

## Pastor Randy to Malawi

As part of Pittsburgh Presbytery's long-standing relationship with Presbyterians in Malawi, Pastor Randy will be part of a group visiting Malawi from **Tues.–Wed., July 14–29**. This group, sponsored by the Presbytery's International Partnership, also will include three delegates from sister congregations in South Sudan.



ELPC has a direct relationship with the rural church in Balaka, Malawi, which Pastor Randy will get to visit. He also will learn more about this landlocked nation in Central Africa, and bring greetings to congregations in the Synod of Blantyre.

The Malawi trip participants will be dedicated at a special worship service at 6 pm, on **Sun., July 12**, at ELPC.

Please keep Pastor Randy in your prayers as he shares the love of Christ overseas on behalf of our church.

## Celebrating Marriage at ELPC

With affirmative votes in three presbyteries on March 17, 2015, Amendment 14-F, which updates PC(USA)'s *Book of Order's* section on marriage to be inclusive of same-sex couples, received sufficient votes to be approved. The new language took effect on June 21.



Teaching elders may already officiate, and sessions may already authorize, legal same-gender weddings, thanks to the approval last summer of an authoritative interpretation by the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly that said such unions do not violate the current *Book of Order* language. But the amendment codifies the recognition in the church's constitution and helps the church bear witness to marriage's timeless values of love, faithfulness, and mutual sacrifice.

In recognition of this important step forward, look for more information about our fall celebration of marriage and love here at ELPC.

## Courtyard Worship Returns

Our 10 am Worship Services will be held in our beautiful Courtyard, weather permitting. Indoor seating will be available in the Music Room on the third floor, adjacent to the elevator doors. There, services will be projected onto a large screen.



## Sunday Services

*\* Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Courtyard Worship • 10 am

*Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting, and also broadcast in the Music Room*

July 5*	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 12	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 19	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 26	Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

## Labyrinth Prayer Walk

*Mondays • 7 am–1 pm*

*Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm*

## Centering Prayer

*Wednesdays • 6:15–6:50 pm*

*In the Prayer and Meditation Room*

## Taizé Prayer Service

*Wednesdays • 7 pm*

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

## After Taizé Class Schedule

**July 8: Time of Music and Prayer**

**July 15: Live Music on the Labyrinth**

**July 29: Celebrations**

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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

Tel: 412.441.3800  
Fax: 412.441.4422

**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 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*

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*



My daily mail always includes uninvited guests—envelopes asking me for charitable contributions. Most days, these solicitations far outnumber the other pieces of mail delivered to my house. How are we supposed to decide which ones are worthy of financial support? There are websites—like Charity Navigator and Guide Star—that rank the various non-profit groups. But what happens when the request doesn't come in an envelope? How do we decide whether or not to help when a volunteer rings our doorbell or a person on the street asks for bus fare to get to work?

Making decisions about charity will always be an inexact science. But a few basic principles are worth keeping in mind. First, pay attention to the “proximity” of the request. No one can be expected to save the world, but we can each work to improve our corner of the kingdom. Ask yourself, “What are the needs around where I live or work?” This focus on proximity need not preclude supporting national or international charity work. Maybe the daughter of a family friend is in the Peace Corps in Tanzania, or a mission trip is being planned for Southeast Asia. How might you learn more about those foreign places and, better yet, what might you do today that will improve someone's life across the globe?

Second, place a high value on “prevention.” There will always be crises needing our responses. But the greater dividend comes when we invest upfront in programs that help prevent problems down the road. There will still be a need for disaster relief and Red Cross volunteers. But those efforts will always tug more strongly on our heart strings than tree-planting programs aimed to grow forests that will only reach maturity 50 years from now. Shifting a portion of our charitable giving to proactive efforts is always a smart policy to follow.

Third, quick fixes rarely solve anything. If you wish to do good wisely, you need a heavy measure of “patience.” Real change happens slowly. It happens when we intentionally decide to be informed on an issue and engage in long-term approaches designed to make things better. Maybe it means serving on a non-profit board or researching the best programs related to causes you value plus a monthly donation debited from your checking account. Patience is more than a virtue; it's an excellent model for long-term, positive change.

If the language of faith were to enter this conversation, then the earlier suggestion of proximity merits additional consideration. Life is not happenstance nor driven by pure chance. Since God is engaged in the workings of life as we know it, we should regularly look around for fingerprints of the Divine. Is there something deeper than serendipity involved when the news report about flooding in Malawi was followed by a church request for food donations for that country? Was a providential nudge connected to the article you read about a program that you later found out just hired a neighbor's son as a new employee?

Solicitations that come by mail will use any means they can to get your attention and your donation. But something more than circumstance and subtle coercion has to be the foundation for real philanthropy. Providentially, the places you will likely do the most good will always be near at hand.

