

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

June 2014, Number 3

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

Equally Made in the Image of God: The Theology and Education Committee Considers Racism

What does it mean to be stewards of creation? What effect does ordination have? How can Christians respond to the scourge of racism? These questions, and many more, have compelled the Theology and Education Committee of Christian Associates. In its bimonthly gatherings, the committee takes up the challenge of “doing theology,” working to articulate the realities of what God has revealed for our lives. Each member speaks out of his or her own Christian tradition; together they come to a deeper understanding of what God is doing in our midst.

The Committee’s work is guided by its members’ own interests as well as the directions of the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives. In the past year, at the suggestion of Council, the Committee has been examining racism from a theological perspective. They began their study with a special presentation by Dr. Jack Sullivan, regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); then, each member of the Theology and Education Committee began developing a reflection for presentation to the Council members that will then be utilized in future work.



Members of the Theology & Education Committee include (left to right) committee chair Very Rev. Fr. George Johnson; Christian Associates’ Executive Minister Rev. Liddy Barlow; Rev. Bob Jackson; Rev. Dr. James Davison; Rev. Dr. John Lolla; and Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu. (Not pictured: Rev. Canon Jay Geisler, Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Mina, Very Rev. Joseph Mele, Pr. Robert Hawk, Rev. Dr. Stephen Tuell, and Rev. Fr. Jason DelVitto.)

The Very Rev. Father George Johnson, committee chair, summarizes the group’s work so far this way:

“In our efforts to hear from and about those who have suffered from racism, we have come to understand that in the United States, African Americans have too often been seen as less than human, a belief deriving from the institution of slavery. This is in stark contrast, of course, to the classic Christian understanding that human beings (all of them!) have been created in the image of God: all human beings are equally made in the image of God, and therefore are equal *a priori* to each other before God. In secular thinking, this reality may not seem significant, but the believing Christian knows that this reality of God and God’s creation represents truly the starting point and the concluding point for the matters that we are seeking to address.

(continued on page three)

Signs of HOPE:

Graduations Mark New Beginning for Jail Inmates



HOPE participants join in prayer

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,” the prophet Jeremiah wrote, “plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

That hope comes alive every nine weeks as new classes of inmates at the Allegheny County Jail graduate from the HOPE pre-release program. The Foundation of HOPE, a sponsored ministry of Christian Associates, offers intensive faith-based training and mentoring programs to inmates and ex-offenders.

In April, graduates of the pre-release program welcomed special guest speakers Kelvin Beachum of the Pittsburgh Steelers to the men’s graduation and local entrepreneur Tomi Lynn Harris to the women’s graduation. “I’m always so proud to see our graduates complete this program,” said the Rev. Caitlin Werth, director of the HOPE pre-release program. “It takes a lot of hard work and a lot of support from our partners in the community.”

Donations to continue HOPE’s work are needed now; checks may be made to the **Foundation of HOPE** and mailed to:
Christian Associates of SW PA, 204 27th St, Suite 201, Pittsburgh PA 15201.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

I love answering questions. In school, I was always the girl with her hand frantically waving in the air, desperate to be called on. Later on, in seminary, I even put this hobby to fame and (negligible) fortune as a contestant on *Jeopardy!* So, when people warned me about parenting a preschooler, I was undeterred. Kids ask a lot of questions, they said. Pshaw, I replied, I love answering questions. No, they replied, I mean a lot of questions. Whatever, I said. I can handle it.

I was wrong. The deluge of questions a preschooler asks is like no classroom or game show ever devised. One study found that in a year, children ask their mother an average of 105,120 questions. At first I was delighted by my daughter's curiosity, but in time I'd hear myself repeating those old standbys: "Because I said so," "Because God made it that way," "That's just the way it is."

But sometimes, her questions lead me to examine the world in ways I never have before. Sometimes, her questions bring clarity and insight, bringing out meaning and reconsidering assumptions. For instance, consider this conversation on a recent evening:

"Daddy is going to put you to bed tonight, sweetie, because I have to go to church."

