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 2011, Number 6

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

Christian Associates Welcomes New Orthodox Members



Metropolitan Savas

Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives is pleased to welcome two new representatives of the Orthodox communions to the Council: **Metropolitan Savas** and the **Very Rev. Anthony Yazge**.

The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople has elected His Grace Bishop Savas of Troas as the Metropolitan of Pittsburgh to succeed Metropolitan Maximos, who retired on September 1, 2011. The Metropolitan-elect was chosen for the see of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh from a list of three candidates whose names were submitted to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Metropolitan Savas is a native of Gary, Indiana, the second of six children of Skevos and Stamatia (Georgiades) Zembillas of Kalymnian and Cypriot ancestry. He is a graduate of Colby College,

Waterville, Maine (1979, BA in Philosophy and English Literature) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts (1984, M.Div. with highest honors). He served as the pastoral assistant at Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1985-87 before resuming his academic studies at Oxford University, England, from 1987 until 1994, under the supervision of then Bishop Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia, researching texts and persons of spiritual significance for the history of early Byzantine monasticism.

He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on November 21, 1992, and on January 8, 1995, to the Holy Priesthood, on both occasions by the then Bishop Iakovos of Chicago, at his home parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana. During a two-year interim between ordinations, he served as Deacon to Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia. Upon his return to the United States, in September 1995, he was appointed as Proistamenos of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on November 12, 1996, by the then Bishop Maximos of Pittsburgh. In September 1997, His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon of America assigned Archimandrite Savas to the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios in Merrick, Long Island.

In December 1999, the newly-enthroned Archbishop Demetrios of America, appointed his former student Savas Chancellor of the Archdiocese, a position he held for ten years. On December 11, 2001, he was elected an Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Demetrios by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and given the title

continued on page 3 . . .

Messiah comes to Heinz Hall

Handel's Messiah debuts at Heinz Hall in a never before seen original production opening December 2 and running through December 4, 2011. Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) Music Director Manfred Honeck and renowned opera/theatre director Sam Helfrich join forces in a re-imagined theatrical staging of this masterpiece as part of "Music for the Spirit" series of concerts. The audience will experience the music and story in this dramatic and contemporary production with spectacular staging, lighting and vivid, full sets designed by Laura Jellinek.

Expectations will be turned upside-down as you find Manfred Honeck and the PSO musicians in the pit—and the soloists and Mendelssohn Choir fully costumed and performing from the stage (original designs by Nancy Leary). In a unique twist, Helfrich and Honeck weave together a multi-layered reading highlighting not only the religious story, but also a more provocative and allegorical message as the story passes through the modern lens.

continued on page 6...

Inside this Edition

Reflections Along the Way	2
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Ecumenical Events	4
Looking Ahead to 2012	6

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her (Mary) as his wife, but he had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus." (Matt. 1:24-25)

When I read the nativity narratives, I somehow always feel sorry for Joseph. My Lutheran colleague, Philip Pfatteicher captures my feeling when he writes, "Joseph is *an accessory figure* in the infancy narratives who was present at the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:16), the circumcision (2:21), the presentation (2:22), and the search for Jesus in the temple (2:41-52)." **An accessory**, but Joseph's never the main actor in the drama.



In spite of his rather minimal role in the Gospel, we men need to learn from Joseph obedience to God's commands, unfailing trust in God's Word, devoted love to our spouse, and protection and nurture for our children.

But where would the mystery of our Lord's incarnation be without this devout adherent to the Law, a "just" man who responds to visionary dreams and is obedient to God's command? Where would Jesus be without this protector who whisks Mary and her son off to Egypt to save him from King Herod, and returns him to Nazareth there to be the faithful, affectionate guardian and father of our sibling, Jesus?

In spite of his rather minimal role in the Gospel, we men need to learn from Joseph . . obedience to God's commands, unfailing trust in God's Word, devoted love to our spouse, and protection and nurture for our children.

Indeed, we all fall short at times. Regardless of how many men's lives were touched and received degrees under his tutelage, regardless of the millions he raised to enhance

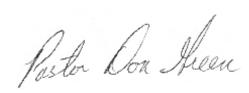
scholarship opportunities and academic excellence at the university, JoePA and his powerful accessories failed to be the protector of the innocent ones. Rather then be Joseph, the protector of children, he allowed the equivalent of King Herod's slaughter to go unchallenged.

