

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

August 2013

Editor's Note

This month's theme is *Into All The World*. Look for articles related to this theme, identified by this symbol.



A Journey to Bolivia

by the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy



After 22 hours of travel and layovers in Miami; Lima, Peru; and Santa Cruz, Bolivia; the Bolivian 7—Beth Bush, Gwen Puza, Laura Ristau, Emily Rosenthal, Patrice Fowler-Searcy, and PTS students Alan Olson and Melanie Timbers—arrived in Bolivia and witnessed the beauty and majesty of the snow-capped Andes Mountains.

Greeted at the airport by Chenoa Stock, ELPC member and

UMAVIDA/Joining Hands mission co-worker, we were happy to arrive and see a friendly and familiar face. Winding our way along the road through El Alto, we were awestruck by the city of La Paz and the density of the adobe buildings, which are situated in a valley (pictured).

Needless to say, we were not prepared for all that we would witness, the people we would have the privilege and honor to meet, or for the work that God is doing in the lives of people of Bolivia. The various UMAVIDA/Joining Hands partner ministries are making a difference in the lives of children, women, men and communities, by providing support, instruction, care and direction. Over ten days, we traveled to five cities (La Paz, Sucre, Potosi, Huanani and Oruro) and our eyes were opened to the plight of our Bolivian brothers and sisters, our ears heard their stories, and our hearts were blessed by their resilience, fortitude and hope for a brighter future.

We were honored to walk along side Bernardino in the silver mine at Potosi (from the film, *The Devil's Miner*, shown at ELPC on July 28), to listen to children sharing stories of planting and harvesting in the greenhouse, to witness the devastation of the river and community as a result of the tin mining in Huanuni, to break bread with the women and men of Nueva Jerusalem Iglesia, and we were transformed by the experience of being present for the 5,521st Aymara celebration of the rising of the New Year's sun over the Andes (June 21 marks the start of the winter solstice).

We are encouraged by the commitment and dedication of Chenoa, and the UMAVIDA partners. In future articles, the work of some of the mission partners will be highlighted. Truly God took us, kept us and we have returned to share what God is doing in Bolivia. Stay tuned!

Sunday Morning Services

* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Ray Anthony

- Aug. 4* Rev. Chad Collins, *Pastor, Valley View Presbyterian Church*
- Aug. 11 Lindsay Hargrove, *Coordinator, After-Care Jail/Prison Ministry*
- Aug. 18 Dave Stewart, *Co-Director, Caregivers Institute*
- Aug. 25 Sara Hackett, *Coordinator, ELPC Christian Education and Youth Ministry*

Courtyard Worship • 10 am

Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting. Indoor seating is available in the Third Floor Music Room.

- Aug. 4* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Aug. 11 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
- Aug. 18 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Aug. 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Christiane Dutton



ELPC Receives Oikocredit Award

ELPC will receive the Oikocredit USA Faith and Global Justice Award. Pastor Bush, Rev. Fowler-Searcy, and Marva Harris will represent our church and accept the award at the national investor's summit to be held in Washington, D.C., from Sept. 5–6.



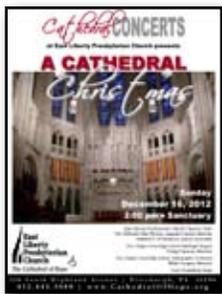
This newly established award recognizes a church or faith community that

has consistently supported Oikocredit and is firmly committed to socially-responsible investments that provide capital to low-income communities around the world.

Oikocredit provides microloans and development loans to global partners around the world, offering a modest two percent return to investment partners. ELPC has over \$550,000 invested with Oikocredit and is the largest Presbyterian congregation supporter of this worthwhile organization.

A Cathedral Christmas Available on DVD!

DVDs of the Dec. 16, 2012, presentation of *A Cathedral Christmas* are now available for **\$20** each.



Please contact Norma Meyer at Norma@coh.net or Dr. Ed Moore at EdM@coh.net if you would like to purchase a copy.

