

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 2014, Number 4

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

New Interfaith Group Plans First Event

The Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition, a new grassroots organization seeking to convene our region's diverse faith communities, will host Dr. Lucinda Mosher



Dr. Lucinda Mosher

as guest speaker at its launch event on **Sunday, September 14 at 2 p.m.**

Dr. Mosher, director of the interfaith chaplaincy program at Hartford Seminary, will speak on

"Building Interfaith Neighborhoods" at St. Mary of the Mount's Sullivan Hall at 115 Bigham Street in Mount Washington.

Admission is free of charge. People of all faiths and all walks of life are encouraged to attend.

The event is made possible through the financial support of Christian Associates, the Syed Farooq Hussaini Islamic Interfaith Network, and the Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee.

**Building Interfaith
Neighborhoods
September 14 - 2 p.m.
Sullivan Hall
(Mt. Washington)**

Dr. Mosher, a moral theologian in the Anglican tradition, is the author of *Faith in the Neighborhood*, a book series on America's religious diversity. She coordinates Hartford Seminary's annual Religious Diversity Leadership Workshop and teaches courses on Christian-Muslim relations.

She also serves as Assistant Academic Director of the Building Bridges Seminar, an international Christian-Muslim dialogue of scholars founded in 2002 by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

All those attending the launch event will be invited to coffeehouse gatherings later in September to continue the conversation.

"We believe harmony is key to healthy neighborhoods," said Anne Wirth of the North Hills Anti-Racism Coalition, who is serving as the convener of GPIC's organizing committee. "We look forward to meeting our neighbors across the city and helping to establish interfaith friendships."

The Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition (GPIC) seeks to build bridges of trust, understanding, cooperation and respect, especially at the neighborhood level, in the greater Pittsburgh region. The group hopes to foster dialogue, share resources, deepen understanding, and strengthen community relationships.



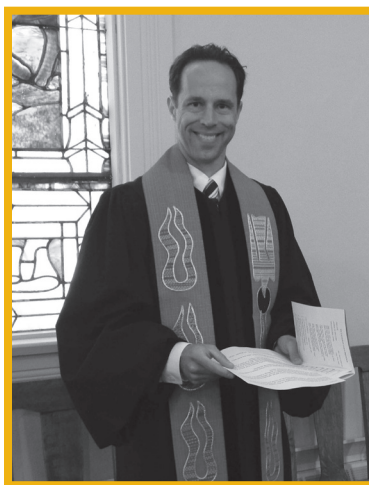
Penn West UCC Welcomes New Conference Minister

In September, Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judiciary Executives will welcome a familiar face to the table in a brand new role: the **Rev. David Ackerman**, who was elected in June to serve as conference minister of the Penn West conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Ackerman has been a member of our Theology & Education Committee since 2007, and has served as a proxy member of Council since 2012.

"I've really enjoyed getting to know the bishops and executives and being able to share in the exciting work Christian Associates does," he said.

As conference minister, Rev. Ackerman will serve as spiritual and administrative



Rev. David Ackerman

leader for the Penn West Conference's 104 churches with 13,800 members in 29 counties in Western Pennsylvania and Northwest Maryland. He will also have primary responsibility for the conference's denominational and ecumenical relations.

Rev. Ackerman was born and raised in Export, PA, and earned degrees from Grove City College and Harvard Divinity School. In 1993, he was ordained to ministry and called to serve as pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Trauger (Latrobe), PA.

During his 21 years of ministry in Trauger, he became certified as a Pastoral Care Specialist and a Christian Education Specialist and published several books, including 2013's *Beyond the Lectionary*.

continued on page five . . .

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

*"I have a one river rule for presbytery meetings," a colleague, who shall remain nameless, told me.
"I will cross one bridge. But not two."*

He's not alone. Pittsburghers are notorious for their unwillingness to venture across our famous rivers. We're fiercely loyal to our own neighborhoods, and feel lost when we venture far from home. North Hills denizens can't find their way in the South Hills, South Hills residents get lost in the North Hills, and East Enders are hopeless at both. (True story: I recently drove around Baldwin and Whitehall for over an hour in a fruitless search for Bethel Park.) Our rivers might as well be national borders, or brick walls.

For nearly 45 years, Christian Associates has sought to build bridges. We have helped bishops and judicatory leaders, pastors, and lay people connect with one another across theological divides, across liturgical traditions, across denominational cultures.

And yet, across these watery barriers stretch our region's famous bridges – 446 of them within the city of Pittsburgh alone, the most in the world, outnumbering even Venice. Their golden glow connects our neighborhoods, carries us from one place to another, brings us together. They are, of course, a perfect symbol for the work of Christian unity here in Southwest Pennsylvania.