"Why?"

"Because that's part of my new work at Christian Associates; I visit lots and lots of churches."

"Why?"

"So that I can meet people and help them meet each other."

"Why?"

"So that we can pray together, and be friends, and work together to help people in need."

"Why?"

"Because that's what Jesus wants for us; he wants us to remember that even though we might be different from each other in some ways, we're all more alike than we are different."

"Why?"

"Because we're all trying our best to follow Jesus."

"Why?"

"Because that's a wonderful way to live. Now finish your broccoli."

Jesus once said that unless we become like a little child, we will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Perhaps he meant, in part, that we should ask more questions! To be Christian is to be called to curiosity, to enter a quest for understanding that leads us into closer relationship with the One who loves and knows us. Jesus himself, of course, also loved asking questions. According to some counts, Jesus asks 307 questions in the gospels; he is far more likely to ask a question than to answer one directly. In his questions, he calls his disciples to reconsider our snap judgments and see our world with fresh eyes.

Asking questions is a crucial part of our ecumenical journey. None of us is fluent in every Christian language; there are parts of every tradition that we understand only in part or not at all. By engaging one another with honest, kind, and open-minded questions, we too can clarify our own thinking even as we learn more about the traditions of others. The answers we hear can strengthen our own faith and practice, and help us better understand our neighbors. Perhaps there should be a little preschooler – a little Jesus – in all of us.

Blessings to each of you as you ask and as you answer, as you seek God and seek to know one another.

Your sister in Christ,



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



*To be Christian
is to be called
to curiosity, to
enter a quest for
understanding that
leads us into closer
relationship with
the One who loves
and knows us.*

*... anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God
like a little child will never enter it." - Luke 18:17*

Equally Made

(continued from page one)

“Although all human beings are equally human in nature, and all created in the image of God, there are personal distinctions in and among humans. Here is where ethnography must be securely placed: among the personal distinctions. The historical aspects of the life of the United States pose a specific challenge: through the social institution of slavery, there came to be a blurring of the fundamental distinctions between human nature and ethnography.

“Therefore, our theological understanding of human equality must be repeated and repeated, until it becomes normal thinking for life. This is by no means the only solution to the problem of racism, but it is an essential aspect of the ultimate solution; without it, we have condemned ourselves to solely (fallen) human categories of thinking, something which ultimately will bear no fruit.

“Next, one can turn to the classic understanding of the ‘two great commandments,’ on which depend everything else, according to the Lord Jesus: the love of God with one’s total being and the love of one’s neighbor as oneself. It is accurate to say that love of neighbor directly follows from seeking to love God; and there can be no love of God without the love of our neighbor. Additionally, the ‘love of

neighbor’ does not mean simply those who might love us or who are good to us; rather, the neighbor is anyone near at hand, and includes everyone created by God, all those ‘for whom Christ has died’ (Romans 14:15).

“Genuine love is expressed in deeds, and not in words alone. It is manifested in concern for others through kindly speech and generosity with one’s earthly possessions. This genuine love ‘is revealed in one’s works of faith, in keeping all of God’s commandments.’ (cf. Matthew 5:44-48 & Luke 6:27-35).

“Those who been drawn to a secularized approach to and treatment of racism may well be less than satisfied with this approach, but for the believing Christian it is really the only approach possible. In other words: we must seek to be faithful to the God who is always faithful.

“‘If anyone says that he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen; and this is the commandment that we have from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also’ (1 John 4:20-21).”

Members of the Theology & Education Committee are appointed by their bishop or judicatory executive; if this work seems exciting to you, contact the Christian Associates office to learn how you might become involved.

Save the Date!



Returning Military Conference Friday, October 17

Passavant Hospital Foundation,
Allison Park, PA 15101

Learn how clergy, churches, and community partners can assist veterans and their families before, during, and after deployment. Help veterans recover from moral injury, rebuild their faith, and strengthen their families.

Sponsored by Christian Associates, Allegheny County Departments of Behavioral Health and Veterans Affairs, the Pennsylvania Military Spiritual Wellness Alliance, and other community partners.

