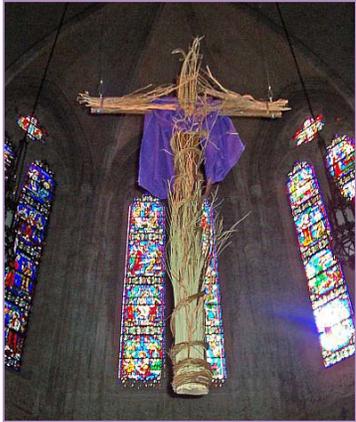


Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church March 2008



Holy Week Offerings

The culmination of the season of Lent comes in the special programs of Holy Week and Easter. By attending these worship services, we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the powerful narrative of the betrayal, arrest and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, thereby being prepared for the exhilarating proclamation of the Sunday morning Easter resurrection.

Wednesday, March 19, at 7 pm

Taizé service of prayer, candlelight, music and meditation.

Maundy Thursday, March 20, at 7 pm

A dramatic reenactment of the Last Supper will be presented, including monologues from both women and men disciples, to be followed by the communion celebration of the Eucharist.

Good Friday, March 21

- **Noon – 3 pm:** St. James AME Church (444 Lincoln Ave.)
An ecumenical worship service in which ELPC will be participating, shaped about the Seven Last Words.
- **7 pm:** ELPC Sanctuary
Tenebrae service of light and darkness, word and prayer, remembering the death of Jesus Christ.

Holy Saturday, March 22, at 7 pm

The Great Vigil of Easter includes readings, reaffirmation of baptism vows, and the sacrament of Holy Communion — the first Eucharist witnessing to the good news of Easter resurrection.

Easter Sunday, March 24

- **8 am:** Chapel Worship
The Rev. Heather Tunney will preach and music will be provided by the MoGlo Singers and pianist Reginald Plato.
- **9 – 10:20 am:** Easter Breakfast Buffet in the Social Hall
- **10:45 am:** Sanctuary Worship
The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush will preach.

Also available during Holy Week:

- *The Labyrinth will be available from 10 am to 9 pm on both Good Friday, March 21, and Holy Saturday, March 22.*
- *Childcare will also be available during the evening services on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week.*

Sunday Morning Services

* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

March Liturgist: Peter Murray

March 2* The Rev. Heather Tunney,
ELPC Associate Pastor

March 9 Dr. James Withers,
Operation Safety Net

March 16 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain,
ELPC Visitation Pastor

March 23 The Rev. Heather Tunney,
ELPC Associate Pastor

March 30 The Rev. Lynn Yeso,
Jail Chaplaincy Program

Morning Glory Worship • 9 am

March 2* The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain

March 9 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

March 16 The Rev. Christiane Dutton

March 30 Robert Frankenberry

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

March 2* The Rev. Heather Tunney

March 9 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

March 16 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

March 23 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

March 30 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Koinonia Service of Praise

Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm

March 9 Elder Kathleen Kyle

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing

Third Sunday, March – Nov. • 6 pm

March 16 The Rev. Tami Hooker

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

Visit ELPC On the Web:
www.cathedralofhope.org

The "multimedia" link on our website provides access to sermon audio files, photo galleries, and videos of recent special concerts and worship services. We have over 40,000 weekly website downloads—so log on and check it out!

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

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

The Rev. Heather Tunney
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

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*

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

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 first words Jesus speaks in the gospel of John form a question. The first words the resurrected Christ speaks in the gospel of John also form a question. I love this symmetry; I don't know if it was intentional or not, but it is a thing of beauty.

When John the Baptist was by the Jordan River, he saw Jesus walk by. He pointed and exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Two of John's followers went up to Jesus, who, according to scripture, turned and said to them, "What are you looking for?" (John 1:38) It likely was spoken with an inviting tone of voice because the two questioners ended up following Jesus.

It's a powerful question and one you should ask yourselves: What are you looking for? What is your passion? What gives you true joy? I invite you to stop reading right now and try to put into one sentence an answer to any of those questions.

Later in John's gospel, when Mary Magdalene discovered Jesus' tomb had been disturbed and his body was missing, she stood weeping inconsolably in the cemetery garden. She eventually saw someone who she believed to be a cemetery caretaker, but in actuality was the risen Christ. His first words to her were as follows: "Woman, why are you weeping?" (John 20:15)

That question is the flip-side of the earlier question. Instead of "What is your passion and greatest joy?" comes now the question "Where are you wounded, and what causes you grief in the midst of life?" Those questions also merit some reflection and a brief answer.

During the coming weeks, we will complete the introspective season of Lent to arrive at the joyous season of Easter. The 40-day Lenten journey has hopefully provided you with times of reflection and prayer, of asking about your greatest joy and your deepest grief. The Holy Week services and celebratory worship on Easter are intended to bring you a fresh encounter with the story of the incarnate Son of God, the Christ whose death and resurrection transforms lives (and life itself).

If the opening comments of Jesus are questions ("What are you looking for? Why are you weeping?"), the climactic responses are statements. "I have seen the Lord." "My Lord and my God." "Peace be with you." Easter is the season of the church year in which questions are answered, not so much with words as with a person. The One who was in the beginning, and through whom all things came into being, is also the One whose resurrection is the completion and fulfillment of all that is incomplete in this earthly life. And yes, this time the symmetry was very intentional. It, too, is a thing of beauty. Thanks be to God.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Bush".

Office Closed

Reminder: The church offices will be closed on **Mon., March 24**, in observance of Easter Monday.

Bible 116

Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 5:30 pm

Given all the words you hear each day, why not spend some time each week encountering God's Word? Beginning on **March 5**, 5:30 – 6:20 pm, Pastor Heather and Pastor Randy will lead an informal, interactive study of the scripture lessons to be used for the Sunday worship. There's nothing to read in advance or prepare. Simply come sit together, share together, and learn together as we seek to grow in knowledge of and familiarity with what God's scripture says for our lives today. (Bible 116 will meet weekly through the month of May.)

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 2008 *Sharing Resources, Changing Lives*

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



All money raised is used to fund the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which receives 36 percent of the Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. The Sharing Offering will be received on **Palm Sun., March 16**, and **Resurrection Sun., March 23**.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. The ELPC Justice and Global

Concerns Committee encourages the ELPC family to exceed the \$4,850.00 collected in 2007 by giving generously and from the heart. Through our collective efforts of sharing resources, we can change lives.

Free Noon Organ Concerts Continue

Wednesdays in Lent, noon to 12:45 pm

Two March programs remain in this 2008 Lent series. Recitalists will play music of the Lenten season, as well as other major organ works. You are encouraged to stay for lunch in the Cathedral Café at a modest cost.

- **March 5:** Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
- **March 12:** H. Preston Showman, Third Presbyterian Church

ELPC Tour Announcement

If you are curious to explore the nooks and crannies of ELPC or have ever wondered about the history of this magnificent building, then you are invited to join Chuck Nichols on tour. On **Sun., March 2**, following the 11 am service, meet Chuck at the Chancel steps to begin this interesting journey. Allow about an hour or so — and please wear comfortable shoes!

East End

Cooperative Ministry

Food Pantry: Special Need

The East End Cooperative Ministry's Food Pantry is urgently asking for donations of spaghetti sauce. Please stop by East Liberty Presbyterian Church to leave a jar (or two) in any of the designated baskets located throughout the church. Your help is appreciated!

Serve the Community

ELPC's Community Mission continues to support East End Cooperative Ministry through volunteer efforts with the Men's Shelter, Samaritan worship service, Food Pantry, and Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in becoming involved, please speak with Jon Nelson, Ted Brooks or Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy. To contact any of these individuals, call 412-441-3800, ext. 34. This year, ELPC will be represented on the EECM Council of Congregations by Nadine Banks. Our alternate representative is Gary Sadler.

Men's Shelter Donations

In ELPC's continuing commitment to the EECM Men's Shelter located in our church, the Deacons are collecting donations for March 2008. The requested donations are M, L, XL and XXL t-shirts. Please drop these items in the basket located in the Highland Avenue hallway. Your continued support in the form of donations and of prayer for the Shelter and for the men who stay there is appreciated.

Have a Heart for Hunger



have a heart
for hunger

Help EECM fight the devastating effects of hunger on our community. You can demonstrate your heart for hunger by **donating** non-perishable food items to the Food Pantry, **praying**

for EECM and its clients, **volunteering**, or **giving** a financial gift. (All gifts made by **March 31** will be matched by a generous anonymous donor — your gift can go twice as far!)

Meet Youth Deacon Charlie Meyers



Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Charlie Meyers has been attending ELPC since his birth. Shortly after his confirmation last year, Charlie became a deacon. He

enjoys an active role in the church, especially mission work. The last two summers, he traveled to Chicago and Nashville with the youth group, where he volunteered at various soup kitchens and worked with less fortunate youth.

Charlie is very active at Schenley High School, where he is a member of the swim and volleyball teams. Last year in the City Championships, he swam three events, placing 3rd, 5th and 7th. The volleyball team advanced to the State Championship last year, after winning the City Championship. He also helped run the sound for Schenley's spring musical.

This year, Charlie started writing for *The Schenley Triangle*, as a sports columnist who covers all Schenley and local sports. Additionally, he joined a group called "Students Taking Action Against Darfur." They raise money and awareness to help victims of the genocide in Darfur by giving presentations, having bake sales, and organizing benefit concerts. Charlie opposes the Pittsburgh Public Schools' plan to close Schenley High School because he loves the diversity and the location of his school.

Charlie is very interested in the geometry of bikes, owning five bikes himself. However, he thinks he may like to be a sound or recording engineer. Although his future is still unclear, he has faith that God will lead him in the right direction.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

"Trauma and Healing" Class: March 5 and 12, at 8:15 pm

Trauma is coming to be recognized as a root cause for various mental health, addiction and personality problems. Traumatic events tend to build on each other, so that any new episode will bring up previous ones. Dr. Lynn Hawker will help us understand the causes and possible symptoms of trauma and give us suggestions for helping others and ourselves. Dr. Hawker has worked with trauma victims in community mental health, in private practice for 20 years, and as a clinical manager at the Women's Center and Shelter for nine years.

March 19 (Holy Week): No 8:15 pm class, but there is a 7 pm Taizé service.

Celebrations: March 26, at 8:15 pm

If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in March, please write down your information and put it in the collection plate so we can celebrate with you!

Welcome to Our New Neighbor: Center for Victims of Violent Crimes

The Center for Victims of Violent Crimes and Mediation Center (CVVC) now occupies two floors in the former Fast Links Building on the corner of Penn and Highland. The CVVC is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help individuals, families and communities survive the trauma of violence and crime, by offering victim advocacy services, crisis intervention, counseling and community education programs.

ELPC Deacon **Valerie Dixon** is a CVVC trainer educator who works with Welfare-to-Work participants in the areas of conflict resolution, mediation training, and workplace issues. She also serves as a monitor for the Community Accountability Panel (CAP), which determines and makes recommendations for youth in the criminal justice system.

WVU Choir Concert on Palm Sunday, March 16

I am very pleased to be able to present to you some of the wonderful colleagues I have met this year at West Virginia University. Many of you know I began work on my doctorate in choral conducting at WVU this past fall. As part of my teaching assistantship, I have the privilege to direct the talented Women's Choir, an ensemble of mostly freshman voice majors. I also sing in, and sometimes conduct, the University Choir, a richly-voiced choir of mostly upperclassman voice majors.

On **Sun., March 16**, at 2 pm, these two groups of singers, the Director of Choral Activities Dr. Kathleen Shannon and I will create a concert of music for you. We will be sharing some of the music from our recent and upcoming concerts: Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Mathias's "Let the People Praise Thee," Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth," some Spirituals, a new set of pieces by David Goldstein based on the *Song of Songs*, and more.

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music. I look forward to seeing you all again and sharing some of my new music friends with you.

Jeffrey Blake Johnson

Jeffrey Blake Johnson served as Associate Director of Music for ELPC from 1997 to 2000 and Webmaster for ELPC from 1997 to 2007.

Youth and Young Adult Events

Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries



club one sixteen: Join us on Wednesdays for an afternoon of music, learning, food and fun for people of all ages. 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 (Voices of Hope Vocal Ensemble, Step Team, Sing and Dance to a Latin Beat, Percussion Ensemble, Latin Ballroom, Writing/Acting Workshop). **Note: No club one sixteen on March 19 in observance of Holy Week.**

- **Club one sixteen senior: Youth in grades 7 – 12** are invited to join us for dinner and Bible Study after participating in HA's free classes on Wednesday afternoons. At 6:30, eat a home-cooked meal donated by an ELPC member, and then stay for a thought-provoking discussion about how our faith impacts different elements of our lives. We will seek to learn together what God is calling us to as individuals and as a community, and to open our eyes to God's Spirit moving in our world today.
- **Club one sixteen junior: Youth in grades 1 – 6** will join teens for dinner, and then will break out for a study time all their own. Children will share what God is doing in their lives through drama, creative arts, games and discussion.

March's series will focus on redemption. As we conclude our Lenten journey and celebrate Easter, we will explore the story of Christ's redemptive work and seek to understand its meaning in our lives today. Please see the Wednesday Connection weekly announcements for details.

Presbytery's Funfest Event: Youth in grades 6 – 9 are invited to join ELPC youth and youth from throughout the area for an evening of fun and fellowship at Funfest in Harmarville. Join us for bowling, laser tag, games and snacks. Cost is \$10/person plus money for snacks. Space is limited; RSVP to Heather by **Sun., March 16.**

20/30s Tuesday Evening Study Group — Faith and Film Series will continue: Join us as we explore some key themes of our faith, with Bible study and contemporary film imagery as our tools to jump-start our discussion. Prior to each session, you are invited to view the assigned film. Reflection questions will be emailed out in advance to get you thinking as you watch the film. Then, during our discussion time, we will share insights that the film sparked as we engage in Bible study together. In March, our discussion will focus on redemption and atonement, and viewing selections will include *The Bee Season*. Meeting nights: **March 11 and 25** from 7 to 9 pm. The Rev. Heather Tunney, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries, and Brian Diebold, Seminary Intern, will facilitate classes. Please contact Heather to be placed on the list to receive email questions and film assignments.

Young Adult Church School Class: Come join us for this Sunday School class tailored for young adults in their 20s and 30s! Through discussion, prayer, and Bible study, we will explore together the blessings and challenges we face as young adults seeking to live by the Spirit. Our Lenten theme will be "Great Prayers of the Bible," led by seminary intern Brian Diebold.

Spiritual Life

Dr. Lois M. Lang,
Associate in Ministry

Lenten Series

*Sundays, March 2, 9 and 16,
from 12:30 to 2:00 pm*

The Spiritual Life Committee is sponsoring a Lenten series following the teachings of Father Richard Rohr. This three-week series will include the following topics for discussion.

- **March 2:** "The End Is the Beginning – Mutual Indwelling"
- **March 9:** "Mutual Mirroring: Biblical Truth as 'Other' "
- **March 16:** "In the Beginning Is the End: Overview of Method and the Message"

This series will be facilitated by Ms. Suzanne Bailey, 412-362-0731.

Meditative Paper

On **March 10**, the Spiritual Life Committee will distribute a meditative paper to be used during the last two weeks of Lent. They will be distributed following each of the services that morning. Additional copies will be placed on the literature tables.

Holy Ground

Sunday, March 16, at 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 16, will be our first Holy Ground service for 2008. Holy Ground is a service of prayer for wholeness for the world, our neighbors, and ourselves. There are quiet hymns, periods of prayerful silence, and a homily ending with anointing and blessing. The Rev. Tami Hooker will be the minister at the service.



Community Mission Committee

For several reasons, including the recent retail developments in our area, our church is seeing an increase in panhandling in the immediate neighborhood of ELPC. On advice from the program coordinators of the Men's Shelter, our Community Mission Committee encourages people to respectfully decline requests for money and refer the person to the shelter staff for assistance. One of the functions of the shelter program is to provide bus fare for work transportation, doctor appointments, or to other social agencies. It is an act of compassion to ensure that people get the best help available, which usually involves more than a few dollars handed out on a street corner. Through intentional support of the shelter staff and other ministries of EECM, we seek to be faithful in our calling to care for those in need around us. It is OK to say "No" to personal solicitations.

Staying Connected

Thank you to the families from the Parenting Class and others who visited those who are confined to home or assisted living over the holidays. The response from the people visited has been very positive. In order to stay in touch with those who may need a visit, are scheduled for surgery, are ill or who desire communion, please let the Rev. Miriam Chamberlain, Visitation Pastor, know of these needs.

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 right. 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*.

Christian Education in March

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

NOTE: No Church School Classes on Sun., March 23.

CONTEMPORARIES CLASS *Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle* **March 2, 9 and 16: The Fear of Beggars**

Led by Dr. John Burgess of Pittsburgh Theology Seminary, this three-week series will explore how people who beg for money can help Christians think about issues of wealth and poverty. We will not exactly answer what to do when a beggar asks us for money, but we will think about the responsibilities of the rich and the poor to each other. Our hope is to come to greater faithfulness in the way we acquire and use whatever money we have.

March 30: A Young Adult's Perspective: From Fear to Faith, From Darkness to Light

After an award-winning scholastic journey as a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Frank Marra Ligons was filled with a sense of optimism and hope. The ensuing years, however, have produced enormous challenges. In the midst of God's restoration and transformation for rebuilding his life, Frank is ready to give a powerful testimony which will transcend generational sensitivity.

JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE *Teacher: Jan Irvin*

This class reads selections of the Hebrew and New Testament Scriptures based upon the Revised Common Lectionary. Members reflect upon and converse about the selected texts with a goal of personal transformation and movement toward a community of vision, justice, and steadfast love.

March 2: I Samuel 16:1-13; Ps. 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 9: Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

March 16: Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-75, 27:1-66

March 30: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

PARENTING CIRCLE *Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Beth Bush*

For the first two weeks in March, the Parenting Circle will share joys and concerns, and time for open discussion and fellowship. The last two Sundays we will participate in Bible study. Open to anyone involved in parenting (singles, couples, adoptive parents, grandparents, step-parents, guardians, and mentors).

SEEKERS *Leader: Nancy Klancher*

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

March 2 and 9: Discernment Through Meditation

Please join us as we study *Divine Guidance: Seeking to Find and Follow the Will of God*, by Dr. Susan Muto and Father Adrian van Kaam. In our first session, Sue Bailey will introduce the book by presenting background information and the central themes of this resource. Co-author Dr. Susan Muto will join us for the second session to lead us further into this meditative method of finding God's purpose for our lives.

March 16 and 30: Seeking God's Kingdom on Earth: Christian Realism and Reinhold Niebuhr (A Four-Part Series) Led by Elder Ron Stone

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." — Reinhold Niebuhr

Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr focused on the relationship between Christian faith and the realities of modern politics and diplomacy. Our study will be guided by the book, *Reinhold Niebuhr*, by Robin Lovin, which is available in our bookstore for \$10.00 and which we strongly recommend you read.

World Mission Initiative Conference, March 28 – 29

The Annual World Mission Initiative, sponsored by the WMI Department of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, helps Christians understand how God is at work in the world and how they can share in that work. This year's conference, "A New Day in Mission," will be held on the evening of **Friday, March 28**, and all day **Saturday, March 29**, at PTS. The scheduled keynote speakers are:

- Rev. Dr. William J. Carl, III, President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Nard Puyao, a first generation Christian from the Philippines
- Rev. Hunter Farrell, a long-term missionary in Africa and South America
- Rev. Dr. Ken Bailey, a retired Presbyterian missionary in the Middle East.

Choose among 16 workshops and visit the displays of various mission agencies.

Brochures and registration forms are available on the Presbyterian Women's bulletin board. Registration for members and friends of East Liberty Presbyterian Church has been paid by Presbyterian Women. You will only be responsible for your meals. For more information, go to www.WorldMissionInitiative.org.

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Horizons Bible Study: Tues., March 4, at 10 a.m.

Join us in the second floor parlor as we continue our study "Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth." Brenda Johnson will lead our discussion of "Back from the Brink," Ruth 2. 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.

World Day of Prayer: Fri., March 7

Are there opportunities for the "abundant life" and the wisdom that assures us that God delights in humanity? Join our brothers and sisters around the world as we worship with the women of Guyana in World Day of Prayer 2008. We will consider questions of justice in Guyana, a South American land blessed with astonishing beauty and a wealth of natural resources but haunted by legacies of colonialism and exploitation. On **March 7**, congregations of the East End will join in worship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Highland Park.

Remedial Case Update

When Pittsburgh Presbytery approved an overture in October 2006 that would have allowed exclusionary "essentials" barring people from honestly seeking to answer God's call to be ordained officers and ministers in our denomination, our Session joined with two other groups to file a remedial case against this action. In May 2007, the Synod Permanent Judicial Committee (PJC) supported our position, disallowing the core principles of the earlier overture from being implemented. However, language was used in that ruling that created a theologically-flawed divide between faith and practice, so our Session appealed the Synod ruling to the General Assembly PJC. That case was heard on February 7, 2008, along with two similar cases from other Presbyteries. Continue to pray for a spirit of inclusion, humility, and grace to be manifest in our denomination.

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget, Daylight Saving Time (spring forward) begins on **Sun., March 9**.

Order Your Easter Lily Plants

Each year, the congregation is given the opportunity to provide lily plants for our Easter worship.

These plants are given in memory of loved ones and friends, or to honor another individual. Price is \$7 per plant (in a 6 1/2" pot). Order forms are available



in the church at the Highland entrance, or contact Norma Meyer at 412-441-3800, ext. 11. The deadline to order plants is **Sun., March 16**.



CATHEDRAL CATERING

Chef J's is open for lunch Tuesdays through Fridays in the McKelvy Room from 11:30 am to 1:30 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. And...

Chef J is happy to fill all your catering needs!

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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A Special Musical Event for Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, March 16, at 2 pm

Former Associate Music Director Jeffry Johnson brings two of the choirs from West Virginia University to present a Palm Sunday afternoon program at 2 pm.

To make life a bit more simple for ELPC folks, a light luncheon (reservations, please, to Norma at 412-441-3800, ext. 11) will be served following worship. This is an opportunity to begin your Holy Week journey inspired by beautiful choral music presented by two of the University's choral ensembles. Jeffry Johnson, who is presently a Ph.D. candidate at WVU, directs one of the choirs and sings in the second choir, which he also occasionally conducts.

Do invite your friends to be with you for this "homecoming" event for Jeffry and to give space to God's Spirit to enrich your spirit through song. *Read more details in a letter from Jeffry on page 4.*

Save These Dates

- On **Fri., April 11**, at 7 pm, the internationally recognized organist Stephen Tharp will appear in concert at ELPC. Mr. Tharp is the Organist-in-Residence at Grace Church, Broadway in New York City. Tickets will be available at the door.
- The Women and Children's Task Force is hosting a legal forum for women on **April 12**. Stay tuned for details.



"... in remembrance of me." East Liberty Presbyterian Church's 2007 dramatic reenactment of the Last Supper. Details about this year's Maundy Thursday service appear on page 1, along with worship information for all of the Holy Week activities and events at ELPC.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." — Reinhold Niebuhr

Learn more about Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr with the Seekers during a four-week series, beginning **March 16**. Details appear on page 6.