

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
204 37th Street, Suite 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1859
newsletter@casp.org

February 2013, Number 1

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

Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference

... Connecting the fragmented Church in a time of isolation

The annual **Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference**, co-hosted by Christian Associates, will be held on Friday, **May 17, 2013** at a yet to be determined location.

Keynote speaker and workshop leader will be **Father Michael Plekon, Ph.D.**, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Program of Religion and Culture, Baruch College, City University of NY.

A priest of the Orthodox Church in America, his keynote address will be "Living Icons... Holiness in Our Time." During closing remarks for the conference

Mark your calendars!
Plan to join us May 17th

Dr. Plekon will address the theme of his forthcoming book, "Saints as they really are... American Voices, Lives and Paths to Holiness" (University of Notre Dame Press, 2013).

Fr. Plekon received his A.B. from The Catholic University of America and his M.A. and Ph. D from Rutgers University where he was a student of Peter L. Berger. He was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, honorary Fulbright, American Scandinavian Institute and Lutheran

World Federation Fellow at the University of Copenhagen's Institute for Systematic Theology working on Kierkegaard's social and theological criticism.

About his writings, Plekon comments, "Holiness is definitely not a static state of being, but rather one of ups and downs." He further comments about contemporary saints,

"I think one difference is that I have looked at people with great faith as well as those with very strong doubts with faith and the church.

Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Alexander Schmemman, Barbara Brown Taylor, Sergius Bulgakov, and others had real arguments with the institutional church, with the culture of the clergy, and with the way that faith was engaging culture and society. Many of the individuals I discuss will be unfamiliar to some readers; they are not familiar names, but Oh can they write!

All exhibit a passion for truth, beauty and justice. I'm not interested in the typical "churchy" piety that seems to

continued on page 3...

Music for the Spirit Festival

Join Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) Music Director Manfred Honeck for the inaugural **Music for the Spirit Festival**, **April 20-28, 2013** as he explores the relationship between spirituality and music in an extraordinary city-wide series of concerts, lectures, and special events.

Through *Music for the Spirit*, the PSO demonstrates its deep commitment to the power of music to promote and spread a spiritual and universal message.

The Festival will open in grand fashion with **Singing City**, a large-scale, historic concert event on Saturday, **April 20**, 7:30 pm at the University of Pittsburgh's **Peterson Events Center**.

Joining Maestro Honeck and the PSO will be an ensemble of over 2,500 voices from the Pittsburgh Region and surrounding area.

Repertoire highlights include the Chorale Finale of Mahler's Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection," as well as the world premiere of a newly commissioned work for a capella choir by Pittsburgh native, Jonny Priano.

To order tickets for **Singing City** at the Petersen Events Center: Call **800-745-3000** or visit pittsburghsymphony.org/singingcity

Christian Associates is proud to be a partner in planning the PSO's *Music for the Spirit* series.

For a full listing of Music for the Spirit Festival events and locations, and to order tickets: Call **(412) 392-4900** or visit pittsburghsymphony.org/spirit



Inside this Edition

Reflections Along the Way	2
Correctional Chaplain Opening	3
Dial 2-1-1	3
Ecumenical Events	4
Empty Bowls Benefit	6
SNAP	6
Bread for the World Workshop	6

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in our Lord,

"... and there was a leper who came to him (Jesus) and knelt before him, saying 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'"

(Matt. 8: 2-3)



It felt very strange and awkward on Sunday as I greeted folk after the liturgies. Men with whom I'd normally share a hearty handshake crossed their arms to their chest, and women I'd normally hug drew back from my extended arms. It wasn't me, but they who were recovering from the flu or colds and didn't want to spread any germs; or facing radiation treatment the following day and didn't want to pick up any germs. While I understood their reasons, it felt strange not to touch them.

As we share a greeting of peace we touch each other in Jesus' name as he had touched the leper; and Christ's peace is our reality. When we cradle that morsel of bread or wafer in our hand, we are touched by the flesh of Jesus; and like that leper, because Jesus freely chose to heal, we too are healed and forgiven. Being together in Jesus' name and touching each other is so much a part of being a community of disciples; so essential to being the body of our Lord incarnate in this time and place.

Being together in Jesus' name and touching each other is so much a part of being a community of disciples; so essential to being the body of our Lord incarnate in this time and place.

We know that infants and children deprived of touch often suffer from reactive detachment disorder which can scar their lives permanently. Touch is essential to human communication and creating community. But we live in a technological age of self imposed detachment from physical human contact. While the internet and social media keep us constantly connected with information about another, it can't keep us "in touch" with that other.