Christian Associates’ Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives met on May 14 at St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh. The meeting included a time of conversation: Council members and proxies told stories of their own experiences with ecumenism and shared their hopes for the future of Christian Associates.

Below left: the full group with Archbishop Robert Duncan of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Rev. Ayana Teter of Pittsburgh Presbytery in the foreground. *Below right:* The Most Rev. Bishop David Zubik of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Most Rev. MELCHISEDEK of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania (Orthodox Church in America).



ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Taizé Services

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park
www.christumc.net

First Wed. of each month, 6:30pm

Community of Celebration

809 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa
www.communityofcelebration.com

First Sun. of each month, 7:30pm

Community United Methodist Church

3487 Route 130, Irwin
www.communityumchurch.org

Second Wed. of each month, 7:00pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh 15206
www.cathedralofhope.org

Every Wed., 7:00pm

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue at Braddock Road
Hope@Lutheran.com

Fri. June 6, Sept. 5, 7:00pm



St. Joseph Spirituality Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph
1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005
724-869-6585

Registrations: 724-869-6585
www.stjoseph-baden.org

Ignatian Directed Retreat

Dates: Wed. June 18 – Sun. June 22

Time: 7:00 PM (Wed.) – 12 noon (Sun.)

Directors: Sisters Paula Drass, Catherine Higgins, and Diane McCalley and Father Phillip Fogarty, S.J.

Fee: \$300 includes meals, lodging, and individual direction

This retreat, based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, is an opportunity for Scriptural-based prayer. The atmosphere is silence and quiet prayer. To register: 724-869-6585



Mount Aloysius College

7373 Admiral Peary Highway
Cresson, PA 16630
814-886-6510
www.mtaloy.edu

Summer Scripture Institute

“From Malachi to Matthew: how changes in Israel’s life impacted them...and us”

Dates: Tues. June 24 – Fri. June 27

Times: Begins Tues. at 3:30 pm and ends Fri. at 1:00 pm

Facilitator: Dr. James E. Davison

Fee: Includes all meals and materials, \$235/commuter, \$300/resident

On-line registration: www.mtaloy.edu and select Ecumenical Studies or call 814-886-6404.

Thomas Merton Retreat and/or Seminar

Dates: Sun. July 13 – Fri. July 18

Times: Retreat: Sun. 4:30 pm ; Seminar:

Wed. 3:00 pm

Facilitator: Dr. Bonnie Thurston

Fee: \$200-Retreat; \$200-Seminar;

\$350 for both

To register contact Sr. Helen Marie Burns, RSM at 814-886-6404 or hburns@mtaloy.edu

Overnight accommodations are available. Guests may visit the Ecumenical Studies Library and have opportunity for community and solitude.



Rodef Shalom Congregation

Biblical Botanical Garden

4905 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2941
412-621-6566

www.biblicalgardenpittsburgh.org

“Dining With Queen Esther”

June 1 to September 15

Sun. thru Thur. 10 am – 2 pm

Wed. also 7 pm – 9 pm

Sat. Noon – 1pm

Never an admission charge; handicap accessible. Reserve a free tour for your group of eight or more.



Trinity Cathedral

328 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-232-6404

www.trinitycathedralpgh.org

Noon Eucharist

In Mary’s Chapel or Christ the King Altar
Every day, lasting less than 30 minutes
Thursday is a special healing service.



Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality

820 Crane Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-341-7494

www.epiphanyassociation.org

Academy Summer Institute

Mary, The Mother of God

Dates: Mon. June 16 – Thur. June 19

Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Facilitators: Susan Muto, PhD and Lori Mitchell McMahon

Cost: \$100

Please RSVP 412-341-7494

Fiction and Formation

Dates: Saturdays, June 21, September 6, October 11

Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Facilitator: Steve Geitgey

Cost: \$10/session

Please RSVP 412-341-7494

When we are blessed by the wisdom of Holy Scripture and the spiritual masters of the Christian tradition, reading great works of fiction can become a formative experience.