Cornelius and Shauna's Mission Work in Sarajevo

Last month, ELPC commissioned Cornelius and Shauna Frantz as they prepared to leave for a three-year assignment to Sarajevo, Bosnia/Herzegovina. They will be part of a faith-based presence in the city, working in partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee. Both Cornelius and Shauna have been active colleagues in ministry at ELPC through Cornelius' work at the Men's Shelter and Garfield Community Farm, and Shauna's service as a deacon.



Continue to keep them and all our mission co-workers—such as Chenoa Stock in Bolivia, and those who are in the Middle East—in your prayers.



Continuing to Build Friendships, Trust and Faith *by Henk Bossers*

Last year, Hurricane Sandy struck a wide stretch of the East Coast, leaving an enormous path of destruction. As part of the recovery process, members of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church, in Point Pleasant, N.J., transformed their Fellowship Hall into a staging area for volunteer mission workers for the next few years.



I, along with ELPC members Carol and JoAnn Chonoska, joined 12 other volunteers at the church for a week of mission work from June 30–July 5.



The work crew at our house site had seven volunteers. On our first day, we laid out a cedar shake pattern for the house. Over the next few days, our group was able to install the shakes up to the second floor window, and put in drywall.

The other volunteers split their time on five other houses. They painted, removed debris, cut down trees, cleaned out attics and sheds, removed moldy carpets, cleaned and sanitized, resealed flashing around chimneys, spackled, and more.

We all felt really good about our mission work, but there is still a huge need. In the coming years, more than 16,000 devastated homes are slated to be lifted in order to meet building and insurance codes. A lottery will be held to determine the families who will receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In just five days, our 15-person work crew was able to reduce the need for FEMA "forgiveness" money by \$16,416!

The work was very satisfying, and our labor was extremely valuable in many ways. Our presence was greatly appreciated by the many strangers who expressed their gratitude. We were humbled to receive so much praise and were grateful to help. We hope to do it again soon.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Wil Forrest
*Coordinator of iSERVE and
Young Adult Ministry*

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries

Sara Hackett
*Coordinator for Christian Education
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The Rev. Barbara McFarland
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Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus

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



"We are affected by our surroundings." That statement is so simple that it sounds trite and obvious to our ears. But, it is something that has deep meaning from a faith perspective.

We know that there are moments in which we behave well and times in which we behave badly, and that the tendency to choose one option over the other resides within us. We hope that our rational, ethical side will choose to do what is right, even though we know that our irrational, emotional side sometimes picks what is wrong.

However, research has shown that our environment actually plays a significant role in this moral decision-making process.

Here's an example from a 1982 study by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling. Paper fliers were put on 139 cars in a large hospital parking lot. The researchers watched to see what people would do with these annoying bits of paper. If the drivers emerged from the hospital to find the parking lot littered with scattered fliers, candy wrappers and coffee cups (all carefully arranged by the researchers), almost half of them removed the fliers from their cars and tossed them on the ground. If, however, the researchers swept the parking lot clean before the drivers returned, only 1 in 10 dropped the fliers. Unwittingly, the drivers had adopted the behavior that seemed appropriate given the norms of cleanliness they saw around them.

On some level, who we are—litterbug or good citizen, for example—changes from moment to moment, depending on where we happen to be and what things look like around us. That is a sobering conclusion, given that we routinely tell ourselves we have a solid moral core that will react with integrity no matter where we might be. But, examples from scripture and history both point out how fickle and untrustworthy our moral compasses actually are.

What can be done? Christian faith has long walked "hand in hand" with environmental justice, largely out of a desire to be good stewards of God's bountiful creation. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24). So we recycle, compost, avoid wasting water, and reduce our carbon footprints wherever possible. But, our faith challenges us to do more. We "redd up" our neighborhoods so that everyone can be nurtured in clean environments that honor God and one another. We challenge slum landlords and unsafe housing practices so that no child of God is forced to live in a house unworthy of their God-given dignity. We call for local, state and federal government to protect air, land and water natural resources because large-scale, corporate pollution promotes small-scale pollution from us fickle human beings, and everyone suffers in the end.

We are affected by our surroundings. But the good news is that this can work for either good or evil. So this day, choose what is good and faithful.

