

## What is the SafeChurch Project?

The SafeChurch Project plays a key role in the trailblazing effort to end child sexual abuse nationwide. It was developed by *Linda Crockett*—author, human rights activist and Director of SafeChurch/SafePlaces at the Samaritan Counseling Center in Lancaster, PA.

*SafeChurch training has been implemented in 100+ churches across the U.S. and enrollment continues to soar. It will empower your church to become a leading authority on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse.* Your church will learn to foster a culture of proactive engagement and advocacy for keeping children safe in their church environment, home, school, sports and other groups in the broader community.



Carl Baughman, certified SafeChurch presenter (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), listens to a session participant.

SafeChurch is an “inclusive, strategic and sustainable movement, encompassing diverse faith (as well as secular) organizations.” In Western PA, SafeChurch training is presented by the **Samaritan Counseling Center**.



## What does SafeChurch training entail?

Training includes the following areas of focus:

- Recognizing abusive behavior
- Understanding/applying the legal mandates for reporting abuse
- Church policies and best practices
- Education for the church staff, congregation, volunteers and ministry leaders
- K-12 curriculum and other resources to promote awareness
- Welcoming past offenders into your church while prioritizing child safety
- Exploring the ministry needs of survivors' spouses

“ SafeChurch was such a blessing! It enabled us to talk through the realities of childhood sexual abuse... and to change our church's culture to an ongoing space of safety for children.”

– Lori Bass-Riley, Cross Roads Presbyterian Church

## Who should attend?

Identify a SafeChurch team to represent your church and plan to send at least two representatives to each session.

## When and where are training sessions held?

New SafeChurch trainings are set to begin in January, 2017. Training sessions will span five months and take place on Saturdays from 9 AM till noon. Various sites will be selected to accommodate all participants to the greatest extent possible. SafeChurch culminates with an adult *Survivors Retreat* and a customized educational event held at your church.

## How can I enroll or learn more?

Please contact **Carl Baughman**, Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling Center at [cbaughman@samaritancounseling.net](mailto:cbaughman@samaritancounseling.net) or **412-741-7430**, extension **402**.

Registration and fees are available on our website at: [www.samaritancounseling.net](http://www.samaritancounseling.net).



50+ representatives from 11 churches participated in Western PA's inaugural SafeChurch training.

## Clearances and Mandated Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse

### *Critical information for churches*

PA law imposes a reporting mandate on all adults (age 18+) coming into contact with children in the course of their work, **including clergy and spiritual leaders of churches and religious organizations. This includes church staff, pastors, music ministers, youth directors, supervisors and volunteers.** Furthermore, **child abuse clearances and criminal background checks** are required for anyone working with or around children, including volunteers.

### *How do I report in a Church setting?*

- Call ChildLine at **1-800-932-0313** or go online at **compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/Home**
- Inform the appropriate person from your church. (Your church policy should identify a person to be in charge of child abuse matters.)
- If you called ChildLine, you must next file a written report, a CY-47, with your local Child Protective Services agency within 48 hours.



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### **Western Pennsylvania's SafeChurch Headquarters**

#### **Presenters:**

**Rev. Carl Baughman, MDiv, MS, LMFT**

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
Executive Director

**Susan Young, LPC, NCC, CEAP**

Licensed Professional Counselor  
Clinical Director

**Carla Sandy, MPM, MSW, LSW**

Licensed Social Worker

**Lucinda Ramsey, MBA**

Office Manager

#### **Mission**

*To help individuals, families and communities achieve emotional, spiritual and physical well-being through professional psychological counseling and educational programs using the resources of faith.*

#### **Satellite Offices**

Samaritan has multiple offices located throughout Western PA.

For more information or to find an office near you, please call **412.741.7430**  
email

**info@samaritancounseling.net**

or visit us online at

**www.samaritancounseling.net**

**414 Grant Street, Sewickley, PA 15143**



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**SafeChurch**

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention