

# 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)

December 2013, Number 6

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

### World Council of Churches Holds 10th Assembly in Korea



**God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace**

of representatives from 345 member churches,  
related religious bodies and partner organizations.

The message reflects the theme of an assembly,  
adopted beforehand by the WCC central  
committee. The theme of the Busan assembly was

"Join the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace" was the  
title of the Message of the 10th Assembly of the World  
Council of Churches (WCC), which was held October  
30-November 8 in Busan, Korea.

An assembly, the highest governing body of the WCC, is  
held once every seven to eight years to endorse policies,  
review projects and point the future direction of the  
organization.

The "Message"  
of a WCC  
assembly is  
meant to report  
the spirit of the  
event as well  
as common  
commitments

this brief prayer: "God of life, lead us to  
justice and peace."

Describing their time in Busan and other  
parts of the country, participants in the 10th  
Assembly offered this affirmation:

*continued on page three . . .*



**WCC assembly participants united in prayer**

### National Council of Churches Continues Reorganization

A leading advocate for  
international justice  
with experience as a  
missionary and deep  
family roots in the  
United Methodist  
Church is the nominee  
for General Secretary/  
President of the  
National Council of  
Churches.

**James E. Winkler**,  
general secretary of the  
United Methodist General Board of Church  
and Society has been chosen as the nominee  
for election by the NCC Governing Board.

Winkler has led the United Methodist  
international public policy and social justice  
agency in Washington since November



2000. As the chief executive of the  
agency, Winkler leads a staff of 22  
who seek the implementation of the  
Church's social principles through  
education, witness, and advocacy.

The office of General Secretary/  
President, formerly General  
Secretary, is the leading staff  
position in the NCC.

The General Secretary/President  
serves as the executive leader of the  
NCC, with overall responsibility  
for personnel, deploying resources to achieve the  
priorities of the NCC, organizational and board  
development, fund-raising, vision-setting, long-  
range planning, financial management, external  
relationships and thought leadership.



**James E. Winkler**  
**NCC Nominee for**  
**General Secretary/President**

*continued on page three . . .*

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

*"Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times! (Psalm 106:3)"*

The modern ecumenical movement is just over 100 years old; begun with the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, 1910; renewed with Vatican II, 1962-1965. Now that movement is faced with either a crisis or a new opportunity.

For fifty years ecumenism has focused on "conciliar ecumenism" with global, national and regional councils seeking doctrinal understanding and consensus. Such efforts have moved us from prejudice and suspicion about "the other" to common witness to Jesus Christ and full communion agreements among churches of the Reformation traditions.



If you have read the cover articles about the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly in Busan, South Korea and the National Council of Churches (NCC) reorganization and new General Secretary/President, you will note a shift in focus to "justice and peace". As I noted in my letter to you in the last issue of The Call, concerning the CASP Council's conversations, *"Greater still is our conversation about the relationship of ecumenism to racial and social justice. How can we speak with a united voice about injustice so that the world hears in our words the voice of Jesus Christ and of God's providential love for all people?"*

**Being content merely with conciliar ecumenism, as important as that journey is, will not sustain the journey toward unity without a fervent commitment to justice and peace.**

*"We live in a time of global crises" declares the WCC Message. "(Korea) is not the only land where people live divided, in poverty and richness, happiness and violence, welfare and war. We are not allowed to close our eyes to harsh realities or to rest our hands from God's transforming work."*

The opportunity for the ecumenical movement is to listen to the voices and cries of our siblings where the Church is growing exponentially, sometimes called the Global South; and then with both acts of charity and advocacy in the public square to be Christ's agents of righteousness and peace.

As I write, any solemnity about Thanksgiving Day is being overshadowed by the rush of retailers and consumers alike clamoring to squander their riches in unnecessary, self-indulgent spending. Will we be bold to speak the Advent message of God's judgment, as well as proclaim God's mercy in the peasant child born into the realities of our siblings in that Global South?



