

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

April 2011

Editor's Note

Each month, look for articles written by a member of our faith community. Articles are identified by a special symbol.



Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Bill Johnson and Clark Smith

April 3* Rev. Jennifer Haddox,
Associate Director of World
Mission Initiative

April 10 Katie Mohr, Seminary Intern

April 17 Rev. Dr. John Burgess,
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

April 24* Joint service with Journey at
8:45 am, in the Chapel

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

April 3* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

April 10 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

April 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

April 24* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

April 3* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

April 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

April 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

April 24* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Christiane Dutton

Resurrection

LaRoux Hopper, Deacon



Looking back, I can see how God made a way for me where there was absolutely no way; and that God has His hand on me when I did not even feel God was alive.

Following catastrophic circumstances, including the death of my beloved husband, the life I loved in South Florida came to an end. I returned to Pittsburgh, where my sister lives, but many years became a blur in time due to severe depression. With no health insurance, I was simply assigned doctors and therapists. But the Lord has His hand on each person I was assigned to; they each walked the extra mile with me—and still do.

Though I didn't want to be here, I decided to make one commitment to life in Pittsburgh, and I became a Friend at ELPC. The Labyrinth was a major healing tool for me as all I was capable of doing was put one foot in front of the other. Healing came slowly, and suffering changed into living once more. God gave me His "peace beyond all understanding."

After more than 15 years, God guided me to join ELPC as a Member and become a Deacon. Resurrection became a reality for me! God took me from among the "living dead" and gave me life that He wants me to live abundantly.

Thank you, Lord.



Worship During Holy Week and Easter

While the season of Lent is designed to help prepare us for the good news of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning, the week preceding Easter Sunday is a critical final chapter in this story of our Christian faith. It is one of the few times we focus intently on the Last Supper, the time of trial and rejection, and the painful crucifixion of our Savior. Holy Week is a sequence of events that allow us to walk beside the first disciples, imagining what it was like to live through those final hours

of confusion, anxiety and darkness. Having re-traced that sacred journey, we are better able to experience the fullness of grace and joy that Easter resurrection truly means.

Come walk the road to Jerusalem, Gethesemane, Calvary, and the garden tomb once more. Be with us as the palm branches are waved, welcoming the King and Son of David. Gather for reflective prayer on Wednesday and share in the Upper Room meal on Thursday. Friday, spend time

moving to darkness as the Light of the World is sealed in a borrowed tomb. Walk through the church with us on Saturday, as we keep the Easter Vigil by remembering the promises of our baptism faith and finding comfort in the first meal of Easter joy. Then, come with all the seekers, disciples and friends whose hearts will be lifted on Easter morning with the rallying cry, "He is risen indeed!"

For a listing of all the Holy Week services, see the article on **page 3**.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
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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. Brian Diebold
Coordinator, Youth Ministry

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Wil Forrest
*Coordinator, Young Adult Ministry and
Volunteers in Ministry Programs*

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*

Paul Martin
Facilities Manager

Katie Mohr
Seminary Intern

Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Music Director Emeritus

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 Thursday of the preceding month.

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



African-American preacher, theologian and mystic Howard Thurman (1900–1981) wrote a wonderful poem called “The Threads in My Hand.” It begins this way:

Only one end of the threads, I hold in my hand.

The threads go many ways, linking my life with other lives.

He goes on to describe how one thread is connected to the life of one who is sick, a thread needing to be held tenderly. Another thread comes from the hands of an old, old friend who, quite unintentionally, we have lost touch with and so that thread has slackened and fallen limp. A third thread is a tangled mess that won’t come right. It represents times of angry words, false starts and past mistakes—all disappointing events, but still things we hold onto; and so that thread is in our grasp as well.

Lent is the season for examining the threads we hold in our hands. It is a time to ponder the ties that bind us to one another. Some threads extend forth to family, young and old, or to friends, near and far. Some connect us to people who depend on us for support; others link us to people to whom we rely on in times of need. And some are a “tangled mess,” complicated and knotty, full of memories of regret, disappointment, and dark nights of the soul.

Thurman named a fourth thread, one that comes from a “high-flying kite [that] quivers with the mighty current of fierce and holy dreaming, invading the common day with far-off places and visions bright.” This is the thread linked to the best in the human spirit. It is that part of us that dreams dreams and dares to work for a better tomorrow, knowing that “hope is the thing with feathers” (Emily Dickinson).

But this aspirational thread is not enough. One more is needed, which Thurman describes in the poem’s final paragraph:

One thread is a strange thread—it is my steadying thread;

When I am lost, I pull it hard and find my way.

When I am saddened, I tighten my grip and gladness glides along its quivering path;

When the waste places of my spirit appear in arid confusion, the thread becomes a channel of newness of life.

One thread is a strange thread—it is my steadying thread.

God’s hand holds the other end.

The line from Lent to Easter is like God’s steadying thread of faith. Though one of the many threads we clutch in our hands, it is the one that leads us home when we are lost, lifts our spirits when we are sad, and brings us resurrection life when we encounter the shadow of death. This thread may seem fragile and strange at times, which it is, but its value comes solely from who holds the other end—the One who is with us always, who has promised to never let go. In that is our hope and our comfort and our Easter joy. Thanks be to God!

Randy Bush

Mission Opportunity



Families are invited to participate together on April 2. Read the VIM article on page 5 for more details!

ELPC's Neighbors Mission committee is sponsoring work days on **Sat., April 2** and **May 7**, in East Liberty and Garfield. We will work with our partners, Open Hand Ministries, Garfield Community Farm, and ELPC's Volunteers in Ministry. Projects range from interior demolition of an abandoned house, to landscaping and cultivation of plant beds. Age-appropriate tasks will be assigned, with adult supervision.

For more information please contact Emily Rosenthal at ejr116@gmail.com (412.963.0139) or the Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at PatriceFS@coh.net (412.441.3800 x30).

Strategic Vision Update

During the past month, good progress has been made on our congregational Strategic Vision process. Three Study Circle events have been held, which yielded lots of ideas and positive feedback.

Plan to attend the final Study Circle on **Thurs., April 14**, at 6:30 pm, as we discuss the role of our cathedral building as a place for worship and for nurturing all God's people. Then, mark your calendars to attend a special presentation of the final document following worship on **Sun., May 22**.

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 50 years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, by responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came so that all might have life more abundantly.

Please give generously to this offering when it is collected on Palm Sunday, **April 17**, and Easter Sunday, **April 24**.

Spring Blood Drive

Sun., April 17, from 8–11 am and 12–2 pm

The Health Ministry is sponsoring a blood drive on **Sun., April 17**, in honor of JoAnn Matthis who has been on ELPC's prayer list since December 2010 and is currently undergoing chemotherapy to combat leukemia.

Blood donors are the only source for patients in need of blood and blood products. Each blood donation can save up to three lives!

Help give the gift of life to someone in need. Call Kate Carlson, **412.441.3800 x17**, to schedule a time.



Holy Week Schedule

April 17: Palm Sunday

- Palm Procession with families as part of the 11 am Sanctuary worship service

April 20: Wednesday Taizé Sung Prayer

- 7 pm, in the Chapel

April 21: Maundy Thursday

- 7 pm, in the Sanctuary (communion)

April 22: Good Friday

- 12 pm, in the Chapel;
- 7 pm Tenebrae Service, in the Sanctuary

April 23: Saturday Easter Vigil

- 7 pm, beginning in courtyard (communion)

April 24: Easter Sunday

- 8:45 am, in the Chapel (communion)
- 11 am Sanctuary worship with fellowship time from 9:30–10:30 am, in Social Hall (communion)

Peace Committee Task Forces

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." – Matthew 5:9

The Peace Committee would like to engage the congregation in working with us to transform conditions and relationships that threaten peace.

Join us at our bi-monthly meetings and/or consider serving on a "Task Force" for a specific country, project, or event, if you cannot make a commitment to committee membership. We are currently focusing on Israel/Palestine, Pakistan, Malawi, Sudan, nuclear arms, local peace issues and interfaith relationships.

For details, contact Peta Harrigan Cole at **412.363.1876** or Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17**.

April Calendar Events—Full Details at www.CathedralOfHope.org and in the Weekly Bulletin and e-Flash.

Christian Education

Note: Classes will not meet on Easter Sunday, **April 24**.

Contemporaries Class

April 3–17: Discipleship: What We Can Learn from Dietrich Bonhoeffer Today, led by Rev. Dr. John Burgess, Professor of Systematic Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Journey with Scripture

April 3: 1 Sam. 16:1–13; Ps. 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

April 10: Ezek. 37:1–14; Ps. 130; Rom. 8:6–11; John 11:1–45

April 17: Is. 50:4–9a; Ps. 118:1–2, 19–29; Phil. 2:5–11; Mt. 21:1–11

Parenting Circle

April 3–10: Book Discussion – *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott
April 17: Sharing Joys and Concerns

Seekers

April 3: Evolution Today (Part 2 of 3), led by Ron Cole-Turner, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

April 10: Coptic Christians as a religious minority in Egypt (Part 2 of 2), led by Dr. Youseff Ragheb, Professor of Middle East and Coptic History at the Univ. of Pittsburgh

April 17: Evolution Today (Part 3 of 3)

Soul Food

April: Little Easters, using the book *Fresh Bread*

Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español

Nos reunimos cada semana para descubrir lo que la Biblia nos dice. Por favor únete a esta jornada con nosotros. Nos reunimos cada domingo de 12:30–1:30 en el cuarto No. 343. Todos están bienvenidos (**all are welcome**), y la clase está en español.

Young Adult Ministry

Join us as we examine the last week of Jesus' life using the Gospel of Mark and Marcus Borg's book, *The Last Week*. Please read Mark to prepare.

Sun., April 3: "Palm Sunday" – "Maundy Thursday"
At 12:30 pm, in the Pastor's Conference Room (lunch provided)

Wed., April 13: "Good Friday" and "Holy Saturday"
At 8 pm, in Room 234

Sat., April 23: "Easter Sunday" and "Today"
At 5 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor (potluck dinner)



Pictured left to right: (back row) Matthew Anderson, Bruce Pollack, Wil Forrest, Charlie Meyers, (front row) Dwayne Elliot, and Beth Martin

Youth Ministry club 116

Our new schedule begins on **Wed., March 30**:

- **3:30–4:30 pm:** Snacks, Crafts, Open Gym
- **4:30–5:45 pm:** Bible Study
- **5:45–6:30 pm:** Dinner and Closing Prayer

Notes: We will not meet on **Wed., April 20**. Our last **club 116** for the season will be **Wed., May 11**.

Youth Basketball

There will be no basketball on **April 23**.

Senior High Mission Trip to New Orleans

This year's Mission Trip is to New Orleans, from **Sun.–Sat., July 17–23**. RSVPs and a non-refundable **\$50** deposit are due by **Tues., May 31**. Check the website and youth calendar for full requirements.

Presbyterian Women

Tues., April 5: Journeys Through Revelation

Join us at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor as Judy Menk leads our study of Revelation 17–18, **The Empire Has Fallen! Evacuate Now!** A potluck lunch follows. Beverages and soup are provided. Bring a side to share and your own place setting. Call Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** for details.

Spiritual Life

First Sunday Event – Mood Changes as we Grow
Sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee

Join us on **Sun., April 3**, as we hear Dr. Lanza Di Scalea talk about mood changes in women throughout their life span. Dr. Lanza Di Scalea is a psychiatrist and a scholar in neuroscience. She will share her insights and discoveries on mood changes occurring in women during reproductive events and specifically during menopausal transition in midlife.

Refreshments and child care will be provided.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

Note: During the Lenten season, classes will not meet, but please join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm for the Taizé service.

Wed., April 27: Celebrations!

Exercise Classes

- **Yoga** Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm
- **JourneyDance** Fri., April 8, from 7–8 pm

Call Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17** for details.

Haikus for Lent, Writing, and the Resurrection

By Liberty Hultberg



Lent is a time to go inside ourselves and wait for the dawn. We make space in our lives to contemplate Christ's sacrifice in the wilderness and prepare for the new beginning he delivered us through the cross. In my life, as a writing instructor and freelance editor, it often means carving out more time for what I truly love: to write. For me, the act of writing involves going inside, closing the door, and listening for God, as I am totally dependent on Him for inspiration. It is like this haiku poem I wrote recently:



Like breath on windows
Dawns the still, small voice inside...
A writer's muse speaks.

Yet, truly the best part of Lent is, no doubt, the end of it. Here we celebrate Christ's death on the cross, the promised rainbow our faith is built upon. In Pittsburgh, Easter coincides with the beginning of spring—nature's perfect symbol of new birth. On resurrection day, we fling wide those doors and shout with praise, for we are risen, like icicles turned fresh water, like new flower blooms, like our savior.

Frozen, earth sleeps mute.
Arise, green shoot! Lily, king—
Winter's end is here.

May you live your Lenten haiku this year: after quiet contemplation and sacrifice, arise, make a joyful noise, and be made new.

Volunteers in Ministry *By Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*

Your family is invited to ELPC's Family Volunteer Day! If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity in our church or neighborhood that is appropriate for your entire family, join us on **Sat., April 2**, from 8:30 am–3 pm, or for any amount of time you can. Read the Mission Opportunity article on **page 3** for more details.

While most groups will work with the Neighbors Committee and our community partners, we will have some families stay at ELPC to do important projects. Age-appropriate tasks will be assigned, with adult supervision.



We appreciated helping someone in our own neighborhood with a move in the East End Blitz a few years ago, and over the years, we have liked the feeling of preparing meals together, whether for the men's shelter, the club 116 kids, or McKelvy Room soup on Wednesday nights. While it's hard to find time to serve together in these ways, we always feel happy when we finally put it together. We have some photos: moving furniture with church friends and smiling. Memories of volunteering together, and with others, are very special. We know our family is bigger than just us.

– Sophie, Nancy, and Maya Klancher, ELPC members and volunteers (pictured left to right)

Session News

At a recent Session meeting:

- The elders heard updates on the Strategic Vision process, with the final report being presented to the congregation on May 22
- Made preparation to receive the second class of new members & friends in 2011
- Celebrated the recent visits of Rev. Rick Otty and the PC(USA) Moderator Cindy Bolbach
- Reviewed plans for the ordination and installation of new officers (May 22) and confirmation of youth (June 12)

Session will not meet in April.

He Qi Exhibit

Currently on display in Room 234 and the Second Floor Parlor are works by noted Chinese artist He Qi. One room displays works from Old Testament stories, while the other contains images from New Testament scriptures.

Some of He Qi's works will be featured throughout Holy Week and Easter as part of our worship services. Arrangements are being made to bring the artist to ELPC this month for one or two presentations on his work. For more information, visit ELPC's website and read the bulletin announcements.



Pictured above is He Qi's painting, *The Empty Tomb*.



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Junior Choir Visits

The Junior Choir (grades 3–6) from Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, N.Y., will be our special musical guests during our 11 am worship on **Sun., April 3**. ELPC youth in grades 4–8 will be joining the Rochester Choir to sing a special selection. For more information, contact Dr. Ed Moore.

We look forward to the Junior Choir leading worship through their singing and handbell ringing!



The Third Presbyterian Junior Choir visited ELPC several years ago.

Easter Lily Orders

You are invited to have Easter lilies placed in the Chancel for the 11 am Easter Sunday Service on April 24, or to make a monetary donation to the EECM Food Pantry.

Following the service, the flowers may be picked up by the donors for their own use. The names of those honored and memorialized will be printed in a special bulletin insert.

Plants are **\$10** (in a 6½” pot). Check the weekly bulletin for an order form. **Orders must be received by Palm Sunday, April 17.**

Save the Dates

Sun., June 5: Young at Heart Luncheon

The Young at Heart Luncheon will begin at 12:30 pm, in the Social Hall. Check the May *Reaching Out* for more details.

Mon.–Fri, June 27–July 1: Vacation Church School

ELPC invites children (age 3½–grade 5) to join us **Mon.–Fri, June 27–July 1**, from 9 am–3 pm. This year’s theme is “Taste and See: God is Good.”

Note: Registration forms for campers and for volunteers are available on the CE table in the second floor and on the website.

The ELPC office will be closed all day on **Mon., April 25**, for the Easter Holiday. The office will reopen on **Tues., April 26**.