Every time I go to the jail I see numerous "Marys" holding their infants in their arms as they wait to see their "Joseph" who is incarcerated. How we need to learn from Joseph and teach our boys and young men that fatherhood is more than the pleasure and pride of impregnating one's lover! And how can hardworking fathers assist their children to be obedient to the commandments and faithful to the Word when they are so busy being the "carpenter" who provides the essentials for their own "holy family"?

For those of us who are male clergy, how do we model Joseph's obedience to God's commands, unfailing trust in God's Word, devoted love to our spouse (for those permitted marriage), and protection and nurture for the children who are entrusted to our pastoral care? Can the folk who listen to us each Sunday see the incarnation of Joseph's example of faithfulness to God, and love, care and nurture for them in our very human speech and frail actions?

This Christmas, let's not feel sorry for Joseph; rather let us emulate his behavior. May you and yours be blessed this holy Christmas season!

Pax, Salaam, Shalom,



New Orthodox Members

continued from page 1 . . .



Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Yazge

"Bishop of Troas." Bishop Savas served as the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America until 2009, when he was named Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Church, Society and Culture.

Metropolitan Philip of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America has appointed the Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Yazge, camp director of Antiochian Village, as the new Dean of the Western PA Deanery of the Archdiocese. Fr. Yazge will represent both Archbishop Philip and Bishop Thomas on the Council. He succeeds Archimandrite John Abdalah who will be ordained a bishop on December 11 at the Patriarchal Monastery of our Lady of Balamand, Tripoli Lebanon.

Fr. Anthony is a 1998 graduate of St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and holds a BS in Special Education from the University of Maryland. He serves as the Chairman of the Department of College Ministry and Director of the Department of Camping for the Antiochian Archdiocese. The new Dean serves as the Chairman of the Department of College Ministry and Director of the Department of Camping for the Antiochian Archdiocese. He is the Chairman of the Orthodox Christian Camp Association, a member of the American Camp Association Keystone Section Board, and a member of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship Board.

Fr. Anthony is the Priest in Charge of the Special Olympics Pennsylvania / SOYO Multi-Sports Training Camp, a position he has held since 2001, and co-founded the Teen SOYO ministry in 1980 as a teenager. He and his wife, Stefanie Yova are the parents of three children – Matthew, Mark and Alexis.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25, 2012

The theme for the annual celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012 has been announced by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. The theme for the 2012 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 15:51-58)

The Council of Christian Associates and the Pittsburgh Downtown Ministerium will co-host a service on Wednesday, January 18 at 12:00 noon at Smithfield United Church, Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh. A similar co-hosted observance is anticipated in partnership with the Greensburg Area Ministerial Association. The Council desires such partnerships as a visible

witness to our local communities of the spirit of unity which exists among the leadership of Christian Associates.

SWPA Synod Lutheran Bishop
Kurt Kusserow hosts a monthly
Ministerial Eucharist for his
rostered leaders. In the spirit
of the Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity, he is extending
an invitation to the clergy of all
of the ELCA's Full Communion
Partners in the region (The Episcopal

Wednesday, January 18

Noon

Smithfield United Church.

Downtown

Wednesday, January 25

Noon

St. John's Lutheran Church

of Highland, North Hills

Church,
Presbyterian
Church-USA,
United Church
of Christ, United
Methodist Church)
and recent covenant
partner, the AME
Zion Church to a
Ministerial Eucharist
on Wednesday,
January 25 at

12:00 noon at St.

John's Lutheran Church of Highland, Cumberland Road, North Hills.

Following extensive discussion, representatives of the Roman Catholic

Church, the Orthodox Church and Old Catholic and Protestant Churches in Poland, decided to focus on a theme that is concerned with the transformative power of faith in Christ, particularly in relation to our praying for the visible unity of the Church, the Body of Christ. It is based on St. Paul's words to the Corinthian Church which speak of the temporary nature of our present lives in comparison to what we receive through the victory of Christ through the Paschal mystery.

