

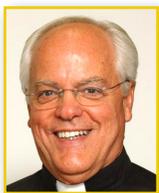
Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

May 2014

Marathon Sunday Worship Changes

On **Sun., May 4**, the route for the Pittsburgh Marathon will prevent us from holding our Sunday morning Journey Worship, Church School classes, and Sanctuary Worship. However, there will be a **Good Samaritan** worship service at 8 am, at the EECM Community House.



Sunday evening, the Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a special **Service of Healing and Wholeness** with Fr. William Kiel, at 7 pm, in the Chapel. This contemplative service features prayer, singing, scripture reading, and a time of blessing.

Hymnal Dedication Sunday

In March, ELPC gathered up the blue hymnals and replaced them with new, purple *Glory to God* hymnals. This fresh collection of hymns and songs is our denomination's newest hymnal, shaped around the theme of God's gracious acts working for salvation and redemption.

During our 11 am worship on **Sun., May 11**, we will sing several of the new selections in *Glory to God*. Assisting in worship will be Dr. Edwin van Driel, associate professor of theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song that created *Glory to God*. Join us as we "sing to the Lord a new song!"



Students Prepare for Confirmation



Nine youth have been participating in Confirmation Class, a year-long process of study, fellowship and discernment. Together—and with leadership provided by Pastor Heather, Wil Forrest, and Sara Hackett—they have learned more about God, the church, and the ministry of membership.

The class will be examined by Session in May, and will join ELPC by baptism or reaffirmation of faith on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. As this leg of their journey comes to a close, we invite you to hold them all in prayer.

Sunday Services

* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Held at the EECM Community House
Liturgist: Mary Alice Lightle

May 4* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

May 11 Michele Bossers,
Elder at ELPC

May 18 George Jones, *director of Allegheny County Treatment Alternative program*

May 25 Rev. Michael Smith,
Destiny International Ministries

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

May 11 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

May 18 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

May 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

May 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

May 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

May 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. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule

Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

May 2: Praying with Icons

May 9: Time of Extended Singing and Prayer

May 16: Music on the Labyrinth

May 23: No Programming

May 30: Celebrations!

Memorial DAY

ELPC will be closed all day on
Mon., May 26.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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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 Young Adult
and Outreach Programs*

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

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

The Rev. Barbara McFarland
Parish Associate

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



Easter has come and gone once again. The event of Jesus' resurrection was celebrated so late in April that the month of May has unfolded right on Easter's heels, and our sights are now fixed on the end of the school year or summer vacation schedules. But let us not rush away from this amazing story too fast.

The liturgies, scripture and music of Holy Week slowly re-tell the story of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. That series of services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Vigil, and Easter Sunday) gives us the passion narrative in manageable-sized chunks. We immerse ourselves in the details and then at last join

the celestial choirs in that age-old refrain: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" But condense the entire drama down to a few sentences and tell this story when it is not Holy Week or Easter and our minds can scarcely comprehend what transpired long ago here in our very midst.

George F. Kennan, 20th century historian and political scientist, paused in 1980 to write down this brief summary of the life and legacy of Jesus Christ: "Most human events yield to the erosion of time...The greatest, most amazing, exception to this generalization occurred on the hill of Golgotha...A man, a Jew, some sort of dissident religious prophet, was crucified in company with two common thieves...In the teachings of this man were two things: first the principle of charity of love, and secondly the possibility of redemption in the face of self-knowledge and penitence...The combination of these two things: charity and redemption inspired an entire vast civilization, created a great art, erected a hundred thousand magnificent churches, shaped and disciplined the minds and the values of many generations—placed, in short, its creative stamp on one of the greatest of all flowerings of the human spirit." (from Kennan's recently published diaries)

Kennan's words of wonder about the teachings of Christ omit any reference to Jesus' divinity and how this combination of love and redemption come from the heart of a loving God. But even this humanist summary of the Easter good news credits this sacred story with the "greatest flowering of the human spirit" in the history of the world.

