

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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The Call . . .

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

to be one in Christ



June/July 2017, Number 3

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

Theology & Education Committee Explores "The Gifts of the Church"



Just as the magi offered their gifts,
each tradition has a gift to share.

Within the unity of the church is a beautiful diversity of theological emphases and liturgical practices. Each Christian tradition has particular traits that it has nurtured and developed, which it can offer as a gift to its neighbors.

In the past year, Christian Associates' Theology and Education Committee has explored these gifts in a series of essays. On June 15, readers will be able to download the collected essays as a book in PDF format from the Christian Associates' website, www.casp.org.

The Rev. Dr. James Davison of Pittsburgh Presbytery generated the original idea for the project. *"We might benefit each other, and from each other, by offering reflections on what is special about our particular tradition,"* he wrote, *"trying to highlight that 'one thing' that is at the core."*

Committee members responded to Dr. Davison's challenge in their diverse, opinionated, readable essays. Among the contributions,

- The Rev. Dr. Catherine Brall points to the Benedictine spirit of the Episcopal church.
- The Rev. Dr. Radu Bordeinu describes Orthodoxy's *"creative tradition."*
- Pastor Robert Hawk writes that Lutheranism is unique in its *"willingness to commit metaphysical mayhem in defense of the Gospel."*

Download the book, share it with your congregation, and reflect on what your own tradition can offer to Christ's one church.



Foundation of HOPE Welcomes New Executive Director

A familiar face took on a new leadership role earlier this year, as Jody Raeford became Executive Director of the Foundation of HOPE. As Christian Associates' partner in ministry, HOPE serves inmates and ex-offenders.

Mr. Raeford served for five years as HOPE's director of aftercare services. During his tenure, the aftercare office grew to assist and support over 700 formerly incarcerated people each year via support groups, mentoring, and guidance with practical needs such as employment, housing, education, food assistance, transportation assistance, mental health services, and clothing.

As Executive Director, Mr. Raeford will oversee HOPE's chaplaincy programs at Allegheny County Jail and Shuman Center; intensive pre-release programs at the jail for men, women, and juveniles;

pre-release support groups at state prisons throughout Pennsylvania; and the aftercare office.

HOPE also plans to expand into preventative services through mentoring programs for at-risk youth.

The Foundation of HOPE grew out of the chaplaincy ministries developed by Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. Though today they are separate organizations, HOPE and Christian Associates continue to work closely with one another.

Mr. Raeford said he hopes the relationship between Christian Associates and the Foundation of HOPE remains strong. *"We have the same values, we share common interests, we're both part of this community,"* he said.

"I'm looking forward to working with Jody," said Rev. Barlow. *"He brings tremendous energy to this role, as well as a passionate commitment to people experiencing incarceration. HOPE is in good hands!"*



Jody Raeford

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

In many congregations, the relaxed summer months bring a freedom to try new things. At my last church we experimented with outdoor worship. We reveled in the beauty of God's creation ... until we remembered the 10 a.m. freight train that passes within a few blocks of the church. After a very long and very loud intermission in my sermon, we decided to return indoors the next week.

But not all experiments go wrong. In the summer of 2008, when I was on staff at Smithfield United Church of Christ, the churches of Downtown Pittsburgh tried something new: an ecumenical Vacation Bible School. *Camp Downtown*



Rev. Liddy Barlow, at right, with Camp Downtown co-director Cora Weiland

was an inspiration of longtime First Lutheran Church pastor the Rev. David Gleason. Working in collaboration with the other churches of the Downtown Ministerium, *Camp Downtown* immersed its participants in Bible stories and songs, field trips from the mayor's office to the PNC Park, and daily drenchings in fountains.

