

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

August 2015

Offering Assistance to Damaged Churches



The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)—in collaboration with its ecumenical partners—is working to assist the churches that were recently damaged by fire. Over

a two week period, seven churches with predominately black membership burned in North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, and Tennessee. In a joint statement released on July 1, PC(USA) leaders urged everyone to offer prayers and financial support to the churches.

“As Christians, we live in hope of a Beloved Community where racism and other evils that divide us are washed away. Even as we wait, we are called to work with all our energy and resources to make that a reality. In support of that vision, we urge all Presbyterians and their congregations to reach out to their African American neighbors, assuring them of their love and support, including a willingness to stand with them in the face of danger.”

In the 1990s, there were a series of hate-related arson attacks on African American churches. Working with partners, PDA helped some of the churches rebuild, and worked towards building racial reconciliation.

At a recent meeting of the ELPC Mission Board, a **\$500 donation** was approved to support these efforts. If you are interested in helping the damaged churches rebuild, you may do so by giving to the designated account—DR000126—at pda.pcusa.org/situation/burned-churches.

Celebrate Love and Marriage Equality

ELPC members and friends are invited to renew marriage vows with their beloved or be a witness as our church family celebrates love and marriage equality on **Fri., Oct. 23**. A

renewal of marriage vows ceremony will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm, with a reception to immediately follow in the Social Hall and Courtyard.

More details are available at ELPC.church. Couples who wish to participate are asked to register online by **Thurs., Oct. 1**.



ELPC at Decision Day on June 26

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

August 2* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
August 9 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
August 16 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
August 23 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
August 30 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

August 12: Time of Music and Prayer
August 19: Live Music on the Labyrinth
August 26: Celebrations

Sermon Series in August

There will be a sermon theme throughout August that focuses on Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
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Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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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

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



Is it important to know someone when you come to a Sunday worship service? Obviously that is a hard goal to achieve the very first time you visit a church. But for every Sunday after that, I believe it is important that you know someone else's name and recognize someone else's face, and conversely that someone knows who you are.

I once read about a group of eight pregnant women who regularly met together for two hours to eat fruit, hummus, and carrot sticks; watch videos about labor pain; and generally share about their experiences. Their meeting looked like a social gathering or a support group, but in this case it was actually a doctor's appointment. Instead of making appointments with eight women in 15-minute intervals, a doctor could spend two hours with all of them. They would rotate through stations for basic prenatal checkups and to chat with the doctor, but they would also talk together about critical topics like diabetes, exercise, and lowering their blood pressure.

Studies showed that participants in these group meetings were 33 percent less likely to have a premature birth. In many cases, the women were more willing to follow healthy prenatal routines when the recommendations did not simply come from the doctor but were reinforced by their peers. These gatherings were times for mutual accountability as well as emotional support, laughter, and camaraderie.

I believe there is a measurably different experience between sitting through worship as a stranger or being in church where you know others and others know you. Maybe the people you know are simply the folks who sit near to you week after week. Maybe the people are ones with whom you volunteer or see at Church School. These are precisely the people who might call if you miss church for several weeks, or who would offer to pray for you if you shared a personal concern or special need. These are the friends and acquaintances whose actions reinforce the messages you hear from the pulpit, hymnal, or times of prayer.

In today's individualistic world, the dominant message is to be self-focused and self-sufficient. However, the gospel has always challenged this view. We are created in God's image, and just as the Triune God exists in relationship (Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit), we too were made from the beginning to be in relationship with God and one another. Yes, you can pray alone to God, but it feels qualitatively different to know that someone else is praying for you. Yes, you can be moved by solitary worship experiences, but the services that are most memorable invariably involve praising God as part of a larger family of faith where you feel included, known and welcomed.

During the coming weeks, as we continue to worship outside in the Courtyard, take the initiative to meet someone new. Seek out someone who happens to be a stranger and transform them into an acquaintance or friend. Talk long enough with someone else that they will share with you one detail of their life for which you can honestly say, "I'll be keeping that in prayer." Share what is on your heart with someone else so they can say those words back to you.

The way of faith was never meant to be walked alone. When we remember that simple bit of advice, church becomes less about a building or a worship time and much more about a living, interacting, growing faith.

