

Church Picnic

All are invited to attend our ELPC Church Picnic on **Sun., Sept. 14**, immediately following our 11 am worship service. Once again, we will have our picnic at the Rhododendron Shelter in Highland Park. The Christian Education Committee will provide fried chicken, hot dogs, and Italian Ice. Everyone is asked to bring a cold side dish to share. (We will not have warming facilities available that morning). Join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun. ELPC's van will provide shuttle service to the park for those in need of transportation.

Cathedral of Hope Concert Series

Sat., Sept. 27, from 4-8 pm



Celebrate the one-year anniversary of our beloved Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ renovation. On **Sat., Sept. 27**, ELPC will host two concerts (4 and 7 pm) and a candlelit dinner (5:30 pm). This will kick off our year-long Cathedral of Hope Concert Series. J Richard Szeremany will be your recitalist and host!

Attend both concerts and dinner for only \$20. If you can't make all three events, tickets for a single concert are \$5, or a combination of a concert (4 or

7 pm) and dinner are \$15. Students (K-12) will receive free admission to the concerts, and a dinner ticket for \$10.

4 pm: Experience a gala organ program featuring some toe-tapping favorites from the organ literature, some requested compositions from the general musical literature, and a segment of specials featuring some of the most beautiful organ sounds ever created by the Skinner Organ Company.

5:30 pm: Feast on the delicacies of a sumptuous candlelit dinner buffet with wonderful finger appetizers; light beverages; a salad of fresh and crispy greens; warm rolls; your selection of ham, chicken and beef; and desserts to treat the appetite of a royal family! **Reservations are required.**

7 pm: The "piece de resistance." It's back to the organ for an hour of sounds from the theater-organ days with a hearty and robust sing-a-long of Broadway and "Pops" favorites; a surprise visit by a Jazz combo; and to top it off, a presentation of Richard Addinsell's famous and beloved "Warsaw Concerto," featuring both Pastor Randy and J Richard Szeremany!

The dinner RSVP deadline is **Wed., Sept. 17**. Please mail checks or money orders to ELPC, clearly marked "Organ Anniversary." Phone reservations will be taken by Norma at **412.441.3800 x11**. Combination tickets for dinner and programs may be picked up at either the concert or dinner.

Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

September Liturgist: Clark Smith

Sept. 7* The Rev. Dr. Scott W. Sunquist, W. Don McClure Associate Professor World Mission & Evangelism, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Sept. 14 The Rev. Gregory Green, New Beginnings Family Worship Center in Braddock

Sept. 21 Robert C. Thomas, Deacon, Ebenezer Baptist Church

Sept. 28 Vera White, Director of New Church Development, Stewardship, and Committee on Ministry, Pittsburgh Presbytery

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Sept. 7* The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sept. 14 The Rev. Heather Tunney

Sept. 21 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 28 The Rev. Heather Tunney

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Sept. 7* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 14 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 21 The Rev. Heather Tunney

Sept. 28 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Koinonia Service of Praise

There is no Koinonia in September, due to the church picnic.

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing

Third Sunday, March-Nov. • 6 pm

Sept. 21 The Rev. Howard Cherry

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 10 am-3 pm

Wednesdays • 10 am-9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Inquirers' Class

For those persons interested in learning more about membership in ELPC or how to be involved in our many ministries, a two-week series of Inquirers' Classes will be held during the Adult Education hour (9:45-10:45 am) on **Sun., Sept. 28** and **Sun., Oct. 5**. Anyone wishing to attend these sessions is encouraged to register with Gloria Knopp at **412.441.3800 x22**. As a church, we celebrate the fact our congregation has already grown by 30 members and 5 friends in 2008!

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–5 pm

Sunday, 9 am–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
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Intern

Cindy DeAngelo
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

Jon Tyillian
Associate Director of Music

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



I recently read a funny quote from Neil Simon, who said, “If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor.” Risks are not usually things we associate with contemporary church life. Church congregations place high value on tradition and stability, finding comfort in our routines. Bulletins let us follow the order of worship so that we know when to sit and when to stand (lest we create a liturgical faux pas by, heaven forbid, not doing what everyone else is doing). Seasons of the church year with their stately processions move us through the cycle of Advent to Christmas to Lent to Easter to Pentecost. Annual events, like Rally Day and Stewardship campaigns, are expected occurrences reminding us to seek knowledge through Christian Education and pursue faithfulness through the honoring of pledge commitments.

However, Michelangelo didn’t paint the Sistine floor. Scaffolding went up and by God’s creative grace at work in him, Michelangelo’s great work of art appeared on the ceiling. Despite the awkwardness of painting while lying on one’s back and having to create panoramic scenes from a cramped vantage point far too close to allow for normal breadth of vision, the Sistine Chapel masterpiece was produced.

As much as we love what is routine and predictable, we are creatures who spend most of our time adjusting to change, negotiating risks, and “painting on the ceiling.” Parenting is painting on the ceiling. Moving to a new community, taking a new job, going overseas or off to college all are painting on the ceiling. They involve having a huge blank canvas in front of us, something that can potentially be a masterpiece, and yet which involves negotiating imperfect work spaces, outside demands and pressures, and the tedium of pushing ahead to a goal that others may not always see at first glance.

Christian witness is painting on the ceiling. It means stepping out of our comfort zones to pray for others, work beside others, and see the face of Christ intentionally in those from whom the world would have us avert our eyes. It means volunteering even though the last thing our schedules need is another commitment. It means giving our resources, even though we cannot imagine how God’s promise to supply our needs will truly cover this month’s budget. It means daring to be different, a clown of God, a cockeyed optimist, a child of grace with paint-drips splattered on our faces.

Yes, there will be regular services at ELPC this month, and every month. Almost all will use bulletins. Many will unfold in a stately procession as they have in years prior. But, listen to the ways God calls you to take a risk of faith and is calling our church to do likewise. It is there every Sunday in the prayers, the music, the announcements, the conversations shared in hallways and pews. Who knows, maybe our ceiling could use a touch of color as well!

Randy Bush

Connections Dinners

A new season of Connections Dinners will start this fall. Small groups (7-10 people) will get to know each other better by meeting for pot-luck, usually in each other’s homes. To join, or for more information, please contact Paul Outon at **412.322.1803** or paulouton@yahoo.com.

Health Ministry

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

Tai Chi Fall Session at ELPC

With fall just around the corner, that usually means back to school. How about back to class? Tai Chi class! Classes will be offered at ELPC twice weekly beginning **Tues., Sept. 9**. Session A will be Tuesdays from 6–7 pm, and Session B will take place Thursdays from 10–11 am. Judy Crow will return as the instructor. A donation of \$3/per class is requested. New students are encouraged to attend! Contact Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30**, for more information.

Torture Conference and Workshop

What does the Lord require of me...to do Justice?

The prophet Micah calls us to take action against injustice wherever we experience it. Sometimes that means speaking about the unspeakable actions of governments and individuals and educating and motivating ourselves to heed the biblical call to stop the use of torture through education, public witness and public action. ELPC is a sponsoring member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. As such, we are joining hands with other East End faith communities, and others, to participate in the Pittsburgh Against Torture Conference on **Sat., Sept 20** (9 am-5 pm) and **Sun., Sept. 21** (1-7 pm) at First Unitarian Church, 605 Moorewood Ave, Oakland. Saturday's events include panel discussions and small group work and an afternoon presentation by Hector Aristizabal, a torture survivor from Colombia. On Sunday, Hector will lead a dynamic experiential workshop. The conference is free to all. Reservations are only required for Sunday's workshop. Flyers with details will be available shortly.

On **Tues., Sept. 30**, at 6:30 pm, a follow-up conversation will be held as we break bread at First United Methodist Church on Centre Ave. We'll discuss an ongoing faith response to this tragedy and how we can continue bringing justice and end to torture. For more information, contact Michele Bossers at **412.241.5006** or **info@PittsburghAgainstTorture.org**.

Housing Ministry

In August, ELPC and Open Hand Ministries (OHM) partnered with East Liberty Development Inc (ELDI), and volunteers from Oakmont P.C., Beulah, P.C., Partners for Quality, and high school students from Eastminster's H.O.M.E. Ministry, to make a positive impact on life in our neighborhood. Work focused on the interior demolition of a building on Rippey St., previously owned by a notorious drug dealer. This building is being rehabilitated by ELDI into 14 apartments utilizing green building practices and community spaces.



Folks also worked on rehabbing a home for an OHM client family on Fairmount St. Thanks to all who came to serve our community and our Lord.

For more information on how to become involved in ELPC's Housing Ministry, contact Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30** or **PatriceS@coh.net**.

Volunteer Corner

Sojourner House MOMS

There's still time to enroll as an academic tutor and "homework helper" at the Sojourner House MOMS (S.H. MOMS) Learning Center. It's scheduled to open by early October.

Volunteers must return the enrollment materials to S.H. ASAP. They'll secure the clearances at no cost.

If you'd like to volunteer but have not yet received an enrollment packet, call Karla Ballou at **412.441.3800 x34**.

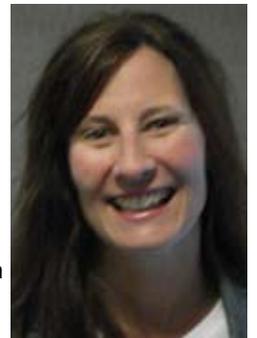
For information on S.H., please visit **www.sojournerhousepa.org**. To learn more about this initiative, contact Judy Menk at **412.798.8569** or Sel Whitaker at **412.681.0721**.

Malawian Visitors

Please join ELPC in welcoming the Malawian delegation. They will be in Pittsburgh from **Sept. 21–28**. ELPC is a partner church with The Pittsburgh Presbytery in its mission to carry out God's plan through mutual encouragement in our faith and life journey's in partnership with the Synod of Blantyre of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi, Africa.

Welcome, Cindy DeAngelo

ELPC is pleased to welcome our new seminary intern, **Cindy DeAngelo**. On Rally Day, she'll begin her internship and gain experience in Christian Education (CE), worship leadership, and



pastoral theology. Cindy is married, the mother of three children, and a resident of Latrobe, PA. She has experience in leading CE programs, mission trips, and providing hospital visitation. She is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is under the care of Redstone Presbytery. Please introduce yourself to Cindy so she can settle into our ELPC family.

Full Inclusion Task Force

Sun., Sept. 21, after 11 am service

We will meet in room 244 to: review the overtures from General Assembly and the direction they will provide for us within the presbytery; update on the trial of Rev. Janet Edwards for presiding at the marriage of two women; prepare for an October retreat with Jack Rogers; and plan a class around Dr. Rogers' book, "Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality."

Contact Carol Untch at 724.272.9722, for more information.

Mission Study Work Group

The proposed evolution of the ELPC Mission Structure will be outlined in a presentation to the congregation on Sun., Sept. 28, following worship.

Look for more information in October.

Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship season is upon us! It's time to remember how God blesses us through the ministry of ELPC.

Our theme for this year is "Keeping In Step With the Spirit", building on the promise of 2 Timothy 1:7 which says, "God has given us a Spirit of power and love and self-discipline."



Prior to **Stewardship Sunday** (Nov. 9), the Stewardship Committee will provide updates on the financial goals for our church and plans for the immediate future. In October, we'll have organized small-group and church-wide gatherings, highlighting the ways church members are called to be faithful stewards of resources for the sake of future generations. Inflation and higher energy costs affect ELPC as much as it affects each of our homes. By placing our trust in God's Spirit and keeping in step with where God is leading our church (through pledges, offerings, prayers and service), we can continue to live out the gospel for years to come.

Christian Education in Sept.

Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries

CONTEMPORARIES CLASS *Leaders: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*
The Contemporaries are an intergenerational fellowship of Christians seeking to live faithfully in the 21st Century. We encourage one another to grow spiritually and carry out ministries of compassion and justice. All are welcome!

Sept. 7, Rally Day: Responses to Invitation and Leadership, led by Joe Kennedy
The invitation has been sent to us from God. Are we willing to cast aside our excuses and accept God's invitation to join Him? Spiritual leaders must learn to share what God has revealed to them and trust that the Holy Spirit will confirm that same vision in the hearts of their people.

Sept. 14/21: All I Know About God, I Learned in the Cradle Roll of the Fourth United Presbyterian Church, led by Roy E. Hiller

A whimsical story of the shaping of Roy E. Hiller into what he is today. This presentation will span many decades of an ongoing development that may cause you to wonder, cry, remember, laugh or think about your own spiritual journey.

Sept. 28/Oct. 5: CSR, an Oxymoron?, led by John Buckley
Businesses are creating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, commitments, measures, committees, reports and communications. Have they found religion or is it "greenwashing?" John Buckley directs The Bank of New York Mellon's CSR program. View BNY Mellon's CSR report at www.bnymellon.com/csr.

JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE *Leader: Jan Irvin*

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour..." Participants read the Hebrew and New Testament scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary. We meet with a goal of personal transformation and movement towards a community of vision, justice, and steadfast love.

Sept. 7: Ex. 12:1-14; Ps. 149; Rom. 13:8-14; Mt. 18:15-20

Sept. 14: Ex. 14:19-31; Ps. 114; Rom. 14:1-12; Mt. 18:21-35

Sept. 21: Ex. 16:2-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45; Phil. 1:21-30; Mt. 20:1-16

Sept. 28: Ex. 17:1-7; Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16; Phil. 2:1-13; Mt. 21:23-32

PARENTING CIRCLE *Leaders: Anne Jackson and Frances Irvin*

Share experiences, prayer and scripture. We explore how faith nourishes our family lives and helps nurture parent/child relationships. Learn ways to foster closer family relationships in the context of creating active faith communities.

Sept. 7: Rally Day, sharing summer stories, joys and concerns.

Sept. 14-28: We'll study the book "Family: The Forming Center - A Vision of the Role of Family in Spiritual Formation" by Pastor, Marjorie Thompson. She explores the role of family in the spiritual formation of children, and ways in which the larger church can support that vision. We'll begin with Chapter 1, The Family as Forming Center, and continue with Chapters 2, The Family as Earthen Vessel, and 3, Challenges to the Vision, the following weeks. Books will be available in class.

SEEKERS *Leader: Nancy Klancher*

The Seekers wish to grow in religious understanding, insight, faith and practice. Participants are interested in theological breadth, interfaith understanding, psychological and religious development and progressive Christian activism. Seekers wish to question and be renewed through lecture, group discussion and workshops. Together, we seek a broad, inclusive dialogue, experience and theology.

Sept. 7: Intro of Fall Series: National Issues from a Christian Perspective

Sept. 14: A Presbyterian Perspective of Faith and Politics, led by Dr. Ronald Stone

Sept. 21: Healthcare: Case for Single Payer System, led by Hal Sanders

Sept. 28: Environmental Issues and Justice from a Christian Perspective, led by Rev. Deirdre Hainsworth

Youth and Young Adult Events

Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

club one sixteen: On Wed., Sept. 17, we'll kick off our Wednesday Connection program for the fall, classes begin on **Wed., Sept. 24**. Hope Academy will offer free classes (see Hope Academy on page 3). There'll be snacks from Whole Foods and a simple supper for families in the McKelvey Room, and our Taizé service at 7 pm.

We'll have our club one sixteen junior and senior Bible Study for youth in grades 1-12. Meet in the Ground Floor Game Room for a dinner prepared by an ELPC member at 6 pm, and then enjoy an interactive Bible Study from 6:30-8 pm. For details on club one sixteen, please see the youth calendar or call Pastor Heather at **412.441.3800 x21**.

Confirmation Classes

ELPC will be offering a Confirmation Class Series to youth in grades 9-10 (and older), who are interested in learning about church membership and joining through Baptism or Affirmation of Faith. This is an opportunity for them to investigate the questions of their faith, build community, and grow closer to God. There will be an introductory meeting for youth, and parents, about the Confirmation process and the schedule for this fall, on **Sun., Sept. 28**, at 12:30 pm, in the second floor parlor. A light lunch will be served.

Youth Basketball

Young men in grades 9-12 are welcome to participate in our Saturday evening basketball program. Join us in the ELPC gym beginning **Sat., Sept. 20**, from 5-8 pm, for drills, pick-up games, and a time with friends. ELPC Youth Worker, Anthony Williams, will facilitate this program, which is free to participants.

Mission Trip Update *(see photos to the right)*

- A group of 15 ELPC youth and leaders traveled to New York City. We facilitated a Vacation Bible School for children at First Evangelical Free Church in Brooklyn. We also served at kids night at a food pantry, and at a ministry for Russian Immigrants. We prayed for, learned about, and met natives of NYC, broadening our understanding of the needs of our brothers and sisters in another city.
- A group of 9 Middle School youth and leaders participated in Camp Crestfield's Mission Possible. Kids stayed at camp but spent their days in service to others. We served Shenango on the Green, Presbyterian Senior Care in Grove City; helped with cleaning and construction at Ben Franklin Jr. High School, which is being rehabilitated for head start programs; the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; and the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

The Young Adults group is growing and we invite those in their 20's and 30's to join us for faith, fellowship, and service! Email Brian Diebold at **BDiebold@pts.edu**.

Life in the Spirit Sunday School Class

Starting **Sun., Sept. 7**, we'll be launching a series on **Faiths of the World**. Learn about and discuss many of the world's major religions and the various traditions found within Christianity. Join us on Sundays, from 9:45-10:45 am, in the Pastor's Conference Room on the second floor, as we learn about the beliefs and practices of others! We may deepen our own faith in the process!

Tuesday Evening Study Group

Join us every second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 7-9 pm, starting **Tues., Sept. 9**, for an informal Bible study and discussion. We will be delving into the topic of **Our Relationships in the Image of God**. We will use different stories and teachings from Scripture as a starting point for examination and sharing of our own family, romantic, and church relationships.

Hope Academy

Linda Addlespurger, Director



Hope Academy's music and performing arts classes begin Tues., Sept. 15. Course brochures and registration forms are available online by visiting www.HopeAcademy.info, or by calling **412-441-3800 x11**. Onsite registration will take place on Sat., Sept. 6, from 1-4 pm at ELPC.



Not Comfortable Singing? How about Ringing?

Thursdays, at 6 pm

We've got 49 beautiful Schulmerich handbells, waiting to feel the touch of your eager hands.



There can be a place for you along with the other 10 handbell ringers who are eager to welcome you to this group of musicians!

No experience? We can train you! Little experience? Play with us and increase your expertise! Afraid you are not up to speed? Give us three rehearsals and you'll play like a pro.

For more information, call J Richard Szeremany at **412.441.3800 x24**.

On and On it Goes...

Thursdays, at 7 pm

...with joy, satisfaction, and a great feeling of usefulness. The Chancel Choir rehearsals go 52 Thursdays and 52+ worship services each year, or about 450 hours. That's a lot of exercise for the vocal cords, but also a lot of personal satisfaction, training, fellowship, and a sense of giving and accomplishment.

Maybe this is something you'd like to check out for your own spiritual well-being, as well as for your musical and vocal education, and beneficial use of the gifts God has given you to sing God's praise and proclaim God's name!

For more information, call J Richard Szeremany at **412.441.3800 x24** or Jon Tyillian at **412.441.3800 x12**.

Knitting Group

Join the ELPC knitting group on **Thurs., Sept. 18**, from 10-11:30 am, in the second floor lounge. Bring your needles, ideas, and current projects, as we try to use our skills for the comfort of others. An evening session will meet on **Fri., Sept 26**, from 7-8:30 pm. Beginners are welcome! Contact Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** or dnjcks@verizon.net, for more details.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Taizé Prayer services are held on Wednesdays at 7 pm, with classes following at 8:15 pm. On **Wed., Sept. 17**, we will begin having a soup and bread supper, prior to the services, at 6 pm. A free-will offering of \$2.50 is appreciated.

Sept. 3: Hope and Creativity, led by Laurie Arnold

Participate in writing and discussion about how our hope informs our creative lives and how creativity ignites hope.

Sept. 10: The Lore of Bells, led by Jim Cover

Through colorful anecdotes, you will hear of the vanishing role of bells in our culture. We'll have exercises in bell ringing to replicate that vanishing sound. Bring good ringing handbells if you have them!

Sept. 17: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Sing, led by Charles Anderson

Enjoy singing tunes in three and four part harmony from the oldest American tune book in continuous print. Joining in this joyful singing tradition is easy and enjoyable! All tunes are carefully taught, one part at a time! Beginners welcome!



Sept. 24: Celebrations

If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in September, please write it down and put it in the collection plate. We'd like to celebrate with you!

Spiritual Life

Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life

Spiritual Life Sampler

Join us in the Social Hall on **Sun., Sept. 28**, following the 11 am worship, for our annual Spiritual Life Sampler and Fellowship Time. Learn about new and continuing small groups, workshops and classes. Representatives will be available to give you all the details and to sign you up for activities.

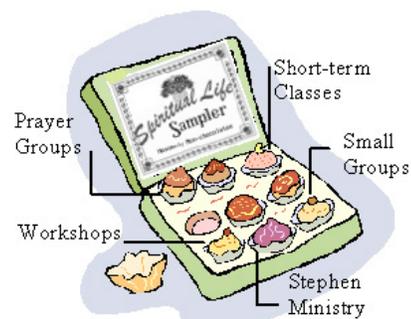
This year's event will showcase a variety of opportunities, including:

- Centering Prayer
- Ignatian Exercises
- Men's Woodworking Group
- Songs for the Journey of Life
- Finding Spiritual Treasure in the Trash
- Happy Wanderers
- and more!

We hope this year's Spiritual Life Sampler will provide food for thought as well as an opportunity for fellowship. See you there!

Spiritual Life Committee Opportunity

Do you have a special interest or skill that you would like to share with others? We welcome people who'd like to offer a workshop, class or discussion group. Are you interested in offering either a one-time session (1-2 hours) or an ongoing class (several sessions)? Contact Lois Lang at **412.441.3800 x41** by Fri., Sept. 12.



Presbyterian Women

Horizons Bible Study: Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor

Tues., Sept. 2, at 10 am

This year's study, **Jubilee!**, highlights some of the unique aspects of Jesus' life and teachings found in the Gospel of Luke. In Luke, Jesus' message of jubilee calls for the reversal of the social order—the poor will be rich, the rich will be poor; in Acts, Luke writes that the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica complain, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also" (Acts 17:6).

Luke's gospel has been told by eyewitnesses, so that those who hear this message might also become witnesses to the liberation, freedom and jubilee of Jesus.

Prepare for your eyes to be opened, your heart to be lifted up, and to praise God!

Please join us on **Tues., Sept. 2**, at 10 am. Beth Urbaitis will lead our first lesson "Jesus Announces Jubilee" (Luke 4:16-30). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

Fall Mini-Retreat: Thinking Outside the Box

Sat., Sept. 20, at 8:30 am

This fall's retreat, on **Sat., Sept. 20**, will be an exercise in "Thinking Outside the Box" as we explore the parables of Luke. Reverend Pat Frick will lead us. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 am, and we'll meet in the second floor parlor at 9 am, for worship, a workshop, and election and installation of the Presbyterian Women leadership team. We'll conclude with a potluck lunch and receive the Birthday Offering, detailed below. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. For more information, call Mary Alice Lightle at **412.682.1504**.

Birthday Offering

Each year, Presbyterian Women has received a Birthday Offering to support specific causes. This year's goal is \$1.2 million to help support two projects.

- Through "Building a Strong Future for the Congo," the lives of at least 700,000 people will be improved. The Presbyterian Church of Congo and the Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa will use their grants to strengthen ministries in education, nutrition, and technical assistance.
- In New Orleans, Lakeview Presbyterian Church's Weekday School Restoration will rebuild and equip this facility to meet the current and changing demands of children. It was destroyed in the flooding after Hurricane Katrina.

We will receive the 2008 Birthday Offering (\$0.10 for every year of your life) at our Fall Mini-Retreat. You also may participate in this special offering by sending a check to ELPC, attention Presbyterian Women. Please make your check payable to Presbyterian Women in ELPC and write "Birthday Offering" in the memo line.

EECM Food Pantry

The East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry provides food for many people facing hunger in Pittsburgh.

Our congregation continues to answer the call in the struggle against hunger, but we need your continued support. Donations may be left in the baskets located throughout the church's hallways. Septembers' "Food for the Month" is **jelly or jam**.

Housed at ELPC, the EECM Food Pantry is open from 1-3 pm, Mon.-Fri. Visit www.eecm.org for more information.



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 September. The requested donations are **razors** and **shaving cream**. Please drop these items in the basket

located in the Highland Ave. hallway. Your continued support in the form of donations and prayer is appreciated.

ELPC People

Good News, Thanks, and Prayers

Good News

Congratulations to Katherine Ness, daughter of Erik and Kimberly Ness, who celebrated her baptism in August.

Congratulations to the following ELPC youth who recently graduated.

High School: **Daniel Bethea, Aaron Daniels, Laura Hoehn, Asia Monroe, Ben Ruthkowski, and Candess Ward.**

College: **Nadine Banks, Jamie Dixon, Vance Wilson.**

Seminary: **Jay Poliziani.**

Thanks

Youth would like to thank our ELPC family for their prayer and support during our recent Mission Trips!

Prayers

Our prayers and sympathies are with the families of Emogene Grate and Andrew Paul, who recently passed away.

Help us Keep ELPC Tidy

The Property Committee can use your help to spot things that need attention. Is a light burned out? Is there a stain on the stairs? Stop by the front office or the security desk and fill out a brief form to let us know.



ELPC Landscaping Plans

The Property Committee's Landscaping Subcommittee has been busy meeting with representatives of Terra Design, Perkins Eastman Architects, and East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) to discuss plans regarding the green space around ELPC. As part of environmentally-conscious improvements planned for the Penn Ave. corridor, ELPC will have trees planted along the Penn Ave. sidewalk. Designers are also exploring options for reducing our stormwater runoff through welcoming, eco-friendly landscaping.

Check the bulletin for updates as these plans "take root."



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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

www.cathedralofhope.org

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

Children’s Sabbath Celebration at ELPC

Supporting Education of Children and Youth

Sun., Sept. 21

Sanctuary Worship Service, 11 am

Join us for recognition and prayers for all involved in education.

Education Fair and Coffee Hour, following the 11 am Sanctuary Worship

Gather in the Garth (weather permitting), for a special opportunity to meet ELPC members involved in our partnerships with neighboring schools, and learn about the many volunteer opportunities that are available to support the children and youth of our community.

An opportunity to advocate for our schools through letter writing also may be available.

God Not Guns Sabbath

Sun., Sept. 14

Congregations across America are seeking to raise awareness of gun violence as a spiritual and moral crisis, in September. The **God Not Guns Coalition** is asking churches to pray, educate and work toward peaceable societies in which no one need fear being cut down by firearm violence. We will join these faith communities in the God Not Guns Coalition as part of Sanctuary Worship on **Sun., Sept. 14.**

Rally Day

All are welcome to join in our Rally Day festivities on **Sun., Sept. 7**, as we begin our fall education and worship schedules. To say "Welcome Back!" the Christian Education Ministry Team would like to invite you to participate in our morning offerings.



Breakfast, at 9:30 am, in rooms 224 and 227
Grab a light breakfast and catch up with friends before church school class.

Church School Classes, 9:45 am

Classes are available for all ages, with Baby Lap Sit offered to the youngest among us, five church school classes for children age three–grade 12, and five church school classes for adults. See the Christian Education section (page 4), Rally Day flyer or ELPC bulletin boards for details about class topics and rooms.

Sanctuary Worship, 11 am

We will commission our Church School Teachers, and present Bibles to the children who are entering grades 4 and 5.

Offices Closed

Church offices will be closed on **Mon., Sept. 1**, in observance of Labor Day.