Camp Downtown taught me (almost) everything I needed to know about ecumenical cooperation. Here are a few of its lessons:

- **Start off together.** Issuing invitations to an event that's already organized is not enough: for an ecumenical project to succeed, it must be planned by a diverse team. First Lutheran invited its partner churches to be part of *Camp Downtown* from the very beginning, those early meetings when no one was quite sure what we were creating. That meant all of us could take ownership in the finished product.
- **Give it time.** Churches move slowly, and groups of churches move even more slowly. To make something happen in June, start planning in August or September.
- **Use your creativity.** We rejected pre-packaged VBS programs from a box, and instead developed our own curriculum. We tailored our lessons to the skills and passions of our volunteer leaders.
- **Meet a real need.** *Camp Downtown* offers a full day session, ideal for families with working parents. We welcomed children from our churches, but also kids who'd never entered a church before, whose families welcomed a week of childcare in a long, expensive summer. What are the needs in your community that churches, working together, might help to meet?
- **Find the common ground.** Some on the planning team wanted to spend more time talking about atonement and salvation. Others wanted to focus on social justice and inclusion. Instead, we set the theological niceties aside and spent our time together telling the old, old story of Jesus and his love. Sometimes vigorous debate can be an important part of the ecumenical experience, but other projects call us to stand together on the solid rock of the essentials.
- **Relationship is everything.** Working together builds trust, trust builds camaraderie, camaraderie turns into abiding ties of friendship. And once we are friends ... we will want to work together again.



The unofficial theme song of *Camp Downtown* is the worship song "City of God" by Daniel Schutte, with one crucial change in wording: "O comfort my people, make gentle your words, proclaim to **our Pittsburgh** the day of her birth." When churches come together, something wonderful is born. We all catch a glimpse of the city of God, right here in our midst.

Try something new this summer, and do it together. May all your experiments meet with wild success!

Your sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Liddy'.

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

When churches come together,
something wonderful is born.
We all catch a glimpse of the city of God,
right here in our midst.

Reformation Commemorations Begin

The anniversary of one of the most fraught divisions in Christian history has become an occasion for reconciliation and cooperation. In our region, Catholics and Lutherans are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation together.

More than 300 worshipers gathered at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral on April 4 for an evening of repentance and prayer. **Bishop Kurt Kusserow** of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gave the homily. The host was **Archbishop William Skurla** of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. **Bishop Edward Malesic** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg and **Bishop David Zubik** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh offered scripture readings and prayers.

The next worship service in the join commemorative series will take place on **Thursday, June 29 at 7 p.m.** at **St. Kilian Roman Catholic Church, 7076 Franklin Rd, Cranberry Township.**

All are welcome to join in “An Evening of Witness and Thanksgiving.”



(l-r) **Bishop Kurt Kusserow** of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; **Bishop Edward Malesic** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg; **Bishop David Zubik** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

A Church Without Walls Aims to Break Down Racial Divide

“For Christ is our peace,” writes Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. “In his flesh he has made both one and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility that was between us.”



Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady (left) with Bishop Dorsey McConnell

One of the most stubborn walls in American society is the divide of race. This summer, an Episcopal bishop and a Baptist pastor are welcoming all brothers and sisters in faith to overcome this schism and build “A Church Without Walls.”

On **Sunday, June 11, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.**, Bishop Dorsey McConnell and the Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady will host a gathering of prayer, praise, teaching and conversation at **Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, 6111 Rodman Street in East Liberty.**

At the event, participants will commit to form small, racially mixed groups that will meet for fellowship, study, and prayer during the summer months. The groups will reconvene on October 15 to bear witness to what God has done.

Participants are asked to pre-register at www.episcopalpgh.org/walls.

Summer Mission Opportunities Still Available at the Pittsburgh Project



This summer, 800 service campers from nine states will come to The Pittsburgh Project on the city's North Side to perform household repairs for low-income homeowners.

There's still time to join the roster! Many weeks this June and July are still available for last-minute mission trips for junior and senior high youth groups.

Participants will participate in home repair projects, such as painting, dry walling, and carpentry, meeting fellow volunteers from all over the country. Worship and fellowship ends each day, with guest bands and speakers.

To learn more or confirm your participation, contact Ms. Dana Soulen at dsoulen@pittsburghproject.org or (412) 321-1678 Ext. 581.



