

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

June 2015

Celebrating God's Love for All

On **Sun., June 7**, our congregation will participate in the Circle of Faith at Schenley Plaza. The Circle of Faith is a public witness by faith communities to welcome and include LGBTQIA persons and their families and allies. The event is for all who believe God's love is inclusive and that all are welcome into the "family circle" of their faith communities. The church van will leave ELPC at 1 pm, and return at 4 pm.



Then on **Sun., June 14**, our congregation will march as a church in the annual PrideFest March, and then spend time at the fair. Consider representing ELPC at our booth for an hour with others from our church family.

The church van will leave after our 10 am Worship service, and return at about 3 pm. Sign up for the parade and staffing the booth on **Sun., May 31**, during coffee hour.

For details on either event, see the bulletin board in the Highland hallway, or speak with Carol Chonoska or contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x14**. See page 7 for more information on volunteering.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

On **Sun., June 7**, the Neighbors Committee will sponsor a coffee hour to lift up its ministry teams and provide an opportunity to participate in the 2015 Bread for the World Offering of Letters.

This year's Offering of Letters to Congress focuses on the reauthorization of the Childhood Nutrition Act. This act provides the funding for vital feeding programs (school breakfast and lunch programs, summer feeding programs, and WIC) for children who face hunger on a daily basis. Without the reauthorization, these programs will end on Sept. 30, 2015.

Please take a few minutes to stop by the McKelvy Room and write a brief letter to Congress asking them to reauthorize this program. In addition, browse the ministry team tables to learn more about the important work of the Neighbor's Mission Committee.



Sunday Services

* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Theme: It's In There

June 7* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

June 7* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 10 am

June 14 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

June 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

June 28 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

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

June 10: Extended Time of Music and Prayer

June 17: Live Music on the Labyrinth

June 24: Celebrations

Vacation Church School

See details on page 6.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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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

Paul Seif
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



If you're not a baseball fan, you'll have to forgive me for the theme of this month's essay. Several months ago, I saw a photograph of Harry Truman leaning back in the grandstands to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at a baseball game. That photo caused me to wonder, "When did throwing out the first pitch move from being done from the stands to being thrown from the pitcher's mound?" Thanks to the wizards of the Internet, I learned that the tradition of U.S. Presidents throwing out first pitches dates back to 1910, with William Howard Taft being the first to do so. Every president since

then has honored this tradition, but Ronald Reagan was the first one to move the act from the stands to the pitcher's mound.

Frankly, I like the old tradition. I like seeing pictures of presidents standing up in the front row of the stadium and heaving the ball out onto the playing field. Invariably, there's a sea of smiling faces behind them, joining in solidarity as the ceremonial first pitch opens another baseball season or World Series. Once President Reagan moved this act out to the pitcher's mound, we lost a sense of the president doing this ritual from amidst the people. Once they began throwing balls from the pitcher's mound, it became more of a public, showy act—one in which we may feel compelled to critique our elected leader's athleticism or form, noting whether the ball bounced before getting to the catcher.

This may seem like a totally obscure subject, but consider ceremonial first pitches as a modern parable for our Christian faith. Take a moment to ask yourself: WWJP—Where Would Jesus Pitch? I think the Redeemer who fed the crowd of 5,000, who healed people he met by the side of the road, who shared meals with saints and sinners alike, would (if asked) toss out the ceremonial first pitch at PNC Park from the grandstands. It seems unbiblical to imagine Jesus standing alone, out on the pitcher's mound, with only the outfield and electronic scoreboard as a backdrop.

When I picture Jesus, I imagine him surrounded by people—women, men and children, strangers and friends alike. I imagine him looking people in the eyes, listening attentively, close enough to reach out to hold a hand or offer a gesture of support. Too much of modern society seems focused on "moments in the spotlight." We have "selfie sticks" to help take better self-portraits on our smartphones. We watch TV shows that showcase movie stars standing alone on the red carpet. And our presidents stand alone on a pitcher's mound, nervously heaving baseballs to the home team's catcher. My hope is that we will focus more on images of Martin Luther King, Jr., walking amidst the crowd over the bridge on the way to Selma; or the times when Gandhi, Mother Teresa, or Pope Francis step into the midst of crowds to offer words of comfort and kindness.

Every day, you're handed a "first pitch" to toss into the game of life before you. It may be a word or a deed, showing up for work, or just helping a friend. If you choose to stand beside Jesus as you throw out that pitch, my guess is you'll always find yourself in the midst of the crowd—which is right where God has wisely placed you for just such a time as this.

