

## Advent and Christmas Celebration

*Saturday, December 22, at 4:00 pm*

A special holiday program will be held on **Sat., Dec. 22**, beginning at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. This worship service will include hymns, scripture, prayer, and special music, moving from the season of Advent to the joyful glad tidings of Christ's birth. Those present will hear lots of familiar music from this sacred season, and even have the chance to pick some of their favorite Christmas carols to sing. A reception will follow this festive event, so invite a friend and join us!

## Christmas Pageant

*Sunday, December 16, from 9:45 to 10:45 am*



Join us during the Church School hour in the Social Hall as the children of the church lead us in a dramatic retelling of one of the most central stories of our faith—the story of Jesus' birth! As we remember the story of the courageous Mary, the obedient Joseph, the awe-struck shepherds, the inquisitive magi, the brightly shining star and the tiny baby in the manger, may we feel the presence of God's

incarnational love in our midst this holiday season. Please note: All Church School classes will be cancelled on this day so that everyone may enjoy the pageant. (Please see page 5 for rehearsal information.)

## Christmas Eve Worship

*Monday, December 24*

### Family Service at 5 pm

Prepared for families with children in mind, the Family Service features music, carols and a unique retelling of the Christmas story. Heather Tunney will preach during this interactive service, held in the Chapel.

### Candlelight Holy Communion Service at 11 pm.

Featuring the Chancel Choir and organ, with special music and carols, the Candlelight Service occurs in the Sanctuary. Music begins at 10:45 pm.

## Sunday Morning Services

*\* Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

*December Liturgist: Ms. Karen Fraser*

Dec. 2\* The Rev. Douglas Portz,  
*Acting Pastor to the  
Pittsburgh Presbytery*

Dec. 9 The Rev. Joseph Hajdu,  
*honorably retired United  
Methodist minister*

Dec. 16 James L. Johnson

Dec. 23 The Rev. Thomas Menk,  
*honorably retired  
Presbyterian minister*

Dec. 30 The Rev. Tami Hooker

### Morning Glory Worship • 9 am

Dec. 2\* The Rev. J. Howard Cherry

Dec. 9 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 16 Seminary Intern Brian Diebold

Dec. 23 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 30 *No Morning Glory Service*

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Dec. 2\* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 9 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 16 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 23 Heather Tunney

Dec. 30 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain

## Koinonia Service of Praise

*Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm*

Dec. 9 Heather Tunney

## Labyrinth Prayer Walk

*Mondays • 10 am to 3 pm*

*Wednesdays • 10 am to 9 pm*

## Taizé Prayer Service

*Wednesdays • 7 pm*

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

## Free Noon Organ Concerts

*Three Wednesdays • Noon to 12:45 pm*

ELPC presents a time of midweek refreshment for one's spirit during the Advent season. Hear the music-making of three outstanding Pittsburgh organists; afterward, enjoy a lunch in the Cathedral Café.

**Wed., Dec. 5:** J. Christopher Pardini,  
*from Shadyside Presbyterian Church*

**Wed., Dec. 12:** H. Preston Showman,  
*from Third Presbyterian Church*

**Wed., Dec. 19:** Alan Lewis,  
*from Calvary Episcopal Church*

Plan now to give yourself this special Advent gift of music and refreshment in the beauty of the ELPC sanctuary!

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church

*The Cathedral of Hope*  
116 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412-441-3800

Fax: 412-441-4422

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

Brian Diebold  
*Seminary Intern*

The Rev. Christiane Dutton  
*Minister of Taizé Prayer*

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

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 and The Arts*

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. Deadlines are the first Tuesday of the preceding month.

# Pastoral Message

*The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor*



The seasons of Advent and Christmas bring together an amazing cast of characters. Their familiar and well-loved “voices” will shape our times of worship and family devotions during the coming weeks. We will hear once more from the prophets of old, calling out for justice and righteousness, as well as the prophets of the End Times, pointing ahead to God’s realm of peace and restoration. We will see John the Baptist, baptizing and preaching about the Coming One who will be a force of spirit and fire for all nations. We will chat with young Mary and her betrothed Joseph, hearing about their respective angel visitations and God-given, new roles in life. Then, on Christmas Day, the infant Christ will enter the drama, welcomed by the surprised-yet-stalwart shepherds and later by the gift-bearing Magi from the east.

