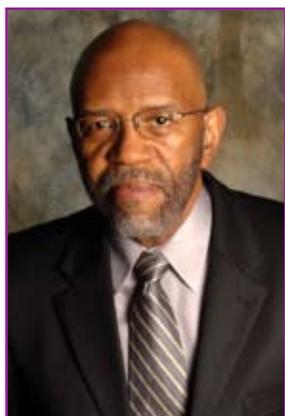


## ELPC Welcomes The Rev. Dr. Ron Peters

Sun., Feb. 1, at 11 am, Sanctuary Worship



The Rev. Dr. Ron Edwards Peters, Henry L. Hillman Associate Professor of Urban Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, is the founding Director of the Seminary's Metro-Urban Institute. Dr. Peters has been Seminary faculty member since 1991 and has built a program of urban theological education that is recognized nationally and internationally.

The "parish outside the walls of the church" has always been a focus of his. He's been a consultant for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church on urban social policy, justice, and racial/ethnic concerns. His writings include a treatise on "Christians Celebrating Kwanzaa," "Race and Toxic Waste," and

a Bible study series on Mark's Gospel entitled "Christian Discipleship" published by the Presbyterian Church's (U.S.A.) Men's Ministry Unit. His research interests include faith-based community ministry, men's ministry issues, reconciliation as public policy, at-risk youth, family ministry, and African spirituality.

ELPC welcomes and looks forward to Dr. Peters sharing with us!

## The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell Visits

Sun., Feb. 22, at 9:45 am, Adult Ed. Classes and 11 am, Sanctuary Worship



ELPC is honored to welcome the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, President of McCormick Theological Seminary. On **Sun., Feb. 22**, Dr. Campbell will lead a joint Adult Education class at 9:45 am, in the Chapel, and then preach at the 11 am, Sanctuary Worship.

Dr. Campbell was born in Pasadena, California, studied for ministry at Harvard and Southern Methodist Universities, ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1974, and has been President of McCormick Seminary since 1995.

Her most recent book, "A Multitude of Blessings: A Christian Approach to Religious Diversity," is available in our church bookstore.

Dr. Campbell is a leading voice in our denomination on issues of inclusivity, justice and tolerance, as well as a preacher with a range of experience in pastoral ministry and academic witness. It's a joy to introduce her to ELPC.

## Sunday Morning Services

\* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

February Liturgist: Joan Heckel

- Feb. 1\* To Be Announced
- Feb. 8 Mark Glover, *Ministry to Men in the Community*
- Feb. 15 The Rev. Gregory Green
- Feb. 22 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, *Director of Missions, ELPC*

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

- Feb. 1\* The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Feb. 8 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Feb. 15 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Feb. 22 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Feb. 1\* Dr. Ron Peters, *Associate Professor, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*
- Feb. 8 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Feb. 15 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Feb. 22 Dr. Cynthia Campbell, *President, McCormick Theological Seminary*

### Koinonia Service of Praise

Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm

- Feb. 8 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 10 am-3 pm

Wednesdays • 10 am-9 pm

### Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

## February Events

- Feb. 1:** Songs for the Journey, pg. 6  
Diabetes Workshop, pg. 6
- Feb. 6:** Young Adults Retreat, pg. 5
- Feb. 8:** Black History Celebration, pg. 8  
Songs for the Journey, pg. 6  
Diabetes Workshop, pg. 6
- Feb. 14:** Love and All That Jazz, pg. 5
- Feb. 15:** Diabetes Workshop, pg. 6
- Feb. 19:** Presbytery Convocation, pg. 8
- Feb. 22:** Congregational Meeting, pg. 8
- Feb. 24:** Mardi Gras Party, pg. 4
- Feb. 25:** Ash Wednesday, pg. 8
- March. 1:** Hymn-Fest, pg. 6

## 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–5 pm

Sunday, 9 am–12:30 pm

### Staff Leadership

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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
*Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

Linda Addlespurger  
*Director of Hope Academy*

The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain  
*Visitation Pastor*

Cindy DeAngelo  
*Seminary Intern*

Brian Diebold  
*Youth and Young Adult Ministry 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*

### 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*



Ten years ago this month, my wife and I were expecting the birth of our first child. In preparation for that event, I composed a long essay as a way to express my thoughts and hopes as I prepared to assume the role of being a father. As my son's tenth birthday approaches (as does my daughter's eighth birthday), I share this essay with you.

To my daughter or son,

Sometime in the next two months, you'll be born, and we'll meet for the first time. I've been rearranging furniture in the guest room to make it into a nursery.

I've also been rearranging my mental furniture, my thoughts and priorities, to prepare for your presence in my life.

You are a child of the 21st century, one of the first who will live almost entirely in the new millennium. My world has been defined by a century soon to pass away, an age of machines and technology. Your world is an age of information, of Internet, e-mail, and the "global village." More information is available to you in a single day than our ancestors had during their entire lifetimes.

Unfortunately, information isn't the same as knowledge, and having access to so many facts isn't the same as being wise. At the moment when our world is more connected than ever before, we as individuals have never felt more fragmented.

We live busy and active lives, but we are seldom at peace. So just between us, here are a few suggestions as you prepare to enter this world.

First, learn people's names. As soon as you emerge, you will be given a name. That process is the same all over the planet. But people find it difficult to remember names, so we choose to remember only categories: friend, enemy, rich, poor, Republican, Democrat, Christian, Jew, pro-choice, pro-life, gay, straight. Most of our world's woes can be traced to this preference for labels over names. Yet all of the finest emotions you will ever feel – compassion, sympathy, love – are dependent on knowing others' names. So learn people's names.

Second, be biased. This may seem like a strange request, but it emerges from the heart of our faith tradition. Christianity has never claimed to be impartial. It is unequivocally biased – in favor of the people pushed aside and passed over, those without voices or lobbyists, the abused child, the forgotten invalid, the stranger denied a home among us. The rich and powerful will always find ways to make themselves heard. Be biased toward the poor in body and spirit around you.

Third, enjoy your entire body. The world in all its splendor will be presented to you through your senses, so learn to celebrate life through the wonder that is your physical body. Protect your flesh and bones from harmful chemicals and things that deaden your senses. Nurture your soul and imagination through times of creativity, curiosity, and laughter. Discover that your sexuality is about much more than sex. Much darkness and pain has come into this world by those taught to hate their bodies, distorting sexuality into something shameful rather than welcoming it as a sacred trust and joyful potential given to all people. Never forget: Every inch of you is beautiful and has been made in God's image.

*Continued on pg. 3.*

## Session News

- The Session received a report from the Nominating Committee with the slate of nominees for the offices of Elder and Deacon as well as those who will serve on the Centennial Fund and Nominating Committees. Officer training will be held on two Sundays in February and one Sunday in March. These officers will be examined in mid-March followed by a service of ordination and installation after Easter.
- The congregation is encouraged to attend the Presbytery Convocation on **Thurs., Feb. 19**, related to the topic **Our Freedom of Religion at Risk**. Details on **pg. 8**.

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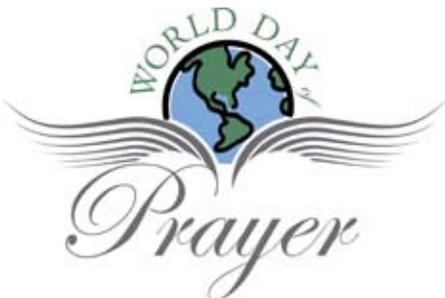
## World Day of Prayer

Tues., March 6

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together (with men and youth) to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the WDP worship service. For 2009, the WDP Committee of Papua New Guinea developed the theme, **In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body**.

WDP is celebrated in 170 countries and is supported by sacrificial and benevolent mission offerings given by individuals at the service. Each country's committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme and gives grants to women's and children's groups.

Services are scheduled in various parts of the city and surrounding suburbs. Look for the time and location of a service nearest you on **Fri., March 6**.



## Pastoral Message, Continued from Pg. 2

Fourth, know that you'll never be alone. You'll be born into a family who loves you dearly. Over the years, the family you'll create around you, will ebb and flow – relatives, friends, a spouse, partner, co-workers, neighbors. As much as I can, I'll be near you even when you wish me to be elsewhere. I'll watch, laugh and celebrate as you grow to be distinct from me, perhaps even distant from me. While I live, you'll never be far from my heart. In time I'll die, as all will die, but you'll not be left alone. Why? Because at the heart of life is a loving heart, one both eternal in time and perfect in knowledge. All our earthly affection is at best a pale reflection of God's deeper love that'll never leave or forsake you. Never.

Though I give you these words, know that you will soon give me something far more precious. The fatherly relationship I have known by faith and by family I will now be able to embody for you. I will soon see the wonder of this world afresh through your eyes. Through the past years, my life has been shaped by a God-given sense of hope, for which I am grateful. But with your birth, I will be able to literally hold hope in my hands and call it by name. What an amazing gift that will be. See you soon.

Love,

Dad-to-be

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Randy Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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## Look Ahead! To Mission!

The young sailor at sea was ordered to climb a mast to adjust a sail during a violent storm. He got halfway up, looked down, got dizzy and sick. An old sailor on deck shouted up to him "Look up, son, look up." The young sailor looked up, regained his composure, and completed his mission.

**Moral:** "Look ahead, not back."

ELPC is not offering a course in sailing but we have just completed an intensive nine-month study of ELPC mission programs, projects and committees. We are now ready to sail ahead into the future and the new mission structure needs young and old "sailors" alike to volunteer!

The new structure incorporates two tiers of responsibility. Four new committees will replace the former groups. Each committee will meet bi-monthly and focus on one particular aspect of mission. Their first meetings will be held in February.

- Justice Committee and Neighbors Committee meet on **Tues., Feb. 3**, at 6:30 pm.
- Poverty Committee and Peace Committee meet on **Thurs., Feb. 26**, at 6:30 pm.

The Mission Board represents the other tier. The Board will report directly to Session and assume responsibility for mission budget development and oversight; assure maximum coordination of all committee meetings, events and projects to avoid duplication and scheduling conflicts; and work with the committee leadership to develop a long-term strategic focus and agenda. The Mission Board also will assume responsibility for mission evaluation and outcomes.

All ELPC members and friends are strongly encouraged to check out the Mission bulletin board in the Highland Ave. hallway, for more details about the new structure. Your participation and commitment to mission are vital to our work in service to God's people. Please prayerfully consider participation in one or more of the four mission committees. God is calling you to help ELPC sail ahead!

## Church School Classes

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am

Classes are offered for persons of all ages. Adult options are detailed on this page. Youth classes on page 5 – 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*.

**Note: All Adult Classes will combine on Sun., Feb. 22, and will meet in the Chapel. Our discussion will be led by the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, President of McCormick Theological Seminary.**



## We're Having a Party!

Tues., Feb. 24, at 6 pm

Join us in the Social Hall for a Mardi Gras party with lots of food and fun for everyone – singles, couples, children, and families!

Come on out for delicious food (served from 6-7 pm) prepared by Chef Jay, games for kids and grown-ups, and a Costume Parade where everyone is a winner! You also can work off the calories with line dancing and square dancing with the return of the Dixie Doc Dixieland Band!

Call Norma, at 412.441.3800 x11, to add your names to the list. Come celebrate Mardi Gras with us at ELPC!

Children under 12: \$4

Adults: \$6

Entire Family: \$16

(lowest total amount applies)

# Christian Education in February

Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

**CONTEMPORARIES CLASS** *Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*  
We encourage one another to carry out ministries of compassion and justice.

**Feb. 1, 8, and 15: Jesus, James, Jim, and Stanley on Living the Christian Life in Contemporary Society, Led by Jim Russ**

At ELPC, the justice admonitions of Mt. 25, have played a strong role in shaping our understanding of our mission in the world. Pastor Heather recently pointed out the tension between Paul's exposition in Romans that we are saved by faith and the more traditional Jewish view that action is required to reflect God's concern for the poor and afflicted of the society, as reiterated by James.

In our time, Stanley Hauerwas, in "*Resident Aliens*," argues for separation of Christian living and commitment from socio-political concerns. He strongly opposes the dilution of Christianity by interfaith dialogues that validate other religious approaches. Hauerwas characterizes Reinhold Niebuhr's teachings as saying that the role of the church is to Christianize society. Hauerwas argues that since Constantine, the transformation has always worked the wrong way, the Church looks more and more like the world.

Now another evangelical has stepped into the debate on the opposite side. Jim Wallis's "*Great Awakening*" looks at the political movements of 2008 and sees opportunity to reclaim the spiritual aspects of American life for the good of all.

We'll use all these resources to engage in the exploration of God's call to service for each of us in these times. It won't be the same for you as for me. Paul reminds us that the body of Christ doesn't need 500 ears. We can be assured, that it will be something, and that God will be with us.

**JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE** *Facilitator: Jan Irvin*

We journey towards a community of vision, justice, and steadfast love.

**Feb. 1:** Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; I Cor. 8: 1-13; Mark 1:21-28

**Feb. 8:** Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c; I Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**Feb. 15:** II Kings 9:1-14; Ps. 30; I Cor. 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

**PARENTING CIRCLE** *Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Anne Jackson*

We explore how our faith builds and nourishes our family lives.

**Feb. 1, 8, and 15: Sharing Our Families' Best Practice**

We will continue the series Sharing Our Families' Best Practices with the topic **Embracing Diversity Within Our Families and Community**. Join us as we share our experiences and resources. Facilitated by Elaine Bellin and Andrea DeVries.

**SEEKERS** *Facilitators: Seekers Steering Committee*

We wish to grow in religious understanding, insight, faith and practice.

**Feb. 1: Black Liberation Theology and Post-Racial Society Rhetoric**

Our discussion is led by Dr. Ronald Peters, Associate Professor of Urban Ministry and Director, Metro-Urban Institute, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**Feb. 8, 15, March 1, and 8: Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Commentary on Jimmy Carter's book "*Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*," and related issues in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will be divided equally between four sessions through Sun., March 8.

Sessions one and four (**Feb. 8, and March 8**) will be led by Dr. Ronald Stone, retired professor of social ethics, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Leila Richards will lead sessions two and three (**Feb. 15, and March 1**).

# Youth and Young Adult Events

Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth meet on Wednesdays, from 3:30-8 pm. In conjunction with Hope Academy, we offer time for homework, gym activities, free Hope Academy classes, dinner, Bible Study, and more! Participate as your schedule permits!

**club one sixteen jr.** and **sr.** meet for dinner at 6 pm, and Bible Study from 6:30-8 pm. In February, we'll learn more about living as God's people through Jesus' messages through the parables. Parables are stories that Jesus tells in the Gospels to teach his disciples about God, the kingdom of heaven, and the path of discipleship. Join us as we see how Jesus' teachings impact our lives today!



## Confirmation Update

Confirmation class continues the first Sunday of February, from 12:30-3:30 pm, in the second floor parlor. Sponsors are invited to join us from 12:30-1:15 pm, as we continue our conversation about the Sacraments and Discipleship.

## Youth Basketball

Young men in grades 9-12 are welcome to participate in our free Saturday evening basketball program. We meet in the ELPC gym from 5-8 pm.

**Note:** We'll not meet on **Sat., Feb. 14**, as we will attend **Love and All That Jazz**.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Those in their 20's and 30's are invited to join our warm and dynamic group for faith and fellowship! Visit us at [www.myspace.com/youngadultselpc](http://www.myspace.com/youngadultselpc).

### Feb. 6-8: Young Adults Winter Retreat: The Fruit of the Spirit!

The young adults group will be traveling to Kearns Spirituality Center, just north of Pittsburgh, for a weekend away filled with reflection, group building, and worship using the theme: The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-26).

We'll leave from ELPC on **Fri., Feb 6**, at 7 pm, and return **Sun., Feb. 8**, by 12 pm. Cost is **\$50** per person (scholarships are available as needed).

RSVP to Brian Diebold, at **412.335.9734**, or [bdiebold@pts.edu](mailto:bdiebold@pts.edu), by **Wed., Feb. 4**.

### Life in the Spirit Sunday School Class: Apologetics: Christian Doctrine on Trial

Join us on Sundays, in the Pastor's Conference Room, from 9:45-10:45 am, as we continue our series exploring some of the questions facing a thinking Christian. Newcomers welcome! Topics for February include: Theodicy ("How can God let bad things happen?") and Religious Relativism ("Do we really say that only Christians go to heaven?").

**Note:** We'll not meet on **Sun., Feb. 8**, due to our Winter Retreat, or **Sun., Feb 22**, as we'll join the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell's discussion in the Chapel.

## Tuesday Evening Study Group

Join us on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, **Feb. 10 and 24**, from 7-9 pm, in the second floor Parlor, as we finish up our discussion of "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time," by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Come whether you've read the book or not!

# Hope Academy

Linda Addlespurger, Director

## Hope Academy's Wednesday Animation Kids on YouTube

Kids participating in Hope Academy's Wednesday animation studio have produced their first short video!

They worked throughout the fall on making flip books and learning how to move shapes and objects using stop motion techniques.



View their work online, at [www.youtube.com/HopeAcademy](http://www.youtube.com/HopeAcademy).

## ELPC's 3rd Annual Red-Hot Benefit Performance:

### Love and All That Jazz

Sat., Feb. 14, at 7 pm

Who needs chocolates, cards and flowers when you can give your Valentine an evening of love-inspired music at ELPC? Last year's event filled the sanctuary with an exciting and eclectic mix of performances that left the audience asking for more. This year, some of Pittsburgh's best-known performing artists will serenade us with love songs from across the musical spectrum – including classical, jazz, Broadway, contemporary and hip-hop.

This is the perfect Valentine's Day event for families, of all kinds, and people of all ages!

Tickets are **\$5** in advance; **\$10** at the door. Children and youth are *free*, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tickets will be sold during the fellowship time after Sunday morning services throughout February.

Proceeds benefit Hope Academy of Music and the Arts.

Students from Hope Academy's Musical Theater Workshop will perform, and there will be a few other surprises as well!

## Songs for the Journey

Join us **Sundays, Feb. 1 and 8**, after the 11 am, Sanctuary Worship, in the third floor Music Room.

The underlying theme lifts up the innumerable resources at our fingertips for enhancing and enriching our individual spiritual journeys.

Calling upon the resources and experience of spiritual "giants" of the past, as well as the light and wisdom of those closer in time, we'll build our own Global Positioning System to under gird our spiritual journeys.

No advance registration necessary. Just come on up and discover some new ideas for enriching your journey.

These two seminars will culminate in a grand congregational **Hymn-Fest** on **Sun., March 1**, at 1:15 pm, in the Sanctuary. It will feature the Chancel Choir, solo voices, organ, Jon Tyillian, Richard Szeremany and you – the singers of ELPC's congregation!

Mark your calendars for ELPC's Hymn-Fest on **Sun., March 1**, at 1:15 pm, following Chef Jay's lunch!

## Abitibi Paper Recycling Increases at ELPC



"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." We are called to be good stewards of earth's limited resources and recycling is one way of intentional stewardship. ELPC has significantly increased the tonnage of recycled paper in the past year.

- In 2007, the Abitibi bins were filled with almost 15 tons of recycled paper and cardboard.

- Through November 2008, the bins held 22+ tons of recyclable materials.

Congratulations! We can still improve by reducing the amount of disposable products we use while continuing to recycle those we must use.

God has provided for us in abundance. Let us all continue to develop new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

## Classes After Taizé Prayer

*The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer*

We will have a soup and bread supper, at 6 pm, prior to the Taizé Prayer services. A free-will offering of \$2.50 is appreciated. Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

### Feb. 4: To Be Announced

### Feb. 11: Contra Dancing, led by Daphne Anderson

Contra Dancing might be the rock and roll of the 19th century, but it's alive and well everywhere fiddle tunes are played! The moves are "called," but partners are in two long lines, instead of that complex geometric "square" shape! If you like to walk, you will enjoy Contra Dancing!

### Feb. 18: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Singing, led by Charles Anderson

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

### Feb. 25: Celebrations!

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

---

## Presbyterian Women

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

### Feb. 3: Horizons Bible Study

Please join us on **Tues., Feb. 3**, at 10 am, in the second floor parlor as we continue our study of Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor. Kay Shissler leads our discussion of "Enemies Become Neighbors" (Luke 10:25-37; 17:11-19). A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Mary Alice Lightle for more information, at **412.682.1504**. Prepare for your eyes to be opened, your heart to be lifted up and to praise God!

---

## Health Ministry

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

### Tai Chi at ELPC

Is cabin fever already getting to you? Need to get out and stretch a little? How about Tai Chi? ELPC is offering Tai Chi classes beginning on **Tues., Feb. 3**. Classes are held Tuesday at 10 am, and at 6 pm. Judy Crow will return as our instructor. A donation of **\$3/class** is requested. New students are encouraged to attend!

For more information, call Karla Ballou, at **412.441.3800 x34**.

### Diabetes Education Announcement

Do you know what diabetes is? Do you have an interest in bettering your daily lifestyle to reduce your risks? You're invited to join Duquesne University's School of Nursing for a three-part diabetes awareness and intervention workshop. Each workshop will last about 45-minutes, after Sunday worship.

### Feb. 1: Review basic diabetes education and awareness

### Feb. 8: Daily eating habits and how to modify your diet for your lifestyle

### Feb. 15: How exercise positively affects your body

The senior nursing students will be teaching an exercise routine that can be done at home. Come to as many sessions as you're able. Bring your family and friends, all are welcome! Keep your schedules clear and get a fresh start for the New Year!

# Housing Ministry

Emily Rosenthal, Chair of the Community Mission Committee

## Thank You, Housing Ministry

ELPC received a thank you letter from the Ballard family, a single mother with a young son, who became first-time homeowners this summer and moved into a home in Garfield with the support of ELPC and Open Hand Ministries (OHM). ELPC provides guidance, volunteers, client care and financial support to OHM along with Valley View P.C., The Open Door and ELDI. The Ballards are members of Valley View Presbyterian Church, and they'll receive continued care from their church as they complete their transition. A portion of the letter is below.

Dear ELPC,

Now that we are settled in, I can take the time to properly express our gratitude for ELPC's kindness and support. We are very happy to be new members of the Garfield community. We are members of Valley View Presbyterian Church, a church we love. The addition of Open Hand Ministries is a true gift to our community. Our lovely home is very well insulated and equipped with all energy efficient appliances. This is a blessing indeed - the cost of energy associated with living in a house was definitely a concern for us.

Thank you for supporting Open Hand Ministries' mission. My family is blessed to have the support of community leaders. When I learned about the many caring hearts that supported our goal of home ownership, I was definitely overwhelmed. This was, in all sincerity, a heart warming and humbling experience for us. Our journey to walk a righteous path has been greatly rewarded with a beautiful home and strong, new Christian relationships. We look forward to our first holidays, our first cook out, and many more blessed years to come. We send our deepest gratitude to ELPC for its kindness and generosity.

Always sincere,

Robin and Matthew Ballard



## Thank You, from WC&S of Greater Pittsburgh

Thank you so much for continuing to collect used cell phones at your location to donate to the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S). For each used cell phone that is collected, we can make up to \$50!

The money raised through our Cell Phone Collection Program allows WC&S to continue to offer free services to victims of intimate partner violence including: a 24-hour hotline; shelter for battered women and their children; legal, medical, and housing advocacy; individual and support group counseling for resident and nonresident women; and prevention education and training that includes a school-based violence prevention program.

By contributing to WC&S' mission, you are truly helping others as they embark on a very difficult life journey. If you have any questions, feel free to call Meredith Hayes, at **412.687.9017 x338**. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

**Reminder:** If you would like to donate your old cell phones, please drop them off in the church office.

## ELPC People

### Thanks

**club one sixteen** thanks those who provided meals this past fall: **Sherry Anderson, Damon Bethea, Ashley Birt, Sharon Birt, Carol Kirkpatrick, Nancy Klancher, Chuck Knoles, Judy Menk, Joyce Reese, Carolyn Russ, Kay Shissler, and Lora Turner.**

## Calling All Cooks!

**club one sixteen** is in need of volunteers to donate a meal for our youth at 6 pm, on Wednesdays. Dinner should serve 30, but feel free to sign up to bring a portion, or to sign up with some friends and prepare as a group.

Please call Pastor Heather, at **412.441.3800 x21**, or Gloria, at **x22**, for more information or to sign up.

## Men's Shelter Donations

In ELPC's commitment to the EECM Men's Shelter, the Deacons are collecting donations. While the need has remained consistent, donations have declined. We need your help!

Requested items for February are **razors, shaving cream, and deodorant**. Please drop these items in the basket located in the Highland Ave. hallway.

Your continued support in the form of donations and of prayer, for the Shelter and for the men who stay there, is greatly appreciated.

**COOPERATIVE**  
**East**  
**End**  
**MINISTRY**

## Food Pantry

The EECM Food Pantry provides food for people facing hunger in Pittsburgh.

ELPC continues to answer the call in the struggle against hunger, but we still need help. Donations may be left in the baskets located throughout the hallways. February's "Food for the Month" is **Mac and Cheese**.

The EECM Food Pantry is open from 1-3 pm, Mon.-Fri. For information on the many services EECM provides, please visit **www.eecm.org**.



**East Liberty Presbyterian Church**

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

[www.cathedralofhope.org](http://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.”*

## Black History Month Celebration

*Sun., Feb. 8, following the 11 am, Sanctuary Worship*

ELPC will host its annual Black History Month luncheon after the 11 am, Sanctuary Worship on **Sun., Feb. 8**. Traditional African-American fare will be served. A donation of **\$10/person** (\$6 for seniors and children 10 and under) is appreciated.

Call Karla Ballou to RSVP, at **412.441.3800 x34**. Volunteers are always welcome.

## Presbytery Convocation

*Thurs., Feb. 19, from 2-5:30 pm*

Beulah United Presbyterian Church (2500 McCrady Rd., Churchill) will host a special convocation convened by Pittsburgh Presbytery around the topic of religious freedom, titled **Our Freedom of Religion at Risk: A Presbyterian Crisis**.

Presentations will be given on the Westminster Assembly, freedom of conscience, and religious liberty. Speakers will include: Joseph Small, Mark Tammen, and others from our national church office.

All are invited to attend this unique, *free* event. Register online or through our church office by **Sun., Feb. 8**.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

*Sun., Feb. 22, following the 11 am, Sanctuary Worship*

Once a year, we gather as a congregation to review the previous twelve months and celebrate the plans God has set in motion for the coming year.

After the 11 am, Sanctuary Worship, on **Sun., Feb. 22**, we'll gather in the Social Hall for a meal, followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting. Members will review the annual reports, receive the 2009 budget, and elect officers as well as Nominating Committee members.

If you can attend this meeting and would like to reserve a lunch, call Kate, at **412.441.3800 x17**. The suggested donation for lunch is **\$5**.

**Reminder:** Email committee reports to Gloria, by **Sun., Feb. 1**.

## Ash Wednesday

*Wed., Feb. 25, at 12:15 pm*

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 25**, as we embark on a series of 40 days that culminates in the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter morning. It's a time for self-reflection, prayer, and a renewed commitment to doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.

Ash Wednesday worship service, including the imposition of ashes, will be held at 12:15 pm, in the Chapel.



**Offices Closed:** Church offices are closed on **Mon., Feb. 16**, for President's Day.