At times we Christians are too hard on ourselves. We rightly name the ways that the church has failed in its calling, and point out the times servants of Christ have acted in ways contrary to Christ's teaching and example. But our self-criticism should not squelch that sense of deep awe that fills our hearts when we say to ourselves "God so loved the world..." Nor should we be slow to name the ways that faith, hope and Christian service have transformed modern society for the better. Yes, with God all things are possible. But it is also true that through Christ, so much has already become possible. Let us remember with joy the journey of faith already traveled as we recommit ourselves to the work and progress and loving redemption that lies just ahead for us and all people. Thanks be to God!

Randy Bush

Earth Day Celebration

On Tues., April 22, a press conference and public celebration was held to dedicate the rainwater reclamation project recently completed in our church's front yard. Gathered civic and community leaders were present to describe how this environmental project models creative ways churches, businesses, and individual homeowners can be better stewards of our city's natural resources.

The new plantings along Penn Ave. will absorb up to an inch of rainfall, reducing the strain on the stormwater and sewage systems. Also, a new ELPC sign was installed, helping us spread the good news of Christ's activity through our worship, mission, and educational offerings.



Members of our faith family recently traveled to Point Pleasant, N.J., to help rebuild homes and serve those affected by Hurricane Sandy.



Joint Session and Deacons Meeting

Once a year, the Board of Deacons and Session gather together to share a meal and discuss the specific ministries of these two governing bodies in our church.

This year's joint meeting will be on **Tues., May 20**, and will include the added blessing of examining our current Confirmation Class. The young people will present their *Statements of Faith*, and share their personal understanding of church membership and an active Christian faith.

Continue to keep our Deacons, Ruling Elders, and Confirmands in your prayers as each of them uses their gifts for the glory of God.

Serve with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm

Upcoming volunteer workdays are on **Sat., May 3** and **June 7**, and select weekdays. OHM is rehabbing a property in Garfield to be used as transitional housing for families, and GCF continues to expand with a bioshelter, planting beds, and chickens!

All ages and skill levels are welcome to join us for fellowship, work, and fun. For more information, contact Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or **ejr116@gmail.com**, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30** or **PatriceFS@coh.net**.

We thank those who've volunteered their time so far this year: **Mike Anderson, Carol Bonner, Joshua Hodenoy, Joni James, Kayuen Lau, Jon Nelson, Henry Petrilli, Janet Pollard, Jim Russ, and Tyrese Williams.**



Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Notes: Classes begin at 9:45 am. Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, we will not have classes on **Sun., May 4.**

Contemporaries Class *Second Floor Parlor*

Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

May 11 and 18: Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness

Led by Eric Vinsel

In a painfully naïve move, Eric decided to sell all of his possessions and ride west on a rickety motorcycle before canoeing down the Mississippi River in a canoe held together by duct tape. He then spent six months living in a New Orleans homeless shelter, receiving services before jumping the fence and administering the same resources he once longed to receive himself. His talk sheds light on the complexities of poverty and social location, while providing insights into how the church might better participate in Christ's redeeming work within our own community.

May 25: The Factor of Trust *Led by Joe Kennedy*

Trust is an area that does not come easily for many of us. And yet, our faith can not develop properly unless we truly learn to trust in the Lord's guidance. This means that instead of looking to other people and things to save you in your everyday problems, you must first trust in Jesus. Seek His counsel and let the truth of the Word direct your path. As your spiritual maturity develops, you will be led toward a life of balance and meaning. To trust in God will represent an enormous upgrade in your approach toward progress.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

The psalmist proclaims, "we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place" (Psalm 66:12). May's readings tell of the emergence of a new life in the spirit of the risen Christ—participation and mutuality in communal life, patient witness, and proclamation of the gospel. The texts help provide assurance that in this world, and in Christ, God's love is not limited. With abiding presence, we can embark on new journeys to landscapes unimagined. Join us as we reflect on scripture:

