



# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

January 2016

## Ordaining Pastor Patrice

On **Sun., Jan. 17**, at 3 pm, everyone is invited to a special service to ordain the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy as ELPC's new associate pastor for mission ministries.

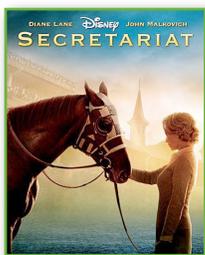


## Winter Rally Day: You Are Not Alone

Join us for an intergenerational celebration of God's abiding presence and steadfast love from 9:45–10:45 am, on **Sun., Jan. 10**. Multisensory learning stations that explore the Lectionary readings will be located throughout the classrooms and Music Room on the third floor. A detailed map and friendly greeters will guide you along the way.

As always, breakfast will be served! Coffee and fruit will be provided, but please bring a breakfast bread to share. We will then incorporate activities and ideas from each of the stations into our Sanctuary worship service.

**Note:** There will be no Church School or Journey worship on **Sun., Jan. 3**.



## Intergenerational Movie Event

Join us in the Music Room on the third floor from 5–8 pm, on **Sat., Jan. 16**, as we screen *Secretariat* and discuss how this blockbuster film offers us wisdom about our faith, led by the Rev. Dr. Darrell Knopp.

Christian Education will provide hot dogs and drinks, but please bring snacks to share.

## Take the God Test

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to take the God test following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Jan. 17**, in Room 234. Lunch will be served.

Despite the hype surrounding the "New Atheism," the United States remains one of the world's most religious nations. In fact, as many as 95% of Americans believe in God—a rare consensus in American life. The nation's greatest rifts are not between atheists and believers, or between those of different faiths. What divides us is how we conceive God and the role God plays in our lives.

Research shows that regardless of religious tradition (or lack thereof), Americans typically worship God in one of four distinct divine expressions, definitions of God that form the basis of our worldviews and are among the most powerful predictors of our feelings on America's contentious issues.

Join us as the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan leads us in an exploration of America's "four Gods." For details, visit the event page at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

*Theme: What's Next*

Jan. 3 *No Service*

Jan. 10\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Jan. 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Jan. 24 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Jan. 31 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Jan. 3 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Jan. 10\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Jan. 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Jan. 24 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Jan. 31 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

## Explore Your Spiritual Life

Learn more about the Spiritual Life Committee's offerings at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

- **Mindfulness Meditation**

*Mondays, from 7–8 pm*

- **Cathedral Yoga**

*Wednesdays, at 6 pm*

- **Centering Prayer**

*Wednesdays, at 6:20 pm*

- **Contemplative Prayer**

*Wednesdays, at 8 pm*

- **Silent Saturday**

*Sat., Jan. 16, from 9 am–4 pm*

## 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*

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
*Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries*

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan  
*Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and  
Minister of Taizé Prayer*

Linda Addlespurger  
*Director of Hope Academy*

Wil Forrest  
*Coordinator of Young Adult  
and Outreach Programs*

Sara Hackett  
*Coordinator of 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*



Celebrating the New Year is often a time for self-reflection—wondering what the coming months will hold and perhaps setting some resolutions for 2016. “To grow in my Christian faith” is one goal we should all consider. But where do we start with something like this? I’ll let you in on a little secret: This type of goal is not something you have to rely upon your own ability to accomplish. It is precisely the thing for which God is ready and anxious to provide you with assistance. (Call it “grace,” “mercy,” or “love.” It is right at the top of God’s résumé.)

If our New Year’s resolution is to grow in faith, we commonly associate that with “faith exercises” like learning more about Jesus or praying daily or reading a devotional each morning. But these types of spiritual calisthenics can be hard to maintain over the course of a year. What if instead of asking “How can Jesus Christ tell me more about God?”, you reverse the question and ask, “How is God’s will and divine nature being revealed to us here on earth? In this second question, God is the active agent. God is the one longing to be in relationship with us (which, according to scripture, is exactly what God wishes).

God has lots of options when it comes to telling the world about Godself. God could appear in a blaze of glory or use giant skywriting letters to reinforce the Ten Commandments (e.g., “What part of Thou Shalt Not Kill don’t you understand?”). But those approaches would only overwhelm us. They wouldn’t lead to faith, but instead result in fear and intimidation. So God has chosen a three-part process for self-revelation. First, God chose to come to us as one of us—the incarnation of God as revealed in Jesus the Christ. In the language of Philippians 2, God emptied Godself and became human, literally embodying the best of heaven and earth at once. Second, God-in-Christ lived, taught, and endured death on a cross to demonstrate a life of full integrity and sacrificial love. But more importantly, Christ was raised from the dead as a witness to God’s life-transforming power that is stronger than anything we might endure here on earth, including death itself. The resurrection re-wrote the rules about the meaning of life and gave us all lasting hope.

