Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 28 Church Bodies, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

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



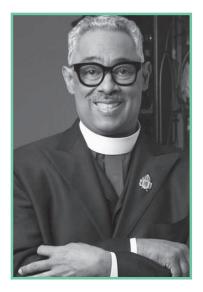


June/July/August 2019, Number 3

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

African Methodist Episcopal Church Welcomes New Bishop

The Third Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is welcoming a new episcopal leader: Bishop Frank Madison Reid III.



The Third District includes Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. In addition to his duties in the Third District, Bishop Reid continues to serve as the Bishop for Ecumenical & Urban Affairs for the AME Church.

He served as pastor of AME congregations from 1975 through 2016, serving in Liberia, North Carolina, and Los Angeles before coming to the historic Bethel AME Church in Baltimore, where he served as Senior Pastor for 28 years.

Under his leadership, Bethel flourished, establishing a second campus and a television ministry, "Outreach of Love," that aired internationally.

Bishop Reid also established connections with ecumenical, interfaith, and civic organizations. He was active in bringing peace to Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray in police custody in 2015. The following year, he met with Pope Francis in Rome.

Television fans might also recognize Bishop Reid from the acclaimed HBO series "The Wire," set in Baltimore, which included scenes shot at Bethel and mentioned his ministry.

Bishop Reid is a fifth-generation AME minister and a third-generation bishop, following both his father and his grandfather into the episcopal office. He is married to Marlaa Hall Reid; they have three children.

Bishop Reid follows Bishop McKinley Young, who died in February after six years of service to the district. As his offices are in Columbus, Bishop Reid will be represented locally by the Rev. Dr. James McLemore and the Rev. Dr. Eric Brown.

Spiritual Leader Spaces To Nourish Interfaith Connections This Summer

When terror attacks struck churches across Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, Christian Associates worked with over a dozen interfaith and community partners to plan a community vigil.

In just 57 hours, we planned and publicized a service that drew over 200 people to Heinz Chapel to mourn the dead, support the local Sri Lankan community, and raise \$2,341 for the Brother's Brother Foundation's work in Sri Lanka.

Highly-visible interfaith responses to tragedy, such as the Vigil for Sri Lanka, are made possible by the less-visible work of building relationships and getting to know one another.

Since the shootings at Tree of Life synagogue, Christian Associates has been working with the JCC's Center for Loving



Kindness on the "We Have to Talk" initiative, convening nearly 300 spiritual leaders from nine world religions and over 20 Christian denominations.

This summer, "We Have to Talk" will be offering bimonthly "Spiritual Leader Spaces," opportunities for informal smallgroup conversations as we consider next steps for interfaith engagement in our region.

Participants are invited to bring a text for discussion, an opinion to share, or ideas for events or projects. Come meet a new friend and deepen your connection with your interfaith colleagues.

The Spiritual Leader Spaces will take place on the second Wednesday mornings (9:30-11:00 on June 12, July 10, and August 14) in the McNaugher Lounge at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the fourth Thursday afternoons (4:00-5:30 on June 27, July 25, and August 22) at the Jewish Community Center.

Plan to attend one or more of these gatherings; drop by as you are able and stay as long as you like. No RSVP is necessary.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY KELFECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends:

Would we have enough time to make our connection? That was my greatest worry as my children and I left Pittsburgh for a spring weekend in New England. We were scheduled to have only 55 minutes to change planes at LaGuardia, and that sprawling airport can be tough to get around.

When we landed, however, we discovered that our connecting flight had been delayed three hours. We'd be stuck in the airport well past the kids' bedtimes, but we settled in to make the best of it. We had a leisurely dinner. We read books. We sat and sat some more. At last, near midnight, almost five hours after our scheduled departure time, our aircraft landed. We rejoiced! Then they announced that the flight crew had already worked their maximum allowed hours for the day. The pilot emerged from the jetbridge with his suitcase; our fellow passengers offered him some choice words as he slunk away.