Randy Bush

Session News and Renovation Updates

A Session meeting was held on June 30, to hear the report from the Pfaffmann + Associates architectural firm about the schematic designs for the ELPC Renovation Project. The purpose of "schematic design" is to review ideas already presented, incorporate suggested changes that came from congregational and staff feedback sessions, and check the cost estimates against the overall budget.

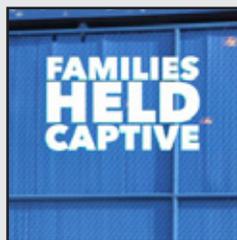
The majority of earlier concepts were verified as possible renovation options both from practical and budget considerations. Extra attention was recommended for the Wayfarers Chapel and Social Hall, upgrading those spaces in terms of lighting and accessibility. A new idea for making the Sanctuary chancel fully accessible was proposed by the architects, as well as adapting Room 234 for multiple uses related to youth programs, arts, and crafts. The Ground, First, and Second floors each will have accessible, uni-sex bathroom facilities. Plans also were presented regarding equipment storage, and housing our church's emergency generator outside (in keeping with code requirements).

Some of these ideas will affect the overall budget, so the next steps will involve the following: at least two congregational feedback sessions, letter mailed to the congregation, and preparing "design & development" drawings to pinpoint details such as room usages and furnishings. The Session will consider moving to this stage at their meeting on Sept. 15.

The good news was shared with the Session that the Richard King Mellon Foundation has generously made a \$1 million grant to support ELPC's capital improvements project. An initial gift of \$750,000 has already been received with the remaining \$250,000 to be released as a challenge grant to encourage the congregational giving to surpass \$2 million during the fall capital campaign.

Our Summer Film Festival Concludes on Aug. 2

Our fourth annual Summer Film Festival will conclude on **Sun., Aug. 2**, as the Justice Committee screens *Families Held Captive*. The film will be shown after our Courtyard worship service, along with a light potluck lunch in Room 234.



The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) of the PC(USA) recently joined denomination and community partners to spotlight the inhumanity of detention centers in South Texas, which house Central American mothers and their children. Persons of faith and conscience are providing outreach to these families and to end this disturbing practice by the U.S. government. *Families Held Captive* examines these prison-like facilities and the affected lives.

Following the film, there will be a discussion led by ELPC members who recently attended the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.

New Ministry to Support Neighborhood Families

ELPC's Neighbors Committee has started a new "food" ministry to support local families involved in the Circles program through Open Hand Ministries. The objective of Circles is family development and attainment of goals that improve their lives and communities. These families meet once a week for classes and encouragement.



We will help by preparing dinner for the families (adults and children). Our first opportunity to serve will be on **Tues., Aug. 18**. If you are able to donate a cold salad for 6-8 people and deliver it to ELPC or directly to EECM Community House, please contact Allison Freeman at sneezemd@comcast.net or 717.725.9859, or the Rev. Patrice at PatriceFS@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x30.

club one sixteen is looking for volunteers

club one sixteen, our after-school program for school-age youth, resumes in September. We need many volunteers to teach, help with activities, provide dinner, help serve food, and much more. Come spend some time with a great group of kids. See Wil Forrest for more info or to volunteer.





VCS 2015 was a Huge Success

The hallways were filled with laughter and song, the craft rooms were bursting with tie-dye shirts and découpage candles, and children responded to God's call through acts of service to others. VCS was a huge success, **reaching 90 children** with the good news of God's love.



We thank everyone who helped make VCS a success, from the maintenance staff who set up the rooms and the congregation members who donated supplies, to the volunteers who worked directly with the kids each day. We also offer a special word of thanks to those who ministered to the children as leaders, teachers, snack coordinators, and shepherds. Thank you to:

Our Adult Volunteers and Staff

Sherry Anderson, Sue Bailey, Amy Bialek, Carmen Blanco, Kelli Booher, Andrea Brown, Beth Bush, Randy Bush, Marilyn Castle, Peta Harrigan Cole, Kristine Conley, Gabe D'Abruzzo, Sandy Edgecombe, Dwayne Elliott, Karen Fraser, Wil Forrest, Barb Fotta, Jane Hackett, Sara Hackett, Carol Hoehn, Liz Hopkins, Keith Irvin, Gloria Knopp, Heather Lawrence, Josh Lawrence, Taylor Lewand, Mary Alice Lightle, Patricia McClung, Judy Menk, Zach Metkler, Beverly Mick, Alesia Miller, Cami Needle, David Phillips, Jan Pressman, David Schoenewolf, Heather Schoenewolf, Paul Seif, Kay Shissler, Paige Shoemaker, Amy Spicuzza, John Tunney, April Turner, Larry White, Eddie Willson, and Britney Vokish.



Our Teen Volunteers

Charlotte Bush, Ian Bush, Margaret Edgecombe, Keyona Farrell, Chloe Ferrante, Jason Ferrante, Virginia Kane, Katarina Kreger, Julia Lewand, Ramsey Lewand, Kenyada Little, Eric Liu, Ruby McCord, Madison Morrissey, Ore Olaore, Duncan Rieger, Kiara Rockymore, Anna Sabilla, Akil Turner, and Xander Yates.



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

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

Hope Academy's fall term begins the week of **Mon., Sept. 14**. Download a brochure and registration form online at HopeAcademyArts.com or pick one up at the ELPC front desk. Classes fill quickly, so return your completed registration form as soon as possible to make sure your place is reserved.

Please note, the deadline for need-based scholarship/tuition assistance applications is **Sat., Aug. 15**.

There is something for everyone, from **Musical Theater Workshop** (voice, tap dance, and acting) and **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** dance classes on Saturdays; to **private music instruction** (all instruments and voice) all week, to a **new Music Discovery** music and movement class for five- and six-year olds in partnership with The Pittsburgh School for the Choral Arts. Plus, **Suzuki Violin** and **Piano** and Hope Academy's audition-only teen theater company, **HAT Co**, for singers, dancers, actors, and musicians.



Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Thurs., Aug. 20: Faith Night at PNC Park

Incoming youth in grades 6–12 from ELPC will head to PNC Park for Faith Night. After the Pirates beat the Giants, Pittsburgh players and coaches will share their stories for faith and how following God has impacted their lives. Please RSVP by **Sun., Aug. 9**, so we can reserve sets together. Tickets cost **\$15**.

Sun., Aug. 23: Mission Trip Recaps

Join us as both senior and junior high mission trip teams share stories and pictures from their trips during worship at 10 am, and then help host the fellowship hour following the service. Youth and parents should plan to attend.



Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Aug. 7: First Friday @ The Garth at 7 pm

Come enjoy a relaxing evening with friends, food, and fire! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Burgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided. We will grill and eat, then have a campfire complete with s'mores and songs.

Sun., Aug. 23: Mystery Outdoor Adventure at 11:30 am

As we share lunch in the Second Floor Parlor, we will choose between three different mystery options of how we will spend our afternoon together. All you need is to come dressed to be outside and to bring your sense of adventure!



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.

Church Tour on Aug. 16

Join us for a one-hour tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel following worship on **Sun., Aug. 16**. Keep a look out for more details in the weekly announcements and e-flash.

Health Ministry

*The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy,
Staff Representative*

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 instructor is appreciated.

Tai Chi will take a break in August, but will resume on **Tues., Sept. 8**, with classes from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm. The cost will be **\$3/session** (or \$25/10 sessions). Please pre-register with Kate Carlson at **KateC@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x16**.

Let's Make Some Toys

The ELPC **Toy Makers** group will meet on **Wed., Aug. 12** and **26**, from 9 am–12 pm, for fellowship and crafts, as we construct toys for children, wherever they are needed.

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



LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Our next Business Meeting will be on **Sun., Aug. 16**, at 11 am. Our Spiritual Gathering and luncheon will follow at noon. All people are welcome!

To learn more about ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**.

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



LGBTQ Parent Group Luncheon and Discussion

LGBTQ parents and their children are invited to a discussion on **Sun., Aug. 30**, at 11 am. Folks will have an opportunity to get to know each other and explore if there is some benefit of this group having periodic contact. We simply are seeking to create a space for conversation between folks who might share common joys, challenges, needs for resources, etc. Also, your kids might make a new friend!