Randy Bush

Session News

A joint Session and Deacons meeting was held on May 19, as one way to celebrate the joint ministry of these groups of ordained church leaders.

News was shared about how new deacon Sonya-Marie Morley has been accepted for study at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; new member Britney Vokish introduced herself as a possible Inquirer seeking to come under care at ELPC; and the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, director of mission ministries at ELPC, has completed all of her requirements as she seeks ordination in the PC(USA).

An update also was provided on the Renovations Project, as well as the timing of the Capital Campaign to finance this work.

Other news included motions regarding new members, baptisms, and work being done to have our church recognized by the denomination as an Earth Care Congregation.

Renovation Project Update

Over the past weeks, the Capital Campaign Committee has been actively working to plan requests for financial support, both from congregational and community sources. Concurrently, the architects have been working to complete sketches and outline renovation priorities for consideration by the Renovation Committee, which will present its recommendation to Session at their June meeting.

Following any Session action, the congregation will again be encouraged to offer feedback on these latest drawings before the process shifts from the "schematic design" to "design development" phase.

The Property and Worship Committees also are looking at improvements in 2015 to our Sanctuary's video and sound systems.

Thank You, ELPC

by Paul Seif, seminary intern

As my time as your seminary intern draws to a close, I want to thank you all for your support and prayers. My year at ELPC has been an amazing learning experience, and I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to serve our church community and participate in several areas of our church's ministries. I want to take the time to highlight a few of them, to give you a sense of what your support and leadership helped me experience and accomplish.

One of the ministries that I participated in was **club one sixteen**—our midweek, school-age programming. Two of my highlights were praying on the Labyrinth with the teens on Ash Wednesday and partnering with Rodef Shalom on two community service projects.

Christian Education was another area of ministry where I served. I taught adult classes, and I was a supply teacher for kids' classes and Extended Session.

I also was able to help lead Sunday worship. I led prayers and readings in both services, played the drums during Journey worship, and preached a couple times.

Of all the things I was able to do, my favorite was hanging out with all of you. We are a gifted with a lovely faith community, and I'm thankful that I was able to participate with ELPC staff in supporting our church's life and growth.

Thank You.



New Elder and Deacons are Appointed

At a brief Congregational Meeting following Sanctuary worship on Sun., May 17, three nominees were presented to fill vacancies on Session as elder, and on the Deacon Board.

ELPC is pleased to present **David Gilliland**, deacon class of 2018 (first term), **Nathaniel Morley**, elder class of 2018 (one term), and **Ian Bush**, deacon class of 2016 (one-year term). The trio shared their visions for ELPC:



"To continue our policy of acceptance of all people."—David Gilliland



"I wish to see ELPC continue our strong commitment to social justice and community outreach. I want to see our mission of 'radical hospitality' continue to be implemented. I wish to see ELPC continue to grow and thrive and provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all."—Nathaniel Morley



"To help lead or follow in whatever way I can."—Ian Bush

Fast for Hunger

Our monthly fast or hunger begins the evening of **Fri., June 5**, and concludes with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper on **Sun., June 7**. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life bulletin board.

Feeling Crafty?

Knitting Group: Join us on **Tues., June 2**, from 1–3 pm, in Room 244. Yarn donations are appreciated.

Toy Makers: Join us on **Wed., June 10**, from 9 am–12 pm, for fellowship and crafts, as we construct toys for children, wherever they are needed.

Sewing Group: Join us on **Mon., June 15**, from 3–6:30 pm, in the Sewing Room.

Beginners are always welcome in each group. Contact Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** or dnjcks@verizon.net for more information.

Plastic Bags Needed

Crocheters are working on a project making mats for the homeless and are in need of clean plastic bags (exclude any which have contained meat, poultry, or fish). Leave bags in the designated box in the church office.



Christian Education

Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Contemporaries *Second Floor Parlor*

Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

June 7: Year-End Review and Planning for the Fall

Join us for fellowship and a potluck breakfast. We will take some time for self-evaluation and plan for the coming year.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

"I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever."—(Psalm 138). Throughout this past year in class, we've read and reflected upon the journey with God—a participative journey of steadfast love, defined vocation, regard for the lowly, and heartfelt thanks—a journey offered for all. What fascinating travel! We give thanks for the year. May your heart be thankful and refreshed during this coming summer.

June 7: 1 Samuel 8:4–20, 11:14–15; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1; and Mark 3:20–35

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

June 7: Planting Trees in the West Bank with the Center for Jewish Non-Violence

Nancy Bernstein has been involved with Mideast peace issues since 2007. She is currently co-chair of J Street Pittsburgh, which promotes a two-state solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict by working within the American Jewish community.