We all lined up to rebook flights, to get hotel vouchers, to find out where our checked bags might be. (The answer, somehow: already in Boston, without us.) One after another, the airline employees couched their replies with the same language: "It's not my fault." "I didn't have anything to do with this." "This isn't really my job." "I'm not responsible."

On the one hand, I can understand their frustration. Our flight's delay truly was not the fault of any of the individual people we interacted with that evening. The agent who had to announce the delay had nothing to do with it; nor did the gentleman who shook his head when we made it down to baggage claim. In fact,

After surviving their travel delays, Rev. Barlow and her children visited the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, Vermont.

it would be hard to trace responsibility to any one person at all: the whole system of scheduling and distributing airplanes and crew had failed us.

Most problems are like that: they are not anyone's fault individually. None of us singlehandedly caused racism, or poverty, or climate change. Similarly, none of us are personally responsible for the fractures in Christ's church. We didn't choose to create barriers in sacraments and practices; we didn't invent theological divides. We can't point to any single person and blame them for disunity, watching as they retreat in shame. Our division is a systemic problem.

At some point, we need to take on our share of the struggle, even though we weren't the ones who first messed things up.

It was true that none of the airline staff, individually, carried the fault for our predicament. But if they all continued to shrug off responsibility, we may never have lifted off the ground. At some point, individual people need to decide to make things better, even if they weren't originally guilty for the ways that things went wrong. At some point, we need to take on our share of the struggle, even though we weren't the ones who first messed things up.

For human beings, standing up to systemic problems can seem impossible. But we have one on our side who stands up to all principalities and powers that bind us. Christ came to set us free so that we might be free indeed: free of all the accumulated systems that tie us to shame and helplessness and stand in the way of our reconciliation and wholeness.

And with the Holy Spirit with us, the way forward can, well, take flight ... like our plane finally did the next day, 17.5 hours past its originally scheduled time. Not perfect, by a long shot. But at least we were on our way.

With prayers for smooth travels this summer,

Your sister in Christ,

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

PS – Why not invite a colleague out for an iced tea and discuss the ways that you two can take on systemic challenges in your own community? Christian Associates will pick up the tab! Visit www.casp.org/300cups.

Gather on August 30 to Remember Victims of Overdose

This summer will mark the fifth annual ecumenical Overdose Awareness Day commemoration in downtown Pittsburgh. Gathering at noon on Friday, August 30, the community will remember the 470 individuals who died from overdose in 2018.

The service is co-sponsored by CLEAR, Christian Associates, and the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium. It includes scriptures, prayers, testimonies, and the chiming of a bell to represent lives that have been lost to overdose, with worship leaders representing a variety of Christian traditions.

Prior to the service, CLEAR will offer trainings on administering Narcan, and on medicated assisted treatment for opioid addiction. For more information, contact Karen Plavan, karenplavan@gmail.com.

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held every August 31 to raise awareness of overdose, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends of those who have died by overdose.



Photos of overdose victims line the fence outside Trinity Cathedral on Overdose Awareness Day 2018.

All are welcome to participate in planning and leading the service. To learn more and share your ideas, join us for a planning meeting at Trinity Cathedral on **Monday**, **June 17 at 10 a.m**. RSVP for the meeting by contacting Liddy Barlow, lbarlow@casp.org.

In Memoriam: Christian Associates remembers dedicated volunteers



Deane Lavender



Jack Peffer

May they rest in peace and rise in glory!

Two local leaders with long-time relationships to Christian Associates have recently died.

The Rev. Deane Lavender died April 14 at age 86. A pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he served congregations in New York state before coming to Plains Presbyterian Church in Cranberry Twp in 1977. He served there for the next twenty years. He represented Beaver-Butler Presbytery on Christian Associates' Theology & Education committee until 2014.

