

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

October 2010, Number 5

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

JDDJ: Ten Years Later

The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) was created by and agreed to by the Vatican Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation and signed on October 31, 1999, as a result of extensive ecumenical dialogue, ostensibly resolving the conflict over the nature of justification which was at the root of the Protestant Reformation.

On July 18, 2006, members of the World Methodist Council, meeting in Seoul, South Korea, voted unanimously to adopt this document as well.

After a decade, what does JDDJ mean to the People of God? Lutheran Bishop Kurt Kusserow, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA will host a seminar and dinner on **Sunday, October 31, 2010, 4:00pm at The Bishop William G. Connare Center, Greensburg, PA.**

The program begins in the Chapel of the Connare Center and will be followed by dinner in the Center's dining room at 6:00 pm.

Bishop Kusserow has invited leaders and their faithful from the three Catholic dioceses (Pittsburgh, Greensburg and the Byzantine Metropolis) and three Methodist judicatories (Western PA UMC, AME and AME Zion Conferences) to join in the discussion and celebration of this ecumenical consensus.

Presenters from Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist traditions will offer their communions' perspectives on the Joint Declaration's meaning now and for the future of God's People.

Panelists will include:

- *Pastor Kim Rapczak*, Christ Lutheran Church, Beaver Falls and a member of the Synod's Ecumenical Affairs Committee;
- *Father George D. Gallaro*, St. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh;
- *Mr. Tracy Merrick*, UMC Bishop's Assistant for Global Health; and



Bishop Kurt Kusserow

- *Father David Poecking*, Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Carnegie and Director of Continuing Education of Clergy, Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

The cost for the seminar is \$20 per person and includes registration, program and dinner with tossed salad, roast pork with sauerkraut, roasted root vegetables, braised cabbage, potato pancakes with apple sauce and sour cream, spaetzle and apple strudel.

Reservation deadline is October 21, 2010. Reservations may be made by contacting **Sandy DeLorenze** at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod Office by telephone at **(412) 367-8222** or e-mail at **sandy.delorenze@swpasynod.org**.

Inside this Edition

Reflections Along the Way	2
PREPARE/ENRICH Marriage Training . . .	3
A Morning with Microfinance Leaders . . .	3
Ecumenical Events	4
PBS Documentary	6

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

For me, Labor Day week was a wonderful time to be an American Christian in southwestern Pennsylvania!

It began as I joined a congregation in saying farewell and God speed to their retiring pastor. A grateful congregation saying thank you to a faithful shepherd as each approaches an uncertain future, but with the assurance of Christ's constant presence to sustain both retiring pastor and continuing flock.



Labor Day morning found me listening to Bishop Zubik's homily at the Mass for union members, civic leaders and politicians before the parade. The Catholic bishop declared the dignity of all human labor, whether the woman in the hair salon who took delight in washing hair or the public servant who provides basic services or the high tech geek who keeps our communications connected.

He declared that all labor has worth and dignity and that laborers are entitled to fair wages, safe working conditions and benefits which protect them and their families. It was a prophetic word in the face of our nation where wages have been declining for over a decade, where the wealthiest have prospered in the midst of the recession, where more Americans live in poverty than for decades while CEO compensation has skyrocketed. It felt good to march with Bishop Zubik and union leaders as we gave public witness to prophetic preaching.

There was a balance of Law and Gospel; a word that spoke judgment, convicting us of sin against the goodness of God, our Creator and Redeemer and against our fellow human neighbors.

Wednesday evening I was seated among the congregation of Temple Sinai for Rosh Hashanah service marking the beginning of 5771 on the Jewish calendar. The Assistant Rabbi preached a very Lutheran sermon! There was a balance of Law and Gospel; a word that spoke judgment, convicting us of sin against the goodness of God, our Creator and Redeemer and against our fellow human neighbors.

I pledged to continue to celebrate our diversity while maintaining the integrity of our own beliefs. I pledged to work with them for the common good of all our neighbors regardless of race or nationality, religion or social status.

But there was also good news, the reminder of our creating Father's intention for shalom among all creation, wholeness and abundance for all people, Jews and Gentiles alike, the reminder of God's covenantal faithfulness to the people of his choosing. There was both the call to repent and seek forgiveness prior to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, but also the call to do not just "random acts of kindness" in the new year, but to do "intentional acts of love" so that the world is a better place in the new year than the year before and that the breach that divides people might be healed.



PREPARE/ENRICH Marriage Training comes to Southwest Pennsylvania

The Kiski Area Association of Churches, a ministerium based in the Kiski School District area, near Vandergrift, PA, wishes to invite you to come to a PREPARE/ENRICH Certification Workshop on **Thursday, December 2, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Pleasant View Brethren Church** on 1156 Pleasant View Drive, Vandergrift, PA (Kepple Hill area of Parks Township).

The PREPARE/ENRICH Program is used for premarital counseling, marriage preparation, marriage counseling and marriage enrichment. PREPARE/ENRICH includes a comprehensive couple assessment along with feedback using skills building exercises. Dr. Terry Snyder, from Erie, PA is a pastor certified to train pastors and key leaders in this instrument. The cost for the training and life-long certification is \$175.00.



For any questions about this day or to get the registration material for this event, contact Pastor Phil Gustafson at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 724-567-7781 or email at pastorphilg@verizon.net.

A Morning with Microfinance Leaders

How do tiny micro-finance loans help poor families in Haiti get access to reliable, sustainable efficient electric power? What are Pittsburgh entrepreneurs doing to bring opportunities and environmentally sound solutions to poor people around the world? *How can you help?*



Terry Provence, Executive Director of Oikocredit USA (www.oikocreditusa.org) and **Daniel Schnitzer, co-founder and Executive Director of Earth Spark International** (www.earthsparkinternational.org) will speak at Carnegie Mellon University, Hamburg Hall, 4800 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, on **Saturday, October 9 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.**

Oikocredit is an international organization with most of its \$750 million in current loans invested in microfinance organizations in over 60 countries around

the world. Oikocredit's goal is to promote global justice by challenging people and groups to share resources through socially responsible investments and by empowering disadvantaged people with credit. Terry Provence, a Pittsburgh native has led Oikocredit USA since 2001.



For more information about the October 9 event or to invest with Oikocredit contact Rev. Phil Wilson 412-322-4244 or revphilwilson@webtv.net.

Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

Though still a year away, the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives of Christian Associates and the Religious Leadership Forum (RLF) of Southwest Pennsylvania have committed to hosting an Interfaith Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11 in 2011.



In making their decision the Council reflected back to the Interfaith Prayer Service prior to the G-20 Summit. The Council and RLF recognize that 9/11 was an American tragedy that impacted people of many different religions.

The Commemoration at a yet to be determined location will respect the integrity of each participating religion and will involve government, civic, military and regional religious leaders.

Acknowledging the diversity of races, ethnicities and religions in America, the service will celebrate our freedom of religion while remembering the lives that were lost.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-3800; www.cathedralofhope.org

Holy Ground Worship Service; Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

Dates: Third Sundays
Time: 6:00 pm
Oct. 17 - Fr. William Kiel;
Nov. 21 - Rev. J. Howard Cherry

Join in a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading, and a time of blessing.

Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

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

Christian Women's Day of Reflection

"The Communion of Saints: Our Circle of Faith and Loving Support"

Date: Sunday, October 24
Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Presenter: Angela Gaughan
Offering: \$30.00
Registration requested by October 11

Continental breakfast, lunch, two spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration, quiet time, sacrament of Reconciliation; ends with the Eucharistic liturgy.

Women's Retreat Weekend

"What's in a Name?"

Dates: Fri., Oct. 29 through Sun., Oct. 31
Time: 8:00 pm Friday to Sunday brunch
Presenter: Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.
Offering: \$160.00
Registration requested by October 15

Explore the use of names in Scriptures. Daily Eucharistic Liturgy is available.

Advent Evening of Reflection

"We Wait in Joyful Expectation"

Date: Wed., Dec. 1
Time: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Presenter: Fr. David Moczulski, OFM
Offering: \$20 w/dinner; \$7 for 6:30 arrival

The evening will include prayer, a simple dinner, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

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

18th Annual Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Symposium: "Blessed to be a Blessing"

Date: Sat., October 23
Time: 9:00 am – 1:30 pm
Location: UPMC Mercy Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Building C, Level 2, 1400 Locust St., Uptown, 15219
Cost: \$30 for CE credit, \$20 for others, \$10 student nurses
Registration deadline: October 15
Fee includes brunch, free parking, symposium materials

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 and Time: Sunday evenings 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:

- Oct. 10 – Benjamin Cornelius-Bates, St. Paul of the Cross Monastery
- Oct. 17 – Stephanie Tretick, Violist, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Oct. 24 – Larry Allen, Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
- Oct. 31 – Cynthia Pock, First English Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh
- Nov. 7 – Anne Smith, First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
- Nov. 14 – Carrie Smith, Hornist St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park
- Nov. 21 – Chatham Baroque, Pittsburgh
- Nov. 28 – Joseph Tuttle, St. Catherine of Sienna Roman Catholic Church
- Dec. 5 – Signe Mitchell, First English Lutheran Church, Butler
- Dec. 12 – Richard Pinkerton, Southminster Presbyterian Church

St. Joseph Spirituality Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph
1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005
724-869-6585

Registrations: Sr. Ann Francis Hanley
724-869-6587; www.stjoseph-baden.org

Dying to Live

Date: Fri. Oct. 15
Time: 12:30 pm or 7:00 pm
Presenter: Sr. Jeanette Bussen, CSJ
Fee: none

The Peace and Justice Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph will show the film *Dying to Live* - a reflection on the migrant's human struggle for a more dignified life and the search to find God in the midst of it all. Discussion and reflection to follow.

Day of Prayer for Caregivers

Date: Sat. Oct. 30
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Presenter: Sr. Catherine Higgins, CSJ, LCSW
Fee: \$20 includes lunch

Input, reflection and sharing for those who are engaged in providing care to the terminally or chronically ill. An opportunity to look at caregiving as a ministry and to share with others the joys, sorrows, and frustrations experienced and to find God at the center.

The Indwelling Christ: Seven Spiritual Powers and How to Actualize Them

Date: Sat. Nov. 13
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Presenter: Eileen Colianni
Fee: \$25 includes lunch

This day of prayer explores seven of the innately good and powerful capacities that empower us to move into deeper relationship with God, ourselves, and others. To register, contact Fran Jankosky at 724-353-1002.

Spirituality Based Life Skills for Families

Date: Thur. Nov. 4
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Presenters: Jessica Kettel, PhD, MD, and Rev. Barbara W. Rogers
Fee: \$80

This workshop (5 CECs) for mental health and health care professionals, co-sponsored with Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, presents tools for prevention and early intervention to foster mental health. To register, contact Nancy Mundy, WPIC, 412-802-6900.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

St. Joseph Spirituality Center (continued)

Contemporary Challenges in Ethics

Date: Fri. Nov. 5
Time: 9:30 am - 4:15 pm
Presenter: Sr. Mary Louise Wessell, CSJ, PhD
Fee: \$65 includes lunch

This workshop (CECs) for mental health and health care professionals discusses ethical considerations in professional practice.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1066 Washington Rd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
412-531-7153; www.stpaulspgh.org

Refuge at St. Paul's

Dates: Every Sunday
Time: 6:00 pm

A non-traditional service intended for young adults, especially Pittsburgh's artistic community. The service features a mix of contemporary music with multi-sensory experiences.

Tabor House of Prayer

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis
146 Hawthorne Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15209
412-821-1149; www.SOSF.ORG

Aging and Saging

Dates: Thur. Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28
Time: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Fee: Donation accepted

An inward discovery of your "aging self", includes video and discussion.

Bridges - Part 1

Date: Sat. Oct. 16
Time: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Presenter: Sr. Ann Carville, OSF
Fee: \$30 includes luncheon

Held at Mount Alvernia Regional House, East Conference Room. First of a three-part series, "Bridges" will initiate a spiritual journey, and offer the opportunity to live a more peace-filled life as you deepen connections with others and God.

Advent Retreat "The Time is Now"

Date: Fri. Dec. 10 - Sat. Dec. 11
Time: Fri. at 7:00 pm thru Sat. at 5:00 pm
Presenter: Sr. Marie Grace Blum
Fee: \$50

Reflect on the way in which we are called to bring forth Jesus in today's reality. Walk in the footsteps of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and St. Francis while contemplating such generosity.

Taizé Services

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park
www.christumc.net

Date and Time: First Wednesday of each month, 6:30 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206
www.cathedralofhope.org

Date and Time: Every Wednesday at 7 pm

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Ave. at Braddock Rd.
Hope@Lutheran.com

Date & Time: 1st Fri. of each month at 7 pm

Music in Pittsburgh

Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Westminster and Amberson (Shadyside)
www.shadysidepres.org/music

IonSound, Contemporary Chamber Music

Date: Sun., Oct. 10
Time: 4:00 pm
Cost: Regular admission \$10,
Seniors (60+) \$5, students
and children free

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton St., Highland Park
www.standrewspgh.org