*Randy Bush*

## Session News

The most-recent Session meeting was held on June 30, at which time the elders heard a presentation from the Renovation Committee and the Pfaffman + Associates architectural firm about the schematic design details of the proposed renovation project. The schematic design recommendation included adjustments and improvements to the earlier concept designs, responding to the congregational feedback sessions held this spring. It also confirmed the scope of the project and the \$6 million construction budget.

Next month's newsletter will provide more details about Session's actions at that meeting, as well as a schedule for additional congregational feedback and the next steps in the architectural planning process.

Other items discussed by the Session included reports from the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee on Hope Academy and upgrades to our Sanctuary sound system; reports from the Mission Board about the recent Pridefest activities and upcoming film series; and reports from the Educational Ministries about this summer's successful Vacation Church School.

### Stewardship Committee Seeks Members

The Stewardship Committee is looking for a few additional members. The time commitment is not great, but we will meet for two–three short meetings late this summer or in early fall, and may need help with envelope stuffing.

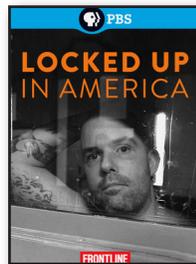
If you have any interest, please reach out to Elaine Bellin.

## Summer Film Festival Set to Begin

The Neighbors, Justice, and Peace Committees of the Mission Board are teaming up to sponsor our fourth annual Summer Film Festival. Films will be shown after our Courtyard Worship service, along with a light potluck lunch in Room 234.

### July 12: *Spent: Looking for Change* 40 minutes

This film, presented by the Justice Committee, is about everyday Americans without the financial options most of us take for granted and the movement giving them renewed hope. Turning to pawn shops, check-cashing services, and payday loans to meet basic financial needs can be costly for many of us, with \$89 billion a year going to fees and interest for using these types of alternative financial services. It's time for change. New technology, new ideas, and encouraging dialogue around this issue can help make managing money simple and more affordable.



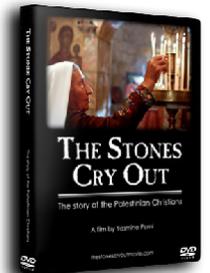
### July 19: *Locked Up in America: Prison State* 1.5 hours

The Justice Committee will screen this PBS Frontline documentary, which examines the impact of mass incarceration in America. The film follows the lives of four individuals from one neighborhood as they move in and out of custody.

Following the film, we will discuss ELPC's involvement with Project Hope and Amachi, two local programs.

### July 26: *The Stones Cry Out* 56 minutes

The Peace Committee will show this film about Palestinian Christians. Christianity was born in Palestine two thousand years ago. From there, it spread throughout the Middle East and to the rest of the world. Yet many are unaware Christians still live in the land. For more than 60 years, the Palestinians, Christians, and Muslims have suffered displacement, expulsion, wars, occupation and oppression. The voices of Palestinian Christians have all too often been drowned out in the turmoil of events. This is their story, in their voices, from the Nakba of 1948 until today.



### Aug. 2: *To be determined*

The Peace Committee will screen a film that was shown during the 2015 Ecumenical Days Advocacy experience in Washington, D.C. Look for more details in the weekly announcements and e-flash.

## The Chapel Market is Accepting Donations

The Chapel Market, which provides gently worn, donated clothing to those who need it for free, is open for shopping and donating on Mondays, from 10 am–12 pm, and Thursdays, from 6–8 pm. The Market is located on ELPC's Ground Floor by the Whitfield Street entrance.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support. Questions? Send an email to [TheChapelMarket@gmail.com](mailto:TheChapelMarket@gmail.com).



## Crestfield Camp Offers Summer Opportunities

Crestfield Camp, in Slippery Rock, has a great summer planned for children, youth, and adults.

Campers will explore Scripture, participate in a wide variety of activities around the *Power Up* (power of the Holy Spirit) theme, and express their love for Jesus through worship and song. Campers will experience Christian community and discover that they are never alone—Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit is always with them!

Crestfield provides a sacred place to experience an intentional Christian community that challenges campers to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially.

Camps run through July. For details, visit [Crestfield.net](http://Crestfield.net).



## Spiritual Life

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

### **Fri.–Sun., July 31–Aug. 2: Fast for Hunger**

Our fast begins the evening of **Fri., July 31**, and concludes with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper on **Sun., Aug. 2**. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life bulletin board.

## Youth Ministry

*Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry*

### **Sun., July 5: Youth Mission Trip Commissioning**

Join us in worship as we commission our youth who will be spending time over the summer as missionaries from our church. We will have a special time of prayer for the junior high youth who are leaving the next day for Camp Crestfield's *Mission Possible* program, and for the senior high youth who will spend Aug. 9–15, in Maxwelton, West Virginia.



**Note:** There also will be a mission trip meeting for parents of senior high youth following worship on **Sun., July 5**.



### **Sun.–Sat., July 26–Aug. 1: Trinity Youth Conference**

Trinity Youth Conference (TYC) is a Christian Leadership Conference for High School and College age students, which focuses on spiritual and leadership development, discipleship, and evangelism through daily worship, small group activities, and various workshops with topics based on this year's theme *For Such a Time as This: the story of Esther*.