Third, God didn’t want to abandon us after the season of Christ’s life, death and resurrection, so through the Pentecost presence of the Holy Spirit in our churches, cities, and daily lives, God is working with us and through us today for the healing of the nations. We are partners in this work—servants on God’s “spiritual payroll”—and though our efforts may not seem to bear much fruit, by grace lives are transformed and healings take place every day.

The New Year’s question isn’t so much “What more should I do to understand God?” Rather it is “Given how hard God is working to be known in my life and my community, in what ways can I support God’s efforts and come alongside Christ in this holy vocation to which I’ve been called?” One simple New Year’s prayer is to ask this: “Lord, how can I best be used by you today?” Believe me, that’s one prayer God is anxious to answer!

*Randy Bush*

## Reminder: Just Mercy Book Discussion

As a reminder, the Justice Committee is sponsoring a book study/discussion of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* from 9–11 am, on **Sat., Jan. 23**. Read more at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

## Save the Date: Interfaith Panel

Stay after Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Feb. 7**, as ELPC hosts an Interfaith Panel on Images of God featuring Pastor Randy and other religious leaders.

# 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*

### Jan. 17: Herod's Atrocities, Simeon and Anna

Our final session on the birth narratives will consider two seldom read stories—the Slaughter of the Innocents (Matthew 2:13–18) and the Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–36). Pastor Heather will lead our discussion of Dr. Kenneth Bailey's scholarship.

### Jan. 24: What Is the Torah? Jesus was a Jew

Being a follower of Jesus suggests that we should learn about the Jewish people, especially their way of understanding the Scriptures. What did Jesus have to say about the Torah? How do modern-day Jews honor the Torah? How does the Torah—the first five books of the Old Testament—lay the foundation for our faith? Carolyn Russ will take the class on a brief tour of the Torah and suggest why we should care about a section of the Old Testament that some regard as useful mostly for providing exciting stories for children.

### Jan. 31: The Torah: By Men for Men

How in the world is a woman to find inspiration in writings that are so clearly directed to men? Is there a way for women to “own” the Torah? How did the Torah shape 21<sup>st</sup> century views of women? Why should men care? Carolyn Russ will lead the class.

## Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

*Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin*

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12). The apostle Paul writes of a kind of love and spirit that moves towards, and culminates in, full knowledge and personal intimacy. January's scripture readings help illuminate this kind of life and ethic. Come join us as we read and reflect upon Christ's Epiphany in a fragmented and uncertain world.

**Jan. 17:** Led by Lora Bethea; Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10; 1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

**Jan. 24:** Led by Jan Irvin; Nehemiah 8:1–10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

**Jan. 27:** Led by Mark Blank; Jeremiah 1:4–10; Psalm 71:1–6; 1 Corinthians 13:1–13; Luke 4:21–30

## Seekers *Room 234*

*Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

### Jan. 17: Michael's Place

Michael's Place is a voluntary residential program for homeless ex-offenders who are ready to commit themselves to making the difficult changes that will lead to a productive future. Greg Gent and graduates of Michael's Place will discuss their services and how it has changed lives.

### Jan. 24: Casa San Jose—Hispanic Ministry

Casa San Jose is a community resource center that advocates for and empowers Latinos by promoting integration and self-sufficiency. They meet at ELPC once a week. Grace Muller, who works as a service coordinator and navigator as part of Casa San Jose's Immigrants Services and Connections Program, will lead our class.

### Jan. 31: Human Rights, Civil Rights, & Black History in Film

Today and through February, the Rev. Dr. Darrell Knopp will lead a discussion of relevant excerpts from four important films—*Amistad*, *Lincoln*, *Forty Two* and *Selma*. We will begin with *Amistad*, which tells the true story of the incredible journey of a group of enslaved Africans who overtake the captor's ship. These captives are later charged with murder in the United States and are defended in court by former president John Quincy Adams.

## Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

*Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members*

### Jan. 17–31: An Altar in the World

Discussions of chapters seven and eight of our current book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by Joe Hajdu and other class members.

## Young Adults *Pastor's Conference Room*

*Facilitator: Wil Forrest*

### Jan. 24: Telling Stories of Faith

Our new series will feature ELPC members sharing their personal stories of faith, hope, love, and liberation, as we reflect upon their stories, biblical relevance, and meanings for our own lives. During this inaugural session we will hear stories of faith from Donni Smith and her journey.



## Mission Matters

*The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy,  
Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries*

### Cooking Up Breakfast, Fellowship, and Service

The ELPC Holy Spirit Breakfast Team (HSBT) is entering its third year of fellowship and soulful service! The Team's mission is to cook nourishing breakfasts for the residents of EECM Community House, while enjoying cheerful fellowship together as a team and with the community it serves.

Last year, thanks to the generosity and enthusiastic dedication of its members, HSBT expand its service from one to two breakfasts each month.

What are HSBT members saying about their experience?

- "A group of us from ELPC have been serving breakfast at EECM every fourth Sunday for a year and a half. Sharing with others makes us all grow in heart, mind, and soul. What a blessing it is to serve others."—Jim Eng
- "It's a great way to get to know more people in the congregation—especially for early risers. It's always a delicious breakfast and very much appreciated."—Mary Alice Lightle
- "I absolutely enjoy working with the friendly and highly efficient breakfast team. It's been rewarding and fulfilling."—Yiping Zhu
- "Being a member of the ELPC Holy Spirit Breakfast Team has been both a rewarding experience and a growth experience. We have met wonderful caring people both those we serve and those we serve with. Looking forward to continuing the experience and sharing more time with everyone!"—Tim and Mary Beth VanFleet

Do you want to join a team or find out more? Contact Pastor Patrice at **412.441.3800 x30** or Susan Spangler at **240.285.6507**.

## Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

*Linda Addlespurger, Director*

### Tues., Jan. 5: Hope Academy's Winter Term Begins

Courses are offered for children and youth ages 3–19 in theater, dance, and music. Private lessons are offered in piano, organ, strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass), woodwinds (flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon), brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba), percussion, drum set, Cajon, classical and electric guitar, electric bass, ukulele, and voice. Suzuki piano lessons are offered on Saturdays, as well as three levels of Suzuki Violin (group class and private lesson each week).

View our course brochure and registration form at **HopeAcademyArts.com**. Call **412.441.3800 x11** to see if there is still room in a class.

## Youth Ministry

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

### Sun., Jan. 17: DG2! Community Service Projects 12:30–3:30 pm

DG2!, our partnership with youth at Rodef Shalom, continues with an afternoon of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Students in grades 4–12 are invited to meet for lunch here at ELPC followed by service to our community. For more information or to RSVP, talk to Sara Hackett.

### Sat.–Sun., Jan. 23–24: Confirmation Class Overnight Retreat

We will resume in the new year with an overnight retreat at ELPC from 3 pm on Saturday, until after Journey worship on Sunday. During our time together, we will discuss Discipleship through the study of scripture, worship, and mission.

## Young Adult Ministry

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

### Sun., Jan. 10: Our Day Together following Sanctuary worship

Let's begin our new year together, as we share the day as a group in the Second Floor Parlor. We will start with worship, and then lunch, service, and fellowship. Our day will center around our spring theme of telling our stories to one another.

## LGBTQ Ministry

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

### Sun., Jan. 24: Spiritual Gathering following Sanctuary worship

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan will lead us as we focus on spiritual wellness.

To learn more about ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry, contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**. All people are welcome!

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

## A Word of Thanks from Pastor Heather



I wish to offer a word of thanks to the ELPC Session, staff and members for the opportunity to take a one-month sabbatical in November, with the remaining two months to be taken in July and August.

I am honored to have been elected to serve Pittsburgh Presbytery as Sr. Vice Moderator in 2016, even though the responsibilities connected to this role would interfere with my ability to take three months off together as originally planned.

I am grateful for Pastor Randy's creative thinking, Session's permission to split up my sabbatical, everyone's collective planning to ensure coverage while I was off. I'm deeply grateful to both staff and volunteers who stepped up to cover my responsibilities during my absence—particularly Pastor Randy, Pastor Patrice, Sara Hackett, Wil Forrest, Gloria Knopp, and Mark Blank.

Finally, I'm grateful that our congregation offers installed pastors three months of sabbatical after seven years of service. It's hard for me to believe I've completed eight years of ministry here (and counting!), and I remain blessed to serve such a dynamic, loving, welcoming congregation, alongside gifted and caring staff. It is a privilege to be a part of this faith family!

