



# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

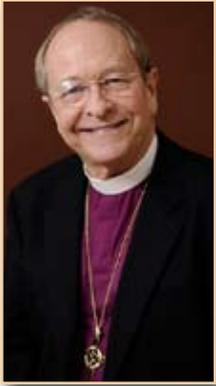
November 2013

## Editor's Note

This month's theme is *Giving in Community*. Look for articles related to this theme, identified by this symbol.



## A Visit from Bishop Gene Robinson



ELPC is honored to welcome the Right Rev. Gene Robinson, retired bishop of New Hampshire (Episcopal Church U.S.A.) to be our guest during the weekend of Nov. 9–10.

Bishop Robinson will be present for a public event in the Social Hall from 4–5:30 pm, on **Sat., Nov. 9**, at which he will share his reflections on the state of the Christian church in America, the ongoing need for full inclusion of the church's LGBT members, and then answer questions from the audience. On **Sun., Nov. 10**, Bishop Robinson will lead a joint adult Christian Education class and then preach during our Sanctuary worship service at 11 am.

## The Season of Giving in Community



### Thanksgiving Bags

As part of our response to the season of Thanksgiving, we will distribute Thanksgiving Bags on **Sun., Nov. 3** and **10**. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider picking one up and filling it with non-perishable food donations. We will bring these bags forward as a special offering during worship on **Sun., Nov. 17**. These gifts will provide holiday meals and support for those in our community who are in need.

### Thank Offering

On **Sun., Nov. 24**, we will honor the women of ELPC by receiving the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women.

For more than 120 years, the Thank Offering has supported programs that relieve pain, provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities and lift up the lives of women and children throughout the world. Last year, ELPC members and friends contributed approximately \$2,400, which helped fund 36 projects around the world!

### Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Following worship on **Sun., Nov. 24**, join us in the Social Hall for a turkey luncheon with all the trimmings! Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Sign up outside the East Transept on **Sun., Nov. 10** and **17**. All dishes should be labeled with your name. There is no need to bring a serving utensil. If you are interested in volunteering with setup, serving, and/or cleanup, contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x14**.

## Sunday Morning Services

*\* Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

*Liturgists: Leila Richards and Clark Smith*

**Note:** This service will move to the new EECM Community House on **Nov. 10**.

- Nov. 3\* Rev. Henk Bossers
- Nov. 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov. 17 Southminster Presbyterian Church Sr. High Youth Club
- Nov. 24 Bible Study

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

- Nov. 3\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov. 10 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Nov. 17 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Nov. 24 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Nov. 3\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov. 10 Bishop Gene Robinson
- Nov. 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov. 24 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

*Mondays • 7 am–1 pm*  
*Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm*

### Taizé Prayer Service

*Wednesdays • 7 pm*  
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan



## Fall Back

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on **Sun., Nov. 3**.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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

Tel: 412.441.3800  
Fax: 412.441.4422

[www.CathedralOfHope.org](http://www.CathedralOfHope.org)

### 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. Mary Lynn Callahan  
*Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and  
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  
and Youth Ministry*

Pamela M. Kimmel  
*Business Administrator*

Paul Martin  
*Facilities Manager*

The Rev. Barbara McFarland  
*Parish Associate*

Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Music Director and Organist*

Eric Vinsel  
*Seminary Intern*

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut  
*Pastor Emeritus*

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

# Pastoral Message

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



How do Presbyterians make decisions? (I realize that sounds like an opening line to a joke just waiting for a punch line.) It is actually a serious and theological question: How do people of faith, and in particular, Presbyterians, make important decisions? The short answer is that we make decisions thoughtfully, collegially, and prayerfully. Let's take a moment to consider each of those characteristics.

Of the many things said about our denomination, I don't believe Presbyterians have ever been accused of being impetuous. When I have preached in Baptist churches, I have commented that the Holy Spirit is active in Presbyterian worship just as it moves in Baptist services; it just moves quite a bit slower for Presbyterians! We have always been a deliberative denomination. We value the God-given gift of human reason. We believe there is value in looking at issues from both sides, lest we exclude or too easily dismiss another person's point of view. We always try to speak with clarity, which requires study, reflection and preparation. So, more often than not, our decisions are made thoughtfully.