Being content merely with conciliar ecumenism, as important as that journey is, will not sustain the journey toward unity without a fervent commitment to justice and peace. After all, isn't that why we call Jesus the "Prince of Peace" *"His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore."* (Isaiah 9:7)

Pax, Salaam, Shalom

*Pastor Don Green*

**He will establish and uphold His Kingdom with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**



## World Council of Churches Assembly

*continued from page one . . .*

*"We share our experience of the search for unity in Korea as a sign of hope in the world.*

*This is not the only land where people live divided, in poverty and richness, happiness and violence, welfare and war. We are not allowed to close our eyes to harsh realities or to rest our hands from God's transforming work.*

*As a fellowship, the World Council of Churches stands in solidarity with the people and the churches in the Korean peninsula, and with all who strive for justice and peace.*

*God our Creator is the source of all life. In the love of Jesus Christ and by the mercy of the Holy Spirit we, as a communion of the children of God, move together towards the fulfillment of the Kingdom.*

*Seeking grace from God we are called, in our diversity, to be just stewards of God's Creation. This is the vision of the New Heaven and Earth, where Christ will 'fill all in all' (Eph 1.23).*

*We live in a time of global crises. Economic, ecological, socio-political and spiritual challenges confront us. In darkness and in the shadow of death, in suffering and persecution, how precious is the gift of hope from the Risen Lord!*

*By the flame of the Spirit in our hearts, we pray to Christ to brighten the world: for his light to turn our whole beings to caring for the whole of creation and to affirm that all people are created in God's image.*

*Listening to voices that often come from the margins, let us all share*

*lessons of hope and perseverance. Let us recommit ourselves to work for liberation and to act in solidarity. May the illuminating Word of God guide us on our journey.*

*We intend to move together. Challenged by our experiences in Busan, we challenge all people of good will to engage their God-given gifts in transforming actions.*

*This Assembly calls you to join us in pilgrimage. May the churches be communities of healing and compassion, and may we seed the Good News so that justice will grow and God's deep peace rest on the world.*

*Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times! Psalm 106:3 **God of life, lead us to justice and peace!"***



## National Council of Churches Reorganization

*continued from page one . . .*

The National Council of Churches continues a reorganization that has taken place over the past two years.

Since its founding in 1950, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA has been the leading force for shared ecumenical witness among Christians in the United States.

The NCC's 37 member communions -- from a wide spectrum of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African American and Living Peace

churches -- include 45 million persons in more than 100,000 local congregations in communities across the nation.

Under the reorganization plan, the Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee (LRE) will continue as a standing committee under the Governing Board.

CASP Executive Director, Pastor Don Green has served on LRE for the past four years representing CASP. He will continue to serve beginning in January for another four year term, but now representing the ELCA.

***"The National Council of Churches is a community of Christian communions, which, in response to the gospel as revealed in the Scriptures, confess Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, as Savior and Lord."***



## Bread for the World Training Workshop

### Reforming International Food Aid

Sunday, February 16, 2014  
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
4503 Old William Penn Highway  
Monroeville, PA 15146



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Come learn about the 2014 Offering of Letters' theme, legislative updates and more.

Hosted by Larry Hollar, Bread for the World Senior Regional Organizer, and the SWPA Bread Team.

Contact Donna Hansen (donna.hansen@verizon.net or 412-731-2460) with any questions.

## The Duquesne University Eighth Annual Holy Spirit Conference



Dr. Richard R. Gaillardetz



### How Does the Holy Spirit Assist the Church in Its Teaching?

Friday January 31, 2014, 7:00 P.M.  
Duquesne University Union Ballroom,  
4th Floor, 600 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15282

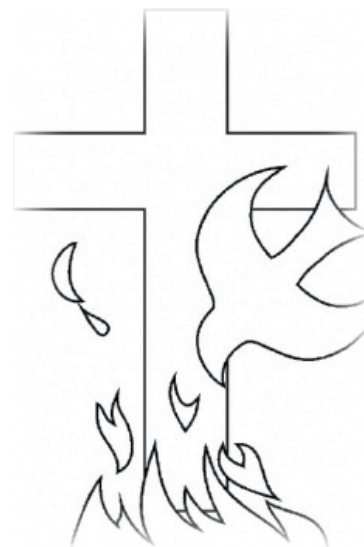
Featuring Dr. Richard R. Gaillardetz

Dr. Richard R. Gaillardetz is The Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College and the director of the Theology Graduate Program. He received his Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame. He also serves as President of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

He has published numerous articles and has authored eight books and edited two others. Some of his more recent books include: *Keys to the Council: Unlocking the Teaching of Vatican II* (coauthored with Catherine Clifford, Liturgical Press, 2012), *When the Magisterium Intervenes* (editor, Liturgical Press, 2012), *Ecclesiology for a Global Church: A People Called and Sent* (Orbis, 2008) and *The Church in the Making* (Paulist, 2006).

