

# 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](http://www.casp.org)

September 2010, Number 4

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

## In Memoriam

The regional ecumenical community has suffered the loss of three highly committed Christian leaders in recent months. In their own unique ministries Metropolitan **Archbishop Basil Schott, Rev. John Bucher** and **Rev. Paul Everett** worked for the wholeness of Christ's Body, the Church. *"Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; And let Light perpetual shine upon them."*

*"Rest eternal grant them,  
O Lord; And let  
Light perpetual shine  
upon them."*

**Archbishop Basil Schott**  
**Rev. John Bucher**  
**Rev. Paul Everett**

## Archbishop Basil Schott O.F.M.



His eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop Basil Schott, died on June 10, 2010 after a seven month battle with cancer. Since 2002 he served as the Archbishop of Pittsburgh and the leader of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in America. A native of Freeland, Luzerne County, he entered the Byzantine Franciscan novitiate at 19 and was ordained in 1965. In 1996 he became bishop of Parma.

With 60,000 members from Erie to El Paso, TX, Archbishop Schott's eparchy was less than one-tenth that of the Latin Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. But he outranked his Latin colleagues. Schott led the only self-governing Eastern Church in the USA. Eastern Catholic Churches, often called "Greek Catholics," with roots in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, are in full communion with the pope, but closely resemble Orthodox Churches in worship and theology.

The Archbishop was an avid ecumenist serving on the Executive Committee of the Christian Associates Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives, and was a member of the Christian Leaders Fellowship and the Religious Leadership Forum of Southwest PA. Because of living in

the tensions between Eastern and Western Christianity, he had a deep appreciation for the ecumenical journey. Within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Schott promoted evangelization and monasticism. He routinely attended gatherings of global bishops in Rome. Pope Benedict XVI named him to the office that handles the pope's relationship with Eastern Churches.

Numerous members of the Christian Associates Council, Eastern and Latin Catholic bishops, Archbishop Nicholas and priests of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church joined the Byzantine faithful for the Funeral Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall on June 18.

See *In Memoriam*, page 6

## Inside this Edition

Reflections Along the Way . . . . .	2
Day of Giving 2010 . . . . .	3
Sharing Faith, Sharing Life . . . . .	3
Ecumenical Events . . . . .	4
Flood Recovery . . . . .	6
Presbyterian-Jewish Conversations . . .	7
Support for Veterans and Their Families . . . . .	7

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

## Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

I begin with a disclaimer. I am not opposed to organizations whose mission may include supporting youth development, empowering women, fighting bigotry and racism, or advocating for justice. Just the opposite, you will find me personally supporting and encouraging many groups with such a mission.

However, I do have an issue with the “re-branding” of some organizations like NCCJ, YWCA and YMCA. All have in their evolution diminished “Christian” in their mission statements, identity and marketing. Once known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, NCCJ has now become the National Conference for Community and Justice. Recently, the YMCA made headlines for re-branding as “The Y.” A visit to the YWCA’s national web site finds “Christian” as but part of the historic description of the organization.



**Can any group claim to be Christian without some explicit confession of Jesus as the Christ, and that all life is transformed and molded by that confession?**

Indeed, every organization has a right to continually refocus its mission and identity. I rejoice that The Y has just broken ground for a new facility in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, for their sheltering of the marginalized and summer camps for kids. Great work indeed! Likewise, I can embrace the racial and justice endeavors of the YWCA. Both Y’s do good work for our communities. That is not my point.

My point is the challenge of our retaining a particular Christian identity as we seek to live in an ever increasingly secular environment. What does it mean for any organization to be Christian as our country becomes more pluralistic, more religiously diverse and no longer with a WASP, let alone Christian majority?

Can any group claim to be Christian without some explicit confession of Jesus as the Christ, and that all life is transformed and molded by that confession? I’m not a Thomas Jefferson who excised vast parts of the scriptures to merely the moral teachings of Jesus. To use the name Christian, at least for me, implies an explicit affirmation that Jesus Christ is the Divine Lord and Savior.

**I want to believe, and hope that you agree, that true interfaith and secular engagement can only take place for those of us who claim to be Christian when we are clear and articulate about the particularity of our faith.**

As I’ve engaged in some interfaith work recently, I wrote:

*As America becomes ever more diverse ethnically, racially and religiously, we all need to develop an appreciation for our neighbors who may be different. One may learn about another culture’s traditions, customs, holidays, and beliefs without compromising the uniqueness of one’s own identity.*

While I embrace a diverse and pluralistic country, I want to believe, and hope that you agree, that true interfaith and secular engagement can only take place for those of us who claim to be Christian when we are clear and articulate about the particularity of our faith. I wish NCCJ, YMCA and YWCA well in their redefined missions, even while I grieve their departure from an explicit Christian identity.

In Christ’s love and transforming grace,

*Pastor Don Green*

## Day of Giving 2010

On **October 13, 2010**, The Pittsburgh Foundation will host a 24 hour *Day of Giving* at [www.PittsburghGives.org](http://www.PittsburghGives.org). The foundation will divide \$500,000, matching proportionately all contributions made by credit card through the web site during that 24 hour period. Minimum contributions are \$25.00



Just log on to [www.PittsburghGives.org](http://www.PittsburghGives.org). Christian Associates is listed in this online directory which features a detailed, searchable profile of Christian Associates and secure donation options. All at the click of your mouse!

So mark you calendar for October 13, log on to [pittsburghgives.org](http://pittsburghgives.org) and donate online to Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. It's the fastest way to make your gift go further.

### How to give to *Christian Associates* using PittsburghGives



1. Go to [www.PittsburghGives.org](http://www.PittsburghGives.org).

2. Click on **“DONATE NOW”**.

3. Click on **“Please click here”**.

4. Click on **“Login”** and either input a previously created user ID or click on **“Create Login”** to create a new one.

5. On the top right hand side, there is a **“Find Nonprofits”** tab in white, enter *Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania*. You will see our nonprofit portrait.

6. Click the blue **“Donate Now”** button next to the nonprofit name.

7. Click the **“Donate to Nonprofit”** underneath that button.

8. Put in the contribution amount and fill in credit card information to complete the transaction.

You will receive a confirmation email that you can print out. It will serve as your tax receipt.

Please know that your support is greatly appreciated!

## SHARING FAITH. LIFE.

*Many Religions - One Common Goal - Donate Blood.*

A festive carnival-like blood donor event on June 13 at Heinz Field kicked off *Sharing Faith, Sharing Life*: many religions, one common goal – *donate blood*.

During August five regional blood drives were held in Greensburg, Robinson Township, Squirrel Hill, Cranberry Township and Washington County to begin the sustainability portion of this interfaith initiative.

Throughout the fall religious leaders and the Central Blood Bank will work with community ministerial groups to garner support and advocacy for a second round of regional blood collections scheduled for December.

*Sharing Faith, Sharing Life* encourages Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims to draw upon each of their sacred texts and religious heritage to motivate their followers to share one common goal – donating blood. By examining our respective belief systems for the common good of humanity through blood donation, we grow in appreciation for the uniqueness and expectations of our own particular religious beliefs.

*Sharing Faith, Sharing Life* does not ask anyone to compromise their heartfelt Christian beliefs. Rather, amidst our religious diversity, this blood donor initiative seeks to assist us in affirming our neighbors who are different, yet as persons of one common humanity. Then together we respond in pursuit of that common goal – *donate blood*.

For more information contact **Pastor Don Green** at [dgreen@casp.org](mailto:dgreen@casp.org).

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

Pittsburgh Presbytery  
195 Taggart Road  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
724-792-4022; www.crestfield.net

### Harvest Day

Date: Sun. Oct. 3  
Time: 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Come to Crestfield for a day of fun and celebration as we glorify God by enjoying nature, family and friends.

### Finding the Divine: A Retreat on Spirituality

Dates: Sun., Oct. 10 - Thurs., Oct. 14  
Fee: \$275 (shared baths);  
\$325 per person (room with bath)

Seniors, come on a spiritual journey to deepen your own closeness with God. Rebecca Cole-Turner, Christiane Dutton, and Sheila Collins will guide you through such spiritual practices as walking the labyrinth, lectio divina, center prayer, body prayer, Taizé worship, and Celtic prayer.

## Music in Pittsburgh

### Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Westminster and Amberson (Shadyside)  
www.shadysidepres.org/music

### Music in a Great Space

Featuring classical guitarist Peter Fletcher

Date: Sun., Sept. 19  
Time: 4:00 pm  
Cost: Regular admission \$10,  
Seniors (60+) \$5, students  
and children free

### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton St., Highland Park  
www.standrewspgh.org

### Evensong sung by St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum

Date: Sun., Sept. 19  
Time: 4:30 pm

### Concert by Pittsburgh Baroque Ensemble

Date: Sun., Sept. 26  
Time: 3:00 pm  
Tickets available at the door

### Aspinwall Presbyterian Church

299 Center Ave., Aspinwall

### Concert by Chatham Baroque

Date: Sun., Oct. 10  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 students and  
Seniors 62+; children 12 and under free

### Heinz Memorial Chapel

University of Pittsburgh campus

### Free Organ Concerts

Sundays, 3:00 pm

### 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

### Parenting in Difficult Times

Date: Sat. Sept. 11  
Time: 1:00–4:00 pm  
Presenter: Father Scott Seethaler, OFM, Cap.  
Fee: \$15

Father Seethaler will discuss the spiritual helps God gives to parents to help them claim God's gifts of wisdom, strength, courage, and peace.

### Beginning Experiences

Date: Fri., Oct. 1– Sun., Oct. 3  
Time: Friday 7:00 pm – Sunday 4:00 pm  
Presenters: Beginning Experience Team  
Fee: \$160

Beginning Experience is a program for adults grieving the loss of a spousal relationship through death, divorce or separation, who are ready to come to terms with their loss and begin to move forward with their lives. Trained team members who are themselves widowed, separated, or divorced will conduct this retreat. To register, call **Steve Smith, 412-720-8694**. This weekend will be held at Gilmory Retreat Center in Coraopolis.

### Journey from Grief to Healing

Date: Tuesdays from Oct. 5 to Nov. 9  
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Thimons, CSJ  
Fee: No fee

Sessions consist of input, sharing, and mutual support – helping to learn coping, surviving, and healing skills during a time of grief.

### Morning of Solitude

Date: Thurs., Oct. 7  
Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 noon  
Presenter: Sister Melania Polensky, CSJ  
Fee: \$10

Sister Melania Polensky will invite participants into personal prayer and reflection in the Convent Chapel, in the spacious outdoors, at the labyrinth, and in quiet spaces.

### Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

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

### Encounter with Silence Scriptural Retreat (Silent)

Dates: Sun., September 26  
through Sunday, October 3  
Time: Begins Sunday 9/26 at 8:00  
pm and ends Sunday 10/3  
with Brunch

Presenter: Fr. Frank G. Erdeljac  
Offering: \$375  
Registration requested by September 13

Scripture-based retreat in silence, meditation, and prayer with four daily meditations on Gospel teaching.

### Christian Women's Day of Reflection

"The Communion of Saints: Our Circle of Faith and Loving Support"

Date: Sunday, October 24  
Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Presenter: Angela Gaughan  
Offering: \$30.00  
Registration requested by October 11

Day includes continental breakfast, lunch, two spiritual talks and Eucharistic adoration and liturgy.

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## Women's Retreat Weekend

"What's in a Name?"

Dates: Fri., Oct. 29 through Sun., Oct. 31  
Time: Begins 8:00 pm Friday; ends Sunday with brunch  
Presenter: Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.  
Offering: \$160.00  
Registration requested by October 15

Scripture is filled with stories of people God has called by name, changed their name or forgot to say their name! Explore the use of names in Scripture and listen for our own name to be spoken.

## Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry

Parish Nurse office 412-232-5815  
ParishNurse@mercy.pmhs.org  
www.pmhs.org

## America's Childhood Obesity Epidemic: Parish Nurses Can Make a Difference

Date: Wed., September 8  
Time: 5:30 pm – 8pm  
Repeated: Sat., September 11, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Location: UPMC Mercy, Building D, Level 2, Room 2190, 1400 Locust St., Uptown, 15219  
Cost: \$15 for CE credit, free for all others  
Registration deadline: September 3

## 18th Annual Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Symposium: "Blessed to be a Blessing"

Date: Sat., October 23  
Time: 9:00 am – 1:30 pm  
Location: UPMC Mercy Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Building C, Level 2, 1400 Locust St., Uptown, 15219  
Cost: \$30 for CE credit, \$20 for others, \$10 student nurses  
Registration deadline: October 15  
Fee includes brunch, free parking, symposium materials

## Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course

Dates and Times:  
October 1, 8:45 am – 6:00 pm  
October 2, 8:45 am – 4:15 pm  
November 5, 8:45 am – 7:20 pm  
November 6, 8:45 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road, Churchill, 15235  
Cost: \$395 per person, limited scholarships available, class limited to 20.  
Deadline is Friday, September 17  
For information, call **Dorothy Mayernik, 412-232-7997.**

## Pittsburgh Compline Choir

Heinz Memorial Chapel  
University of Pittsburgh campus  
412-682-6886; www.compline.lucpgh.com

## Compline: Choral Prayer at the Close of the Day

Dates and Time: Sunday evenings at 8:30 pm

End your weekend or prepare for the week ahead at a 40 minutes contemplative service of music, prayer and silence.

Guest Organists:

- Sept. 12 – Donald Fellows, St. Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral
- Sept. 19 – David Sogg, Bassoonist, Symphony Orchestra
- Sept. 26 – Dr. Christine Clewell, Indiana University of PA
- Oct. 3 – Peter Luley, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park
- Oct. 10 – Benjamin Cornelius-Bates, St. Paul of the Cross Monastery
- Oct. 17 – Stephanie Tretick, Violist, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Oct. 24 – Larry Allen, Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
- Oct. 31 – Cynthia Pock, First English Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh

## Taizé Services

### Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park  
www.christumc.net

Date and Time: First Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm

### East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue,  
Pittsburgh 15206  
www.cathedralofhope.org

Date and Time: Every Wednesday at 7pm

## Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue at  
Braddock Road  
Hope@Lutheran.com

Date and Time: First Friday of each month at 7:00 pm

## Tabor House of Prayer

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis  
146 Hawthorne Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15209  
412-821-1149; www.SOSF.ORG

## Introduction to Centering Prayer

Dates: Sat., Sept., 25 through Sun., Sept., 26  
Time: Saturday from 7:00 pm through Sunday at 3:30 pm  
Presenter: Sister Jane Schmitt, OSF  
Fee: \$30

Discover a plan for meeting God within you, build an abiding presence with God.

## How to Forgive Oneself and Others

Date: Saturday, October 2  
Time: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Presenter: Eileen Colianni  
Fee: \$35

Explore aspects of the process to forgive, with specific steps on the path of forgiveness.

### Bridges – Part 1

Date: Saturday, October 16  
Time: 9:30 am – 2pm  
Presenter: Sister Ann Carville, OSF  
Fee: \$30 includes luncheon

Held at Mount Alvernia Regional House, East Conference Room. First of a three-part series, "Bridges" will initiate a spiritual journey, and offer the opportunity to live a more peace-filled life as you deepen connections with others and God.

### Rev. John R. Bucher

A minister of the United Church of Christ, Rev. John R. Bucher died on June 24, 2010 at the age of 86. Born in Shenchow Fu, China, in the Hunan Province to missionary parents, he later moved to Lancaster, PA where he graduated from high school, Franklin & Marshall College, and the Lancaster Theological Seminary. He served numerous congregations in the Pittsburgh Synod, E&RC and the Penn West Conference, UCC, retiring in 1989 from the Birmingham UCC, Carrick. **“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful ones.”**

Rev. Bucher was very active with the Board of Delegates of Christian Associates and served on the Communications and Television Ministry Committees. He was passionate about communicating the Gospel, especially utilizing Christian Associates’ television channel in the city of Pittsburgh. His funeral was from the Birmingham UCC, Carrick on June 29.

#### “One in the Apostles’ Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer”

Resources for the **2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25, 2011** are now available from the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, Route 9, P O Box 300, Garrison, NY 10524-0300 or may be ordered on line [www.geii.org](http://www.geii.org).

The Council of Christian Associates continues to solicit invitations from local Ministeriums to partner in hosting *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* liturgies and programs.

### Rev. Paul F. Everett



Former Executive Director of *The Pittsburgh Experiment*, the Rev. Paul F. Everett died on June 16 at his home in Sherman, CT. A Presbyterian

Minister, Paul was a graduate of Syracuse University and Princeton Theological Seminary. Upon graduation, he became Minister of Evangelism at Wayne Presbyterian Church and later served as Associate and then Executive Director of *The Pittsburgh Experiment*, a ministry to business and the working community in the city.

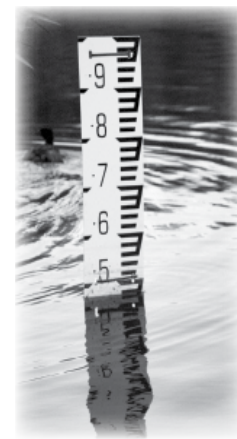
In 2005 Rev. Everett wrote, *The Prisoner*, a biography of a man who served time in prison for murder before experiencing a spiritual transformation that led to his release and a new life as a Capuchin Franciscan brother, James Townsend. In partnership with Christian Associates Television and Paulist Press, he helped produce a video with Brother Jim, and his spiritual director, Fr. Lester Knoll. Paul conducted retreats in prisons based on the book and video.

A local memorial service for Rev. Everett will be held on **Saturday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m.** at **Memorial Park Presbyterian Church**, Allison Park, PA.

## Flood Recovery Complete, New Work Begun

Long Term Recovery efforts from the June 2009 Pitcairn-Turtle Creek-Wilkins Township flooding are near completion. A faith-based and community recovery team guided volunteers and challenged financial support for restoration efforts to residents impacted by the flash flooding.

On July 10 a celebration was hosted for the three communities and those aided in their return to normalcy. One of the children, who spent the night before his 8th birthday at the storm shelter said, *“I don’t want anyone to go through a flood, but I know it will happen again. I know that my family and everyone will be there to help – help is what got us through the sad times. It was tough, but everyone worked together. Together we can get through anything.”*



Flash flooding hit the Chartiers Valley this summer. The local recovery committee is actively working with impacted households to make repairs. Christian Associates

serves as the administrator and fiduciary agent for the Western PA VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters).

Financial support for future disaster recovery efforts may be sent to Christian Associates with a memo note, *“Long Term Recovery.”*

## Support for Veterans and their Families

### One Day Retreat - September 18

Christian Associates is once again a partner in planning and hosting two events in support of veterans, their families, clergy and other professional care givers who work with veterans and their families.



Veterans and their families are invited to a one-day retreat and activity event on **Saturday, September 18** from **10 a.m. (registration at 9 a.m.) to 2 p.m.** at **Camp Guyasuta**, 300 23rd Street, Sharpsburg, PA.

The day will include a high rope challenge course, low obstacle course, stress management session, lunch and the opportunity to connect with veteran services providers. Separate activities will be offered for children.

To register or for more information contact: [kimberlyhall@comcast.net](mailto:kimberlyhall@comcast.net) or **412-244-1244**. There is no cost. Space is limited. Readers of *The Call* are asked to extend an invitation to and encourage veterans and their families to attend.

### Conference - October 21

On **October 21** a conference for clergy and other professional care givers will be held at the **Veterans Administration** on Highland Drive, Pittsburgh from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Keynote Speaker will be **Colonel Elspeth Cameron Ritchie, MD, MPH**, Office of the Army Surgeon General on the topic: *Update on the Psychological Effects of War: An Army Perspective*. Michael Bodis, Veterans Leadership Program of Western PA will give an overview

of the Veterans Court. Workshop offerings include:

- Traumatic brain injury;
- Women's Issues;
- Reintegration;
- The Family Experience;
- Spirituality;
- Combat Veterans and PTSD; and
- Suicide Prevention.

This conference is free! The only cost is for continuing education credits. To register or for more information contact: [kimberlyhall@comcast.net](mailto:kimberlyhall@comcast.net) or **412-244-1244**.

### Reserve the Date

*National Workshop on Christian Unity*

**May 9-12, 2011** at the **Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh**, hosted locally by Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. For more information visit [www.nwcu.org](http://www.nwcu.org).



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Call Us Now! Our program is free and transportation can be provided. For more information please call Holy Family's SNAP Program 412-331-7712.

## Presbyterian-Jewish Conversations

At the request of Jewish Communities of Greater Pittsburgh, Pastor Don Green, Executive Director of Christian Associates (CASP) has convened two conversations related to the 219 General Assembly (GA), Presbyterian Church USA.

Prior to the July Assembly Commissioners from the five CASP member presbyteries were invited to meet with representatives of the Jewish community to discuss proposed legislation on Middle East Peace. At the conclusion of that pre-GA conversation marked by respectful exchanges of opinion, the group requested that a post-GA conversation be convened and moderated by Pastor Green. The second conversation was held on August 31.

The GA approved a comprehensive report on the Middle East – its first since 1997. The paper calls for:

- An *immediate cessation of all violence*, whether perpetuated by Israelis or Palestinians;
- The *reaffirmation of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation* within secure and internationally recognized borders in accordance with United Nations resolutions;
- The *end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories*;
- An *immediate freeze on the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and on the Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land and buildings in East Jerusalem*; and
- Many other steps toward peace in the region.

The position of ORGANIST/PIANIST is open at Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Greentree, PA.

It is a salaried part time position that includes one Sunday service, choir rehearsal, option for weddings and funerals, and seasonal services. Newly renovated pipe organ and Baldwin grand piano.

Contact the Director of Music: [tdavis@wallacememorial.org](mailto:tdavis@wallacememorial.org) or 412-561-2431.

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724-443-4110

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**Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania**  
**204 37th Street, Suite 201**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201-1859**  
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