What makes Presbyterianism a distinctive branch of the Protestant family tree is our polity—how we organize ourselves as churches. Ministers (teaching elders) and Session members (ruling elders) are both ordained to service in the church, and work together to make decisions for the well-being of the entire congregation. Ideally it is not done in a hierarchical, top-down model, but always mutually and fair. Committees meet to consider options and make recommendations. Congregational meetings and individual input is always a part of any important decision. And broader conversations with other churches, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offices are ways that our "connectional" type of church government is lived out in our life and ministry.

As important as it is to be thoughtful and collegial, there is no denying that the critical part of the entire process is being prayerful. We daily awake into God's world, a place of Christ's redeeming and the Spirit's active presence. The first question we should ask ourselves is "How might I serve God faithfully today?" Congregations ask themselves the same question: "What is the ministry Christ is leading us to fulfill right now?" Committees, Deacon boards, Sessions gather to discern the will and good pleasure of God. Taking time to deliberate and pray aids this work. Listening to other voices collegially makes sure this prayerful service is just and inclusive. Giving thanks to God throughout the decision-making process guarantees that our priorities are in the right place.

This is the Thanksgiving season—both as a national holiday and in the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign. As a church, we are looking ahead to what the Lord is calling us to be and do. As individuals, we also make decisions on how to live our lives faithfully and joyfully. May you make all your decisions as a good Presbyterian, knowing that "in life and in death, we belong to God."

*Randy Bush*



## Hanging of the Greens

Join us for the annual Hanging of the Greens to prepare the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. The date for this year's event is to be determined, so check the Bulletin for updates.



For more information, contact Laura Ristau at **412.404.8687**.

## The Giving Tree

Every year the Deacons organize the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), our ELPC Mission Ministry, the Christian Education Ministry, and Hope Academy of Music and the Arts.



The Giving Tree will be set up near the Information Desk from 9:30 am–12:30 pm, on **Sun., Dec. 1** and **8**, and at the Taizé service on **Wed., Dec. 4**. Deacons will be on hand to help. If you would like to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to "ELPC Giving Tree."

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, and checks are due back in the church office no later than noon on **Sun., Dec. 15**.

The congregation has been wonderful in its support of this ministry through gift buying and monetary donations. Last year, 76 children and teens were each provided two gifts as a result of your ELPC generosity. The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this ministry.

## Stewardship Sunday

Our annual Stewardship Sunday will be celebrated on Nov. 3. On that day, the congregation will be invited to bring forward their pledges. We also will distribute grocery bags on Sun., Nov. 3 and 10, that you may prayerfully fill with non-perishable food donations to be returned on Sun., Nov. 17. The food helps serve the needy and hungry in our neighborhood; the pledges help shape our church's budget priorities for the coming year. Both reflect a faithful desire to respond to God's blessings and desire for true justice.

Both also embody this year's Stewardship Campaign theme: *Giving in Community*. The apostle Paul gives us the admonition to "let all things be done for building up" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Supporting the EECM food pantry and generously providing our tithes and offerings to ELPC are clear examples of "building up" others and "giving in community." We give in the midst of a worshipping community, committed to serving Christ Jesus through word and deed; and in the midst of our East Liberty community, to whom we extend hands and hospitality so that our brothers and sisters in Christ may know God's love through us.

The congregation is encouraged to consider new pledges or increasing existing pledges by 10 percent, so that our budget resources can continue to support programs, staff, mission work, and decrease our dependence on our endowment. Be present for the celebration on Stewardship Sunday, so that the community may rejoice together through the sharing of our gifts for the building up of the body of Christ here and around the world!



## Tithing Your Time and Talents

by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

This time each year, many of us start planning for the next year—vacations, budgets and whatnot. As a church family, we are no exception to this. We submit final committee budgets and conclude our stewardship campaign, where we pledge as families and individuals to support our church and community with our treasure. However, we have more that God has given to us. In addition to our treasure, God has blessed each of us with equal amounts of time and varying talents. Have you asked yourself how you might tithe these?

Imagine if you spent 10 percent of your time each day—as suggested in the Bible—giving back to God through worship, studying the Bible, serving others, praying, etc. It is only a little over two hours each day. Imagine if you spent 10 percent of your talents giving back to God. Some of us can teach, some can garden, some can host, some can play an instrument, but we all can do at least one thing. How might you share a portion of this talent in serving God?