Workshop leaders include Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Sara Hackett and Ashley Birt. For more information, check out [TrinityYouthConference.org](http://TrinityYouthConference.org).

## Young Adult Ministry

*Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs*

### **Fri., July 3: First Friday @ Mt. Washington** at 7 pm

Come together for dinner and to share fellowship while we enjoy the beautiful view of our city from high atop Mt. Washington. Be at Grandview Saloon & Coal Hill Steakhouse at 7 pm, or meet at ELPC for a ride at 6:30 pm. Bring money for dinner. Contact Wil if you plan to attend so we can make reservations for a patio table overlooking the city. Check out the menu at [TheGrandViewSaloon.com](http://TheGrandViewSaloon.com).

### **Sun., July 12: Inter-Faith Dirt Dig** at 11:30 am

Meet in the Highland Lobby to head over for lunch, before we work at the rooftop garden at EECM Community House with our new friends from Repair the World—the young adult Jewish service organization. Learn more at [WeRepair.org](http://WeRepair.org).



# LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



On **Sun., July 5**, All are invited as we host our new friends who we met in June for worship in the Garth, as well as a simple lunch and fellowship afterward.

Our next Spiritual Gathering will be at 7 pm, on **Wed., July 15**, for Taizé worship and fellowship time.

To learn more about ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x14.

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

# Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

**Tai Chi** Tuesdays, from 10–11 am; 6–7 pm  
Experience flowing movements and a relaxing workout. The cost is \$3/session (or \$25/10 sessions). Please pre-register with Kate Carlson at [KateC@coh.net](mailto:KateC@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x16.

**Yoga** Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm  
Relax and renew your body, mind, and spirit. Classes are led by Yamuna, a Kripalu-certified instructor. A donation to the instructors is appreciated.



# Save the Date to Celebrate

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to the fifth annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers, from 6–7:30 pm, on **Thurs., Aug. 20**, in the Courtyard. Main dish and drinks will be provided, but you may bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please label containers with your name. No serving utensils are needed. Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time.



For more information, contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x14. To learn more about serving or becoming a member of the weSERVE list, visit [CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE](http://CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE).

# ELPC People

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

## Good News

- We celebrate the birth of **Paige Angeline Will**, daughter of Regis Will and Colleen Briner, born on May 10.
- Congratulations to **Chanteera Blackshear**, who was baptized and received as an ELPC member in May.
- Best wishes to the married couples:
  - **Alexander Ebbert** and **William Laughard**, on May 9;
  - **Todd Farwell** and **Robert Gallaway**, on June 13; and
  - **Michael** and **Anna (Sartori) Lawrence**, on June 27.
- ELPC member **Eric Vinsel** graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with his M.Div. degree. Eric also received several awards, including:
  - *The Thomas Jamison Scholarship*, given to the senior with the highest average at the start of the final term;
  - *The Michael Wilson Keith Memorial Prize in Homiletics*, awarded to the senior who has spent three years in the Seminary and has the highest standing in the homiletics department;
  - *The Sylvester S. Marvin Fellowship*, for a senior who achieved the highest standard in all departments of the Seminary curriculum and pledged to a year of post-graduate study at an approved institution; and
  - *The Middlesex United Presbyterian Church Memorial Prize in Biblical Studies*, awarded to the most deserving senior, in the judgment of the faculty.

## Correction

In last month's "Thank You, Teachers" article, **Damon Bethea** was omitted. We give thanks for Damon's ministry as a junior high Church School teacher.

## Prayers

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

- Sandra Walker's mother, Mary Gist
- Mario Costanzo's sister, Jeanette Speicher



*“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.”*

## Calling All Graduates!



We acknowledge that many from within our community have graduated this spring from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc.

We would like to celebrate these achievements by honoring our graduates in our August newsletter. Please submit the graduate’s name—along with degree earned and school attended—to Gloria Knopp at [GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x22** by **Fri., July 3**.

## CE Classes are on Break

There will be no Church School classes throughout July and August. Classes for persons of all ages will resume on Rally Day, **Sun., Sept. 13**.

### Building Closed

The ELPC office will be closed all day on **Fri.–Sat., July 3–4**, in observance of Independence Day.

## Neighborhood Mission Opportunities

Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on **Sat., July 11**, for mission opportunities with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm.

For more details, contact Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or [ejr116@gmail.com](mailto:ejr116@gmail.com), or the Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30**.

Each Thursday, Garfield Community Farm has volunteer nights from 5:30 pm–dusk. All ages are welcome. Bring work gloves and boots. Questions? Contact John Creasy at **412.979.7764** or [John@pghopendoor.org](mailto:John@pghopendoor.org).



*Hope Academy’s Teen Theater Company (Hat Co) performed at the Three Rivers Arts Festival on Thurs., June 11.*

*The group also was invited to record a video at the Yellow Couch Studio. Watch their video on the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s Vimeo account.*