May 11: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19–25;
John 10:1–10

May 18: Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16;
1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

May 25: Acts 17:22–30; Psalm 66:8–20; 1 Peter 3:13–22;
John 14:15–21

Parenting Circle *Harambe Room*

Facilitator: Pam Walaski

We utilize passages from the week's Lectionary readings to discern and explore God's plan for our families, and share our joys and struggles through a facilitated discussion. No advance preparation is necessary and copies of the texts are available. We welcome children who may not yet be able to leave their parents during the Church School hour.

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

May 11–25: Faith and Politics *Led by Dr. Ron Stone*

Dr. Stone, a retired ethics professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will share themes from his new book, *Faith and Politics: Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich at Union Seminary in New York.*

May 11: European Contributions to American Theology

We will learn how the most distinguished American theologians of the 20th Century translated European thought into defining American theology. The rediscovered use of Christian symbolism and existentialism transformed American theology and defined Christian progressive thought at its height in the 1950s–60s and still provides the best perspective for American thought and church life.

May 18: Christian Realism and Peacemaking

Both Niebuhr and Tillich were political realists and persons of faith who taught that there were wars to fight and wars not to fight. This perspective has characterized Presbyterian social policy for the last 45 years as the church has attempted to represent the peacefulness of the doves and also the wisdom of the serpent. We will also discuss what they considered makes a "just war."

May 25: Christian Realism and Racism

Niebuhr and Tillich wrote and acted more extensively than their academic colleagues to combat racism, focusing on anti-Semitism and white racism. Tillich is memorialized in the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.; Niebuhr is regarded by James Cone, the militant African-American theologian, as the best white theological voice against racism. Still, there are criticisms to be made. Their influence on Martin Luther King, Jr., James Cone, Abraham Heschel, and President Obama will be interpreted.

Soul Food *Pastor's Conference Room*

Facilitator: Joe Hajdu

May 11, 18, and 25: A Collection of Writings on Discernment

We will discuss the beginning chapters of *Discernment*, by Henri Nouwen. New participants are always welcome!

NO BOUNDaries Young Artist Workshop

Sat., May 31, from 9:30 am–4 pm



Calling all musicians, singers, rappers, poets, and writers ages 12–18! Young musicians and writers will have the opportunity to collaborate and create with each other under the direction of three of Pittsburgh's most accomplished and talented artists. Vocalist and Hope Academy teaching artist, Anqwenique Wingfield; pianist and composer, Dr. Alton Merrell; and literary artist, Yona Harvey, are

hosting the NO BOUNDaries Young Artist Workshop at ELPC, in partnership with Hope Academy of Music and the Arts. Make new friends and new music at this *FREE* event. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, and to reserve your spot, contact Anqwenique Wingfield at **240.277.1985** or sopranowing@gmail.com.

Stuart Nye Hutchinson Memorial Scholarship

Through a generous bequest to the ELPC endowment, funds are available to provide scholarship aid to students who are enrolled—or are about to enroll—in seminaries administered by the PC(USA) and schools offering religious musical training—provided evidence of a genuine need exists. A typical annual scholarship award may be in the \$1,000–3,000 range. First consideration is given to ELPC members who are under the care of Session as candidates for Christian vocation.

To be considered as a recipient of a Hutchinson scholarship, eligible students may apply by contacting Pam Kimmel, business administrator at ELPC, at **412.441.3800 x18**. The deadline for applications is July 1.

Purpose

"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."—Marian Wright Edelman

Hope

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope."—President Barack Obama

Joy

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."—Kahlil Gibran

Love

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."—Thérèse de Lisieux

Find your purpose, hope, and joy by putting your love into action by serving in our community. Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iserve-2 to read about other service opportunities.



