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

December 2010, Number 6

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

The Calling

. . . revealing the real people behind the robes

St. Paul Seminary Auditorium, 2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh will be the venue for a premiere viewing of the PBS documentary, *The Calling*.

Hosted by Christian Associates and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) the viewing of this 75 minute version of the four hour documentary will be held on **Thursday, December 16,** beginning at **1:00 p.m**.

After viewing *The Calling*, a panel of local religious leaders involved in

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guiding men and women preparing to become clergy or pursuing a religious vocation will react to the documentary.

The panel will be moderated by *Carol Lytch*, Assistant

Executive Director of ATS.

Panelists include: *The Very Rev. Dennis Yurochko*, Rector, St. Paul Roman Catholic Seminary; *Rev. Douglas Portz*, Associate Pastor to Large and Medium Congregations, The Pittsburgh Presbytery; *Rev. Sandra Kessinger*, Assistant to the Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA; and *Rabbi Mike Werbow*, Beth Shalom Congregation,

Squirrel Hill. The premiere viewing is open to the public without charge. *The Calling* follows the stories of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim Americans who are training for religious leadership. It takes viewers into the unknown world of seminaries to reveal the real people "behind the robes."

These individuals are called to uphold timeless truths in an era that values quick fixes and hot trends, and they face a public that challenges the relevance of their

mission. They confront peer and family pressure and internal spiritual conflicts.

In spite of these challenges, their resolution to serve humanity fuels their actions, solidifies their determination, and advances each of them into leadership within their respective communities.

The Calling will have a national premiere on PBS (WQED-TV) on Monday and Tuesday, December 20 and 21 at 9:00 p.m.

WQED will host a premiere viewing with a panel discussion on Thursday December 9 at 6:30p.m. at the studio on Fifth Avenue in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh.



what's your CALLING?

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REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

When in our music God is glorified and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia! How oft, in making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia! (Fred Pratt Green)

I was listening to a CD of the choir at the Washington Cathedral as I was driving that stretch of the PA Turnpike where the only radio option is bigoted talk radio. The trees in the mountains were in their full autumn beauty. As the choir sang I was captivated by the phrase, "as worship moved to a more profound Alleluia!" A more profound Alleluia!? With bright colors it was "as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!" And I added my voice of praise. (I'm not sure what the truck driver next to me thought of my facial expression as I sang.)



Can exuberant and ecstatic praise be enough of a response to such promises fulfilled and promises in which we still hope?

Advent presents us with the themes of the faithfulness and dependability of God's promises; the work of preparing to receive the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the Gentiles; the ministry of Jesus as model of the coming reign of God; and of course the infancy narratives proclaiming "God is with us." In worship when we hear those texts, we want to add our assent with a loud, *Alleluia!*

But "a more profound Alleluia!"? Can exuberant and ecstatic praise be enough of a response to such promises fulfilled and promises in which we still hope? It is right that "in our music God is glorified" for all that God has done for Israel of old and continues

to do for us in the incarnation of God's life and being in Mary's child. It is proper that we should offer loud prayers of "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" in anticipation of the fulfillment of all creation's promised restoration through God's Anointed One. But are praise and prayer truly a *more profound Alleluia!*?

In one Advent Gospel lection Jesus says, "Go tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." (Matt.11:4-6) Now that's the sort of action that is more than prayer and praise; it is an action that is a *more profound Alleluia!* to our Triune God! As Jesus' disciples and as the Church, his living presence in the world today, dare we offer that *more profound Alleluia!* of action along with our praise and prayers? Can we do anything less and still claim to be faithful?

Our "more profound Alleluia!" needs to be an action both individually and corporately as the Church.

Economists and merchants will look to our Christmas spending to test the economic recovery. But we all know too many who are imprisoned, hungry and homeless, ill and infirm for whom the recession and life itself is marked by despair and need. For them our *more profound Alleluia!* needs to be an action both individually and corporately as the Church. May the good news of God's love and faithfulness in sending Jesus, born of Mary, move you to *a more profound Alleluia!*



Food Security in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Since January a diverse group of community representatives have been working with **The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** (GPCFB) to develop *A Comprehensive Plan for Food Security in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Closing the Hunger Gap.* The strategic planning process was co-chaired by **Scott Lammie** of UPMC Health Plan and **Joyce Rothermel** of GPCFB. Pastor Don Green, CASP Executive Director, participated in the planning process on behalf of the faith community.



The Comprehensive Plan developed five overarching objectives to be achieved in the next five years.