For nearly 45 years, Christian Associates has sought to build bridges. We have helped bishops and judicatory leaders, pastors, and lay people connect with one another across theological divides, across liturgical traditions, across denominational cultures. We have sought to bring together Christians of varied races and ethnicities. And, we have helped the Christian community build bridges with the world outside church walls: with community and civic organizations, and with our interfaith partners.

During this particularly heartbreaking summer, as the news brought one awful story after another – with Gaza aflame, with Christians and Yazidis under siege in Iraq, with our own nation's racial divisions flaring in Ferguson, Missouri – the work of building bridges took on special urgency. And so, on August 6, in the shadow of downtown's bridges, we came to Point State Park, standing with our Jewish and Muslim neighbors in silent prayers for peace. We prayed with Isaiah that our own pursuit of peace would lead us to be "repairers of the breach": builders of bridges. (To read more about the vigil, follow this link to a Post-Gazette article: <http://bit.ly/1pDJOIG>)

You'll find, within these pages, more information about some of the bridges that Christian Associates is currently constructing: links between Christians and returning veterans, victims of disaster, and our interfaith neighbors. I hope you will take part in these important endeavors. Cross a bridge with us. Or do a really crazy thing, and even cross two.

May the challenge and comfort of God go with you across all bridges.

Your sister in Christ,



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



Cross a bridge with us. Or do a really crazy thing, and even cross two.

Conference Will Explore the Unique Pastoral Care Needs of Veterans

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, a filmmaker, and a specialist in combat stress will be among the presenters at **Connect Our Stars: Support for Veterans – A Community Effort** on **Friday, October 17** from **8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at **UPMC Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center in Allison Park.**



Fifteen percent of Western Pennsylvanians are veterans

The FREE, one-day conference is intended for all who seek to support returning military veterans and their families. Fifteen percent of Western Pennsylvanians are veterans; the event will offer insight into their unique spiritual and mental health needs. Clergy are especially urged to participate.

This year's conference will feature a set of afternoon workshops especially for faith leaders, facilitated by the Pennsylvania Military Spiritual Wellness Alliance.

David Wood, senior military correspondent for *The Huffington Post* and winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, will lead "Moral Injury." Lt.Col. Tom Stokes, who commands the U.S. Army Reserves 328th Medical Detachment's Combat and Operational Stress Control Unit, will offer "Beyond Military Culture: The Human Being Behind the Uniform."



**Connect Our Stars:
Support for Veterans
October 17
UPMC Passavant
Hospital
(Allison Park)**

Featured speakers in the morning include JulieHera DeStefano, who directed the documentary "Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home," and Michele Papakie, an IUP professor who serves as a lieutenant colonel in the 171st Air Refueling Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

The conference is sponsored by Christian Associates, the Allegheny County Departments of Behavioral Health and Veterans' Services, and other community partners.

Registration information will be available soon at www.casp.org. The registration deadline is October 10. Lunch is included; please note any special dietary needs.

For more information about the conference, contact Jennifer Boeringer at 412-244-1244 or jennifer@etc-pa.com.



Bring Hope to Victims of Disaster: Become a Spiritual Care Provider

People affected by disaster need water, shelter, food, clothing ... and they also need listening ears, open hearts, and a safe place to ask hard questions. They need spiritual care.

This fall, the Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network will begin training and credentialing men and women of faith to serve as Spiritual Care Providers following a natural disaster or an act of terror.

Spiritual Care Providers may be ordained or lay, must be endorsed by their church authority, and must complete an interview. They must assent to a code of ethics, which includes a promise to care for people of all faiths with respect.



To prepare for their role, they must also complete four courses:

- Disaster Spiritual Care training
- Psychological First Aid course
- FEMA Incident Command System training and
- FEMA National Incident Management System training

Some of these classes may be taken online. The total time required for all four courses will be approximately 27 hours.

The Disaster Spiritual Care training in our region will take place **October 21 and 22 at Dutilh United Methodist Church** in Cranberry Township.

Through a grant from the Department of Public Welfare, the training is free.

For more information, to register for the training, and to apply to become a Spiritual Care Provider, visit www.pdscn.org.



ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

Parish Nurse office; 412-232-5815
ParishNurse@mercy.pmhs.org
www.pmhs.org

UPMC Mercy Sister M. Ferdinand Clark
Auditorium, Building C, Level 2
1400 Locust St., Uptown, 15219

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing

Dates: Sept. 12-13, Oct. 3-4
Cost: \$395, includes course materials, free parking. 34 CE credits; Limited scholarships available; Deadline: Sept. 5

22nd Annual Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Symposium:

"Take Care Tips: How to Care for Yourself While You're Taking Care of Others"

Date & Time: Sat. Oct. 25, 8 am – 1:30 pm
Cost: \$30 for laypersons, \$10 ordained clergy/pastors, \$40 for CE-registered nurses, social workers, licensed professionals
Registration deadline: Oct. 17, fee includes brunch, free parking, and materials



Pittsburgh Compline Choir

Heinz Memorial Chapel
University of Pittsburgh campus
412-682-6886
www.pghcompline.com

Compline: Choral Prayer at the Close of the Day

Date and Time: Sunday evenings at 8:00 pm

Guest Musicians for Prelude:
Sept. 14 – Nicholas Will, St. Elizabeth Seton, Franciscan Univ.
Sept. 22 – Amanda Plazek, St. Mary of the Mount, Roman Catholic Church
Sept. 28 – Joseph Tuttle, Saint John's Lutheran Church of Highland
Oct. 5 – Benjamin Cornelius-Bates, St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, Duquesne Univ.



St. Joseph Spirituality Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph
1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005
724-869-6585
Registrations: 724-869-6587
www.stjoseph-baden.org

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola

Dates: a year-long retreat beginning Wed. Sept. 17 to Wed. May 13
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Presenter: Sr. Catherine Higgins

St. Joseph

(continued . .)

Meets once a week on Wednesday and commit to daily prayer during the week. For info: Sister Marguerite Kropinak, 724-869-6585

Challenging Questions: Ethical Considerations for Professional Practice

Date: Fri. Sept. 19; Time: 9:30 am – 4:15 pm
Presenter: Mary Louise Wessell, CSJ, Ph.D.
Fee: \$70 includes lunch, plus fee for 6 CE for mental health professionals

Questions include human dignity, conscience, boundaries, confidentiality, and conflicts. For info: spiritcenter@stjoseph-baden.org

Evangelization is Not So New

Date: Sat. Sept. 20; Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Presenter: Father Michael Greb, CSB
Fee: \$20 includes lunch; call 724-869-6587



Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality

820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-341-7494
www.epiphanyassociation.org

ER for the Soul: A Mini-Retreat on One in the Lord

Dates: Sat. Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Dec. 13
Time: 9:00 am - Noon
Facilitator: Susan Muto, PhD
Fee: \$20 per session, RSVP one week in advance of each session

First Monday Seminars on The Legacy of Prison Literature

Dates/Times: Oct. 13, Nov. 17; 7-8:30 pm
Facilitator, Susan Muto, PhD
Fee: \$20 per session

Fiction and Formation Reading Program

Dates: Sat. Sept. 26, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 6
Time: 9:00-10:30 am
Facilitator: Rev. Steve Geitgey
Fee: \$10 per session

Coming to Faith; Faith Deepening in the Year of Faith and the New Evangelization

Dates: Tues. Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8, Oct. 15
Time: 7:00-8:30 pm
Facilitator: Susan Muto, PhD
Fee: \$15 per session

Ten Principles of Transformative Spirituality

A day-long retreat
Date: Wed. Nov. 19; Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Facilitator: Susan Muto, PhD and Lori Mitchell McMahon; Fee: \$125 inc. lunch

Kearns Spirituality Center

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

Labyrinth Evenings "Opening Doors of Lives and Hearts"

Dates: Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24; Time: 6–8 pm
Fee: \$10 per evening, includes light snack

Book Discussion: *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*

Date: Wed. Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Time: 10:00-11:30 am
Facilitator: Joan Coultas, CDP, Ph.D.
Fee: \$20 series or \$5/session plus book; breakfast rolls and beverage provided

Inspired by the Spirit, Motivated by Justice

Dates: Fri. Oct. 10- Sun. Oct. 12
Times: begins Fri. 4:00 pm – Sun. 11:30 am
Fees: \$195 includes housing to \$20 for just Fri. evening; Register online: www.thomasmertoncenter.org/retreat; deadline Sept. 5; for info: call 412-532-8654

Peace Forum Series

Date: Sunday, Nov. 9; Time: 3:00-5:00 pm
Donations accepted. for information: pnpp@verizon.net or 412-367-0383.



Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International

412-877-9310

Praying for Hurting People

Date: Sat. Oct. 25; Times: 9 am- 5 pm
Location: Redstone Colonial Estates Clubhouse, 722 Frontier Dr., North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Cost: \$15; RSVP by 10/17 to New Hope Presbyterian Church, 12727 Lincoln Way, North Huntingdon

Intercessory prayer for healing through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit



Bread for the World

1-800-822-7323
www.bread.org

Bread for the World Sunday

To celebrate in October, order free prayers, bulletin inserts, and other resources, including lectionary study of Matthew 22:21 by Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing; to order or download resources, visit www.bread.org/sunday

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

St. Mary of the Mount on Mount Washington

Sullivan Hall, 115 Bigham Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15211
412-381-0212

Peace Day: International Day of Peace, Non-violence and Ceasefire

Date: Sun. Sept. 21; Time: 7 – 8:30 pm

Flag ceremony and interfaith prayer service –
carry a flag & join the procession
24-hour vigil, observe prayerfully where you
choose – 12:01 am – 12 midnight on 9/21

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

105 Gateshead Drive
McMurray, PA 15317
www.OurRedeemer-peters.org

The Gathering Place

Dates: 2nd Sunday of each month
Time: 1:00 p.m.

The Gathering Place provides a comfortable
place for people on the autism spectrum
or with special needs and their families to
gather together for sharing and worship.
All are welcome.

CLASSIFIED AD

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH,
www.flcpittsburgh.org, located
downtown at 615 Grant Street, is seeking
a responsible and dependable student
who enjoys working with infants and
young children to serve as a paid nursery
attendant (stipend of \$55/Sunday).

The hours are 8:15 am – 12:30 pm
(approximately) on Sunday mornings,
starting immediately. Duties include care
of infants, toddlers and preschoolers
during worship and Sunday School, with
assistance from parents.

If interested, contact Mary Lou Procacina
at 412.471.8125 or mlp@flcpittsburgh.
org.

To have your ecumenical event included in *The Call*,
contact us at newsletter@casp.org.



New Conference Minister

continued from page one . . .

He also served as Dean of the Penn West
Academy for Ministry, a program that
prepares licensed (lay) ministers.

“David has been a trusted colleague
and friend for many years,” said Bishop
Kurt Kusserow of the Southwestern
Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America. Bishop
Kusserow previously served St. Paul
Lutheran Church in Trauger, across the
street from Rev. Ackerman’s congregation,
St. Paul’s UCC.

“I am glad to have the opportunity to work
with him on the Council, and excited
about the gifts that he will bring to our
fellowship.”



Rev. Ackerman said he has high hopes for
his work with Christian Associates.

“In the United Church of Christ, we call
ourselves to be a multiracial, multi-cultural
church, open and accessible to all. It would
be wonderful if, as we in the UCC try to
live that out, Christian Associates could
live it out as well.”



Women Ministers to Meet at CASP

The Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers will hold its
monthly meetings this fall at Christian Associates’ offices in Lawrenceville.

All women clergy are invited to participate. The group will meet on the third Thursday of
the month: September 18, October 16, and November 20, at 10:30 a.m.

Each meeting will include a time of worship, followed by a discussion of the book
Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor (three chapters each month) and an
optional lunch at a local restaurant.

For more information, contact chapter president Rev. Linda Miller-Pretz at
lp811@zoominternet.net.



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Director, E100 Pittsburgh Initiative

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www.scriptureunion.org

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

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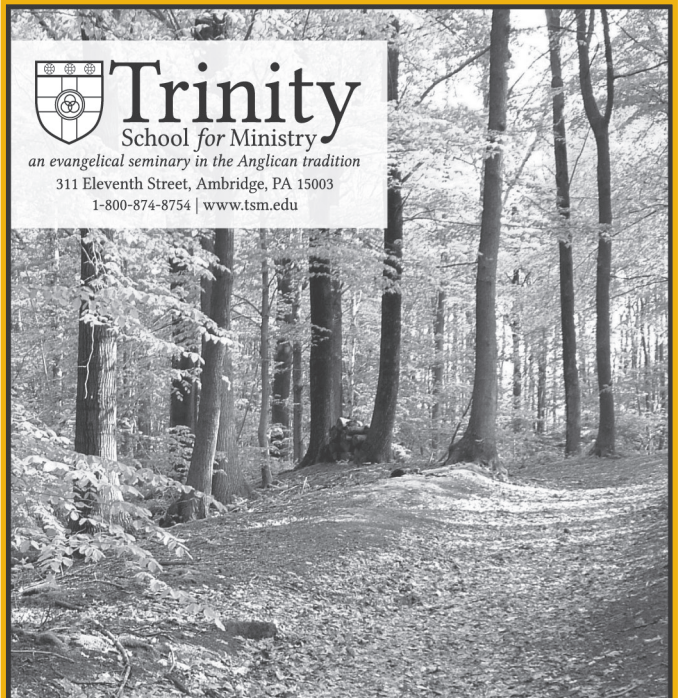


