

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

June 2015, Number 3

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

Churches Pledge: NO MORE Gender Violence

Resource Booklet Helps Churches Engage in Father's Day Pledge

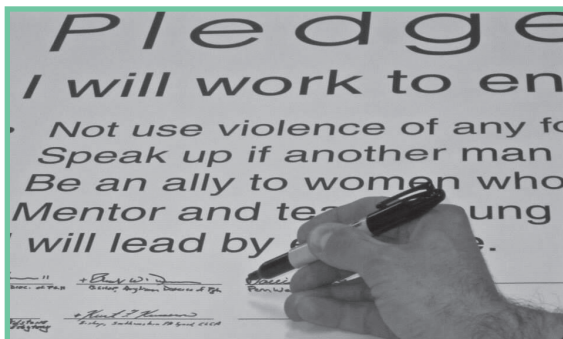
This Father's Day, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania is joining with the FISA Foundation and other community partners to say NO MORE to domestic violence and sexual assault.

As people of faith and disciples of the Prince of Peace, Christians must speak out against gender violence, which impacts families in all our congregations.

Gender violence is not "a women's issue" – it impacts everyone, and people of all genders must work to end it.

At the heart of the "Southwest PA Says No More" initiative is the Father's Day Pledge, a call to men of courage and good will to participate fully in the struggle against gender violence:

**Southwest PA Says
NO MORE!**



I WILL WORK TO END GENDER VIOLENCE AND PLEDGE TO:

- Not use violence in any form in my relationships.
- Speak up if another man is abusing his partner or is disrespectful or abusive to women and girls. I will not remain silent!
- Be an ally to women who are working to end all forms of gender violence.
- Mentor and teach boys about how to be men in ways that don't involve degrading or abusing girls and women. I will lead by example.

To help congregations engage in this project, Christian Associates has authored a free 12-page booklet, "Peace, Be Still!" The booklet includes everything you need to engage your church in the Father's Day Pledge to end gender violence:

- Prayers, litanies, and music suggestions
- Sermon starters for June 21 (Father's Day) lectionary texts, written by clergy and faith leaders from five different faith traditions
- Practical tips for signing the pledge in your congregation
- Ideas for deeper engagement in gender violence prevention
- Resources for further information and referral.

Download the booklet today at www.casp.org/fathersday.pdf.

Printed copies of the booklet, in full color, are also available at no charge by mail.

Please call us at **412-688-9070** to request your copy.



Facebook, Email Offer New Ways to Connect with Christian Associates

It will be September before your next paper edition of *The Call* appears in your mailbox – how will you keep up with ecumenical news and events until then? Never fear: there are two brand new ways to connect with Christian Associates from your computer or smartphone!



and articles from Christian Associates, our member churches and community partners, and the wider ecumenical world. Join the conversation by adding your comments!

Find our page at www.facebook.com/christianassociateswpa and click "like" to have news and events, articles and photos appear in your newsfeed. Then, select "get notifications" on the like button's pull-down menu so that you be the first to hear about all of our posts.

Subscribe to our e-newsletter: In midsummer, we'll be debuting our new email newsletter. The e-newsletter will supplement *The Call* by providing the most up-to-date news and event listings. And, we'll respect your busy

inbox by sending updates no more than twice a month.

To subscribe, visit www.casp.org. Click "subscribe now" and enter your contact information. Or, send your name and email address to jbullock@casp.org.

To help our churches collaborate and build relationship, we need up-to-date and effective ways to communicate. As always, if you have an event or opportunity to share with our readers, please send it our way!

Together, we can build connections and work for the common good.



REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

In a field in Gush Etzion, I took a picture of some dirt. Or at least, that's what it seemed like to me – a few rocks, some reddish soil, and a few straggly blades of grass near Bethlehem, in the land that most maps call the West Bank. But to the men we met at Roots, a peacemaking project there, this land was far more: to Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, this land was Israel. To Ali Abu Awwad, this land was Palestine. To both, the very dirt itself was holy, meaningful, beloved.