Please RSVP to Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.260.2554** by **Sun., Aug. 16**, with the names of who is coming from your family and the ages of any children.

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Come to the Waters: Bible Study Begins September 8

From the chaotic waters of creation to the River of Life in Revelation, the Bible contains more than 800 references to water. We will explore some of these scriptures in our monthly bible study. We will begin at 10 am, on **Tues., Sept. 8**, in the Second Floor Parlor. "Come to the Waters" and nourish your souls!

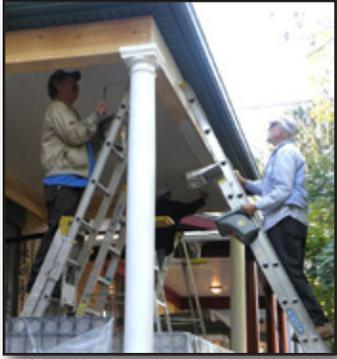
The Chapel Market is Accepting Donations

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**.



Neighborhood Mission Opportunity



Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on **Sat., Aug. 1**, 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**.

Renaissance City Choir Seeks Singers

The Renaissance City Choir is seeking new singers for its 30th anniversary season! Auditions will take place by appointment in August. Contact Artistic Director Dr. Jeffrey Blake Johnson at **jbj@rccpittsburgh.com** to request an audition.

Rehearsals for tenor/bass begin on **Mon., Aug. 24**, and for soprano/alto on **Tues., Aug. 25**.

The Renaissance City Choir affirms and celebrates LGBTQ identity through the unifying power of music. Professional training and experience are not required! To learn more, visit **RCCpittsburgh.com**.



Thank You, Playground Helpers

The Christian Education Ministry thanks the volunteers who helped spread mulch on our playground in anticipation of Vacation Church School (VCS). After the heavy rains in June, most of the mulch was washed away, creating an unsafe surface for play. On a moment's notice, ELPC members rallied to ready the playground.



On a moment's notice, ELPC members rallied to ready the playground.

We thank Mike Anderson, David Carl, Frances Irvin, Rachel Mackey, David Phillips, Chris Piccolo, Ian and Cameron Piccolo-Mackey, and Xander Yates.

Congrats, Grads!

We rejoice that many people in our faith family graduated this year. Join us in congratulating:

Jean Schneider finished her residency in family medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She has taken a staff physician position at Spectrum Medical Clinic, in Philadelphia.

Keith Irvin graduated from Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy. He is attending Allegheny College this fall.

Maria Meyer graduated from Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School. She will attend Boston College to begin her studies to become a medical doctor.

Aki Nace graduated from Winchester Thurston School. She is attending Carleton College in the Fall.

Other high school graduates include **Earl Bartnik, Mary Mackenzie Dowd, Michah Griffin, Maya Klancher, and Donald Reese**.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Best wishes to **Michael and Anna** (Sartori) **Lawrence**, who were married on June 27.
- Congratulations to **Peta Harrigan Cole**, who received a 10-year award for being a senior companion thru the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging in June.

Prayers

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

- Doris Dick on the death of her uncle;
- Joe Kiewra on the death of her father;
- Carol Bonner on the death of her cousin, Patty Klein; and
- Madeline, Dwayne, and Raymond Elliott on the death of Madeline's sister, Renetta Galloway.



“...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.”

Party and Volunteer Opportunity



Please join us at 4 pm, on **Tues., Aug. 4**, at East Liberty Gardens for a community party and an ice cream social, as we celebrate National Night Out with the families who live at the complex.



There will be music, face painting, dancing, and a cookout! Then, there will be a make-your-own-sundae activity for kids, sponsored by ELPC!



We would love to have volunteers to serve the ice cream and we could use caramel/chocolate/strawberry sauces, mini chocolate chips, M&Ms, candies, sprinkles, and nuts! We will begin serving ice cream at 5:30 pm.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Ted Cmarada at Cmarada@gmail.com or 240.446.4937.

Time to Celebrate Our Service

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to the sixth 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, please 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.



CE Classes Return in September

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