Ms. Bernstein will tell us her personal history, growing up Jewish and coming to realize the importance of Palestinian rights. She also will tell us about her recent trip to Israel with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence, and their meeting with non-violent Palestinian and Israeli activists. This will include the latest from Daoud Nasser, a Palestinian farmer working for peace at the Tent of Nations, while surrounded by Israeli settlements.

Soul Food *Room 244*

Facilitator: Joe Hajdu

June 7: Review and Planning Sessions

We will meet for a review, and plan for summer activities and the coming year.

Thank You, Teachers

ELPC is blessed to have many Church School teachers who faithfully share their knowledge and love of Christ with children, youth, and adults each Sunday. We will honor our teachers during both worship services on **Sun., June 7**.



We give thanks for the gifts and ministries of: **Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, Damon Bethea, Carmen Blanco, Sandy Edgcombe, Mary Figlar, Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, Bill Johnson, Mary Ruth Johnson, Vanessa Johnson, Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, Mary Alice Lightle, Nancy Magee, Beverly Mick, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Christopher Reese, Kay Shissler, Candess Ward, and Eddie and Jen Willson.**

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Thurs., June 11: HAT Co Band at Three Rivers Arts Festival from 5–6 pm
Hope Academy's teen theater company (HAT Co) will rock it out to original songs and popular covers with a five-piece band and five singers at the Gateway Center Acoustic Stage.

This ensemble is part of a larger group of singers, dancers, actors, and musicians who create their own theater, dance, and music at Hope Academy of Music and the Arts, an after-school and Saturday arts education outreach program at ELPC.

Please cheer on the HAT Co band and stay for the headline act, Rhiannon Giddens, from the Grammy-award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops.



Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., June 7: Youth Volunteers Needed for Young at Heart Luncheon

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

Sat., June 13: Car Wash

Youth will be washing cars from 10 am–2 pm, at Vento's Pizza, next to Home Depot. Donations in exchange for a clean car will be greatly appreciated, and will help fund the youth mission trip to West Virginia in August. Youth should meet at ELPC at 9 am.



Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., June 5: First Friday @ Garfield Community Farm at 7 pm



We will spend an evening serving on a reclaimed urban garden lot with local ministry partner Garfield Community Farm (GCF). Meet in ELPC lobby to travel together at 6:45 pm, or meet at the farm at 7 pm. Dress to work in the dirt. Garfield Community Farm is on the corner of Cornwall and Wicklow Streets in Garfield. Learn more at GarfieldFarm.com.

Sun., June 14: Show Your Pride after 10 am worship

Meet at Highland Circle for a ride as we head down in the church van to march as a church in Pittsburgh's annual PrideFest March, as we do each year to show our support for our LGBTQ sisters and brothers. Afterward, we can enjoy the booths and entertainment at the PrideFest Fair. Consider signing up with Wil to work at the ELPC booth for an hour. Learn more at PittsburghPride.org.



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 from June 21–July 31. For details, visit Crestfield.net.



YAM is For You

Your friends are always welcome, too! To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

Child Safety Training

In January 2015, expanded laws went into effect in Pennsylvania to ensure the welfare and safety of all children. As an intergenerational community with many programs specifically serving children and youth, ELPC is required to modify our internal Child Safety Policies so that they are current with state law. ELPC's Session has updated our policies to adopt the new standards, and we are required to be in compliance by July 1, 2015.

All ELPC staff and volunteers who may come in contact with children or youth are required to have:

- Updated criminal background checks and Act 33/34 clearances,
- FBI background checks for those who have lived outside of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years (residents for 10 or more years must sign an affidavit confirming their residency),
- Completed online training on mandatory reporting, and
- Participated in an ELPC child safety training session.

In order to facilitate our compliance with these laws, ELPC will:

- Pay for all background checks,
- Arrange a time for FBI fingerprinting to be held at ELPC,
- Provide volunteers with the website for the mandatory reporting training session, and
- Offer an ELPC child safety training session to discuss changes and answer questions.

Two training dates have been scheduled, with more to come this summer. Staff and volunteers are invited to attend a training session on **Tues., June 3**, from 5:30–6:30 pm; or **Sun., June 7**, from 12:30–1:30 pm.

Please note that training is required, so if you are unable to attend but work with children, please contact the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf.

Are You Ready for Vacation Church School?



ELPC's Vacation Church School will run from 9 am–3 pm, **June 22–26**. This year's theme, *Message Received, Hearing God's Call*, will invite participants to explore how God has called people throughout Scripture and how He calls us still today. Our days together will be filled with worship, Bible study, art, recreation, and fun...including Christmas in June!