Tithing our time and talent does not replace tithing our treasure. Rather, these three components work together to comprise the fullness of the gifts God endows us with. We set aside a portion of each to show gratitude to God for all the many blessings in our lives.

Visit [www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html](http://www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html) to print an iSERVE Time and Talent Interest Inventory and read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list!

# Christian Education

**Note:** Classes begin at 9:45 am.

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

## **Contemporaries Class** *Second Floor Parlor*

*Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*

### **Nov. 3: Cultivating Patience** *Led by Libby Ferda*

What does our scripture and faith say about patience? Is God really that patient with creation? How do our own experiences manifest this ideal, as mortal men and women with limited time on earth? From an intergenerational perspective, let us also explore how our vision of time changes throughout the course of our lives. Come prepared to share your thoughts and ideas.

### **Nov. 10: Combined Class with the Bishop Gene Robinson**

This joint class will be led by the Right Rev. Gene Robinson, retired bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire in the Episcopal Church (U.S.A.). He will talk about his own journey of faith and the continuing challenges facing all church denominations regarding justice and full inclusion.

### **Nov. 17/24: If Not Me, Who? If Not Now, When?**

*Led by Lenore Williams*

Racism...just hearing the word invokes many stereotypes. But not all racism is based upon hatred and violence. Some aspects of it may not be obvious. During our time together, we will look at opinions of what racism is, where it came from, how to know it, and ask ourselves how we can individually make a difference.

## **Journey with Scripture** *Second Floor Library*

*Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin*

November's readings end the three-year cycle of Lectionary readings. They reflect themes of presence and restoration. God assures the ancient prophet Habakkuk of a future justice, "If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay." In the last gospel reading from Luke, Jesus on the cross readily extends forgiveness to a criminal, "today you will be with me in Paradise." Join us as we reflect on these and other readings:

**Nov. 3:** Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10.

**Nov. 10:** Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21;  
Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;  
Luke 20:27-38

**Nov. 17:** Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12;  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

**Nov. 24:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79;  
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

## **Parenting Circle** *Harambe Room*

*Facilitator: Pam Walaski*

The first Sunday of each month will continue to be used for an open discussion on joys and concerns. For the remaining weeks, we will discover God's plan for our families and share our joys and struggles with others through a facilitated discussion on a portion of the current week's Lectionary. We will focus our discussion on such questions as:

- What stands out to you from the text?
- What questions does the text evoke for you?
- What do you think the message was for the people in the time it was written and now?

No advance preparation or reading is necessary and we will have copies of the texts being discussed available for all participants. If you have questions, contact Pam Walaski at [pam@jcsafety.com](mailto:pam@jcsafety.com).

## **Seekers** *Room 234*

*Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

### **Nov. 3: Doing Christ's Work**

John Zolko and his group of mission workers take yearly trips to Honduras and the Dominican Republic. They have built medical clinics and church camps. They have installed roofs, supplied portable, low cost water filtration systems to the people, and shared God's love.

### **Nov. 10: Combined Class with the Bishop Gene Robinson**

*See the description under Contemporaries*

### **Nov. 17/24: Marriage Matters**

The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will use material from our denomination as well as other sources related to the Reformed understanding of marriage. Being guided both by scripture and theology, we can hopefully live into an understanding of marriage covenant that is both faithful and truly generous.

## **Soul Food** *Pastor's Conference Room*

*Facilitator: Joe Hajdu*

We will begin discussing *A Testament of Devotion*, a spiritual classic by Thomas Kelly. New participants are welcome. For more information, please email Joe Hajdu at [hajdu625@comcast.net](mailto:hajdu625@comcast.net).

# Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

## **Saturdays: Youth Basketball** from 6–8 pm

Young men in grades 9–12 are welcome to play basketball in the ELPC Gym. We will not play on Sat., Nov. 30.

## **Sun., Nov. 3: Halloween Party at Ronald McDonald House** from 12:30–3:30pm

Youth in grades 4–8 will meet at ELPC and travel to the Ronald McDonald House for a service project as we host a Halloween Party for families. We will provide crafts, games and snacks. You can wear a fun (but not scary) costume! Permission slips are required.