HA's Spring Music Festival

Sat., May 17, from 10 am–4 pm

Hope Academy's young singers and musicians are presenting an entire day of recitals and performances! Everyone is invited and it's all *FREE!* Instrumental and vocal recitals will take place throughout ELPC. Visit the Hope Academy webpage for details.

EL CEO (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) will perform at 5 pm. **HAT Co** (Hope Academy Teen Theater Company) and **The HAMS Band** (Hope Academy Middle School) will rock it out from 7–9 pm.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- We celebrate the birth of **Adeline Blass**, daughter of Tim and Abby Blass, who was born on March 28.
- Congratulations to **Bruce Pollock** and **Damisha McFarland-Pollock**, who were married on March 28.
- Congratulations to **Mackenna Karaczun**, daughter of Alex Karaczun and Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, who was baptized on April 6.
- We welcome our new members and friends: **Kay Blackburn**, **Lynne Chadwick**, **Jan Herzer**, **Debby Noakes**, and **James** and **Alison Schleifer**.

Prayers

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

- Alfonso Donalson, who was an ELPC member for 37 years and had served as an Elder;
- Donna Gruber, who was an ELPC member for 66 years and had served as a Deacon;
- Mark Krauland's nephew, John Krauland, age 28; and
- Mary Figlar's Uncle, Leonard Miller.

In Celebration of Kay

Please join us for a special reception following our 11 am Worship service on Pentecost Sunday, **June 8**, as we recognize and celebrate Kay Shissler's 50th consecutive year of teaching Church School at ELPC.



While we give thanks that this will not be Kay's last year of teaching Church School, we will honor this milestone in ministry with a reception and presentation in the Social Hall.

Please mark your calendars now and join us for a joyful celebration!

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Reflect God's all-inclusive love and welcome all God's children by wearing a rainbow ribbon while at ELPC. Ribbons and stickers are available at each worship service.



Our next business meeting is at 5 pm, on **Sun., May 4**. Our next spiritual gathering is at 5 pm, on **Sat., May 17**, in the Second Floor Parlor.

Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x14** for more details or to get on the distribution list.

*God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.*

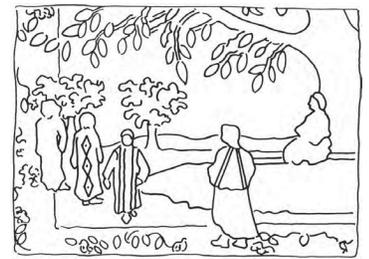
Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., May 6: An Abiding Hope at 10 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*. Our lesson is "God's Abiding Presence" (Exodus 25-31; 33:7-11;

34:11-40:38; Deuteronomy 30:11-20). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Soup and beverages will be provided.



Spiritual Life

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

Fri.-Sun., May 2-4: Spring Silent Retreat

Join us for a two-night silent retreat from 5:30 pm, on Friday, until noon, on Sunday, at Providence Villa in the North Hills. You also can sign up for an appointment with the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan for spiritual direction during the weekend to discuss your experience. The cost for two nights of quiet in a lovely setting and five meals is **\$130**. Scholarship money is available. Space is limited.



Reservation forms are available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board or by contacting Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x16**. Please return your completed reservation form and check to Kate Carlson by **Mon., April 28**. For questions or to request a scholarship, please contact the Rev. Callahan.

Fast for Hunger

Join your brothers and sisters in our monthly Fast for Hunger, beginning the evening of **Fri., May 2**, and ending the morning of **Sun., May 4**. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board.

Note: Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, there is no First Sunday event in May.

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Sun., May 18: Women's Heart Health Program at 12:30 pm

Do you know the American Heart Association reports that one in three women will have some form of coronary disease in their lifetime? Do you know what the risk factors and warning signs are, and that they are different from those for men?

Ebony Hughes from Magee Hospital Community Education Outreach will be presenting our program. There also will be a Q&A session, so come and learn how to enrich your life through heart-healthy improvement habits. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x16**.



Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

May: Preparation for Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday will be held on June 1, at the 11 am worship service. This special service will be written and led by our ELPC youth, and graduating seniors will share their stories of faith. Any youth in grades 9–12 who is interested in participating in this service is encouraged to attend Church School throughout the month of May, as we write the liturgy, select songs, and pick parts for worship.

Wed., May 14: Registration Deadline for Mission Trip

Registration forms and a \$25 deposit due on Wed., May 14, for both the Junior High Mission Trip to Crestfield from July 6–11 and the Senior High Mission Trip to Washington, D.C., from August 10–16. For registration and scholarship forms, please contact Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net.

Tues., May 20: Confirmation Class Meeting with Session and Deacons

As a reminder, the Confirmation Class will meet with Session and Deacons for dinner and to present their *Statements of Faith* from 6–7:30 pm. Confirmands will be received into church membership at worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. For more information, please contact Pastor Heather.

Wed., May 21: Senior High Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Youth in grades 9–12 who are planning on going on the mission trip to Washington, D.C., are asked to attend a planning meeting from 5–7 pm.

Sun., May 25: Youth Needed at the Young at Heart Luncheon

Youth in grade 4 and up are invited to serve dinner at the Young at Heart Luncheon following worship on Sun., May 25. Servers should wear a white shirt and black pants/skirt. Volunteers will receive many thanks and a free lunch! Sign up with Sara Hackett or Jason Ferrante.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., May 2: First Friday at Prayer Walk 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 also will do some recreational and contemplative walking. Come ready to walk and pray!



Sun., May 18: Sunday YAM Class from 9:45–10:45 am, in Room 244

Kathy Glass will lead us as we conclude our spring theme of testimony by examining "turning points" through Scripture, personal testimony, and group discussion. Bring your Bible. Café Justo will be served; childcare will be available.

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 412.441.3800 x14.



club one sixteen picnic

Youth and their families are invited to a picnic at 6 pm, on Wed., May 14, as we celebrate the end of our year.

Food for Thought

Our Food for Thought mentoring program is off to a great start! If you are interested in volunteering for next year's program or know youth who may be interested, talk to Wil Forrest or Sara Hackett. Here are some photos to highlight our time together!





“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.”

@EastLibertyPres

EastLibertyPresbyterian

VCS Registration Now Open

Registration is open for our Vacation Church School program, *Workshop of Wonders: Imagine and Build with God* (from 9 am–3 pm, June 23–27). Youth, age 3½ (who turned 3 by Jan. 1) through grade 5 (completed),



are invited to explore the wonder of God’s creation, goodness, and love through worship, crafts, recreation, and study. We encourage you to get your registration forms in early, as openings are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Volunteers are Needed!

We are in need of adult and youth (who have completed grades 6–12) volunteers in order to make sure that VCS is a true success. We welcome volunteers who are willing to serve for at least three hours—or the entire week!

Registration Forms and Training

Registration forms for students and volunteers are available on the ELPC website, the Second Floor CE Table, the CE bulletin board, and at the Front Desk. Look for details on mandatory training sessions in the June issue of *Reaching Out*.

Questions? Contact Pastor Heather.

Mother’s Day Cards

Honor your mother or another beloved woman in your life with a specially designed Mother’s Day card. Your gift helps promote the health, education and development of women and children around the world. The cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and are available for purchase in the church office during the week.



RSVP for Young at Heart Luncheon

Join us at the Young at Heart luncheon on **Sun., May 25**, following our 11 am Sanctuary Worship service. This is ELPC’s opportunity to celebrate and honor our senior congregants. Special entertainment



will be provided by David Jennings Smith’s musical group, Nouveau Noir Vocal Ensemble (pictured), accompanied by Gabe D’Abruzzo.

The event is *free* for members who are 65 and over; \$10 for all others. RSVP by calling Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x16** by **Fri., May 16**.