

# 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](http://www.casp.org)

October 2014, Number 5

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

### Christian Associates Says Farewell to Tracy Ritchie

Hers is the voice you hear when you call Christian Associates. Hers is the smile you see when you walk in our doors. She's the one who updated your address on the label on the back page of this newsletter.

Behind the scenes, she balanced the books that made printing it possible.

She is Tracy Ritchie, Christian Associates' Executive Administrative Assistant. And this fall, she is retiring after more than thirteen years of service.

In addition to her responsibilities for record-keeping, bookkeeping, and administration, readers of *The Call* might especially appreciate Tracy's efforts in compiling our popular directory of Ecumenical Events.

Tracy witnessed the establishment of the Foundation of HOPE, Hurricane Ivan relief efforts, the creation of the Long-Term Recovery Task Force, the expansion of our offices in Lawrenceville, and many adjustments in Christian Associates' staffing and structure.

Tracy said she appreciates how Christian Associates works to build relationships. "We bring people face to face who

wouldn't ordinarily meet, to find solutions and common ground. When we worked on flood recovery, people were able to collaborate, better serving the community. I hope that Christian Associates continues to be a place where people can meet."

Executive Minister Rev. Liddy Barlow said she will miss Tracy's expertise and her personal warmth. "I am so grateful for Tracy's skillful juggling of our administrative needs and her encyclopedic knowledge of all things Christian Associates," she said.

Our previous Executive Director, Pastor Don Green, echoed the sentiment.

"Tracy has been our corporate memory and the go-to person for information regarding all sorts of ecumenical and faith-based related

organizations and services," he said. "She has been an excellent communicator of Christian Associates' mission to a broad constituency, and always provided a supportive and encouraging presence."

Tracy lives in Natrona Heights with her husband Jim, a United Methodist pastor. They have three grown sons, and four grandchildren, who range from newborn to age 8. "I'm looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, and being able to do more reading and volunteering at the library," she said.

To celebrate Tracy's retirement, Christian Associates will host an open house retirement party on Tuesday, October 28 from 1:30 to 3:30 at our offices in Lawrenceville, 204 37<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 201, in Pittsburgh.

Stop by to congratulate Tracy, share sweet treats, and wish her well as she begins the next chapter of her story. All are welcome! RSVPs are appreciated; email [tritchie@casp.org](mailto:tritchie@casp.org) or call 412-688-9070 by October 17.



Tracy looks forward to more special moments with her grandchildren

#### **Tracy Ritchie's Retirement Open House**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2014  
1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Christian Associates  
204 37th Street, Suite 201  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201**



### Register Today for "Support for Veterans" Conference

Nearly 250,000 veterans call Southwest Pennsylvania their home. Most churches have veterans or military families in their midst.

Faith communities must get involved to meet the critical spiritual, emotional, and practical needs of veterans and their families.

Learn more about moral injury, supporting military families, and reintegration after deployment at the **"Connect Our Stars: Support For Veterans – A Community Effort"** conference, **Friday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.** at **Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center.**

Both a printable registration form and a link to online registration are available at [www.casp.org](http://www.casp.org).

Please join us for this **free** conference to better understand the challenges that our returning veterans face.



# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

“So what is an *Executive Minister*?” they ask me,  
and six months after taking on this work I think I finally know how to respond.

I’m an administrator, yes. A writer of emails. A herder of bishops. A scheduler of meetings. A maker of plans. But most of all, I am a witness.

So much of my work on your behalf for Christian Associates involves bearing witness. Take Labor Day weekend, for example. On Saturday, I joined pilgrims from all over the nation for the annual pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine at Mount St. Macrina Monastery of the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown. I joined in the procession, the *a capella* Byzantine Mass, and the ritual blessing of the waters. I shared lunch with the sisters, and drove home nibbling delicious *medovniki*, the traditional pilgrimage honey cakes.

On Sunday, I worshiped at my home congregation, Smithfield United Church of Christ in downtown Pittsburgh. No incense or glittering crowns in evidence there: instead, blue jeans and t-shirts and wild hugging during the passing of the peace. We heard a sermon on justice and affirmed a wide welcome for people of every description.

Monday morning found me downtown again, in a very different milieu: sitting in the pew behind Mayor Peduto, County Executive Fitzgerald, and gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf, singing “We’ve

**As witnesses,  
we take careful  
notice of how God  
is working in the  
world around us.  
Then, we share  
what we have  
seen, helping  
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good news.**

Come This Far By Faith” with the great choir of St. Benedict the Moor, and hearing a rousing Labor Day sermon. Together we marched down Grant Street with thousands of working people in the annual parade.