**Holy ground at Roots/
Shorashim in Gush Etzion**

This spring, I spent eight days walking the soil of the Holy Land, visiting Israel and Palestine on the first journey of a brand new organization, Interfaith Partners for Peace. Christian ministers and Jewish rabbis traveled in pairs from cities across the U.S., visiting sacred places, meeting with political and academic leaders, and touring peacemaking organizations. We learned that the conflict in that region is never simple, but nor is it entirely hopeless.

Throughout the journey, we studied texts together, both scriptural and contemporary. This poem, “The Place Where We Are Right” by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai, seemed particularly apt:

From the place where we are right
Flowers will never grow
In the spring.
The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.
But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
Where the ruined
House once stood.¹

At Roots, Hanan and Ali told us how face-to-face encounter with their neighbors had changed their hearts: as Amichai writes, they developed doubts and loves. They began to realize that the narratives they'd long believed about their own group's rightness were not the only story. They began to care about each other, to establish real friendship, despite their differing views. Doubts and loves dig up the world, and make possible growth, fresh beginnings, new life.

Whether in situations of political-religious conflict, like Israel and Palestine, or in moments of conflict within and among our own churches, I hope we will be open to the doubts and loves that the Holy Spirit is plowing in the hardened soil of our own rightness. I hope we will question our own perspectives and find surprising friends. I hope we will attend to the surprising whisper of peace, which becomes audible when we listen closely to one another, even those with different points of view.

I hope we will find the very dirt under our feet breaking open, with doubts, with loves, with peace.

Your sister in Christ,

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



**Rev. Liddy Barlow and Rabbi Jamie Gibson
at the Haas Promenade, overlooking Jerusalem**

For more photographs, visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/christianassociateswpa.

Rev. Barlow and Rabbi Gibson would be glad to speak together with judicatories, congregations, and other groups about their journey.

Please contact Liddy at ibarlow@casp.org
if you can offer an opportunity for dialogue.

Pittsburgh Will Host First International Family Systems Conference
Scholars, Therapists, Clergy to gather in East Liberty August 2-5



Michael E. Kerr, Director Emeritus of the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family in Washington, DC, will be the conference's keynote speaker



Systems underlie all sorts of social organizations. When looking at individuals, it is best to start by situating them in the systems of which they are a part. Of course, the primary system we all find ourselves in is the family.

In the 20th century, Murray Bowen, a professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University, developed a set of concepts that define family processes, including triangles, sibling position, differentiation of self, and multigenerational processes.

These principles have enabled countless pastors to discover rich insights for helping counsel their parishioners effectively... and for understanding themselves better!

And, these same processes apply equally well to our congregations, as explored by Edwin Freeman in his magisterial work, *Generation to Generation*.

Other writers, too, have written practical books about the sometimes hidden inter-workings within churches and synagogues, including Ronald Richardson and Peter Steinke.

In Pittsburgh, the Western Pennsylvania Family Center has been teaching family process principles for 30 years. Pastors and laypersons have been regular participants in the classes and seminars sponsored by the Center.

This summer, the Center will host its first international conference on Bowen Family Systems Theory: "Bowen Theory Around the World."

For the first time ever, speakers and discussion leaders will come together from all parts of the globe to discuss the value of family systems thinking. The conference provides an opportunity to see first hand how truly universal family systems processes are. It will also underline the great value for us as pastors to learn and apply family systems principles.

The conference will take place August 2-5 at the Western Pennsylvania Family Center on N. Highland Ave. in East Liberty.

For more information or to register, visit the Family Center's website at wpfc.net or call 412-362-2295.



Olmsted
come away

Olmsted Manor Retreat Center
 17 East Main Street - P.O. Box 8
 Ludlow, PA 16333|

Providing Christian hospitality amidst the forests of northwest Pennsylvania

Church Music & Worship Arts Workshop|
Date: June 21-25, 2015
Cost: \$348 - includes tuition, 4 nights at Olmsted, and all meals

Lift up your voices, celebrate your musical gifts, enjoy Christian fellowship, and explore your prayer life!

