

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 27 Church Bodies, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . .

On the Web: www.casp.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Hicks Memorial Chapel - lower level
616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

to be one in Christ



September 2016, Number 4

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

New Bishops To Serve United Methodist Conference, Serbian Orthodox Diocese



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi



Bishop Irinej

Early fall will see the arrival of new church leaders in our area. We welcome the newest members of our Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives: **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi** and **Bishop Irinej**.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi will serve the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church; she is the first woman to serve as bishop in the conference.

Most recently, Bishop Moore-Koikoi served as the superintendent of the Baltimore-Metropolitan District. In the wake of Freddie Gray's death and the protests that followed, she became an important spiritual leader in Baltimore, leading the United Methodists' efforts in ministering to the city's marginalized neighborhoods.

Her role during Baltimore's unrest reflects her larger hope of unity for the denomination and the church as a whole. *"We have an opportunity to show the world what it might look like for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity,"* she said. *"And it is going to be that witness that claims souls for Jesus Christ!"*

Another newcomer to our region, Bishop Irinej, will lead the Serbian Orthodox Church Diocese of Eastern America.

Bishop Irinej, who has served as Bishop of Australia and New Zealand since 2006, grew up in Cleveland, and has been a seminary professor and a consultant on international affairs for the Serbian Patriarch.

Ecumenical relations have been central to Bishop Irinej's ministry. He currently represents the Serbian Orthodox Church to the World Council of Churches Central Committee. Additionally, he co-chaired the Orthodox Advisory Committee of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

In a chapter he wrote for the Orthodox Handbook on Ecumenism, Bishop Irinej affirms, *"Fundamentally at the heart of all ecumenical enterprise is the very culture and spirit of dialogue, seeking mutual understanding and exchange."*

Our prayers are with both new leaders as they begin work in our region. May God grant them many years!



Local Leaders Participate in Holy and Great Orthodox Council

It was a gathering 1,200 years in the making. In June, the first global Orthodox Council to meet since the Second Council of Nicaea brought together delegates representing 10 of the 14 autocephalous (self-governing) Orthodox churches in the world.

Two Southwest Pennsylvanians traveled to Crete for the Council: **Bishop Gregory of Nyssa**, Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, and **Bishop Emeritus Donald McCoid** of the Southwestern PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Here, they reflect on the Council in their own words:

Each of the ten Churches was represented by its Primate along with 24 Bishops. The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople has approximately 150 Bishops around the world. From among this group, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew appointed me to his delegation. I was stunned by the decision, since I have been a Bishop less than four years. What a tremendous honor for my Diocese!

The Council began on the Feast of Pentecost with the celebration of Orthros (Matins) and the Divine Liturgy with all ten Primates participating and amazing chanting

(continued on page three)



The Holy and Great Council

Pentecost 2016

"He called all to unity"

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

Every day at 5:21 p.m., the Rev. Joseph Hedden's phone rings. It's no mistake: he set the odd time on purpose. It's 17:21 in military time, for John 17:21, Jesus' prayer *"that they may all be one."* As he hears the alarm, the pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church in Export stops whatever he's doing, and prays for the unity of Christ's church.



When Pastor Joseph described this prayer practice at the United Church of Christ's Penn West Conference annual meeting this summer, I knew I had to try it out myself. Perhaps you'd like to join in, too. Here are some ideas to inspire the first week of your prayers:

Day One: Pray for the congregations in your own conference, diocese, presbytery, or synod. Ask that they be freed from rivalry, pettiness, and gossip, so that they might pursue a common mission.

Day Two: Pray for the churches in your neighborhood: for those you know well and those you've never entered. Pray for their pastors, their members, their ministries. (Then, when your prayers are through, walk down the street and introduce yourself, so you can pray with greater accuracy – and make new friends in the process!)

Day Three: Pray that the church may no longer be divided by race. Ask God to end the sin of racism, to help us repent for our complicity in it, and to lead us into renewed and reconciled relationship with people of every race.

Day Four: Pray for Christians with whom you disagree. Imagine the believers who hold the opposite view from you on an issue that affects you deeply. Then pray that the Spirit might open all hearts, yours as well as theirs, in creative new ways.

Day Five: Pray for Christian Associates and other ecumenical organizations, including the local ministerium in your community.

Day Six: Pray that one day our unity might be expressed in the sacraments. Pray that all Christians might come to one table, to share the loaf and cup in celebration, wonder, and joy. Pray that our own altars and tables today may offer us a foretaste of that shared banquet – and that we might enjoy it not only in the world to come, but right here, and in our lifetimes.