This "victory" is only possible through spiritual transformation, conversion. As we pray for and strive towards the full visible unity of the church we, and the traditions to which we belong, will be changed, transformed and conformed to the likeness of Christ.

Week of Prayer materials may be ordered from the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interfaith Institute, www.geii.org.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS-

Rodef Shalom Congregation

4905 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6566 www.rodefshalom.org

36th Annual Milton E. Harris **Interfaith Lecture**

Date: Fri. Feb. 10, 2012

Time: 12 noon

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

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Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

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

Advent Evening of Reflection "The Immaculate Conception"

Date: Tues. Dec. 8 Time: 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Presenter: Fr. David Moczulski Offering: \$13 incl. dinner / \$7 for 6:30 pm arrival. Registration requested.

Women's Retreat Weekend "What Can We Learn from the Not So Good Girls In the Scriptures?"

Dates: Fri. Feb. 17- Sun. Feb. 19, 2012 Times: Begins 8:00 pm Fri. and ends

with Sun. brunch

Presenter: Jo Ann Paradise, DMin

Offering: \$130

Registration requested by February 3

There are many stories in the scriptures of women who made choices that diminished their holiness and caused harm. We will look at their journeys and hear God's invitation to redemption to them and to us.

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Tabor House of Prayer

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis 146 Hawthorne Road Pittsburgh, PA 15209 412-821-1149 www.SOSF.OEG 4

Tabor (cont. . .)

Advent Retreat

Date: Fri. Dec. 2 – Sat. Dec. 3 Times: Starts Fri. at 7:00 pm thru Sat.

at 4:00 pm

Facilitator: Sr. Marie Grace Blum,

OSF

Fee: \$50 includes breakfast & lunch

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical new year. Renew and deepen your awareness of what we already

know: "Jesus with us."

Saints in Action: Lives and Testimony of Dorothy Day and St. Teresa of Avila

Date: Sun. Dec. 11 Time: 10 am - 3:30 pmFee: \$35 includes lunch

As we celebrate the last of our holy friends, we invite you to share with us about the influence of other saints in your life. Let's continue meeting saints!

TRANSITIONS: Praying Through Our Lives

"Come...find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28

Date: Sat. Dec. 17 Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Facilitator: Jean C. Kennedy, health

minister

Fee: \$35 includes lunch

This retreat will examine the story of Sari (Sarah) and explore our own ways of re-orientation/re-direction. Woven through the day will be prayer options, both solitary and interactive.

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Taizé Services

Taizé, begun in a ecumenical community in eastern France, is in its' 71st 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 First Wed. of each month, 6:30pm

Taizé (cont. . .)

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206

www.cathedralofhope.org Every Wed., 7:00 pm

Faith Lutheran Church

1656 Lincoln Way, White Oak 15131 www.faithwhiteoak.org Every Wed., 7:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue at Braddock Road Hope@Lutheran.com Fri. Dec. 2, 7:00 pm

Community United Methodist Church

3487 Route 130, Irwin www.ShareChristWithOthers.com Second Wed. of each month, 7:30 pm

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Music in Pittsburgh

Lessons and Carols Sun. Dec. 4, 5:00 pm

Calvary Episcopal Church 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15206 412-661-0120

Sun. Dec. 11, 4:00 pm

Shadyside Presbyterian Church 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, 15232

412-682-4300

Sun. Dec. 11, 4:00 pm

The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley 414 Grant Street, Sewickley, 15143 412-741-4550

Sun. Dec. 18, 10:00 am service

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church 384 Fox Chapel Rd, Pittsburgh, 15238 412-963-8243

Sun. Dec. 18, 3:00 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 5801 Hampton St, Highland Pk, 15206 412-661-1245

Music (cont. . .)

