

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 26 Christian Faith Traditions, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . .

to be one in Christ



On the Web: www.casp.org
204 37th Street, Suite 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1859
newsletter@casp.org

February 2015, Number 1

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

Festive Worship Planned to Install Executive Minister, Celebrate 45 Years

With song and story, inspiring ritual and compelling preaching, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania will gather for worship on **Sunday, February 15 at 4:30 p.m.** at **Smithfield United Church of Christ**, 620 Smithfield St. in downtown Pittsburgh.

Join us to celebrate covenant and pray for unity.

In addition to formally installing Rev. Liddy Barlow as Christian Associates' Executive Minister, the worship service will also celebrate Christian Associates' 45th anniversary. CASP was established in October 1969.

Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of the United Church of Christ, will be the preacher.



Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson will serve as preacher for the Christian Associates' executive minister installation and 45th anniversary event.

Rev. Thompson represents the United Church of Christ in ecumenical dialogues both nationally and internationally.

She has previously served as Minister for Racial Justice with the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries.

As the Ecumenical Officer for the UCC she is responsible for nurturing and coordinating the ecumenical work of the UCC through involvement in the UCC's relationships, partnerships, councils of churches, theological dialogues and ecumenical initiatives.

As the Interfaith Officer for the UCC, Rev. Thompson is charged with responsibility for encouraging interfaith dialogue and cooperation with other faith traditions. She is a participant in on-going Jewish Christian and Muslim Christian Dialogue on behalf of the UCC.

Worship leaders will include members of Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives and representatives of the Pittsburgh Association of the United Church of Christ.

The youth of New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church (Beaver-Butler Presbytery) will present a liturgical drama, "Life of Jesus."

A gospel prelude by the New Light Temple Baptist Church choir begins at 4:10 p.m.

Childcare will be provided during worship for children in grade 3 and younger; all childcare workers have all the necessary safety clearances.

A light supper will follow the worship service.

RSVPs are appreciated, particularly for those who intend to stay for the meal and those who require childcare.

Email Kay at kkowalski@casp.org, or call 412-688-9070 to reserve your place.



New Era Begins for Foundation of HOPE

Christian Associates' Partner in Ministry Hires Executive Director, Assumes Responsibility for Jail



Susan Orr became HOPE's first executive director in January.

For the first time in its history, the Foundation of HOPE has called a full-time Executive Director.

Ms Susan Orr, a fundraising specialist and longtime member of the Pittsburgh non-profit community, began work on January 20 as HOPE's chief executive officer.

Christian Associates and the Foundation of HOPE work together as partners in ministry. HOPE, which aims to empower incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their communities, grew out of the chaplaincy ministries at Allegheny County Jail, which CASP administered for nearly 30 years.

Ms Orr's arrival is part of a significant organizational transition for Christian Associates and the Foundation of HOPE.

At the start of 2015, HOPE assumed responsibility for chaplaincy ministries at Allegheny County Jail. While Christian Associates will continue to hold the contract for chaplaincy from the county, HOPE will subcontract to provide spiritual support to jail inmates and staff. Meanwhile, CASP will continue to provide back-office support to HOPE, including bookkeeping and HR functions.

In 2005, HOPE became an independent organization, maintaining close ties to Christian Associates.

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REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

Emily Post, Miss Manners, and Dear Abby all agree: *throwing a party in your own honor is simply not good etiquette*. Given that, I have been a little uncomfortable in recent weeks as I've worked to plan the February 15 worship service that will install me as Christian Associates' Executive Minister. Inviting friends and colleagues to spend their Sunday afternoon celebrating ... me? It seems a little gauche.

What's more, I started work at Christian Associates back in April 2014: though I still sometimes enjoy the luxury of calling myself "new," it's in fact been ten months since I arrived in my office. So a service of installation seems anti-climactic. Why spend an afternoon now, nearly a year later, to stop and welcome me one more time?

In both of these questions, I am greatly comforted in remembering what an installation means in my own tradition, the United Church of Christ (UCC), and in imagining what it might mean for all of us as Christian Associates.

After all, in the UCC, installation is not primarily about throwing a party in the minister's honor. And it's not typically celebrated in the first few days of a ministry, either: it usually takes a few months before an installation takes place. That's because installation is far more than a welcome ritual: instead, it is an affirmation of the ties of covenant that connect a minister, the congregation or agency he or she is serving, and the wider church. In the installation rite, representatives of all these covenantal partners come together to commit themselves to mutual support and collaborative ministry.



...we understand covenant as a holy decision to be in relationship; it's this commitment to living in covenant that holds our church together in all its diversity.

In the words of Katherine Willis Pershey, "*A covenant is an agreement not unlike a contract, save for one minor detail: it's completely unlike a contract.*" While a contract is based on human negotiations, a covenant is grounded in the holy. While a contract lines out duties and consequences, a covenant celebrates God's grace. In the UCC, we understand covenant as a holy decision to be in relationship; it's this commitment to living in covenant that holds our church together in all its diversity. And so, when we pause to install a pastor, we are reminding ourselves of the holy web of relationships that facilitate our ministry. These committed relationships, these covenants, help us experience the presence and power of God. As the Jewish philosopher and theologian Martin Buber wrote, "*When two people relate to one another authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them.*"

We have experienced the truth of that electricity in our work as Christian Associates. It was forty-five years ago this past fall – October 1969 – when a pioneering group of church leaders established Christian Associates. In the time that has followed, the churches of Southwest Pennsylvania have faced pressures from without and schism from within. But, through it all, the relationships built around our table have remained strong. Our prayerful commitment to the covenant we share keeps us together. We believe that there is that of God in our connection to one another. We believe that these relationships are well worth celebrating.

So, join us at 4:30 p.m. on February 15 at Smithfield United Church of Christ, as we mark 45 years of working toward the visible unity of Christ's church here in Southwest Pennsylvania. Join us as we recommit ourselves to relationship and celebrate the covenants we share. Join us as we throw a party – not in my honor alone, but in honor of all that God is doing in the space between us.

I hope to see you there.

Your sister in Christ,

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

**Join us at
Smithfield United
Church of Christ on
February 15
as we celebrate
our shared covenants.**



Christian Associates Welcomes Kay Kowalski

The newest addition to the Christian Associates staff is Ms. Kay Kowalski, our Executive Administrative Assistant. Kay comes to Christian Associates after serving in various administrative, event-planning, and fundraising roles at regional non-profit organizations and universities.

In her role at Christian Associates, Kay serves as office manager and bookkeeper. She provides hospitality for visitors, sets up meetings, keep records, and finesses communication.

Kay also provides accounting and human resources assistance to our partner in ministry, the Foundation of HOPE.



“I feel I was called here to do this work,” Kay said. “I hope I can be some small part of bringing people together in Christ. That’s where the Lord’s heart is: that we would be one.”

“Kay’s cheerfulness is contagious!” said Rev. Liddy Barlow, CASP’s Executive Minister. “She brings a variety of gifts to this work, and is already making her mark.”

Kay lives in Mercer with her husband Donald and daughter Meghan. She serves as a lector at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. In her free time, Kay enjoys Irish dancing, oil painting, and creative writing.

Stop by the office to say hello and welcome Kay to the Christian Associates family.



Bread for the World Workshop To Address Child Hunger, Incarceration



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

You can make a difference in 2015 for hungry children and families.

Sign up for Bread for the World’s Advocacy Training Workshop on **Saturday, March 28** at **Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park** to learn more about making your voice heard.

Participants will learn about key U.S. programs that can help reduce the risk of hunger, hear stories of real life experiences, choose break-out sessions to deepen knowledge, discover resources to help promote advocacy in congregations, and take practical action to reach out to members of Congress.

This year’s workshop will address two issues: children’s hunger-prevention programs in the morning, and incarceration in the afternoon. Participants may attend either or both sessions.

In the morning, the workshop will focus on advocacy to help hungry children.

Learn how to sponsor an “Offering of Letters” at your church encouraging Congress to support stronger food programs for our nation’s children and to resist pressures to cut funding or change structures in those programs.

In the afternoon, participants will learn how incarceration can result in hunger.

People returning from incarceration face daunting re-entry challenges, and the families of prisoners often struggle to make ends meet while their loved ones are not available to provide care and income. Hunger is one onerous result of a legal and penal system that incarcerates millions, disproportionately people of color.

Box lunches will be available for \$8 (scholarships available).

To register, or for more information, call 412-835-6621 ext. 109 or email jmsimmons@christumc.net.

Please indicate if you want a lunch and your preference for either meat or vegetarian option, and indicate morning session, afternoon session or entire day.

Spanish-Speaking Chaplain Needed



Due to an increase in our population in general and the number of Hispanic inmates in particular, the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh is looking for a Protestant Contract Chaplain who is fluent in Spanish.

The position is for up to 12 hours per week and starts at \$27.32/hour. The hours are somewhat flexible but candidates must be available on Sundays.

Chaplains are required to be ordained.

For more information or to request an application packet please contact Rev. Tami Hooker, Facility Chaplaincy Program Director at 412-761-1955 X352 or through email at thooker@pa.gov.



New Era Begins

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"This transition is a natural next step in the relationship between Christian Associates and the Foundation of HOPE," said Rev. Liddy Barlow, CASP's Executive Minister. "The new structure allows HOPE to do what they do best – serve inmates and ex-offenders – while Christian Associates can focus on our work pursuing Christian unity."

Susan Orr has worked in communications and fundraising with a variety of organizations, most recently as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Point Park University and as Director of Development at Sojourner House, a residential rehabilitation facility for addicted mothers and their children.

Susan's fundraising expertise made her an appealing choice for HOPE, which is working to solidify its finances and expand its ministries.

"Having served on the HOPE Board, I understand and appreciate vital services this organization provides," said Orr. "Now, as Executive Director, I look forward to helping HOPE continue to grow and flourish."

Rev. Kimberly Greway, Director of Chaplaincy Services at the jail, welcomed Orr's appointment.

"We're excited about expanding our services and increasing our capacity under Susan's leadership," she said. "She brings the right skills at the right time for HOPE and I look forward to working with her."

Rev. Greway has served part-time as Executive Director of HOPE since 2010, and will stay on as HOPE's Chief

Operating Officer, managing day to day operations for chaplaincy, pre-release, and aftercare programs.



New Instructors Needed for HOPE Pre-Release Program

Bring hope to those who need it most! The Foundation of HOPE is seeking volunteers to serve in its Pre-Release and Aftercare programs at Allegheny County Jail.

Volunteers may serve as mentors for inmates or ex-offenders, or may co-teach or facilitate classes, including:

- Life Skills
- Inner Freedom
- Victim Awareness
- Trauma and Abuse
- Confronting Stinking Thinking

Opportunities are available both during business hours and on weekday evenings. All curriculum and materials will be provided. The next volunteer training will take place February 7 from 1-4 p.m.

For more information or to register for the training, contact Caitlin Werth, Pre-Release Program Director, at (412) 350-1322.



I need help with:

- Feeding my family.
- Becoming a volunteer.
- Getting taxes done.
- Avoiding eviction.
- Caring for my grandmother.
- Keeping my heat on.
- Joining the workforce.
- Finding a summer camp.
- Protecting a friend.

I can help with:

- All of the above.



Need help? Dial 2-1-1.

It's your friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, info or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first. If 2-1-1 is not available where you are, dial 1-888-553-5778.



Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church

384 Fox Chapel Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-963-8243
www.fcpc.us

The Gospel of Luke

Date: Sun. Feb. 8
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Presenter: Bruce Kuhn
Fee: \$10 individual, \$25 family

The Gospel of Luke is a solo performance of the Gospel, memorized word for word from the New Testament and told with the same passion and surprise as at the first telling. In a compelling 90 minutes, the words come alive with the urgency and humor of someone who was there.



Kearns Spirituality Center

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

Book Discussion: *A Hidden Wholeness*

Dates: Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25
Time: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Facilitator: Joan Coultas, CDP, Ph.D.
Fee: \$20 for the complete series or \$5 per session

Book discussion, prayer, and a light breakfast as we read Parker Palmer's *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*. Books are available from Amazon or order through Kearns for \$16.50.



Heinz Hall

600 Penn Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-392-4900

St. Olaf Choir in Concert

Date: Tues., Feb. 10
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Fee: \$30-\$40 depending on seat location

The St. Olaf Choir, with 75 mixed voices, is the premier a cappella choir in the U.S. The choir's mission is to provide music that lifts peoples' hearts and spirits, incorporating a diversity of voices and cultures into the chorus of the Christian faith.

Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit
5244 Clarwin Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-9766
www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com

Lenten Evening of Reflection: Celebrating the Incarnation in the Midst of Lent

Date: Thurs., Mar. 19
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Presenter: Fr. David Moczulski, OFM
Fee: \$20 with dinner, \$10 for a 6:00 p.m. arrival.

This program will consider how the solemnities of Saint Joseph (March 19) and the Annunciation (March 25) help us draw closer to Christ in his Passion and Resurrection. The evening will include dinner, Evening Prayer, a presentation, time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and celebration of the Eucharist.

Women's Retreat Weekend: Meeting the Marys

Dates and Time: 8:00 p.m. Fri., Mar. 20 through lunch on Sun., Mar. 22
Presenter: JoAnn Paradise, D.Min.
Fee: \$130.00

What can we learn from these women of scripture? During this retreat, participants will walk with these women and learn how they discern and respond to the call of faith. Registration requested by March 6.



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

616 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Unholy Secrets: Ending Child Sexual Abuse

Dates: Wed., Feb. 25 or Mar. 25 or Apr. 22
Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Presenters: Samaritan Counseling Center and Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute
Fee: \$10 per training

Breakfast and training for pastors. To register, contact Samaritan Counseling Center at 412-741-7430 or Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute at 412-661-1239, or visit www.samaritancounseling.net or www.ppi-online.net.

St. Joseph Spirituality Center

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

Valentine Retreat for Married Couples

Date: Sun., Feb. 15
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Presenter: Sister Marguerite Kropinak and David & Regina Zajac
Fee: \$60/couple (includes candlelight dinner)

This program includes presentations on the spirituality of marriage, time for sharing as couples, and an opportunity to renew marriage vows at liturgy.

Ignatian "Living Room Retreat"

Date: Lenten Thursdays (Feb. 19-Mar. 6)
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Presenter: Sister Catherine Higgins
Fee: \$50 (includes materials)

This retreat asks participants to spend 20-30 minutes daily at home in quiet prayer based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, then to meet with the group once a week to share the fruits of one's prayer.

Gold in My Memory Book: A Retreat for Women

Date and Time: 7:00 p.m. Fri., Mar. 6 – 12:00 noon Sun., Mar. 8
Presenters: Sister Diane McCalley, Kathy Ciccone, Chris Didio, and Judy Lewis
Fee: \$120 (includes meals, lodging, and materials)

In story and prayer, this retreat explores how to care for our memory by learning to "bank" happy thoughts and events as they occur.

Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat

Date and Time: 7:00 p.m. Fri., Mar. 20 – 4:00 p.m. Sun., Mar. 22

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 move forward, so they may be free again to love themselves, others, and God. Trained team members who are themselves widowed, separated, or divorced will conduct this retreat at Gilmory Retreat Center, Coraopolis.

To register, call Steve Smith at 412-367-4948 or Mary Jane Fagan at 412-523-2405.

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

**Training for Interim Ministers
(Basic Unit, Part II)**
March 9-13, 2015
Brenda Barnes, PCUSA Interim Pastor
Robert Anderson, PCUSA Interim Pastor

**Making a Wake: Integrating Faith, Life,
and Work as We Follow Christ**
Journey Inward; Journey Outward
March 17, 2015
Christopher Brown, Coordinator, Church
Planting Initiative, PTS
Vera White, Associate, 1001 Worshipping
Communities

Julian of Norwich
A Spiritual Formation Elective
March 19-22, 2015
Roberta C. Bondi, Professor Emerita of Church
History, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

**Healing Babylon: Hospitality, the Common
Life, and the Nature of Faithful Citizenship**
Schaff Lectures
March 26, 2015
Luke Bretherton, Associate Professor of
Theological Ethics and Senior Fellow, Kenan Institute
for Ethics, Duke Divinity School

**Creativity: Speaking of God in a New
Media Age**
Methodist Pastor Workshop
April 17, 2015
Jason Byassee, Senior Pastor, Boone United
Methodist Church, Boone, N.C., and Fellow in
Theology and Leadership, Duke Divinity School
Beth Felker Jones, Associate Professor of
Theology, Wheaton College

Our Lives as Sacred Story
A Spiritual Formation Workshop
May 1-2, 2015
Room at the Table: An Evening of Music
May 2, 2015
Carrie Newcomer, Singer and Songwriter



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See complete list at www.baidos.net
Mary Ann Hvizdos, Ph.D., Co-Principal
412-807-1611

March-June 2015: 1-Hour Informational PowerPoint
Overview & Key Changes to PA Child Protective Services Law, 2015
\$60 flat rate, including handouts, up to 8 participants



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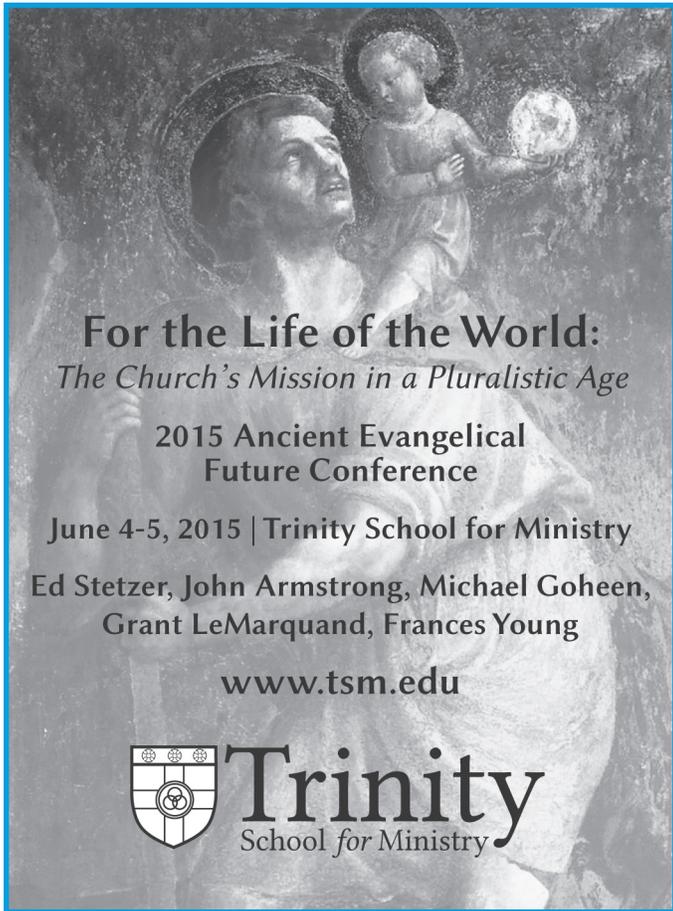
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"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

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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 (March 15th for the April issue).*

Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.

Save The Date!

**Pittsburgh Pastoral Care
Conference**

★ Friday, April 24, 2015 ★
Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley

Keynote address by **Reid Carpenter**,

President Emeritus of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation.

Mr. Carpenter has been a vital force in the Pittsburgh region to bring healing and the power of the Holy Spirit into pastoral work. He challenges us to come together and build the kingdom of God here in Pittsburgh.

Workshops on mental health and wellness, family and marriage, addiction and recovery, and much more.

See the next issue of *The Call* for more information and registration details.