- Increase access to and utilization of public and private food assistance programs.
- Build broad community engagement in ending hunger.
- Advocate for strong public policy surrounding hunger relief.
- Collaborate with other social service providers to address the larger issues of poverty.
- Ensure more efficient administration of systems and resources.

CASP members have been asked to appoint individuals from their judicatories to serve along with the Church and Community Committee and Victor Papale of GPCFB to develop implementation plans with the faith based community. Individuals with hunger related portfolios for their judicatories or are providers of services to the hungry are invited to volunteer to be part of the CASP Food Security Task Force. The CASP Task Force will meet on **Tuesday**, **January 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at the CASP office. For more information, contact **Pastor Green** at **412-688-9070**.

Music for the Spirit



Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) musical Director *Manfred Honeck* will lead the PSO in a free *Music for the Spirit* concert that is part of an annual program of concerts that celebrate the spiritual and universal message of music. The special concert will

begin at **7:30 p.m.**, on **Feb. 17, 2011**, at **St. Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral** in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood. The program will include works by Haydn, Bruckner, Mahler, Fauré, Berlioz and more. General admission tickets are free to the public and are limited to four per household. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Heinz Hall box office at **412-392-4900**.

Maestro Honeck is deeply committed to and excited about *Music for the Spirit*, which will explore the power of music to promote dialogues between religious faiths. Each season the PSO plans two performances with spiritual roots. The PSO's performances of Verdi's Requiem, led by Maestro Honeck, Dec. 3-5 at Heinz Hall are part of the *Music for the Spirit* program. The second concert each year will be in the community and will rotate venues, bringing the PSO and Music for the Spirit to churches, synagogues, mosques and community centers.

The programs of *Music for the Spirit* will vary each season, but will feature spiritual works appealing to all music lovers regardless of faith. There also are plans to offer programs throughout the year in the community that will deeply impact the spiritual lives of the people of our region.

Harris Interfaith Lecture

Rodef Shalom Synagogue, Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh will host the 31st Annual Milton Harris Interfaith Lecture on **Friday, February 4, 2011** at **12:00 noon**.

Featured speaker will be **Dr. Joel M. Hoffman**, an expert in translation,
Hebrew and the Bible, holds a Ph.D. in
linguistics and has served on the faculties
of Brandeis University and Hebrew
Union College. Dr. Hoffman is the chief
translator of the popular 10-volume
series, *My People's Prayer Book*, and *My People's Passover Haggadah*. He is the
author of the critically acclaimed *In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language* and his latest book is *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning*.

Reservations may be made by contacting **Rodef Shalom Congregation** at **412-621-6566.**

SHARING課刊

Many Religions - One Common Goal - Donate Blood.

Christian Associates in partnership with the Central Blood Bank and the Jewish, Muslim and Hindu communities of Greater Pittsburgh continue to collaborate in a show of faith to help save lives. Whatever differences may exist, we all can agree on one religious principal. We need each other to survive and together through blood donation we can save lives. The Sharing Faith Sharing Life Initiative seeks to recruit new blood donors and then sustain their commitment to making regular donations. Please promote the following Sharing Faith, Sharing Life drives in your region.

Dec 12 - 9a.m-2p.m
Temple Sinai, Squirrel Hill
Dec 15 - 1–7p.m.
Washington Crown Center, Washington
Dec 15 - 1–7p.m.
Destinta Theaters, Bridgeville
Dec 18 - 10a.m-3p.m.
Monroeville Mall, Monroeville
Dec 23 - 1–7p.m.
Four Points Sheraton, Greensburg
Dec 23 - 1–7p.m.
Hyatt Place, Cranberry Township

Please register to donate blood by calling **412-209-7010**. Tell them you are participating in the *Sharing Faith Sharing Life* Initiative.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS-



Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

Pittsburgh Presbytery 195 Taggart Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057 724-792-4022; www.crestfield.net

Christmas at Crestfield

Dates: December 1 through December 20 Fee per person: from \$9.50 to \$16.50 (from 10 to 100 people)

The Main Lodge Dining Hall will be festively decorated for Christmas to welcome you and your guests with a tree, music, and a fire burning in the fireplace. Call today to celebrate the holidays with us.

Waverly United Presbyterian Church

590 S. Braddock Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221 412-242-0643; www.waverlychurch.org

U2charist Service

Date: Sunday, December 5 Time: 11:00 a.m. No admission charge

Service featuring the music of U2.

Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

5244 Clarwin Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15229 412-931-9766; www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com

Christian Women's Day of Reflection

"Our Lady of Guadalupe: Her Call to Faithfulness"
Date: Sunday, December 12
Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Presenter: Angela Gaughan

Offering: \$30.00
Registration requested

Continental breakfast, lunch, two spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration, quiet time, sacrament of Reconciliation; ends with the Eucharistic liturgy.

