

# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

August 2017

## Experience the Burgh Together

**All Over the Burgh**, ELPC's meet-up group, is all about fellowship and fun by exploring free (or mostly free) events around town. Events are easily accessible by public transportation.



All members and friends are welcome to join us on **Fri., Aug. 18**, for Friday at Frick for the (free) American/folk foot-stomping sounds of the *The Mixus Brothers*. Bring your own picnic basket, blanket, and beverages, and meet on the grounds across from the Playhouse entrance around 5:45 pm (music starts at 6:30 pm). Look for the ELPC sign!

**Note:** There will be wine sales and food trucks: Franktuary, Proper Brick Oven Pizza, and Stickler's Ice Pop Co.

## Celebrate Your Service



All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers on **Thurs., Aug. 24**, from 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard (rain location in the Social Hall).

Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. No serving utensils are needed. Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and drinks will be provided. Stay for 15 minutes or the entire time.

To read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities, visit [ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE](http://ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE). For more information or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x14.

## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Journey Prayer • 8:45 am

*Held in the Social Hall*

Aug. 6 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 13 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Aug. 20 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 27 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Summer Worship • 10 am

*Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting; indoor seating available*

Aug. 6\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 13 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Aug. 20 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 27 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

## Labyrinth Prayer Walk

*Mondays • 7 am–1 pm*

*Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm*

## Taizé Prayer Service

*Wednesdays • 7 pm*

*Live stream available at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church)*

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

## Singing and Ringing

If you would like to learn more about any of our choirs, email Dr. Ed Moore at [EdM@coh.net](mailto:EdM@coh.net).

- **Handbell Choir** rings several times throughout the year at our Sanctuary worship service. The choir rehearses at 6 pm, on Tuesdays, tentatively scheduled to begin on **Tues., Sept. 5**.
- **Journey Praise Team** sings at our Journey worship services on Sundays at 8:45 am. The choir rehearses at 5:30 pm, on Thursdays, beginning **Tues., Sept. 7**.
- **Chancel Choir** sings weekly at our Sanctuary worship services on Sundays at 11 am. The choir rehearses at 7 pm, on Thursdays, beginning **Tues., Sept. 7**.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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

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[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

### 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*

## Pastoral Message

*The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor*



Think for a moment about metronomes. If you're not a musician or are unsure what this is, a metronome is the little machine that goes "tick, tick, tick" to tell instrumentalists how fast they are supposed to play a piece. Metronomes date back to around 1816, based on an idea first conceived by a man named Dietrik Winkel that was subsequently "borrowed" and patented by another inventor named Johann Maelzel. Metronomes are devices containing a pendulum rod with a small moveable weight mounted on it that allows musicians to hear what slow, medium and fast tempos sound like. Often we picture beginning pianists doing keyboard

exercises while trying to play in time with a metronome ticking away nearby. In truth, metronomes were never meant to "tick away" and control the tempo for an entire piece of music; they were only meant to give the musician a starting speed and were to be shut off after that tempo is established.

As a musician and a pastor, I see similarities between metronomes and scripture. Scripture is important and foundational as we think about God and seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ. As you already know, there are many types of writing found in the books of the bible—from poetry to prophetic teachings to historical summaries to personal letters. Almost every passage can be studied and used as a guide for how to live our lives today, just as a metronome can be set to "tick away" at a certain speed to guide us in playing a particular piece of music. But if we keep the metronome ticking away while we play, the music we create will sound stiff and artificial and lifeless. True music has to bend, stretch and breathe; that is what makes a melody come to life. In the same way, scripture sets us in motion, but it is up to us to apply the wisdom of scripture in our daily lives—creatively putting it to use in the particularities of our daily routines so that the "melody of faith" God has given us can truly come to life.

When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. That's a great starting point for a "melody of faith." It combines aspirational language with an outward-looking focus on the world around us. But we'll make no progress in heeding this commandment if every moment we are worried that something less than our entire heart or mind or soul is involved in the task at hand. Something more than a strict metronome is needed to evoke a "melody of faith."

The same is true with the "thou shalt not" commandments—how we are not to lie or steal or harm others. That is our starting point, our foundational "tempo marking." Yet we all stumble in our piety; we have bad moments and bad days, at times really hurting others. If the metronome of faith is unyielding within you, the risk is that you'll come to believe that your sins and shortcomings disqualify you from receiving God's loving care. Yet once again, the rules of God's scripture are mostly guides and starting points to which we reorient ourselves (when we stray) and recommit ourselves (aware of God's forgiving mercy) so that each new day a "melody of faith" can sing forth from our own words and deeds.

Metronomes are important. They start us off at the right tempo. But metronomes cannot make music. We are the music-makers. That is God's desire for each of us. Scripture gets us started, but the melody—well, that comes by God's grace and our spirit creating music together.