We graying Boomers understand the potential to reach a new generation with the Gospel through those technological tools. But we also know their limits. Ask any of the homebound elderly who view the mass daily on Christian Associates TV; they hear the words, view the liturgical actions, see others interacting, eating and drinking, but they are not there. Something is missing – *human touch*; such an important sign of being in Christian community.

I hope that I'm not the only one who is angered, frustrated and disappointed when our colleagues and friends (even our gathered hierarchs) keep their phones on vibrate, constantly responding to an incoming message, but not keeping in touch with their siblings who are sitting next to them. I think the next time such an intrusion disrupts our being in touch with each other, I'll pause, then physically touch that person. Maybe then we can again focus on being the incarnate body of our Lord.

Pax, Salaam, Shalom,

Pastor Don Green



Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference

continued from page 1. . .

be the model for some. The everyday saints in my books are down-to-earth; they become angry, curse, enjoy a good steak and bottle of wine, read novels and are interested in the world around them.

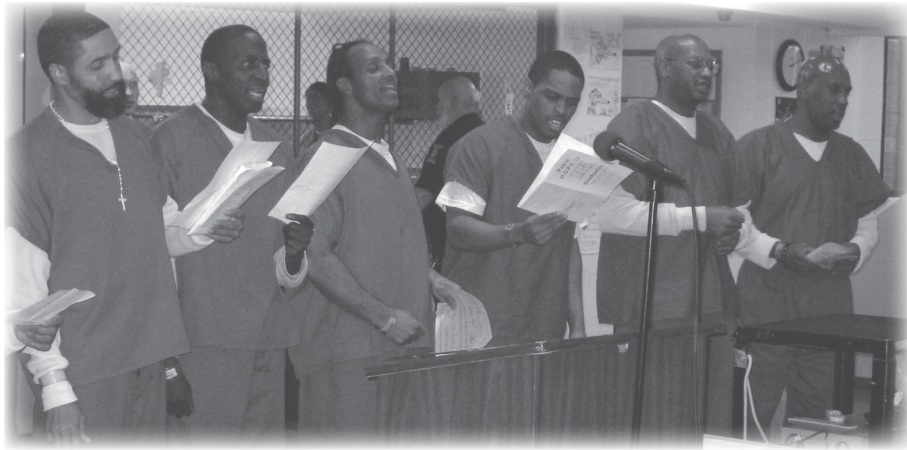
That quite a few were criticized and even harassed by the institutional church only confirms their authenticity for me. I think encountering and hearing from them is refreshing, although sometimes startling.”

Workshops at the conference will address:

- Addiction
- Autism
- Post combat issues facing the military, and
- The context of the future church.

Additional information and registration may be found at www.casp.org.

Correctional Chaplain Opening at Allegheny County Jail



Allegheny County Jail inmates join in worship

With the resignation for disability by Rev. Shawn Drummond, the Allegheny County Jail, Department of Chaplaincy Services is in need of a part-time, Protestant Chaplain.

This 15 - 20 hour per week position is part of the ecumenical and interfaith chaplaincy administered by Christian Associates. This position ministers to the inmates and staff of Allegheny County Jail with a special focus on African American/ minority inmates.

Duties include pastoral care, worship, volunteer management, administration,

and participation in the overall chaplaincy ministry including meetings, programs, training seminars, etc.

An M.Div. degree is preferred. A minimum of five years active work as a pastor/chaplain; certification of Ordination and endorsement by one's judicatory are required of all applicants.

For a complete job description and application process visit: www.casp.org.

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.



ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

5244 Clarwin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-9766

www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com

Directed Retreat (Silent)

Dates: Sun. Feb. 24 - Sun. March 3
Time: Sun. 7:00 pm thru Sunday brunch
Directors: Sr. Catherine Higgins, CSJ,
Fr. Philip Fogarty, SJ
Offering: \$425; Registration requested by
February 11th

This is an extended time for prayer,
solitude and discernment of the Spirit's
direction in one's life.

Lenten Retreat Weekend (Silent, meager meals)

"The Beatitudes: A Lenten Journey"
Dates: Fri. March 8 - Sun. March 10
Times: Begins 7:00 pm Fri. and ends with
Sun. breakfast
Presenter: Sr. Donna Smith, SHS and staff
Offering: \$70; Registration requested by
February 21st

This weekend provides the space and time
for fasting, prayer and silence.

Lenten Evening of Reflection

"The Desert Way"
Date: Thur. March 14
Time: 5 pm - 9 pm
Presenter: Fr. David Moczulski, OFM
Offering: \$20 incl. dinner, \$10 for
6:30 pm arrival
Registration requested by March 1st

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Taizé Services

*Taizé: "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

Community of Celebration

809 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa
www.communityofcelebration.com
First Sun. of each month, 7:30 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206
www.cathedralofhope.org
Every Wed., 7:00 pm

Taizé Services

(continued . . .)

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
First Fri. of each month, 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

Music in a Great Space – Fri. Feb. 1, 8 pm

The Pittsburgh Gospel Choir
Admission \$10 adults, \$5 seniors, students &
children free
**(Non-subscription concert) – Sun. Feb. 24,
4:00 pm**

Chanticleer

Tickets for Chanticleer – Adult \$40; student/
senior \$20
Shadyside Presbyterian Church
5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh 15232
www.shadysidepres.org

Office of Evening Prayer for Lent – Sun. Feb. 24, 4:00 pm

Featuring Pittsburgh Compline Choir
First English Evang. Lutheran Church
615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, 15219
www.flcpittsburgh.org

The Pittsburgh Camerata - March 2, 8, 9 "The Musical Conquest of The New World"

General admission \$40 single, \$35 Senior,
\$10 student
www.pittsburghcamerata.org

Organ Artists Series - Sun. Mar. 17, 4 pm Mary Beth Bennett, Organist

Regular admission \$12 single concert,
\$5 for students.
East Liberty Presbyterian
116 S. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh 15206
www.oas-series.com

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House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great
510 W. Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7149
www.sistersofstbasil.org

House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina

(continued . . .)

Young Adults Weekend (Ages 18-35)

Dates: Fri. Feb. 22 – Sun. Feb. 24
Times: Starts 7 PM Fri. thru 1:00 PM Sun.
Presenter: Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick,
OSBM & team
Fee: \$100; Registration due: Feb. 15

Busy Women's Retreat

Date: Thur. Feb. 28
Time: 9:15 am – 12:30 pm
Offering: \$15, incl. lunch
Registration due: Feb. 23

Lenten Day of Prayer

Date: Sun. March 3
Time: 1:15 pm – 4:30 pm
Presenter: Rev. Valerian Michlik
Offering: \$25, incl. supper
Registration due: Feb. 26

Lenten Book Series

Dates: Tues. March 5, 12, 19, 26
Time: 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Presenter: Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick,
OSBM
Free will offering; Reg. due: March 1

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Kearns Spirituality Center

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

Lenten Breakfast

"The Courage to be Imperfect"
Date: Tues. Feb. 12
Time: 7:00-9:00 AM
Speaker: Anne Kertz Kernion, owner of
Cards by Anne
Fee: \$30 incl. breakfast & presentation;
Registration deadline: Feb. 1
To register: call 412-635-5401

Learn how to embrace your vulnerability
so you can live wholeheartedly, with joy
and gratitude, believing that who you are is
enough.

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Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

Mount Alvernia
146 Hawthorne Road
Pittsburgh 15209
412-821-2200
www.sosf.org

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

(continued . . .)

Icon Retreat in Millvale

Dates: Mon. March 11 – Fri. March 15

Times: 6:30 pm – 10 pm each day

Iconographer: Peter Pearson

Fee: \$275, incl. all materials, including acrylic paints

Register by Feb. 20 – check payable to Peter Pearson, 550 Clay Ave., #7B, Scranton, PA 18510

Limited number of rooms for overnight stay at Mt. Alvernia, contact Sr. Rosaire Kopczenski, 412-821-2200.

Artists of all skill levels are welcome to focus on technical skills involved in icon painting, as well as the spirituality of creating an icon.

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First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

615 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-471-8125
www.flcpittsburgh.org

Camp Downtown Ice Fest

Date: Sat. Feb. 9

Times: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Who: Children, kindergarten thru 6th grade
Youth, grades 7-12 can serve as camp counselors

This year's theme is "The Salt of the Earth" Campers will explore what Jesus meant when he said his disciples were like "the salt of the earth," as well as the many uses of salt throughout history., have lunch together and enjoy an afternoon of ice skating at the Rink at PPG Place.

Suggested donation is \$15 per camper OR \$10 per youth counselor; Registration due Feb. 3

Cost includes t-shirt, lunch & ice skating.

Scholarships are available

Contact Cora Weiland at 412-877-

7124 or clw@flcpittsburgh.org to register.

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Rodef Shalom Congregation

4905 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2941
412-621-6566
www.rodefshalom.org

Rodef Shalom Congregation

(continued . . .)

Milton E. Harris Interfaith Institute

Interfaith Clergy Luncheon & Lecture

Speaker: Mr. Gershon Baskin

Date: Fri. Feb. 1

Time: 12:00-2:00 pm

Fee: Clergy – free; guests - \$20

Contact Leslie Garrison, 412-621-6566 x122 to register

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Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

Parish Nurse office 412-232-5815

ParishNurse@mercy.pmhs.org

www.pmhs.org

Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

Program: Four-Day Parish Nurse

Preparation Course

Dates: Fri. Feb. 15, Sat. Feb. 16, Fri. Mar. 8, Sat. Mar. 9

Where: UPMC Mercy Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, 1400 Locust St., Uptown, 15219

Cost: \$395 and includes course materials and free parking in hospital parking garage.

Limited scholarship funds available.

Registered nurses, other health care professionals, and lay persons who are interested in promoting health, wellness, and spirituality, coordinating volunteers, or starting a parish visitation ministry are encouraged to attend.

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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

Valentine Retreat for Married Couples

Date: Sun. Feb. 10

Time: 12:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Presenter: Sister Marguerite Kropinak, George & Pat Ziringer

Fee: \$55/couple incl. candlelight dinner

Presentations on the spirituality of marriage, time for sharing as couple and an opportunity to renew marriage vows.

Lenten Day of Prayer

Date: Thur. Feb. 21

Time: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Presenter: Sister Donna Marie Tahaney

Fee: \$20 inc. lunch

St. Joseph Spirituality Center

(continued . . .)

Spring Retreat for Women

Dates: Fri. Mar. 1 – Sun. Mar. 3

Times: Fri. 8:00 pm – Sun. 12 noon

Presenters: Sisters Mary Catherine Cudnik, Diane McCalley and Jeanne Scott

Fee: \$120 incl. meals, lodging & program materials

A retreat to explore relationships with God, self, and others.

Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat

Date: Fri. Apr. 5 – Sun. Apr. 7

Time: Fri. 7:00 pm – Sun. 4:00 pm

Presenters: *Beginning Experience* Team

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

Healing Family Violence

Date: Fri. Apr. 19

Time: 9:30 am – 4:15 pm

Presenter: Nancy Fair, MA & Anita Mallinger, ACSW

Fee: \$65 incl. lunch

The workshop will address the scope of the family violence problem, the dynamics of violence, effects on victims and families, impact of familial abuse on society, etc. 6 CE credits for mental health and health care professionals.

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CLASSIFIED AD

Choir Robes and Music

Twenty-two grey choir robes with one-hundred colored stoles plus old music including cantatas. Prices negotiable OBO. Contact **PEARCE@ATLANTICBB.NET**.



“I was hungry”

Bread for the World Workshop

Bread for the World is a Christian-based hunger advocacy group that is committed to ending hunger at home and abroad. The group is dedicated to providing food for those in need through group organization and governmental support.

A representative from Senator Bob Casey’s office has been invited to share policy perspectives on food security and budget issues.

Break out groups will hear presentations on topics such as letter writing, state food security issues, and possibly immigration.

Please contact Donna Hansen at (412) 812-1553 for more information. All who are interested are welcome to attend.

All are also welcome to join the regional *Bread for the World* team. The next team meeting will be held on Wednesday, **February 20 at 10:00 a.m.** on the second floor of Christian Associates, located at the corner of Butler Street and 37th Street in Lawrenceville.

Learn more about *Bread for the World* at www.bread.org.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

The group believes that everyone can make a difference; individual efforts and government leaders can all work together to overcome global hunger.

A regional workshop for *Bread for the World* will take place on Sunday **March 3rd from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at **The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4503 Old William Penn Highway in Monroeville.**

The conference will include a presentation on Bread's 2013 policy goals by Larry Hollar, regional coordinator for *Bread for the World*.



**Every 3.6 seconds
a person dies
of hunger.
75%
of them are children.**

18th Annual Empty Bowls Benefit for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest

Please come and help spread the word about this year's *Empty Bowls Dinner* being held at **Rodef Shalom Congregation** at Fifth and Morewood Avenues in Oakland on Sunday, **March 10 from 2-6 PM.**



The event features fabulous soups from restaurants across the region, family-friendly entertainment, a silent auction of ceramic art and celebrity-autographed bowls, and an incredible assortment of handmade ceramic bowls donated by dozens of artists, schools and art centers.