Jumonville Christian Camp & Retreat Center

887 Jumonville Road
Hopwood, PA 15445
1-800-463-7688
www.jumonville.org

Autism Family Retreat

Dates: Fri. Aug. 22 – Sun. Aug. 24

Time: Fri. 6:00pm – Sun. 1:00pm

Leader: Rev. Ed Saxman

Cost: \$99/adult; \$49/child (3-11 yrs)

Registration deadline: Aug. 16

A weekend retreat that will allow families to enjoy a mountaintop experience, including parental free time and opportunity for quality family time.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

First Lutheran Church
615 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-471-8125

Camp Downtown

"Building On A Solid Foundation"
Dates: Mon. June 23 – Fri. June 27
Times: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Fee: \$40-1st child, \$30-2nd child, etc.
Deadline to register – June 1

The Downtown Ministerium is again sponsoring a Vacation Bible School program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Youth in seventh through twelfth grade can participate as "youth counselors".

For information: First Lutheran Church office, 412-471-8125 or flc@flcpittsburgh.org.



New Hope Presbyterian Church
12727 Lincoln Way
North Huntingdon, PA
724-863-7702

Gateways to Empowered Ministries

Dates: Tuesdays, 6/17 thru 8/26
(not 6/24)
Time: 7:00-8:30pm
Fee: free-will offering of at least \$20 suggested to help defray cost of Dunamis materials developed by Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International.
Register by 6/9 at 724-863-7702

A video course to gain a sound, Biblically-based knowledge of who the Holy Spirit is and what the role of the Holy Spirit is today.



Crestfield Camp & Conference Center
195 Taggart Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
www.crestfield.net/summer-camp

Special Needs Camp

Dates: Sun. June 29 – Wed. July 2
Time: Sun. 3:00pm – Wed. 6:30pm
For: completed grade 5 – Young Adult
Cost: \$365

Crestfield
(continued . . .)

This program allows participants to experience the community of Crestfield in a safe and nurturing environment. Campers will go to Slippery Rock Univ. Storm Harbor Equestrian Center for an afternoon with horses. Spaces are limited. Check website for more info.



Kearns Spirituality Center
9000 Babcock Blvd
Allison Park, PA 15101
www.cdpsisters.org

The Sisters of Divine Providence offer preached and directed retreats. You are invited to sit in on the conferences at these preached retreats. These are silent retreats and ask that you observe silence while visiting.

Preached Retreat – To Know Him is to Love Him: A Journey of Intimacy with Jesus, with Mary as Our Guide

Dates: Mon. June 9 – Fri. June 13
Director: Rev. Michael Greb, OFM Cap., M.Div.

Preached Retreat – Walking and Praying with the Women in Luke

Dates: Mon. June 23 – Fri. June 27
Director: Rev. Bonnie Thurston, Ph.D.

To confirm conference times and your attendance, call 412-366-1124 or email kearnsscl@pghcdp.org



Martina Spiritual Renewal Center
5244 Clarwin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-9766
www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com

Conference Retreat (Silent) "Praying the Psalms"

Dates: Sun. June 22 – Sat. June 28
Time: Sun. 7:00pm – Sat. lunch
Presenter: Fr. David Moczulski, OFM
Offering: \$375
Registration by June 6

Martina
(continued . . .)

Conference Retreat (Silent) "The World View of Jesus (The Lord's Prayer)"

Dates: Sun. July 6 – Sat. July 12
Time: Sun. 7:00pm – Sat. lunch
Presenter: Fr. Bernard Tickerhoof, TOR
Offering: \$375; Registration by June 20

Directed Retreat (Silent)

Dates: Sun. July 20 – Sun. July 27
Time: Sun. 7:00pm – Sun. lunch
Presenter: Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph.D.
Offering: \$425; Registration by July 2

Scripture based retreat provides for an extended time for prayer, solitude and discernment of the Spirit's direction. The director is available daily to assist in listening to the invitation of the Holy Spirit. Daily Eucharistic Liturgy is available.