Randy Bush



VCS a Success

This year's Vacation Church School program, sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry Team, was a tremendous success! We had **94 children enrolled**, and served a daily average of 83 children—our second-highest annual attendance for VCS! It was a blessing to hear children's voices praising God in song, investigating the Bible stories through drama, responding to the text through crafts, games, and daily activities that allowed them to celebrate that God is a God of life!

We give thanks for the dedicated volunteers and staff who gave their time and talents in many ways to ensure the success of this rewarding ministry—from driving the van to leading music to teaching a class. We thank:



Adult Volunteers and Staff: Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, T.J. Benedict, Sharon Birt, Abby Blass, Tim Blass, Henk Bossers, Beth Bush, Randy Bush, Marilyn Castle, Peta Harrigan Cole, Barb DeWitt, Doris Dick, Sandy Edgecombe, Dwayne Elliott, Liberty Ferda, Tucker Ferda, Wil Forrest, Barb Fotta, Karen Fraser, Callie Gropp, Sara Hackett, Cathie Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Diane Jackson, Florence Johnson, LaVayshia Johnson, Carol Kirkpatrick, Gloria Knopp, Heather Lawrence, Mary Alice Lightle, Jeff McLaren, Judy Menk, Beverly Mick, Miriam Musgrave, Cami Needle, Sarah Overby, Nancy Patton, Elaine Phillips, Jack Phillips, Jan Pressman, David Schoenewolf, Heather Schoenewolf, Kay Shissler, Alex Stoneburner, Cody Sweet, Gayle Williams, Fran Wilson, Jennifer Vinsel, and Eric Vinsel, as well as all the folks who supported VCS through donations and prayer, and the entire Housekeeping, Security, Administrative and Program Staff.



Youth Volunteers: Jaszmier Branch, Charlotte Bush, Ian Bush, Nuriah Carrel, Virginia Kane, Julia Lewand, Taylor Lewand, Mackenzie Morrissey, Joan Mukogosi, Cecilia Noveli, Ashwin Srinivasan, Tyrese Williams, and Isaiah Wilson.



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Sing a Song, Bust a Move, Act Up, Make Beautiful Music Together!

Hope Academy's fall term begins the week of Sept. 17. You can download a course brochure and registration form at www.HopeAcademyArts.com or pick one up at the front desk of ELPC. Classes fill quickly, so return the registration form as soon as possible to make sure that a place is reserved for you. The deadline for scholarship/tuition assistance applications is Sat., Aug. 17.

Hope Academy offers something for everyone: **Musical Theater Workshop** (singing, dancing and acting) and **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** dance classes on Saturdays; **private music instruction** (all instruments and voice) all week; a **new middle school rock band** ensemble on Friday evenings; and our audition-only teen theater company, **HAT Co**, for singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

More classically-inclined musicians—of all ages and abilities—are invited to participate in **EL CEO** (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) under the direction of Federico Garcia, Alia Musica's artistic director and conductor. Join us at 3 pm, on **Sat., Sept. 14**, to find out more about EL CEO and to be evaluated for your music level in this **FREE** community orchestra.



Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., Aug. 2: First Friday at Prayer Walk meet at 7 pm, at ELPC

We will begin and end at ELPC, but spend the rest of our time doing a prayer walk all over the city. We will ride together to experience, learn about and pray over different parts of our hometown, we will also do some recreational and contemplative walking too. Come ready to walk and pray!

Sun., Aug. 18: The Great Exchange: At This Point in My Life at 11:30 am

Folks of all ages are invited to this interactive, intergenerational roundtable where we, across the generations, will explore some of the most important questions in life in fun and engaging ways. What have I learned? What makes you an adult? What is the meaning of life? We will have a simple lunch while we share our life experience and stories in Room 234.



YAM is for YOU

Your friends are always welcome too! To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.260.2554.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Thurs., Aug. 22: Working at the Farm from 5:30–8:30 pm

Youth are invited to meet at ELPC and head down to work together at the Garfield Community Farm. Our help is needed! We will have fun working and being together, and we can enjoy God's marvelous creation... so come and join us! A permission slip required.

For more information or for a permission form, talk to Sara Hackett or visit the youth section of the ELPC website.