And then, on Tuesday, with our staff away at a continuing education event, I filled in as substitute chaplain at Allegheny County Jail. In that sterile, brutal environment, I met men with broken hearts, and wept as I prayed with them. I saw our volunteers working tirelessly to bring them hygiene products, word puzzles, Bibles, and hope.

Bearing witness has been the task of Christians since Jesus sent his disciples to “go and tell John what you hear and see.” Commissioning his disciples just before the ascension, Jesus told them, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in

Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” As witnesses, we take careful notice of how God is working in the world around us. Then, we share what we have seen, helping others to hear and understand the good news.

As I work as a witness for Christian Associates, it’s my privilege and responsibility to notice and share how the Spirit is present in so many diverse settings. I observe how our common commitment to Jesus and our love for his church is made manifest. I find surprising common ground and potentials for collaboration. And then, I get to tell stories. I go and tell what I have heard and seen.

Dr. Lucinda Mosher, an Episcopal theologian and the director of interfaith chaplaincy programs at Hartford Seminary, recently offered a lecture sponsored by the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition. The corollary to the commandment “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor,” she said, is “Thou *shall* bear *true* witness to thy neighbors.” The work of witnessing is, of course, not mine alone. All of us have the joy and responsibility to be witnesses. All of us can seek out an unfamiliar worship experience, an unvisited neighborhood, a new event. Go forth and be witnesses to what God is doing – and then, go and tell what you hear and see.

Your sister in Christ,



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



**Go forth and be witnesses  
to what God is doing!**

## Search Beginning for New Administrative Assistant

With Tracy's departure, Christian Associates has begun to search for our next Executive Administrative Assistant.



The successful candidate will be skilled in office administration and bookkeeping, fluent in the use of technology, and warmly hospitable to visitors.

More information can be found at [www.casp.org](http://www.casp.org). Applications will be accepted through October 10, with the hope of welcoming a new staff member before Thanksgiving.

## Deepen Your Ecumenical Knowledge at Upcoming Events

Both longtime scholars of ecumenism and newcomers to the field of Christian unity can deepen their understandings at two upcoming continuing education events.

On Sunday, October 26 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will host **"Created in God's Image: Communion and Stewardship Ten Years Later,"** co-sponsored by Duquesne University's Department of Theology.

Professors Ronald Cole-Turner, Gerard Magill, and Aimee Upjohn Light will consider a 2004 Vatican document on ethics and the *imago dei* from an ecumenical perspective.

Registration is \$30 and is available at [www.pts.edu/continuing-education](http://www.pts.edu/continuing-education).

On Monday, November 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Pennsylvania Council of Churches will offer **"Witness in Common: An Exploration of Full Communion Agreements"** at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, PA.

Learn more about how these agreements came about and how they have been implemented at the national, judicatory, and local levels.

The plenary speaker will be the Very Rev. Dr. Tom Ferguson, former Ecumenical Officer of The Episcopal Church.

Registration, including lunch, is \$10; see [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org) for more information



## Israelite Samaritan Elder Will Visit Pittsburgh



You've preached about the Samaritans. But have you ever met one?

This November, Benyamim Tsedaka, scholar, historian, and an elder of the Israelite Samaritans, will be visiting Pittsburgh.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to speak with a leader of this rare and ancient religious tradition, with roots in the Northern Kingdom of Samaria.

On Sunday, November 23 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside, Christian Associates will host an informal evening for the Christian community with Mr. Tsedaka, who will speak about the parable of the Good Samaritan as seen through Samaritan eyes. Many thanks to Calvary Church for their hospitality!

Mr. Tsedaka will also be speaking on Monday, November 24 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill, describing the genesis, history, Torah, festivals, and customs of the Samaritan religion.

Both events are free and open to the public.



## CLASSIFIED AD

### Beulah Presbyterian Church, Churchill, Contemporary Worship Leader

Beulah Presbyterian Church is a mid-sized church in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh. This position of 15 hours a week has responsibilities for: leading rehearsals with band on Thursday nights and Revolution worship services at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings; collaboration with the Director of Worship and Music at the 11 AM traditional worship service once a month.

At least 3 years of experience of leading contemporary worship services is required for this position. This position pays \$20 an hour. Clearances will be required.

If you are interested, please submit resume and references to Robert Morehead, Director of Worship and Music, Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road, Churchill, PA 15235. 412-242-4570 ext. 13 or [rmorehead@beulahpresby.org](mailto:rmorehead@beulahpresby.org).