Women's Retreat Weekend

"Dancing in the Kingdom of God"

Dates: Fri., Feb. 4 through Sun., Feb 6, 2011 Time: 8:00 pm Friday to Sunday brunch Presenter: Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.

Offering: \$70

Registration requested by January 14

Explore Jesus' invitation to make His kingdom come. Daily Eucharistic Liturgy is available.

Tabor House of Prayer

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis 146 Hawthorne Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15209 412-821-1149; www.SOSF.ORG

Advent Retreat "The Time is Now"

Date: Fri. Dec. 10 - Sat. Dec. 11 Time: Fri. at 7:00 pm thru Sat. at 5:00 pm Presenter: Sr. Marie Grace Blum

Fee: \$50

Reflect on the way in which we are called to bring forth Jesus in today's reality. Walk in the footsteps of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and St. Francis while contemplating such generosity.

Introduction to Centering Prayer

Dates & Times: Fri. Jan. 14, 2011, 7:00 p.m. until Sat. Jan. 15, 4:00 p.m. Facilitator: Sr. Jane Schmitt, OSF Fee: \$25

This prayer brings us to the center of our being where we find the presence of God. Is God calling you to this special experience?

Retreat on Prayer "Why Do I Need Prayer?"

Dates & Times: Fri. Jan. 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m. until Sat. Jan. 29, 4:30 p.m. Please call for fees

Living on a firm foundation of prayer adds strength and encouragement for our daily encounters. Quiet time and reflection are good for the spirit as well.

Taizé Services

Taizé, begun in an ecumenical community in eastern France, is in its 70th year. It is described as a "model for attending to the spiritual and physical needs of the whole people of God..."

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park www.christumc.net

Date and Time: First Wednesday of each month, 6:30 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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

Date and Time: Every Wednesday at 7 pm

Taizé Services (cont...)

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Ave. at Braddock Rd. Hope@Lutheran.com

Date & Time: 1st Fri. of each month at 7 pm

Community United Methodist Church

3487 Route 130, Irwin www.ShareChristWithOthers.com

Date & Time: 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm

Music in Pittsburgh

Calvary Episcopal Church

315 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, 15206 412-661-0120

Handel's Messiah with Chatham Baroque

Date: Fri., Dec. 10 Time: 7:30 pm Suggested Donation: \$10

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church

384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, 15238 412-963-8243

Lessons and Carols

Date: Sat., Dec. 11 Time: 7:30 pm

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church

2365 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, 15143 412-364-5974

Messiah Sing Along

Date: Sun., Dec. 12 Time: 2:00 pm Free will offering

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, 15206

Christmas Choral Concert

Date: Tues., Dec. 14 Time: 7:30 pm

Music in Pittsburgh

(cont...)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton St., Highland Park, 15206 412-661-1245

Lessons and Carols

Date: Sun., Dec. 19 Time: 3:00 pm

The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley

414 Grant Street, Sewickley, 15143 412-741-4550

Lessons and Carols

Date: Sun., Dec. 19 Time: 4:00 pm

Shadyside Presbyterian Church

5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, 15232 www.shadysidepres.org

Music in a Great Space

Date: Sun., Jan. 30, 2011

Time: 4:00 pm

Olga Perez, Mezzo-soprano

Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 seniors, students

and children free

Pittsburgh Compline Choir

Heinz Memorial Chapel University of Pittsburgh campus 412-682-6886; www.compline.lucpgh.com

Compline: Choral Prayer at the Close of the Day

Dates and Time: Sunday evenings at 8:30 pm

End your weekend or prepare for the week ahead at a 40 minute contemplative service of music, prayer and silence.

Guest Organists:

Dec. 5 – Signe Mitchell, First English Lutheran Church, Butler Dec. 12 – Richard Pinkerton, Southminster Presbyterian Church

Alternate Christmas Services

Although Christmas is a very special time, it may not be a festive holiday for those folks who have had to deal with tragedy, sadness or despair over the last year. A special "Blue" Christmas worship service is geared for those who wish to observe the holiday but not necessarily in a festive way.



Church of the Redeemer

5700 Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill 412-422-7100

Blue Christmas

Date: Tue., Dec. 14 Time: 6:30 pm

Monroeville United Methodist Church

219 Center Road, Monroeville, 15146 412-372-7474

Service of Light

Date: Sat., Dec. 18

Time: 4:30 p.m. dinner; 5:30 p.m. service Please call to make reservations for dinner.

