

# 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](http://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*



April-May 2016, Number 2

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

## Shane Claiborne to Offer Keynote Address at Pastoral Care Conference

"I think that's what our world is desperately in need of," wrote Shane Claiborne in his breakout 2006 book *The Irresistible Revolution*. "Lovers, people who are building deep, genuine relationships with fellow strugglers along the way, and who actually know the faces of the people behind the issues they are concerned about."

Claiborne will bring his message of community and relationship to this year's 16th annual **Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference**, to take place at **Christ Church at Grove Farm in Sewickley on Friday, May 20.**



Claiborne's keynote address, "Reimagining Community," will introduce listeners to his work as a founder of The Simple Way in Philadelphia, an intentional, neo-monastic community dedicated to social justice.

A noted author and activist, Claiborne's newest book, *Executing Grace: How the Death Penalty Killed Jesus and Why It's Killing Us*, will be published in June.

Conference participants will also attend workshops exploring topics in family life, addiction and recovery, and congregational ministry, such as preventing youth suicide, building inter-racial

partnerships, and offering support in times of illness. They will hear presentations on the overdose epidemic and ways churches can help children in foster care.

The annual conference brings together pastors, behavioral health workers, chaplains, therapists, addiction counselors, and others who are interested in spiritual dimensions of care.

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania joined nine other agencies, dioceses, and congregations on the conference planning team.

Registration is available online at [www.pghpc.org](http://www.pghpc.org). For more information, contact Oasis Recovery Center at 412-281-8362.



## Support Christian Associates this Spring Three Days . . . Three Ways

hints, and donation envelopes; simply call us at 412-688-9070 to order the items you need.

**2 Pitch in on the Day of Giving.** **Tuesday, May 3** is the day to support local non-profit organizations by visiting [www.pittsburghgives.com](http://www.pittsburghgives.com). The web site will be available to accept credit card contributions between 8 a.m. and midnight. Thanks to generous sponsors, the first \$500 in contributions to Christian Associates will be matched dollar for dollar! The Pittsburgh Foundation will also award prizes to the organizations that attract the greatest number of new donors: if you've never given to Christian Associates before, consider this a great opportunity!

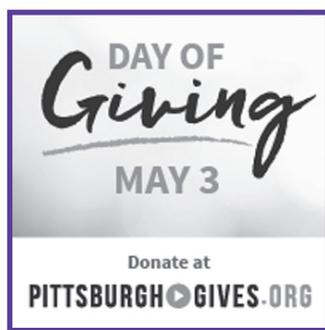
**3 Join the John 17 Society.** We will be recognizing our most generous donors – the group we call the John 17 Society – at a special reception on **Tuesday, May 17 at 4 p.m. at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.**

We'll enjoy live music, tasty treats, and great company, and we'll be the first to hear about brand-new Christian Associates initiatives.

There is still time to join! All those who contribute \$250 or more by May 10 will receive two tickets to the reception. You can mail your donation to P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, or give online at [www.casp.org/donate.html](http://www.casp.org/donate.html).

It's people like you and congregations like yours that make the work of Christian unity possible in our region.

*Thank you for your faithful stewardship of Christian Associates!*



Christian unity is everyone's work! This spring, there are three great opportunities for you and your church community to help support ecumenism in our region:

**1 Pass the plate on Christian Associates Sunday.** Bring ecumenism to the pulpit on **Sunday, April 24:** the first annual Christian Associates Sunday. Raise awareness of the work of Christian Associates among your congregation, and take up a special offering to benefit our ministries. Christian Associates will gladly supply bulletin inserts, preaching

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

I walked up the steps, underneath windows dedicated by long-ago Sunday School classes, and entered the cavernous sanctuary. Under the water-stained ceiling, rows of pews seated two hundred ghosts. Bits of fallen plaster dotted the threadbare carpet. A few colorful afghans rested on the seats: the boiler doesn't work as well as it once did. At the back of the room, the four remaining church members, all elderly, huddled in their coats against the chill.

I visited this congregation recently and heard their lament. They remembered the church full on holidays, big confirmation classes, the joyous weddings they had celebrated there. But, with the declining economy and changing culture, the congregation is almost out of members, almost out of money and almost out of time. Several of the people present had previously belonged to other churches that had also closed: their town once had six churches; now it has three, and this one's almost gone.

**Haggai tells us to take courage, to keep working, to trust in God's presence, and to believe that our best days are still ahead.**

It's hard not to see the stern hooded figure of the Ghost of Christmas Future in the story of this congregation. It's certainly not the only one of its kind. Throughout our region – and throughout the Western world – church buildings crumble and congregations age. How long can we last?



In March, the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives met at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. After approving the agenda, we got up from the table and walked across campus to Hicks Memorial Chapel. Gathering outside the door of Christian Associates' new office, we sang a hymn, then heard a passage of scripture: the prophet Haggai, writing as the people of Israel returned to Jerusalem, about to embark on reconstructing their demolished temple.

*Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear ... The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.*

Here in Southwest Pennsylvania, we saw the former glory of the church in the middle of the last century. We saw congregations filled to bursting and judicatory offices with abundant resources. We saw the glorious flower of the ecumenical movement: Christian Associates owned a whole building on Grant Street back then, and employed a full staff to do our work. Compared to those heady days, it might be that our current situation looks like nothing.

And yet Haggai tells us to take courage, to keep working, to trust in God's presence, and to believe that our best days are still ahead. The new temple may not look exactly like the old – perhaps it will be even better. Indeed, even as some churches crumble, others spring to new life. Our region is home to budding congregations meeting in living rooms and storefronts. Our region is home to dedicated pastors, working creatively with their congregations to grow in discipleship and meet community needs. Our region is home to innovative partnerships, the next wave of ecumenical cooperation. When you look closer, you see far more than “nothing.” You see signs of resurrection.

I believe the latter glory of Christianity in Southwest Pennsylvania will be even greater than the former glory. Perhaps we will need to set aside our old institutions, buildings, structures, and forms to make that so. But the Holy Spirit goes with us, and we do not labor in vain. Take courage, friends: work, for God is with us!

Your sister in Christ,

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



**Council members sing hymns at the dedication of Christian Associates' new offices**

## Compassion and Care for the Earth

*"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."* People of all world religions recognize our human responsibility to care for the environment.

On **May 15 at 2:30 p.m.**, the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition is sponsoring "Compassion and Care for the Earth," an interfaith event including a panel discussion and small group conversations.

The Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (233 Seaman Lane, Monroeville, PA 15146) will host the event, and the Turkish Cultural Center will provide free and delicious refreshments.

Panelists will represent Christian, Jewish, Bahá'í, Muslim, and Hindu perspectives, each discussing his or her faith's understanding of the environment. After the panel, all participants may participate in small group discussions facilitated by the panelists and GPIC leaders.

The event is free. Advance registration will be available soon at [www.pajc.net](http://www.pajc.net).

## Calling all SPARKlers!



Only two events remain in our inaugural series of SPARK Conversations: informal lunchtime gatherings for Christian leaders who share a common role, identity, or interest:

- **Campus ministers – Tuesday, April 5** – A gathering for those with a particular ministry to college and university students as chaplains, campus pastors, and student ministry directors.
- **Senior pastors of large churches – Tuesday, May 10** – A gathering for pastors who supervise other clergy in congregations that average over 400 in Sunday worship attendance.

To sign up or add your name to the invitation list for any of these events, please call Christian Associates at 412-688-9070 or email [lbarlow@casp.org](mailto:lbarlow@casp.org).

We also welcome suggestions for themes for next year's SPARK series.



## Save the Date: Preach Against Violence June 19

Jesus called peacemakers blessed, Isaiah calls us to beat our weapons into farming tools, but still we live in a violent society. In the city of Pittsburgh alone, 57 people were killed by gun violence in 2015, and 189 others were injured in shootings.

In response, Christian Associates is joining with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the Allegheny County Health Department, and the Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network to encourage clergy to preach about gun violence on **Sunday, June 19**.

Setting aside politics, Christians can recognize gun violence as a public health concern and call our congregations to take practical steps to stop the violence in all communities.

Worship, preaching, and follow-up activity resources will be posted on the seminary web site, [www.pts.edu](http://www.pts.edu), in May. Watch the next issue of *The Call* for more information on this important project.



**Save the  
Date!**

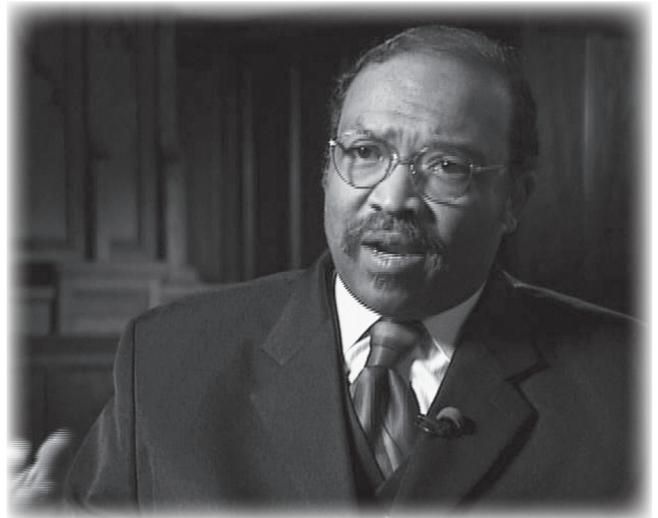
## Healing Communities Project Comes to Pittsburgh June 5

Our congregations know how to respond when a member gets home from the hospital: we drop off a casserole, we set up a time to visit, we call the prayer chain.

But do our churches know how to respond when a person returns to our communities after a time in jail or prison?

The *Healing Communities* project seeks to equip congregations and their leaders with skills and strategies for helping those who have been incarcerated.

Dozens of congregations in 20 states have made the commitment to become a Station of Hope: a place that welcomes, encourages, and supports returning citizens.



The **Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear**, the founder of Healing Communities and an associate professor of applied theology at Howard University Divinity School, is coming to Pittsburgh on **Sunday, June 5** to conduct a training for pastors and other leaders who would like to start Healing Communities programs in their congregations.

Mark your calendar now and watch for future updates via our e-newsletter, *Unity N'at*. For more information, contact Scilla Wahrhaftig at [scillahw@gmail.com](mailto:scillahw@gmail.com) or 412-361-1581.

## Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

4100 Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-682-5555  
www.icp-pgh.org

### Strong Women of Faith: 2016 Annual Interfaith Women's Conference

Date & Time: Sun., April 10, 3-5 p.m.  
Presenters: Rev. B. De Neice Welch, Malke Frank, Sarah Jameela  
Fee: Free, RSVP requested at <https://icpifwc.eventbrite.com>

Christian, Jewish, and Muslim women are invited to this first annual conference, intended to empower women of the three Abrahamic faiths through small group reflection and a panel discussion.



## Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program

www.pmhs.org

### Enneagram Retreat

Date & Time: Thurs. April 14, 4 p.m. – Sat., April 15, 4 p.m.  
Where: St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, 148 Monastery Dr., Pgh, 15203  
Facilitator: Rev. Bernard Tickerhoof, TOR  
Cost: \$160, includes lodging and meals.

This experiential retreat for individuals interested in learning more about using the Enneagram personality test for spiritual growth will center on the book *The Essential Enneagram: The Definitive Personality Test and Self-Discovery Guide* – Revised and Updated by David Daniels, M.D. and Virginia Price, Ph.D.

This retreat will help participants discover their own personality type through self-assessments, find one's potential for spiritual growth, and use their gifts and talents to serve others. Register online or call Amy Armanious at 412-232-7151.



## Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church

3319 West Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
412-531-5564  
www.seraphicsingers.org

### Seraphic Singers in Concert

Date & Time: Sun., April 17, 4 p.m.  
Fee: \$10

Concert by 12-voice professional women's ensemble with violin, cello, percussion, and piano, under the direction of Dr. Gretchen Franz.

## St. Joseph Spirituality Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph  
1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005  
Registrations: 724-869-6587  
www.stjoseph-baden.org

### Ignatian Weekend Directed Retreat

Date: Fri., April 15 – Sun., April 17  
Time: 7 pm (Fri.) – 12 noon (Sun.)  
Fee: \$120 (includes meals, lodging and individual direction)  
Presenter: Sister Catherine Higgins

This directed retreat is based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola. It is an opportunity for Scriptural-based prayer in a contemplative mode in an atmosphere of silence and quiet prayer.

### Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat

Date: Fri., April 15 – Sun. – April 17  
Time: 7 pm (Fri.) – 4 pm (Sun)

Beginning Experience is a program for adults grieving the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation, who are ready to come to terms with their loss and begin to move forward with their lives, so that they might be able to heal the grief of their loss and be free once again to love themselves, others, and God.

Trained Beginning Experience team members who are themselves widowed, separated, or divorced, will conduct this weekend retreat at Gilmory Retreat Center, Coraopolis. For information or to register, call Steve Smith at 412-367-4948 or Mary Jane Fagan at 412-523-2405.

### Where is God Leading Me? A Vocational Discernment Retreat

Date: Sat., April 16 – Sun., April 17  
Time: 9:30 am (Sat.) – 12 noon (Sun.)  
Fee: \$65 (includes meals, lodging and individual direction)  
Presenters: Sisters Marguerite Kropinak and Catherine Higgins and Father Phillip Fogarty, SJ

This discernment retreat is an opportunity for women and men to explore the possibility that God might be calling them to religious life as a Sister, Brother, or priest.

Using a discernment model based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, it provides a welcoming environment and prayerful atmosphere for participants to listen for God's voice and to pay attention to their inner longings, desires, and aspirations.

## St. Joseph Spirituality Center

(continued)

### Five Day Ignatian Directed Retreat

Date: Fri., June 24 – Tues., June 28  
Time: 7 pm (Fri.) – 12 noon (Tues.)  
Fee: \$320 (includes meals, lodging and individual direction)  
Presenters: Jesuit Father Phillip Fogarty and a team of Sisters of St. Joseph

This is an opportunity for Scriptural-based prayer in a contemplative mode. The atmosphere is one of silence and quiet prayer. This retreat will include daily individual retreat direction. To register, call 724-869-6585 by June 1.



## St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

419 South Dithridge St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

### Syrian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service

Date & Time: Sun., April 17, prayer at 4 p.m., dinner 5 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Cost: \$50, \$20 for age 7-18.

Join International Orthodox Christian Charities and the hierarchs of six Orthodox churches for an evening of prayer, education, and fellowship to benefit the people of Syria. The event includes performances by the Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh and violinist Bob Banerjee. Register online at [www.iocc.org/Pittsburgh](http://www.iocc.org/Pittsburgh) or call Sophie at 412-341-6869.



## Camp Agapé

72 Agape Road, Hickory, PA 15340  
724-356-2308  
www.campagape.org

### Earth Day Celebration

Date & Time: Sat., April 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Fee: Free, registration requested

Come celebrate Earth Day by helping to plant the camp gardens, potting a plant to take home, doing crafts and more! Lunch provided.

### Flapjack Festival & Open House

Date & Time: Sat., May 14, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Fee: Free, registration requested

Join us for some flapjacks and sausage and then enjoy tours of the camp. There will be a drawing for a free week of summer camp and the first 20 kids will get a free Agapé T-shirt!

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## Dutilh United Methodist Church

1270 Dutilh Road  
Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

### Messy Church Conference

Date & Time: Fri., April 29, 5pm – Sat., April 30, evening.

Fee: \$50 for a team of 1-5 individuals and \$15 for each additional team member.

Presenter: Lucy Moore, founder of the Messy Church movement in the UK, with Julie Hintz, coordinator in the U.S.

*Messy Church* offers a Christ-centered experience for people of all ages, based on the values of creativity, hospitality and celebration. It includes worship, games, crafts and more and is open to everyone, especially those who may not normally attend church. Details and registration at [www.wpaumc.org/messychurch](http://www.wpaumc.org/messychurch).



## Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality

820 Crane Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
412-341-7494

[www.epiphanyacademyofformativespirituality.org](http://www.epiphanyacademyofformativespirituality.org)

### Day of Recollection: Becoming More Like Jesus

Date & Time: Fri., April 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Facilitator: Ralph Tajak, OSB

Fee: \$40, includes lunch

ER for the Soul: the Power and Practice of Appreciation

Date & Time: Sat., May 7, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Facilitator: Susan Muto

Fee: \$20



## Byzantine Catholic Seminary

412-321-8383  
[www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)

### Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture

Date & Time: Weds., May 11, 7 p.m.

Location: St. John Cathedral Center, 210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120.

Fee: Free; registration requested.

The 16th annual Saints Cyril & Methodius Lecture will feature Fr. Daniel Findikyan speaking on "The Mystery Hidden for Ages: An Eastern, Ecumenical Sacramental Theology." A reception will follow. This event is free but registration is required by April 29 by calling 412-321-8383 or emailing [office@bcs.edu](mailto:office@bcs.edu).

## International Association of Women Ministers

Community Presbyterian Church  
of Ben Avon  
7501 Church Avenue  
Ben Avon, PA 15202  
412-761-1233

### Celebration of Women in Ministry

Date & Time: Thurs., May 19, 10:30 a.m.

Suggested donation: \$20, includes lunch

Join the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers as they welcome the Rev. Martha Spong, editor of *There's a Woman in the Pulpit* and founder of RevGalBlogPals as keynote speaker at this first annual celebration. The chapter will also present awards to three outstanding women ministers. RSVP to Rev. Jean Henderson at [jhhh21942@aol.com](mailto:jhhh21942@aol.com).



## Trinity School for Ministry

311 Eleventh St.  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
[www.tsm.edu](http://www.tsm.edu)

### Healing & Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Dates: Mon. June 13-Tues., June 14

Presenter: Nigel Mumford

Cost: \$120

The goal of this two-day class will be to explore the gifts of the Spirit, as laid out in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Time will be spent exploring the greater gifts, including healing, with teaching, discussion and practicum. For more information or to register, visit [www.tsm.edu/healing](http://www.tsm.edu/healing).



## Hermitage Fire Department

2511 Highland Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

### Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters

Dates: Mon, May 23-Tues, May 24

Facilitator: Chaplain Edgar Hatcher

Cost: \$160 (includes workbook, certificate, lunch and snacks).

This two-day seminar for experienced chaplains, clergy, first responders, and mental health professionals will help participants provide effective emotional and spiritual care within disaster operations.

## Hermitage Fire Department

(continued)

Completion of this seminar (all 14 hours) qualifies as a course in the ICISF Certificate of Specialized Training Program, as advanced training in the Federation of Fire Chaplains and International Conference of Police Chaplains, and may qualify toward credentialing in the Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network.

For more information and to request registration form, contact Chaplain David Williamson, 724-342-2310 or [DWilliamson@pafirechap.net](mailto:DWilliamson@pafirechap.net).



**Don't forget to subscribe to UNITY N'AT, Christian Associates' email newsletter!**

**Visit [signup.casp.org](http://signup.casp.org) to add your name to our mailing list.**

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Organist position** at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ambridge, PA.

Responsibilities include Sunday morning traditional service and festival services for our small congregation beginning July. Option for weddings and funerals. Hillgreen-Lane organ.

Contact Pastor Strunk at 412-720-5396 or [stjohnsambridge@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnsambridge@verizon.net).

### **PNEUMA: Spiritual Direction & Leadership Program**

Now accepting Applications for the 2017-2019 Cohort.

For more information, Contact Dr. Martha Robbins, Director, Pneuma Institute, 412-924-1423.

# Camp Agapé

... bringing people together in Christ through outdoor ministry

Summer camps for boys and girls ages 5 – 15. Day and Resident Camps with a Special Summer Focus on Reading & Math Camps.

- ❖ Classic Camp
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- ❖ Music, Art & Drama Camp
- ❖ Reading & Math Camps

## Come & See!

For more information, visit our website,  
[www.campagape.org](http://www.campagape.org)  
or call the camp office at  
724-356-2308



## Discovering the New Testament *Foundations for Christian Ministry*

The Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre  
June 13-15, 2016 | Cost: \$120

This class will present the second in the series of eight new training courses in the *Foundations for Christian Ministry* curriculum, designed for adult Christians seeking greater preparation for Christian life and ministry.



For a full listing of  
June Term classes:  
[dbates@tsm.edu](mailto:dbates@tsm.edu)



[www.tsm.edu/intensives](http://www.tsm.edu/intensives)

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**RT 30 East, Greensburg  
724-834-7350  
[www.BishopConnareCenter.org](http://www.BishopConnareCenter.org)**



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



# Spirit & Sacrament

Exploring Ways Historic Liturgy and Modern Worship Can Enrich Each Other

Andy Piercy | Glenn Packiam | John Witvliet

June 6-8 | Cost: \$150

Trinity School for Ministry | Ambridge, PA  
www.tsm.edu/worship

Worship Concert  
Tuesday, June 7 at 7pm  
Free & open to the public

## UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

### LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Preaching, Healing, and Hope in Hazardous Times  
*Schaff Lectures*  
April 6, 2016  
Brad Braxton

Contemplative Path - Missional Plant  
*Albright-Deering Lectures in Methodist Studies*  
May 19, 2016  
Elaine Heath

Being Church Conference  
*Henderson Summer Leadership Conference and Miller Summer Youth Institute*  
June 5-11, 2016  
Eric Law, Rachel Held Evans, Nadia Bolz-Weber

### CLASSES

Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising  
April 18-21, 2016  
David King, Paul Jamieson, Deirdre King Hainsworth

Social Change Ministries and Hope  
April 20, 2016  
R. Drew Smith

Immersion: Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life  
*Spiritual Formation Foundation Class*  
May 1-4, 2016  
Mary Lynn Callahan

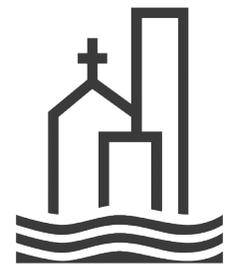
### ONLINE CLASSES

Leadership through Conflict  
April 4-29, 2016  
Leanna Fuller

Ezekiel: Prophet of the Presence and Absence of God  
May 2-27, 2016  
Steven Tuell



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



PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 5241

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

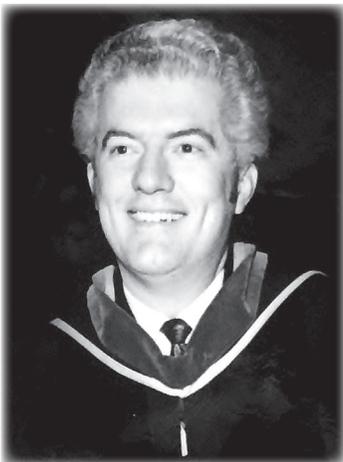
412-688-9070

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### † *In Memoriam: Dr. Lee Hicks, Pioneering Ecumenist* †



Dr. Lee Hicks, Easter 1969, during the formation of Christian Associates

The **Rev. Dr. W. Lee Hicks**, the founding Executive Director of Christian Associates, died on Saturday, February 13, 2016. Past and present members of the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives participated in a memorial service to celebrate his life on April 2 at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Dr. Hicks, then an American Baptist minister, joined the staff of the Council of Churches of the Pittsburgh Area as Associate Executive Director in 1965, and became Executive Director of that Council in 1968. Under his leadership, the bishops and judicatory executives of our region created a first-of-its-kind ecumenical agency that included Roman Catholic dioceses as full members. Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania was born on April 15, 1970.

Dr. Hicks guided Christian Associates to become a nationally-recognized leader in regional ecumenism and an essential part of Southwest Pennsylvania's religious landscape. In his 18 years as Christian Associates' Executive Director, he oversaw countless ecumenical projects in communications, education, community advocacy, and social service. Throughout, he was devoted to making visible the unity of Christ's church.

*"By daring to do something new, Dr. Hicks transformed regional ecumenism,"* said the Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates. *"His vision and energy propelled Christian Associates to be a voice for the Gospel and a force for good. It is our privilege to continue his legacy."*