.
Bethel Park, PA 15102
412-835-6621
www.christumc.org

Triologue: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Discussion

Date & Time: Wed., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.
Fee: Free

Panel discussion including Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Western PA Conference, United Methodist Church; Rabbi Alex Greenbaum, Beth El Congregation; and a representative from the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh.



Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality

820 Crane Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-341-7494

www.epiphanyacademyofformativespirituality.org

Poetry for the Soul

Dates: Sept. 12, Oct. 3, Nov. 7
Time: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Facilitator: Susan Muto, Ph.D.
Fee: \$25 per session

This series explores the depth and formative power of three poets by reflecting on some of their most beloved works. The Sept. session focuses on T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets," the Oct. session on Emily Dickinson, and the Nov. session on Gerard Manley Hopkins. Whether familiar with these poets or not, you will be sure to enjoy their soulful poetry.



Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Blvd.
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-366-1124
www.cdpsisters.org

Book for Discussion: *Francis of Rome, Francis of Assisi: A New Springtime for the Church* by Leonardo Boff

Dates: Wednesdays, Sept. 30-Oct. 28
Time: 10-11:30 a.m.

Fee: \$20 for all 5 sessions, or \$5 each, plus book (available at Amazon or ask Kearns).

In this new book, Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff explores the connections between Pope Francis and St. Francis of Assisi through historical, theological, and cultural analysis.

Trinity College Choir

www.trinitycambridgepittsburgh.com

Choral Evensong

Date & Time: Sun., Sept. 13, 4:30 p.m.
Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Fee: Free

Concert

Date & Time: Mon., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Fee: \$40 for premium seating, \$20 for standard seating, free for students with ID.

The choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, regarded as one of the world's best, will visit Pittsburgh as part of the "Britsburgh" Festival. Repertoire will include works by Bach, Tallis, Byrd, Howells, Part, and Taverner.



Trinity United Church of Christ

3712 Saxonburg Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-767-4794

Back Bay Mission Shrimp Boil

Date: Sat., Sept. 26
Time: 12:45-2 p.m. lunch, 2:15-3:15 p.m. presentation
Fee: \$20

Enjoy a shrimp lunch and music from Obama Academy's Steel Drum Ensemble, and learn more about the work of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Association of the United Church of Christ. All proceeds benefit Back Bay Mission.

For tickets contact Gladys at pluskey@consolidated.net or 724-934-2992.



Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Ave.
Forest Hills, PA 15221
412-242-4476

Relationships that Work: Family Systems Theory for Clergy and Group Leaders

Dates: Second Saturdays beginning Oct. 10
Time: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Instructor: Ann Depner, MSW LCSW
Fee: \$265 for 8 sessions

Hope Lutheran Church

(cont...)

Participants will develop a basic understanding of the eight concepts of Bowen Family Systems Theory, and learn to apply Bowen Theory constructively to relationship challenges encountered in family, church, and other group contexts. To register, contact Ann at 412-952-3144.



Beulah Presbyterian Church

2500 McCrady Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-242-4570
www.beulahpresby.org

Our Changing Church

Date: Oct. 5
Time: 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:45 p.m. program

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) presents speakers Rev. Randy Bush, Rev. Donna Giver Johnston, and Rev. Jeff Eddings. For more information, contact Lynne Williams at gpwlew@verizon.net or 724-274-0329.



Saints John and Paul Church

2586 Wexford Bayne Road
Sewickley, PA 15143
724-935-2104
www.stsjohnandpaul.org

Reboot! Live!: A Life-changing Event for Parish and Family

Date: Thurs., Oct. 8
Time: 7-9:30 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$19

Rediscover God and rediscover the life you were made for with internationally-renowned speaker and author Chris Stefanick and Catholic recording artist Jon Niven.

Reboot! Live! is a fun, inspiring, and practical experience for ages 12 and up of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life, from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health, and more.

Register at www.reallifecatholic.org.