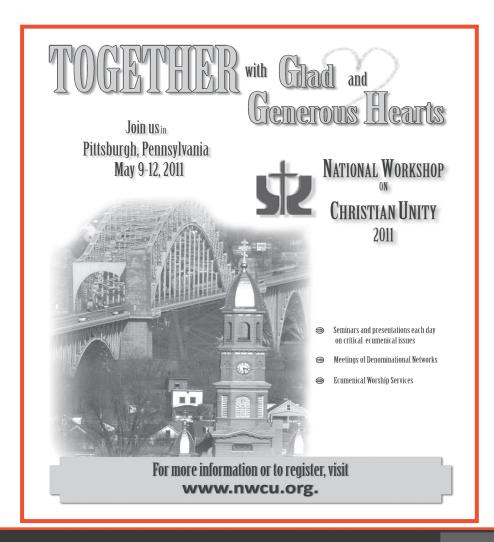
Callings for December

Callings, the interview show produced by Christian Associates TV Ministry for Channel 95, has a full line-up for December.

- Week of Dec. 5th Seekers Job Networking Ministry of Ingomar United Methodist Church offers practical and spiritual support for the unemployed.
- Week of Dec. 12th The 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, an amazing grace.
- Week of Dec. 19th Northside Common Ministries answers the call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and receive the stranger.
- Beginning Dec. 24th A Callings Christmas special.

"Callings" is a celebration of the churches, ministries, and individuals who have answered "yes to the call to serve Christ's church and love God's people. It airs on Comcast Channel 95 in the city of Pittsburgh, Monday through Friday at 11 AM and every evening at 7 PM. Viewers throughout the region can also watch it on Comcast On Demand under "Get Local," "News and Information," and then "Worship."

For information on Christian Associates Television programming, call Christian Associates' Director of Television Ministry, **Monica Kao**, at **412-688-9070**.



UPCOMING CONTINTUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

The Belhar Confession: Its Relevance for Today

Dec. 10, 2010 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Joseph D. Small, Director of Theology, Worship, and Education Ministries, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Polishing Your O.T. Hebrew Reading Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 2011 12:30-2:00 p.m. Jerome Creach, Professor, PTS

Polishing Your N.T. Greek Reading Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 2011 12:30-2:00 p.m. *James Durlesser*, Lecturer, PTS

Church Administration

Jan. 10-March 4, 2011 Online Class

Wayne Yost, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Kiskiminetas

Beyond Bullet Points Part I

Jan. 10-March 4, 2011

Online Class

Erin Cox-Holmes, Executive Presbyter, Donegal Presbytery

Edward Goode, Pastor, The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

Great Themes in Paul's Letter to the Romans Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 2011

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Broadcast program available in Pittsburgh; New Wilmington, Pa.; Wheeling, W.V.a.; and Tulsa, Okla. Robert Gagnon, Associate Professor, PTS

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



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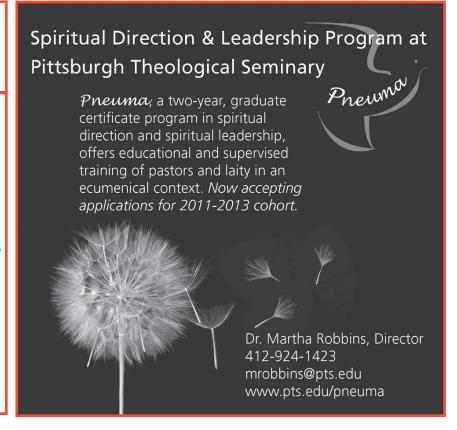
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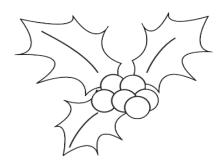
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Appealing to Generous Hearts . . .

These are challenging times financially for those who are engaged in the cause of Christian unity.

Congregations, struggling with rising medical insurance premiums and energy costs and/or responding to intradenominational conflicts are sharing less with their judicatories. Our member judicatories have less to share to sustain the mission and ministry of associations such as Christian Associates. Christian Associates can only dip into reserves so long without suffering long term consequences. *Frugality has its limits; justice demands equitable care for our staff.*

Thus, we invite your generous support so that Christian Associates continues to be

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

Your gift will make a significant difference in our ability:

- to continue to produce and cable cast television programming,
- to prepare inmates for re-entry into society upon release from jail,
- to promote the ecumenical and interfaith dialogue which leads to trust and reconciliation.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, words of affirmation and your Christmas gift to Christian Associates.

Your tax-deductible gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Checks can be made payable to *Christian Associates* and mailed to:

204 37th Street Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1859

Thank you for blessing us, as God has blessed you!