## **Fri.–Sun., Nov. 8–10: Middle School Retreat at Crestfield Camp**

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to hear Michael Haddox speak about how God is moving their lives! Our retreat will be guided by the theme: *Nobody likes to go to the doctor for booster shots, but life is about more than lollipops.* There also will be time for exploring the outdoors, deepening friendships, playing swamp ball, climbing the rock wall, and more!

More details, times, costs and permission forms can be found on the youth page of the church website, or by contacting Sara at **412.673.2926** or **SaraH@coh.net**.

## **Wed., Nov. 13: Confirmation Class** from 5–7:30 pm

Confirmation Class will meet in the Ground Floor Youth Room. We will share a meal together, then explore the question, “What do I believe about Jesus?” All youth in grades 8 and older who are interested in deepening their faith and exploring membership in the church are welcome to join us! Please RSVP to Sara so that we are sure to have enough food for everyone.

**Note:** We will not meet on **Nov. 27.**

## **club one sixteen**

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Our theme this fall is **jeans & Jesus: being real with God.** Our relationship with God often feels like a separate part of our lives—something that we address only on Sunday mornings or during youth group. Yet, Scripture reminds us that our relationship with God is a part of every aspect of our lives. We will explore topics that will allow us to take our relationship with God to a deeper level.

## **club life: The Art of Puppetry**

Wednesdays, from 6:30–7:30 pm

Come make a puppet...big puppet, small puppet, plant puppet, animal puppet, serious puppet, silly puppet. Folks who choose can carry their very own puppets in the First Night Parade, on New Year's Eve in Downtown Pittsburgh. Look for us there!

# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator for Young Adult Ministry

## **Fri., Nov. 1: First Friday at Prince of India** at 7 pm

We will enjoy a delicious meal together at one of our area's best Indian buffets. Come hungry for food and conversation. This is a no-host event. Prince of India is located at 3614 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

## **Sun., Nov. 3: Sunday Book Discussion** from 9:45–10:45 am

Join other young adults in a book discussion series this fall in Roim 244, during the Christian Education hour, as we explore Doris Janzen Longacre's book, *Living More With Less*. Try to have read all of the book by this point. Café Justo served.



RSVP for our retreat by Fri., Nov. 1. Email Wil at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or call 412.441.3800 x14.

## **Fri.–Sun., Nov. 15–17: Crestfield Retreat** leaving ELPC at 7 pm

We loved our last retreat to Crestfield so much, we are doing it again—complete with our cozy cottage, wonderful people, wacky version of pictionary, nature galore, plenty-o-snacks, and much more! Our focus this fall will be *simplicity*. There will be an **\$85** fee that includes everything. Limited scholarships are available. We will return to ELPC at 2 pm, on Sunday.

# Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy,  
Staff Representative

## **New AED Unit is Available**

A few years ago, we purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED). Because the unit is located on the First Floor, there has been a concern that in the event of an emergency in the lower level of ELPC, retrieving it could mean the difference between life and death.

Earlier this year, we applied for a grant from The Heinz Foundation to purchase a second AED. Our request was approved and we purchased another unit that was placed in the Social Hall.

We thank Linda Addlespurger and Hope Academy for alerting us to the grant opportunity, the maintenance staff for installing the unit, and the The Heinz Foundation for the generous grant.

## Session News

At the October Session meeting, a presentation was given by the Architectural Taskforce responding to questions about how to use the Ground Floor once the EECM programs leave, make our First Floor more hospitable, improve space for Hope Academy and our Youth programs, and open up new areas for community mission programs. Concept drawings and possible renovation projects were considered. Ideas from exterior lighting, glass exterior doors, a new Whitfield Street entrance, air-conditioning for the Sanctuary, and many other suggestions were reviewed.

After a lengthy and thoughtful discussion, it was unanimously approved to name a "Renovations Committee" by our next meeting. This group would be authorized to do feasibility studies, project cost estimations, consult with mechanical engineers and architects, and coordinate times for congregational feedback. The goal would be to present a proposal for Session consideration sometime in spring 2014.

### Fast for Hunger!

Ground your compassion in prayer and fasting! During the last week of October, **pick up resources** from the Spiritual Life bulletin board and consider how you will fast. Will you give up certain foods? Eating out? TV? Email? Shopping? Will you encourage your family to join you?

On **Fri., Nov. 1, begin the fast.**

Throughout the weekend, use the resources to learn more about world hunger and to guide you in prayer and worship. On Sunday morning, **bring your contributions** for the EECM Food Pantry and take some time to **sit in silent prayer with others** in the Prayer Room. **Break the fast** with the celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship, then **join together for a light lunch** at our First Sunday Poetry Reading.

## Classes After Taizé Prayer

*The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, Minister of Taizé Prayer*

**Note:** Classes begin at 8:15 pm. We will not have class on **Wed., Nov. 27.**

### **Wed., Nov. 6: All Saints and All Souls**

We will engage in a guided meditation about the significant people in our journeys.

### **Wed., Nov. 13: Music on the Labyrinth**

Charles Anderson will provide music to inspire us as we walk the labyrinth.

### **Wed., Nov. 20: Celebrations**

We will celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions with one another—and cake, of course!

## Presbyterian Women

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

### **Tues., Nov. 12: An Abiding Hope** at 10 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study, *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*. The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will lead our lesson, "Set Free By God" (Exodus 4:18–13:16), and then we will elect and install our leadership team for 2013–14. A potluck lunch will follow. Beverages will be provided, but please bring a salad or snack to share.



## Spiritual Life

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

### **Sun., Nov. 3: First Sunday Spiritual Poetry Reading**

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to Room 234 following our 11 am worship, for a light lunch and spiritual poetry readings. Bring a poem that you have written or one that has touched your heart and helped you to grow. Read the poem you have brought or have someone else read it. Share with others the wisdom of words, the rhythm and poetry of life!



### **Fri.–Sun., Nov. 15–17: Come Away on a Silent Retreat!**

As the activity of fall draws to a close and the busy holiday season approaches, the Spiritual Life Committee is offering an opportunity for silent reflection as we prepare for the season of Advent. Our silent retreat will be from 5 pm, on Friday, until noon on Sunday, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center in Baden, Pa. There will be times of communal worship; periods of shared silence; and hours to slow down, rest in God, and prepare for the season of waiting. Participants also can meet with a spiritual director during the weekend.

The cost is **\$110/person**, which includes a room, meals, and spiritual direction. Scholarship money is available. Registration is limited. Complete a registration form, available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board, and submit it to Kate Carlson by **Sun., Nov. 10**. Questions? Contact the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan.



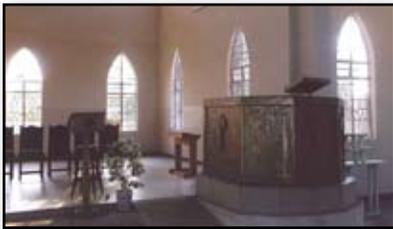
# Doing God's Work in Malawi

by Peta Harrigan Cole, part 2 of 2

On Monday, we visited the Makandi and Satemwa Tea Estates, and enjoyed dinner and Bible study at the home of Elivey Chirwa, who visited ELPC in the past. The next day, we visited Zomba CCAP. We then had lunch at Zomba Theological College, and traveled to Mangochi CCAP for our first Evangelism Rally in an area populated by Muslims. They were interested in learning more about the Christian faith. This was an emotional experience as people asked us to pray for them. We sang, danced, and praised the Lord until darkness gathered over the compound.



Our next stop was in Liwonde, where we had lunch at Mawira CCAP and had another Evangelism Rally, before returning to Zomba. When I arrived in Balaka, members of the Women's Guild accompanied me with song to the church (pictured). The new church opened in Oct., 2012. It is beautiful!



On Sunday, I read a prayer at worship, spoke to the congregation about mission, and presented gifts from ELPC. There also was a choir festival given in my honor.

On Monday, I visited a cotton ginning plant and Tolesa Farm, followed by fellowship at Kabango CCAP. We had a farewell dinner where I was presented with gifts for ELPC. The next morning, I met with the Sunday school children and youth group leaders.

I was able to spend time with old friends. Dorothy Munyonga and Enock Sande (who visited ELPC last year) were especially gracious. My friends in Balaka were at the airport to greet me and to see me off. Unfortunately, my time in Balaka was short, but that was the nature of this trip—to spend more time in other areas for evangelism, manual work, and rural church encouragement.