Trinity
School for Ministry

PT 725/LW 925 Reformation Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Frank Senn
January 11-15, 2016 | Cost: \$100



This course will compare and contrast Liturgies that emerged in the 16th century Reformation Era in response to the late medieval liturgical context in Western Europe. Confessional traditions to be explored are Lutheran, Anabaptist, Reformed, Anglican, and Roman Catholic.

Full JanTerm Course Listing:
www.tsm.edu/intensives

RELATIONSHIPS THAT WORK



FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY FOR CLERGY AND GROUP LEADERS

8 Sessions

Second Saturdays beginning in October

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

At the conclusion of the course, participants should have:

- A basic understanding of the eight concepts of Bowen Family Systems Theory
- Increased objectivity in observing behavior patterns of self and others in family and group contexts
- Ability to apply Bowen Theory constructively to relationship challenges encountered in family, church, and other group contexts

For more information call Ann Depner at 412-952-3144



SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

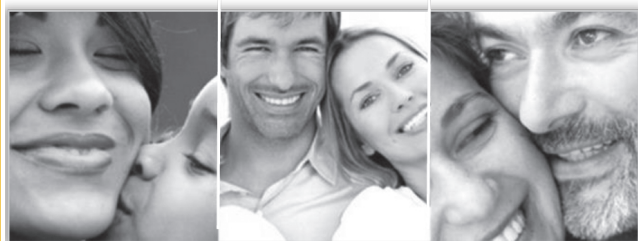
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UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

MISSIONPALOOZA

"From the Ground Up: Growing Contextual Christian Communities" sponsored by Continuing Education, Church Planting Initiative, and World Mission Initiative

Authentic Church - Contextual Church
W. Don McClure Lectures in World Mission and Evangelism

Sept. 21-22, 2015
Graham Cray

Members of God's Household: Planting Churches in Multicultural Contexts
A Church Planting Initiative Event

Sept. 22-23, 2015
Jin Kim, James Lee, and Nikki Porter

Telling the Story: New Disciples, New Church

32nd Annual Teacher Training Workshop
Sept. 26, 2015
Keith C. Kaufold

The Life and Teaching of Henri Nouwen:
Exploring the Rhythms of Solitude, Community, and Ministry
Spiritual Formation Elective

Sept. 27-30, 2015
B.J. Woodworth

Old Testament Biblical Hebrew Reading

Language Over Lunch: Mondays
Mondays, Sept. 28 - Nov. 2, 2015
Jim Durlleser

New Testament Greek Reading

Language Over Lunch: Wednesdays
Wednesdays, Sept. 30 - Nov. 4, 2015
Jim Durlleser



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



**PITTSBURGH
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**



Upcoming Training Events:

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

(Sept 11, 25, Oct 9, 23, Nov 6)

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

(Sept 16-18)

APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION

(Oct 15-16)

SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

(Oct 29-30)

More information: www.ppi-online.org/events

For counseling call 412-661-1239 x 16



Confessing the Faith

The Rt. Rev. Dr. John Rodgers

January 4-6, 2016 | Cost: \$120

Trinity School for Ministry in partnership with the Robert E. Webber Center is pleased to announce a new curriculum called *Foundations for Christian Ministry*. This class, hosted by one of the authors, will present the first in the series of 8 new training programs designed for adult Christians seeking greater preparation for Christian life and ministry.

Full JanTerm Course Listing:
www.tsm.edu/intensives

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Coming soon:

SPARK Conversations

**A series of informal lunches bringing together
Christian leaders with similar roles or interests**

**Meet colleagues across the boundaries of
tradition and theology.**

-  **SPARK new relationships**
-  **SPARK new collaborations**
-  **SPARK new understandings**



Our 2015-16 series of conversations, beginning this October, will include gatherings for Christian educators, clergy under age 40, church planters, bivocational pastors, and more.

Come for lunch – leave with fresh ideas and new friends.

Watch the next issue of *The Call*, or our e-newsletter, *Unity N'At*, for more details.