Dr. Jack Peffer died April 22 at age 90. A professional chemist and committed lay leader, both in his own Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tradition

and the broader ecumenical church, he served on Christian Associates' Board of Delegates, and also served on the Church & Community Committee. He was a founder of Wilkinsburg Community Ministry and helped lead the World Council of Churches' Oikocredit lending initiative. He was a member of Wilkinsburg Christian Church.

"While I served I could not have been better supported by such committed and articulate siblings in our Lord," said Pastor Don Green, who served as Executive Director of Christian Associates until 2014. "CASP and I were blessed by their engagement, advocacy for ecumenism, and commitment to Christ."

Volunteers needed to visit palliative care patients

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction ..." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

All who hear the call to console the afflicted are invited to participate as spiritual care volunteers for Allegheny Health Network, visiting palliative care patients at Allegheny General, Allegheny Valley, Forbes, Jefferson, and West Penn Hospitals.

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life for patients and their families facing problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering. Palliative care involves early identification, assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether they be physical, psychosocial or spiritual.

No experience is necessary; training is provided, and the hospital will cover the cost of the required clearances. Volunteers also receive free parking and meals.

To sign up online, go to: https://www.ahn. org/volunteer-application Be sure to select



at which hospital you want to work at, and under "other," type: "palliative care."

For more information, contact Pastor Kimberly Rapczak, Spiritual Care Coordinator, at 412-738-4650 or Kimberly.Rapczak@ahn.org.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden

4905 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-621-6566
www.biblicalgardenpittsburgh.org

Food and Cooking in Our First Diaspora: The Persian Period

Dates: June 1-Sept. 15 Times: Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Weds. also 7 p.m.-dusk; Sat. 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Cost: Free

Enter a replica of ancient Israel in our Biblical Botanical Garden with more than 100 temperate and tropical plants. See the land of the Bible in a setting with a cascading waterfall, a desert, and a bubbling stream, the Jordan, which meanders through the garden from Lake Kineret to the Dead Sea. Group tours (eight or more) by appointment.

T T T Pittsburgh Pirates

PNC Park 115 Federal St Pittsburgh, PA 15212 www.pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com

Faith Night

Date and Time: Sat., June 22, 4:05 p.m. Price: \$20-\$32

Come out to PNC Park for the seventh annual Faith Night, presented by La Roche University, and root for the Pirates as they take on the San Diego Padres. Following the game, hear manager Clint Hurdle and your favorite Pirates players and coaches share their personal experiences about how their faith has impacted their lives and their careers in baseball. Must use coupon code FAITH at checkout. For groups of 10 or more, contact Chad Glover at chad. glover@pirates.com or (412) 325-4756.



St. Louise Convent

Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Nazareth 8200 McKnight Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412-364-3000

Retreat: Exploring the Holy Mystery

Date & Times: Mon., June 24, 9 a.m. – Fri., June 28, 1 p.m.
Presenter: Fr. Roger Statnick
Cost: \$450 (including programming, lodging and meals), \$350 commuters.

St. Louise Convent

(continued . . .)

On this retreat, Fr. Statnick seeks to lead attendees into a deep journey of reflection and exploration of how the Holy Mystery of God works throughout our lives. While seeing Christ as our guide and as our Way, retreatants will examine specific aspects of the human condition and consider how they can reveal answers to questions that we have about God's saving mystery. The retreat will consist of daily conferences, daily Mass, Anointing of the Sick, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



St. Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road Latrobe, PA 15650 724-805-2139 www.saintvincentretreats.org

Benedictine Spirituality Retreat: The Humility of the Sacred Heart in Benedictine Spirituality

Dates: Fri., June 28-Sun., June 30 Leader: Fr. Boniface Hicks O.S.B.

Cost: \$185

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart during this weekend retreat, we remember the simple beautiful invocation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart, "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine." Saint Benedict lived long before the Revelation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary, but he already highlighted a key virtue of the Sacred Heart: humility. In this retreat we will reflect on humility in Benedictine spirituality and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



St. Paul Cathedral

108 N. Dithridge St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-4951 www.stpaulpgh.org

2019 Summer Concert Series

Date & Time: Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Cost: Free

Featured performers:

July 7 - Edward Alan Moore of East Liberty Presbyterian Church

July 14 - Michael Andrew Hammer of Third Presbyterian Church, Shadyside

July 28 - Bruce Ludwick of Cathedral of St. Paul, Birmingham, Ala.

Aug. 4 - James Burns of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper St. Clair

St. Paul Cathedral

(continued . . .)

Aug. 11 - Daniel Kovacic of St. John Capistran Church, Bethel Park/St. Thomas More Church, Upper St. Clair



Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery

121 St Elias Lane Saxonburg, PA 16056 724-352-3999

www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org

Prophet Elias Feast Day at the Monastery

Date & Time: Sat., July 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: Free

Following the Hours and Divine Liturgy, the Monastery will provide lunch and will have baked goods and hand crafts available for purchase. Please call in advance if you plan to bring a bus or large group. All guests to the monastery are asked to dress modestly.



CLASSIFED ADVERTISEMENTS

The Pittsburgh Tarentum Campmeeting Association, a Christian community of 23 cottages located in the wooded section of Natrona Heights, will open soon for musical programs, worship services, and cottage open houses. Visit www.summercottagespa.org for more information.

For Sale: The Red Cottage, a delightful two story, 2 bedroom is available for sale. It is located in a wooded section of Natrona Heights along with 32 other cottages. In addition to the two bedrooms, there is a sitting room on the second floor.

The cottage is completely furnished with 4 air conditioners, 2 wall heaters, washer/dryer, and many other amenities. Living room, dining room, and completely equipped kitchen with microwave, etc. Decorated nicely.

Asking \$24K. Call owner: Don Larva (724) 444-6842 or Ginny (412) 826-5789 or cell: (412) 841-6089.



GOD HAS CALLED YOU

Imagine the possibilities at Trinity School for Ministry



Whether you have a call to parish ministry, missions, or lay leadership, Trinity School for Ministry can help you prepare to answer your call.

Residential and online programs available.

MASTER OF DIVINITY | MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION
MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY | DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

CONTACT US

admissions@tsm.edu www.tsm.edu | 1-800-874-8754



INTEGRATING SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Chautaugua Institution on beautiful Lake Chautaugua in Western NY August 30, to September 1, 2019 (Labor Day Weekend) \$430 (early bird \$395 by June 30, 2019) Approved CE Hours: 11



For Therapists and Pastors

Is it time to take care of yourself and spend some time on a beautiful lake while earning hourly credits toward your continuing education requirements?!

Join with others at Chautauqua Institution in western NY on Labor Day weekend while you learn to integrate spirituality into your counseling practice. Gestalt Pastoral Care is rooted in the Christian ministry of healing, and integrates Gestalt growth work, spiritual companioning and prayer for healing. For over thirty years, GPC practitioners have been refining and refocusing counseling strategies based on their faith, the faith of their clients, and the Holy Spirit's presence within and among them. GPC may be used to bring new shape to already established therapeutic, social work, and nursing practices, as well as ministries of the local church and pastoral care. All retreats and training programs of GPC are open and

For more information, please contact Gestalt Pastoral Care Associates, Inc. P. O. Box 140636, Staten Island NY 10314, www.gestaltpastoralcare.org (website), or Susan Vande Kappelle, 724-288-5402, susan.vandekappelle@gestaltpastoralcare.org

Friday evening workshop - August 30, 2019

Spiritually Minded Care: Connecting Spiritual and Emotional Wellness in Mental Health Care

There is significant evidence for the importance of spirituality in supporting recovery from nental health conditions. This session will provide an overview of the evider addressing spiritual wellness in mental health care, introduce a model of bio-psychosocial spiritual wellness, and include a small group discussion forum on the infusion of spirituality and mental health care.