Back in Blantyre, we visited Mafete Game Reserve, Mulanje Mission Hospital, and St. Andrews Mission School, along with having a little time for shopping. During our downtime, we visited the Hot Springs, Zomba Peak, had a boat ride from Nkopola Lodge to Bird's Island in Lake Malawi, and toured the Synod campus.

We also were graced by a visit from the Rev. Silas Ncozana, co-founder of the Pittsburgh Presbytery Malawi Partnership, and his wife. He spoke words of encouragement for our new partnership with South Sudan.

Our farewell dinner was a gala affair, but the next morning when it was time to leave, there were mixed emotions. The ceremony at the airport was filled with singing, dancing, laughing, and crying. It was such a blessing to have all worked together as partners for the first time.

Please pray for Abusa Matola and the congregation in Balaka, the Blantyre Synod, Pittsburgh Presbytery, and our new partner of South Sudan. We recognize that South Sudan has even more need than Malawi, and you will be hearing more about our new partner as we sign a covenant with their church here in Pittsburgh.

Thank you ELPC for allowing me to witness what the Lord is doing in Malawi. I will always hold Journey 2013 close in my heart!

## ELPC Set to Launch New Website

Keep a look out for our redesigned website, which will launch this month.

## ELPC People

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

### Good News

- We celebrate the birth of **Isla Elise Ervin**, daughter of Grant and Amy Ervin and little sister to Marley Ervin.
- TaKeisha and Eduardo Daniels, and brother Kalel, celebrate the birth of **Londyn Elaine Guadalupe Daniels**.
- Katie (our former CE coordinator) and Will Scott are the proud parents of a baby girl, **Elinor Jane Scott**.
- Please welcome our new members and friends: **Mike Anderson, Maria Bowman, Cara Jones, David and Nancy Phillips, Paul Seif and Sharla Yates-Seif, and Russell Walker**.
- Congratulations to ELPC member **Ashley Birt**, who was accepted as a Candidate under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery at the October meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry. Please hold Ashley in your prayers as she completes her last year at Union Seminary in New York City, and as she progresses through her ordination process.

### Prayers

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

- ELPC Deacon Barbara DeWitt's mother;
- Gloria and Reva Ritchey's friend/grandmother, Ruby McGregor;
- Craig Koedel, who was a friend of ELPC for 10 years; and
- Mary Kearney, who was a member of ELPC for 21 years.



*“As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God—the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.”*

### Building Closed

The ELPC office will be closed until 7 pm, on **Mon., Nov. 11**, for Veterans Day, and on **Thurs.–Fri., Nov. 28–29**, for Thanksgiving.

## Shop to Support Our Community



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES

Get a head start on your holiday shopping from 6–8 pm, on **Thurs., Nov. 7**, at Ten Thousand Villages (5824 Forbes Ave., downtown). Ten Thousand Villages sells fair-trade, artisan-made goods. A percentage of your purchase will be donated to the ELPC Thanksgiving Food Ministry.

By purchasing a single item, you ultimately give three gifts:

1. A one-of-a-kind gift to someone you know,
2. A healthy meal for a needy family, and
3. Fair pay for the artisan who made the item.

## ELPC Receives Racial Justice Award

As part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Racial Justice Awards ceremony, sponsored by the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh, ELPC will be presented with an award in the category of *Faith Community*. The awards committee was impressed by our congregation’s diligent efforts to eliminate racism and promote equity among all people, and wished to publicly recognize our church’s commitment to these goals.

The banquet will be held on Wed., Nov. 13, at the Westin Hotel and Convention Center, with the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Session Clerk Jean Kennedy, and others in attendance to receive the award.

## Share the Warmth with EECM

ELPC is collecting coats, hats, scarves and gloves for the annual EECM Coat Drive. Please donate new or gently used, clean items in all sizes for men, women, and especially children of all ages. Items will be donated to those in need.



A collection box can be found in the front office through **Thurs., Nov. 14**.

## Community Sing

Dr. Ysaye Maria Barnwell, formerly of *Sweet Honey in the Rock*, will lead a *Community Sing* in the Social Hall at 7 pm, on **Sat., Nov. 23**, as part of the *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC. The event is *free*, but a freewill offering will be accepted.



The *Community Sing* is conducted in the oral tradition, so you don’t have to read music or have any vocal training. Even if you do not want to sing, come and be inspired by Dr. Barnwell’s unique ability to help everyone find their voice!