COTTAGES FOR SALE

Nestled among the trees just 20 miles north-east of Pittsburgh, PA, you will find the best kept secret around...the 165 year old Pittsburgh-Tarentum Campmeeting Association.

Fully furnished 2 story Victorian cottages are for sale at a reasonable low cost. A perfect summer retreat for you and your family and only 10 minutes from Pittsburgh Mills Mall and 5 minutes from grocery stores, banks and restaurants. This Christian community is complete with a swimming pool, laundry facilities, and an outdoor Tabernacle which hosts church services every Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Numerous activities, such as campfires, dinners and concerts are held on the grounds throughout the summer.

The campground is open from April 1 through October 31st, and has a year round caretaker who lives on the premises. Taxes, Water/Sewage and Gas are included in the annual nominal assessment fee of \$1,000.

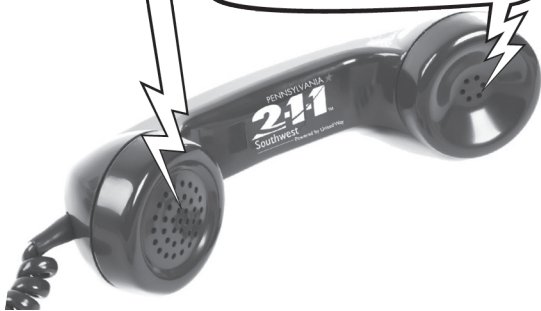
If you are interested or would like more information; please call Judy Doyle @ 412-216-3300.

I need help with:

- ☐ Feeding my family.
- ☐ Becoming a volunteer.
- ☐ Getting taxes done.
- ☐ Avoiding eviction.
- ☐ Caring for my grandmother.
- ☐ Keeping my heat on.
- ☐ Joining the workforce.
- ☐ Finding a summer camp.
- ☐ Protecting a friend.

I can help with:

- ☒ All of the above.





Need help? Dial 2-1-1.

It's your friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, info or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first. If 2-1-1 is not available where you are, dial 1-888-553-5778.



UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

<p>What Difference Does It Make? Christian Identity in a Complex World</p> <p>June 8-11, 2014</p> <p><i>Tony Campolo</i>, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Eastern University</p>	<p>Trusting God as Creator: Old Testament Spirituality</p> <p><i>A Spiritual Formation Elective</i></p> <p>June 22-27, 2014</p> <p><i>Jerome F. D. Creach</i>, Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament, PTS</p>	<p>Bringing Spirituality into Church and Life</p> <p><i>A Spiritual Formation Elective</i></p> <p>September 21-26, 2014</p> <p><i>N. Graham Standish</i>, Pastor, Calvin Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>Back to the Land: Teaching the Bible in Context</p> <p><i>Teacher Training Workshop</i></p> <p>September 27, 2014</p> <p><i>Ron Tappy</i>, G. Albert Shoemaker Professor of Bible and Archaeology and Director of the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology, PTS</p>	<p>Training for Interim Ministers (Basic Unit, Part I)</p> <p>October 6-10, 2014</p>	 <p>Office of Continuing Education 616 N. Highland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412-924-1345 ConEd@pts.edu www.pts.edu/CE</p>  <p>PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</p>
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Fall 2014 | Online Education

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NT 500 Introduction to New Testament

*To view other available courses, please visit
www.tsm.edu, or call Geoffrey Mackey, the Director
of Distance Learning, 1-800-874-8754. Registration for
Fall 2014 will open June 2, 2014.*

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Word on the Street . . .

If Jesus came to Western Pennsylvania, where would you expect to find him?

“At a sporting event – because that’s where the people are! He’d be having a good time.”



Rev. Thomas Federline
St Bernard of Clairvaux, Indiana, PA

“He would be where he’s needed. That’s why we do what we’re doing, to make sure that those places that need Christ are being served.”



Rev. Jana Quisenberry
United Christian Church, California, PA

“Hitchhiking on Route 28, holding a cardboard sign. Pick him up – he’ll teach you a lot!”



Bishop Dorsey McConnell
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh