



Newsletter of
The Cathedral of Hope

Reaching Out

www.cathedralofhope.org



July 2007

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

Vol. 26, No. 7

Shalom My Friends!



Rev. Cynthia I. Jackson

*Interim Director of
Christian Education*

For the past two years, I have been the Interim Director of Christian Education at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. July 15 will be my last Sunday with you and I look forward to greeting you after the 10 am Summer Worship service.

This is the church where I became a member in 1989, an inquirer, a candidate, and eventually the place of my ordination. There is much that has been so meaningful, but in all honesty, I have to say that the Moments with the Children has been the greatest joy to my heart. Getting to know the children, watching them grow, receiving their trust, and hearing their expressions of faith has been such a delight. I believe that children invite us to re-imagine the possibilities in life and to consider something new.

I leave East Liberty with fond memories of shared experiences with many dear people. This summer I hope to learn to drive a motor boat when I join my husband at Otter Island on Georgian Bay. I will enjoy kayaking and do some painting. My daughter is expecting her first child in early October and I am thrilled to be a Grandma. My son will start his Masters in Fine Art in Painting at Virginia Commonwealth and we are very proud of him. I have a grateful heart and cherish God's many blessings!

Shalom my friends....and may God's peace and love be with you.

— Cynthia Jackson



Farewell Reception for the Rev. Cynthia Jackson

All are invited to a farewell reception for the Rev. Cynthia Jackson following the 10 am Summer Worship service on **Sunday, July 15**. Our reception will be held in the third floor Music Room.

Cynthia joined the staff of ELPC as Interim Director of Christian Education in August of 2005. In addition to her CE responsibilities, she also assisted in the areas of worship and pastoral care. Families with children especially benefited from Cynthia's presence here. She played a major role in helping to start the following programs: *Families with Children Fellowship Time*, offered the third Sunday each month following the 11 am/10 am worship service; the adult Church School's *Parenting Circle*

class, designed for anyone involved in parenting to share ideas and concerns, as well as to receive prayers, support and acceptance; and, more recently, *Baby Lap Sit*, a ministry on Sunday mornings to nurture faith, hope and love to children 18 months and younger.

If you wish to thank Cynthia for her thoughtful leadership, you may bring a card or handwritten note, children's drawings are especially welcome. We wish her the very best and our heartfelt appreciation and prayers go with her. We look forward to fellowshiping with Cynthia in the future.



Summer Schedule

Sunday Morning Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper.*

- 8 am Good Samaritan Worship**
- * July 1 The Rev. William Thomas, Stated Supply, Boston Presbyterian.
 - July 8 Michael Glass, Exec. Director of Northside Common Ministries.
 - July 15 Susy Robison, Director of Volunteers, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.
 - July 22 "Friends of Danang."
 - July 29 Fay Morgan, Exec. Director of North Hills Community Outreach.

10 am Summer Worship

In the Courtyard, with additional seating in the upper Courtyard balcony outside the third floor Music Room. The service will be amplified up to that area. In prohibitive weather, the service will be moved inside.

- * July 1 The Rev. Cynthia Jackson.
- July 8 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.
- July 15 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
- July 22 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
- July 29 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Koinonia Service of Praise

7 pm, 2nd Sunday each month

July 8.....Heather Tunney.

Holy Ground Service

6 pm, 3rd Sunday, March–November

July 15The Rev. Hydie Houston.

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

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

Taizé Prayer

Note: No Taizé Prayer, July 4

Wednesdays..... 7 pm
The Rev. Christiane Dutton.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

The Cathedral of Hope
 116 S. Highland Avenue
 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 publication of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is free to members and friends.

Editor: Geri L. Toth



Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Faith-Talk

I like the letter of James. Its five chapters are tucked away near the end of the New Testament and too easily overlooked. Yet, when a steady diet of gospel stories needs to be varied and Paul's legal language doesn't quite fit the bill, then a dose of straight talk from Brother James is always in order. (We don't know who wrote the letter of James, but the two men in the New Testament with that name were James, the brother of Jesus, and James, the brother of John; so calling him

"Brother James" is certainly appropriate.)

Even the section headings in the letter of James are rich with spiritual advice: Warning Against Partiality, Faith Without Works is Dead; Taming the Tongue; Patience in Suffering. It is James that challenges us to "be doers of the word and not merely hearers" (1:22), to "let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no" (5:12), and to "show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom" (3:13).

Whether confronted by angry skeptics or sincere-questioning teenagers, we all know how difficult it is to answer questions about faith and Christianity without sounding too rigid or too wishy-washy. Faith-Talk is always a mixture of the personal (my own experiences, my own hopes and questions and beliefs) and the universal (what it means to belong to a particular church, a particular denomination, or to be part of the global Christian community with its 4000-year history). Covering both those aspects in any conversation about faith is always a challenge.

The best resource for meeting this challenge is to have a reservoir of scriptural vocabulary at your disposal — words, phrases and metaphors you can "dip into" to express your faith when your own words begin to fail you. And the wise words of Brother James are a good place to start. As a summer reading recommendation, resolve this month to get reacquainted with James' straight talk about faith, discipline and good works. What he has to say is comforting, challenging, and full of conviction — words that are good traveling companions for whatever stage you're on in your spiritual journey.

◆◆◆ *Randy Bush*

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is continuing the search for an Associate Pastor for Christian Education, Youth and Young Adults. Our CIF (Church Information Form) has been posted online at the Presbyterian Church (USA) web site for a month. Copies are also available in the church office.

We are also looking at other ways to advertise the position. We have started to receive applicants' PIFs (Pastor Information Forms) and are working on a

process for reviewing them. We value your ongoing prayers and will keep you posted.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:

- Michael Benedict
- Valire Copeland
- Frances Irvin
- Kathleen Kyle
- Steve Massey

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ELPC Youth Participate in Summer Mission Trips



A group of youth and adults from ELPC participated in a week-long mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee from

June 17 to 23. The trip was coordinated through the Center for Student Missions. ELPC participants included: senior-high youth—Chris Dickson, Caity Engelhardt, Ben Lawrence, Charlie Meyers and Felicia Ragsdale; college student—Moses Cheeks; and adults—Heather Tunney, Kim Ness (and her 1-year-old son Ben) and Anthony Williams.

While in Nashville, the mission team ministered to children in the inner city at a summer day program, visited patients at the VA hospital and the Senior Citizen Day Program, served food at a local soup kitchen, provided grounds-keeping assistance at a homeless shelter for families, and helped at an area food pantry. In addition to their ministry, they spent time praying for Nashville and learning about

the city's unique gifts and areas of need.

Our junior-high youth (grades 6-9) are scheduled for a mission trip from July 9-13 to Pittsburgh Presbytery's Camp Crestfield in Slippery Rock, PA. Currently, 10 ELPC youth—Camara and Camden Copeland, Ben Engelhardt, Nimar Glover, Myles Graham, Lundan Ham, Sophie Klancher, Josh Lawrence, Sarah Overby and John Polizziani—and two adult leaders have signed up. They will enjoy camp fun in the evenings, but will be hard at work during the day in service to those in need in the community around them. Youth will get a taste of mission work by volunteering with East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM) and Habitat for Humanity through the week.



ELPC's Pipe Organ Returns to Pittsburgh

IT'S ON ITS WAY . . . from Indianapolis to Pittsburgh, and, as the hymn writer of nearly 300 years ago wrote, "O happy day!"

Our sanctuary organ is about to begin its return trip home. The week of July 1st begins the enormous task of disassembling and preparing all those portions of the organ our ELPC entourage went to see in Indianapolis at the Goulding and Wood organ factory in May.

Then on Saturday, July 14, the crates of pipes, seemingly countless number of wind chests and expression shutters, wind regulators and electrical wizardry will be painstakingly loaded into an 18-wheel trailer for its homecoming. The 18-wheeler will arrive on Sunday, July 15 at our front door under cover of darkness, where it will be greeted by the Security forces of ELPC who will stand guard until 7 am Monday, July 16 when 11 of the Goulding and Wood work force will begin unloading the precious cargo and carefully distributing it

throughout the transepts and front area of the sanctuary. Once all parts are inside the church, preparation will begin for everything to be hoisted up to the 4th level of the building where the organ chambers on both sides of the Chancel begin.

Some of you may have seen the organ distributed throughout the aisles and on top of the pews a year ago in January when it was being removed for shipment. For those of you who are newcomers or for those who missed this "show" the first time around, you will have another opportunity to see the wonders of this creation before it gets permanently installed in its chambers for the next 70 years.

Immediately following worship in the Courtyard on Sunday, July 22, you are invited—and encouraged—to come into the Sanctuary to look and see, to ask questions, and to feel something of the excitement juices begin to flow as we await with great anticipation the day we can hear once again the glorious sounds lifting

our voices in praise and worship.

We've got a target date of Sunday, Sept 30 for the organ's first presentation to the congregation, and then two weeks after on Saturday evening, Oct 13 at 7 pm, for the first public concert, when we will celebrate with organ, brass and strings and choir.

So mark your calendars and plan to be here to see for yourself on Sunday, July 22. I'll be looking forward to seeing you among the pipes!

—J. Richard Szeremany



Holy Ground

Worship Service of Prayers for Wholeness & Healing

Join us in the beauty of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church sanctuary for a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading, and a time of blessing.

Sunday, July 15 at 6 pm
The Rev. Hydie Houston

Holy Ground is offered at 6 pm the third Sunday of each month, March–November, except when noted. Following is our schedule for the remainder of 2007:

- Aug 19 Father William J. Kiel
- Sept 16 The Rev. Tami Hooker
- Oct 21 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov 11 Father William J. Kiel.

NOTE: *Holy Ground will be offered the 2nd Sunday in November 2007.*



"Oh taste and see that the Lord is good."
(Psalm 34:8)

Inquirers' Class

Learn what it means to become a member or friend of ELPC by attending our next Inquirers' Class on **Saturday, July 21 from 9 am to 3 pm.**

Led by the Rev. Dr. 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, as well as to share stories and to get to know one another. Lunch will be provided. To attend, call Gloria Knopp at 412-441-3800 x22. Childcare is available by reservation only.



Staying Connected — Pastor Visitation Program

One of the aims of ELPC's pastor visitation program is to keep those who find it difficult to attend Sunday worship connected to the congregation. Some of these people, now unable to attend regularly, have held offices within the church, and with dedicated work and devotion, kept this church a vital part of the East Liberty Community.

To show the appreciation of this congregation to the devotion and faithfulness of these individuals, a part of the Deacons' bulletin board, located along the hallway just inside the Highland entrance, will have a display of pictures of those who, because of their life's circumstances, cannot be here in person. This feature will begin in September, celebrating one or two individuals each month. Please take time while you are at the church this fall to stop by the bulletin board and keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers in thankfulness of their being a part of our congregation.

In addition to staying connected with pictures, some people who cannot attend every Sunday, are now able to attend services occasionally with the help of the Deacons who supply transportation. If you know someone who needs transportation or an occasional visit, please contact the Rev. Miriam Chamberlain, ELPC's Visitation Pastor, at 412-441-3800 x33, to let her know of these needs.



Help Us Identify ELPC Members Who Are Graduating



With the graduation season upon us, we want to take time to celebrate this important milestone reached by several members of our ELPC church family. In our August issue of the *Reaching Out*, we plan to list the names of ELPC members who have graduated from high school, college or other institutions of higher learning (i.e. trade school, business school, graduate school) in 2007.

To be included on this list, call Kelly Stanfill at the church at 412-441-

3800 x19 or drop off your information in the church front office. Be sure to include the name of person graduating, and the name of school graduating from and location. You may also include honors received and future plans (i.e., employment, continuing on with schooling and area of interest/academic major, etc.). Deadline for information is July 13.

We rejoice in the accomplishments of our graduates with thanksgiving for God's guidance.



Christian Education

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Interim Director
412-441-3800 x20

Note: Regular Church School for adults, youth and children will resume on Rally Day, Sept 9.

Summer Adult Church School — 9:15 to 9:50 am, Second Floor Parlor

All adults in the congregation are invited to participate in our summer Adult Church School offered through July 29—*Longing to Pray: How the Psalms Teach Us to Talk with God*, by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Led by Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle. **Note:** Childcare will be available during the class for children 5 years and younger in the nursery on the first floor.

- July 1 Secrets of Friendship: Place, Posture and Punctuality
- July 8 Secrets of Friendship: Specificity
- July 15 Secrets of Friendship: Repentance
- July 22 Secrets of Friendship: Anger
- July 29 Secrets of Friendship: Helplessness

CE Family Fellowship

No Family Fellowship on Sunday, July 15. Instead, families are invited to a farewell reception for the Rev. Cynthia Jackson, following the 10 am worship service. See article on page 1.

Summer Extended Session for Ages 3–2nd Grade

Summer Extended Session is offered after the Moments with the Children during Sunday's 10 am Summer Worship service. Children ages three years through 2nd grade gather in Room 240 for a story, a snack, and creative activities. **Volunteers are also needed to assist the parent leaders** in taking the children to the restroom, helping with the snack, or simply listening to a child. Please consider sharing 45 minutes of your time once this summer and give yourself a special gift of love. If interested in volunteering, please contact Rev. Cynthia Jackson at 412-441-3800 x20 or cynthiaj@coh.net.





Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Heather Tunney, Director
412-441-3800 x14

YOUTH (grades 6–12)

Junior High Mission Trip to Camp Crestfield

To date, 10 ELPC youth in grades 6-9 have signed up to participate in Camp Crestfield's Mission Possible from **July 9-13**. We will enjoy camp fun in the evenings, but will be hard at work during the day in service to those in need in the community around us. Youth will get a taste of mission work by volunteering with EECM and Habitat for Humanity through the week. If you haven't yet signed up but are interested in going (cost is \$100/person with ELPC paying the rest), contact Heather Tunney as soon as possible. **Note:** A required pre-trip training session will be held for trip participants on Sunday, July 1 following the 10 am Summer Worship service, in Room 234.

Youth Cookout

ELPC youth are invited to an all-youth cookout on **Saturday, July 21** from 6 to 8 pm in the ELPC courtyard. This will be a great time to reconnect with friends over the summer, play some summer games, and shoot hoops for awhile. We might even have a chance to visit with youth from Pastor Bush's former church in Racine as they pass through Pittsburgh on their way home from their summer Work Camp in Maryland. Please RSVP to Heather by Wednesday, July 18 so that she knows how much food to prepare!



YOUNG ADULTS (in their 20s and 30s)

Summer Bible Study Class

Explore the Biblical theme of Jubilee, **Sunday mornings in July** from 9 to 9:45 am (before 10 am worship) in the Pastor's Conference Room. Our class will be led by Heather Tunney, ELPC Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, as well as other young adults from the ELPC community. Elder Kathleen Kyle will teach our first class on July 1. She will introduce us to the concept of Jubilee and its importance to the Gospel. A different topic will be covered each week central to the idea of Jubilee including: stewardship, overcoming oppression, creation, and Sabbath!

Since many of us are busy with summer vacations, the class will be structured so that participants can come to any or all of the weekly sessions. Drop-in visitors are welcome any week. For more information, contact Heather Tunney.

Young Adult Fellowship Time

All young adults in their 20s or 30s are welcome to join us on **Sunday, July 22**, immediately following 10 am worship, when we will walk to Buffalo Blues on Highland Avenue for an early lunch together (bring a few dollars for lunch). Whether you are a student home for the summer, a professional working in the city; whether you are married/partnered or single, a parent or not; whether you are an ELPC member, friend or first-time visitor, this will be a great opportunity to meet new people as well as to catch up with old friends. RSVP to Heather Tunney by Friday, July 20 so that she can make reservations for our group.

20/30s Book Group

Join us on **Tuesday, July 24** from 6 to 8 pm as we wrap up our study and discussion of Bob Mesle's book *Process Theology*. We will meet in the Pastor's Conference Room.

Trinity Youth Conference for Youth and College-Age Young Adults

Trinity Youth Conference (TYC) will be held at Camp Living Waters in Shellsburg, PA from **July 29–August 4**. This is a week-long event for high-school youth (who are at least 15 years of age and have completed 9th grade by July 29, 2007) and for college-age young adults.

At TYC, young people learn about God and themselves through workshops, small groups, worship and games. Workshop topics range from the arts to theology to relationships. TYC is not only a time for deepening your spirituality, it is a time to relax, be yourself, and have fun with friends, both old and new.

Cost is \$280, but don't let money deter you! There are **scholarships available** for first-time TYC campers, both through the Synod and through ELPC. Any high school or college-age student interested in TYC should contact Heather Tunney at 412-441-3800 x14.



Sunday, July 8

All are welcome!

KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP
6 pm, Second Floor Parlor

Join us for fellowship and a pot-luck supper. A main course will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP to Heather Tunney, 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 our community of faith. This service is for everyone. Our service leader on July 8 will be Heather Tunney.

New — ELPC Knitting and Crocheting Group

ELPC's newly formed knitting and crocheting group, which began in June, will continue to be offered twice a month in July and August—the 3rd Thursday morning and the 4th Friday evening. You may attend one or both meeting times each month. All ages and skill levels are welcome. New knitters and those wishing to learn are encouraged to join. Projects may include chemo caps, afghans for Afghans, baby blankets for the Children's Home, items for the military, and scarves for the homeless.

3rd Thursday — July 19, Aug 16

10 to 11:30 am, Second Floor Parlor

4th Friday — July 27, Aug 24

7 to 8:30 pm, Second Floor Parlor

Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at 412-441-6021 or dnjcks@verizon.net.



Taizé Prayer

Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé

Taizé Prayer Service

A candlelight service every Wednesday at 7 pm in the Chapel. **NOTE: No Taizé service on Wednesday, July 4.**

Bread & Soup Meal Fellowship

All are welcome to a bread and soup meal and fellowship **Wednesday, July 25** from **5:45 to 6:45 pm** in the McKelvy Room (\$2.50 donation). Following our meal together, for those of you who wish to, plan to stay for our 7 pm Taizé service in the Chapel.

Celebrations

Join us after our Taizé Prayer service on **Wednesday, July 25** (approximately 8:15 pm) for celebration cake. If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or an anniversary in July, write your name on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate during the month.



HEALTH MINISTRY

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

Free Blood Pressure Screening

Free blood pressure screenings are usually held the third Sunday of each month in the first floor Library. During our summer schedule, screening will be held following the 10 am worship service (from approximately 11:15 to 11:45 am). Next screening is **Sunday, July 15**. For more information: Lois Lang at 412-441-3800 x41 or Patrice Fowler-Searcy at x30.

Safety in the Summer Sun

Continuing our monthly series on health, this month we will focus on safety in the summer sun. Heat exhaustion, heatstroke and damage such as sunburn and skin cancer can be associated with the summer sun. It makes sense to learn how to protect yourself from these conditions.

Heat Exhaustion. On hot, humid days, the body may have difficulty keeping itself cool. When evaporation of sweat doesn't do the job, the body temperature rises and heat exhaustion can result. The person may feel weak, dizzy, anxious; the pulse may race, and there may be a headache. If you have some of these symptoms, get out of the heat as soon as possible. Rest in a cool place and drink lots of water or other nonalcoholic fluids. Seek medical attention if you don't feel better within 30 minutes.

Heatstroke. Heatstroke, which can develop from heat exhaustion, is much more serious. It usually requires the assistance of another person, and it can be deadly. There may be the symptoms of heat exhaustion as noted above, plus confusion, fever, muscle weakness or cramps, nausea and vomiting, seizures or coma. If you think someone may be experiencing heatstroke, get them quickly to a cool place, and get medical help. Help the person cool down by removing excess clothing, fanning with warm air, and wetting the skin with lukewarm water. Get medical help immediately if the skin feels hot and dry (not sweaty), there is confusion or a loss of consciousness, repeated vomiting, or trouble breathing.

Sunburn and Skin Cancer. To reduce the risk of wrinkles, sunburn and skin cancer:

- ◆ Avoid the sun, especially between 11 am and 3 pm. Don't use tanning booths or sun lamps.
- ◆ Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or more, even on cloudy days. Apply to dry skin 15-30 minutes before sun exposure. Use one ounce (a shot glass full) per application. Reapply every hour if sweating or swimming.
- ◆ Use protective clothing, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses which block both UVA and UVB rays.

Preventing heat-related illness involves staying inside in air-conditioned areas when the heat index is high, if possible. Go to a public air-conditioned spot such as a store or library, if necessary. Protect yourself from the sun's rays with light-colored, loose clothing, a hat, and an umbrella. Use sunscreen with SPF of 15 or more. Drink lots of water and other beverages (nonalcoholic and caffeine free). Avoid vigorous outdoor activity between 10 am and 6 pm, if possible. Also, many medications increase the risk of developing heat-related illness. Discuss your particular medicine with your pharmacist to see if there is a risk for you.

Resources: Aad.org/public (American Academy of Dermatology); Familydoctor.org.





Worship Music & The Arts

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, Director

Sing with Our Summer Choir. . . there is a place for you!

Perhaps your schedule doesn't permit weekly rehearsals and an every Sunday commitment for the Chancel Choir. But maybe your summer schedule would permit you to sing—if not every Sunday this summer—then perhaps from time to time on Sundays with our Summer Choir.

If that sounds like your situation, we have just the opportunity for you to join our happy group. During the months of July and August, we prepare worship music which is accessible to those who have no formal musical training. It's the kind of music that you can catch onto quickly and have an enjoyable time doing it. We meet

on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 pm in an air-conditioned rehearsal room (Room 234), and then on Sundays at 9 am, we gather in the Courtyard for a refresher time of rehearsal preparing for the 10 am worship service.

Whether you're a soprano, alto, tenor, bass. . .high school, post-high school, college or older—give Richard Szeremany a call at 412-441-3800 x24 if you have any questions, or better still, tell him you would like to give it a try next Thursday. You just may surprise yourself!



ELPC Financial Update

Through the first quarter of 2007, our church finances are doing well. Pledges and offerings are up by \$25,000 in comparison to the same period last year. Our expenses are still on target, down by almost \$200,000 from last year at this time due to reduced expenditures on the organ renovation project. So far this year, several important capital projects have been completed, including repair work and cleaning in the courtyard, upgrading components in our electrical system, and replacing crumbling sections of concrete around our church's perimeter.

It is important to honor your pledges and contribution commitments during the summer months, so that ELPC can continue to serve others through our many church ministries and outreach programs.



A Word About Offerings

At a recent Stewardship training session, it was noted that how we collect our offerings says something about how we view our offerings. Sunday offerings are not collected to be laid passively on an altar, nor are they gifts that embarrass us so we whisk them out of the sanctuary as quickly as possible. Offerings are our generous response to God's love, given to further the Kingdom of God in our world. From now on, after we bless the offering with a word of prayer, the ushers will carry it back through the congregation, symbolizing how our monetary gifts go back into the world to do the Lord's work.



Board of Deacons

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

Deacons Sunday Morning "Pastoral Point Person" Schedule

A Deacon Pastoral Point Person (DPPP) is available on Sunday mornings to help the office volunteers, security, ushers and staff in managing unexpected situations that arise. During our summer worship schedule, the DPPP will be available from 10 am to the end of the 10 am worship service. The DPPP will also work to ensure a smooth and minimally disrupted worship time on Sunday morning by listening to, assessing and initially responding to concerns that might distract the pastor or the congregation during worship time.

Based on a rotating schedule, the designated DPPP will be seated near the front of the east transept and wearing a Deacon name badge. Following is the Sunday DPPP schedule for July through the end of 2007 / beginning of 2008.

- July 1, 8Sherry Anderson
- July 15, 22, 29Linda Benedict
- Aug 5, 12, 19Diane Jackson
- Aug 26, Sept 2, 9Charlie Meyers
- Sept 16, 23, 30Todd Hoffman
- Oct 7, 14, 21Emma Odim
- Oct 28, Nov 4, 11Theresa Patterson
- Nov 18, 25, Dec 2Pat Krimmel
- Dec 9, 16, 23Judy Roberts
- Dec 30, Jan 6, 13, 2008Barb Krimmel



ELPC 2007 East End Blitz Partnership

ELPC is partnering with nine local congregations, several community organizations and Hosanna Industries to rehab 8 vacant, abandoned or blighted houses for low-income, first-time 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 is from 8 am to 4 pm, with evening work hours also available! Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ◆ **Construction/Rehab for July 23 & 24**
- ◆ **Hospitality from July 23–27**
- ◆ **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, contact Emily Rosenthal at 412-963-0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at the church at 412-441-3800 x30.



ELPC Food Donations for EECM

The East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) Food Pantry, located in East Liberty Presbyterian Church, distributes food during the week to those persons and households living in poverty. Donation baskets for non-perishable food items are available at the following entrances to the church: Highland Avenue, Whitfield Street and Penn Avenue, and on the second floor near the main staircase inside the Highland entrance.

While you are encouraged to donate the item of the month (July: Peanut Butter), donations do not need to be limited to just those foods, but should be nutritional. **IMPORTANT:** For food safety and sanitary reasons, only unopened food packages and those that are not past the expiration date will be accepted.



KIDZ-E-Fest 2007

The students of the East End Cooperative Ministry's Youth Business Initiative will once again focus their positive energy on the children of the East End communities by holding KIDZ-E-Fest on **Saturday, July 14** from 12 to 6 pm at the Peabody High School field (on Highland Avenue).

Admission is **FREE** and all activities are designed for children 12 and under—an inflatable play station, arts & crafts, carnival games and prizes, the creation of

a community mural, as well as live performances.

The Youth Business Initiative students feels it's important to show the positive things groups of teens can do when given the opportunity, and to serve as role models for the next generation. For more information about KIDZ-E-Fest, contact the Youth Business Initiative at 412/361-5549 x413.



Justice & Global Concerns

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

Environmental Taskforce – MEETING

A meeting of the Environment Taskforce to discuss future projects will be held on **Sunday, July 22** in Room 135 following the 10 am Summer Worship service, at 11:15 am.

Full Inclusion Taskforce – BOOK REVIEW

What if Someone I Know is Gay? by Eric Marcus

Book reviewed by Ashley Birt. Written with children in mind, but a valuable resource for any curious mind. Answers many of the common questions that come up surrounding homosexuality and bisexuality. Comprehensive and straightforward, Marcus covers topics as vast as what “being gay” means, what to do if someone tells you that s/he is gay, and even how various religious groups (Christian and non-Christian) feel about the issue. Answers are frank and honest while also being age appropriate, and a list of resources rests in the back to help with questions not answered by the book. I recommend this book to all children and adults interested in learning more about what it means to be gay. This book is available in the ELPC library.

Women & Children's Taskforce – BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

The Women and Children's Taskforce is participating in the Back to School Supplies Drive being sponsored by the Mission Ministry Team of Pittsburgh Presbytery. During the month of July, congregations are being asked to collect new backpacks and other school supplies. Their goal is to supply 1,500 kits to school-aged youth served by the mission units of Pittsburgh Presbytery. East End Cooperative Ministries is one of 9 agencies receiving these kits.

You may donate as many of the following supplies as you want:

Backpacks (new); Bic Plastic Mechanical Pencils & extra eraser tops for pencils; Bic Stick Pens; Crayola Markers; Crayons; safety scissors; Glue Sticks; folders w/pockets (with and without clasps); wide-ruled notebooks; rulers; loose-leaf paper in tablet form; pocket dictionaries and thesauruses; calculators; assignment calendars.

Supplies will be collected through Sunday, July 29.

Please leave donated supplies in the church office marked for Women & Children's Taskforce. Your contributions will help children have a brighter educational future.

Questions? Call Judy Menk, 412-798-8569 before July 23.





ELPC People Good News, Thanks and Prayers

Good News

Congratulations to Anne Jackson and Andrew LaSalle on the Baptism of their daughter *Jennifer Rhiannon Jackson* on May 27, 2007. Jennifer was born on March 22, 2007.

Welcome

ELPC extends a warm welcome to the following confirmation-class youth who were received as new members by Session on Sunday, May 27, 2007: *Affirmation of Faith* — Michael Benedict, Chris Dickson, Caitlyn Engelhardt, Lauren Huggins (also Baptized), Ben Lawrence and Charlie Meyers.

Thank You

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson and the Christian Education Ministry Team extend a special thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and care to this year's Vacation Bible School—The Great Bible Reef. All of us learned about discipleship!

Prayers

Our prayers and sympathies are with former ELPC member Harry Bowman and his family on the death of his wife *Kay Bowman* who died on May 21, 2007. Kay was also a former member of ELPC.



CLAAY Program Looking for Volunteer Career Mentors

Duquesne University's Career Literacy for African American Youth (CLAAY) program is looking for career mentors to work with middle-school and high-school students during the 2007-2008 school year. This school-based career mentoring and academic tutoring program serves students in ten high schools in the City of Pittsburgh, at McKeesport Area Technology Center, and in five school districts in Beaver County. This fall, CLAAY will also begin working with students at Woodland Hills High School.

The time commitment for CLAAY career mentoring is 15 hours during the school year (3-hour mentor training and 12-hour school-based career mentoring). CLAAY career mentors meet with their student at their school two hours per month between October 2007 and May 2008.

CLAAY is seeking enthusiastic, motivated, and committed volunteers who

desire to make a positive impact on the future career direction of students in our region. If you're interested in becoming a CLAAY career mentor and/or need more information about the CLAAY program, please contact Damon Bethea at 412-325-1565 x31 or damon@winnets.com.



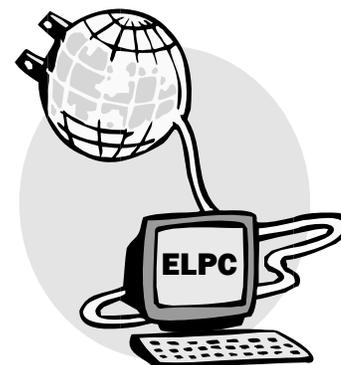
**CHURCH BUILDING
CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH**
**The labyrinth will also be
unavailable for walking
and NO Taizé at 7 pm.**



Calendar Highlights

July

- 1 Communion
- 1 Outdoor worship begins in the Courtyard for the 10 am service
- 3 Happy Wanderers day outing
- 4 Building closed**
- 8 Koinonia Fellowship, 6 pm
- 8 Koinonia Service of Praise, 7 pm
- 9-13 Youth junior-high Mission Possible Trip to Camp Crestfield
- 15 Farewell Reception for the Rev. Cynthia Jackson
- 15 Health Ministry's Blood Pressure Screening
- 15 Holy Ground Service, 6 pm
- 15 ELPC organ returns from the Goulding & Wood Organ factory
- 21 Inquirers' Class
- 21 Youth Cookout
- 22 Young Adult Fellowship Time
- 23-27 ELPC East End Blitz house rehab



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ELPC Reaching Out Newsletter ♦ July 2007



July 2007						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
★15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Inside this issue. . .

- Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Update
 - July 15—Farewell Reception for Rev. Cynthia Jackson**
 - ELPC Financial Update
 - July 15—ELPC’s Pipe Organ Back in Pittsburgh**
 - Inquirers’ Class
 - July 15—Holy Ground with the Rev. Hydie Houston**
 - Summer Adult Church School Class Series
 - Youth Cookout
 - Youth Summer Mission Trips
 - Koinonia Fellowship and Worship Service
 - Health Ministry on “Safety in the Summer Sun”
 - Young Adult Fellowship Time
 - Sing with the Summer Choir
 - Back-To-School Supplies Drive
 - A Word About Sunday Offerings
- . . .and much more!**