Day Seven: Pray like Jesus, using the words of the high priestly prayer: *"I pray that we may all be one, Lord, even as you and your Father are one."*

Of course, prayer is not only a channel through which God can change the world. It's also exercise for our own hearts. Prayer changes us. If we pause each day to pray for the unity of the church, not only will God respond, but we will find ourselves responding too, bringing our prayers to life, and making unity visible in our world. Are you ready? Get out your phone, set your alarm, and let's get started.

Your sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Liddy".

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



But wait, there's more!

If you're not subscribed to our e-newsletter, *Unity N'At*, you're not hearing all the news from Christian Associates, our member church bodies, and our community partners. Add your name to the list today at <http://signup.casp.org>.

New Day of Giving Scheduled for September 21

The spring **Day of Giving**, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Foundation, ended early due to technical malfunctions. So, a special fall Day of Giving will take place on **Wednesday, September 21**.

Visit www.pittsburghgives.org to make your donation to **Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania!** Of course, you can also donate at any time by mailing a check to **PO Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206** or visiting www.casp.org/donate.html.

All donations received by November 15 will be recognized in our December newsletter, and all donations of \$250 or greater will earn membership in the John 17 Society.

Christian Associates Welcomes New Staff Members

This summer, Christian Associates welcomed a new office staff: three motivated and personable employees to help us fulfill our mission.

Michele Perry started work in June as Executive Administrative Assistant. A native of Erie, Michele first arrived in Southwest Pennsylvania to attend the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her bachelor degree in business.

Her time in Oakland instilled a love for the city and she is now a self-proclaimed "yinzer for life". She currently lives in the North Side with her husband, daughter, cat, and a hundred-pound dog named Louie.

Michele and her husband own and manage a number of rental properties in Pittsburgh's Oakland and North Side neighborhoods. In addition, Michele gained experience in fundraising through her work in development at the University of Pittsburgh, and will be sharing that expertise with Christian Associates.

Michele Perry will be in the office Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 to 2:00, and will work remotely on Monday and Friday. Her responsibilities include reception and hospitality, insurance and

HR functions, and managing advertisements and event postings for *The Call*.

Also beginning in June was **Benjamin Rumbaugh**, our Student Assistant. A native of Wooster, Ohio, Ben came to Pittsburgh from Ashland, Mont. where he served at St. Labre Indian Academy through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. He is participating in the



The staff of Christian Associates (l-r): Benjamin Rumbaugh, Michele Perry, Michele Mullen, and Rev. Liddy Barlow

Master of Divinity and Master of Public Policy and Management dual degree program between Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Carnegie Mellon University.

Ben is working toward ordination in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and is pursuing a vocation that blends ministry, advocacy, and non-profit management.

"I am looking forward to engaging the mission of Christian Associates and helping to build unity through the organization's many programs," Ben said. He will be assisting Rev. Liddy Barlow in a variety of projects this year, deepening his knowledge of event planning and nonprofit management.

Completing the staff, **Michele Mullen** now comes to the office twice each month to serve as Christian Associates' bookkeeper. Michele retired in 2013 after forty years of service as Business Manager at St. Bernadette Parish in Monroeville. "Retirement" finds her juggling positions in payroll, accounting, and bookkeeping at the Diocese of Pittsburgh, St. Maria Goretti Parish, and Christian Associates.

"Since this job is two days a month, I was able to fit it into my schedule and Liddy was kind enough to take a chance on me," Michele said. *"I am very happy to be part of Christian Associates."*

Her happiness is shared. *"I am absolutely delighted with this amazing team,"* said Rev. Liddy Barlow. *"All the staff members are so well-suited to their positions. With Michele Perry's impeccable organization, Ben Rumbaugh's gregarious personality and theological insight, and Michele Mullen's numbers know-how, we are an unstoppable force for good!"*



Holy and Great Orthodox Council

(continued from page one)

groups on each side of the Cathedral. Orthodox worship services in all their glory – the Holy Spirit was with us.

The official work of the Holy and Great Council commenced the next day. As we began with prayer, the room was filled with the Holy Spirit. You could feel the joy, compassion and love of all those gathered in the Name of the Lord. It felt as if we were on fire – an incredible experience.

Before the Council were six draft documents dealing with various aspects of Church life. They had been prepared over the last 50 years in several Pre-Conciliar Meetings. The Bishops presented their views and suggested changes. In the end all six documents were approved.

An Encyclical, a Message, and all of the documents are available at www.orthodoxcouncil.org.

During the time of the Council I was able to be the same room with many of the 20th Century's greatest Orthodox theologians. I have read many of their works over many years and it was wonderful to be in their presence.

My hope and prayer is that the Holy and Great Council will become a frequent event in the life of the Orthodox Church, for there are many more things to reflect upon, discuss and decide as God-fearing people in the contemporary world.

-- His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa,
Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

Representing the Lutheran World Federation, I joined a small group of invited ecumenical observers at this historic Holy and Great Council.

