

December Services

Dec. 20: "Blue Christmas" 4 pm

If the holiday season is a time where losses and grief dominate over joys and laughter, find solace in a loving God at this special service.

The "Blue Christmas" service is a time of prayer and remembrance—lifting our sense of loss and sadness to the God who came near to us at Christmas in the Christ Child of Bethlehem. It's also a time to remember God's promise to be with us always, beyond the horizon of this life with its seasons of happiness and sadness.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship Services

• Family Service 5 pm, in the Sanctuary

Join us for a time of Christmas carols and a re-telling of the Nativity story, so that it can enliven the hearts of the youngest and oldest listeners.

• Candlelight Communion Service 11 pm, in the Sanctuary

Join us for a service filled with beauty, grace, and celebration as we remember the birth of Christ and welcome the dawn of Christmas morning through carols, readings, and the shared sacrament of communion. Special music begins at 10:45 pm.

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Worship 7 pm, in the Sanctuary

Welcome in the New Year with songs, meditations, prayer, and faithful hope! Worshipers are invited to gather in the Sanctuary Chancel for a special service to give thanks for the benefits of the year past and seek grace for the year to come. Communion will be shared, as will thoughts and reflections on this annual time of transition. Join us as we recall the faithfulness of God who is with us all the seasons of our life.

The Giving Tree



As we celebrate the miracle of the Christ child and all God's children, let this be a pleasant reminder that on **Sun., Nov. 29** and

Dec. 6, the Giving Tree will be set up near the Highland Ave.

entrance from 9:30–12:30 pm, and on **Wed., Dec. 2** and **9**, the tree will be near the entrance to Taizé from 6:45–8:15 pm.

All are invited to participate in this ministry by selecting a tag from the Giving Tree that contains a child's wish and particulars (like size), and leaving your information on the donor tag.

We ask that you honor your commitment by bringing wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, to ELPC by noon on **Sun., Dec. 13**. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, checks may be made payable to "ELPC Giving Tree," and given to one of the Deacons or delivered to the church office.

Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Ray Anthony/Clark Smith

Dec. 6* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 13 Michael Glass, Exec. Director,
Northside Common Ministries

Dec. 20 The Rev. Janice Rivers, Orr
Compassionate Care Center

Dec. 27 The Rev. Donald Dutton,
Honorably Retired
Presbyterian Minister

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Dec. 6* The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Dec. 13 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Dec. 20 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 27 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Dec. 6* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 13 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 20 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 27 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Koinonia Service of Praise

Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm

Dec. 13 Elder Kathleen Kyle

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 10 am–3 pm

Wednesdays • 10 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Save the Dates

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A Children's Festival Chorus
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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 Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain
Visitation Pastor

The Rev. Brian Diebold
Coordinator, Youth and Young Adult Ministry

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*

Christine March
Seminary Intern

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

Jon Tyillian
Associate Director of Music

Paul Martin
Supervisor of Security and Hospitality

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



Who wrote one of the most widely read Christian books in the first half of the twentieth century? Some suggest the answer is Evelyn Underhill, who wrote a book entitled *"Mysticism."* Evelyn Underhill (1875–1941) lived in England, and studied history and botany in school. In 1907, she converted to Christianity, and four years later completed her book on mysticism. Within a few years, she was a widely sought out lecturer and teacher, especially on matters related to the spiritual life. She used to say, "It is those who have a deep and real inner life who are best able to deal with the irritating details of outer life."

Underhill is remembered as a woman with a lively personality and a caring concern for others. She would spend her mornings writing and then use her afternoons to visit the poor and offer spiritual direction. She was fond of quoting St. Teresa of Avila, who had said "to give Our Lord a perfect service Martha and Mary must combine." (Read Luke 10:38–42) One scholar noted that she had a love of souls coupled with the determination to help them to grow at God's pace and not at their own or her own—a trait that won her the love and trust of all who went to her for guidance.

I mention Evelyn Underhill because I recently ran across a charming quote of hers. In her volume of published letters, she wrote to a friend these words: "I do hope your Christmas has had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter patter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next—but that after all is the idea!" As I think about the Advent and Christmas seasons now upon us, I know Ms. Underhill is exactly right. This time of year is meant to be a mixture of "this world and the next."

The language of Advent is saturated with images of "incarnation:" God becoming flesh in the infant Christ child; people sharing gifts in the spirit of the season; Christmas as a time of good deeds done for others. But what exactly is being "incarnated?" In a real way, it is something more than a moral idea to be nice to others or a vague spirit of goodwill that prompts acts of kindness. It is what Underhill has said it is—a mixture of this world and the next; a little touch of Eternity in the here and now.

We should not dismiss this idea as mere poetic language. The nature of an incarnate God means that God's eternal realm also is mixed up in this temporal realm. It means that we can glimpse eternity even though we live in the present age. Skeptical psychologists may tell us that we do good deeds for Christmas just because it makes us feel good. Critical biologists may argue that altruistic behavior is simply another desirable trait in the evolutionary equation of "survival of the fittest." But Christian faith insists that just as God dwelt in Christ, the eternal is incarnate in us through God's loving, redeeming grace.

We are "mixed up" people—flesh and spirit, a little lower than angels, children of God. Pay close attention to what you see and feel and experience this Advent and Christmas season. Eternity has never been closer at hand!

Randy Bush

Alternative Gifts

If you're looking for a life-changing gift that only you can give, please consider the **Be The Match Foundation**, a national registry that helps those with leukemia and other diseases find a match for bone marrow and stem cells. For details, please visit www.marrows.org or the Central Blood Bank at www.itxm.org. Your gift could bring joy and health to someone for many years!

Garfield Farm Garden and EECM are offering opportunities for alternative gifts giving that support programs in our community. Examples:

- **\$40** will provide three days of emergency food and supplies for a family in need.
- **\$30** will plant fruit trees. The fruit will go to the local community.

Brochures are available in the mobile in the east hallway or contact EECM at **412.361.5549** or Garfield Farm Garden at www.garfieldfarm.com.

Pledge Reminder

As we enter December, it's time to gently remind ELPC members to check their records to be sure that they are on target to fulfill their 2009 pledge by the end of the year.

At the end of the third quarter, we were ahead of our giving pattern in 2008; however, we were about \$27,000 below our anticipated pledge total for that point in the year.

All donations must be received and/or postmarked by **Thurs., Dec. 31**, to claim a charitable contribution deduction for the 2009 tax year. Checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2009 will be deductible in 2009, though they may not be received until 2010. Your assistance on this will be greatly appreciated.



Christmas Concert and Carol Sing

Sat., Dec. 19, at 4 pm

The musicians of ELPC and talented friends from the community will come together to present a special Christmas Concert and Carol Sing. This program will blend words, special music, and familiar carols into a holiday concert to be enjoyed by people of all ages. The handbell choir, adult choir, soloists, organ and piano music will be featured, along with readings that tell the inspirational "good news" of this time of year. Bring friends to this festive, holiday concert!

Christmas Caroling

Sun., Dec. 20

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry team is sponsoring a caroling event for all members of our ELPC family. Join us as we spread holiday cheer at area hospitals and nursing homes. Plan to meet at ELPC at 1:30 pm, and return by 3:30 pm, for cookies and cocoa. RSVP to Pastor Heather at **412.441.3800 x21** by **Wed., Dec. 9**.

Note: Youth and parents, please see details on page 5.

Retirement of Dr. J. Richard Szeremany

It was with sadness that the Session met on Nov. 10, and received news of the upcoming retirement of the Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, our Director of Worship, Music and the Arts.

It is impossible to summarize all the work and service Richard has provided over the years. He has completed over 15 years of ministry here at ELPC, serving as our organist, choir director, handbell choir director, and staff resource for the Worship, Music and the Arts Committee. He has also been a worship leader, preacher, workshop leader and teacher, counselor and compassionate pastor for many in our congregation.

Among the many highlights of Richard's ministry, two things in particular should be mentioned. He was the inspiration, guiding presence, and ongoing facilitator for the Hope Academy of Music and the Arts—now in its 11th year of ministry. He also was the vision-articulating, expert resource, and steadfast promoter of our recent organ renovation project, which brought to full glory the excellent Aeolian-Skinner/Goulding & Wood instrument in our sanctuary. Both of these legacies will carry on for years and shall combine with our memories of the innumerable musical highlights Richard provided in worship services and concerts.

The Session and Personnel Committee are in the process of making decisions on the steps ahead. It is anticipated that Richard will retire from his position on **Mon., Feb. 15, 2010**. A national search will be conducted for a new Organist/Director of Music. The initial steps in this search process will begin before the end of this year. Times of transition are seldom easy when they involve saying "farewell" to trusted, loyal, and committed leaders.

Please keep Richard and Muriel Szeremany in your prayers, as we celebrate their ministry among us and wish them "Godspeed" for the future.



Church School Classes

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am

We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. Adult options are detailed on this page; young adults on page 5. Senior High (grades 9-12) classes follow our denomination's *We Believe* curriculum. Junior High (grades 6-8) classes follow the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their lives. Children's classes (by age) include *Godly Play* and *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Classes Canceled

Church School classes will not meet on **Sun., Dec. 13**, so that everyone can enjoy our Christmas Pageant. Also, classes will not meet on **Sun., Dec. 27** or **Jan. 3**, as we take a break during the Holiday Season.

Winter Rally Day

Join us on **Sun., Jan. 10**, as we kick off the New Year with a light, potluck breakfast in the Social Hall, at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share. We'll then enjoy our first Intergenerational Church School hour, where persons of all ages will learn about the Epiphany through experiential interactive learning.

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

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

Dec. 6: The Inspiration of Youth *Led by Tim and Maria Engelhardt*

This House of God is graced by the spiritual energy of our youth. The young people who participate in our ministries provide inspiration to enrich our purpose and destiny as a congregation. Tim and Maria are ready to share their observations and insights regarding our youth becoming a positive barometer and reflection of our collective well-being as a church. **club one sixteen**, in particular, has registered a positive influence in the development of activities to benefit our community. Discover more information with Tim and Maria.

Dec. 20: Rekindle the Gift of God Within Me *Led by Brian Bonsteel*

Are you ready for an inspirational progress report? Like a candle awaiting a match, or a glowing ember awaiting a draft, our prayer is that God's spirit will blow over ELPC so that our faith will be ignited. Stewardship is about conscious acts of "rekindling," committing anew to lead lives of outward witness and inward faith, committing afresh to the discipline of providing financial resources to further the ministry of Christ through ELPC. Brian will encourage and challenge us to step forward in a proactive manner as we build a vibrant congregational life.

JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE *Facilitator: Jan Irvin*

Dec. 6: *Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79; Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3: 1–6*

Dec. 20: *Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 1:46b–55; Psalms 80:1–7; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45, (46–55)*

PARENTING CIRCLE *Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Anne Jackson*

Dec. 6: "Eat, Pray, Love"

Join us as we finish reading the "Pray" section of "Eat, Pray, Love," by Elizabeth Gilbert. We'll draw out themes that relate to our spiritual and family life.

Dec. 20: Join us for a special Christmas reading and discussion.

SEEKERS *Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

Dec. 6: Advent *Led by the Rev. Christiane Dutton*

Join us for an exploration of the seriousness and meaning of Advent.

Dec. 20: Gifts of the Season *Led by Carla Depperman*

We'll share music, readings, and art forms in celebration of the Christmas season.



Advent Crafts and Santa Shop

Sat., Dec. 5, from 10 am–1pm

In cooperation with Presbyterian Women's Santa Shop event, the Christian Education Committee is hosting Advent Crafts for families. The craft workshop will be set up in rooms 224 and 240, from 10:30–12:30 pm. Join us, as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Devotional material and crafts are available on Sunday mornings on the Christian Education table.

Children (ages 4–grade 5) may shop for gifts (from \$.50–\$4) and visit with Santa (pictures cost \$.50).

Note: Parents and older children are not permitted in the Santa Shop. Shoppers must be old enough to shop without a parent. Santa's Helpers will help choose and wrap gifts. Please send a list of the people for whom your child needs to purchase gifts.

Youth and Young Adult Events

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Our Wednesday Connection program includes *free* Hope Academy classes, snacks from Whole Foods, homework help, a simple supper for families in the McKelvey Room, and our Taizé service at 7 pm.

club one sixteen junior and senior *Youth in grades 1-12*

We meet in the Game Room at 6:30 pm, for a dinner prepared by an ELPC Member, then split into groups to enjoy an interactive Bible Study from 7–8 pm.

We'll continue to discuss the **Gift of Diversity** as we explore how we can identify our unique gifts and then work together as the Body of Christ.

Note: We'll not meet on **Wed., Dec. 16, 23, or 30** as both Hope Academy and **club one sixteen** take a break for the holiday season.

Junior High Service Project

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Service Project, where we'll purchase gifts for children who will be spending the holidays in foster care. After Pageant Rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 12**, we'll share a light lunch at 11:30 am, and go shopping. We'll wrap up our day at 3 pm.

Please RSVP to Pastor Heather by **Wed. Dec. 9**. A permission slip is required.

Christmas Caroling *Sun., Dec. 20*

Youth are required to bring a permission slip, and children in grades 5 and younger are asked to be accompanied by an adult. RSVP to Pastor Heather at **412.441.3800 x21** by **Wed., Dec. 9**. Please see page 3 for details.

Youth Basketball *Saturdays, from 5–8 pm*

Young men in grades 9–12 are welcome to participate in our basketball program in the ELPC gym.

Note: We will not meet on **Sat., Dec. 26**.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

We welcome all adults in their 20's and 30's (married, single, partnered, with or without children) to take part in our Young Adult Ministries. Find us on Facebook and MySpace, or come check us out in person!

Small Groups

Email Brian Diebold at bdiebold@pts.edu to see where you might fit in! Meet other people in your age group, and get involved with the life of our church!

Recycling Project Work Day *Sat., Dec. 5, from 1–5 pm*

We'll be building recycling stations under the direction of Bruce Pollock. Jobs will include assembly, cutting, and staining. No tools or experience necessary.

First Sundays at ELPC *Sun., Dec. 6, at 5 pm*

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor for a follow-up to our recycling service project.

Young Adult Holiday Fun *Mon., Dec. 21*

Together with the Young Adult group from Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church (led by Wil Forrest) we'll celebrate Christmas when we visit Phipps Conservatory and Hartwood Acres Celebration of Lights. We'll meet at ELPC at 6 pm, to carpool. Cookies and cocoa are included!

Hope Academy

Linda Adlespurger, Director

Upcoming Performances

Our Winter Concert on **Sun., Dec. 6**, at 3 pm, in the ELPC Sanctuary, will include students from Musical Theater, Voices of Hope, EL CEO and select instrumentalists and vocalists. The dress code for performers will be red on top and black on the bottom.

The final performance for the year will be at the Benedum on **Sun., Dec. 13**, prior to the 4:30 pm performance of *The Nutcracker* (we need to be there by 3:15 pm) and then during intermission. This will include HAT Co and our Voices of Hope select choir; plus solos/duets from the Winter Concert. All performers will receive free tickets for *The Nutcracker*; family members will be able to buy reduced-price tickets. The dress code will be red on top and black on the bottom.



HAT Co performs "Thriller" on Halloween at the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre

Calling All Young Artists

Join Michelle from Squonk Opera for free animation studio workshops. We will be using stop-action animation, drawings, and found object sculptural creations to develop an original music video by Hope Academy children in grades 1–3. The video will premiere during the Spring Music Festival in March, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, alongside a live musical performance by Hope Academy percussion and Voices of Hope students.

Sessions will run on Wednesdays from 4–5:45 pm, Jan. 13–Feb. 24.

Gearing up for the Winter Term, Squonk will be at Hope Academy on **Wed., Dec. 2 and 9**, from 4–5:45 pm, making masks and sculptures with any in interested students.

World Healing Day

Thurs., Dec. 31, from 6:45–8 am



Each year on December 31, men, women, and children around the world gather to participate in a global prayer activity—an affirmation

of peace, love, forgiveness and understanding involving millions of people in a simultaneous mind link.

The purpose is to unite people in a common bond of love, assist in bringing our planet into balance and usher in a new era of Peace on Earth.

Join us and add your love and light! The Labyrinth will be available in the Social Hall until 7 pm. For more information, call **412.571.1223**.

Health Ministry

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

Exercise Classes

Zumba Thursdays, from 6–7 pm

Led by LuAnn Ross, Zumba combines high-energy music with unique moves. Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the EECM food pantry.

Yoga Tuesdays, at 7 pm

Led by Yamuna, Yoga tones muscles, increases flexibility, detoxifies the body, increases joint lubrication, and massages organs. Donations are appreciated.

Tai Chi Tuesdays, time to be determined

Led by Judy Crow, Tai Chi helps reduce stress and increase energy, agility, and flexibility. Pre-registration is required.

Classes meet in the Sewing Room. Call Amanda Nolan at **412.441.3800 x34** for more information.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm. Enjoy a supper at 6 pm, in the McKelvey Room. We will not meet for class on **Wed., Dec. 23**.

Dec. 2: Stress: the Writing Response Led by Laurie Arnold

We'll use writing to reflect on the ways we are "enough" and the beliefs that distort our creative response to life.

Dec. 9: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Singing Led by Charles Anderson

Enjoy singing tunes in three- and four-part harmony from the oldest American song book in print. All tunes are taught one part at a time! Beginners welcome!

Dec. 16: A German Advent Hour

Join us as we sing songs and carols in German and English, and make Christmas stars. Please bring cookies to share!

Dec. 30: Celebrations!

Do you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in December? Write it down and put it in the collection plate! We'd like to celebrate with you!

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., Dec. 1: Horizons Bible Study 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor

Join us as we continue our journey through Joshua. Joan Heckel will lead our lesson, "The Land of Promise, or the Promised Land?" (Joshua 1:2-3, 10-15; 5:10-12). A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share along with your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Mary Alice Lightle at **412.682.1504** for details.

Sat., Dec. 12: Jail Caroling

As a reminder for those who've signed up, we'll leave ELPC at 11:30 am, and return around 4 pm. Call Mary Alice Lightle at **412.682.1504** for details.



Spiritual Life

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

Sun., Dec. 6: Structures of the Holy: From Romanesque to Gothic

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor at 12:30 pm, as Ron and Rebecca Cole-Turner discuss how the buildings that surround us shape the spiritual life within us? View the beauty of Romanesque and Gothic churches as we contemplate the architecture that calms and inspires. We'll look at and discuss photos from the Burgundy region of France, from Cluny to Vezeley.



Call Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17** for more information.

Stewardship Update

By Brian Bonsteel



Beth Bush brings forward Thanksgiving Bags on Stewardship Sunday 2009

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for their pledged commitment to ELPC and for their Thanksgiving offerings. You gave with "JOY!"

Building on momentum in recent years, Stewardship at ELPC has reached new milestones. As a healthy congregation, we choose to freely talk about money, and we have "rekindled" a church-wide commitment to fiscal sustainability through increased pledges and preservation of the endowment. With God's help, we're meeting the challenges before us.

Special thanks to all members of the Stewardship and Finance committees and staff who made the "Toward the Tithes" campaign possible. It's truly an honor to work with people so dedicated to our church's future.

Nurturing Orphaned South African Children

By Dick Headley

Several individuals and families at ELPC, including myself, have been involved with a unique mission experience for over a year. Infinite Family (IF) links Net Buddy Mentors in the U.S. with children in South Africa through voice chat and email. Most of these children lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. The sad reality is that in Sub-Saharan Africa, a parent dies every 14 seconds, 7.5% of population has HIV/AIDS, and there are 28 million orphans (equal to 1/3 of world's orphans). My hope is that some of you will consider becoming a Net Buddy Mentor.



IF has given me an opportunity to have a positive influence on a young person living in a country full of pain and sorrow. For nearly two years, I've been blessed to meet weekly for a half hour with a young man named Comfort (pictured). He is a bright spirit, both mischievous and shy, who is as unpredictable as any teenager. He wants to be a pilot, loves playing rugby, and is discovering girls. I strive to be attentive to his moods, and accept that he won't always show up on time or have much to say. In these and many other ways he has taught me that it's not about me, it's all about him, and that's the way it should be.

Currently, there are four sites in South Africa—the latest in Soweto—where IF cares for and educates children. As IF expands, it needs more trained mentors. Training is completed mostly online. There is a long waiting list of children eager to have a caring adult available to them on a regular basis—someone who listens, consoles, and encourages them. I would stress the importance of making this commitment a priority. It's our being there each week that counts more than what we say in our conversations. Assess your capacity for patience, especially with regard to the formation of your new relationship.

If you're interested in becoming a mentor, visit www.infinitefamily.org. Feel free to contact me at headley.r@comcast.net or **412.421.5871**, or I can connect you with other Net Buddy Mentors at ELPC. You also can email program director Dana Gold at dana.gold@infinitefamily.org.

A child in South Africa would love to meet you!

ELPC People

Good News

• Todd Hoffman and Debbie Brake are the proud parents of a baby girl! **Samantha Hope Hoffman** was born on Oct. 13, and weighed 8lb. 6 oz.

Prayers

- We are saddened by the recent death of member **Josephine Davis**. Please pray for her family and friends.
- Please pray for the family and friends of **Lynda Yenerall**, who recently passed away. Lynda was a friend of ELPC for seven years.
- Our prayers are with elder Kathleen Kyle and family over the sudden death of Kathleen's stepfather, **Ed Miller**.

EECM

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. December's "Food of the Month" is **Macaroni and Cheese**.

Men's Shelter

In ELPC's continuing commitment to the EECM Men's Shelter located in our church, the Deacons are collecting **gloves, hats, and socks** in December. We need your help!

Please drop donations in the hallway baskets. Your support in the form of donations and prayer is appreciated.

Knitting Group

Due to demand, we have added an extra session. Join us every third Thursday of the month from 1–2:30 pm, and/or the first Monday from 7–8:30 pm.

If you're interested in learning or sharing your skills, stop by or call Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021**.



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The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue
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www.cathedralofhope.org

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A Children’s Festival of Carols

Sun., Dec. 13, at 4 pm



The Bel Canto Choir of the Children’s Festival Chorus poses for a photo
Courtesy Madia Photography

Join us as the Children’s Festival Chorus presents its annual winter concert, *A Children’s Festival of Carols*. CFC’s three choirs will perform a variety of traditional songs including “Wassail Song,” “Sing We

Noel,” and “O Let the Merry Bells Ring.” The chorus also will lead audience members in a sing-a-long of seasonal favorites.

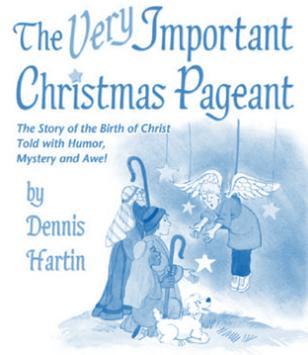
Tickets are **\$18** for adults; **\$16** for seniors, students, children and teachers. For tickets or details, visit www.proartstickets.org or call **412.394.3353**.

Christmas Pageant

Sun., Dec. 13, at 10 am, in the Social Hall

This year’s pageant is entitled: *The Very Important Christmas Pageant!* Join us as the children of our church tell us the very important news of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The children will enact the roles of sheep and shepherds; wise people and King Herod; donkeys and camels; Mary and Joseph; and of course, baby Jesus, to remind us of the important message of the holiday season: “That unto us a baby has been born—a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”



All Church School classes will be canceled on **Sun., Dec. 13**, so that everyone can attend. Children who will be performing in the pageant should arrive at ELPC by 9:30 am.

There’ll be a rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 12**, from 9:30–11 am. Light refreshments will be served in Rooms 224 and 227, after rehearsal.

Offices Closed: Church offices will be closed on **Fri, Dec. 25**, and **Mon., Dec. 28**, in observance of Christmas; and **Fri., Jan. 1**, in celebration of New Years.