Christmas Caroling in the South Hills

Sun. Dec. 4, 5:30 pm

The Salvation Army 1060 McNeilly Rd, Pittsburgh, 15226 412-207-2127

The Children's Festival Chorus of Pittsburgh

Sun. Dec. 4, 6:00 pm

Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church

1146 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, 15220 412-561-2431

Christmas Concert: North Hills Chorale

Sat. Dec. 10, 7:00 pm Sun. Dec. 11, 3:00 pm

Kearns Visitation Chapel 9000 Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, 15101 412-366-1124

Messiah Sing Along Sun. Dec. 11, 2:00 pm

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church 2365 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, 15143 412-364-5974

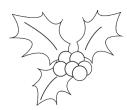
German Christmas Service Sun. Dec. 18, 4:00 pm

First English Evang. Lutheran Church 615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, 15219 412-271-8125

Music in a Great Space Sun. Jan. 22, 2012, 4:00 pm

Kelly Lynch, Soprano Admission \$10 adults, \$5 seniors, students and children free Shadyside Presbyterian Church 5121 Westminster Pl, Pittsburgh 15232 www.shadysidepres.org

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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/Time: Sundays at 8:30 pm

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

Guest Organists:

Dec. 4 – William Goff, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Dec. 11 – Viol Consort

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St. Joseph Spirituality Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph 1020 State Street Baden, PA 15005 724-869-6585 Registrations: Sister Ann Francis

Hanley: 724-869-6587 www.stjoseph-baden.org

Advent Reflections

Date: Tues. Dec. 6 Time: 10 am – 3:30 pm

Presenter: Sister Kathleen Garde

Fee: \$20 incl. lunch

Waiting for Jesus to become more present in our lives, reflect on how to wait and to prepare.

Journey from Grief to Healing During the Holidays

Date: Tues. Dec. 13 Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Thimons

Fee: No fee

This program consists of input, sharing and mutual support, helping us learn ways of coping with loss during the helidays.

the holidays.

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Kearns Spirituality Center

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

Into the Heart of God: Meditations with the Icon of the Nativity

Date: Thur. Dec. 8 Time: 10 am – 2:30 pm

Facilitator: Lori McMahon, BS, MS

Fee: \$25, includes lunch

Let the icon of the Nativity help us to center on the beauty and wonder of the Incarnation

New Years Eve Candlelight Dinner and Retreat

Date: Fri. Dec. 31 Time: 7 pm - Midnight Facilitator: Rev. Eugene Lauer, STD Fee: \$50 individual, \$75 couple, additional \$35 for overnight, continental breakfast RSVP deadline: Dec. 21, call 412-366-1124

Join us for dinner at 7 pm, followed by a conference on the new year's theme and liturgy at 11:15 pm followed by a time of new year's fellowship!

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The Salvation Army

Western PA Division 700 North Bell Avenue Carnegie, PA 15105 www.salvationarmy-wpa.org

Check website for volunteer opportunities, this is updated on a regular basis.

Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program Now thru Dec. 16 Sponsors are matched with family in a crisis situation. Call Martha McCully, 412-362-0891

x104

Looking ahead to 2012 ... Save the dates!



Keynote Address by **Rev.** Frederick Reklau

Retired ELCA pastor Reklau, author of "Partners in Care", writes, "Cure versus Healing is an exercise designed to highlight the difference between cure and healing in Christ. While we tend to want the quick cure, healing is typically a process that involves personal reflection, hard work, change and always faith. Cure may occur without healing; healing may occur without cure. Cure separates body from soul; healing embraces the whole."

Extended Workshops:
Healing at the End of Life, Catholic and
Protestant Perspectives
Healing Dysfunctional Communities
Healing Dysfunctional Families
Healing from Mental Health to Wholeness
Healing from Addiction to Recovery

Messiah

continued from page 1 . . .

Honeck comments on this unique performance, "Handel's Messiah examines the biblical story of Christ's birth and death, and thus the world in a state of redemption. Quoting directly from the Bible, alternating text from both the Old and New Testaments in a nonlinear fashion, it not only reviews and celebrates the story of Christ, but also attempts to understand its meaning. This original production examines these ideas by looking at the lives of ordinary people at specific times in our own history and posing the question of how those lives and those eras reflect the word of God (i.e. the Bible) in a human context. It is an attempt to understand for ourselves what it means to live in a state of hope and promise for the future. "

The three acts together form a triptych, each one capturing a snapshot of a

Support for Veterans: A Community Effort

Thursday, October 11, 2012 Soldiers & Sailors Museum Pittsburgh (Oakland) PA



This is a one day seminar for clergy, social workers, educators and other professionals who seek to assist veterans and their families throughout their service both preand post—deployment.

An original portrayal of a timeless classic! December 2-4

particular time in American history—Act I representing the time of optimism and hope in prosperous 1950's America, Act II jumping forward to modern day 2011 America and Act III flashing back to the dream of America with early immigrants first coming to America.

It is through this powerful look at the American story that we are challenged to see ourselves as the characters on the stage.

Performances of *Messiah* are Friday and Saturday Dec. 2-3, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets start as low as \$16 and Student tickets available at \$15!

To order call PSO Group Sales at 412-392-4819 and mention *MUSIC FOR THE SPIRIT* to receive your discount!

Church World Service/CROP

Rev. Kathy Clark, Associate Director of Church World Service/CROP, recently returned from a trip to Serbia and Moldova to visit Church World Service projects. She is available to speak, preach, teach classes or retreats on work in both countries with vulnerable children and food security and nutrition.

If you are interested in a program on this vital work, please contact Kathy at 412-867-5849 or kclark@churchworldservice. org. Programs can be scheduled from now through 2012.



Journey to Greece, Turkey, and the Greek Isles

WITH PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

This trip will focus on archaeological and historical sites of importance especially to Christian faith. Sites in Turkey will include Istanbul, Troy, Izmir (ancient Smyrna), and Ephesus. Mainland sites in Greece will include Corinth, Olympia, Delphi, and Athens. A three-day cruise in the Aegean will feature Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini.

May 16-29, 2012

Drs. James and Reeny Davison, Hosts Nancy Lapp, Archaeologist in Residence

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





at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

Monastic Wisdom and Practice for Non-Monks

Jan. 8-13, 2012

Bonnie Thurston, Former Professor, PTS

The Future of the Church A Broadcast Program

Tuesdays, Jan. 10-31, 2012 / 7:30-9:00 p.m. *Edwin Chr. van Driel*, Assistant Professor, PTS

Building Faith Online: Using Social Media in Ministry

Fridays, Jan. 13-Feb. 3, 2012 / 10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Deirdre King Hainsworth, Assistant Professor and Director of the Center for Business, Religion and Public Life, PTS

The Kelso Lecture in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

with East End Cooperative Ministry Jan. 15, 2012 / 3:30 p.m.

John H. Jackson, President, Schott Foundation for Public Education, Cambridge, Mass.

Genesis and the Moral Imagination

Mondays, March 12 - April 2, 2012 / 10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Jerome Creach, Professor, PTS

Training for Interim Ministers (Basic Unit, Part 2)

March 12-16, 2012

Carolyn Jones, Director of Field Education, PTS and Retired Interim Associate Executive, Synod of the Trinity Robert Anderson, Interim Pastor

Toward the Future Church: The Impact of Contemporary Cultural Movements and Individual Stories of Faith

Summer Leadership Conference

June 10-13, 2012

Phyllis Tickle, Author, Lecturer, CEO of Tickle Inc. and Founding Editor of the Religious Department of *Publishers Weekly*

Scott Sunquist, Professor, PTS
Joseph Kwak, Senior Pastor, Jesus Hope
Presbyterian Church, Seoul, Korea

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



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Professional, faith-based counseling is offered for individuals, couples, families, children and adolescents. We are able to accept most major health insurance benefits and we can adjust fees based on gross family income.

Carl Baughman, MDiv, MS, LMFT Executive Director

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255 Washington Rd. Mt. Lebanon, 15216 412-741-7430 x402

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Thank you . . .

Thank you to those who contributed to the mission of Christian Associates during the Pittsburgh Foundation's "Day of Giving" in October. We are grateful for the gift and the matching funds provided by the foundation that day.

These continue to be challenging times financially for those who are engaged in the cause of Christian unity. Our supporting judicatories have not recovered from the impact of the recession nor the decline in revenue due to intradenominational conflicts. Thus, Christian Associates is ever more dependent upon direct support from clergy and laity who believe in our mission to work toward the more visible unity of the Body of Christ in this region.

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 male and female inmates for re-entry into society upon release from jail, and 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 continued support is vital!

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!

