

Newsletter of
The Cathedral of Hope

Reaching Out

www.cathedralofhope.org



March 2006

East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Vol. 25,

Sunday Worship Services

* Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month at each service.

- 8 am Good Samaritan Worship
* March 5 The Rev. Joe Haidu, retired United Methodist minister.
March 12 Fr. Regis Ryan, Focus on Reward.
March 19 Justin Johnson, ELPC Elder.
March 26 Andrew Weber, student, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- 9 am Morning Glory Worship
* March 5 The Rev. Howard Cherry.
March 12 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain.
March 19 Heather Tunney.
March 26 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
- 11 am Sanctuary Worship
* March 5 The Rev. Christiane Dutton.
March 12 The Rev. Dr. Richard Szeremany, "Walking in the Light."
March 19 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, "Cleansing Light."
March 26 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, "An Inviting Light."

Koinonia Service of Praise
Sunday, March 12 (see page 11) 7 pm

Holy Ground Service
Sunday, March 19 (see page 6) 6 pm

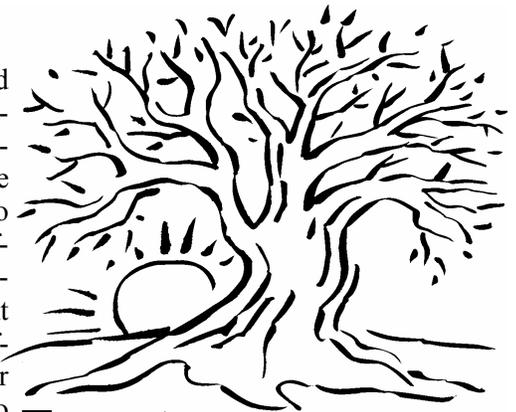
Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays 10 am to 3 pm
Wednesdays 10 am to 9 pm

The Symbols of Lent

Lent is a time for reflection and symbolic communication. Throughout the year, the church is to be directed out to the world. During the 40 days of Lent, we pull back into ourselves for reflection and self-examination. Listening to endless words about the events of Lent can become wearisome and we often "tune out." Symbols attract our attention and continue to "speak" to us as long as our eyes remain fixed upon them.

A symbol can also convey more than one message. The symbol of grapes or wheat or a chalice reminds us of the Sacrament, but also of our Lord's love, of the biblical story and message of the events leading up to the Last Supper, and of the events immediately following—the Crucifixion, death, burial and the Resurrection. All of this and not a word yet spoken. How precious symbols are to us and how essential to the understanding of our own faith/Lenten journey.

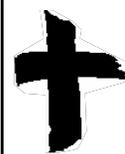
During the season of Lent 2006, you will find simple symbols throughout the Sanctuary and other parts of the building that immediately catch your attention. And, even if your response is nothing more than "Oh, this must be Lent," that response sends your mind and your spirit on an exploratory journey for you and your faith. In a very real sense, it is a metamorphosis which takes place in our understanding during the journey from



Lent

Ash Wednesday until Easter—the barrenness and plainness of Lent breaks forth into the flowers! color! new life! resurrection! EASTER!

When you see these Lenten symbols, there is really no reason to wonder "Why?" Rather, think of them as a gift to enrich your spiritual understanding of this season and the reasons we celebrate Lent year after year. More especially, think of the One for whom these symbols are now



Ash Wednesday March 1

The imposition of ashes:

- 9 am Chapel. Worship led by ELPC staff members.
12 noon Chapel. A 30-minute time of reflection, scripture, prayer and music.
5:30 pm Social Hall. Labyrinth.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

The Cathedral of Hope
116 S. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412/441-3800
Fax: 412/441-4422
www.cathedralofhope.org

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday, 9 am to 12:30 pm

STAFF LEADERSHIP

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Pastor

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Cynthia I. Jackson
Interim Director of Christian Education

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Reaching Out Newsletter

Reaching Out is a publication of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is



Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

A Mini-Sermon?

I should confess to a certain degree of writer's block in composing this essay. Even though I've written scores of similar newsletter articles, there is something intimidating about this first essay for the *Reaching Out* newsletter. Here we are, beginning a personal conversation about faith, life and shared ministry, and we hardly know one another!

Newsletter essays often serve as mini-sermons, creatively illustrating an aspect of the Christian faith. I'm not sure this first essay, though, should be that type of writing. I'd rather share how excited our family is about moving to Pittsburgh and getting to know the ELPC church family. I know there will be a time of transition as our children settle into their new schools and we learn to navigate the hills and winding roads of this city. But we have felt tremendously welcomed by the church staff, officers and members and are looking forward to the adventures of the coming months.

Don't be surprised if you receive a note or phone message from me during the coming weeks. Hopefully we'll have time to chat on the phone or dialogue online or go out for dessert somewhere, so I can get acquainted with you and hear your stories about why ELPC is your church home. Make a point to introduce yourselves on Sundays after worship, so I can begin learning everyone's names. I invite each of you to write down on a notecard what you think is the best kept secret about Pittsburgh and pass that on to me when we meet.

When I start work later this month, I will try to balance being available in the office with making connections out in the community. I will try to keep fairly regular office hours, with Thursdays being my "Sabbath" day off and some quiet time spent in prayer early Friday mornings. The first few weeks will be taken up with making connections and initial meetings with church officers and other groups, particularly as we move through Lent toward the season of Easter. One unifying aspect of the upcoming worship services will be the theme of light and life, recalling how Jesus said "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

Even if the subject matter of this initial newsletter essay has been a bit mundane, it reflects a basic truth about our shared Christian faith, namely, that God is present in our conversations, our routines and everyday events as much as in times of explicit worship. One of the ways we live out being an inclusive and welcoming community of faith is nurturing this awareness of God's presence in the "other," in the mundane details and new faces we encounter each day. Hmmm, maybe there is a mini-sermon in this essay after all.

Peace,

Randy

Summary of the ELPC Discernment Retreat Day

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

ELPC members and friends were invited to attend a Congregational Discernment Retreat Day on Jan 21, 2006. Over 80 members and friends gathered for what turned out to be a truly wonderful day of worship, dialogue and fellowship that celebrated and considered what is the “core” of our congregation’s calling. As all 80 gathered at the end of the day in one very large prayer circle, many felt that the Holy Spirit had indeed been among us that day.

As promised, this letter from the Planning Team offers some brief reflections on what was heard that day. All the comments from the Retreat were gathered and compiled by the consultants facilitating our gathering. A complete summary of “findings” from the Discernment Retreat will be available to the congregation in the church office and on our website. Also, please look for a second letter from us in April detailing how information from the Discernment Retreat is being put to use to plan for ELPC’s future.

Some brief reflections heard at the Discernment Retreat Day

What are the essential elements of our congregational calling?

When is ELPC at its best?

Openness and welcome are the most important elements. These refer to the validation of spirituality when becoming a member, accepting people where they are in their own faith journey, and the inclusion of diversity of race, class, and sexual orientation. Community and global outreach include the United Religions Initiative, working to improve the East Liberty neighborhood through community development, and showing our commitment to racial, social, and global justice with active involvement in local and global mission work. Encouraging spiritual growth through the discovery of individual gifts and being open to the Holy Spirit, including a belief that all should be ministers and strengthen ELPC. Ministry to members reveals both our strength and weakness in that we serve as a model for other churches in the Presbytery, we value the contributions of artists, and we are attractive to new members. However, we need to improve member integration into church life.

We shared our anxieties together.

An important concern is that our church will be driven by finances instead of being Spirit-led. We need a plan for suitable spending that will address our challenges in a timely way so that poor choices are not made under pressure. Our current rate of spending is far greater than what we take in. How will we sustain our programs and missions without addressing endowment spending?

Other sources of anxiety for our future are the lack of people committing to a faith and societal shifts.

Where do you feel God is leading ELPC?

Clearly, we agree to remain open to change, and continue to enter into deeper prayer asking God to lead us in new ways. We want to sustain our mission and facility with resources and faith as stewards of God’s Word in this place. This involves a re-affirmation of our commitment to

our mission with new enthusiasm and excitement, a look at creative financing, responsible stewardship, and finding ways to connect in service with each other and the community. There is a call for more and better communication of opportunities to serve, with an emphasis on new member involvement and congregational challenge. We agree that the nurture and growth of our own congregation is key to nurturing the local and global community. We feel called to make a deliberate effort to make our identity known, our presence felt, and our mission lived.

The purpose of our Retreat was to focus on and understand the essentials of ELPC’s mission, without a discussion of finances. Our conclusion is that we can be both spiritually led and fiscally responsible at the same time. However, this presents a challenge to ELPC as major changes are required to attain sustainability. And, we trust that with God’s help and our commitment, we will be strong.

Lenten Prayer Calendar and Prayers for Lent Booklet

Available at the Highland entrance and second floor information display tables you will find Lenten Prayer Calendars and Prayers for Lent booklets. The calendar was prepared to be used each day during Lent to write the names of persons you want to remember in prayer such as family, friends or dear ones, communities and countries needing peace and justice, and/or to remember loved ones who have died. The booklet includes prayers to inspire your journey into Lent.

Please take one of each and use them in ways that seem best for you during this Lenten season.



Christian Education

The Rev. Cynthia I. Jackson
Interim Director of Christian Education

The Christian Education ministry is dedicated to teaching and being taught about our relationships with God, neighbors and self. Through the study of scripture and its relationship to human experience, we come to understand and internalize the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By sharing our faith journeys, we grow as a community.

Church School (for all ages) — Sundays, 9:45 to 10:45 am
 Class meeting rooms are posted on the schedule board on the second floor.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL

Contemporaries



The Contemporaries class offers presentations and discussions on a variety of subjects including theology, spirituality and current events. Through support and fellowship, study and discussion, the members of this class seek to grow in their faith. Second Floor Parlor.

March 5 Traveling with the Lord. Led by Wil Forrest. Wil Forrest has a passion for travel and will share the impact of his travel experiences on the development of his faith. As Wil focuses on three of his trips, he will provide an opportunity for the class to reflect upon their travels using a spiritual filter. Sometimes growth occurs in retrospect as one meditates on new people and their culture. In addition, the class will examine some of the references to travel recorded in Scripture. Every time one travels to a distant place, one is changed in some way. Hopefully, this change enables us to see our own environment differently. Come to listen, to share, and to enjoy the fellowship.

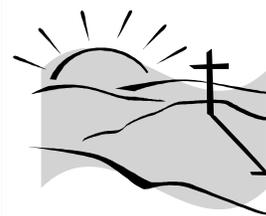
March 12 Generations Come Together Through the Sharing of Faith Stories. Moderator, Heather Tunney. Intergenerational ministry and sharing is growing at ELPC. A panel of two 20/30-year-olds and two 'Boomers' will discuss and share their faith stories. We honor Jesus as we listen to one another with sensitivity and compassion. Soon, we may discover that we have much in common in our faith journeys. The *Theology of the Hammer*, a service project in which different generations collaborate to help someone in need is a great model for ministry! May our dialogue be the beginning of some intergenerational initiatives. Come, join the interaction and grow your faith!

March 19 A continuation of the March 12 class (see description above).

March 26 A Protestant Journey into Eastern Christianity. Led by Dr. John Burgess, Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theo-

logical Seminary. John Burgess and his family lived all of last year in Russia and worshiped every Sunday in an Orthodox church.

The Orthodox have a profound sense of God's presence in everyday life. John will discuss how this experience reshaped his life. Topics during this 3 week series will include the experience of God's holi-



ness, the relation of justice and beauty, and the longing for communion with others. May you

develop a deeper sense of Christian discipleship and spirituality as you participate.

Seekers

The Seekers class explores issues of faith and spiritual growth through a variety of lenses such as focused Bible readings, books by current authors' presentations of theology and study of religious art. Leaders include class members, church staff and guest presenters. We welcome the sharing of questions and doubts, as well as faith convictions and affirmations.

March 5, 12, 19 and 26 "Faith"
 Ron Stone, ELPC elder and retired John Witherspoon Professor of Christian Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will lead this series of discussions on FAITH utilizing Paul Tillich's *Dynamics of Faith*, a popular introduction to theological reflection on faith.

Dr. Stone has written two books on Paul Tillich: *Paul Tillich's Radical Social Thought* (1980) and with Mary Ann Stenger, *The Dialogues of Paul Tillich* (2002). He also edited two of Tillich's works on social

Christian Education
 cont'd on page 5

Christian Education, cont'd . . .

ethics: *Theology of Peace* (1990) and, with Lon Weaver, *Against the Third Reich* (1998).



Join the Seekers for this stimulating series of lecture/discussions with this internationally known authority on Paul Tillich. *Dynamics of Faith* will be available in the ELPC Gifts of the Spirit Bookstore.

Lectionary Bible Study

Study the scripture texts based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week, texts from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle, and a gospel reading will be identified. The sequence of these texts within the liturgical seasons of the church year provides a guide for our spiritual formation.

We enter the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 1. Lent consists of 40 days—not including Sundays—before Easter. Christians are invited to use this time for reflection, fasting, and to be intentionally focused on our relationship with God. The liturgical color for Lent is purple, a reminder of our repentance and return to God.

A biblical background is not required. Bring a Bible if you have one or there will be one made available for you. Second Floor Library.

March 5 *Readings:* Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10; 1Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the texts reveal God's desire to initiate and renew relationships with creation and humankind. Through stories of Noah, Jesus, and the early church, we glimpse what it means to live in the embrace of God's covenant. As we begin our Lenten journey, we rejoice in God's promise to save, to heal, and to deliver.

March 12 *Readings:* Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31; Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38.

The texts for today teach us of God's promise to love and bring us into relationship. The focus passage is foundational for both Judaism and Christianity. Both faith traditions celebrate God's promise to Abraham and Sarah and look to them as models of living with trust in God's active and abiding presence.

March 19 *Readings:* Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22.

The Ten Commandments may be the most familiar Bible passage. These verses are God's wisdom for creating healthy communities – gifts from God to help our lives work better. The texts this week call us to consider what God desires for our world, the role of God's wisdom in our lives, and what it means to dwell in the realm of God's promise.

March 26 *Readings:* Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21.

Our lifelong journey with God is filled with hope and blessing, and also times of danger. God desires to save and heal, bringing deliverance at the moment of despair. Each text this week reveals moments when God's grace breaks into the world. God continues to deliver God's people, bringing new possibilities for life in God's reign.

YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes for youth in grades 6–12 are offered through our Youth & Young Adults Ministries. See page 7 for information.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

Preschool ages 3, 4 and 5; kindergarten and grade 1; grades 2 and 3; grades 4 and 5. The children get to know new friends, learn Bible stories and find ways to share God's love. As they learn more about the life of Jesus and others in the Bible, they discover that people long ago had feelings, disappointments, and hopes and dreams.

YOUNG CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Infants to 2-year olds. Childcare is offered with an integrated Bible-based theme each week, including nurture, stories, play, craft, snack and music. This time is interactive and joyful! This ministry is available for parents wishing to attend 9:45 am adult Church School and/



"LIVING LENT"

Lenten Devotional Packets
for Children and Family

"Living Lent" is the Lenten devotional packet Rev. Jackson has prepared for children and family. The packet includes suggestions for Ash Wednesday, each week of Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Also included are ideas for sharing God's love with others, praying, making something to represent a holy place, giving with a fish bank and being grateful. It is important that children experience a time at home to pray and reflect upon what they learn



Spiritual Life Ministry

Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual

Lenten Study Series — Psalms: The Prayers of God’s People

The Psalms are the prayers that have accompanied the people of God throughout history. Through these ancient words, they spoke their praise, thanksgiving, wonder, doubt, faith, grief and hope that arose from the depths of their being and reached upward to God.

During this 4-week Lenten study series, Sundays, March 19, 26, April 2 and 9 from 12:30 to 2 pm in the Second Floor Parlor, you are invited to spend time with the Psalms. Through our readings and reflections on these prayers, we will seek to hear God’s word for us today. Through our time of praying with the Psalms, we will seek to open ourselves to God and offer up our own prayers. Led by Judy Menk, retired Director of Christian Education.

March 19 — Psalms: The Prayer book of the Bible

March 26 — Psalms: Songs of Orientation

April 2 — Psalms: Songs of Lament and Disorientation

April 9 — Psalms: Songs of New Orientation

Class on Alzheimer’s Disease

On Monday, March 27 from 7 to 9:30 pm in Room 234, the Stephen Ministry’s training class on Alzheimer’s Disease will be open to caretakers of Alzheimer’s and families who have a family member diagnosed with the disease. Our class presenter will be Education and Outreach Manager for the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association Elaine Dively (Licensed Social Worker and MSW). Topics will include:

- u What is Alzheimer’s and how does it compare to normal aging.
- u The various forms of dementia.
- u Overview of the brain and how it changes with Alzheimer’s.
- u The stages of Alzheimer’s; communication techniques used at each stage.
- u Coping techniques for some difficult behavior problems.
- u Use of a validation method when caring for those with Alzheimer’s.
- u What is the end of stage of Alzheimer’s and the use of Hospice.

IMPORTANT: This class IS NOT for those with Alzheimer’s, including the

From the Deacons

The Board of Deacons is called by God to seek out and serve the needs of those in greatest need—the poor, the sick, homeless, the aged, the distressed and the disenfranchised. The work we do is both spiritual and practical in nature, ministering to the family of faith within ELPC.

You could help the Deacons CARE for our church family by:

1. Becoming part of the Deacon’s visitation team, visiting sick and homebound members. You would be assigned a partner with whom you would make visits a couple of times a year. A training session will be offered on Saturday morning, April 1 at ELPC. After lunch, the trained teams will make their first visit. For more information, call Carol Untch, 724/272-9722.
2. Donating unused blank note/greeting cards for keeping in touch with ELPC members in need of a friendly note; and flower vases to hold Sunday’s flowers for distribution to sick and shut-in members of our church family. Donations can be left in a box in the church office marked for the Deacons.

Many thanks and blessings to you who help!

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Prayer Requests

To submit a prayer request, fill out a request card and put it in a designated prayer request box. Request boxes and cards can be found in the church office and on the table near the east transept doors. The ELPC Prayer Group collects the requests and prays for them every Thursday. All prayer requests are kept confi-

Holy Ground Service

A Service of Prayers for Wholeness & Healing

Sunday, March 19, 6 pm



Join us in the ELPC Sanctuary for a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading and a time of blessing. Our service will be led by the former ELPC Director of Christian Education,



Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Taizé Prayer

Every Wednesday at 7 pm. A candlelight service with silent meditation and chanted prayer, in the Chapel. The Taizé service on March 1, Ash Wednesday, will include the imposition of ashes.

After-Taizé Classes

Wednesdays at 8:15 pm, following the Taizé Prayer at 7 pm.

- March 1 No class.
- March 8 & 15 Richard Rohr "Letting Go" Another two-class series based on the audiotapes of Richard Rohr. In our culture, the good life means getting more. Rohr challenges listeners to subtract—to release whatever hinders us from following Christ. Facilitator: Suzanne Bailey.
- March 22 & 29 Christ's Blood Availed for Me. The suffering and death of Jesus, how does it take away our sins? Does the cross promote violence or overcome it? What do you see in the cross of Christ: foolishness, scandal and abuse, or joy and life? We will explore the different atonement theories of the church to help us in our own understanding. Led by the Rev. Don Dutton.

Bread & Soup Meal

All are invited to join us in the McKelvy Room on the last Wednesday of each month from 5:45 to 6:45 pm for a bread and soup meal and fellowship (\$2.50 donation). Next meal—March 29. Following our meal together, for



Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Heather Tunney, Director, Youth & Young Adult Minis-

Koinonia Fellowship

Before the Koinonia worship service on Sunday, March 12 at 7 pm, we will have a pot-luck supper for ELPC's youth and young adults. We will meet in the Second Floor Parlor for a light meal and time of fellowship at 5 pm, concluding by 6:45 pm. A main course will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP by Wednesday, March 8 to Heather Tunney at 412/441-3800 x14.

YOUTH (grades 6 through 12)

Sunday Church School Classes

9:45 to 10:45 am. Church School junior-high youth and senior-high youth classes use the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum which follows the Revised Common Lectionary Readings for each week.

ELPC Youth Group

Sundays, 12:30 to 3 pm. The Youth Group meets for lunch, Bible Study and fellowship.

Youth Basketball for Young Men Grades 9–12

Youth basketball for young men grades 9–12 is held on Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm in the ELPC Gym.

Food Bank Service Project

Junior and senior high youth are invited to participate in a service project to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in Duquesne on Saturday, March 25. Join us as we sort and repackage food donations at the Food Bank's warehouse. We will leave ELPC at 8:30 am and return by 1:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Heather by Sunday, March 19. A permission slip is required.

Presbytery's Junior High Fun Fest Extravaganza

Youth in grades 6-9 are invited to join in an evening of fun on Friday, March 31, with ELPC friends and youth from other churches in Pittsburgh. The Presbytery is renting out Fun Fest in Harmarville for an night of bowling, unlimited laser tag, open play on video games, pool tables, music and dancing. We will meet at ELPC at 7:30 pm and return by 11 pm. Cost is \$7.50/person plus money for snacks. RSVP to Heather by Sunday, March 19. A permission slip is required.

CROSSROADS

(young adults ages 18–23)

Crossroads Fellowship

If you are a recent high school graduate, or a college student, or a young adult in your late teens or early twenties exploring God's call on your life, join us each Tuesday evening for a light dinner and fellowship from 5:30 to 7 pm. Note:

Youth & Young Adults
cont'd on page 8

Youth & Young Adults, cont'd . . .

Crossroads does not meet the third Tuesday of the month (March 21).

YOUNG ADULTS
(in their 20s and 30s)

Lenten Study Group

A new 20/30s study group is forming this March. Look for details including time, place and topic in the Sunday bulletin announcements. Also, if you would like to be on the young adult mailing list or would like more information on our

Inquirers' Saturday

Learn what it means to become a member or friend of ELPC by attending our next Inquirers' Saturday, April 1 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Led by the Rev. Randy Bush and members of the Membership & Growth Committee, this is a chance to hear from members and staff about what it means to be a person of faith and the ministry and vision of our church. Lunch is provided and there is time for sharing stories and getting to know one another.

If you would like to attend, please call Gloria Knopp at 412/441-3800 x22. Childcare is available by reservation only.

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2006 World Day of Prayer

The 2006 World Day of Prayer service for the East Liberty, Homewood, Squirrel Hill and Shadyside areas of Pittsburgh will be held on Friday, March 3 at 7 pm. Sixth Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East Liberty will be the local host church for the service with the cooperation of women from area churches.

This international event also taking place in other areas around the world, unites Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women and men in over 170 countries in prayer.

Interfaith Reflection & Prayer on Iraq War's 3rd Anniversary

As people of faith, we are called to be messengers of peace in a violent world and to promote understanding between people of diverse and sometimes opposing perspectives. We are also called to gather as a body of believers to worship, pray and support one another in difficult times.

On Saturday, March 18 at noon, an interfaith worship service will be held in the ELPC Chapel. This service will be held in conjunction with several other events marking the anniversary of the Iraq war, including an all-night vigil Friday, March 17 beginning at 6 pm to be held on the corner of Penn & Highland Avenues.

On Saturday morning at 11:30

am, prior to the worship service, a poster-making workshop will be held in the narthex of the church. Children, families and friends are encouraged to create posters that express their feelings about the war and violence in general.

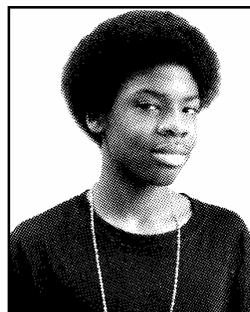
The vigil, poster-making and worship service are in preparation for a peace rally and march which will begin at 1 pm on the steps of the church on Penn Avenue. These events are sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center, Roots of Promise and Parenting for Peace, and have received the endorsement of the Justice and Global Concerns Committee of ELPC. Please consider joining other people of faith



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director of Hope Academy

HA Student Wins the 2006 Shakespeare Competition!



Jamal Williams

The Pittsburgh Public Theater's "Showcase of Finalists" took place on Monday, Feb 13, at the O'Reilly Theater. Thirty-four finalists were selected to perform, winnowed down from over 1,000 contestants, and Hope Academy was well represented by four students—Jodi Lincoln, Carter Redwood, Blake Stadnik and Jamal Williams.

Their performances were simply amazing and everyone who came to watch and cheer them on could see what a difficult task it would be for the judges to select just one winner from their division. So it was no surprise when the judges came back with a three-way tie; and less of a surprise that a Hope Academy student was one of the three.

Jamal Williams, a freshman at CAPA High School and who is in his second year here at Hope Academy, was one of the first-place winners. He chose to perform a monologue from "Much Ado about Nothing" as the character Benedick. You can see Jamal perform as Papa Ge in Hope Academy's production of "Once on this Island, Jr," May 12-14 at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater.

Congratulations to—Jamal and all of the students who competed this year; teaching artist, Karen Baum, Professor Janet "Madelle" Feindel and



Justice & Global Concerns

*The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries*

Women and Children Taskforce

Working on behalf of women and children locally, nationally and globally.

Meeting: Sunday, March 5, following the 11 am worship (12:30 pm) in Room 224. All are invited. Judy Menk at 412/798-8569.

Legal Forum on Women and Children's Issues Saturday, March 25, 1–3 pm

All are invited to join us in the Social Hall for a "Legal Forum on Women and Children's Issues." A panel of professionals including a lawyer, judge, parental rights activist and advocate for children's rights will speak on legal issues pertinent to women and their children. Topics will include: finding a lawyer, child custody, education, parental rights, work-related issue and more.



Environmental Taskforce Meeting

Sunday, March 12, following the 11 am worship (12:30 pm) in Room 224. All are welcome! Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm and if desired a sandwich or snack. We will be discussing the possibilities for Earth Day and for recycling at ELPC.

This taskforce is a subgroup of the Justice & Global Concerns Committee with a focus on environmental justice issues and projects. For more information, call Becky Maiman at 412/242-7179.

Full Inclusion Taskforce Meeting

Sunday, March 26, following the 11 am worship (12:30 pm) in Room 224. All are welcome to join us in a discussion of ways to promote open dialogue, welcome, and inclusion within the Pittsburgh Presbytery and ELPC. Please bring your ideas, enthusiasm and if desired a sandwich or snack.

This taskforce is a subgroup of the Justice & Global Concerns Committee with a focus on justice issues surrounding the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the PC(USA). For more information, call Carol Untch, 724/272-9722 or Becky Maiman at 412/242-7179.

Katrina Recruits for Mississippi Mission Trip

The J&GC Committee is recruiting a team of volunteers to go down to Long Beach, Mississippi to help the community there affected by the Katrina disaster. ELPC is one of many teams working with the Presbytery in Mississippi and contacts at Long Beach Presbyterian Church to assist in a variety of ways. ELPC is scheduled for April 21–30, 2006. For more information or to confirm/reconfirm your participation, contact Clark Smith 724/733-4383. Estimated cost is \$200+. Need-based scholarships are available.

Three Fundraisers Being Planned. In an effort to raise money for scholarships and to buy supplies for the mission trip, J&GC is planning three fundraisers: a *Spaghetti Dinner* on Sunday evening, March 26; a *Carwash* on

"Eyes Wide Open" Exhibit Comes to ELPC

Eyes Wide Open Across Pennsylvania is coming to ELPC the weekend of April 1 and 2. This widely-acclaimed exhibition on the human cost of the Iraq War created by the American Friends Service Committee and sponsored by the Justice and Global Concerns Committee of ELPC, features a pair of boots honoring each U.S. military casualty in Pennsylvania. Along with the boots are 50 shoes representing the ratio of Iraqi deaths to each U.S. soldier, and a multimedia display exploring the history, cost and consequences of the war.

