



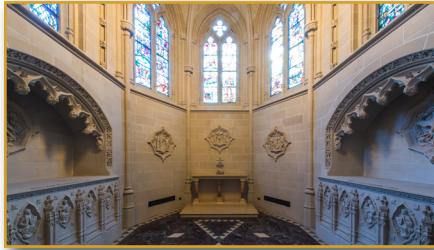
# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

November 2017

## Remembering Our Loved Ones

Join us for a special Taizé service on All Saints' Day, **Wed., Nov. 1**, 7 pm, as we remember all of the people in our lives who are no longer with us.



Our All Saints' Procession will begin and end in the Chapel, but will include moving through the Narthex and Sanctuary before gathering in the Trinity Chapel to sing and pray by candlelight. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this moving service of remembrance and hope.

## Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Join us in the Social Hall for a turkey luncheon with all the trimmings following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 19**. Please bring a side or dessert to share. All dishes should be labeled with your name. There is no need to bring a serving utensil.

We also need about 50 volunteers to help make this event come to life! Consider volunteering for setup (9:45–11:45 am), serving, and/or cleanup (1–3 pm).



Sign up to bring a dish or to volunteer outside the East Transept on **Sun., Nov. 5 and 12**. Questions? Contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114**.

## The Great Exchange: Traditions



Folks of all ages are invited to join us in the Social Hall for The Great Exchange on **Sun., Nov. 26**, 12 pm. Together, across the generations, we will share a simple lunch and explore some fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of *Traditions*.

## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

*Theme: Blessed Community*

- Nov. 5\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Nov. 12 Rev. Randy Bush
- Nov. 19 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Nov. 26 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Nov. 5\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Nov. 12 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov. 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Nov. 26 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

## Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

## Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

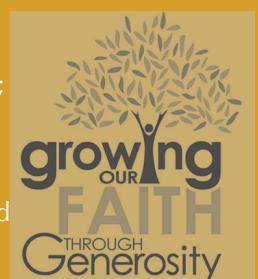
*Live stream available at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church)*

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

## Stewardship Sunday

Remember to bring your completed pledge card to worship on **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 12**.

We anticipate God's blessings in the new year; we anticipate the benefits of our church renovations; and we thankfully anticipate a faithful stewardship response as a sign of our commitment to ELPc's diverse, vibrant ministry!



Wait for the Lord, (for) we shall see the goodness of the Lord.

—Psalm 27:13–14

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
*Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

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

Linda Addlesperger  
*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*

Kalyn Stevwing  
*Seminary Intern*

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*



I still subscribe to the newspaper. I like the routine of opening up a morning edition of the paper, of glancing at the headlines, the sports page, and the comics, while I also find something to eat for breakfast. I know that this same information is available in electronic form. I know that I could use my smartphone to scan articles from several newspapers at once. But the regimen of unfolding the paper and the feel of the newsprint in my hands is something that gives me joy.

Like many paper readers, I look to see what is the contentious issue of the day in the Letters to the Editor. Some people submit only a sentence or two, making their point as concisely as possible. Others need paragraphs to unwind their argument and get their rhetorical arrows launched into the editorial battlefield. While most letters are less than compelling, they are often quite entertaining.

Many people have noted recently that “civil discourse” has almost become a contradiction in our contemporary society. On any topic in which there is disagreement, people argue in such a way that there is no room for “middle ground” or points of commonality. It is comforting to remember that this is not a new dynamic in the human realm. There have always been points of view that seem diametrically opposed and irreconcilable. This has been true both in the political arena and the religious world.

“Absolutism” is when one side believes that the opposing position has no merit whatsoever. “Relativism” is when every possible position is deemed feasible, so that in the end, no one viewpoint takes precedence over another. Too often we believe those are our only two options. We hear things with which we disagree, and through the nature of inflammatory rhetoric and social media, it seems our only response is to reject such views categorically and absolutely (“Burn all the heretics” mentality). Or we grow so weary of the arguments that we end up deciding that no right answer will ever be found and everyone is equally mistaken in their opinions (“All are wrong and none can be trusted” cynicism).

A third option is pluralism, which humbly acknowledges that diverse opinions, experiences and responses exist around us and sometimes the wisest path forward allows for more than one answer to any given problem. The disciples of Jesus were a pluralist bunch, containing fishermen, political zealots, and at least one tax collector. They found common ground in the gospel of Christ, despite their different worldviews and experiences; hence, they remind us of the power of a pluralistic faith. In the same way, there are many Christian denominations active today. Rather than asserting that Presbyterianism is the only way, we can learn a lot from the faith traditions and histories of non-Presbyterians seeking to follow Christ with integrity in today’s troubled world.

Pluralism simply acknowledges that God is a true “creator,” moving in creative ways shaped by and accommodated to the specific needs of greater humanity – whether in Pittsburgh or Patagonia. The vocabulary of faith, actions of faith, even expressions of faith will never be absolute or uniform, because that would be contrary to God’s generous and pluralistic love. So whether you read the paper or watch cable news or scroll through your social media, trust that God’s foundation of faith can sustain all of us in this diverse and ever-changing world.

*Randy Bush*

# Mission Matters

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

## Tues., Nov. 14: Holiday Shopping in the Name of Love!

ELPC is again teaming up with Ten Thousand Villages to raise money for the ELPC Thanksgiving Food Ministry. Ten Thousand Villages is an independent nonprofit organization that supports artisans from around the globe by establishing a sustainable market for their products in North America. Without this support, many of these artisans would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES®

This event offers a great opportunity to support these artisans far away, and also to support those in our midst who are most in need this Thanksgiving season. To make this event a success, we need the help of the congregation. Join us at Ten Thousand Villages (5820 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill) on **Tues., Nov. 14**, 6–8 pm, to get your Christmas shopping started early. ELPC Deacons will be present to offer snacks and refreshments to shoppers.

We have had great turnout for this event in the past and we look forward to another busy night. If you have questions, contact ELPC Deacon Tucker Ferda at **406.249.9811** or [TFerda@pts.edu](mailto:TFerda@pts.edu).

## Support the Annual Christmas Giving Tree

Every year, the Deacons organize the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry, as well as our ELPC Mission Ministry and Christian Education Ministry. The congregation has been wonderful in its support of this ministry through gift buying and/or monetary donations.



The Giving Tree will be set up near the Information Desk on **Sun., Dec. 3 and 10**, as well as on **Wed., Dec. 6**. Stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to help you record your name and phone number with the information from your tag.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on **Sun., Dec. 17**. If you would like to participate by donating money, please make the check out to "ELPC Giving Tree" and deliver it to the church office.

The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this important ministry.

## Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee

Have you switched to a renewable energy company for your electricity supplier? Pennsylvania Utility Commission manages a website that makes it easy: [PApowerswitch.com](http://PApowerswitch.com). Visit the website, enter your zip code, and then at "Shop for Rates," filter for "Renewable Energy" or "Renewable PA" and select your new electric supplier. The website provides information for you to use to evaluate costs. Your current company will continue as your distributor and will still send your bills and provide maintenance service.

Remember, doing something for the environment matters. Questions? Contact Lucy de Barbaro at **412.320.0567**.

## Hanging of the Greens

The season of Advent begins on the first Sunday of December. In preparation for this festive time, volunteers are invited to stay after worship on **Sun., Nov. 26**, to help us decorate our Sanctuary with the trees, wreaths, and garlands that symbolize the good news of Christ's promised presence in our world.

For details, contact Norma Meyer at **412.441.3800 x111**.

## Toymakers' Annual Sale

The Toymakers' annual sale will be held after Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Dec. 3**, in the McKelvy Room. Available will be a sampling of the toys we make for distribution to women's shelters and mission trips, as well as some seasonal goodies like ornaments and shelf elves. We also made Nativity puzzles (pictured below) just for our ELPC family. We hope you enjoy them.

Thanks to congregational generosity, this sale enables us to buy wood, paint, and tools that keep us going for the whole year.



# Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

**Note:** Classes begin at 9:45 am.

## Contemporaries *Harambe Room*

Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

### Nov. 5 | 12: The Four Freedoms

#### Nov. 5: Freedom from Want Part 3

In this class, Ron Stone will focus on New Testament generosity, contemporary social gospel emphases in our PC(USA), and the obstacles to reducing poverty in a sinful world. Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed the freedom from want for all people of the world. Is that a possibility?

#### Nov. 12: Freedom from Fear Part 4

Professor Stone's recent conversations with Fayette County residents revealed that some people fear nuclear war—particularly with North Korea. Terrorism also spreads fear. Is that overdrawn? The recent Nobel Peace Prize to ICAN for work on nuclear disarmament raises that issue again. Where is our PC(USA) on these issues?

### Nov. 19 | 26: Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited

#### Nov. 19: The Hebrew Prophets

We begin our Advent study with the Prophet Isaiah. While these writings do not identify Jesus as the Messiah, they point the way to the Holy One from God. From them, we hear a range of emotions as the Israelites suffer defeat and eventually return to a ruined Jerusalem and a fallen temple.

#### Nov. 26: John the Baptist

John the Baptist, a contemporary of Jesus, leads us further into Advent with his message of repentance and baptism. He clearly knows himself to be the herald of the One sent by God. Hearing about him during Advent reminds us that we await the birth and the second coming of the Messiah.

## Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitators: Lora Bethea, Jan Lyle Irvin, and Kalyn Stevwing

Liminal: *Occupying a position at, or on both sides of, a boundary or threshold.* We live a liminal existence (whether acknowledged or not)—our world is passing away. November's scripture readings illuminate the courage and work required to recognize and receive the grace of God's emerging reign. Come join us on the journey, reading and reflecting on crossing new thresholds.

**Nov. 5:** Joshua 3:7–17; Psalm 107:1–7,33–37;  
1 Thessalonians 2:9–13; Matthew 23:1–12

**Nov. 12:** Joshua 24:1–3,14–25; Psalm 78:1–7;  
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13

**Nov. 19:** Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30

**Nov. 26:** Ezekiel 34:11–16,20–24; Psalm 100;  
Ephesians 1:15–23; Matthew 25:31–46

## Seekers *Chapel*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

### Nov. 5 | 12: 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation

#### Nov. 5: John Calvin and the Reformed Tradition Part 2

Five hundred years ago, on Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. But not all who wanted a break with Rome agreed with him. A significant alternative to Lutheranism developed around the writing and practice associated with John Calvin. We will hear about this from Dr. Peter Gilmore, a university history lecturer and elder at Sixth Presbyterian.

#### Nov. 12: John Knox and the Scottish Reformation Part 3

Influenced by Martin Luther, the theory and practice of Calvin's search for authentic Christianity heavily influenced the Reformation in Scotland—creating the beginnings of Presbyterianism. We will hear about this from Dr. Gilmore.

### Nov. 19: Operation Safety Net

Dr. Jim Withers meets his homeless patients on the streets of Pittsburgh. He created *Operation Safety Net* to minister to homeless people, and has been doing "street medicine" since 1992. In 2015, he was nominated as a Top 10 CNN Hero. He also has been spreading the practices of *Operation Safety Net* to other cities and countries.

### Nov. 26: Images from a refugee camp

Photojournalist Maranie R. Staab displayed her photos of refugees at the Three Rivers Arts Festival, and they were vandalized. Now she brings her refugee camp photos to our class, with the stories behind the photos. She also has photos and stories of her work with *Doctors Without Borders*.

## Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu

**Nov. 5–26:** A discussion of chapters four and five of *Everything Belongs*, by Richard Rohr, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

# Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

## Sun., Nov. 12: DG2! @ ELPC 12:30–3:30 pm

Students in grades 4–12 are invited to join Doing Good Together!

(DG2!)—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—for a day of service. We will meet at ELPC for lunch at 12:30 pm, and complete our day of service and fun by 3:30 pm. A permission slip is required and can be found on the youth calendar page at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).



## Wed., Nov. 15: Confirmation Class 5:30–7:30 pm

Confirmation Class will meet in the Second Floor Parlor. We will ask, "Who is Jesus?" and discuss Jesus as savior, teacher, healer, and redeemer.