Photo by Dale Lazar

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## 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:  
Oct. 12 – Jon Tyillian, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy, NY  
Oct. 19 – Ethan LaPaca, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park  
Oct. 26 – Larry Allen, Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church & Scott Bell, Oboe, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
Nov. 2 – Stephanie Sloan, Homestead United Presbyterian Church  
Nov. 9 – Carrie Smith, French Horn  
Nov. 16 – Sarah Wannamaker, Northmont Presbyterian Church  
Nov. 23 – Kevin Lyczak, St. Jude the Apostle Roman Catholic Church  
Nov. 30 – A. Charles Bowers, St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church  
Dec. 7 – John Hall, Cello, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra



## 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

### Ignatian Weekend Directed Retreat

Dates: Fri. Oct. 24 – Sun. Oct. 26  
Time: Fri. 7:00 pm – Sun. 12 noon  
Fee: \$120, includes meals, lodging & individual direction  
Presenter: Sr. Catherine Higgins

Directed retreat based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola. Scriptural-based prayer in atmosphere of silence & quiet prayer.

### Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat

Date: Fri. Oct. 24 – Sun. Oct. 26  
Time: Fri. 7:00 pm – Sun. 4:00 pm  
Presenters: *Beginning Experience* Team

*Beginning Experience* is a program for adults grieving the loss of a spousal relationship through death, divorce or separation. Trained team members who are themselves widowed, separated, or divorced will conduct this retreat at Gilmary Retreat Center, Coraopolis. To register, call Steve Smith, 412-367-4948 or Mary Jane Fagan, 412-523-2405.

## St. Joseph Spirituality Center

(cont....)

### A Day With Jesus: A Time of Prayer for Young Adults

Date: Sat. Nov. 8; Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Presenter: Sister Marguerite Kropinak, CSJ  
Fee: \$15, includes lunch

A day of reflection & prayer for college students and young adults (ages 18-30) to grow in a deeper knowledge of the person and message of Jesus.

### Healed, Called by Name, and Sent

Date: Sat. Nov. 15; Time: 9 am – 3 pm  
Presenter: Martha Robbins, Th.D.  
Fee: \$25, includes lunch; call Kathy Lotzman, 412-508-1623 to register

An introduction to the form of prayer, *imaginative contemplation*. Experience this way of praying with two Scripture passages focusing on women's encounters with Jesus that led to being healed, called and sent.

### Reclaiming Our Earth Connection: Recovering Our Senses

Date: Sat. Nov. 22; Time: 10:00 am–2:30 pm  
Presenter: Sister Lyn Szymkiewicz, CSL  
Fee: \$20, includes lunch

Reflect on your relationship with creation, how that may be rooted in various religious traditions, and concrete ways to integrate them.



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

### Fiction and Formation Reading Program

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

## Epiphany Academy

(cont....)

### 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, lunch included



## Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Blvd; Allison Park, PA 15101  
Call 412-366-1124 or  
Email: kearnssc1@pghcdp.org  
www.cdpsisters.org

### 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

### Visio Divina: Seeing the Word

Dates: Sun. Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, 2015:  
Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10  
Times: 1:00 – 2:00 pm @ Providence Heights Chapel; Fees: donations accepted  
Facilitator: Sr. Anne Winschel, CDP, M.S.

Seeing the Word is a Christian practice of reading God's Word, listening to the Word, meditating on the Word, praying the Word and responding to its challenges. Images will be from the *St. John's Bible*.

### 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

724-863-7702

### Praying for Hurting People

Date: Sat. Oct. 25; Times: 9:00am- 5:00 pm  
Location: Redstone Colonial Estates Clubhouse, 722 Frontier Drive, N. Huntingdon, PA 15642  
Cost: \$15  
RSVP by 10/10 to New Hope Presbyterian Church, 2727 Lincoln Way, North Huntingdon, PA 15642

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

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

105 Gateshead Drive, McMurray, PA 15317  
[www.OurRedeemer-peters.org](http://www.OurRedeemer-peters.org)

### The Gathering Place

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month; Time: 1:00 pm

A comfortable place for people with autism spectrum or with special needs and their families to gather together for sharing and worship. All are welcome.

## Memorial Park Church

8800 Peebles Road; Allison Park, PA 15101  
[www.memorialparkchurch.org](http://www.memorialparkchurch.org)

### I'm Coming Home: How to Connect with Today's Returning Veterans & Their Families

Date: Nov. 15; Time: 8 am – 1:30 pm; Speaker: LTC Thomas J. Stokes, ACSW, LCSW, BCD, RN  
To register for the workshop & lunch, [www.memorialparkchurch.org](http://www.memorialparkchurch.org) or call 412-364-9492 ext. 110

LTC Stokes will talk about what it's like to be in today's military – what trauma is, overseas service, struggles of reintegration into civilian life and what faith communities can do to share the burdens and to extend love. Be part of the journey to wholeness.

## Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

34 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA

### Prayers from Pittsburgh with Religion Writer Peter Smith

Date: Wed. Oct. 8; Time: 7-9 pm; Cost: \$35

Peter Smith and the Rev. Liddy Barlow will speak about Pittsburgh's changing religious population and how it has affected ecumenical work. Register at 412-263-1741.



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## Music in Pittsburgh

### Organ Artists Series

Regular admission \$12 single concert, \$5 for students; [www.oas-series.com](http://www.oas-series.com)

**Sun. October 26, 4:00 pm** at East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206  
Cherry Rhodes, Organist, Thornton School of Music, Southern CA

**Sun. November 23, 4:00 pm** at Shadyside Presbyterian Church

5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh 15232  
John Cummins & Michael Messina, Concert Organist

### Music in a Great Space

Tickets \$15 per concert, \$10 seniors (60+) / students \$10 per concert

[www.shadysidepres.org](http://www.shadysidepres.org)

5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, 15232

**Sat. Oct. 25, 4:00 pm**

Jose Ramos Santana, Piano

## Franciscan Spirit and Life Center

3605 McRoberts Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15234

412-881-9207

[www.osfprov.org](http://www.osfprov.org)

### Holiday Entertaining with Mary and Martha of the Gospel

Date: Fri. Nov. 6; Time: 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Cost: \$25

Entertaining ideas and projects as a reflection on the scripture lives of Mary & Martha and their gifts of hospitality. Light lunch and take-home ideas.

### Caregivers Morning of Prayer and Support

Date: Sat. Nov. 22; Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Cost: Free will offering

Time to create space for those providing care of others and are in need of renewal and healing. Techniques for self-care and uplifting spiritual exercises and the support and prayer of others will make up the morning.

### Advent Tea: Follow the Star to the Christ Child

Date: Thur. Dec. 4; Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Cost: \$25

This Day of Prayer will include input, faith sharing, quiet time, a tea luncheon and take home Christmas Cookie Table. Reservations required.



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[www.bishopconnarecenter.org](http://www.bishopconnarecenter.org)

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Hope and healing through faith resources



### 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.



## WHAT IS YOUR GREAT PURPOSE?

### *The Leaders Collaborative*

*A breakthrough program that transforms leaders and the organizations they serve to impact our city.*

#### **The Leaders Collaborative Offering:**

**The Leaders Collaborative** is a cohort-based program that meets once a month for six months and includes several small group coaching sessions.

From the opening retreat to the closing celebration, each session will be delivered through the lens of a Christian worldview and be aligned to the leadership principles demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

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**Starts October 22nd! Apply now @ [www.plf.org](http://www.plf.org)**



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info@plf.org  
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**Mary Ann Hvizdos, Ph.D., Co-Principal**  
**412-807-1611**

*Reasonable rates for congregations & early childhood programs*  
*Religious leader references available upon request*

## UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

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

October 6-27, 2014

*L. Roger Owens, 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, PTS*

### **Explorations in Hope**

Wednesdays, October 8-29, 2014

*Andrew Purves, PTS*

### **Kindling Holy Fire: Leading New Ministries and Church Plants**

October 17-18, 2014

*Chris Brown, PTS, Edwin Chr. van Driel, PTS,*

*Michael Gehrling, The Upper Room, and BJ*

*Woodworth, The Open Door*

### **Holy Therapy! The Role of Spirituality in Psychotherapy and Pastoral Counseling**

October 24, 2014

*Kenneth Pargament, Bowling Green State University*

### **Created in God's Image: Communion and Stewardship Ten Years Later**

October 26, 2014

*Ron Cole-Turner, PTS, Aimee Upjohn Light,*

*Duquesne University, and Gerald Magill, Duquesne University*

### **Ending Well: Care in the Last Year of Life**

November 5, 2014

*Judith S. Black, Highmark Inc., Leanna K.*

*Fuller, PTS, Edward Pehanich, Family Hospice and Palliative Care, and Richard L. Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh*



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**PITTSBURGH  
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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 (November 15th for the December issue).* Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.

### **Support the Children of Holy Family Institute!**



**Courage House Luncheon  
November 4, 10:30 a.m.  
Heinz Field**

Meet current and former Pittsburgh Steelers players,  
Head Coach Mike Tomlin, and President Arthur J. Rooney II.

Tickets and corporate sponsorship opportunities available  
at [www.hfi-pgh.org/chl/](http://www.hfi-pgh.org/chl/).

***“Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good;  
for His steadfast love  
endures forever.”***

### **Community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

The Rev. Liddy Barlow, preaching  
**Monday, November 24, 7 p.m.**  
**Temple Sinai**  
5505 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh

