

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: Leila Richards and Clark Smith

May 1* Rev. Henk Bossers
 May 8 Rev. Dr. Barbara McFarland
 May 15 To Be Announced
 May 22 Brother James Avant
 May 29 Rev. Miriam Chamberlain

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

May 1* Katie Mohr
 May 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 May 15 *See Jazz Worship Article*
 May 22 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 May 29 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

May 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 May 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 May 15 *See Jazz Worship Article*
 May 22 Youth Sunday
 May 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Holy Ground Service

Third Sunday, May–November • 6 pm
Held in the Chapel
 May 22 Rev. Tami Hooker

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm
 Rev. Christiane Dutton

Hope Academy Parent Volunteer Committee

We are in the planning stages of forming a new Parent Volunteer Committee for 2011–12. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with us, please call Norma Meyer at **412.441.3800 x11!**

Jazz Worship and Church Dinner



A special Jazz Worship service will be held on **Sat., May 14** at 5 pm, for two good reasons. First, the route of the annual Pittsburgh Marathon (May 15) will make it impossible for us to offer morning worship services at 8:45 and 11 am. Second, we are excited to welcome the talented Etta Cox, who will perform as part of a special worship service. Ms. Cox is well-known in the Pittsburgh area, and will be performing selections that highlight the intersection between faith and jazz music.

A potluck dinner will be held in the Social Hall following worship. There also will be activities for individuals and families. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special worship service and fellowship meal.

Our Trip to Malawi

By Elder Florence L. Johnson



One is never too old to gain a lasting, first impression. Justin and I have been privileged to have visited Ghana, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya, and Zimbabwe over the span of many years. Each time, we were in the role of "tourist." We now have the opportunity to visit Malawi, a country with which ELPC has close ties, as did Bethesda Presbyterian Church while we were members there. We look forward to being accepted, not as tourists, but as family, as members of God's family of believers.

Over the years, we have been honored to host numerous Malawians in our home. Of course, this could not provide the understanding and enlightenment that comes from being in the midst of a culture so different from our own. Because of the long partnership between Pittsburgh and Blantyre presbyteries, we know and believe the message which Paul sent to the church in Corinth in his First Letter. While the gifts we bring may vary from those of our Malawian sisters and brothers, we worship and give honor and glory to the same Lord. Paul teaches us—and it becomes more manifest in our still-developing bonds with our African sisters and brothers—that it is by one Spirit that we all were baptized into one body.

We depart for Malawi knowing that we will learn so much more, and be enriched to such a greater extent, than anything we might bring to our friends in Malawi. Knowing that our sisters and brothers here at ELPC and in the Presbytery will be praying for our welfare and success, we look forward to this part of our Christian journey with confidence, humility and hope. Truly, God is good! All the Time!

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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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



How you tell a story can make all the difference in the world. For example, imagine you are at a dinner party and a question arises about fairness and justice in today's world. No one disagrees with those values in principle; we all want to be treated fairly and we want society to function in a just manner. But someone tosses out a follow-up question: "Is it fair for the wealth in America to be concentrated in the hands of the few?" Having just endured the annual ritual of mailing in our taxes, many will quickly respond that it isn't fair for some to have so much while so many are struggling to get by. Others will worry that such talk sounds undemocratic and dangerous.

At this point, the dinner party conversation begins to divide the room into two factions. Some argue that fixing this problem is a matter of moral principle and ethics; others argue that any form of income redistribution is an unjust, unethical proposition. One side will quote the old maxim, "For each according to ability, to each according to need"; the other side will argue "From each only as they choose, to each only as they are chosen." Enforced fairness vs. capitalist freedom: Is there any way to bridge this divide?

I would mention two possibilities. First, the hypothetical conversation described above became problematic as soon as a few "loaded" phrases were tossed out, such as "income distribution" and "each according to need" (which will inevitably evoke Karl Marx's name and risk being dismissed as dangerous, socialist rhetoric). Any conversation about fairness and justice in America needs to be grounded in real experiences. This newsletter issue has a special theme related to mission, such as mission partnerships with Malawi or mission trips to the Gulf Coast region. Before we move to language about redistributing income or wealth imbalances, it is important to have a case study before us. Consider the victims of Hurricane Katrina still struggling to get their lives back in order. What is fair and just for them? Is the correct and adequate amount of resources available to them to do what is right and humane and faithful?