When the opening session began with the Patriarchs and other official representatives invoking the Holy Spirit with a Pentecost chant, I was deeply moved.

After so many years of planning, it was finally here. The strong image of the Orthodox Church in Council is one that should inspire all Christians. It was a blessing to be present.

-- Bishop Emeritus Donald McCoid

Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh

412-421-1500

www.holocaustcenterpgh.org

Holocaust By Bullets Lecture

Date & Time: Wed., Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Location: Carnegie Mellon University, McConomy Auditorium

Cost: \$25, free for students and Holocaust survivors

Lecture from Father Patrick Desbois on his groundbreaking, powerful work, *The Holocaust By Bullets*, and his work to end genocide around the world.



Kearns Spirituality Center Sisters of Divine Providence

9000 Babcock Blvd

Allison Park, PA 15101

412-931-5241

www.cdpsisters.org

Faith, Fear and Politics: How to Keep a Clear Conscience on Election Day

Date & Time: Thurs., Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

Speaker: Tony Norman

The award-winning columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette shares his incisive, informed views on how to approach this year's presidential election. Space is limited; pre-registration encouraged.



Pennsylvania Council of Churches

717-545-4761

www.pachurches.org

Pennsylvania Shalom Conference: Creating a Culture of Peace

Dates & Times: Sat., Sept. 24, 4 p.m. – Sun., Sept. 25, 3:45 p.m.

Location: Hartman Center, 5725 Old US Hwy. 322, Milroy, PA 17063

Fee: \$100, includes meals & lodging

This conference aims to connect and organize a statewide network of peacemakers. Participants will engage the theme through panel discussions, large group gatherings, two engaging speakers, and networking. Keynote speakers will be author Shane Claiborne of the Simple Way Community and Saadia Ahmad, writer and interfaith activist.

Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

Parish Nurse Office: 412-232-5815

ParishNurse@mercy.pmhs.org

www.pmhs.org

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course

Dates: Sept. 23-24, Oct. 6-8 (times vary)

Where: UPMC Mercy, 1400 Locust St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Free parking.

Cost: \$395 for RNs (includes continuing education credits) and \$200 for others. \$50 discount for early registration (by Sept. 2). Limited scholarship funds available.

A five-day, 38-credit preparation course that offers valuable education and resources to faith community nurses and lay health ministers. Includes classroom presentations and online modules. To download a copy of the course application, visit https://www.pmhs.org/_pdf/PNP_Parish_Nurse_Course_Application_2016.pdf.



St. Joseph Spirituality Center

1020 State Street

Baden, Pennsylvania 15005

Registrations: 724-869-6587

www.stjoseph-baden.org

Trust vs Mistrust in the Helping Professions: An Ethical Framework

Date & Time: Fri., Sept. 23, 9:45 am-4:30 pm

Fee: \$80, includes lunch and refreshments

Sister Mary Louise Wessell, CSJ, MN, Ph.D., explores the essential role of trust in client/patient relationships in all helping professions, and discusses codes of ethics as action guides for individual professions.

Introduction to Ignatian Prayer

Dates & Times: Tues., Oct. 18 1:30-3:30 pm or Sat., Oct. 29, 10 am-12 noon

Director: Sister Catherine Higgins, CSJ

Fee: Free, registration required.

St. Joseph Spirituality Center will offer a program throughout this year that will give an introduction and a beginning experience of the Ignatian Spirituality. In the first year, participants will be shown how to pray while contemplating the presence of God in the everyday world. This first session will be followed by an Advent mini-retreat and a Lenten retreat.



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

616 N. Highland Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412-362-5610

www.pts.edu

The Place Where We Are Right: A Conversation Between Friends on Israel and Palestine

Date & Time: Thurs., Sept. 29, 7 p.m.

Presenters: Rev. Liddy Barlow (Christian Associates) and Rabbi Jamie Gibson

Fee: Free

As the poet Yehuda Amichai reminds us in his poem, "The Place Where We Are Right," when we assume that we are right, we block ourselves from relationship, newness, and growth. Join us as we listen in on two friends—one Jewish, one Christian—as they reflect on the challenges of relationship and "rightness" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Hope Lutheran Church

of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15221

412-242-4478

www.hopeforesthills.com

Relationships that Work: Family Systems Theory for Clergy and Congregations

Dates: October 1-February 11 (every other Saturday, with time off around holidays)

Time: Breakfast at 9 a.m., Class 9:30-12:30

Presenter: Ann Depner, MSW, with guest presenter Fr. Edward Henley

Fee: \$280

A nine-session course introducing Bowen Family Systems Theory, a unique approach to understanding and managing the relationship challenges common to all groups. Continuing education credits available. Registration deadline Sept 24.