The exhibit is presented as a memorial, and AFSC has built in a listening and dialogue aspect to the event. Trained listeners will be available at all times for people to talk and explore their feelings about the war. Past events have demonstrated that people with varying perspectives and opinions on the war use this event as a time to participate in dialog to gain respect and understanding for other opinions. The exhibit as a place where people of all views can meet together about our loss, our fears and our concerns.

The exhibit will be open from 11 am to 7 pm in the social hall on Saturday, April 1.

On Sunday, the exhibit will be open following the 11 am worship service until 3:30 pm when the boots will be put away. At 4 pm on Sunday, Playback Theatre will present a production to close Eyes Wide Open. For those not familiar with Playback Theatre, Ronnie Ostfield, the director, skillfully takes ideas from the audience and has the actors creatively mirror them back using musical and dramatic styles. These productions provide an opportunity to reflect on the emotions and concerns of those attending and provide a fitting conclusion to the

Friends of the Organ

FOTO Fundraising Report

In January, Friends of the Organ held two fundraisers to benefit the ELPC Organ Restoration Project:

"The Last Gasp." In its final playing before the removal of our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ in the Sanctuary, a series of three playful performances was held the weekend of Jan 6, 7 and 8 by guest organists and ELPC's Dr. Szeremany. The event raised \$850.

"Dinner Among the Pipes." On Saturday, Jan 28, ninety-nine people attended a sumptuous buffet dinner and an evening of fun. The event raised \$574.

Many thanks to all who supported these events, and special thanks to those who helped to organize it.

Next FOTO Meeting

The next FOTO meeting will be Tuesday, March 7 at 7 pm in the Session Room, to discuss our next fundraising event and ideas for future fundraisers. Anyone with an idea(s) for a fundraiser is welcome to attend and should be prepared to present their idea to the group.

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Seminar on Planned Giving

The Stewardship Committee will host another two-hour seminar on Planned Giving on Sunday, March 12 at 12:30 pm in the Second Floor Parlor. Phillip Blake, Development Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, will discuss wills, trusts, donor-advised trusts, charitable gift annuities, and other vehicles for remembering and honoring your church and others. Light refreshments will be served. Call Gloria at

Excellent 2005 Financial Stewardship

412/441-3800 x22 to RSVP.

u u u

The Budget & Finance Committee recently reviewed year-end financials and is pleased to report that we, as a church, were excellent financial stewards last year. The committee commends the congregation, staff, session, deacons and all the committees for the successful work to achieve our 2005 budget.

- u Offering and other gifts significantly surpassed budget.
- u Nearly every area of the church was on budget or moderately favorable on expenses.

u The Facilities area was especially successful at managing major expenses.

u Taken all together, we were able to reduce our budgeted overuse of the endowment in 2005 by 44 percent (i.e., we drew about \$830,000 less from the endowment than planned). This savings is critically important for us to be able to sustain our ministries.

The strong financial support of our ministries by the congregation and the continued efforts to manage the expenses by the staff, session, dea-



Presbyterian Women

Heather Lawrence, Moderator

Horizons Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to attend discussions based on lessons relating to the theme, "For Everything, A Season: A Study of the Liturgical Calendar," by the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Long Bostrom.

Tuesday morning, March 7 — Lesson 7: "Holy Week"

10 am, fellowship/sharing joys/concerns (short business update if needed); 10:30–11:30 am, Bible study; 11:30 am–12:30 pm, potluck lunch.

Tuesday evening, March 28 — Lesson 6: "Lent."

5:45 pm, fellowship and a light dinner; 6:30–7:30 pm, Bible study.

World Mission Initiative — Mission Conference

Presbyterian Women invites all of ELPC to attend the World Mission Initiative Mission Conference, "The Uniqueness of Jesus and Mission," to celebrate missions. The conference will be held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary March 24 and 25. The congregational registration fee has been paid. All you need to pay for is your lunch. Brochures with conference details and registration form are available at the PW bulletin board on the first floor.

PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville

Registrations are now being accepted for the Presbyterian Women's triennial conference in Louisville, Kentucky, July 7–11, 2006. The gathering is open to all women and men. Limited full and partial registration scholarships are



ELPC People — Thanks, Good News and Prayers

A “Thank You” from Rick and Lynn Otty

Dear friends,

Many thanks to those who coordinated the beautiful reception, spoke the kind words, and stood in line to offer personal farewells on our last Sunday. Lynn and I continue to peruse the many greetings written that day and received in the mail, which will provide cherished memories of our wonderful time of ministry and fellowship together. So too will the pewter plate and trivet, and the glass vase with the embossed images of the church, as well as the book of ELPC’s history and architecture. The wisdom of the gas and Home Depot gift cards will be put to practical use as we venture forth in our moving truck and envision spending time fixing up a home. And just so you know, the staff had the foresight to present us with an *Entertainment Book*, full of coupons for the Albany area!

As we carefully pack some of these tangible reminders, it is certainly the spirit, love and support of the congregation that will reside within us. God works in mysterious ways to create something permanent from that which we call interim. Thank you.

With Christ’s peace,
Rick and Lynn

Best wishes to Rick and Lynn Otty as they make their new home in New York. Their new address is 30-A McDonald Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144.

Good News

Congratulations on the Baptism of *Talton Carter Teague* on Jan 29, 2006. Talton was born on Oct 18, 2005 to Rodney and Erin Teague.

We have prayed for. . .

Our prayers and sympathies are with ELPC member Mary Kearney on the death of her daughter *Gladys Doreen (Robin) Morton* on Nov 10, 2005.

Our prayers and sympathies are with ELPC staff member Norma Meyer and her family on the death of her brother *Joey Meyer* on Feb 8, 2006. Norma is the administrative assistant to Worship, Music & The Arts, The Hope Academy and Taizé Prayer. Norma and her family want to thank all the members, friends and staff of ELPC for their prayers, cards and support with the pass-



Sunday, March 12
7 pm, 3rd Floor Music Room

This contemporary worship service led by ELPC youth and young adults is **FOR EVERYONE**. As we gather to praise and worship God, we will be strengthened in our love for others and our call to serve the community beyond the doors of

Service of Praise
Koinonia (kwin-o-nee-ah), an ancient Greek word meaning “community.”



Calendar Highlights

March 2006

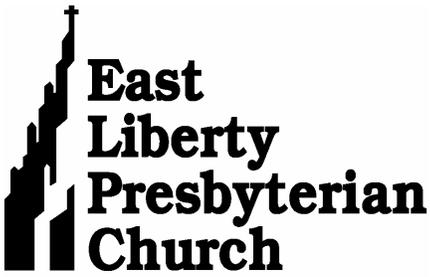
- 1 . . . Ash Wednesday
- 5 . . . Communion
- 12 . . . Stewardship Seminar on
Planned Giving
- 12 . . . *Koinonia* Service of Praise, 7 pm
- 18 . . . Interfaith Reflection and Prayer
- 19 . . . Pastor Randy Bush preaches at
the 11 am Sanctuary worship service
- 19 . . . Holy Ground Service, 6 pm
- 25 . . . Women & Families Legal Forum
- 26 . . . J&GC Spaghetti Dinner fund-
raiser

April 2006

- 1 . . . Inquirers’ Saturday
- 1 . . . J&GC Carwash fundraiser
- 1, 2 . . . “Eyes Wide Open” Exhibit
- 2 . . . Communion
- 9 . . . Palm Sunday
- 9 . . . J&GC Pancake Breakfast
fundraiser
- 9 . . . *Koinonia* Service of Praise, 7 pm
- 13 . . . Maundy Thursday/Communion
- 14 . . . Good Friday
- 15 . . . Great Vigil of Easter/



www.cathedralofhope.org



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Pittsburgh, PA 15206 ☎

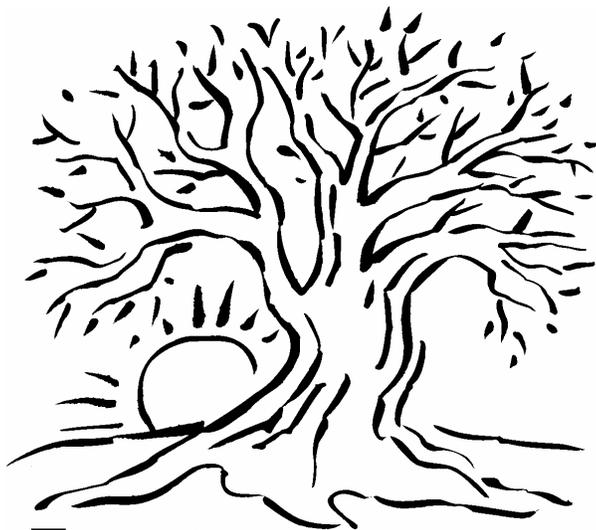
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Reaching Out Newsletter

March 2006



Lent

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

The Symbols of Lent

Ash Wednesday
March 1

Lenten Study Series
Sundays, March 19–April 9

Lenten Devotional for
Children and Family

Koinonia Service of Praise
Sunday, March 12, 7 pm

Holy Ground Service
Sunday, March 19, 6 pm

Christian Education Church School



The Cathedral of Hope

*“...inviting all to join our
diverse, inclusive family of
faith, transcending all
boundaries of race, class,
ability, culture,
gender and sexual identity*