Each of these characters embody an important aspect of the Christian life of faith. In the church, there are people whose gifts are contemplative and prayerful (like Mary), or holy and obedient (like Joseph); prophetic and world-order challenging (like John), exciting and charismatic (like the shepherds), or gracious and incarnational of God’s love (like the Christ Child). No one possesses all these qualities in equal measure; nor are we expected to do so. As all are made in the image of God, that image can only emerge from the combined picture of our community of faith (as opposed to being present in any single portrait). That is part of God’s plan, part of how God is presented anew in our world.

This month look at who is around you. Give thanks for the differences present around your table, alongside you on the sidewalk and surrounding you in the pews. As you hope others appreciate your gifts (whether gifts of logic or emotion, of prayer or prophetic witness, of quiet support or active advocacy), nurture the ability to appreciate how their gifts are a blessing to you. For such is the spirit of expectancy that is the heart of Advent. We long for that time when all people and all fragments of God’s image come together in the sweeping mural of God’s fullness and majesty and love.

*Randy Bush*

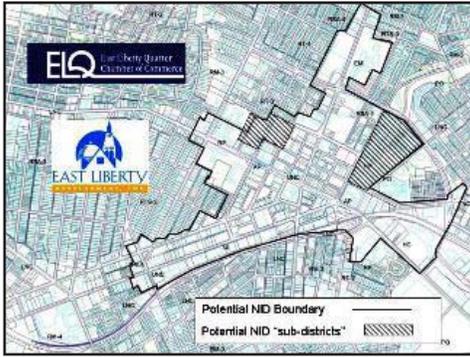
## “Streams of Living Water”—Advent Begins Sun., Dec. 2

The Christian religion draws on several great traditions of faith—social justice, contemplative/prayerful, holiness/virtuous lives, charismatic, and incarnational/sacramental lives. Those themes can be linked with the dominant figures of the Christmas story, as well as used to stimulate our Advent focus on the realm of God, that place where streams of living water flow. Join us for worship as we celebrate the “streams of living water” pouring forth from the social justice witness of John the Baptist, the contemplative example of Mary, the virtues of Joseph, the charismatic witness of the shepherds, and the incarnational “good news” of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Members of the Spiritual Life Committee will distribute Advent meditation material following the service on **Sun., Dec. 2**. Be sure to pick up a copy at the door.

# Community Development Committee Update

## *The East Liberty Neighborhood Improvement District*



Increasingly, communities around the country are looking to the tool of the improvement district as way to sustain the neighborhood effort without the worry of shifting governmental priorities or over-drawn charitable foundation coffers. A Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) is a resource development tool whereby property owners are given the opportunity to take the neighborhood revitalization effort into their own hands and ensure its ongoing support.

In 2005, the East Liberty Neighborhood Improvement District (ELNID), a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization, was established to facilitate the formation of this special benefit district in the historic East Liberty district of Pittsburgh. The ELNID received funding from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) to underwrite this effort.

The ELNID Steering Committee—comprised of members from various East Liberty property owners, including East Liberty Presbyterian Church—has met twice with City Council this fall to discuss the potential of the ELNID.

The purpose of the ELNID is to fund special benefit services over and above those currently provided by the local government, such as: sidewalk and gutter sweeping; security services; periodic sidewalk steam cleaning; enhanced snow removal and salting of the sidewalk; spot steam cleaning and disinfecting as necessary; beautification; enhanced trash emptying in the public rights of way; graffiti removal in a timely manner; equipment; supplies; tools; insurance needs; and contracted maintenance costs.

The city of Pittsburgh already has three active NIDs in Downtown, Oakland and the North Side. The privatization of trash pickup and cleaning services seems to be proving worthwhile in these areas.

ELPC's Community Development Committee is in favor of the ELNID because of the enhanced services it will bring to the neighborhood, and the cost savings it will bring to the church. City Council will vote at the end of December and the Mayor will sign in early January.

Funding for the ELNID will come from three sources: taxable parcels, tax-exempt parcels and nonprofit organizations. Only taxable parcels will be required to contribute. In order to encourage other nonprofit organizations to help fund the ELNID, ELPC's Community Development Committee will be hosting a morning reception in January for local nonprofits to discuss the benefits of the ELNID.

You can find out more about the ELNID by going to [www.eastlibertypost.com](http://www.eastlibertypost.com).

*Beth Hazlett, ELPC Community Development Committee*

### **Office Closed**

Reminder: The church offices will be closed on **Tues. and Wed., Dec. 25 and 26**, in observance of Christmas, as well as on **Tues., Jan. 1**, in observance of New Year's Day.

## What's in YOUR Neighborhood?

The ELPC Community Development Task Force, in a continuing effort to keep ELPC membership aware of community events and happenings, proudly announces the opening of the following businesses in the East End and encourages you to patronize them.

### **Newly Opened:**

**LV Fitness:** 124 S. Highland Ave.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Steel City Ribs Restaurant:**  
226 N. Highland Avenue

**FedEx-Kinkos:** Eastside

**T-Mobile:** Eastside

**Trex Bikes:** Eastside

**Staples:** Village of Eastside

**Oh Yeah Ice Cream and Coffee:**  
232 S. Highland Ave.

### **Coming soon:**

**Tana Ethiopian Restaurant:** Baum Blvd. (former Tea Garden location)

**Taste of Chocolate:** Eastside

**Pizza Sola:** Centre Ave.  
(Penn Circle South)

## The Christmas Joy Offering

On **Sun., Dec. 23**, ELPC will continue the rich Presbyterian tradition of the Christmas Joy Offering. Dating back to the 1930s, this special offering has been used for many purposes over the years, including supplemental medical insurance for families of former church workers; general mission and world relief; and support for children's health and welfare concerns. Since 1991, the donations have been distributed 50 percent to the Board of Pensions and 50 percent to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

This is one of the highlights of the Advent season as we have yet another opportunity to turn our love and concern into action. Thank you for lightening the burdens of both our retired church workers and that of students, eager to put their gifts to work.

# Advent Crafts and Santa Shop

Sat., Dec. 1, from 10 am to 1 pm



**Jolly Old St. Nichols:** *Chuck Nichols as Santa*

Hosted by the Educational Ministries and ELPC Presbyterian Women, this event welcomes all families to participate in making Advent crafts.

Children ages four through grade 5 also may shop for Christmas gifts. Santa's helpers will assist in choosing and wrapping the gifts. (Young shoppers must be old enough to shop without a parent present. Please send a list of the people for whom your child needs to purchase gifts.) Gifts are specially priced from 50 cents to \$4.

Children may visit with Santa, too; pictures with Santa cost 50 cents.

## The Christmas Giving Tree

**Reminder:** On **Sundays, Dec. 2 and 9**, the Giving Tree will be set up near the Information Desk from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Deacons will be available to help with any questions or concerns. Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on **Dec. 16**. (Checks made payable to "ELPC Giving Tree" may be submitted to the church office.)

The Giving Tree benefits children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), our ELPC Mission Ministry and Christian Education Youth and Young Adults departments.

# Presbyterian Women

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

**Christmas Luncheon: Sat., Dec. 8, at 12:30 pm**

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season at the PW Christmas Luncheon. This wonderful event is the perfect way to relax while visiting with old friends and making new ones. All women of the church are welcome. Because we want to have enough places set, we are requesting that you make your reservation by noon on **Wed., Dec. 5**. Please call Kate Carlson at 412-441-3800, ext. 17.

**Horizons Bible Study: Tues., Dec. 4**

Join us on **Tues., Dec. 4**, at 10 am as we continue our study, *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth*. Joan Heckel will lead our discussion of "Once More, with Feeling?" (Jonah 3). Potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages and soup will be provided. Call Mary Alice Lightle, 412-682-1504, if you have questions. Because of New Year's Day, we will meet on January 8 instead of the first Tuesday of the month.

**Reminder: Christmas Gifts for Northside Common Ministries**

Unwrapped items for NSCM are due in the church office by **Dec. 2**. Please mark the bag "PW." Questions? Call Heather Lawrence at 412-486-0826.

## Health Ministry

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

**Amazing Exercise** *By Sue Whitaker*

Routine moderate exercise is extremely effective in promoting good health. Consider:

- **Exercise combats chronic disease**, including high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis and some types of cancer.
- **Exercise helps in weight management.** To meet the demands for extra energy, the exercising body breaks down stored fat.
- **Routine exercise strengthens muscles and bones.**
- **Exercise reduces stress.** Exercise stimulates certain chemicals in the brain that contribute to an improved mood. Depression and anxiety can be reduced.
- **Exercise boosts heart, lung, and brain activity.** Oxygen and nutrients are delivered more efficiently to body organs during routine exercise.
- **Exercise promotes better sleep.** Fall asleep faster and experience deeper sleep. (Avoid evening workouts if there is difficulty falling asleep, however.)

A complete exercise program includes the following three types:

- **Stretching:** moving a joint as far as it will go (without pain).  
Examples: simple stretches, dance, yoga, tai chi.
- **Endurance or conditioning:** aerobic activities such as walking, swimming, biking, climbing stairs.
- **Strengthening:** resistance exercises to help build strong muscles.  
Examples: using ankle and wrist weights, resistance bands, free weights.

To start your exercise program, discuss the plan with your doctor, especially if you have any health problems, if you have been inactive, or if you are pregnant or elderly. Start out slowly, gradually increasing the level of exertion and duration.

**Please note:** Tai chi lessons are offered weekly at ELPC. A walking path has been plotted through ELPC to encourage routine walking no matter what the winter weather brings. Contact Patrice at 412-441-3800, ext. 30, for details.

# Christian Education in Dec.

Church School for Adults: Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 am

**NOTE** No Church School Classes on Sun., Dec. 16, and Sun., Dec. 30.

On Sun., Dec. 16, please come to see the Christmas Pageant (see page 1).

**CONTEMPORARIES CLASS** *Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*

**Dec. 2: Learning to Lean: The Work of the Holy Spirit in True Christian Living**

It's not enough to just proclaim that we are Christians; we must live as Christians at all times. Through the Holy Spirit, we live and move and have our being. This lesson, led by Pittsburgh Presbytery grant recipient James Suddith, will explain the work of the Holy Spirit to inspire, empower, enlighten and equip every believer.

**Dec. 9: Self-Development of People**

Led by Ted Vero, Northeast Task Force and Pittsburgh Presbytery Committee Member.

**Dec. 23: Ministering When You're Not Welcome: Strategies to Avoid Beating the Air**

While we often try to avoid venturing into uncomfortable territory, in doing so, we miss countless opportunities to spread the Good News. Jesus gives special attention to this challenging area. Joe Kennedy leads this exploration of Jesus' teachings and powerful prescriptions for addressing these timely issues.

**JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE** *Teacher: Jan Irvin*

This class studies and reflects upon the Bible while reading scriptures appointed for the Revised Common Lectionary. Discover what is God saying to us.

**Dec. 2:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

**Dec. 9:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**Dec. 23:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**PARENTING CIRCLE** *Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Beth Bush*

In December, the parenting circle will continue looking at the book *10 Principles of Spiritual Parenting*, by Mimi Doe. Please see the weekly bulletin for details.

This group is open to anyone involved in parenting — singles, couples, adoptive parents, grandparents, step-parents, guardians, and mentors. By sharing experiences, resources, prayer and scripture, we will learn and grow together.



**World War II Veteran** Roy Hiller

**SEEKERS** *Leaders: Damon Bethea and Nancy Klancher*

The Seekers embrace the complexities of our faith within an open, supportive and accepting atmosphere. New friends are always welcome.

*Spiritual Paths: Finding Our Way to God*

**Dec. 2: Meeting Human Evil**

On April 29, 1945, a young American tank commander, a Christian, encountered human evil in its purest form as he participated in the liberation of Dachau, the notorious Nazi death camp. We know that young tank commander as ELPC Elder Roy Hiller. All are invited to join the Seekers for this very special hour of inspiration and illumination as Roy shares reflections on his experience.

**Dec. 9: Kinetic Prayer as a Pathway to God**

Many of us walk the labyrinth with pure joy but little knowledge of its creation, development and long history as part of Christian practice. Lois Lang will help us fill in the gaps and give us a richer understanding of this kinetic pathway to God.

**Dec. 23: The Gifts of the Season**

The Seekers will celebrate the beauty of Christmas, presented in song, story, readings and performance by members of the Seekers class and ELPC musicians.

## Christmas Caroling

People of all ages are invited to join us for an afternoon of Christmas caroling on **Sun., Dec. 16**. We will meet at ELPC at 1:30 pm, and then head to local nursing homes to spread some holiday cheer. We will return to ELPC by 3:30 pm for a time of fellowship, enjoying hot chocolate, cookies, and the company of friends. Please RSVP to Heather Tunney.



## Pageant Rehearsal

All children and youth participating in the Christmas Pageant should plan to attend the pageant rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 15**. Children will meet in their Church School classrooms to put on their costumes at 9:30 am. We will rehearse from 10 to 11 am, and finish with a time of snacks and fellowship.

### Church School Classes

**Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 am**

Church School classes are offered for persons of all ages, from infants to adults. Adult options are detailed in the article at left. Youth classes—junior high (grades 6-8) and senior high (grades 9-12)—follow the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their daily lives. Children's classes (by age) include *Baby Lapsit*, *Godly Play*, and *Seasons of the Spirit*. See the bulletin boards in the Highland Avenue or Second Floor hallways to determine classroom locations.

**Note:** No Church School on **Sun., Dec. 16**, so that all may enjoy the Christmas Pageant, and no Church School on **Sun., Dec. 30**.

# Youth and Young Adult Events

Heather Tunney, Dir. of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

**club one sixteen:** Join us on Wednesdays for an afternoon of music, learning, food and fun for people of all ages. From 3:30 to 4:30, stop by and shoot some hoops during our open gym. Or come by anytime between 3:30 and 6:30 for homework help, board games and snacks from Whole Foods. And if you are already registered, participate in Hope Academy *free* classes (tango, voices of hope vocal ensemble, step team, sing and dance to a latin beat). **Note: No club one sixteen on Dec. 19 and 26 (holiday break).**

- **Youth in grades 6 through 12** are invited to join us for dinner and Bible Study after participating in Hope Academy's free classes on Wednesday afternoons. At 6:30 pm, eat a home-cooked meal donated by an ELPC member and discuss how our faith impacts different elements of our lives. December topics:
  - Dec. 5:** Faith Q&A – Youth can ask questions they may have about God, faith, life, and choices. We will discuss these questions and explore answers in a safe and fun environment.
  - Dec. 12:** Goals 101 – We will continue our series about setting and working toward goals in our lives, such as high school success, college prep, and planning for a career.
- **Youth in grades 1 through 5** will join the teenagers for dinner, then break out for a discussion time all their own. Children will share what God is doing in their lives through drama, creative arts and games. December topics:
  - Dec. 5:** Who am I? – The Christmas story teaches us some important details about who we are and about how much God loves us. Kids will look at who God says they are through the Christmas story.
  - Dec. 12:** The Meaning of the Season – Kids will discuss the meaning of the Christmas season and explore how they can appreciate this special season spiritually, not just commercially.

**Jr. High Service Project:** All youth in grades 6 through 8 are invited to participate in our annual Christmas service project, purchasing gifts for children who are in foster care. On **Sat., Dec. 15**, we will meet for lunch immediately following the pageant rehearsal and return to ELPC from shopping by 3 pm. RSVP to Heather.

**Basketball:** No basketball Sat., Dec. 29.

**New Advent Series for Young Adults on Life in the Holy Spirit:** A new Advent series for young adults, *Life in the Holy Spirit*, will be held during the Church School hour (9:45 – 10:45 am, Sundays) in December. Led by Seminary Intern Brian Diebold, the class will seek to know better the Holy Spirit in our lives as the one making Christ known to us, sanctifying our lives, and empowering us to serve.

**Dec. 2:** Spirit of Hope

**Dec. 9:** Spirit of Peace

**Dec. 16:** No class, enjoy the Christmas Pageant

**Dec. 23:** Spirit of Love and Joy

**20/30s Evening Study Group:** Join us on **Tues., Dec. 11**, from 7 to 9 pm as we conclude our study on the book of Colossians and discuss the topic of our next study to begin in January 2008. Please note: There will be no study on Dec. 25.

**Winter Retreat:** Save the Date! Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to an overnight retreat at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center from Friday evening to Saturday evening, **Jan. 18 – 19**. Cost is \$50/person if staying in Scott Lodge or \$40/person if staying in the Main Lodge. Join us for a time of worship and meditation, fellowship and fun. RSVP to Heather by **Sun., Jan. 6**.

# Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton,  
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Taizé Prayer services are held on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to a simple supper at 6 pm before every Taizé service; a free-will offering of \$2.50 is appreciated. Classes are offered afterward. **(No service and no class on Dec. 26.)**

**Teach Us To Pray:** Dec. 5, 8:15 pm  
Come and spend an hour with Brother James Avant to talk about prayer—our need for prayer and the many ways in which we express it.

**Advent in Movement:** Dec. 12, 8:15 pm  
Led by Daphne Anderson.

**Celebrations:** Dec. 19, 8:15 pm  
If you observe a birthday, milestone or anniversary in December, please write it down and put it in the collection plate so we can celebrate with you!

## Abounding in Hope

Sundays, Dec. 2 and 9, 12:30 to 2 pm

### SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS for the Advent Season

Led by Judy Menk

ELPC's Spiritual Life Ministry  
invites you to...

**PAUSE** from the busy pace of the season

**PONDER** the Scripture's words of hope

**PREPARE** yourselves for Christ's coming

The Advent Season is a season of hope when our souls are fed on God's promises of a new future for God's people. It is a time of looking backward to the prophetic message of restoration. It is a time of looking forward, waiting and watching for the birth of the Christ Child and anticipating the final coming of Christ's kingdom. It is a time for each of us to open our hearts and prepare to receive the gift of hope that God offers to us. This season let **HOPE** light the way to Bethlehem.

## Renaissance City Choirs' Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 8, at 8 pm

Please join the men and women of the Renaissance City Choirs on **Sat., Dec. 8**, in ELPC's Sanctuary to hear a concert of diverse music—songs from many lands in many languages. Tickets (\$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door; \$7 for students) can be purchased at A Pleasant Present in Squirrel Hill, or contact the choir through the website: [www.rccpittsburgh.org](http://www.rccpittsburgh.org).

## Seminary Intern Brian Diebold



Brian Diebold has joined our ministry team at ELPC as a Seminary Intern for the duration of the school year. A senior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Brian moved here with his wife Kim (and their dog, cat, rabbit, and fish) after graduating from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Aside from schoolwork and family, Brian enjoys singing, running, woodworking, and playing the cello. With Christmas around the corner, he admits that his worst secret is that he tears up whenever he hears "The Little Drummer Boy." Brian has known of a call to ministry since he was a small boy, and hopes to enter into ordained parish ministry based on a love for God and a heart for God's people. While here, Brian will be working with the youth on Wednesdays at club one sixteen, helping with young adult ministries, and participating in worship. He is pleased that God has brought him to ELPC and is excited to learn all he can from the people of this church. Brian can be reached at [bdiebold@pts.edu](mailto:bdiebold@pts.edu).

## "Blue Christmas" Service

Friday, December 21, at 7 pm

On **Fri., Dec. 21**, the shortest day of the year, ELPC will give people an opportunity to honor the reality of grief and trial in their lives with a special "Blue Christmas" service. This service provides a time to rest in the hope and triumph of Christ's light even in the midst of darkness. The holiday season is a time of great celebration, but for many who are experiencing grief, loss, illness or crisis, this season can be a time of sadness. As a symbol of Christ's light, persons will be given votive candles to take home with them after the service. If you would like to receive a votive of remembrance, please RSVP to Gloria Knopp. All are welcome to come and pray and worship among a community of comfort this season.

## ELPC People

### *Good News, Thanks, and Prayers*

#### Good News

Congratulations to our new members and friends who joined on Sun., Oct. 28, 2007. We welcome **Patricia Dill, Ty and Susan Ely, David Gilliland, Rebecca Maclean, and Carol Sharp** by transfer of letter; and **Donald Breitbarth** and **Gilbert Hickman** by reaffirmation of faith.

#### Prayers

Our prayers and sympathies are with the family and friends of **Allene Page**, the mother of Gloria Barber, who passed away on Sun., Oct. 28, 2007. Allene Page was a member for 10 years at ELPC. A funeral service was held on Thurs., Nov. 1.

## EECM's "New" Van

EECM's van, used by the Hunger Services Program to pick up donated foods from Whole Foods and other contributors, finally died. The transportation that van had provided was essential to distributing food for the Meals-On-Wheels, Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry clients. So, at the Oct. 16 meeting, ELPC's Session generously voted to give EECM the church's red van. Although this will bring a slight inconvenience for the rare occasions when two vans were useful to ELPC, the red van will now provide important services to our Sister Ministry.

## At Your Service: Sunday Office Volunteers

Since March, several members of the Personnel Committee have been staffing the main office on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday, from 9 to 11 am and from 12:15 to 12:30 pm, you will find one of the volunteers in the office, ready and eager to help those who come in for various reasons. The Sunday volunteers, trained by Church Business Administrator Pam Kimmel, are: Nadine Banks, Clara and Bob Hoon, Heather Lawrence, Mary Lenox, Libby Parker, and Fran Wilson, coordinator. The efforts of this volunteer taskforce provide a small savings for the church while assuring that our staff of administrative assistants can look forward to a full weekend off. Some Sunday when you pass the office, stop by to say, "Hello."

**INQUIRERS' CLASS:** There will be an Inquirers' Class held on **Sat., Dec. 8**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Those interested in attending and learning more about ELPC can call Gloria Knopp at 412-441-3800, ext. 22.



**East  
Liberty  
Presbyterian  
Church**

*The Cathedral of Hope*  
116 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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

Address Service Requested

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

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## World Healing Day

*Mon., Dec. 31, 6:45 am – 8 am,  
Meditation and Labyrinth Walk*

Since 1986, millions of people continue to gather in prayer on this day, at the same moment in time, for a planetary affirmation of peace, love and forgiveness. Join us in body or spirit and add your love and light to this moment of oneness. For information, call 412-571-1223. The ELPC labyrinth will be set up and available for walking until 7 pm on Dec. 31.



**Warm Welcome.** Club 116 welcomes Seminary Intern Brian Diebold. Read more about Brian on page 7. Club 116 details appear on page 6.

## New Year's Eve Worship

*Monday, December 31, at 7:00 pm*

All things come to an end so they may begin again... And so it is with the days of the year. At a specific moment, A.D. 2007 becomes A.D. 2008, and the God of the past is the God of the present, in whose promises to be the God of the future we abide! And so to honor all that has been, and to pray for and to celebrate all that is yet to be, we will gather once again on New Year's Eve.

On **Mon., Dec. 31**, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, we will share in the joy of “the old becoming new—again!” We will hear music for the occasion, share stories of our 2007 journeys, gather around our Lord's Table to feast on the Bread of Life, and remember the deep concerns of our world while bringing them in power into the Presence of the Lord. When our spiritual feasting has ended, we will feast upon a dessert buffet prepared by Chef Jay and the Worship, Music and Arts Committee.

Come one, come all, and bring your families, neighbors and friends for the end of the year and the beginning of the new year.

## Alternative Gift Giving for the Holidays

Have you grown weary of the commercialization of Christmas? Then consider an alternative gift this holiday season. There are a number of local, national and international ministries and organizations that would benefit from a thoughtful gift from you on behalf of another. Please see the list of suggested entities posted on the Mission bulletin board or on ELPC's website.

There are many other worthy charities and ministries that could use your help, as well. A web search can easily be done: type in “alternative gift giving,” and choose the organization that speaks to your heart.