St. Paul Cathedral

108 N Dithridge Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412-621-4951

www.stpaulpgh.org

Organ Concert: Johann Vexo of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

Date & Time: Fri., Sept. 30, 7:30pm

Cost: Free-will offering



ECUMENICAL EVENTS

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

320 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-471-3436
www.fpcp.org

Bicentennial Worship

Date & Time: Sun., Oct. 2, 3:15-6 p.m.

Founded in 1787, First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh is one of the oldest Protestant churches west of the Allegheny Mountains. We are the church "in the heart of the city with the city in its heart." Join us as we celebrate Pittsburgh's Bicentennial with vibrant music and worship. Music on the Outdoor Steps at 3:15; Worship at 4:00; Fellowship and refreshments at 5:15. For more information on this free event, call 412-471-3436.



Trinity School for Ministry

311 Eleventh St.
Ambridge, PA 15003
Phone: 724-266-3838
www.tsm.edu

Ancient Scrolls Project Exhibit

Date: Wed., October 5
Time: Viewing from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Lecture at 7:30 p.m.

Display of scrolls of the Hebrew scriptures, many of them 250 years old or older, written in countries all over the world, including Israel, Poland, Iraq, Morocco, and Russia. For more information, visit www.ancienthebrewscrollproject.org.



Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

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

Women's Retreat Weekend

Dates: Fri, Oct. 14-Sun., Oct. 16
Time: 8 p.m. (Fri.) – lunch (Sun.)
Presenter: JoAnn Paradise, D. Min.
Fee: \$130 (includes meals & lodging)

Stepping over or into a new space has always had great significance in our human story. During this retreat we will reflect upon and

celebrate the thresholds we have crossed and look forward to the crossings that are still yet to come. Register by Sept. 20.



St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center

148 Monastery Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: (412) 381-7676
stpaulsretreatcenter-pittsburgh.org

Retreat: Spiritual Warfare: Resisting the World, the Flesh, and the Devil

Date: Sunday, October 16
Time: 1:30-8:30p.m.
Fee: \$45 (includes dinner)
Presenter: Richard Heidenreich

This workshop addresses the spiritual warfare that Christians encounter and will suggest a path that leads to interior freedom and inner healing. The program will include 3 presentations and a prayer service and benediction with prayer for interior freedom and inner healing.



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- Master of Divinity
- Master of Sacred Theology
- Doctor of Ministry
- Diploma in Lutheran Studies
- Diploma in Anglican Studies

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School for Ministry

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

*Extending Hospitality:
Conversations and Community Series*

Hospitality and Education Opportunity
Sept. 14, 2016
Tom Johnson

Hospitality at the Table
Oct. 19, 2016
Jenn Frayer-Griggs

Hospitality and Judaism
Nov. 16, 2016
Paul Tuchman

Hospitality and Islam
Dec. 7, 2016
'AbduSemi'hTadese

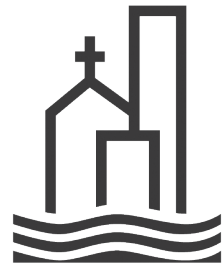
Navigating Christian Education Today
Change of Course
Sept. 24, 2016
Paul Humphreys

Transforming Mission
*W. Don McClure Lectures in
World Mission and Evangelism*
Sept. 26-27, 2016
Stephen Bevans

**"The Place Where We Are Right:"
A Conversation between Friends
about Israel and Palestine**
Sept. 29, 2016
James Gibson and Liddy Barlow



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412-924-1345
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www.pts.edu/CE



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tsm.edu/intensives or call (724) 266-3838.

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Join the **Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition**
for

Can Our Communities Live Peace with Compassion?

Panel discussion, small group dialogue, fellowship time

Sunday, September 25, 2-4 p.m.

Kadel Dining Room, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Register at <http://gpicpeace.eventbrite.com>



Equipping Churches to Support Our Schools

As students head back to school, two local organizations are helping churches engage with public education. Learn more and get your congregation involved:

- **The Center for Public Justice** will offer a Community Institute for Education cohort that will begin in September. The Institute inspires and equips participants from local communities to help shape education policy towards justice for all families and children, out of the belief that Christians should contribute to the renewal of political life that enhances the common good. For more information, contact **Charity Haubrich (412-589-4188 or Charity.Haubrich@CPJustice.org).**
- **Blessed Be Educators** encourages congregations to pray, support and recognize teachers by participating in a series of faith-based activities that follow the school calendar year. Contact **Mary Ann Hvizdos** as soon as possible for a brochure or to schedule a meeting (**412-807-1611; mahvizdos@verizon.net**) to ensure participation in our fall activities, which include Prayer Walks for Schools and an Educator Prayer Breakfast.