Tickets are \$20 which include a modest meal of soup and bread and your choice of a handmade bowl as a lasting reminder of those whose bowls are empty.

For more information and to order tickets, go to www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

SNAP – First Line of Defense in the Fight Against Hunger

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership, of which Christian Associates’ Church and Community Committee is a partner, is a five-year initiative to reduce hunger in the 12 counties of our region.

The Partnership, in its third year, is active in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Greene, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties, and will soon be active in Washington. A major emphasis of the Partnership is to help organizations – faith-based, social services, libraries, and others – that come into contact with people who may be at risk of hunger to learn how to assist those people apply for SNAP (food stamp benefits).

Over 200,000 people in our region are eligible but not participating in the program. The program can mean as much as \$200 to \$300 a month for a family

juggling rent, utilities, transportation, health care and food expenses.

The application process in Pennsylvania is typically done online through the state’s COMPASS system, but too often individuals who attempt to complete the applications themselves make a mistake, are kicked off the system, become discouraged, and never access a benefit available for them and their children and elders.

The Partnership training allows staff and volunteers of organizations to learn how to assist people to navigate the application successfully. Once you are trained (which takes about an hour), you can help process an application in as little as 20 minutes.

To learn how you can help your congregation access this training so as to assist your neighbors in need, call the Partnership – **(412) 466-7711.**

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament

James A. Durlleser, Lecturer in Biblical Languages, PTS

Teaching and Preaching the Letters of Paul

Jenee Woodard, Biblical Studies Teacher for Commissioned Ruling Elder Program, PTS

Online Classes

March 11-May 7, 2013

The Apocalypse, Archaeology, and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Schaff Lectures

Wed., March 20, 2013 / 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Craig R. Koester, Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Scriptures and Tradition: What the Bible REALLY Says!

Tuesdays, April 9-30, 2013 / 10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Edith Humphrey, William F. Orr Professor of New Testament, PTS

Reflecting on The Sermon on the Mount

Journey Inward; Journey Outward

Tues., April 16, 2013 / 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

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

Journeying through the Inner Life: Dream Work and Spiritual Formation

April 18-21, 2013

Bernard F. Tickerhoof, Director of Ongoing Formation, Sacred Heart Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis

Spiritual and Emotional Growth Throughout Life

Summer Leadership Conference

June 9-12, 2013

Amy Hollingsworth, Psychologist, College Professor, and Author of *The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers*

Steven S. Tuell, James S. Kelso Associate Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, PTS

Martha A. Robbins, Joan Marshall Associate Professor of Pastoral Care, PTS

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Pittsburgh, PA 15206
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For more information & photographs, visit our website:

www.bishopconnarecenter.org

SCRIPTURE UNION^{USA}

Helping people meet God every day.™



We use the Bible to inspire children, young people and adults to know God.

You are invited!

To our annual dinner at the
**LeMont Restaurant at 4 p.m. on
Sunday, April 7, 2013.**

Come learn more about how God uses us in helping people of all ages to study, learn and apply God's Word!

Call us at **412-463-8380** for reservations.

Nancy Lee Cochran
Director, E100 Pittsburgh Initiative

(412) 463-8380
www.scriptureunion.org

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201-1859

412-688-9070

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Lutherans Hosted Ecumenical Eucharist for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Bishop Kurt Kusserow preached and presided at a *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service* on Wednesday, **January 23** at **Faith Lutheran Church, Upper St. Clair**. Invited to the Service were the ELCA's Full Communion Partners from the region.

Demonstrating the reception of those agreements, clergy serving in denominations other than their own served as lectors and assisting ministers, including:

- **Rev. Karen Battle** an ELCA pastor serving as Mission Developer for the Pittsburgh Presbytery;
- **Rev. Roger Nicholson**, a UCC Minister serving as Associate Pastor at Perry Highway Lutheran;
- **Richard Mohr-Kelly**, an ELCA Diaconal Minister who with his wife, **Rev. Patricia Mohr-Kelly** serve Stewart Avenue Lutheran Church and Birmingham UCC, Carrick;
- Clergy and Judicatory leaders from the **WPA United Methodist Conference**;
- **The Penn West UCC Conference**;
- **The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh**; and
- **The Pittsburgh and Kiskiminetas Presbyteries**.

All joined in sharing Holy Communion and the fellowship of a luncheon at the conclusion of the liturgy.

