



Newsletter of
The Cathedral of Hope

Reaching Out

www.cathedralofhope.org



April 2007

East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 South Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Vol. 26,

PALM SUNDAY..... APRIL 1

8 am Good Samaritan. A service of music, prayer and personal witness. Small Dining Room.

9 am Morning Glory. Celebration of the Palms, music by the MoGlo Singers. Music Room.

11 am Sanctuary Worship. A special Palm Sunday celebration service with a jubilant procession of waving palms and special music with the Chancel Choir and the Steel City Brass ensemble. Music begins at 10:45 am when we welcome the sounds of the 10-piece Steel City brass ensemble led by co-directors William Whalen and Chris Graham. This will be Steel City Brass's first visit to ELPC. They will play music for the prelude, accompany the congregation and Chancel Choir in hymns and anthems, and join with the organ for two of Karg-Elert's concerted works: "Now Thank We All Our God" and "Praise the Lord."

HOLY WEEK..... APRIL 2-7

See page 3 for schedule of services and times.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 8

8 am Worship in the Chapel. Combining the 8 am Good Samaritan and 9 am Morning Glory services. Music by the MoGlo Singers and Reginald Plato.

9-10:15 am Easter Breakfast Buffet in the Social Hall.

ELPC Welcomes the Rev. Miriam Chamberlain on Staff



ELPC is pleased to welcome on staff the Reverend Miriam Chamberlain into the role of Visitation Pastor for ELPC. Miriam is an ordained minister

from the United Methodist Church, having served 16 years in active ministry in Maine and Massachusetts. She also had chaplain-on-call duties while serving a congregation in Maine. In 2000, she settled in Pitts-

burgh and found a spiritual home at ELPC, where she sings in the Chancel Choir, has led worship services, and taught in our Christian Education program.

Miriam will be assisting the pastoral staff in making contact with members and friends of the church who have undergone hospital stays, rehabilitation programs, or otherwise have not been able to worship regularly with our congregation. She will assist in making arrangements for home communion, as well as encourage long-time

Sunday Morning Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper.*

- 8 am Good Samaritan Worship
 * Apr 1 The Rev. Joseph Hajdu, retired Methodist minister.
 Apr 8 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Apr 15 The Rev. Lynn Yeso, Chaplain, Allegheny County Jail.
 Apr 22 The Rev. David Else, Dir., Center for Spirituality and 12-Step Recovery.
 Apr 29 David Brewton, Dir. of Funding, East Liberty Family Health Care Center.
- 9 am Morning Glory Worship
 * Apr 1 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain.
 Apr 8 No Morning Glory service.
 Apr 15 The Rev. Cynthia Jackson.
 Apr 22 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Apr 29 The Rev. Suzanne Bennett.
- 11 am Sanctuary Worship
 * Apr 1 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Apr 8 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Apr 15 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Apr 22 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Apr 29 Rabbi James Gibson, Senior Rabbi, Temple Sinai and adjunct professor at Chatham College, guest preacher.

Koinonia Service of Praise

7 pm—2nd Sunday each month
 No Koinonia in April. Next service May 13.

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing

6 pm—3rd Sunday, March-Nov
 Apr 15.....The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays 10 am to 3 pm
 Wednesdays 10 am to 9 pm

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

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain
Visitation Pastor

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

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

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

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

Dr. Lois M. Lang
Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life,
Stephen Ministry and Older Adults

Chef Jay G. Ritter
Dining Services Director

Luke Stevens
Projects Manager

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Director, Worship, Music & The Arts

Gerri L. Toth
Communications Director

Heather Tunney
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Howard Turner
Chief of Security

Reaching Out Newsletter

Reaching Out is a monthly publica-



Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Back to the Beginning

You're listening to someone tell a story, but some details get mixed up along the way and you get confused. (This happens a lot when a child or grandchild is the storyteller.) At some point you stop the narrator and say, "I'm lost; go back to the beginning." Going back to the beginning allows you to get the story straight, to understand how the pieces fit together, and see what the point of the

whole narrative is.

Easter is one of those "back to the beginning" moments. There's the time that the risen Christ was walking along the Galilean seashore and he appeared to Peter and the other disciples, who had been out fishing all night long. Jesus shared a breakfast with the disciples right there on the beach, and it was as if they had gone "back to the beginning" and remembered the last meal they'd shared together — a memory that now could be replaced with a new, joyous encounter with the resurrected Lord. Or there was the time that a weeping Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Jesus in the cemetery garden. She didn't recognize him until he called her by name, and it was as if they had gone "back to the beginning" when Jesus had first called Peter and Andrew and Mary Magdalene by their names, changing them from people lost and alone in a harsh world to children of grace and God's disciples ministering to others.

Easter goes even farther back than those two examples. When Jesus cried out on the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?", he quoted Psalm 22 — an ancient psalm of lament from the long-suffering Hebrew people. And he embodied the ancient prophecy found in Isaiah 53, about the one who was "wounded for our transgressions... by whose bruises we are healed." But when Jesus was resurrected on Easter morning, he went "back to the beginning," affirming the good news at the end of Psalm 22 about God's eternal dominion as well as the promise of Isaiah 53 about how the "righteous one shall make many righteous."

In fact, Easter goes all the way back to the beginning of the entire story, where it describes in the book of Genesis how God made the heavens, the earth, and all life upon the earth and saw that it was good. Although the original relationship between humankind and God did not remain undistorted, the Easter "good news" goes back to that original covenant and, through the resurrection of Christ, fully restores us in our relationship to God and to one another. In the risen Christ, death is overcome, sin and despair are replaced with a newness of life freely given by grace to us all. Even as we consider the first "beginning," a new beginning is made real for us in Jesus Christ.

Are there moments in your life you'd like to re-visit and fix? Are there

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Holy Week Family Service

All are invited to our Holy Week Family Service on Tuesday, April 3 at 7 pm in the Chapel. The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Interim Director of Christian Education, is planning an experiential service with children 5th grade and younger in mind. We will share the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, sing his praises, and remember what happened that week.

Holy Week is an invitation to follow Jesus and be his disciple.

All children are welcome with their families; however, Michele McClung will be providing child-care in the nursery for those who prefer to use the nursery for their children in kindergarten and younger. If possible, contact Kelly at 412-441-3800 x19 or kel-

Holy Week Services



April 2 Monday
7 pm..... Service of word, music and prayer. Worship leader: Rev. Miriam Chamberlain. Chapel.

April 3 Tuesday
7 pm..... Family service re-telling the Holy Week drama. Worship leader: Rev. Cynthia Jackson. Chapel. See article above for details.

April 4 Wednesday
7 pm..... Taizé Prayer service of candlelight music and meditation. Worship leader: Rev. Christiane Dutton. Chapel.

April 5 Maundy Thursday
7 pm..... Service of word and prayer, a dramatic reenactment of the Last Supper and communion. Worship leader: Rev. Dr. Randy Bush. Chapel.

April 6 Good Friday
Noon..... Worship service of prayer, linking the Seven Last Words of Jesus with prayers for our neighborhood. Worship leader: Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy. Chapel.

7 pm..... Tenebrae Service of prayer, special music, and meditation. Worship leaders: Heather Tunney and Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy. Chapel.

April 7 Holy Saturday
7 pm..... The Great Vigil of Easter service, including a reaffirmation of our baptismal vows, celebratory procession around the church, and re-entry into the sanctuary with the sacrament of Holy Communion and first Easter service of the Resurrection. Worship leaders: Rev. Tom Menk and Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Additional Labyrinth Hours during Holy Week

Easter Lily Plants

Each year the congregation is given the opportunity to provide lily plants for our Easter worship, in memory of loved ones and friends, or to honor another individual. Price is \$7 per plant (in a 6 1/2" pot). Order forms are available in the church office or by calling Barbara Davis at 412/441-3800 x16. The deadline to order plants is Sunday, April 1.

Note: No additional plants will be provided for general congregational distribution. On Easter Sunday, only plants which have been donated by individuals or families will be distributed after the service.

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Stewardship: IRA Rollovers

Senior members ages 70 1/2 and older have until the end of 2007 to take advantage of a new way to make gifts to ELPC. By using the accumulated value of an IRA, you may rollover a gift of as much as

Holy Ground

*A Service of Prayers
for Wholeness and Healing*

Sunday, April 15
6 pm, ELPC Sanctuary

Join us in the beauty of our sanctuary for a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading and a time of blessing, with the Rev.

Note: Holy Ground is held the 3rd Sunday of every month, March – November, except in November



"Oh taste and see that the Lord is



ELPC Earth Day Sunday Celebration, April 22

On Sunday, April 22, the Environmental Taskforce will host a series of events in celebration of Earth Day, with a focus on caring for and protecting the Earth that God has created. Our theme this year is "sustainability", particularly with regard to energy usage. There will be a special 11 am worship service followed by an Environmental Fair either in the Garth (weather permitting) or in the Social Hall. We will also be showing Al Gore's video on Global Warming, "An Inconvenient Truth" in Room 234. The Environmental Taskforce hopes that many of you can stay for the events—good food will be provided to sustain you!

If you are interested in being a

ELPC Hosts Global Music Concert

Join us for a special "Global Music Concert" on Tuesday, April 24 at 7 pm, as our sanctuary will ring out with church music selections from around the world. Coordinated by Mrs. Simon Chan, Choir Director and Vocal Teacher from the Trinity Theological College in Singapore, this concert will include songs, prayers, and dance, celebrating Christian music from global communities ranging from the Philippines and Africa to India and the Americas. A freewill offering will

Children's Choir from Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY Comes to ELPC

On Sunday, April 22, we will welcome to our 11 am Sanctuary worship service some 68 children and adults from the Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. The 40 children of this group are members of Third's Children's Choir. Together with some of their young bell ringers, they will be providing pre-service music, music at the time of Moments with the Children and also Offertory music for our worship.

The children will also be singing a program on Saturday morning, April 21 for the residents of

Canterbury Place. From 1 to 4 pm, they will enjoy the exciting programs of the Children's Museum where our Jane Werner is Executive Director. Arriving at ELPC at 4:30 pm, they will find their assigned overnight in-house accommodations, take a building tour, eat dinner in the Social Hall, and then head for the sleeping bags.

Meet & Greet Opportunity. This exchange of music personnel is an exciting opportunity for all of us to meet and greet and exchange stories of our lives and experiences. If you would like to have dinner with



Taizé Prayer

Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé

Taizé Prayer Service

A Taizé Prayer candlelight service is held every Wednesday at 7 pm in the Chapel.

After-Taizé Classes

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

April 4 Holy Week, no class.

April 11 Laughter Club. The Laughter Club is a place where people come to laugh and to enjoy each other's company — no joking, just laughing. Presented by Dave Russell, M.Ed., LPC, CLL, certified laughter leader.

April 18 Tales from the Madhouse (video). Set inside the crumbling walls of a dilapidated Victorian sanatorium, different characters tell their stories to the visiting camera. Each character had had an encounter with Jesus in some way and most have "missed the moment." They were offered freedom, but instead made peace with their chains. These beautifully acted monologues are powerful, challenging, sophisticated and thought-provoking.

April 25 Celebrations. Join us after our Taizé service for celebration cake. If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or an anniversary in April, write your name on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate during the month.

Bread & Soup Meal and Fellowship



HEALTH MINISTRY

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Repre-

Health Matters

It is distressing that quality health care is unavailable to many people, as well as terribly expensive for almost everyone. The good news is that there is a lot each of us can do to promote good health for ourselves and family members. East Liberty Presbyterian Church has recently formed a Health Ministry. We have already begun monthly blood pressure screenings (third Sundays), and have ideas for several additional events during 2007.

Each month under the Health Ministry column, we will be sharing information on a health-related topic and resources for learning more about that topic, as well as offer specific hints and suggestions that can assist you in achieving a healthier life. Beginning with May's newsletter, we will focus on cardiovascular disease and ways all of us can improve cardiovascular well-being—heart disease and stroke are extremely costly in terms of quality of life as well as finances.

Topics to be covered in subsequent months include: exercise; weight control; blood pressure control; heart healthy food choices; stroke preven-

Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

ELPC will install and ordain the following 2010 class of deacons and elders during the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, April 29, as our retiring officers complete their terms of service:

Deacons: Shelia Freeman-Powell, Todd Hoffman, Barb Krimmel, Pat Krimmel, Eric McCarty, Charlie Meyers (Youth Deacon), and Judy Roberts.

Elders: Nadine Banks, Tim Benedict, Cynthia Boyce, Peta Cole, Jim Gaylord, Carol Hoehn,

Learn What It Means to Become a Member or Friend of ELPC

The Inquirers' Class is a chance to learn what it means to be a person of faith and about the ministry and vision of ELPC.

If you are interested in joining as a member or friend of ELPC, we are offering a two-part Sunday Inquirers' Class led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush and members of the Membership & Growth Committee on:

April 15 9:45 to 10:45 am *and*
 April 22 9:45 to 10:45 am

If you would like to attend, please call Gloria Knopp at



Board of Deacons

*Staff Representative:
 The Rev. Patrice L.
 Fowler-Searcy*

Supplies for the Men's Shelter

The Deacons would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all of you who have been generously supplying our Men's Shelter basket with toiletries and the much-needed hats and gloves this winter. This has been a true blessing as the temperatures plummeted. We are overwhelmed with your continuing support.

At this time, we will be collecting shampoo, disposable razors and deodorant for the men. Please bring your items to the basket near the



Cathedral Café



Cathedral Café Opens for Lunch on Sundays

Beginning Sunday, April 29, ELPC's Cathedral Café will be open every Sunday for lunch/brunch from 12 noon to 1:30 pm in the McKelvy Room. More details will be



Christian Education

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Interim Director

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 am

Becoming a Christian is not a destination, but a journey in faith of listening for God, praying, being open to the Spirit, and discovering how to follow Jesus Christ. Children, youth, and adults have opportunities every Sunday morning to learn something new as individuals, while being shaped by the loving community in which we gather. Come and discover the transforming love of God made known through Jesus Christ.



Palm Sunday

All of the Church School children are invited to process into the sanctuary while waving palms. We will gather in the McKelvy Room at 10:50 am. Parents are welcome to walk with their children!

Easter Sunday

There will be no Church School classes on Easter Sunday, April 8. Join us for an Easter buffet breakfast in the Social Hall. See page 1 for details.

FOR CHILDREN

- u Young Children's Ministry: Infants–2 years. 1st Floor Nursery. Laura Ristau offers Baby Lap Sit from 10 to 10:30 am. One parent or a designated adult shall be with each child. This is a sensory opportunity for touch, for listening, for movement, and for watching the delight as the children experience God's love in community.
- u Pre-school: Ages 3, 4, and 5 years. Room 240. Ms. Jan has recovered from her broken elbow and is delighted to be back with the children. Thanks to Ms. Vanessa and Ms. Mary Ruth for leading the class while Jan was away. Using "Godprints", the children are learning what it means to be like Jesus.
- u Kindergarten and Grade 1. Room 336. Using "Children and Worship" in an open classroom, the children experience the awe, wonder and holy in the Biblical stories. In April, the children will be learning about the life of Jesus. Their lovely paintings are on display in Room 224.
- u Grades 2 and 3. Room 338. Using "Children and Worship" in an open classroom, the children use interactive materials to engage in the Bible story and discover how God comes to us in Jesus.
- u Grades 4 and 5. Room 335. The "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum in April will help the children learn about the risen Lord and the Holy Work of the faithful believers.

Extended Session

For children K–5th grade. Using the *Children's Mission Yearbook of Prayer* for a guide, each week the children will hear a scripture verse, learn a word of the week, share a prayer, hear about mission in the USA and mission

around the world, and discover "What You Can Do." A take-home sheet is provided so that families will know what the children have discussed. Parents are sharing in the leadership and support network. Friends and volunteers are welcome!

Copies of the 2007 *Children's Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study* are available for \$5 from the Parenting Circle or through the Christian Education Office. For more information, contact the Rev. Cynthia Jackson at 412-441-3800 x20.

FOR YOUTH

For Church School classes offered for youth in grades 6 through 12, see page 7 for details.

FOR ADULTS

Contemporaries Class

An intergenerational community of caring adults united in their focus upon Bible reading and meditation. Individuals at all stages of faith are welcome! Second Floor Parlor.

April 1 "Christ and Other Religions." Led by Dr. John Burgess, James Henry Snowden Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Burgess is a 'bridge builder' who understands the importance of being able to collaborate and interact with people from different religious traditions.

April 8 Easter. No class.

April 15, 22 "A Walk Through Time...The Interface Between God's Call and My Profession." Led by Dr. David Epperson, Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh and ELPC Elder. God's work is manifested through reconciliation. Come and hear the testimony regarding what the

Lord has done throughout Dave Epperson's life, both in the domestic and the international sphere.

April 29, May 6, 13, 20 "National Religious Campaign Against Torture." Led by the Rev. Don Dutton. Are you a person of faith who wants to end torture? Every generation of Christians has to consider how to be the Body of Christ in a world where human beings inflict suffering on each other by means of war, resource abuse, economic abuse, or inhumane treatment of one another. It's time to break the cycles of denial and legitimization and participate in a provocative series that will reinforce the evidence that torture is a moral issue.

Journey with Scripture Class

This class studies and reflects upon the Bible while reading scriptures appointed for the Revised Common Lectionary. Printed copies of the weekly scripture lessons are available for study and meditation. Prior familiarity with the Bible is not necessary. Second Floor Library.

April 1 "Into Jerusalem." As we entered the Season of Lent, we considered God's abundant love and steadfast promise and how these shape our lives. As we enter this Holy Week and encounter again the events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and final days on earth, we call out for God's abundant mercy and give thanks for God's faithfulness in our lives. *Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Luke 19:28-40 and Luke 22:14-23:56; Philippians 2:5-11.*

April 8 Easter. No class.

April 15 "Unfolding Story." The story of God at work in the world continues to unfold. The Spirit works through persons and communities whose words and deeds bear witness to the God who raised Jesus to life. Through that witness, God calls us to accountability and forgiveness. God still speaks, inviting all to receive the Spirit and follow God's way. *Psalm 118:14-29; Acts 5:27-32; John:19-31; Revelation 1:4-8.*

April 22 "Encountering Christ." We encounter Christ in dramatic turnings and quiet unfolding that change us. The texts for this week tell stories of restoration that emerge from brokenness. They also speak the ancient confession of Jesus as *kurios* ("Lord"). The Risen Christ stands over and above all rival claims to our allegiance. The Spirit commissions us to this witness. *Acts 9:1-6,(7-20); Psalm 30; John 21:1-19; Revelation 5:11-14.*

April 29 "Holy Work." Holy Work takes shape in ministry with those in our communities and outside our circles. Holy Work is shown by words and actions that wipe away tears, restore life, and testify to God's love. Holy Work unfolds when we open our lives to the Spirit and follow God's leading. Holy Work is done by those who see need and respond in Jesus' example. *Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; John 10:22-30; Revelation 7:9-17.*

Parenting Circle

Leading up to Easter, we have been discussing "How do I answer my child's really difficult spiritual questions?" There may not be easy answers, but we all gain by sharing ideas together and supporting each other in the important task of parenting. Future topics are chosen by the group. All involved with

children are welcome to attend. Group members facilitate the discussion. Harambe Room on the first floor.

Seekers Class

This year the Seekers are exploring some of the "big questions" of the Christian faith, bringing our beliefs into dialogue with the wide world around us, as well as a plurality of religious traditions. The Seekers embrace the complexities of our faith within an open, supportive, and accepting atmosphere. Leaders: Damon Bethea and Nancy Klancher. Room 234. New friends are always welcome.

April 1 Workshop: "Who Do the Seekers Say Jesus Is?" This class is the last in our series of christological reflections by friends and members of ELPC.

April 8 Easter. No class.

April 15, 22 Religious Doubt. Led by Wil Forrest and Nancy Klancher.

April 29, May 6 Eschatology, including what Presbyterians believe about the end times,

CE Family Fellowship

Our next Family Fellowship will be held on Sunday, April 15 immediately after worship in the Harambe Room on the first floor across from the Security Desk. Come and meet other ELPC families of children 5th grade and younger. Share ideas for Spring and Summer fellowship! Beverages and snacks are provided. The Rev. Cynthia Jackson looks forward to welcoming your family!



Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Heather Tunney, Director
412-441-3800 x14

YOUTH (grades 6—12)

Sunday Church School, 9:45 to 10:45 am

"Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum. Note: No class on Easter Sunday, April 8.

Youth Basketball

Youth Basketball is held on Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm in the ELPC Gym. To participate, contact Heather Tunney. Note: No basketball on Saturday, April 7.

Sunday Youth Group

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join ELPC friends for a time of food, fellowship, and study—Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 pm. We meet in Room 51 for dinner then enjoy the evening's activities together, including our study/discussion time, and basketball and games. Note: No Youth Group on Easter Sunday, April 8.

April events include: a special visit from a University of Pittsburgh Step Group; movie night with a showing of "Pursuit of Happiness" followed by a discussion; and Bible Study around the theme of "Hope." See the April Youth Calendar for details.

30-Hour Famine

Mark your calendars now for this year's 30-Hour Famine, which will be held at ELPC from Saturday, May 5 to Sunday, May 6. We will meet at ELPC at 1 pm on Saturday for a time of fun, learning and fellowship with ELPC friends and with youth from East Union Church. We will break our fast with Communion at the 9 am Morning Glory Service followed by a hot breakfast during the Church School hour. Any youth who wishes to participate should contact Heather Tunney at 412-441-3800 x14 for a permission slip. This year we will be raising money to support the Motherwell Women's Collective in South Africa.

On Sundays, April 22 and 29 (two weeks prior to the 30-Hour Famine), youth will be at tables in the Narthex and outside of the East Transept doors collecting money before and after the 11 am worship services. Members of the congregation are invited to sponsor youth in their fast as they raise money to help women and children in South Africa.

YOUNG ADULTS (in their 20s and 30s)

20/30s Study Group

The Young Adults 20/30s Study Group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm. Join us on April 10 and 24 when we will be reading *Process Theology: A Basic Introduction* by C. Robert Mesle. The author introduces readers to a way of thinking about God and our world that explores profound questions while never losing sight of sheer common sense. Mesle explores an understanding that "God is love" in light of the reality of suffering in the world. This is an accessible introduction to a strain of theology that

claims that "God...does everything within divine power to work for the good."—as quoted in the author's introduction.

Young Adult Potluck Dinner and Game Night

Take some time to relax and de-stress at the end of a busy week with other young adults in their 20s and 30s at ELPC on Friday, April 27 from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Second Floor Parlor. You don't have to worry about cooking a meal after a



2007 East End Blitz Partnership

ELPC is excited to be partnering with nine local congregations, several community organizations and Hosanna Industries to rehab eight vacant, abandoned or blighted houses for first-time, low-income homeowners.

Hands-on Volunteer Opportunity

During the week of June 11–15, ELPC will be the host church as we do a comprehensive rehab of one house, possibly for a family associated with our church. We need 30–50 volunteers to commit to work on construction during this week. Everyone is welcome! This hands-on mission opportunity requires no special skills—just a willing heart! You can work one day or all five days! A typical work day will last from 8 am to 4 pm. Evening work hours will also be available!

Look for opportunities to sign up to work on construction and/or hospitality by visiting the Community Mission bulletin board begin-



Justice & Global Concerns

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

Environmental Taskforce

Environmental Taskforce Meeting

The next meeting of the Environmental Taskforce will be Tuesday, April 10 at 7 pm in Room 135, to work on our final plans for Earth Day Sunday on April 22 (see page 4 for more details). Anyone who is interested in helping with this event is welcome to join us.

Full Inclusion Taskforce

Full Inclusion Taskforce Showing of the Film "Fish Can't Fly"

On Sunday, April 15 following 11 am worship in Room 234, the Full Inclusion Taskforce will be sponsoring a showing of the film, "Fish Can't Fly," a documentary exploring the lives of gay men and women of faith as they recall their journeys through the "ex-gay" ministries, and found that they did not provide a cure. The stories they recall are sad, frightening, poignant and yet surprisingly inspiring and enlightening. Snacks will be provided and an informative discussion will follow. Please join us.

Full Inclusion Taskforce Book Review

The following book was reviewed by Wayne Benson, and is available the ELPC library.

Straight Parents, Gay Children; Keeping Families Together by Robert Bernstein

What happens when your child tells you he or she is gay? Bernstein tells about his own experience: reaction, reflection, coming to terms with it all. He also tells of his discovery of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and what that organization has meant to him and others. He recounts the stories of many other parents and their children and effectively abolishes any thoughts that you are in this alone! As a long time PFLAGger, I second his account and his thorough look at the many facets of the relationships of straight parents and gay children.

Poverty Taskforce

"Just Neighbors" — Examining the Roots of Poverty and Our Response

All are invited to join us for our next educational and interactive workshop on Saturday, April 21 in Room 234, when we will view a video and discuss the topic—Our Children, Our Future—with workshop leader Judy Menk. At 5:30 pm, before the workshop begins, we will gather for fellowship, faith exploration and a potluck supper. To honor the environment and resources, please bring your own place setting and utensils.

Free childcare (by reservation) will be available during the program portion of the evening (6–8 pm). Call Kelly at 412-441-3800 x19 to let her know how many children.

Women & Children's Taskforce

Field Learning Project — April Field Trip to the Sports Center

The Field Learning Project sponsors monthly field trips designed to help

recently arrived Somali-Bantu and Burmese children make connections with the cultural institutions and diverse people in their community. April's field trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 from 10 am to 1 pm (times are approximate) when we will take group of youth in grades 6–12 to the Sports Center. As always, we are in need of chaperones for our monthly field trips. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Junghwa Oh at 412-401-5745 or fieldlearning@hotmail.com or Judy Menk at 412-798-8569 or JA-



ELPC Paper Recycling

The Environmental Taskforce is pleased to announce that ELPC now has a way to recycle our paper—the Abitibi Paper Retriever—a bright green and yellow bin located near the staff parking area on Baum Blvd. It can take newspapers, magazines, catalogs, copy paper, colored paper, and mail (no need to remove staples, and envelopes with cellophane windows are okay). Note: The following items should NOT be placed in the bin: cardboard, plastic, phone books, or any paper used for food because this will contaminate the whole bin.

If you do not have paper recycling in your area, please feel free to bring it to the church. ELPC will make a small amount of money for every ton of paper recycled that will be used for other environmental programs. Recycled paper uses much less energy and produces



Presbyterian Women

*Heather Lawrence,
Moderator*

PW Annual Spring Gathering

All are invited to Presbyterian Women's 19th Annual Spring Gathering—"Time, Talent and Teaching: God's Gift to Women Accepting the Call to Leadership"—on Saturday, April 21 from 9 am to 1 pm at ELPC. Guest speaker: Mary McElory, Vice Moderator of the Synod of the Trinity. Worship leader: the Rev. Elizabeth Broschart, Gladden Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$8 per person. For details and registration, visit the PW bulletin board. Registration deadline: April 16.

"Meds for Haiti" Mission Project

PW is asking members of the congregation to donate new bottles of pain reliever—Tylenol, Motrin, Excedrin, etc. (generics are OK, and children's meds are also needed)—and put them in the basket in the church office marked "MEDS FOR HAITI" by the end of April. PW will then repackage the meds appropriately, and a medical team from the Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti will deliver the meds to those in need in Haiti. Monetary donations are also welcomed toward the purchase of more medications. For more details, call Heather Lawrence, 412-486-0826.

Horizons Bible Study

All women at ELPC are invited to participate in PW's 2006-07 Horizons Bible Study "In the Beginning: Perspectives on Genesis" by Celia Brewer Sinclair. Second Floor Parlor.

April 3, Tuesday morning, 10 am to 12:30 pm for Lesson #8: *Perspectives on Righteousness: Tamar* (Genesis 38). 10 am, sharing, prayer time, opening devotions;

FOTO Considering Online Auction Fundraiser

The Friends of the Organ Committee (FOTO) is considering an online auction as one means to raise funds for the organ's rebuilding. To help us to determine how feasible this would be, we ask that if anyone in the congregation knows of a business, an artist, a service, or a resort that you think would be willing to donate to this auction, that you let

FOTO committee member Miriam Chamberlain know so that she or someone else on the committee can follow through on the contact. You may call Miriam at 412-441-3800 x33 or email her at miriamc@coh.net. The deadline for submitting this information is April 30.

The Committee appreciates the support of the organ restoration that



Worship Music & The Arts

*The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Director, Worship, Music & The Arts*

ELPC Third Arts Initiative Conference

- u *Arts in the life of your congregation* u *Designing an arts program that works*
- u *How to build a financial foundation* u *Arts resources and displays*
- u *Arts as mission*

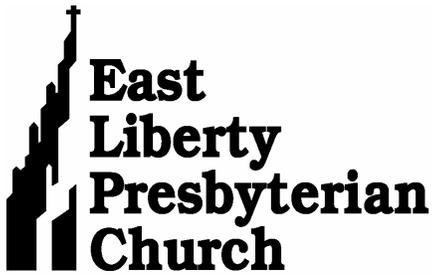
On Friday and Saturday, May 11 and May 12, the Worship, Music and Arts Committee is sponsoring a 36-hour Arts Initiative Conference on worship, congregational life and the arts, in conjunction with the Spring performance of Hope Academy. With guest presenters from churches ranging from 250 members to 5,000 members, with non-existent budgets to coffers overflowing, you will hear about and be inspired by the "how we did it" and "how can we do it" stories of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, Third Presbyterian Church and its "The Corner Place" community outreach programming in Rochester, New York, First and Central Presbyterian in Wilmington, Delaware and, of course, ELPC with its diversity of arts programming and Hope Academy.

There will be Friday morning, afternoon and evening presentations; opportunities to attend the plenary sessions, as well as exciting break-out groups, individual one-on-ones with our brilliant leadership, time to sit and share food with each other, and on Friday, a moving time in the Chapel for a Compline service designed around the arts.

Again on Saturday beginning at 9 am, you will have more opportunities to hear about the faith and worship, the theological insights into the power and reason of the arts, the how-to of doing arts budgeting, and on both days, the opportunity to meet with and to peek-a-boo with the Teaching Artists and classes of Hope Academy.

The Arts Initiative Conference officially closes at 3 pm on Saturday, but for our registrants who do not have to make travel deadlines, we are offering ELPC building tours, showing off a few of Pittsburgh's finest spots, dinner and free admission to Hope Academy's closing Spring performance.

For people coming from our 150-mile radius target mailing, the conference cost is \$125 which includes two lunches and one dinner, plus through-the-day snacks. For ELPC members and friends, the cost will be \$25 plus



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ELPC Reaching Out Newsletter u April 2007



APRIL 8

8 am Worship Service in the Chapel
11 am Sanctuary Worship Service

Palm Sunday
April 1
Holy Week Services
April 2—7

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Earth Day Sunday Celebration
ELPC Hosts Global Music Concert
Ordination and Installation of Officers
ELPC Outdoor Work & Gardening Project
ELPC Paper Recycling
East End Blitz Partnership
Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering
ELPC Arts Initiative Conference
Pipe Organ Restoration Campaign
Meds for Haiti Mission Project
Holy Ground Service
Youth 30-Hour Famine
Young Adult Potluck Dinner / Game Night
Workshop to Examine the Roots of Poverty
Presentation on Human Trafficking
Documentary Film on Gay Men & Women of Faith