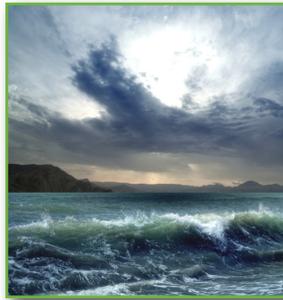
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## Presbyterian Women

*Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators*

**Come to the Waters Bible Study** *Second Floor Parlor*  
**Mon., Jan. 4 7 pm | Tues., Jan. 5 10 am**

Our theme is *Stormy Water—Faith* based on Matthew 14:22–33. The disciples encountered stormy times in their faith, and so do we. What does it mean to be people of faith? How does our faith sustain us?



Childcare will be available for the Monday evening study. A potluck lunch will follow the Tuesday morning study; please bring a snack or salad to share, and your own table setting.

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## Spiritual Life

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

**Sat., Jan. 30: Images of God: Whom Do You Say that I Am?** 9 am–4 pm

Join us for a day retreat in the Parlor and explore in greater depth who God is for you. Through meditations and reflections, guided imagery and silence, discover your most fundamental image of the Divine and consider how it impacts your life, relationships, and prayer. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Sat., Jan. 23: Introduction to the Enneagram** 9 am–4 pm

Interested in learning more about yourself and others? Join us in the Pastor's Conference Room for an introduction to the Enneagram with Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof. Participants are then welcome to participate in ongoing monthly Enneagram discussions, as we focus on one of the most highly regarded tools for transformation available today. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

## ELPC People

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

### Good News

- **Kathy Glass-House** and **Brent House** were married in August. They will reaffirm their vows at ELPC on Jan. 4.
- **Eden Karl Castle**, daughter of Brian and Jennifer Castle, was baptized on Nov. 29.
- **Anthony Williams** was honored as one of Pittsburgh Magazine's *40 under 40*, an annual award recognizing Pittsburgh residents under the age of 40 for their accomplishments and contributions to our community. Anthony serves as the Dean of Student Affairs at the Neighborhood Academy and has been a Youth Leader at ELPC for nearly 15 years.

### Thanks

- The Depperman family thanks the congregation for the condolences and cards in the passing of LaRoux Hopper.
- Presbyterian Women in ELPC thanks the congregation for its generous contributions to the 2015 Thank Offering. We received \$3,119. These funds will enable us to support health ministries throughout the world and new creative ideas for mission.
- The Board of Deacons gives thanks for—and to—ELPC members and friends, and their faithful support of the 2015 Christmas Giving Tree ministry. 65 children and individuals received 2 gifts each, and money was collected to benefit the Pittsburgh refugee community through Jewish Family and Children Services. This vital ministry is a success because of you.

### Prayers

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

- James "Moon" Johnson
- Jim and Alison Schleifer's son, Justin Schleifer
- Peter Murray's sister
- Richard Hillier's, father in-law, Thomas Mayernik



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

### Building Closed

The ELPC office will be closed all day on **Fri., Jan. 1**, for New Year’s Day, and until 7 pm, on **Mon., Jan. 18**, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## Diapers for ‘Burgh Babies’

Presbyterian Women is hosting a Diaper Drive to collect diapers for children in Western Pennsylvania. One in three American moms struggle to provide clean diapers for her children. Food stamps and WIC don’t cover diapers, and families often are forced to make tough decisions regarding day care and employment because they can’t afford diapers.

The Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank partners with local organizations to distribute free diapers to families in need. Diapers collected at our drive will go to families in our community.

The drive begins on **Fri., Jan. 1**, and will run for approximately six months. Please drop donations in the box in the front office marked “PW Diaper Drive.” Check the bulletin for more information.

## Take a Tour

You are invited to join a tour of ELPC’s beautiful Sanctuary and Chapel following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Jan. 17**. Join ELPC member Tim VanFleet at the front of the Sanctuary following the organ postlude. The tour will last 45–60 minutes based on the interests of the group.

## How Best to Serve?

At this time of year, many folks examine their lives and reset their priorities. As you examine your life, you may be thinking about a service commitment you have made at ELPC or elsewhere. Does the responsibility still fit into your life? Does it edify you? Does it use your God-given gifts? Do you still enjoy it?

The author of Ecclesiastes writes that there is a time to every purpose under Heaven. There is a time to serve, and, I offer to you, there is a time to quit. Okay, quitting has a less than positive connotation to most of us, so think of it as moving on or redirecting your talents. Review your commitments to see if there is still a fit. Could you or the task be better served by stepping aside so someone else can take it on? Ask yourself if you still enjoy it. Think about what might be next.

So talk with a committee chair or staff member about your current commitment, and discuss if you still feel a fit or if something else is calling you. Is it time to use your gifts and take on new challenges and ways to serve God? Remember that serving at any one task in the church should not be a life sentence.

For more information, 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 **ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE**.