*Randy Bush*

## Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

### Fri., Aug. 4: First Friday @ Gateway Clipper 7 pm

Spend a summer evening on the three rivers with friends. We will set sail on the Gateway Clipper and return to Station Square for fellowship and refreshments. Bring money to sail (\$20) and snack. Learn more at [GatewayClipper.com](http://GatewayClipper.com).

### Sat.–Sun., Aug. 19–20: Good Old-Fashioned Lock-In

Get locked in ELPC with friends for a night! Beginning on Saturday at 4 pm, we'll gather for ice breakers, dinner, educational experiences, Bible study, worship, snacks, relaxation time, a service project, games, and fellowship. Then, we'll join our church family the next morning for worship. RSVP to Wil by **Sun., Aug. 13**.

## Spiritual Life

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

### Thurs., Aug. 31: Faith, Science, and Our Spiritual Life 6:30 pm

Got questions? Interested in the connections between faith and science? Want to meet similarly minded folks? Join in the conversation on the last Thursday of each month as we read, watch videos, and discuss the faith that we share, ways in which it overlaps with science, and how all of that affects our spiritual life.

## Pathways to a More Contemplative Life

The way to contemplation is through meditation, and ELPC offers a number of meditation alternatives to assist you along your journey towards healing, wholeness, joy, and peace. We are all always beginners.

On Monday mornings, the **Labyrinth** is available as a walking meditation until 1 pm. **Centering Prayer**, a form of Christian meditation, is offered on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. On Wednesdays, experience **Cathedral Yoga** at 6 pm, and meditative moments during and following our **Taizé Prayer Service** at 7 pm. The **Labyrinth** also is available all day on Wednesdays until 9 pm. **Qi Gong** is offered on Thursdays at 6:30 pm, followed by **Mindfulness Meditation** led by Susan Spangler. On the second Friday of the month, Yamuna Morgenstern leads **JourneyDance**, at 7 pm. And finally, if you're looking for a quiet, prayerful spot, visit the **Prayer and Meditation Room** anytime the church is open.

## Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson, Moderator

### Bible Study Returns in September

Our focus for 2017–18 will be *The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses*. Please join us on **Tues., Sept. 5**, at 10 am, or on **Mon., Sept 11**, at 7 pm, as we begin this year's study. More details will be available in the September *Reaching Out*, as well as in the weekly bulletin and e-flash. Study guides will be available at our worship services on **Sun., Aug. 13, 20** and **27**.

If you feel called to lead one of our discussions, please contact Jan Pressman at **412.687.5429**. We look forward to your participation.

## Rev. Chesnut's New Book

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, a former ELPC pastor, recently wrote a new book, called

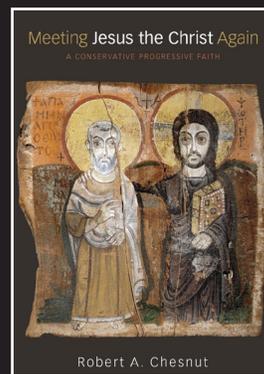
*Meeting Jesus the Christ Again: A*

*Conservative*

*Progressive*

*Faith*. It was published by Wipf & Stock and is available at

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



## ELPC People

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

### Good News

- Join us in welcoming our new members **Bob** and **Erin Starzynski**, as well as their two sons, **Robert** and **Thomas**.
- Congratulations to **Joan Heckel**, who recently received East End Cooperative Ministry's *Community Nutrition Services Volunteer of the Year* award, for her years of service at the Food Pantry.



### Prayers

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

- Alan Patterson
- Barbara Goodwin's husband, John
- Mary Randolph's mother, Cecilia



*“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.”*

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## Mission Matters

**Tues., Aug. 1: Summer Service and Fellowship**  
(Please note the date change from Aug. 8 to Aug. 1)

ELPC is providing dinner for the OHM’s Circles group! We are seeking people to donate salads, side dishes, and desserts, as well as to help serve.

If you are available to donate food and/or help serve dinner, contact Henry Petrilli at [HLP615@gmail.com](mailto:HLP615@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice at 412.441.3800 x130.

**Sat., Aug. 5: Workday with OHM 9 am–3 pm**  
All ages and skill levels are welcome to help Open Hand Ministries rehab an abandoned house into a quality, affordable home for a family.

For details, please email Emily Rosenthal at [EJR201@gmail.com](mailto:EJR201@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice at 412.441.3800 x130.

## LGBTQ Ministry

All people are welcome to join us at our Spiritual Gathering on **Sat., Aug. 5**, at 2 pm, and our Rainbow Connection Picnic at Randyland (and more) on **Sun., Aug. 27**, at 12 pm.

Contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x14 for details.



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

## Mark Your Calendars

- Sun., Sept. 10: Rally Day
- Sun., Sept. 17: Church Life Sampler
- Sun., Sept. 24: Church Picnic



In July, our Junior High Mission Trip Team worked on service projects in the New Castle and Slippery Rock areas. The group also shared fun and fellowship while staying at Crestfield Camp.