Register Now

If you haven't registered yet, sign up today! Kids age 4 (must turn 4 by June 22) through those who have completed grade 5 are invited to attend. Registration forms are on the Christian Education Bulletin Boards and at **ELPC.church**.

Youth and Adult Volunteers Needed

In order to offer an amazing and safe opportunity for children in our community, we are in need of youth (who have completed grades 6 and up) and adult volunteers. There are many ways to serve! We ask that you commit to serving at least one three-hour session, or all week. Volunteer registration forms can be found on the CE Bulletin Boards and at **ELPC.church**.



Youth and adult volunteers will have mandatory training from 11:30 am–1:30 pm, on **Sun., June 21**, in Room 234. Lunch will be provided. Please note that ELPC will provide and pay for adult volunteers to meet the requirements of ELPC's Child Safety Policy and Pennsylvania state law. (See the article on the left for details.)



Donate Supplies

Another meaningful way to support VCS is to donate supplies to make this important ministry possible. VCS is offered for *free* to all children, but there are overhead costs associated with running a program that serves nearly 100 kids throughout the week.

There will be supplies listed on tags at the bulletin board at the bottom of the main stairwell on **Sun. May 31** and **June 7**. Please consider purchasing items and return them to the church by **Sun., June 14**.

Neighborhood Mission Opportunities

Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on **Sat., June 6**, 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**, 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**.

Support Our Sisters and Brothers

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Put your love in action and support our LGBTQ sisters and brothers by participating in the Circle of Faith on **Sun., June 7**, and at the PrideFest March and booth on **Sun., June 14**.

We will have transportation to and from each event leaving from the church. We will need many hands to ensure ELPC's full participation in each event as well.

We also look forward to hosting our new friends who we meet at these events on **Sun., July 5**, for worship in the Garth, as well as for lunch and fellowship afterward.

For more information on these events and/or to serve, contact Wil Forrest at 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.



i SERVE
LOVE IN ACTION

The Chapel Market is Accepting Donations

The
Chapel
Market

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.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Join us in celebrating recent births:
 - **Mason Carter Paul**, son of Loren (Carter) and Kenny Paul, was born on December 29
 - **Ky'Ron Johnson**, son of LaVashia Johnson, was born on April 11
 - **Lucy Ferda**, daughter of Tucker and Libby Freda, was born on April 18
- Congratulations to those who were recently baptized:
 - **Mason Paul**, son of Loren and Kenny Paul
 - **Abigail Melnick**, daughter of Alicia and Jesse Melnick
 - **Xyla Blackshear**, daughter of Chanteera Blackshear
 - **Kathy Glass**
- We offer our best wishes to couples who were recently married:
 - **William and Alexander Ebbert**, on May 9
 - **Stephen Simpson and Travis Hunt**, on May 16
 - **Elaine Bellin and Phyllis Coontz**, on May 23
- Please welcome our new members and friends who joined on May 10: **Kelli and Ryan Booher; Mary Beth Gladis and Cynthia Johnson; Catherine Alston Hardy; Kathy Glass; Ellen and Robert Fredrickson; Susan Speicher; Casey McDonald; and Patrick Kelly.**

Prayers

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

- Robert Brown III, son of Rob Brown, an ELPC security guard; and
- Dewey Hughes, Travis Hunt's great uncle.



"...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."

Young at Heart Luncheon

Our 2015 Young at Heart luncheon is scheduled for **Sun., June 7**, immediately following Sanctuary worship. This is ELPC's opportunity to celebrate and honor our senior congregants.



The event is *free* for congregation members 65 and over; \$10 for all others. Special musical entertainment will follow lunch.

Please RSVP with Kate Carlson by **Fri., May 29**, at katec@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x16**.

Organist David Briggs to Perform

Concert organist David Briggs will perform at ELPC from 7:30–9 pm, on **Sun., June 21**, as part of the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists. During the second half of the concert, Briggs will perform a silent-film accompaniment to Charlie Chaplin's *The Immigrant*.

An internationally renowned organist, Briggs' performances are acclaimed for their musicality, virtuosity, and ability to excite and engage audiences of all ages.



Tickets cost **\$15**. Visit AGOpgh2015.com for more information.

Tour the Tower

Interested in touring ELPC's tower? Join member Tim VanFleet following worship on **Sun., June 14**, for an hour-long tour. Gather in the hospitality area at our South Highland entrance (guard desk). Please wear shoes and clothing for climbing ladders.

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 or **412.441.3800 x22** by **Tues., June 30**.