Evensong, St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum

Date: Sun., Oct. 17
Time: 4:30 pm

Aspinwall Presbyterian Church

299 Center Ave., Aspinwall
412-781-2884; www.aspinwallchurch.org

Chatham Baroque

Date: Sun., Oct. 10
Time: 2:00 pm
Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 students and
Seniors 62+; children 12 and under free

Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church

1146 Greentree Road, Greentree
412-561-2431; www.wallacememorial.org

Organ Concert - Ann Labounsky

Date: Sun., Oct. 17
Time: 6:30 pm
No charge; donations accepted

Trinity Cathedral

328 Sixth Avenue, Downtown
412-232-6404; www.trinitycathedralpgh.org

The Hunchback of Notre Dame movie with Michael Britt's organ accomp.

Date: Fri., Oct. 29
Time: 7:30 pm
Refreshment and graveyard tour, \$10 donation,
\$5 students, \$20 full family

Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

1024 Maple Way, Braddock
412-271-1326
www.goodshepherdbraddock.org

Durufle Requiem with choir, organ, orchestra

Date: Mon., Nov. 1
Time: 7:30 pm
Free admission; social to follow

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1066 Washington Rd., Mt. Lebanon
412-531-7153; www.stpaulspgh.org

Organ Recital - John Walker

Date: Sun., Nov. 14
Time: 3:00 pm
Admission Donation: \$10

John Walker plays J.S. Bach, Franck, de Lameingreau, Willan.



It was cool on Thursday morning as I stood atop the Schenley Oval overlooking Oakland and downtown. People were coming from every direction in their native dress, westerners in business suits and women in slacks; Indonesians, Indians and Pakistani in their colorful saris and dresses; Saudis, Jordanians and Lebanese in their white robes and head coverings. Pittsburgh's Muslims were gathering to offer prayer at the end of Ramadan, their month of fasting and the beginning of Ed al Fitr, the great feast. As folk lined up to pray, boxes were passed to receive donations for charity, not an option for Muslims, but a sacred obligation. Submission and obedience to God is the core of Islamic faith and practice. I was asked to address the 1,000 or more before the prayers.

"*As alaam Alaikum. Peace be with you,*" I began. I gave thanks for being an American where I could share in the worship of the three great Abrahamic faiths as I choose, for we have the Bill of Rights. I apologized for those who in the name of Christ were causing fear within their mosques. I pledged to continue to celebrate our diversity while maintaining the integrity of our own beliefs. I pledged to work with them for the common good of all our neighbors regardless of race or nationality, religion or social status.

Indeed, for me it was a great week to be an American Christian in Pittsburgh. We are religiously diverse; yet Lutheran or Catholic, Jew or Muslim we can worship as we choose, where we choose, and still live in mutual respect and harmony.

Pastor Don Green

Premiere Showing of PBS Documentary



Christian Associates and the Association of Theological Schools, Robinson will host a premiere showing of the PBS four hour documentary miniseries "*The Calling*" to be aired on WQED December 21 and 22. Exact date and location are being negotiated and will be posted on www.casp.org as soon as it is available.

"*The Calling*" explores purpose, leadership, and service in the U.S. through the eyes of seven Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and Jews who have decided to join the clergy. The subjects are embarking on careers that demand tremendous personal sacrifice and commitment.


They are called to uphold timeless truths in an era that values quick fixes and hot trends and to face a public that challenges the relevance of their mission. They confront peer and family pressure and internal spiritual conflicts. In spite of these challenges, their resolution to serve humanity fuels their actions, solidifies their determination, and advances each of them into leadership within their respective communities.

The premiere viewing of a 75 minute version of the miniseries will be followed by a panel discussion of local religious leaders involved in guiding men and women preparing to become clergy or pursuing a religious vocation. The event will conclude with a time of Q&A among the audience and the panelists.

"One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer"


Resources for the **2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25, 2011** are now available from the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, Route 9, P O Box 300, Garrison, NY 10524-0300 or may be ordered on line at www.geii.org.

The Council of Christian Associates continues to solicit invitations from local Ministeriums to partner in hosting *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* liturgies and programs.



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Reserve the Date
*National Workshop on
Christian Unity
May 9-12, 2011 at the
Sheraton Station Square,
Pittsburgh, hosted
locally by Christian Associates of
Southwest Pennsylvania.
For more information visit
www.nwcu.org.*

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Call Us Now! Our program is free and transportation can be provided.
For more information please call Holy Family's
SNAP Program 412-331-7712.

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