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an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition
311 Eleventh Street, Ambridge, PA 15003
1-800-874-8754 | www.tsm.edu



**Christian Faith & Same-Sex Attraction:
Finding Paths to Ministry**

Wesley Hill | Melinda Selmys | Eve Tushnet | Mark Yarhouse
October 10-11, 2014 | 7PM Friday-5PM Saturday
Cost: \$50 | Ambridge, PA

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Back to the Land: Teaching the Bible in Context *Teacher Training Workshop*

September 27, 2014

Ron E. Tappy, G. Albert Shoemaker Professor of Bible and Archaeology and Director of the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology, PTS

Engaging with God and the Gospel Cross-Culturally

The W. Don McClure Lectures in World Mission and Evangelism

September 29-30, 2014

Daniel Jeyaraj, Professor of World Christianity, Liverpool Hope University

Solidarity Ethics: Transformation in a Globalized World *Social Ethics Lecture*

October 2, 2014

Rebecca Todd Peters, Professor of Religious Studies, Elon University

Spiritual Leadership for a New Day: Exploring Three Key Leadership Capacities *Online Class*

October 6-27, 2014

L. Roger Owens, Associate Professor of Leadership and Ministry, PTS

Old Testament Biblical Hebrew Reading New Testament Greek Reading *Languages Over Lunch*

Mondays, October 6 - November 10, 2014

Wednesdays, October 8 - November 12, 2014

James A. Durlleser, Associate Professor of Leadership and Ministry, PTS

Explorations in Hope

Wednesdays, October 8-29, 2014

Andrew Purves, Jean and Nancy Davis Professor of Historical Theology, PTS



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



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.



Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

204 37th Street, Suite 201

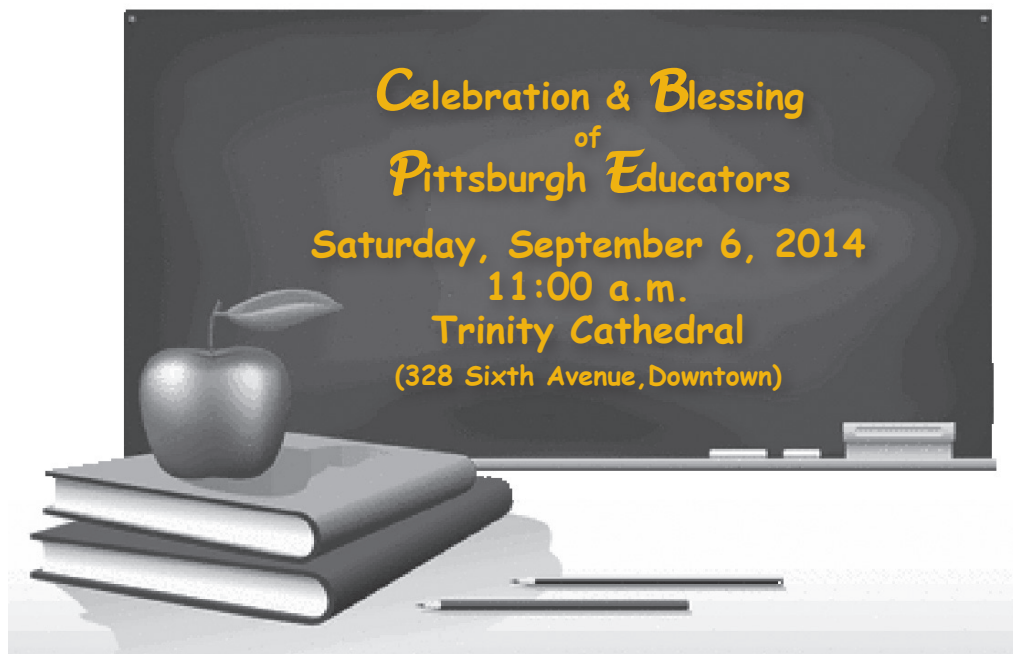
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You are invited!

Please come and share in this special ecumenical service to bless our area educators and those who work with and support them in the education field.

Worship leader will be
the **Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell**,
Bishop of Pittsburgh.

The event is sponsored by
Trinity Cathedral and
the **Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh**
with the cooperation of
Christian Associates.

For more information, contact
Steve Fekete at the Cathedral
at **412-232-6404**.