



Newsletter of  
The Cathedral of Hope

# Reaching Out

www.cathedralofhope.org



May 2007

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

Vol. 26,

## *Pentecost Sunday, May 27 and Confirmation of Youth*

Pentecost is an exciting time of year! It is the time when we celebrate the birth of the church and celebrate the Holy Spirit, who brings new life and hope. The Spirit of God that moved over the face of the waters at the beginning of time also inspired the prophets to proclaim God's word and enlivened the frightened disciples to tell the world of Christ's resurrection. The story of Pentecost is contained in Acts 2.



We will seek to continue the story of Pentecost by acts of faithful witness on Pentecost Sunday, May 27. Our confirmation youth will be received as new members of the church and the sacrament of baptism will be celebrated at the 11 am service (see page 8 for names of those being confirmed). We will also receive our denomination's Pentecost Offering. Gifts to this offering help meet the needs of children at risk, youth and young adults. While most of the funds help programs and individuals nationally, 40% of the offering stays with our church to support ministry with

## Full Inclusion Sunday

On Sunday, May 20, ELPC will celebrate "Full Inclusion Sunday" as a witness to our commitment to affirm how God's gifts for ministry have been given to people regardless of gender, race, economic condition, or sexual orientation.

The Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr will be our guest preacher at the 11 am worship service. Dr. Spahr has served for many years as the director of "That All May Freely Serve," an advocacy group committed to tell the stories of LGBT Presbyterians. Following wor-

ship, an event for "More Light Sunday" is being sponsored by ELPC, Community of Reconciliation, and Community House Presbyterian Church. You are invited to join church members from our congregation and Pittsburgh Presbytery as we gather in the Social Hall for a light lunch prepared by Chef Jay, followed by a Celebration Service featuring a display of the Shower of Stoles, music by Deryk Tines and the Renaissance City Men's Choir, and an addi-

### Sunday Morning Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper.*

- 8 am Good Samaritan Worship  
 \* May 6 The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Interim Director, ELPC Christian Education.  
 May 13..The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Director, ELPC Mission Ministries.  
 May 20 The Rev. Robert Wilson, Minister, First United Methodist Church.  
 May 27 TBA
- 9 am Morning Glory Worship  
 \* May 6 The Rev. Barbara Kennedy and Heather Tunney.  
 May 13 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.  
 May 20 The Rev. Howard Cherry.  
 May 27 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
- 11 am Sanctuary Worship  
 \* May 6 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.  
 May 13 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.  
 May 20 The Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr.  
 May 27 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

### Koinonia Service of Praise

*2nd Sunday each month*

Sunday, May 13 ..... 7 pm  
 Elder Kathleen Kyle.

### Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing

*3rd Sunday, March–November*

Sunday, May 20 ..... 6 pm  
 The Rev. James Davidson.

### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

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

Taizé Prayer

**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*

**Living Into Easter**

How do we “live into” Easter? By that I mean, how do we take the good news of Easter and make it part of our daily lives from this point on? Even though we are in the midst of the season of Eastertide, the day of resurrection already feels like long past and the celebratory worship services of Easter morning are only a distant memory.

The news headlines could not be less “Easter-ish,” with their recounting of the ongoing war in Iraq, genocide in Darfur, politics around the U.S. Attorney General, and the senseless violence at Virginia Tech. Yet in the days between Easter and Pentecost, the early church did not look particularly “Easter-ish” either. The disciples were in hiding when Jesus first appeared to them. Some gradually went back to work, such as when the fishermen returned to their boats. It would be wrong to assume that all of them immediately grasped the significance of the Easter resurrection and re-shaped their life around this miracle. It would also be wrong to assume that they understood it at all without the help of God’s grace that opened their minds and eyes to see clearly what the risen Christ now meant for our struggling world.

There are lots of events happening at our church this month that are designed to help us ask the question about how we are to live into Easter. There’s the Arts Initiative mini-conference on May 11-12 and the Hope Academy Showcase performance on May 12. There’s the gathering on Full Inclusion Sunday (May 20) in which we will hear the guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr. There’s the excitement of hosting another graduation ceremony of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on May 24, especially since it will include one of our own, Heather Tunney, among the honorees. And looking ahead, there are the presentations of the Just Neighbors program, including a special two-day event on June 2-3, featuring guest speakers and a panel of local experts.

Ultimately to ask how we are to live into Easter is to ask this question: What does it mean to be a person of faith and hope? In the face of troubling world events and national violence, what does it mean to believe in love over hate, and God’s will over human planning? In the celebration of the arts, our desire to welcome all God’s family in our worship life, and our prayerful commitment to theological learning and justice for everyone, what does it mean to stand on a foundation that affirms the fullness of life over all principalities and powers that would choose something less for ourselves and our neighbors?

Just as we are saved by grace, we are filled with Easter hope by the same grace. Because of the good news of Easter, a vision for triumphant life and a restored creation has been imparted to each of us. We close our eyes to visu-

*Randy Bush*

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## Remedial Case Involving Our Church and Presbytery

Last October, Pittsburgh Presbytery adopted an overture that tried to establish strict "essential" standards for ordination, in place of the historic practice of allowing individual, case-by-case examinations to occur when considering candidates for ordination. Many Presbytery commissioners objected to this overture, and our Session, along with Pastor Bush, two other pastors and the Session of Sixth Presbyterian Church, filed a remedial case asking the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission to rule on the constitutionality of this action. The

hearing on this request will be held on May 14–15, 2007 at Camp Hill, PA.

This case touches on important issues: the freedom of conscience; God's gifts for ministry given to a wide and diverse range of people; the church's responsibility to be inclusive and welcoming of all persons who respond in trust to God's grace in Jesus Christ. In bringing this Remedial Case, it is hoped that our Presbytery will continue to affirm both the denomination's historic constitutional principles and

## ELPC Trip to the Goulding & Wood Organ Factory

A trip to the Goulding and Wood (G&W) Organ Factory in Indianapolis, Indiana has been rescheduled for May 15, 16 and 17 (Tuesday to Thursday).

We'll depart ELPC at 9 am on Tuesday, May 15. Our transportation will most likely be in a comfortable mini-bus for the 6 1/2 hour trip. Arrangements will be made at a local motel/hotel for single/double occupancy rooms with breakfast. Between 5:30 and 6 pm, we will arrive at the G&W factory (very near downtown) where we will be given a tour of the factory and be served a buffet dinner. Following dinner there will be a "tour" of the Great/Swell and Pedal organs. Dr. Szeremany and our organ curator H. Preston Showman of Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh will demonstrate these portions of the organ. You will have the opportunity to see, touch, hear, ask questions, walk around and into parts of the organ, that once re-installed in our organ chambers, will be inaccessible for show-and-tell for another 70 years! At 9 pm we will return to our motel.

After breakfast on Wednesday

will be a tour to see some of Indianapolis sights. Following lunch, we'll head just outside the city to see the magnificent United Methodist Church and their G&W Organ which figured powerfully in our decision to award our contract to G&W. Shortly thereafter we will return to the G&W factory where a public "Open House" of the ELPC organ will take place. This will be a good opportunity for us to hear other folks playing "our" organ and talking about it, as well as a time for interaction with other organists and church committees. After the Open House will be dinner on our own and then back to the motel. We leave for home on Thursday morning.

If you would like to join us, call Norma at 412-441-3800 X11 by

## Highlights from the April Session Meeting

On April 17, the Session and Deacons met together for dinner and a time of sharing about their respective boards and the work of church officers. Newly-elected elders and deacons were examined and approved for ordination. Other highlights included:

- u It was recommended to Pittsburgh Presbytery that Meagan Manas be enrolled as an Inquirer preparing for ministry.
- u Diana Armstrong was re-elected as Session Clerk.
- u Carla Depperman and Gene Harris were elected as co-treasurers.
- u Session is moving ahead with consolidating existing committees into nine committees: Community Mission, Educational Ministries, Finance and Stewardship, Justice and Global Concerns, Membership & Outreach, Personnel, Property, Spiritual Life, and Worship, Music & the Arts. Congregation members

Hope Academy 2006-2007  
Showcase Performance

**WE'RE ALL  
IN THIS  
TOGETHER**

Saturday, May 12  
7 pm, ELPC Social Hall  
Tickets: \$5, available at the  
door

Performances by over 50 students from the Hope Academy's Musical Theater, Shakespeare, Voices of Hope and Songwriting classes.

*One performance only!*



## Board of Deacons

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

### Deacons as Sunday Morning "Pastoral Point Persons"

A rotating schedule of Deacons now serve as "Pastoral Point Persons" on Sunday mornings. They help the office volunteers, security, ushers and staff in managing unexpected situations that arise between 9 am and the end of the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. During May, our Sunday "point person" will be Deacon Valerie Dixon. She'll be seated near the front of the east transept and wearing her Deacon name badge. This ministry is much appreciated.

### Supplies for the Men's Shelter

The Deacons are collecting the following items for the Men's Shelter: shampoo, disposable razors and deodorant. Please bring your items to

## Holy Ground

*A Service of Prayers  
for Wholeness and Healing*

Sunday, May 20  
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



*"Oh taste and see  
that the Lord is  
good."*

### Young at Heart Luncheon and ELPC's Senior Members

Save the date Sunday, June 24 on your calendar and plan to attend the annual *Young at Heart Luncheon* in recognition of the senior members our church. This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

The theme this year is

#### *"Swingin' with the 40's."*

People born before 1942 and their guest will be admitted free of charge. Others may join us for a cost per person. Watch the June *Reaching Out* for further details including cost and about making



## HEALTH MINISTRY

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

### Health Matters — "Heart Disease"

Your risk for heart disease is determined by several factors, and the more factors you have present, the greater your risk.

Some factors you cannot change:

- u age – Men over 45 and women over 55 are at greater risk.
- u family history/race – Your chances of heart disease are increased if you have a family member (parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle) who had a heart attack or stroke. African American women age 44–64 have a higher risk than white women of the same age, for reasons not well understood.

Other factors you can do something about (future Health Matters columns will offer more information):

- u smoking – Quitting smoking is the single best way to reduce your risk. More than half of all heart attacks in women under age 50 are smoking related.
- u blood pressure – Keep your blood pressure less than 140/90 (below 120/80 is best).
- u diabetes – If you have diabetes, keeping your blood pressure below 130/80, your LDL cholesterol below 100 mg/dl, and your HbA1c levels under 7 will lower your risk.
- u weight – Lose weight if you are overweight (BMI of 25 or more).
- u diet – A diet high in fat and cholesterol is related to heart disease. Try to make food choices that are high in fiber (such as fruits, vegetables, grains and legumes) and low in saturated fat and salt.
- u physical activity – Building up to exercising moderately 30–60 minutes most days of the week will benefit you in many ways, including lowering your risk of heart disease. If this amount of activity is more than you can fit into your schedule, or if you are inactive at present, any exercise is a help.

Routine checkups with the doctor are a good rule to monitor risk factors and optimize your health. For further information: [familydoctor.org](http://familydoctor.org).

Each month under the Health Ministry column, we will be sharing informa-

## Stand Up Now (S.U.N.) Hip Hop Tour

On Saturday, May 19 from 12 to 4 pm, *Royal Tribe Music* will be conducting the kick-off event for its Stand Up Now Summer Hip Hop Tour on the front steps of East Liberty Presbyterian Church along Penn Avenue.

This is a free, all-age event that will feature performances by Hip Hop artists from the local and re-

gional communities. Also in attendance will be representatives from local community and social service agencies who will share their messages about violence prevention and the importance of education.

The tour will promote youth involvement in social change through the arts as well as community collaboration to identify posi-



## 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.

- May 2 Brother James Gospel Hour. If you have sung a few gospel songs during our Taizé prayers and have been left wanting more, here's your chance for a full hour of gospel singing led by Brother James Avant. Brother James is known city-wide for his powerful voice and soaring spirit.
- May 9 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.
- May 16 No class.
- May 23 No class.
- May 30 Celebrations. Join us after our Taizé service for celebration cake. If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or an anniversary in May, write your name on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate during the month.

### Bread & Soup Meal and Fellowship

All are invited to join us in the McKelvy Room for a bread and soup meal



## Presbyterian Women

*Heather Lawrence,  
Moderator*

Buy a Net Workers' Mother's Day Card and Help Prevent Malaria  
Net Workers is a malaria prevention program established by the Presbyterian Church (USA). By buying a Net Worker's Mother's Day card to honor mothers, daughters or friends here, you can help safeguard the health of mothers in Africa. Your \$10 donation for a card will provide an insecticide-threaded net and malaria prevention education for a woman and her family in Africa. Cards may be purchased after the 11 am service and on Sunday, May 6, or by calling Kelly at 412-441-3800 x19.

### 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.

May 1, Tuesday morning, 10 am to 12:30 pm for Lesson #9: *Perspectives on Providence—Joseph* (Genesis 37' 39-45; 50). 10 am, sharing, prayer time, opening devotions; 10:30 am, Bible Study; 11:30 am, lunch, soup provided, bring bread, salad or fruit to share.

May 22, Tuesday evening, 5:45 to

## ELPC Cathedral Café Now Open on Sundays

The Cathedral Café is now open on Sundays (except May 6 and 20) in the McKelvy Room from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. Soup, salad bar, choice of hot entrée, side dishes and beverage all for only \$8. Items are also available a la carte and for take-out. The Café is also open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from



## 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.

#### 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. 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.
- 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 May will help the children learn about the risen Lord and the Holy Work of the faithful believers.

#### For Youth

For Church School classes offered for youth in grades 6 through 12, see page 8 for details.

#### For Adults

##### Contemporaries Class

The Contemporaries examine theological issues in modern life, nurture spiritual disciplines, and encourage one another in ministry and mission. Come, grow with our intergenerational community of disciples. Individuals at all stages of faith are welcome! Second Floor Parlor.

May 6, "National Religious Campaign Against Torture." Led by the Rev. Don Dutton. Are you a person of faith who wants to end torture? Every generation has its own reckonings to make with abuses of power and gross violations of basic human rights.

Every generation of Christians has to consider once again 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 more immediate forms of cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. Many

of us manage to postpone that reckoning by one of three common strategies: denial, legitimization, or personal exculpation. It's time to break that vicious cycle. Come and participate in a provocative series, including scriptural reflections that frame and reinforce the evidence that torture is a moral issue.

May 27 "Centering Prayer and Other Discoveries Through My Involvement with Prison Ministries." Led by Chuck Carson. Venturing into a new area of ministry can be daunting as well as inspirational. During the past year, Chuck Carson felt called to expand his volunteer commitment of service to include the incarcerated community. An entirely new dimension of growth commenced for Chuck as the level of communication among the prisoners deepened. Chuck invited their community to discover some important spiritual concepts, including Centering Prayer. Prison ministry is an area that Jesus reminded us to address. Let us honor that admonition as we examine the incarceration process and learn to respect both those who are teaching and learning.

##### 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.

May 6 "New Vision." The Spirit breaks open the community of Christ to move in new

ways. How and where we set boundaries in the Christian community is always subject to the gracious nature of God’s love. The texts this week witness to a new vision for God’s people and all of creation. Where the spirit leads, the church is called to follow in love. *Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35; Revelation 21:4.*

May 13 “Welcome by the River.” Currents of God’s Spirit carry us in directions we may not have chosen. Lydia welcomes the gospel’s message and its messenger by a river. Her baptism christens mutuality of ministry. Waters of life wash through all the readings: inviting love, making persons whole, and imparting holy presence. *Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; John 14:23-29; Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5.*

May 20 “Unexpected Ministry.” Opportunities for unexpected ministry arise when faith confronts powers that oppress. When can we not walk away from situations of pressing need? Where does God call us to bring freedom and compassion? To live in Christ challenges us to engage in mission. To dwell in the Spirit renews us with waters of life. We trust God’s power to deliver. *Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; John 17:20-26; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-21.*

May 27 Day of Pentecost “Spirited Voices.” Throughout the Easter season, the readings have led us in an exploration of the acts of the spirit in the early church. These faith ancestors responded to God’s powerful presence in lives committed to mutual ministry. Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate breath and fire of the spirit that lives and moves among God’s people. *Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; John 14:8-17; Romans 8:14-17.* The Spirit gives the church its mission and the power to undertake it. As you look into the future, what mission is the Spirit giving to you and your church?

Parenting Circle

This Spring the class has been discussing, “How do I answer my child’s really difficult spiritual questions? How do I teach my child to pray?” 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 discussion. Harambe Room on the first floor.

Seekers Class

This year the Seekers explored some of the “big questions” of the Christian

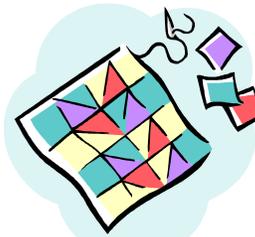
faith, bringing our beliefs into dialogue with the wide world around us, as well as a plurality of religious traditions. We embrace the complexities of our faith within an open, supportive, and accepting atmosphere. Leaders: Damon Bethea and Nancy Klancher. Room 234.

May 6 Eschatology, including what Presbyterians believe about the end times, some of the Scriptural material on the future, and some apocalyptic literature. Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, ELPC Pastor.



May 13 The role of women in the early church, beginning with evidence of their leadership in the earliest church and its diminishment over the first two centuries. Professor Rebecca DeNova, University of Pittsburgh.

May 27, Faith affirmation workshops. Culmination of the questions we asked and considered over the course of this year. We will begin with some reflection on our creedal tradition, share some of the faith statements of ELPC leaders and mem-



bers, and move to group exercises and exploration of the answers we have come to so far.

CE Family Fellowship

Our Family Fellowship will be on Sunday, May 20 immediately after the 11 am worship service. We will gather in the Gallery/Chat ‘N Snack on the Ground Floor for a simple lunch and nourishment. Then we

2007 Vacation Bible School — “The Great Bible Reef”

ELPC will be transformed into an underwater Bible Reef June 25-29 from 9:30 am to 12 noon each day when children ages 4–5th grade will be invited to take the plunge into wave after wave of faith-filled fun as they “Dive Deep Into God’s Word.”

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Day 1: God’s People Trust        | Day 3: God’s People Listen  |
| Day 2: God’s People Help Believe | Day 4: God’s People Believe |



With a different Bible story every day, a new memory verse, and a special sea critter to take home, the children will have many opportunities discover the wonder of God’s Kingdom. Knowing



## 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.

#### Youth Basketball

Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm in the ELPC Gym. To participate, contact Heather Tunney. Note: No basketball on Saturday, May 5 due to the Youth 30-Hour Famine.

#### Sunday Youth Group

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. Events for the month of May will focus around the theme of "Joy." See May's Youth Calendar for details. Note: No Youth Group on May 6 (Youth 30-Hour Famine) and May 27 (Memorial Day weekend). On May 13, Youth Group will go until 8 pm due to the Koinonia Worship Service.

#### 30-Hour Famine

This year's 30-Hour Famine 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 and Southminster churches. We will break our fast with Communion at the

### Confirmation Class



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.

#### Confirmation Class – Dinner with Session

If you are one of our youth being Confirmed this spring, you are *required* to attend a dinner on Tuesday, May 15 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Dinner will be shared with Confirmation sponsors, Church School teachers and Session. This will also be a time for

our Session to get to know you and to ask you some questions about your faith journey. This will be a fun time of sharing and celebrating the gifts youth bring to the life of the church.

#### Confirmation and This Year's Confirmation Class

On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, seven ELPC senior-high youth will join the church through Baptism and/or Affirmation of Faith at the 11 am service (see article on page 1). We joyfully welcome this year's Confirmation Class — Michael Benedict, Christopher Dickson, Caitlyn Engelhardt, Laura Hoehn, Lauren Huggins, Benjamin Lawrence, and Charlie Meyers. Join us as we celebrate the growth of our church family and as we pray for these youth as they continue on their faith journeys.

#### Summer Mission Trips

Senior High Mission Trip to Montezuma Creek, Utah. Youth in 9-12 grade will be participating in a Mission Trip to Montezuma Creek, Utah to help rehab homes on a Native American Reservation from June 17–23. The Mission Trip is coordinated through Group Work Camps. Currently, there are no more spots available for the trip. Those participating must attend three required pre-trip training sessions on Sundays, May 13, 20 and June 10 immediately following 11 am worship until 2 pm. We will meet in Room 51, and a light lunch will be served. Please call Heather Tunney if you have any questions.

Junior High Mission Trip. ELPC youth in grades 6-9 will participate in Camp Crestfield's Mission Possible for a week together of mission work and camp fun from July 8–13. Cost is \$100/person (ELPC will pay the rest). RSVP required by Sunday May 27 to Heather Tunney.

#### YOUNG ADULTS

(in their 20s and 30s)

#### 20/30s Study Group

This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm. Join us on May 8 and 22 when we continue reading *Process Theology: A Basic Introduction* by C. Robert Mesle. 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.

Service Project with East Liberty Family Health Care Center  
The East Liberty Family Health Care Center (ELFHCC) is hosting



## Justice & Global Concerns

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

### Prophetic Voices Today

Speakers Series



The Prophetic Voices Today speakers series was developed in conjunction with the Poverty Taskforce. It is grounded in the belief that, in every age, special voices have been raised to confront people of faith with messages that call them to authentic ways of expressing love of God and neighbor. We call these messengers “prophets.”

Are there prophets in the 21st century? At ELPC, we say that there are. We seek, as part of our mission as a congregation, to provide a time and place for these prophetic voices to be heard within our church and by the broader community.

The taskforce chose as the theme for the inaugural session of the speakers series—*Uprooting Poverty*—which will be held at ELPC on Saturday June 2 (6:30 to 9 pm) and Sunday, June 3 (11 am worship to 1:45 pm). Featured speakers will be: Karen Olson, founder and President of Family Promise. Olson will provide a national perspective on the challenge that poverty poses for people of faith. Sharing their perspectives on the root causes of poverty in Pittsburgh and how those barriers are being—or need to be—uprooted will be Dr. Ralph Bangs, Associate Director, Center on Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh and Esther L. Bush, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. Exploring the Biblical and spiritual dimensions of efforts to uproot poverty will be the Rev. Dr. Dale P. Andrews, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at Boston University. The Rev. Andrews will also be our guest preacher at the 11 am worship service on Sunday, June 3.

This program is free and all are welcome to attend. For more information about the program and its inaugural session including featured speakers, call 412-441-3800 x22 and ask for a program brochure, or visit our website at [www.cathedralofhope.org](http://www.cathedralofhope.org).

In 2007-2008, the “Prophetic Voices Today” series will continue to bring into our community women and men with messages that challenge us to think more deeply about our role as Christians living in America today. ELPC will seek out diverse participants who can share on topics of particular relevancy that will include a grounding in faith and spirituality. Out of their presence, witness and dialogue among us, we hope to foster responses that are informed, engaged, and nurturing of further action.

#### u Environmental Taskforce

Environmental Taskforce Meeting

The next meeting of the Environmental Taskforce will be Tuesday, May 8 at 7 pm in Room 135. Anyone who is interested in the work of this taskforce is welcome to join us.

#### u Full Inclusion Taskforce

#### Full Inclusion Taskforce — BOOK REVIEW

The following book was reviewed by Chuck Nichols and is available the ELPC library.

#### *Is It A Choice?* by Eric Marcus

Author Eric Marcus has arranged an “everything you always wanted to know” information fest in a question and answer format. Easy to read and covering every conceivable aspect of gay life, this is an excellent beginning for those folks who are confused by clichés, false accusations and general misunderstandings about gay men and women. Recommended for older teens and adults.

#### Full Inclusion Taskforce Meeting

The next meeting of the Full Inclusion Taskforce will be Sunday, May 6 at 12:15 pm in Room 224. We will be preparing last minute details on More Light Sunday on May 20 (see article on page 1) and planning our participation in PrideFest on June 16.

#### u Poverty Taskforce

“Just Neighbors” — May’s Topic: Justice for All: Economic Inequality

All are invited to join us for our next educational and interactive workshop on Saturday, May 19 in the third floor Music Room, when we will be discussing, “Justice for All: Economic Inequality” with workshop leader Ron Stone. 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 chil-

### Mini Conference on Oikocredit

Save the date Saturday, May 19 from 9 am to 12:30 pm and plan to attend the mini conference on Oikocredit—Maximizing Microcredit—to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Road in Upper St. Clair. Workshop topics include: “Nuts & Bolts of Investing in People”; “Can Your Savings Fight Poverty?”; and “Oikocredit in Action Around the Globe.” Questions? Call Rev. Phil Wilson at 412-322-4244. Spon-

### Thomas Merton Center’s New Person Award 2007

All are invited to this year’s Thomas Merton Center (TMC) New Person Award awards ceremony and fundraiser that serves to honor local activists who are working in pursuit of peace and justice. The event will be held at East Liberty Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 17 from 7 to 10 pm.

This year’s award recipients are: *Gail Auston*—Black Voices for Peace; *Edith Bell*—Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the Raging Grannies, and TMC Board of Directors; *Dan Fine* and *Anita Fine*—long-time TMC members and active with Physicians for Social Responsibility; *Mike Healey*—Healey and Hornack, National Lawyers Guild, and free-speech lawyer extraordinaire; *Jules Lobel*—University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Vice President of the Center for Constitutional Rights; *Father Jack O’Malley*—Association of Pittsburgh Priests and chaplain of the AFL-CIO; *Rev. Tom Smith*—Monumental Baptist Church and former TMC Board President.

If you love peace and justice, live music and food, plan to join us



## Worship Music & The Arts

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

### Arts Initiative Conference — A Biblical Approach

*The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany*

An arts initiative conference—Do you really, really know what the possibilities are? Or might be? Or could be? The ARTS in the church? Well, that does grab different folks at different places. Because it mentions “the arts” some respond affirmatively saying, “Oh, yes, at last! That’s what we need in our church.” And others respond in a quite different manner with either an, “I can take it or leave it” attitude or an outright “No, never!” But, you know, “the arts” are not all that different from “the faith.” In a sense, both are subjective and we respond to each from where we are at the moment. And the points of view (or as some would prefer “the arguments”) can go back and forth and never really achieve resolution.

And so I—*J. Richard*—have, after many years of experience in this area, come to the conclusion that a biblical approach to the subject is best. Those who wondered what this Jesus man was all about and how could this or that thing be, those folks received a neutral invitation that, for some, changed their entire life. So I’m offering that same invitation to “Come and See!” to those who are gung-ho in favor as well as to those who are gung-ho in the other direction. Yes, come and see; come and listen; and come and experience what others, just like us, are looking for or already have found through the wedding of their faith and the power of the arts!

All are invited to join us on Friday and Saturday, May 11 and May 12 for a 36-hour Arts Initiative Conference with guest presenters on worship and congregational life and the arts. The conference cost for ELPC members and friends is \$25, plus an additional \$25 which includes lunch on Friday and Saturday, Friday dinner, and snacks throughout both days.



SUNDAY, MAY 13

#### KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP

6 pm, Second Floor Parlor

#### Special Mother’s Day Pot-Luck Supper

All are invited to bring their mothers (or special person who has been like a mother) to the potluck supper and service on Sunday, May 13. Join us for a time of table fellowship to share a meal together from 6 to 7 pm in the Second Floor Parlor prior to the Koinonia Praise Service at 7 pm. The main course will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This will be a special time of fellowship to honor our mothers as we celebrate Mother’s Day together. RSVP by May 10 to Heather Tunney at 412/441-3800 x14.

KOINONIA SERVICE OF PRAISE — 7 pm, Third Floor Music Room  
 A contemporary worship service to praise and worship God, the center of



## ELPC People

### Good News, Thanks and Prayers

#### Good News

Congratulations to Anne Jackson on the birth of her daughter *Jennifer Jackson* on March 22, 2007.

Congratulations to Lynn (McAnany) Mezyk and Mark Mezyk on the Baptism of their son *Gabriel Thomas Mezyk* on March 25, 2007. Gabriel was born March 28, 2006 in Guatemala.

#### Thank You

Former ELPC staff member Doris Cook, and her son Brian Cook, would like to give a special thanks to all ELPC members and friends as well as to Doris' former co-workers for their cards and well wishes upon her retirement from ELPC after 20 years of dedicated service as receptionist. A reception was held for Doris following the 11 am worship service on Sunday,

### ELPC 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 in the East Liberty area. Two of these houses are for families associated with ELPC.

#### Hands-on Volunteer Opportunity

This hands-on mission opportunity requires no special skills—just a willing heart! You can work one day or as many days as you wish! A typical work day will last from 8 am to 4 pm. Evening work hours will also be available! Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- u Construction/Rehab for June 11 & 12 and July 23 & 24
- u Hospitality from June 11–15 and July 23–27
- u Homeowner Support to be ongoing

Look for the ELPC East End Blitz Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet on the Mission Ministries bulletin board on the first floor. Or for more information, contact

### ELPC Paper Recycling — for Everyone!

ELPC's Abitibi Paper Retriever—a bright green and yellow bin located near the staff parking area on Baum Blvd—can take newspapers, magazines, catalogs, copy paper, colored paper, and mail (no need to remove staples, and envelopes with cellophane windows are okay). Note: Please DO NOT place in the bin the following: 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, feel free to bring it to the church. ELPC will make a small amount of money for



### Church Building Closed

The church building will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, and the labyrinth will be unavailable for walking.

uuu

### ELPC Website's Multimedia Galleries

Visit ELPC's multimedia galleries—Audio Gallery, Photo Gallery and Video Gallery— now available on our website.



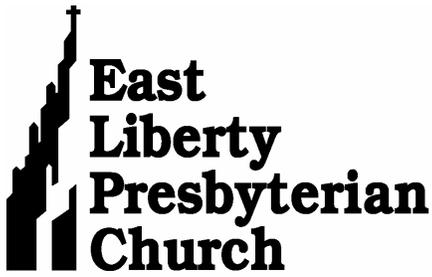
## Calendar Highlights

### May

- 5, 6 ..... Youth 30-Hour Famine
- 6 ..... Communion
- 11, 12 .... ELPC Arts Initiative Conference
- 12 ..... Hope Academy 2006-2007 Showcase Performance
- 12-19 .... Trip to Taizé
- 13 ..... Bible presentation to 3rd and 4th graders, 11 am worship
- 13 ..... Koinonia Fellowship Mother's Day Pot-Luck Supper, 6 pm
- 13 ..... Koinonia Service of Praise, 7 pm
- 15-17 .... Trip to Goulding & Wood Organ Factory in Indianapolis
- 19 ..... J&GC "Just Neighbors" Workshop



[www.cathedralofhope.org](http://www.cathedralofhope.org)



## *The Cathedral of Hope*

116 South Highland Avenue  
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[www.cathedralofhope.org](http://www.cathedralofhope.org)

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### ELPC Reaching Out Newsletter u May 2007

*Full Inclusion Sunday, May 20*  
*with the Rev. Dr. Janie Sphar*

*Pentecost Sunday, May 27*  
*and Confirmation of Youth*



Inside this issue. . .

Highlights of April's Session Meeting  
Hope Academy's Showcase Performance  
Trip to the Goulding & Wood Organ Factory  
Remedial Case Involving Our Church and the  
Presbytery

Health Ministry on Risk Factors for Heart Disease

East End Blitz Partnership

Malaria Prevention Education through Net Workers

ELPC Arts Initiative Conference — A Biblical Approach

Koinonia Service of Praise

Koinonia Fellowship and Mother's Day Pot-Luck Supper

Christian Education May Classes  
Holy Ground Service