ELPC Health Ministry Presents: *Vesta*

Vesta, a play written by Bryan Harnetiaux and gaining attention across the country, will be presented at the Kelly-Strayhorn at 6 pm, on **Sat., Oct. 12**. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:15 pm. Mark your calendars!

Vesta is a story of a feisty 75-year-old widow's struggle to maintain independence and dignity as she grapples with her failing health and eventual death. This presentation is an effort to empower and encourage adults to make end-of-life decisions in a timely fashion. There will be a panel discussion following the play. Admission is *free*.

All Church Retreat: *Why We Tell Stories*

Mark your calendars for a special event coming up this fall. ELPC will host an all-church retreat at Camp Crestfield from **Fri.–Sun., Oct. 25–27**.

Our theme for the weekend is *Why We Tell Stories*. Together, we will explore the importance of stories to our shared life of faith. Through worship, workshops, study, and games, we will delve deeper into *The* story (The Bible) at the center of our faith, and explore how it impacts the stories of our lives. Our weekend together will include time to rest and relax, time to enjoy the great outdoors through hayrides and hikes, and time for another Square Dance to cap off the fun!

Join us for this intergenerational weekend of worship, workshops, fellowship and fun! Registration fees vary based on accommodations. Scholarships are available.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

Wed., Aug. 14: Music on the Labyrinth led by Charles Anderson

Wed., Aug. 28: Celebrations and Tower Sing

If you celebrate a birthday, anniversary or milestone in August, write it down and put it in the collection basket so we can celebrate with you! We also will ascend the tower stairs and sing out across the land. Closed-toe shoes are required.

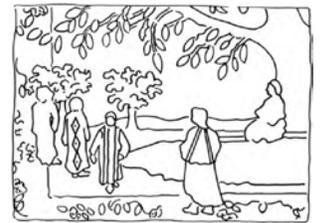
Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Begins on Sept. 3

Our sessions will focus on the theme *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*. The instructions given in Exodus and Deuteronomy for life as a covenant community were extended to people who knew what it meant to be strangers in a foreign land. They challenge us to consider our relationship with and responsibility to migrants today.

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor at 10 am, on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning Sept. 3, as we explore the fullness of life that God intends for humanity.



Spiritual Life

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

Plan to Attend a Day of Healing and Wholeness on Sat., Sept. 7

Jesus laid the foundation for a rich healing ministry within the Christian tradition. Here at ELPC, we have a long history of practicing this ministry. But, healing takes on a variety of forms and can be understood in many ways. The New Testament uses separate words for “healing” and “curing,” and Jesus was known to offer forgiveness or the casting out of demons in response to a request for relief from a physical complaint.

The Spiritual Life Committee wants to make available to the ELPC community a representation of the breadth of this notion of healing and wholeness. Periodically throughout the year, we will offer opportunities to experience different forms of healing in a Christian context.

We begin on **Sat., Sept. 7**, with a day of healing in the Gestalt Pastoral Care (GPC) model. GPC is rooted in the Christian ministry of healing, and integrates personal growth, spiritual companioning and prayer for healing. This work rests on the belief that God's grace is constantly at work in each person. Although we can't predict just how you will be healed, you can expect to be touched in body, mind, spirit, emotions and social/relational context in a process unique to you alone.

To learn more about GPC, visit www.GestaltPastoralCare.org.

ELPC and Environmental Awareness

"Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds,...you save humans and animals alike O Lord." – Psalm 36:5–6

As the summer unfolds, there are many ways in which we can continue to be environmentally conscious. In the ELPC Library, the Justice Committee offers a list of recyclable materials by county and household chemical collection sites. Please help yourself. ELPC also provides recycling of plastic bottles used in the church and paper bulletins. Here's a list of other opportunities:

ReuseFest

The Pennsylvania Resources Council will hold a one-day recycling program for items that can be reused by local nonprofit organizations, called **ReuseFest**. On **Sat., Aug. 3**, from 9 am–1 pm, at Goodwill Workforce Development Center, located at 118 52nd St., they will be collecting:

- Useable building materials (window, doors, tiles, and flooring);
- Blankets, dog and cat carriers, canned fruits and vegetables for wildlife center;
- Bikes, bike parts, tools and accessories in working order;
- Medical Supplies/equipment (crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, uniform scrubs);
- Books, housewares, sporting goods;
- Gently used furniture including twin beds and dressers, clothing, shoes; and
- Art and Creativity Supplies (sketch books, easels, painting supplies, etc.).