2015 Church Office Professionals' Retreat
Date: July 12-14, 2015
Cost: \$210 – includes tuition, 2 nights at Olmsted, and all meals

Sometimes you just need a coffee break...But, when was the last time that coffee left you feeling relaxed, refreshed, and renewed? Join Donna Douth, Bonnie Harr, and Dawn Lynn Check for a retreat from the office focused on finding the refreshment you need.

Older Adults' Retreat: Angels Among Us
Date: July 20-24, 2015
Cost: \$294 – includes tuition, 3 nights at Olmsted, and all meals

Join hosts Bill and Lois Hiles for a retreat for those of us with more "life experience." This year, Bill and Lois will guide us as we take a look into the biblical perspectives of angels vs. what our modern culture has made them out to be.

More information on any of these events, visit www.olmstedmanor.org or call (814) 945-6512.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

2003 Denmark Manor Rd.
Export, PA 15632
724-744-4218

Mandated Reporter Workshop

Date & Time: June 18, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Fee: Free

Led by Jerry Sopko, a child welfare specialist with 36 years of experience, this workshop will help churches live into Pennsylvania's new child abuse prevention laws. Clergy, lay ministers, religious educators or others who care for children in the church setting, no matter what their religious affiliation, are invited to attend. Register at 724-744-4218 or dmucc@windstream.net.



City of Pittsburgh

414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
www.pittsburghpa.gov

Shared Border, Shared Dreams

Dates: June 16-July 24
Location: City-County Building Lobby
Fee: Free

Shared Border, Shared Dreams is an interactive exhibit that simulates the obstacles faced by undocumented immigrants. Appropriate for youth groups, Bible study groups, and others interested in developing empathy and understanding.

Spark! Film Series

Dates: June 10-August 30
Location: Various city parks
Fee: Free

Mayor William Peduto's Welcoming Pittsburgh Initiative is partnering with Citiparks to present the Spark! Film Series at this summer's Dollar Bank Cinema in the Park. Spark! includes a vibrant lineup of films that feature stories from diverse cultures and seeks to bring together Pittsburghers of all backgrounds to spark an engaging cultural dialogue.

For more information, visit <http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/cinema-in-park>



Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Kresge Theatre, College of Fine Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
www.pittsburghsymphony.org

Music for the Spirit

Date & Time: Wed. July 1, 1 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fee: Free, but reservations required: call 412-392-4900.

Led by Resident Conductor Fawzi Haimor, the PSO will highlight a variety of music from world faith traditions.



American Jewish Museum

Jewish Community Center
Kaufmann Building
5738 Darlington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-697-3231
www.jccpgh.org/page/ajm

The Israelite Samaritans and the Festival of Unleavened Bread: Photographs by Dale Lazar

Dates: Mon., May 4-Fri., July 24
Time: Mon.-Thurs. 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Fri., 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat.-Sun., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Fee: Free

Dale Lazar's photographs of the Israelite Samaritans tell a compelling story of this small, yet enduring religious community, who practice a style of Israelite religion that predates the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.



Biblical Botanical Garden

Rodef Shalom Congregation
4905 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2941
412-621-6566
www.biblicalgardenpittsburgh.org

Paradise on Fifth Avenue – from the Bible to Botticelli

Dates: June 1-Sept 15
Times: Sun.-Thurs.: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Weds. also 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Fee: Free. Call to reserve a free tour for groups of eight or more.

Shadyside Presbyterian Church

5121 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-682-4300
www.shadysidepres.org

Music for Midsummer Nights: a Mini-Series of Midweek Concerts

Date & Time: Wed. June 10, 7 p.m.
Program: Kathy Linger, soprano; Ellen Fast, piano; Ron Samuels, clarinet; featuring Franz Schubert's monumental lied, "The Shepherd on the Rock," as well as music of Strauss, Handel, and Purcell
Fee: \$5

Date & Time: Wed. June 17, 7 p.m.
Program: Erica Washburn, soprano; Justin Wallace, piano; Songs of Emily Dickinson: music by Wallace, Butler, Copland, and more
Fee: \$5

Date & Time: Wed. June 24, 8 p.m.
Program: Chanticleer, Grammy-award-winning male chorus, co-presented by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Fee: \$25. Purchase tickets in advance at www.agopgh2015.com/concert-tickets/