St. Paul Cathedral

108 N. Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-621-4951
<http://www.stpaulpgh.org>

2017 Summer Concert Series

Date and Time: Sundays at 4:00 p.m.,
beginning July 9 and ending August 20

July 9: Kevin Vaughn
July 16: Jeanne Kohn
July 23: Gail Henry
July 30: Joseph Balistreri
August 6: Nicholas Will
August 13: Christopher Berr
August 20: Don Fellows



PNC Park

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

Faith Night

Date and Time: Thurs., Aug. 17, 7:05 p.m.
Price: \$20-\$45

Come out to PNC Park for the fifth annual Faith Night and root for the Pirates as they play the St. Louis Cardinals at 7:05 p.m. Following the game, hear your favorite Pirate players and coaches share their personal experiences with how their faith has impacted both their lives and their careers in baseball specifically.

Must use coupon code FAITH at checkout. For Groups of 15 or more, contact Chad Glover, chad.glover@pirates.com or (412) 325-4756 or Ryan Vizzini, ryan.vizzini@pirates.com or (412) 325-4777.

Groups of 15 or more receive their group names on the LED Boards during the game and two complimentary tickets for a future game.



Agape Farm

17512 Rapture Street
Shirleysburg, PA 17260
800-327-6921
<https://creationfest.com/ne/>

Creation Fest Northeast

Dates: Wed., Jun 28-Sat., July 1
Price: \$39-\$121

Creation Festival Northeast is the nation's largest Christian music festival, which takes place in the heart of God's country, central Pennsylvania. Join us as thousands of believers come together to give tribute to our Creator through music, teaching and fellowship.



Olmstead Manor Retreat Center

17 East Main St., PO Box 8
Ludlow, PA 16333
814-945-6512
info@olmstedmanor.org www.olmstedmanor.org

Music and Worship Workshop

Date: June 25-29
Presenter: Don Besig and Nancy Price
Cost: \$354, includes tuition and room/board

The Music and Worship Workshop is perfect for those who lead or participate in church music programs. This retreat will provide continuing education for musicians of all skill levels to come together and refine their musical gifts. We will "sing to the Lord" as we celebrate the use of music, story and dance in worship, and how we can glorify God in new and different ways together. Participants will enjoy sessions in choral music, hand bells, and organ, along with workshops in storytelling and liturgical dance.



Shadyside Presbyterian Church

512 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-682-4300
www.shadysidepres.org

Music for Midsummer Nights: A Miniseries of Midweek Concerts

Date: Wednesdays in June
Time: 7pm

June 7- Chandos Anthems, by George Frideric Handel
The Pittsburgh Camerata with Chatham Baroque
June 14- Steel City Men's Chorale
June 21- A Chorus Divided: Music for Double Choir; The Pittsburgh Camerata
June 28- Raquel Winnica Young, Mezzo-soprano, and Scott Pauley, Theorbo

Fees vary. Please check Website for detailed information.

Biblical Botanical Garden

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

Pleasing God and Man: Taste and Smell-Spices and Incense

Dates: June 1-Sept 15
Times: Sun-Thurs 10am-2pm
Weds. 7pm-9pm through August
Saturdays 12pm-1pm

Celebrating its thirtieth season, the garden combines beauty, education, meditation and spiritual renewal for hundreds of visitors each summer. No admission charge and handicapped accessible. Group tours (eight or more) by appointment.



St. Vincent Archabbey

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

Silent Retreat:

Building a Culture of Mercy

Dates & Times: June 23, 3:30 p.m. – June 25, 1 p.m.
Facilitator: Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB
Cost: \$185

In this retreat we will open ourselves more fully to an encounter with Jesus Christ in His Mercy and we will also reflect on ways that we can embody that mercy more fruitfully in our own lives.

Men's Retreat: Walking in Faith with Saint Paul

Dates & Times: July 28, 3:30 p.m. – July 30, 1 p.m.
Facilitator: Fr. Edward Mazich, OSB
Cost: \$185

This retreat will sound the depths of Saint Paul's ardent faith and the great external challenges and internal struggles which it enabled him to overcome. The joys and sorrows of our own lives will be put in perspective and brought under the healing light of the faith that sustained Saint Paul in his life and ministry and that abides in us as well.



Keystone Christian Church

5875 Washington Ave.
Export, PA 15632

Community Clergy Training to Support Veterans' Mental Health

Date: June 26

Time: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Cost: Free; includes lunch

Many veterans and their family members seek help for their problems from clergy.

This interactive training can help prepare you to support them. Registration closes June 23, 2017. To register, contact Chaplain Paul Dordal at 412-822-1556 or paul.dordal@va.gov.

Additional trainings will be held July 24 at First United Methodist Church in Dubois and August 12 at Wildwood Chapel in Aliquippa; contact Chaplain Dordal for details.



Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry Celebrates 50 Years

For the last half-century, Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry has been serving its community.

In 1966, sixteen Protestant and Catholic churches in Pittsburgh's North Hills began working together under the leadership of founding director, the Rev. Keith Brown, reaching out to teens who were unchurched or active in the drug culture.

The churches established a coffee house where adults could informally engage with teenagers through caring, connecting, Bible studies and fun activities.



In the early 1980s, Anchorpoint began working with parents, the primary influence determining the health and well-being of the family.

Today, the agency provides professional counseling, support group therapy, parent education and prevention programs and a tutoring/mentoring program for academically at-risk students.

"We are so grateful to all who make Anchorpoint a caring, communal ministry that offers emotional, relational and spiritual peace," said the Rev. Dr. Ron Barnes, executive director.

"It is through so many 'giving hearts' that Anchorpoint has been able to minister for so long. Thank you to all of you who help Anchorpoint save families and save lives."



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For information contact:

Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich
epehanich@familyhospicepa.org
412-651-2587

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Contact: Dr. Robbins mrobbins@pts.edu or 412-897-1620.



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UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Brew Like a Monk:
Spiritual Practice as
Fermentation
A Spiritual Formation Elective
Sept. 17-20, 2017
B.J. Woodworth,
Lead Pastor,
The Open Door

In the Heights and Depths
with C.S. Lewis
Online Course
Sept. 18-Oct. 13, 2017
Edith Humphrey,
William F. Orr Professor
of New Testament,
Pittsburgh Theological
Seminary

Missiological Hospitality
in a Pluralistic World
W. Don McClure Lectures in
World Mission and Evangelism
Sept. 25-26, 2017
Amos Yong,
Professor of Theology and
Mission, Fuller Theological
Seminary

The Wonder of Science
Curiosity and Wonder:
Conversations and Community
Series
October 18, 2017
Jim Downey,
Vice President for
Planning and Institutional
Effectiveness, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary

Discerning a Call to
Spiritual Direction and
Spiritual Leadership
A Spiritual Formation Elective
Nov. 8-11, 2017
Martha Robbins, Director,
Pneuma Institute,
Pittsburgh, PA

The Art of Transitional
Ministry, Week 2
Guiding a Congregation
Through Change and Transition
Nov. 13-17, 2017
Paul Rhebergen, Interim
Pastor at Wallingford
Presbyterian Church,
and Janet Nolting Carter,
Transitional Pastor,
PC(USA)



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



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AnchorpointCounselingMinistry.org

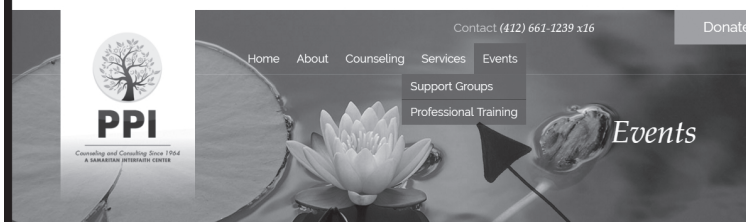
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Rev. Dr. Lamar Lee reading scripture at February's "Becoming One – Standing Together" worship service in support of immigrants and refugees

Calling All Preachers!

As part of the community-wide celebration of *Welcoming Week* this September, Christian Associates will be publishing a collection of sermons and homilies preached by clergy in Southwest Pennsylvania on the topic of welcoming immigrants and refugees. The book will be available in both printed and electronic forms.

To submit a sermon, *email your manuscript or transcript to lbarlow@casp.org by July 31.* Be sure to note the scriptural text your sermon considers, and to include the date and location where it was preached.

Those whose sermons are selected for publication will receive a printed copy of the book; due to limited space, we may not be able to include all submitted sermons.

"We envision this project as the first in a series of sermon collections celebrating the homiletic gifts of preachers in our region," said Rev. Liddy Barlow. "A book like this will allow clergy to appreciate one another's voices, and to speak the Word beyond the walls of our own churches."