Following the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the evidence for integrating spirituality in mental health care
- Describe the bio-psychosocial spiritual approach to mental health care
- Identify clinical scenarios, which could benefit from the introduction of spiritual wellness strategies into clinical practice



Michelle Zechner, PhD.

Saturday morning workshop - August 31, 2019

Integrating Faith, Neuroscience and the Healing Ministry of Jesus in a Traumatized World

Research indicates that effective therapy must address the person as a whole, integrated being. Talk therapies are not enough to affect change; the body and emotions must be engaged. Integration is at the heart of well-being which is the goal of this workshop. This training will weave together basic understandings of how the brain operates and is impacted by spiritual interventions and practices that effectively help individuals process and heal rom trauma within a Gestalt Pastoral Care framework

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Label and describe the functions of the major structures of the brain
- Define trauma and identify the traumatic impact on the brain and nervous system Identify Christian spiritual practices that have a positive impact on the brain
- Begin to identify ways that a Gestalt Pastoral Care perspective may be helpful in addressing trauma symptoms



Saturday afternoon workshop - August 31, 2019 Healing the Body and Mind of Personal and Generational Trauma

The body, as well as the mind, holds onto past trauma requiring a wholistic approach Trauma changes us right down to our DNA and the effects of trauma can be passed from generation to generation. We will use a body-mind approach to healing rather than simply relying on cognitive approaches used in talk and behavioral therapy. Through a process called Faith Imagination we will experience how God makes even the oldest and darkest of



- Define how traumatic memory is stored in the body and the brain and why, sometimes, the past won't stay in the past
- Identify how trauma is passed from generation to generation through changes in the way DNA is expressed
- Identify how the brain changes in frequency as it experiences contemplative prayer and other meditative practices
- Begin to identify how the Gestalt Pastoral Care perspective of Faith Imagination may be helpful in giving new shape to the healing process in your professional practice



Sunday morning workshop - September 1, 2019

In this class we will play with our felt sense and emotional process in both our spiritual and interpersonal lives. Often, we limit ourselves to 'talking about' or 'talking around' what's going on. Felt sense in the moment helps us to feel more connected to ourselves and others. and to communicate more deeply and effectively. It is also a way to deepen our prayer practices. In this workshop, we will practice by working with each other. At the close of the workshop, you will have experienced: emotional grounding, more of "you," and what you can bring to a deeper, more satisfying way of relating with others.



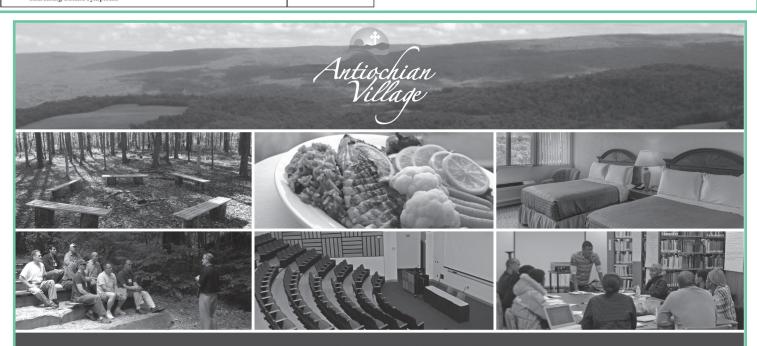
- Learn how to cultivate embodied awareness
- Distinguish between acting out and communicating
- Practice slowing down and making space for quiet and centering
 Recommit to this practice that you have probably attempted before
 Consider how you may practically include this spiritually grounded process in your professional and family life



LP, NYState, GPCM







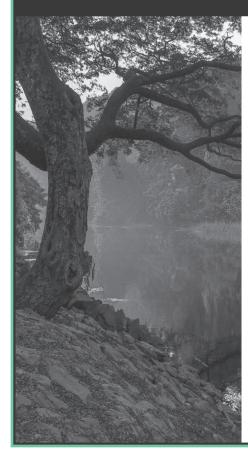
MINISTRY SERVING MINISTRY

Antiochian Village Conference Center is a peaceful setting in the beautiful Laurel Highlands, on Route 711, just a few minutes north of Ligonier, Pennsylvania. At Antiochian Village, we are committed to changing the lives of people by providing true Christian hospitality in an Orthodox spiritual environment.

Come spend a few days here and you'll understand this feedback from one of our recent guests, "The Antiochian Village is truly a special and unique place, made even better by the people who care so much to make it the highest quality experience, to serve God, and to actively demonstrate striving to be as Christ."

Preparing for Ministry in the Way of Jesus

CONTINUING EDUCATION AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Join us for these upcoming Spiritual Formation classes—

Celtic Spirituality in Nature Spiritual Formation Elective June 16-19, 2019 Beth Norcross, Founding Director, Center for Spirituality in Nature

Immersion: Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life A Hybrid Spiritual Formation Course Aug. 5-Sept. 21, 2019

Aug. 5-Sept. 21, 2019 Mary Lynn Callahan, East Liberty PC, and B.J. Woodworth, Open Door Ministries O Taste and See: The Spirituality of Food Spiritual Formation Elective Sept. 22-25, 2019 Dan Frayer-Griggs, Ruling Elder, Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community

Plan on joining us for these fall events!

W. Don McClure Lectures in World Mission and Evangelism Sept. 30-Oct 1, 2019 Al Tizon, Executive Minister, Serve Globally The Art of Transitional Ministry - Week 2 Nov. 18-22, 2019 Paul Rhebergen, Jan Nolting Carter, and Pam Peterson, Transitional Ministers, PC(USA)



www.pts.edu/CE 412-924-1345 ConEd@pts.edu





Coaching for Clergy and Youth Directors

Need to enrich and refresh your life, your ministry, or both? Could you use professional guidance from someone who understands?

We're here to help.

412.741.7430

samaritancounseling.net

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 5241 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206 412-688-9070

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PITTSBURGH, PA PERMIT NO. 1245

The Call.. to be one in Christ is ordinarily published bimonthly by Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Email: newsletter@casp.org. (C) 2010. No fax submissions are accepted. Classified Advertisements may be placed at a PREPAID cost of \$10.00 for 40 words or less. The publication of ads/events does not indicate specific endorsement of an organization, ad or event, and is strictly of an informative nature. The DEADLINE for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the issue the submission is to appear (August 15th for the September issue). Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.

Your Congregation Can Be a Healing Community

One out of every 28 Pennsylvanians are in prison or jail, on probation, or on parole. Every congregation has members affected by the criminal justice system, whether as victims, inmates, returning citizens, or family members.

The *Healing Communities* training equips congregations to become stations of hope by building relationships of healing, redemption, and reconciliation. Christian Associates is co-sponsoring a *Healing Communities* training **Sat., June 22, from 1-6 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkinsburg,** 600 Pitt Street, Pittsburgh PA 15221. Rev. Sandra Strauss of the PA Council of Churches will lead the workshop.

A \$25 donation is requested, but no one will be excluded for inability to pay. To register, visit http://bit.ly/HCPghJune22.

Summer Is the Perfect Time for (Iced?) Coffee



Have you had your cup yet?

Christian Associates' #300Cups project continues this summer. We are reimbursing coffee dates for Christian leaders. Simply arrange to meet a colleague for an informal conversation, snap a selfie with your drinks, and complete the simple form found at www.casp.org/300cups. Cheers!

Offer Welcome to Immigrants

The second annual *Allies in Faith* program, cosponsored by Christian Associates and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will take place **September 11-12**.

Allies in Faith is a learning experience that will prepare your congregation to extend hospitality to immigrants and refugees.

Applications are due August 28, and will be available at www.pts.edu/allies-2019.

If you have questions about the program, contact Helen Blier at 412-924-1346.