Christ Church at Grove Farm

249 Duff Road
Sewickley, PA 15143

An Evening with John MacDougall

Date: Wed., Sept. 16
Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket details forthcoming; for more information visit www.clearrecovery.org

Dr. John MacDougall was the Director of Spiritual Guidance at the Hazelden Foundation, a world-famous addiction treatment center in Minnesota from 1994 to 2013. He is now the Spiritual Care Coordinator at The Retreat in Wayzata, MN. John is a United Methodist minister, having served as a parish pastor for seventeen years in New Jersey and New England. He is the co-author of *Clinician's Guide to Spirituality* and author of *Being Sober and Becoming Happy*.



Health Insurance Enrollment Help Available

Did you know there are children in our region without health insurance?

Clergy and congregations can help connect these children and families to free or low-cost health insurance through the Healthy Together program.



Depending on household size and income, children and families may qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and enrollment for both programs is available 365 days a year. These programs include coverage for inpatient and outpatient hospital services, screenings and preventative service, prescription drugs, immunizations, and mental health services.

Healthy Together's trained staff will walk families through the process of enrolling their children, and themselves, in the health insurance program that's right for them.

To get insurance help, families can dial 2-1-1, the United Way helpline or visit www.getenrolledpgh.com.

Please consider including this information in your worship bulletin this summer so that all children can have access to health care.



Discipleship:

Discipling & the Spiritual Disciplines



ME 700 | June 15-19

The Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin &
The Rt. Rev. Dr. John Bradosky



An in depth journey into Luke-Acts to see and hear how our Lord went about making disciples and how the Church followed in his footsteps; a study of this faithful witness through Christian history and the practice of Spiritual Disciplines. *Non-credit option: \$180*

www.tsm.edu/intensives

Hurting? Broken?...Steps to Healing

What: Educational sessions teaching steps to emotionally deal with difficult moments...one moment at a time!

Monday Evenings- June & July 2015 (6pm)

Free to Attend

Pre-Register by May 25th for giveaway (Includes a gas card)

Presented by: A Voice in the Storm

Presenter: Tracey Morgan-Radio Personality/President &
Founder of A Voice In The Storm

Location: St. Luke Lutheran Church (Off Rt. 356/330 Hannahstown Road, Cabot)

Pre-registration requested: www.avoicinthestorm.org

Open to the public - Walk-ins welcome

Attendees – giveaway basket opportunity - including restaurant gift cards



Seeks an Artistic Director

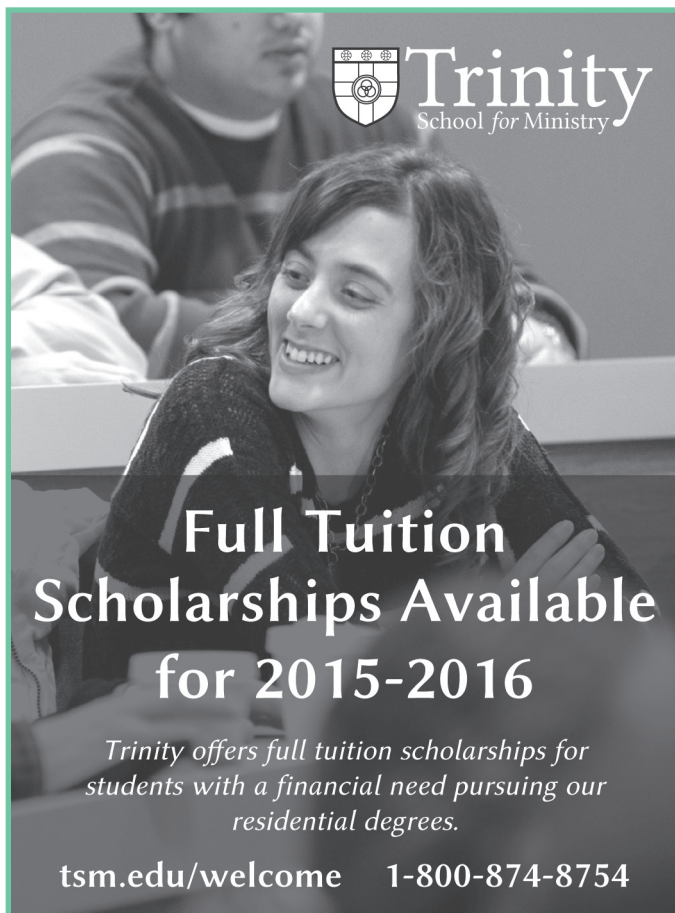
Job Purpose


The Artistic Director will plan, recruit, organize, develop and have overall responsibility for all ensembles within or related to the Pittsburgh Boy Choir (PBC). The Artistic Director works in conjunction with the Assistant Director and the Accompanist.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in music required with a concentration in vocal or music education preferred. Master's Degree preferred.
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years experience directing a successful children's choir.
- Must have all necessary State of PA clearances.
- Must subscribe to the mission statement and *Chorister Handbook* of PBC in its entirety.

Contact Timothy Heavner at timothyheavner@gmail.com or (412) 437-8461.
For more information, visit www.pittsburghboychoir.com.



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For an appointment call our intake coordinator:
(412)661-1239 x 16

We accept most insurances; sliding scale available for the uninsured.



Bowen Theory Around the World

First International Conference on Bowen Family Systems Theory



HOSTED BY WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY CENTER

August 2-5, 2015 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • USA

WHO: Dr. Michael Kerr
Dr. Anne McKnight
Dr. Walter Howard Smith, Jr.
Ms. Peggy Chan
with other international and national presenters

WHERE: Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 North Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA, 15232 USA

WHEN: Sunday, August 2, 5:00 pm
to
Wednesday, August 5, 4:00 pm

Family Systems can enhance pastoral work in a variety of settings:

- Personal counseling
- Committee and ministry team meetings
- Staff relationships
- Congregational and parish dynamics

This Conference offers an opportunity to learn and discuss with national and international students involved in family systems training and practice.

REGISTRATION

Full Conference Fee:	\$350
Early Bird Fee (Until June 15):	\$300
Students (with Student ID):	\$150
PTS Students (with Student ID):	\$100
Daily Conference Attendance:	\$150

Go to the Family Center's Website, wpfc.net; click on "Bowen Theory around the World."

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

The Good Earth: Creation and Ministry in an Ecological Age

Henderson Summer Leadership Conference

June 7-10, 2015

Norman Wirzba and Fred Bahnson

The Spirituality of Water

A Spiritual Formation Elective

June 14-17, 2015

Beth Norcross

The W. Don McClure Lectures in World Mission and Evangelism

Sept. 21-22, 2015

Graham Cray

Telling the Story: New Disciples, New Church

32nd Annual Teacher Training Workshop

Sept. 26, 2015

Keith C. Kaufold

The Life and Teaching of Henri Nouwen:

Exploring the Rhythms of Solitude,

Community, and Ministry

A Spiritual Formation Elective

Sept. 27-30, 2015

B.J. Woodworth



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



PITTSBURGH
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201-1859

412-688-9070

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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 (August 15th for the September issue).* Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.

Pastoral Care Conference Unites Caregivers



The 15th annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference brought together over 200 clergy, therapists, social workers, volunteers, and others interested in caring for souls.

At left, this year's keynote speaker was Reid Carpenter, President Emeritus of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation. *At right*, Rev. David Else, Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler, City of Pittsburgh Police Chief Cameron McLay, and Dr. Karen Plavan were among the other speakers at the conference.

Save the date for next year's conference: *April 15, 2016.*



Invite Christian Associates to Your Church!

Looking for a change of preaching pace? Searching for a guest speaker for a Bible study, women or men's group, or a confirmation class? Need to fill your pulpit this summer?

Christian Associates' Executive Minister, Rev. Liddy Barlow, is delighted to come to your church to share the good news! All honoraria go to support the ministries of Christian Associates: contribute to our work while learning more about ecumenical ministry.

Call 412-688-9070 or email lbarlow@casp.org to book a visit.