## Middle School Retreat: Fri.–Sun., Nov. 17–19



Youth in grades 6–8 will join with youth from other area churches for a retreat at Crestfield Camp to explore the theme **#nofilters** through worship, Bible study, fun, and outdoor activities with friends both old and new. We will meet at ELPC on Friday at 5 pm, and return on Sunday at 1:30 pm.

The cost is \$100. Partial and full scholarships are available. Permission slips, more details, and scholarship request forms are available online and from Sara Hackett.

## club one sixteen

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

**Note:** We will not meet on Wed., Nov. 22.

**club one sixteen** is our Wednesday night youth group for children and youth in grades 1–12. Students enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious home-cooked meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study.

Our schedule is as follows:

- 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/ Homework Help/Open Gym
- 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
- 5:00 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm:
  - Older Youth: Bible Study and Gym
  - Younger Youth: Bible Study, Crafts, and Gym
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal



# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

## Fri., Nov. 3: First Friday @ Soul Food 7 pm

It's time for a delicious soul food dinner out at Carmi Soul Food restaurant on the North Side (917 Western Ave., 15233). Bring your appetite and money to pay your own tab. See their menu at [CarmiRestaurant.com](http://CarmiRestaurant.com).

## Sat., Nov. 18: Day Retreat at PTS 9 am–9 pm

Who Are You? Explore your identity from different perspectives in a safe, yet challenging environment in McNaugher Lounge at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Participants will be encouraged to look at themselves, scripture, and community through different eyes. The cost is \$10, which includes two meals (scholarships are available). Please RSVP to Wil by Sun., Nov. 5.



YAM is for you, and your friends are welcome too! For details, contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114**.

## Centering Meditation

Start your day with the peace that passes all understanding. Join Jon Nelson in the Prayer and Meditation Room for Centering Meditation (formerly called Centering Prayer) on Wednesday mornings at 9 am, to sit in contemplative prayer. No experience is required. See what a difference it makes to start you day off with peace and joy in the divine presence!

## Sewing Group Updates

The ELPC Sewing group will meet on **Mon., Nov. 20**, 2:30–6 pm, in the sewing space. Come when you can, stay for whatever works for you, and leave when the meters tell you that your time is up.

If you stopped at our table at the Church Life Sampler, you likely saw the variety of projects we have been asked to make. There are needs to be met. We have the materials and patterns—we just need your help!

There is an ongoing need for bags for distribution at the Liberty project, as well as walker bags for Presbyterian Senior Care and dignity robes for the Cancer Care Center.

We also are discussing the possibility of an evening sewing session on the first Monday of each month from 5:30–9 pm. A volunteer or two is needed to make sure that the iron is unplugged, the machines are off, and the door is closed at the end of the session.

For those who are not able to attend our scheduled gatherings, we can make kits of some of our projects for home sewing so that you may participate on your own schedule. Let us know if you're interested.

Please contact Diane Jackson at [dnjcks@verizon.net](mailto:dnjcks@verizon.net) to RSVP or for more information.

## Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

*Linda Addlespurger, Director*



On **Fri., Oct. 13**, Hope Academy violin, viola and cello students joined Black Violin, featuring American string instrumentalists Kev Marcus and Wil B, in a grand finale remix of "Simple Gifts" and "The Shaker Song." They were accompanied by Black Violin's ace turntable whiz DJ SPS and a drummer.

Named one of the hottest bands at South by Southwest®, Black Violin is redefining the music world—and Hope Academy students were more than thrilled to be part of their Byham Theater performance.

## Presbyterian Women

*Sherry Anderson, Moderator*

### The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses Bible Study

**Mon., Nov. 6 7 pm | Tues., Nov. 7 10 am**

Our next lesson is titled *In Community with the Living Word*. The Tuesday session will be followed by a potluck lunch featuring soup and contributions from the group. Please see the weekly bulletin for exact meeting rooms.

## Spiritual Life

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

### Thurs., Nov. 30: Faith, Science, and Our Spiritual Life 6:30–8 pm

What do the Universe and God have in common? If evolution is true, does that leave room for God? If I believe in God does that mean I have to deny physics?

Got questions? So do we! Join us as we discuss the intersection between the science of our universe and our understanding of the Divine. We read, watch videos, and try to make meaning of this precious moment which we share. You are welcome whether you have read and studied these questions before or have never really thought about these things before! Come, join the conversation!



## Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

All are invited to an Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service on **Tues., Nov. 21**, 7:30 pm, at Beth Shalom Congregation (5915 Beacon St., 15217). Sister Janice Vanderneck, director Casa San Jose ministries, will be the special guest speaker.

## LGBTQ Ministry

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



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

Here's what's happening with our LGBTQ Ministry in November:

- **Sat., Nov. 4:** Healing the Hurt Conference at the Jeron X. Grayson Community Center
- **Sun., Nov. 5:** Spiritual Gathering as we host Grove City College visitors at 12 pm
- **Wed.-Fri., Nov. 8-10:** Covenant Network National Conference in Baltimore

Interested in getting involved in our LGBTQ Ministry? Contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114**.

## Service Spotlight: Gifts of the Spirit Bookstore Team

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



For nearly two decades, Gloria Ritchey and Rhonda Perroz have been the caretakers of the Gifts of the Spirit Bookstore on the First Floor of our church. Each week, they have made books, cards, CDs, jewelry, Café Justo coffee, t-shirts, mugs, and much more available for sale.

The bookstore is now closed and, as renovations conclude, we will no longer have a physical bookstore. However, next year, we will welcome a new way for folks to purchase the most popular items from the bookstore.

Please join our church leadership in offering heart-felt gratitude to both Gloria and Rhonda for their faithful service and years of dedication to our community as they managed this special place. Many thanks to all those who supported the bookstore over the years, including the Girl Scouts, Chuck Nichols, and other dedicated volunteers—who were important parts of this ministry as well.

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 x114**.

## ELPC Session Updates

At recent meetings, the Session:

- Made preparations for an officers' retreat in January 2018;
- Continued discussion about Bicentennial events for 2019;
- Received updates on progress being made with the First Floor building renovations; and
- Welcomed another class of 12 new members and friends.

## ELPC People

*If you have news to share, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x122.*

### Good News

- Congratulations and best wishes to:
  - **Kathleen Mahin** and **Ryan Croyle**, who were married on Sept. 16
  - **Vei Shaun Siow** and **Elliott Porter**, who were married on Sept. 22
  - **Paige Shoemaker** and **Nichols LaFountaine**, who were married on Sept. 30
  - **Steven McClung** and **Molly Schneider**, who were married on Oct. 14
- We celebrate that two ELPC members received promotions at the University of Pittsburgh:
  - **Enrico Novelli** to associate professor
  - **Valire Copeland** to full professor

### Prayers

- Presbyterian Women thanks all of our congregation friends who attended the fall social on Oct. 21. It was a grand time and we appreciated the contributions of food, donations and your good spirits.

### Prayers

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

- Ruth Donalson
- Georgeanne T. (Haramic) Reed



116 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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*“...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.”*

## November Notes

- Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sun., Nov. 5**. Remember to set your clocks back by one hour.
- The ELPC office will be closed for Veteran's Day on **Fri., Nov. 10**, and for Thanksgiving on **Thurs./Fri., Nov. 23/24**.

## Examine E LPC's Architecture



Join our tour guide following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 5 and 26**, for a closer look at the history, Gothic architecture, stained glass, and symbolism of our church's majestic Sanctuary and intimate Chapel. Please gather at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.

## Explore E LPC Below Ground

Join our tour guide after Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 12**, as we descend into the bowels of the Cathedral and explore some of our church's least seen areas. Wander through the “catacombs” and see the organ bellows, furnace, and more. Please gather at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.



## Join Us for Cathedral Concerts

### Essence of Joy

The Pennsylvania State University's *Essence of Joy* choir returns to ELPC on **Sun., Nov. 5**, 3 pm, for one final concert tour under maestro Dr. Anthony Leach's leadership. The ELPC Chancel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Edward Alan Moore, will join *Essence of Joy* for a set of spirituals in the concert.



### Eastman at East Liberty

Ivan Bosnar, Amanda Mole, and Caroline Robinson—three rising star organists from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester—will



perform on **Sun., Nov. 19**, 3 pm. This concert is co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh.