

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

December 2012, Number 6

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

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese Ordains New Bishop

Bishop Gregory (Tatsis) was ordained to the Episcopacy as bishop of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America on November 27, 2012 at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown, PA.

Concelebrating with the Archbishop were hierarchs from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

Bishop Gregory was nominated as successor to His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos by the Clergy of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. at a Special Assembly on July 14, 2012. He was canonically elected Titular Bishop of Nyssa and ruling Hierarchy of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA by the Sacred and Holy Synod of the



Bishop Gregory

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on August 30, 2012.

Bishop-Elect Gregory was born in Charlotte, NC on December 7, 1958. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earning a BA degree in Biology (1981) and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte earning a MS degree in Biology (1989).

Working for more than 20 years in the field of Cardiovascular Research at Carolinas Medical

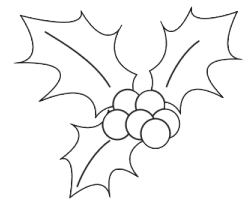
Center in Charlotte, NC, he authored/co-authored over one hundred articles, abstracts, and book chapters.

After taking part in a mission trip to Alaska sponsored by the Orthodox Christian

Mission Center, he felt the calling to pursue his life-long dream of studying for the Holy Priesthood. Leaving his secular job in early 2003, he entered Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA in the Fall of 2003 and graduated in May of 2006 with the Masters of Divinity degree.

The newly enthroned Bishop was ordained a Deacon in 2006; tonsured a Monk at Agia Lavra Monastery in Kalavryta, Greece in 2007; and, ordained a priest at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, GA on January 28, 2007 also by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on the same day.

On February 1, 2007, he was appointed as the Ierokyrix (Itinerant Preacher) of the Metropolis of Atlanta. On September 14, 2007, he received the offikion (rank) of Confessor at the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Chapel in Atlanta, GA. Most recently, Bishop Gregory has served as Dean of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans, LA, and as Vicar of the Western Conference of the Metropolis of Atlanta.



Christian Associates Receives Grant

The Forbes Funds has awarded Christian Associates a Mini-Innovation Grant to support their project, **Outreach Ministry Inventory, Needs Assessment & Collaborative Plan.**

In applying for the grant Dr. Wayne Yost, Council Secretary wrote, *“Our diverse, Christian ecumenical association directly operates or sponsors a large variety of social justice and outreach ministries that currently include schools; social ministry organizations; camps; geriatric services; children, youth and family services; etc.*

While offering similar services these ministries often operate in denominational

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REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Siblings in our Lord,

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.’” (Psalm 122: 6-7)



We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for peace within Damascus, Beirut, and Cairo. All those lands which have been part of our sacred history are under siege. Whether Arab Spring or tribal civil wars or the never ending conflict between Palestinian and Israeli, the Middle East is in crisis, innocent people are dying, and prospects for a peaceful Jerusalem shared by all three Abrahamic religions seems ever more dim. What else can we do but pray?

We call that child born in that Palestinian town of Bethlehem the Prince of Peace. . . . Forgiveness, reconciliation and peace were His mission in life; and so it must be ours as well.

Some of our Protestant denominational leaders, without consultation with their Jewish peers with whom they were to meet in a few weeks, chose to do something which they thought would advance America’s role in seeking peace between Israel and the Palestinians. They wrote to Congress asking for congressional hearings about US military aid to Israel and human rights violations.

Instead of aiding peace, those leaders have alienated some Jewish leaders who share a common vision of a two state solution to peace in the Holy Lands. How can we expect the warring factions of Hamas and Israel to enter into dialogue when we are so disrespectful of our Jewish kin by not first discussing our concerns with them prior to issuing the letter?

Fortunately, the conversations between Christians, Jews and Muslims continue in our region, in spite of the October 5 letter to Congress. There are diverse opinions within both religious traditions; some strongly held and diametrically opposite each other. But we continue to talk; and yes, to pray. The conversations are not easy. But we have tried to listen and talk with each other rather than talk at each other. Our very action of modeling civil conversation about such an impassioned issue is itself a prayer for the peace of Jerusalem.

We ask, *“Why must we be burdened by such weighty issues at a time when we want to be joyful, hopeful and expectant like everyone else who is anticipating Christmas?”* We’d all like to fall into the cultural euphoria of the season without the reality of war and death constantly in our face. But we call that child born in that Palestinian town of Bethlehem the Prince of Peace. He came that we might be reconciled to God and to each other. Forgiveness, reconciliation and peace were His mission in life; and so it must be ours as well. The very least we can do is *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”*

Pax, Salaam, Shalom,

Pastor Don Green



Orthodox Church in America Elects New Primate

His Eminence, **Archbishop Tikhon**, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, was elected Primate of the Orthodox Church in America during the 17th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America at Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH on Tuesday, November 13, 2012.



Archbishop Tikhon

On Sunday, November 18, 2012, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presided at the Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC for the first time since his election as Primate.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the cathedral community presented to Metropolitan Tikhon relics of Saints Tikhon of Moscow—November 18 marked the 94th anniversary of his election as Patriarch of Moscow. Archbishop Tikhon succeeds Metropolitan Jonah who resigned his office as primate earlier this year.

Pittsburgh's Crèche

Pittsburgh's Crèche is the world's only authorized replica of the Vatican's Nativity Scene as erected in St. Peter's Square.

During Pittsburgh's annual Light Up Night on November 16 members of the Christian Leaders Fellowship blessed the Crèche which will remain open through Epiphany in early January.

Each year an estimated two hundred and fifty thousand people stop to gaze at the life-like replicas and the manger scene that is the reason for the holiday celebration.

The Crèche has become an attraction to downtown Pittsburgh allowing residents and out-of-towners to connect their beliefs with the joy of the season.

Dedicated in 1999, every year since, volunteers and unions have donated their time and corporations have given services to help keep the Crèche a unique part of Pittsburgh's holiday celebration. While much of the work on the Nativity is donated, not all the labor is

Harris Interfaith Lecture

Rodef Shalom Synagogue, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh will host the annual Harris Interfaith Lecture on **Friday, February 1, 2013** beginning at 11:00 a.m. Featured lecturer will be **Gershon Baskin, Ph.D.** Baskin was the initiator and the person responsible for the secret back channel between Israel and the Hamas that successfully negotiated the release of Israeli abducted soldier Gilead Schalit.



Dr. Gershon Baskin

Dr. Baskin was the Israeli Co-Director and founder of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) - a joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think and "do"-tank located in Jerusalem. Since January 2012 he is the Co-Chairman of IPCRI's Board of Directors.

Dr. Baskin initiated the founding of IPCRI in 1988 following ten years of work in the field of Jewish-Arab relations within Israel, in

free and other expenditures (approximately \$50,000 per year) are necessary including truck rentals and police service.

Because of winter weather conditions the nativity scene also suffers damage to the roof or to the plywood infrastructure and most years needs some repairs. It is for these additional labor and equipment costs and

Interns for Peace, the Ministry of Education and as Executive Director of the Institute for Education for Jewish-Arab Coexistence (established by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Prime Minister's Office).

During the Premiership of the late Yitzhak Rabin, he served as an advisor on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process to a secret team of intelligence officers established by Mr. Rabin.

Dr. Baskin has been awarded the Histadrut Prize for Peace in 1996, the Turkish Foreign Policy Institute Peace Prize in 2004, the Tribute of Honor and Courage from the World Movement for Democracy in 2004 and the Search for Common Ground Journalist Award for Middle East Journalism in 2005 and 2007. Dr. Baskin speaks Hebrew, English and Arabic.

Since January 2012 Dr. Baskin is working to develop renewable energy projects around the Middle East. To register for this luncheon and lecture contact the synagogue at **412-621-6566**.



the as-needed restoration expenses that the Pittsburgh Crèche Endowment Committee was formed and an endowment fund was created at the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Online donations to the Crèche Endowment may be made at <http://pittsburghfoundation.org/node/24920>.



Leaders of the local faith community gather to bless the Crèche. The Pittsburgh Crèche is located in the US Steel Plaza at 600 Grant Street.



Martina Spiritual Renewal Center

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

Women's Retreat Weekend "Deepening Our Understanding of the Mass"

Dates: Fri. Feb. 8- Sun. Feb. 10, 2013
Times: Begins 8:00 pm Fri. and ends with
Sun. brunch
Presenter: Jo Ann Paradise, DMin
Offering: \$130; Registration requested
by January 25th

Together we will journey through the
Scriptures to better understand the devel-
opment and the celebration of the Lord's
Supper.

Directed Retreat (Silent)

Scripture-based retreat
Dates: Sun. Feb. 24 - Sun. Mar. 3, 2013
Times: Begins 7:00 pm Sun. and ends
with Sun. lunch
Directors: Sr. Catherine Higgins, CSJ &
Fr. Phillip Fogarty, SJ
Offering: \$425; Registration requested by
February 11th

This retreat provides the opportunity for
an extended time for prayer, solitude and
discernment of the Spirit's direction in
one's life.



Taizé Services

Taizé, begun in a ecumenical community
in eastern France, is described as "a
model for attending to the spiritual and
physical needs of the whole people of
God..."

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park
www.christumc.net
First Wed. of each month, 6:30pm
Sept. thru May

Community of Celebration

809 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa
www.communityofcelebration.com
First Sun. of each month, 7:30 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh 15206
www.cathedralofhope.org
Every Wed., 7:00 pm

Taizé Services

continued. . .

Faith Lutheran Church

1656 Lincoln Way, White Oak 15131
www.faithwhiteoak.org
Every Wed., 7:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

353 Ridge Avenue at Braddock Road
Hope@Lutheran.com
First Fri. of each month, 7:00 pm

Community United Methodist Church

3487 Route 130, Irwin
www.ShareChristWithOthers.com
Second Wed. of each month, 7:30 pm



Music in Pittsburgh

Lessons and Carols and Other Musical Offerings

Sun. Dec. 2, 3:00 pm

O Come All Ye Faithful w/Duquesne
Music School
St. Paul Cathedral
108 N. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, 15213
412-621-4951

Sun. Dec. 2, 4:00 pm

Advent Hymn Festival, Parish &
Compline Choirs
First English Evang. Lutheran Church
615 Grant St., Pittsburgh, 15219
412-471-8125

Sun. Dec. 2, 5:00 pm

Lessons & Carols
Calvary Episcopal Church
315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15206
412-661-0120

Sun. Dec. 2, 6:00 pm

Three Rivers Ringers handbell program
**Wallace Memorial Presbyterian
Church**
1146 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, 15220
412-561-2431

Sat. Dec. 8, 7:00 pm and

Sun. Dec. 9, 3:00 pm
Christmas Concert: North Hills Chorale
Kearns Visitation Chapel
9000 Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, 15101
412-366-1124

Music

continued. . .

Sun. Dec. 9, 4:00 pm

Lessons & Carols
The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley
414 Grant Street, Sewickley, 15143
412-741-4550

Sun. Dec. 16, 10:00 am service

Lessons & Carols
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church
315 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, 15238
412-963-8243

Sun. Dec. 16, 3:00 pm

Christmas Brass
St. Mary of the Mount
403 Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, 15211
412-381-0212

Sun. Dec. 16, 5:00 pm

Messiah Sing Along - call for tickets,
\$5 & \$10
Calvary United Methodist Church
971 Beech Ave., Pittsburgh, 15233
412-231-2007

Sun. Dec. 23, 4:00 pm

German Christmas Service
**First English Evang. Lutheran
Church**
615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, 15219
412-271-8125

Music in a Great Space

Sun. Dec. 9, 2012, 4:00 pm

Messiah
Sun. Jan. 6, 2013, 4:00 pm
Candlelight Epiphany Concert
Admission \$10 adults, \$5 seniors,
students & children free
Shadyside Presbyterian Church
5121 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh 15232
www.shadysidepres.org



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
8:00 pm



Pittsburgh Compline Choir

continued. . .

“Guide us waking , O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.”

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

Dec. 2 – James Gorton, former Co-Principal Oboe, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Dec. 9 – The Rev. Cyril Hurnyak, First Trinity Lutheran Church, Oakland



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

Advent Reflections

Date: Thur. Dec. 6

Time: 10 am – 3:30 pm

Presenter: Sister Kathleen Garde

Fee: \$20

A guided reflection on the mystery of the meaning of “Emmanuel” – God With Us

Journey from Grief to Healing During the Holidays

Date: Tues. Dec. 4 & 18

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Thimons

Fee: No fee; Call 412-600-3247 to register

This program consists of input, sharing and mutual support, helping us learn ways of coping with loss during the holidays.



Kearns Spirituality Center

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

Festival of Lights

Date: Fri. Dec. 7

Time: 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sponsors & Locations: La Roche College & Sisters of Divine Providence

Kearns Spirituality Center

continued. . .

Advent hymns, Christmas carols & performances at Kearns; entertainment at La Roche, fireworks are the grand finale.

Lectio Divina

Dates: Sun. Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 24, Apr. 28, May 26

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Facilitator: Anne Winschel, CDP, MS

Donations accepted

A Christian practice of reading & praying with sacred scripture, “Lectio” involves savoring the word of God, letting it speak to your heart, responding to God and resting in God.



The Salvation Army

Western PA Division
700 North Bell Avenue
Carnegie, PA 15105
www.salvationarmy-wpa.org

Check website for volunteer opportunities, this is updated on a regular basis.

Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program

Now thru Dec. 14

Sponsors are matched with family in a crisis situation.

Call Martha McCully, 412-362-0891 x104

New Years Eve Watchnight Services – Dec. 31

Time: 12 noon

Place: Steel Valley Worship & Service Center, 104 E. 9th Avenue, Homestead
Call: 412-461-2460

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: Northside Worship & Service Center, 100 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh
Call: 412-321-3421

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Braddock Worship & Service Center
Call 412-271-2407

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Pittsburgh Temple Worship & Service Center, 1060 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh
Call: 412-207-2127

The Salvation Army

continued. . .

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Westside Worship & Service Center, 1821 Broadhead Fording Road, Pittsburgh

Call: 412-921-9780

Time: 9:00 PM thru 12 midnight

Place: Homewood Worship & Service Center, 8020 Frankstown Ave., Pittsburgh

Call: 412-242-1434



Epiphany Roman Catholic Church

164 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-4438
412-471-0654

www.epiphanychurch.net

Evening Prayer for Christian Unity

Date: Sun. Jan. 27, 2013; Time: 4:00 pm

Pittsburgh Compline Choir, Duquesne University student organists, Lutheran University Center & Duquesne University campus ministers will close the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Building a Caring Church:

Skills for Effective Communication with Active and Non-Active Members

Struggling with members coming in the front door and then going out the back? Learn how to gain and keep members!

Clarejean Haury

Pastor, First United Presbyterian Church, Houston, Pa.

Susan Vande Kappelle

PC(USA) Pastor and Interim Minister

February 14-16, 2013

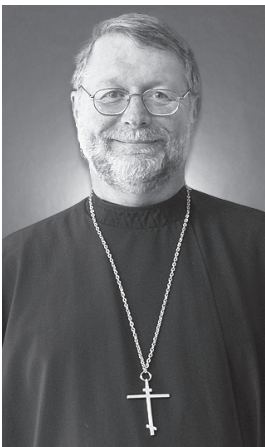
March 7-9, 2013

www.pts.edu
412-924-1345
ConEd@pts.edu



The Future of the Church and the Future of Pastoral Care

Reserve the date on your calendar now for the **2013 Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference on Friday, May 17, 2013.** Location: TBA.



Co-sponsored by Christian Associates, the 2013 conference theme is: **The Future of the Church & Future of Pastoral Care.**

Father Michael Plekon will be the keynote speaker. Plekon is Professor

Father Michael Plekon of Sociology/Anthropology in the Program in Religion & Culture at Baruch College of the City University of New York.

He has published extensively on persons of faith and the shapes of holiness in our time, most notably *Living Icons: People of Faith in the Eastern Church and Holiness in Our Time* (2002), *Hidden Holiness* (2009), and *Saints as they really are...--American Voices, Lives and Paths to Holiness* (forthcoming 2013). He is a priest of the Orthodox Church in America, an associate at St. Gregory the Theologian parish,

Wappingers Falls, NY. Peter L. Berger was his teacher.

In an interview Fr. Plekon spoke of his current work, "I am not sure if there will be more writing about holiness and those struggling to live it in the 21st century, but all three volumes as well as my own pastoral experience (and that of colleagues and seminarian interns serving in our parish) have nudged me toward a related project. I am calling it "The Church Has Left the Building," borrowing a phrase I saw on Religious News Service (RNS).

I have asked colleagues and former interns to reflect, in essays, on their experience of parish life and pastoral ministry in the first decade or more of this new century.

I think of those who may write, there is well over a hundred years of pastoral experience upon which to reflect, and all have encountered the complex collection of demographic, cultural and social factors challenging the churches now.

For example, through no fault of dedicated clergy and laity, there are numerous "redundant" parishes across the churches: parishes in small towns now only a few minutes away from the next parish, also parishes where the economic and social bases have long since disappeared: mills, factories, mines to which immigrants flocked a century or more ago. Also the communities of

ethnicity/language have now moved into the third or even fourth generation, with many, actually most "marrying out" of ethnic and denominational roots.

Quite contrary to the myth that we continue to suffer from a "priest shortage," the actual situation of basic church life, that is, parish life, is crying out for clear, insightful commentary. This is what the project hopes to provide through a handful of experienced pastors.

It is not going to offer "recipes" for improvement, though clearly the conditions in which many parishes of all church backgrounds are finding themselves do signal a need to return to simplicity of life and the basics of prayer, sacraments, fellowship and service—precisely the characteristics Diana Butler Bass found in a study a decade ago."

Planners of the 2013 conference have identified three sub-themes for the all day event:

1. Building pastoral care communities in times of individual isolation/fragmentation;
2. Tools for creating and nourishing community in an individualistic culture; and,
3. Creating and nourishing community in an age of isolation.

Christian Associates Receives Grant

continued from page one . . .

"silos," or where sharing a similar mission or client demographic have seen themselves as competitors rather than collaborators.

Our Council believes that the time for changing those attitudes and behaviors has come. As the Christian leaders of our region have learned to work cooperatively and in intimate collegial fellowship over these past 42 years, now we feel that we need to assist our respective ministries of social justice and outreach in working collaboratively so that our witness and service might be enhanced and increased."

Ms. Deb Thompson of Strategy Solutions, Inc. has been contracted to lead the study.

The purpose of the **Outreach Ministry Inventory, Needs Assessment & Collaborative Plan** includes:


- Conducting an inventory of current existing social justice and outreach ministries of the 26 judicatories that are currently members of CASP (approximately 40).
- Evaluating each agency's education process regarding their judicatory's faith tradition and the implications of that faith tradition on the mission of the agency..

- Identifying opportunities for collaboration and potential consolidation of programs, services and support services that would result in mission enhancement and potential cost savings and economies of scale.
- Working with the CASP leadership to prioritize opportunities and develop an action plan for implementation of collaborative enhancements that include the leadership and capacity building needs for CASP's management and support structure.



UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

<p>Unexpected Surprises in My First Congregation</p> <p><i>Online Learning</i></p> <p>January 7- March 1, 2013</p> <p><i>Wayne A. Yost</i></p> <p>General Presbyter, Presbytery of Kiskiminetas</p>	<p>Beyond Bullet Points: Preaching with Images (Part I)</p> <p><i>Online Learning</i></p> <p>January 7- March 1, 2013</p> <p><i>Erin S. Cox-Holmes</i></p> <p>Executive Presbyter, Donegal Presbytery</p>	<p>The Kelso Lecture in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p>January 20, 2013 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>John C. Brittain</i></p> <p>Professor of Law, University of the District of Columbia</p> <p>Free and open to the public</p> <p>Held at East Libery Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>The Apocalypse, Archaeology, and the Dead Sea Scrolls</p> <p><i>The Schaff Lectures</i></p> <p>March 20, 2013 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>Craig R. Koester</i></p> <p>Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary</p> <p>Free and open to the public</p> <p>World Mission Initiative Dinner 6:00 p.m. Reservations Needed</p>	<p>Office of Continuing Education 616 N. Highland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412-924-1345 ConEd@pts.edu www.pts.edu</p>  <p>PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</p>
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Nancy Lee Cochran
Director, E100 Pittsburgh Initiative

Jan McGinnis
Bible Ministry Coordinator

(412) 463-8380
www.scriptureunion.org

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

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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412-688-9070

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Celebrating the Savior

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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 (January 15th for the February issue).*

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

Thank you . . . and . . . can we count on you again?

Thank you to those who contributed to the mission of Christian Associates during the Pittsburgh Foundation's "Day of Giving" in October. We are grateful for the gift and the matching funds provided by the foundation that day.

These continue to be challenging times financially for those who are engaged in the cause of Christian unity. Our supporting judicatories have not recovered from the impact of the recession nor the decline in revenue due to intra-denominational conflicts and declining membership.

Thus, Christian Associates is ever more dependent upon direct support from clergy and laity who believe in our mission to work toward the more visible unity of the Body of Christ in this region.

We invite your generous support so that Christian Associates continues to be . . .

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

Your gift will make a significant difference in our ability to continue to:

- † promote *Collegiality, Connectedness* and *Collaboration* among our member denominations and their agencies and institutions,
- † prepare male and female inmates for re-entry into society upon release from jail, and
- † promote the ecumenical and interfaith dialogue which leads to trust and reconciliation.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, words of affirmation and your Christmas gift to Christian Associates.

Your continued support is vital!

Your tax-deductible gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Checks can be made payable to *Christian Associates* and mailed to:

204 37th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1859

Thank you for blessing us,
as God has blessed you!