To find out more, or if you have questions about what will be accepted, please visit www.ZeroWastePgh.org/reuse or call **412.488.7490 x236**.

Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc.

PCSI, located at 349 N. Craig St., offers programs and workshops designed to create changes in your lifestyle that will reduce your carbon footprint and function within the ecological limits of our planet. There are workshops on renewable energy, stormwater management, container herb gardening, composting, energy- and water-efficiency, and the basics of recycling. Learn more at www.PghCSI.org.

Environmental Study Group

The Pittsburgh Presbytery study group on the environmental impacts of hydrofracturing has compiled a binder of the study materials and resources used, as well as their recommendations—located in the Presbytery Resource Center, and a second binder in the ELPC library. You are encouraged to peruse this binder and request copies of specific articles. If you are interested in being part of future environmental study groups, please contact Carol Chonoska at **724.272.9722**.

ELPC People

If you have news to share, call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:

- Brian Bonsteel's mother, Sandra Jean Bonsteel;
- Bobby Egelston's father, Robert Riethmiller;
- Alex Hornezes's stepmother, Willie Mae Hornezes;
- Greg Olverson's sister, Elmira Bridges; and
- Beverly Kreger's sister, Betty Percy.

Congrats, Grads!

We rejoice that many in our faith family have graduated from high school, college, and other programs.

- **T.J. Benedict** graduated from Central Catholic High School and will attend the University of Richmond;
- **China Brooks** graduated from City Charter High School and will attend Sanford Brown Institute;
- **Gretchen L. Hiller** graduated summa cum laude from Taylor University with a bachelor's degree in social work;
- **Benjamin Lawrence** graduated from Colorado College with a bachelor's degree in political science;
- **Jocelyn Martin** graduated from Fox Chapel Area High School and will attend McAlister College;
- **Sarah Overby** graduated from Taylor Alderdice High School and will attend Brown University;
- **Jordan Pollard** graduated from Pittsburgh Obama High School and will attend Duquesne University;
- **Laura Riegle** graduated from the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program at Chatham University;
- **Benjamin Ristau** graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law;
- **Carolyn Ristau** graduated from the University of Pittsburgh;
- **Glenna Slafka** received a doctor of pharmacy degree from Duquesne University; and
- **Mark Steidl** graduated from Brashear High School and will attend the Community College of Allegheny County.



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

www.CathedralOfHope.org



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

Find us on Facebook

Search for “East Liberty Presbyterian Church” or scan the QR code below.



Pray for our Youth Mission Trip Team



The Senior High Mission Trip Team will spend the week of Aug. 10–16 serving at Maxwell Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Ky., with various mission organizations around the city.

Please keep the group of Barbara, Keith, Cori, Jason, China, Tyrese, Jaszmier, Isaiah, Keyona, T.J., Cori, Donald, Chris, Chanteera, Anthony, Felicia, Wil, and Sara in your prayers.

Connections Gatherings

Do you want to have fun and get to know fellow church members better? A new season of Connections Gatherings begins this fall!

Connections Gatherings are small groups (7–10 people) who meet for conversation and potluck dinners, usually in each others’ homes.

Look for the sign-up table during Fellowship time. For details, contact Carol Hoehn at **412.334.7198** or hoehncarolmb1@aol.com or Elaine Phillips at **412.673.3778** or phillipsjackr@gmail.com.

Fourth Annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to the Fourth Annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers from 5–8 pm, on **Thurs., Aug. 22**, in the Courtyard.



Main dish and drinks will be provided, but you may bring a side dish or dessert to share (please label the container with your name if you want it back and no serving utensils are needed). Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time.

Visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html to learn about service opportunities.

Mark Your Calendars for Rally Day

Our regular Christian Education Classes and Worship schedule resumes on **Sun., Sept. 8**. Please keep your eyes open for a special mailing, which will have more information on our Christian Education offerings.