Second, we are in the season immediately after Easter. It is that marvelous period when Jesus appeared to men and women as the resurrected Lord. He came into locked upper rooms, when the disciples were afraid for their lives and still grieving how they had abandoned their Lord. Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus and appeared on a Galilean beach to share breakfast with people who had betrayed and deserted him just days before. By worldly standards, Jesus' behavior does not seem fair; rather it is exceptionally generous. He takes the initiative to make amends, to offer hope, to heal lingering wounds, to comfort the grieving, to restore friendship and trust and community.

How you tell the story does make all the difference. If our dinner conversations or political debates are on the topic of fairness and justice, then let's not be afraid to begin with the examples at the heart of our Christian faith. Let's think of ethics and moral rights, not from the perspective of Harrisburg or Washington first, but from the perspective of Emmaus, Galilee, and the Jerusalem upper room. As Christ took the initiative, so should we do the same for others in need. That's a central part of the Easter good news and what we are called to *re-present* to a broken and hurting world.

Randy Bush

May Events and News

Mission Opportunities

Sat., May 7 and June 6

ELPC's Neighbors Mission committee is sponsoring work days with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm. No special skills are needed. All ages are welcome!

ELPC also is sponsoring a volunteer cookout on an upcoming work day. If you are not interested in a hammer or dirt, help us serve lunch!

For details, call Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or the Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30**.

First Aid and Defibrillator Class

Sat., May 7, from 9 am–12 pm

The ELPC Health Ministry is sponsoring a *free* class on basic first aid for parents and young adults. Proper use of a heart defibrillator also will be demonstrated.

To register, call Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17** by **Wed., May 4**. Child care can be arranged.

Mother's Day Bake Sale

Sun., May 8, before and after 11 am worship

The ELPC Landscape Team is hosting a bake sale to help cover costs for landscaping items. Join us in the McKelvey Room for this special fellowship time and delicious treats. Coffee and tea will be served.

The Landscape Team will be on hand to answer questions and sign up volunteers.



Youth Sunday

Sun., May 22

ELPC youth will write prayers for our liturgy, select music, and lead our 11 am worship! In addition, our graduating seniors will share their faith stories.

We also will ordain and install our new officers during this service. Please join us for this special day!

Strategic Vision Presentation

Sun., May 22, following worship

After meetings, retreats, and a series of congregational study circles, the ELPC Strategic Vision report is ready to be presented to the congregation.

This document adds a new chapter to the work begun by the 1993 Strategic Plan, and reflects our best efforts to discern where God is leading our congregation as we approach our 200th anniversary in 2019. It presents both reflection on where we are now and aspirational language on where we hope to go in the immediate future, listing our current resources and strengths as well as ongoing needs and challenges. It will help our Session establish priorities for the coming year's budget and programs.

Your input throughout this long process has been invaluable and your attendance at the presentation of the Strategic Vision will be much appreciated.

A Musical May at ELPC

John Schwandt Performs Sun., May 1, at 4 pm

The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh presents John Schwandt. Dr. Schwandt is director of the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma. The first half of his performance will feature a variety of music, while the second half will utilize the ELPC organ to create the accompaniment for two silent films to be projected on a screen in the chancel!



The Mendelssohn Choir Returns Sun., May 15, at 3 pm

The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh returns to ELPC for a performance of Johannes Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. Unlike the text of the traditional Latin Requiem, Brahms assembled texts to be sung in German. Whereas the Catholic Requiem Mass focuses on prayers for the dead, Brahms' work focuses on the living.



Dr. Ed Moore's Debut Recital Sun., May 22, at 4 pm

Dr. Ed Moore will present his debut recital as ELPC's new Organist/Music Director. Among a variety of compositions chosen to display the colors available on the ELPC organ, Dr. Ed will be premiering a new toccata for organ composed specially for this recital by Washington, D.C. organist and composer Marvin Mills.



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

Christian Education

Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am, unless otherwise noted. We will not meet on **Sun., May 15.**

Contemporaries Class *Second Floor Parlor*

May 1: They Have Forgotten God

Led by Katie Mohr

May 8: The Road Called Ministry

Led by the Rev. Phil Jamison

May 22: My Sugar Daddy

Led by Cynthia Roberts

May 29: Give Me Your Tired and Poor:

U.S. Immigration Policy

Led by Wil Forrest

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

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

May 8: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Ps. 116:1–4, 12–19;
I Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35

May 22: Acts 7:55–60; Ps. 31:1–5, 15–16;
I Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

May 29: Acts 1:1–11; Ps. 47; Eph. 1:15–23;
Luke 24:44–53

Parenting Circle *Harambe Room*

May: Parenting Then and Now!

Seekers *Room 234*

**May 1: Constructing Christian Identities, One
Canaanite Woman at a Time**

May 8, 22, and 29: Sexuality and the Sacred

Soul Food *Pastor's Conference Room*

May: Growing with God (*using Fresh Bread*)

Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español *Room 343*

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. Todos están bienvenidos (**all are welcome**), y la clase está en español.

Young Adult Ministry

Sat., May 7: First Aid and Defibrillator Training, *from 9 am–12 pm*

Sign up with Wil to participate in this free training. For more information, read the article on page 3.

Wed., May 11: Walk and Worship, *from 5:30–8 pm*

We will begin by serving a healthy dinner to **Club 116** youth. Then, we will engage our bodies and minds in worship as we move our bodies walking the labyrinth and stir our souls as we pray at Taizé.

Sat., May 28: Outdoor Adventure, *from 11 am–3 pm*

We will meet at ELPC and travel together to Moraine State park for a day of fun, biking, hiking, canoeing, etc. The day will be ours to do as we wish!

Youth Ministry

club 116

We will meet on **Wed., May 4** and **11**. Please join us for a cookout on May 4. Once again, the Sr. High group will wrap up our time together with an affirmation circle as we celebrate the gift God has given to us in our community.

Youth Basketball

The last day of youth basketball will be **Sat., May 14**.

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**, so that we can reserve our spots and book our flights. Check the website and youth calendar for full requirements.

Presbyterian Women

Tues., May 3: Journeys Through Revelation Concludes

Join us at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor as the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf leads our study of **Journey into the New Jerusalem** (Revelation 21–22). 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.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm, following our Wednesday Taizé prayer service

Wed., May 4: Sing in the May

We will sing German folk songs (in German and English). You may bring spring or summer songs from your tradition. Dr. Ed Moore will join us on the piano.

Wed., May 11: Flying in a Small Airplane is a Spiritual Experience?

Led by Jim Cover

Wed., May 18: Music on the Labyrinth

Led by Charles Anderson

Wed., May 25: Celebrations!

Exercise Classes

- **Tai Chi** *Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm*
- **Yoga** *Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm*
- **JourneyDance** *Fri., May 13, from 7–8 pm*

We encourage you to wear comfortable clothing that allows for a full range of motion. Call Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17** for details.

He Qi's Visit and First Sunday Event

Chinese-Christian artist He Qi, whose artwork is on display in our church in Room 234 and the Second Floor Parlor, will be our guest from April 27–May 1. He will discuss his work and share his fascinating story on three occasions: at an After-Taize program on **Wed., April 27** (8:15 pm); a special reception on **Fri., April 29** (7–9 pm), and Spiritual Life's First Sunday Event on **Sun., May 1** (12:15 pm).

For more information, visit our church website.

The Waveland-4's Gulfport Mission Trip

By Liz Hopkins

The Waveland-4, as we called ourselves—Carol Hoehn, Jon Nelson, Laura Ristau, and me—traveled by bus with 27 others from Pittsburgh churches to Waveland, Miss., in March. Comradeship grew quickly, and we discovered our fellow *missionaries* to be generous, loving, and committed. We also met 20 college students from Black Hills University in South Dakota, who gave up their spring break for this mission trip. They were inspiring.

We worked at local homes to clear brush, put up fences, and move storage sheds. We also worked at Freedom Hall in Gulfport. Freedom Hall is a former warehouse building purchased by the Christian Missionary Alliance to provide a coffee shop, worship location, recreation, and training center for Gulfport. We painted, installed electrical service, dry-walled, and installed a kitchen area.

We spent the week working and finding fellowship. There were prayers for local residents still suffering loss as a result of Katrina; prayers for those suffering in our midst; prayers for those suffering from Japan's earthquake and tsunami; and prayers for Rony—a Haitian and member of Beulah Presbyterian Church on this mission trip who had lost his 18-month-old daughter in the earthquake and whose wife is still living in a camp in Haiti, currently unable to get to the U.S. It was a week's exercise in seeing Christ in each other, and trying to do as we are asked to do—love each other and walk humbly with our God.

Three of the Waveland-4 had not previously been on a mission trip, but we agree we'd do it again to experience the joy of fellowship and do work worth doing!



The National Drive to Fix Gun Checks

For criminals, drug abusers and other dangerous people, buying a gun without a background check is far too easy. The National Drive to Fix Gun Checks has been raising awareness and rallying support.

The ELPC Peace and Justice committees are working to close the background check loopholes. It is time for Congress to fix the flaws in our gun laws. Please join us after worship on **Sun., May 29** for a letter writing campaign.

Volunteers in Ministry

By Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator

ELPC is made up of many different kinds of families who serve. What gifts does your family have to share? Now is the time to get involved! Contact Wil Forrest for details!



Session News

At the recent Session meeting:

- Elders met with the current confirmation class and approved them for membership, as well as received another group of seven new members and friends.
- The incoming class of Elders and Deacons were examined and approved for ordination and installation in their elected offices as part of worship on Sun., May 22.
- Special thanks were extended to the following elders and deacons, who have completed their terms of service:
 - Deacons: **Deborah Brower, Karen Fraser, Diane Jackson, Jon Nelson, Libby Parker, Carol Chonoska, Anthony White, and Eric Harkema.**
 - Elders: **Damon Bethea, Donald Breitbarth, Mark DeWitt, Frances Irvin, Kathleen Kyle, Julianne McAdoo, and Seldon Whitaker.**

ELPC People

Good News

- Congratulations to **Marite Golz**, who recently graduated from Bidwell Training Center in Culinary Arts.

Thanks

- ELPC youth would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts for the 30-Hour Famine. Over 30 youth fasted to raise money for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Together, we raised over **\$860!**
- The Neighbors Mission committee thanks all the volunteers that joined us in March and April for work and fellowship: **Mike Anderson, Diana Armstrong, Earl Bartnik, Elaine and Joshua Bellin, Dale Fitzpatrick, Suzy Flynn, Becky Gloninger, Joanne Goodall, Callie Gropp, Carol Hoehn, Jack Jessup, Nancy and Sophie Klancher, Jon Nelson, Diane Reckless, Jim Russ, and Amy and Drew Simpson.**



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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.”

Mother's Day Cards

This year, honor your mother or a woman in your life with a specially-designed Mother's Day card to support Healthy Women Healthy Families, a program of the PC(USA)'s International Health and Development office.

Your donations for Mother's Day cards will help safeguard and improve the lives of women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi and Southern Sudan. This project supports malaria prevention, health education, primary care, health screenings and immunizations for children; as well as obstetrical care, fistula surgery and cervical cancer screening for women.

Mother's Day cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and are available following 11 am worship on **Sun., May 1**, or from Kate Carlson in the church office during the week.

The ELPC office will be closed on **Mon., May 30**, for the Memorial Day Holiday. The office will reopen **Tues., May 31**.

VCS 2011: Taste and See!

Mon.–Fri, June 27–July 1, from 9 am–3 pm

Kids, age 3 ½ (having turned 3 by Jan. 1, 2011) through Grade 5 are invited to come to ELPC and “taste & see that God is good!” We will explore Biblical stories in which God uses food to show God's people about God's love and faithfulness. These Bible stories will teach us to care for all of creation out of obedience and love for God and for others. We will enjoy worship, Bible Study, crafts, recreation, and special activities, including an afternoon at Squaw Valley Park.

VCS Volunteers Needed

Whether you can help for three hours or the whole week, your gift of time is welcome! We need volunteers to serve as: teachers and helpers; and also in the craft, recreation, snack, and special events areas.

All adult volunteers must have their Act 33/34 Clearances (ELPC will gladly pay for your clearances) and receive training on our Child Safety Policy.

Youth in grades 6–12 also are invited to serve! Youth volunteers are required to attend training in early June.

One More Way to Help

If you would like to help, but are unable to volunteer, there is one more way you can help! We will have a donation bulletin board located outside the East Transept of the sanctuary on **Sun., May 22, 29, and June 5**. Take a tag that lists a supply or snack and return the items by the appointed date.

Note: Registration forms for kids and volunteers are available on our website, the CE bulletin board, and the Second Floor CE table.