

# Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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## The Call . . .

On the Web: [www.casp.org](http://www.casp.org)

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616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

*to be one in Christ*



June 2016, Number 3

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

### Anglican Diocese, Kiskiminetas Presbytery Welcome New Leaders

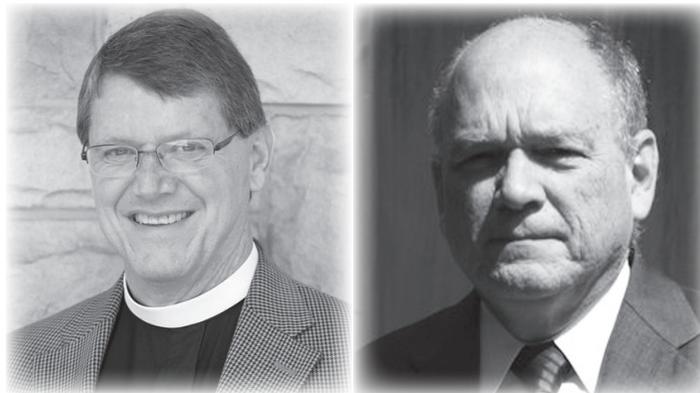
This spring, two experienced leaders were called to serve church bodies in Southwest Pennsylvania. We welcome the newest members of our Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives: **the Rev. James Hobby and the Rev. Dr. Donald Wilson.**

*where the winsome presentation of the Good News is greatly needed."*

*"Jesus' call for unity has been a big part of my heart for decades," he added, "I believe there is only one church in this city, with multiple expressions."*

Dr. Wilson attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1985. After serving congregations in Mississippi and Ohio, he became an Air Force Chaplain. He spent over 700 days in five deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, and retired from the Air Force in 2011 after 23 years of service.

Pending confirmation by the Anglican Church in North America's College of Bishops, Fr. Jim Hobby will be consecrated as bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh on September 10 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland. Archbishop Robert Duncan will retire at the end of June.



**Bishop-Elect Jim Hobby and Executive Presbyter Don Wilson**

Fr. Hobby graduated from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge in 1985. His first parishes were St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Monongahela and St. John's Episcopal Church, Donora. Since that time, he has served churches in New England and the South; since 2007, he has been Rector of Trinity Anglican Church in Thomasville, GA.

*"I am more of a builder than war-time leader,"* Fr. Hobby wrote in his introductory materials for the diocese. *"While defending the faith against false teaching is crucial, we live in a culture*

Fr. Hobby is married to the Rev. Shari Hobby, who is also an Anglican priest. They have three daughters and five living grandchildren.

Meanwhile, Kiskiminetas Presbytery, which includes Armstrong, Clarion, Elk, Indiana, and Jefferson Counties, has called a new Executive Presbyter. The Rev. Dr. Don Wilson was installed in that role on May 15.

Since 2009, Dr. Wilson has served as the Associate Director of the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel, the endorsing body for the PCUSA and other Presbyterian denominations. He will continue part-time in that role as he serves Kiskiminetas Presbytery.

Dr. Wilson is married to Becky Wilson; they have four children and one grandson. He is an avid runner who has completed 38 marathons.

Dr. Wilson said he looks forward to working with Christian Associates. *"I think there's a richness that every denomination brings to the table,"* he said. *"Not everyone will worship the same way or agree on the nuances of theology. But when we pull together, we can care for more people, our witness will be broader, and we will show Christ."*



### Preaching Resource Available Now

This month, Christian Associates, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and the Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network are joining with the Allegheny County Health Department to stand up to gun violence. Knowing that we serve a God who calls us to turn weapons into farming tools, **we ask clergy to preach about violence on Sunday, June 19.**

To assist, we have created an online worship resource with liturgies, preaching hints, and engagement ideas, written by members of the Council of Bishops and Executives, PTS students and faculty, and people whose lives have been impacted by gun violence. Download it today from the Seminary's website: [www.pts.edu/gun\\_violence16](http://www.pts.edu/gun_violence16)



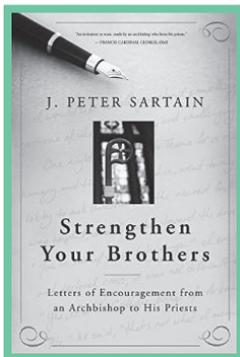
# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

People sometimes ask me about my experience working with the Council of Bishops and Judiciary Executives, the group of regional church leaders who serve as Christian Associates' governing board. *What are the bishops and executives really like?*

The truth is they are deeply faithful – grounded in their relationships with God and their care for the church – and highly gifted: people of intelligence, wisdom, and wit. Some are musicians, some are athletes, some are extroverts, some introverts, but one interest they have in common: *they are readers!*

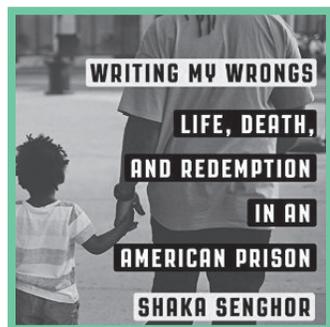
So, as you plan your reading list this summer, perhaps you might like to pick up some of these titles that have appeared on our bishops' bookshelves recently.



Bishop David Zubik of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh recommends **Strengthen Your Brothers: Letters of Encouragement from an Archbishop to His Priests** by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, of the Archdiocese of Seattle (Liturgical Press, 2012). He enjoyed the book so much that he gave a copy to each priest in the diocese this year as a Christmas gift. *"It gave me a lot to reflect on," he said, "and it broadened my sense of how I relate to our priests."*

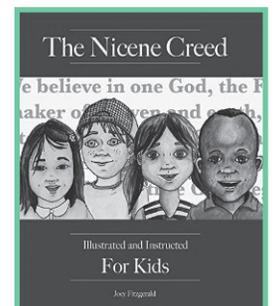
Penn West United Church of Christ Conference Minister Rev. David Ackerman suggests a recently-released book by a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professor: **When Christ's Body is Broken: Anxiety, Identity, and Conflict in Congregations** by the Rev. Dr. Leanna Fuller (Pickwick Publications, 2016). In it, Dr. Fuller suggests strategies for helping congregations reduce their anxiety around difference.

Rev. Ackerman's colleague, the Rev. Denise Mason-Bullitt, who serves as a proxy member of Council, recommends **Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison** by Shaka Senghor (Convergent Books, 2016). *"At the age of 19, Shaka was sent to prison for murder because the streets became his family,"* Rev. Mason-Bullitt said. *"He tells the story of his awakening, confession, redemption, and rebuilding of his life."*



True to our ecumenical aims, a Lutheran delegate to Council suggests a book about a Roman Catholic leader. Bishop Emeritus Donald McCoid of the Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA recommends **Something More Pastoral: The Mission of Bishop, Archbishop, and Cardinal Donald Wuerl** by Ann Rodgers and Mike Aquilina (Lambing Press, 2015). *"It's a wonderful account of Wuerl's life, ministry, and ecumenical involvement – especially in Pittsburgh."*

The General Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery, Dr. Sheldon Sorge's summer recommendation is **Grounded: Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution** by Diana Butler Bass (HarperOne, 2015). *"It gets to the core things of world and spirit – the biggest questions,"* he commented.



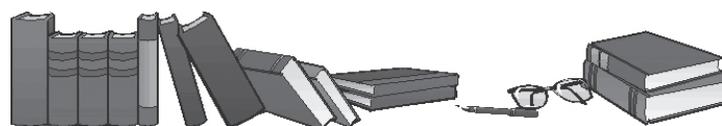
For children in your life, you might pick up **The Nicene Creed: Illustrated and Instructed for Kids** by Joey Fitzgerald (Anglican House, 2016), which will be released this summer. Archbishop Robert Duncan of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh praises it as *"very good, very accessible, illustrated with racial sensitivity, and not denominational."*

Metropolitan Savas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh offers a pair of novels: **The Sympathizer** by Viet Thanh Nguyen (Grove Press, 2015), *"this year's Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction, a tragicomic tale told by an Americanized Vietnamese communist mole with a divided heart and mind,"* and **Laurus** by Eugene Vodolazkin (Oneworld, 2015), *"a novel translated from the Russian, about a holy fool, set in the 15th century."* He adds a music biography as well: **I Would Die 4 U: Why Prince Became an Icon** by Touré (Atria, 2013). Why? *"Because Prince."*

May this summer bring you many quiet days of happily turning pages, knowing that you are reading in good company!

Your sister in Christ,

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



**Happy Reading!**

## Local Experts Offer Tips for Welcoming Refugees

*“Come, you that are blessed by my Father ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

Our Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives affirmed the moral imperative to welcome refugees in their November statement, *“Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania Responds to the Refugee Crisis in the Middle East and Europe.”* (Read the full statement online at [www.casp.org/casp%20refugee%20statement.pdf](http://www.casp.org/casp%20refugee%20statement.pdf))

Among our action steps: *to participate with refugee resettlement agencies already at work in our region as they welcome refugees from many nations.*

In March, Christian Associates convened civic leaders and directors of local resettlement agencies to ask how congregations can best assist their work. They generated dozens of ideas to help churches participate. Share this list with your congregation, and continue the work of hospitality!

- **Smile and say “Welcome!”** Listen carefully and patiently to unfamiliar accents. Speak up when you observe acts of discrimination or unfriendliness.
- **Connect refugees with housing.** As new arrivals, refugees will not have a credit score; they need landlords willing to work with them as they adjust to their new communities. The resettlement agencies offer case management, translation, and other services to help ensure refugees will

be good tenants. If you know landlords who might be willing to rent to refugee families, be sure to contact one of the agencies.

- **Provide employment.** After three months in the United States, refugees are expected to be able to support themselves: they need to find jobs. Most bring a strong work ethic, and many are skilled craftspeople or laborers. Refer potential employers to the agencies.
- **Contribute financially.** Monetary donations help the resettlement agencies purchase bus passes, furnish apartments, and sustain refugees until they find work.
- **Help with transportation.** Volunteer escorts accompany refugees as they learn to use public transit and access essential services. Donated bus tickets and passes are always needed.
- **Prepare welcome packages** of items most needed by new arrivals: toiletries, towels, blankets, cleaning products, socks, grocery gift cards. Contact the agencies in advance to ensure they will be able to use and store your donations.
- **Volunteer as a literacy tutor.** The Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council pairs volunteer tutors with new arrivals – both immigrants and refugees – who want to learn English. Tutors receive twelve hours of training, and commit to spending four hours each week with their students, for a minimum period

of six months. Learn more about this opportunity by visiting [www.gplc.org](http://www.gplc.org).

- **Support asylum seekers.** Those who find their way to the United States without attaining refugee status overseas are not able to receive government assistance until their claims are processed. Rev. Linda Theophilus of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Eastmont is coordinating the Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project to match asylum seekers with individuals or congregations who can help provide living space, household items, and other services. For more information, contact Rev. Theophilus at 412-401-5742 or [revtheophilus@live.com](mailto:revtheophilus@live.com).
- **Invite a guest speaker.** Ask a refugee or immigrant to speak during worship or at a special event, describing his or her experiences. Ask an agency leader to share more about the resettlement process.
- **Learn more about the cultures of newcomers** to our city. Attend events sponsored by immigrant organizations. For a first taste of the diversity of our communities, attend the World Refugee Day celebration in Market Square, Downtown Pittsburgh, on Friday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., which will feature performances, food and craft vendors, and children’s activities.
- **Look for more events this fall** to learn about extending welcome in our neighborhoods.



For more information about how your congregation can assist in helping refugees, contact these local agencies:

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pittsburgh:  
[www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org) - 412-456-6999

Jewish Family and Children’s Service:  
[www.jfscpggh.org](http://www.jfscpggh.org) - 412.422.7200

NAMS: Northern Area Multi-Service Center:  
[www.northernareacompanies.com](http://www.northernareacompanies.com)  
412-781-1176

AJAPO: Acculturation for Justice, Access, and Peace Outreach:  
[www.ajapopittsburgh.org](http://www.ajapopittsburgh.org)  
412-391-4985



**Our all-star panel on refugees in Southwest Pennsylvania (left to right):** Leslie Aizenman, Jewish Family & Children’s Service; Jen Hayes, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council; Barbara Murock, Allegheny County Immigrants and International Initiative; Yinka Aganga-Williams, AJAPO; Kheir Mugwaneza, Northern Area Multi-Service Center; Betty Cruz, Office of Mayor William Peduto

## Biblical Botanical Garden Rodef Shalom Congregation

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

### “The Forests of Ancient Israel”

Dates: June 1 – Sept. 15  
Times: Sun.-Thur. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,  
Wednesdays also 7-9 p.m., Saturdays in  
June-August 12 noon-1 p.m.  
Fee: Free

Enter the Holy Land, a replica of ancient Israel in our Biblical Botanical Garden with more than 100 temperate and tropical plants. See the land of the Bible, ancient Israel, in a setting of a cascading waterfall, a desert, a bubbling stream, the Jordan, which meanders through the garden from Lake Kineret to the Dead Sea. A Biblical verse accompanies each plant.

Handicapped access. Group tours (eight or more) by appointment.

### “Introduction to the Garden” Public Tour

Dates: Wednesdays, July 6, Aug. 3,  
Sept. 7  
Time: 12:15 p.m.  
Fee: Free

### “A Forgotten Israelite Jungle” Lecture

Date & Time: Tues., June 21, 7 p.m.  
Speaker: Dr. Walter Jacob  
Fee: Free

### “The Living Desert” Lecture

Date & Time: Tues., July 12, 7 p.m.  
Speaker: Helena Nichols  
Fee: Free



## Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
412-242-4478  
www.hopeforesthills.com

### Living & Leading in Congregations

Date: Sat., June 11  
Time: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Presenter: Rev. Edward Henley  
Suggested donation: \$10 + nonperishable  
food item

## Hope Lutheran Church

(continued . . .)

Bowen Family Systems Theory can inform our lives and our leadership in congregations. Using case illustrations, we will explore the nature of congregational life with a look into ourselves as religious leaders.

Both clergy and lay members are invited to attend; some familiarity with Bowen Family Systems Theory will be helpful.



## St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center

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

### Divine Mercy Iconography Workshop

Dates: Fri., June 24-Sun., June 26  
Time: 5:30 p.m. (Fri) – Sun. afternoon  
Presenter: Marylyn Barone  
Fee: \$215 (includes meals, lodging, and supplies)

Local Iconographer Marylyn Barone will lead us through a weekend workshop of painting and prayer.

All participants will have the opportunity to complete an 8x10 icon of the Divine Mercy over the weekend.



## 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: Wednesdays in June at 7 p.m.  
Fee: Free; freewill offerings accepted.  
Childcare available.

Performers include:

June 15: Ellen Fast, piano, with Ashley Freeburn, violin  
June 22: The Chamber Choir of the Pittsburgh School for the Choral Arts  
June 29: Seth Beckman, piano, with Mark Houghton, French horn

## Homewood AME Zion Church

724 N. Homewood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
412-371-6521

### Community Health Fair and Blood Drive Service Weekend

Date & Time: Sat., June 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.,  
with worship Sun., June 26, 10:30 a.m.  
Sponsors: The Men of No Excuse, The Board of Stewards, and the Pittsburgh Central Blood Bank.  
Fee: Free

This event will cover top health issues of African Americans: high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, prostate cancer and more. Prizes and refreshments will be given! The event concludes with a Men's Day worship service with Rev. Stanley C. Dennison preaching, focusing on our theme taken from Luke 14:15 – 24: Excuses Can Keep You From Your Blessing. For more information, contact Rev. Robert Russell at 412-361-1687.



## Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

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

### Retreat: The Transformation of Daily Life

Dates: Sun., July 3 – Sat., July 9  
Time: 7 p.m. (Sun.) – lunch (Sat.)  
Presenter: Fr. Bernard Tickerhoof, TOR  
Fee: \$375 (includes meals & lodging)

God is not waiting around for our peak moments in order to bring us holiness. How can we consider spirituality in daily life, opening ourselves to transformation, everyday prayer, undertaking discernment and action, and creating a holistic-contemplative program?

### Silent Directed Retreat

Date & Time: Sun., July 31, 7 p.m. – lunch on Sun., August 7  
Directors: Sr. Catherine Higgins, CSJ; Fr. Philip Fogarty, SJ; Fr. Lester Knoll, OFM Cap.  
Fee: \$425 (includes meals and lodging)

This Scripture-based retreat provides the opportunity for an extended time of prayer, solitude, and discernment of the Spirit's direction in one's life. The director is available daily to assist the retreatant in listening to the invitation of the Holy Spirit. Eucharistic Liturgy available daily.

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## St. Paul Cathedral

108 N Dithridge Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-621-4951  
www.stpaulpgh.org

### Summer Organ Concert Series

Date & Time: Sundays at 4 p.m., beginning July 10 and ending August 21.  
Cost: Free; a free-will offering will be received.

Featured organists will be:  
July 10: Mark Anderson  
July 17: Rev. Cyprian Constantine  
July 24: Elna Johnson  
July 31: Mary Catherine Levri  
Aug. 7: Don Fellows  
Aug. 14: Justin Wallace  
Aug. 21: Brian Gurley



## PNC Park

115 Federal Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com

### Faith Night

Date & Time: Wed., July 20, 7:05 p.m.  
Fee: \$16-45 using the coupon code "FAITH"

Root for the Pirates as they play the Milwaukee Brewers; after the game, hear your favorite Pirate players and coaches share their personal experiences with how their faith has impacted both their lives and their careers in baseball specifically. Groups of 15 or more will also receive name recognition on the LED Boards during the game, two complimentary tickets for a future weekday game, and all service fees waived. Call 412-325-4777 for group orders.



## St. Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road  
Latrobe, PA 15650  
724-805-2139  
www.saintvincentretreats.org

### Father & Son Retreat: Saints Rich in Mercy

Dates: Fri., July 29 – Sun., July 31  
Time: 5:30 p.m. (Fri.) – 11 a.m. (Sun.)  
Presenter: Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB  
Fee: \$140 for adults; \$105 for youth under age 25 (includes meals and lodging)

The saints are our friends and intercessors on the journey of faith. Inviting saints to be a part of our families and to inspire us, whether we are fathers or sons, is an important part of the life of faith. In this retreat, we will reflect on the lives of the saints in order to open up the riches of mercy in our own families.

## Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ

### PUSH ("Pray Until Something Happens") Breakfast

Date & Time: Sat., Aug. 20, 10 a.m.  
Location: Doubletree by Hilton Green Tree, 550 Mansfield Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15205;  
Fee: \$35

The keynote speaker will be Karen Abercrombie, award-winning actress who plays Miss Clara in the Kendrick Brothers' film "War Room." For tickets and more information, contact Mother Vineda Martin at 724-375-5528. Tickets will be available until Aug. 15.



## 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.

## Mercy Parish Nurse

(continued . . .)

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. RNs will be commissioned as Faith Community Nurses, and will receive an IPNRC pin, and are awarded 38 CEs. Other interested persons are most welcome, and will be commissioned as Health Ministers. To download a copy of the course application, visit [https://www.pmhs.org/\\_pdf/PNP\\_Parish\\_Nurse\\_Course\\_Application\\_2016.pdf](https://www.pmhs.org/_pdf/PNP_Parish_Nurse_Course_Application_2016.pdf)

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

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Mark Scandrette

## The Desert Abbas and Ammas

A Spiritual Formation Elective  
Sept. 14-17, 2017  
Roberta Bondi

## Spiritual Traditions of the Southwest

Pilgrimage  
Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, N.M.  
Nov. 1-13, 2016

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*"We have this hope as an anchor, for the soul, firm and secure." —Hebrews 6:19*



FALL 2016

ONLINE CREDIT COURSES (September 12-December 16, 2016)

**Byzantine Pastoral Leadership in Contemporary Culture** (Abouna Justin Rose)  
Jesus said that we cannot put new wine into old wineskins. The freshness and newness of his Good News burst out of the tired boundaries of contemporary religious practice. This course will draw a map for pastoral ministers. Students will reflect upon a range of materials and media to engage critically issues of leadership in our exciting and uncertain contemporary cultural landscape. (3 credits)

**Introduction to Religious Education** (Marie Nester)  
This introductory course is a practical introduction to religious education focusing on ministries of learning and teaching in Catholic communities. It will explore the dynamics of individual and communal faith formation in diverse contexts, drawing on a range of perspectives from theology and the philosophy of education (2 credits)

**Byzantine Philosophy** (John Demetrapoulos, University of Petras, Athens)  
This course introduces how philosophical thought was wedded by the Church Fathers in theological and doctrinal development in the church. Course will examine philosophical cosmology, ontology, epistemology and ethics that become Trinitarian Theology, Christology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, Spirituality, Morality, and Canon Law. (2 credits)

Application information and registration available at:  
[online.bcs.edu](http://online.bcs.edu).



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# SafeChurch

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Empower your church to be part of the national ecumenical effort to end child sexual abuse.

The Samaritan Counseling Center and Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute launched SafeChurch in Western PA, training 45+ members from 11 churches in 2015. Join the SafeChurch movement today!

*"SafeChurch was extremely beneficial in helping our church prepare policy and training to make our campus a safe and secure place to grow in the Lord."*

- Andy Hromoko  
Mt. Lebanon Evangelical  
Presbyterian Church



SafeChurch training starts Sept. 10, 2016.

To sign up, call

**412.661.1239.**

To learn more, visit [samaritancounseling.net](http://samaritancounseling.net)  
Click on the Programs tab and select SafeChurch.



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## Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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## Bring Christian Associates to Your Pulpit!

Christian Associates' Executive Minister has preached in congregations from Apollo to Zelienople, from California to the Hill District. Will your church be next?

Invite Rev. Liddy Barlow to worship with your congregation this summer. She would be glad to bring greetings from Christian Associates, to lead a Bible study or a men's or women's group, to offer a sermon or scripture reading, or even to serve as a supply pastor when you'll be out of town.

All honoraria received benefit the ministries of Christian Associates. Support Christian unity in our region and spread the word of our good work at the same time!

At press time, Rev. Barlow is still available on June 19, July 3, July 24, September 11, and September 18.

Call 412-688-9070 or email [lbarlow@casp.org](mailto:lbarlow@casp.org) to reserve a Sunday.



**Shane Claiborne**, at left, was the keynote speaker at the 16th annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, held May 20 at Christ Church at Grove Farm. *"Our personal recovery is linked to our world's recovery,"* he said. *"I cannot get better until I help the world that made me sick get better ... what if God's most perfect dream was realized in our city?"*

**The Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler**, center, is one of the conference founders; **the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell**, Episcopal Bishop of Pittsburgh, participated in a panel discussion on "Pastoring Across the Political Divide."