Dr. Gaillardetz was a delegate on the U.S. Catholic-Methodist Ecumenical Dialogue from 2001 to 2005.

For more information, visit [www.duq.edu/holy-spirit](http://www.duq.edu/holy-spirit) or email [holyspirit@duq.edu](mailto:holyspirit@duq.edu).



## fitUnited Pittsburgh Initiative Launched by the United Way



Christian Associates is proud to be a partner of **fitUnited Pittsburgh**, an exciting new initiative launched by The United Way of Allegheny County to improve the health of our children by mobilizing and motivating our community.

We can do this with your help, by providing caring adults with knowledge and tools to support healthy kids, encouraging healthy eating at youth-serving organizations, increasing awareness of how to choose and access healthy foods, and increasing physical activity.

**fitUnited Pittsburgh** wants to help you navigate your way through the research and data out there. Very often people just don't know where to start.

If you would like to receive tips on fitness and nutrition, and be part of our fitUnited challenges, follow us on Twitter (@fitUnitedPgh) and Facebook. We'll do the work for you, and give you simple ways to make some positive changes both at home and at work

To become a partner go to [www.uwacfitunited.org/BecomeAPartner.aspx](http://www.uwacfitunited.org/BecomeAPartner.aspx).





## Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality

820 Crane Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
412-341-7494  
[www.epiphanyassociation.org](http://www.epiphanyassociation.org)

### ER for the Soul: A Mini-Retreat on Appreciative Living "Conforming to Christ's Eternal Thanksgiving"

Date & Time: Sat. Dec. 7, 9:00 am - Noon  
Facilitator: Susan Muto, PhD  
Fee: \$20 per session, RSVP one week in advance of each session

### Advent Evening of Reflection: "Come, Lord Jesus"

Date & Time: Sun. Dec. 8, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Facilitators: Susan Muto, PhD;  
Fr. Ralph Tajak, OSB  
Free Will Offering



## Music in Pittsburgh

### Lessons and Carols and Other Musical Offerings

#### Sun. Dec. 1, 5:00 pm

*Lessons & Carols*  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15206  
412-661-0120

#### Sat. Dec. 7, 4:00 pm

*Messiah Sing Along*  
Call for tickets, \$8 & \$12  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
971 Beech Ave., Pittsburgh, 15233  
412-231-2007

#### Sat. Dec. 7, 7:30 pm

*Pittsburgh Concert Choral*  
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church  
384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, 15238  
412-963-8243

#### Sun. Dec. 8, 1:30 & 4:00 pm

*Christmas Concert*  
Seton Hill University  
1 Seton Hill Drive, Greensburg, 15601  
724-552-1722

#### Sun. Dec. 8, 4:00 pm

*Lessons & Carols*  
Sewickley Presbyterian Church  
414 Grant Street, Sewickley, 15143  
412-741-4550

## Music

*continued*

#### Sun. Dec. 8, 4:00 pm

*Poulenc's Gloria*  
Shadyside Presbyterian Church  
5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh 15232  
412-682-4300

#### Sun. Dec. 8, 6:00 pm

Three Rivers Ringers handbell program  
Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church  
1146 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, 15220  
412-561-2431 for tickets

#### Mon. Dec. 9, 8:00 pm

*Andrew Tyson, pianist*  
Rodef Shalom Synagogue  
4905 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, 15213  
412-621-6566

#### Sat. Dec. 14, 7:00 pm and

#### Sun. Dec. 15, 3:00 pm

*Christmas Concert: North Hills Chorale*  
Kearns Visitation Chapel  
9000 Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, 15101  
412-366-1124

#### Sun. Dec. 15, 10:00 am service

*Lessons & Carols*  
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church  
384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, 15238  
412-963-8243

#### Sun. Dec. 22, 4:00 pm

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



## Pittsburgh Faith In Action Against the Death Penalty

Date: Mon. Dec. 9; Time: 4:00 pm  
Place: Panera on Blvd of Allies in Oakland

Regular monthly meeting, for info call 412-784-1677. Affiliated with Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.



## The Salvation Army

Western PA Division  
700 North Bell Avenue  
Carnegie, PA 15105  
[www.salvationarmy-wpa.org](http://www.salvationarmy-wpa.org)

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

## The Salvation Army

*continued*

### Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program

Now thru Dec. 13  
Sponsors are matched with a family in a crisis situation. Call Martha McCully, 412-281-2811 x101



## Trinity School for Ministry

311 Eleventh Street  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
724-266-3838  
[www.tsm.edu/academics/intensives](http://www.tsm.edu/academics/intensives)

### Ethical Challenges for Christian Counselors

Dates: Thur. Jan. 9 – Fri. Jan. 10, 2014  
Facilitator: Joanne Martin, MPA, LCSW  
Cost: \$110 incl. lunch

For Christian counselors, clergy, and lay ministers. 10 CEUs for counselors, social workers & LMFTs

### Writing Songs for Today's Church

Dates: Mon. Jan. 13- Wed. Jan. 15, 2014  
Instructor: Andy Piercy  
Cost: \$110

A 3-day songwriting workshop with practical teaching & advice.

### The Pentateuch: Genesis 2-Day

Dates: Mon. Jan. 13 – Tues. Jan. 14  
Facilitator: Dr. Erika Moore  
Cost: \$110 incl. lunch

Foundational for understanding God's big story, redemptive history and biblical theology.

## Save The Date

### Harris Interfaith Lecture

Friday, March 14, 2014  
9-10:30 a.m.

Rodef Shalom Congregation  
4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh  
Speaker: Gal Beckerman, author

### Pittsburgh Pastoral

### Care Conference

Friday, May 16, 2014  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Christ Church at Grove Farm

Keynote Speaker is  
The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, Bishop,  
The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



**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.



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**[www.scriptureunion.org](http://www.scriptureunion.org)**

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

## UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

### Exploring Congregational Identity

Wednesdays, Jan. 8-29, 2014

*Timothy Son*, Assistant Professor of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, PTS

### Biblical Language Reading

January-March 2014

*James Durlleser*, Lecturer in Biblical Languages, PTS, and retired UMC Pastor

### Monastic Wisdom and Practice for Non-Monks

*A Spiritual Formation Elective*

Jan. 12-17, 2014

*Bonnie Thurston*, Author, Spiritual Director, and Former Professor of New Testament, PTS

### Kelso Lecture in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Sun., Jan. 19, 2014

*Iva Carruthers*, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference Inc., Educator, and Social Justice Advocate

### Sabbath Time for Busy Pastoral Leaders

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2014

*Martha Robbins*, Director, Pneuma Institute, and Joan Marshall Associate Professor Emerita of Pastoral Care, PTS

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

### What Difference Does it Make?: Being Christian in a Complex World

*Summer Leadership Conference*

June 8-11, 2014

*Tony Campolo*, Founder and President, Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education



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



What does J.I. Packer  
want to talk about in 2014?

## Holiness for Today



Trinity School for Ministry  
January 16, 7pm  
space is limited,  
get your free tickets at  
[www.tsm.edu](http://www.tsm.edu)



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## Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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*Christ the Savior  
is Born*

***The Call . . .*** to be one in Christ is ordinarily published bimonthly by **Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, 204 37th Street, Suite 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1859.** Email: newsletter@casp.org. (C) 2010. **No fax submissions are accepted.**

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 (January 15th for the February issue).*

Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.

### *Thank you . . . and . . . can we count on you again?*

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 continue to face financial challenges and thus sustain their current level of support at best.

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 is important as Christian Associates prepares for the transition in Executive leadership with the retirement on March 31, 2014 of Pastor Don Green. Council has begun a search process for a full time successor as these Christian leaders continue to promote ***Collegiality, Connectedness and Collaboration*** among our member denominations and their agencies and institutions.

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 in the enclosed envelope to:

204 37th Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1859

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

