ELPC Elects New Pastor

A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, Jan 8, 2006 for the purpose of acting on a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee and its unanimous choice of the Rev. Dr. Randall Bush, to be elected as pastor of East Liberty Presbyterian Church. By a vote of 181-1-1, the congregation enthusiastically elected Dr. Bush as our new pastor starting March 13, 2006.

Dr. Bush comes to us from Racine, Wisconsin where he is head of staff of the 500 member First Presbyterian Church. While at Racine, he led an international mission trip to Zimbabwe, oversaw a $2 million building renovation project and created a free summer concert music series.

The congregation of East Liberty Presbyterian Church welcomes Dr. Bush (“Randy”) and his family—wife Beth and two children, Ian (6) and

ELPC Black History Month Celebration and Luncheon

The ELPC Community Mission Committee invites the congregation and the East Liberty community to our Fifth Annual Black History Month Celebration on Sunday, Feb 19, in the Social Hall, following the 11 am worship service. The celebration will recognize the gifts and achievements of African Americans, as well as invite the East Liberty community to break bread with us. This is your opportunity to come and enjoy a wonderful meal, a creative presentation and to join together in unity with the East Liberty community.

The luncheon, prepared by Chef Jay and his staff, will feature fried or baked chicken or fried catfish, collard greens, macaroni & cheese, cornbread and dessert. A donation of $8 per person ($5 for children 10 and under and seniors) will be appreciated. Entertainment will be provided by the Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble.

No reservations are required, but to help us plan how much food to prepare, please call Doris, 412/441-3800 x10, by Tuesday, Feb 14 to let us know how many in your family plan to attend.

Volunteers are needed to help with the meal. If you can help serve and/or clean up, or can come the

Sunday Worship Services

* Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month at each service.

8 am Good Samaritan Worship

* Feb 5 The Rev. Donald Dawson, Director of World Mission Initiative, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Feb 12 Dr. James Withers, Director, Operation Safety Net.

Feb 19 The Rev. David Else, Director, Center for Spirituality Twelve-Step Recovery.

Feb 26 TBA

9 am Morning Glory Worship

* Feb 5 The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Bennett.

Feb 12 Robert Frankenberry.

* Feb 19 Interactive participation in sharing “feelings of the heart” regarding Holy Communion.

Feb 26 The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany.

11 am Sanctuary Worship

* Feb 5 ... The Rev. Rick Ott, “Jesus –Neither Hijacked nor Hostage.”

Feb 12 The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, “Being Open to God’s Healing.”


Feb 26 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.

Taizé Sung Prayer

Wednesdays......................... 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton.
February 2006
Vol. 25, No. 2

Dear friends,

It was almost four years ago that my fifth interim pastorate was ending. Lynn and I were considering God’s next call for us. We had moved to Waynesburg, PA in 1988 to work together as directors of Greene County Habitat for Humanity, stayed through the high school graduations of our three children and my first nine years of interim ministry.

We wondered if I might consider an installed pastorate rather than an interim — to test whether I could actually hold a job! We vowed I would (and budgeted so I could) take a good amount of “time off” to enjoy travel and woodworking. Then a suggestion was made that I consider the interim pastorate at ELPC. One might say the rest is history!

Along the way of my being considered by ELPC and our consideration once invited, I remember asking, “But, where could we go after being at this church?” That question was not about the size of building, budget, salary or staff. Even before arriving, we sensed the unique diversity of this community of faith; the vitality of its worship, prayer and spiritual life; and the commitment to peace, justice and community redevelopment.

Now we come to the time to say good-bye. For you, it is yet another time of parting, for in the past four years, all but the newest ELPC members have experienced the departure of pastors and staff with whom you had grown close and formed attachments. At such times, I find it helpful to remember that the Church is centered in Christ, whose Spirit sustains it and us.

Interim pastors are trained to make good entries and intentional exits; still, I already sense feelings of loss and emptiness. Yes, I will make the difficult, but necessary “clean” departure such that my role, availability, and presence as your pastor will end after February 5; yet, that will not erase the gift of our shared life over the past 43 months. Just thumbing through the membership directory brings memories of what we have experienced together, in both the joys and celebrations of personal life, and the life and work of this congregation. It has not always been easy, but ministry never is for fallible believers seeking to be humbly faithful. And we remain connected in prayer.

As we prepare to depart, our four-year old question remains, “Where can we go after being at ELPC?” One “correct” answer is “God only knows,” even as it raises a theological question of God’s omniscience: If God knows, why won’t God share a bit of the knowledge a little sooner? Still, we are trusting that God is initially nudging us to move north to the Albany, New York area to be closer to my parents. There we trust the postponed good amount of “time off” to travel and enjoy woodworking will come to fruition, and it will become clear whether I consider a “real job” or continue as an interim pastor!

Friends, I encourage you to continue to revel in the spiritual energy of the weekend when Randy Bush was called as your new pastor. As we prepare to leave, it is an incredible joy for Lynn and me to sense this congregational excitement and to celebrate with you the arrival of Randy and Beth and their children.

It is with heartfelt thanksgiving that I praise God for the privilege of serving as your interim pastor. To the staff, members and friends of ELPC, thank you for welcoming us into this unique community of believers, which continues to be a faithful beacon of
A Letter from the Rev. Dr. Randall “Randy” Bush

Let me begin by extending thanks from both Beth and me for the gracious and welcoming church events scheduled over the weekend of Jan 8. From the Friday dinner with church elders to the “meet and greet” Saturday session and then the post-service welcoming reception, we felt heartily embraced by the ELPC family.

Being called to a church as special as this one is simultaneously humbling and exhilarating. I am humbled and exhilarated when I consider the tremendous resources available in the skills and experience of the staff, officers and volunteers of ELPC. I am inspired when I hear the rich stories, hopes and dreams that comprise the Christian witness of this church. I am encouraged that the grace of God that has begun to intertwine my family’s life with all your lives will see this good work through to its completion.

My plans are to conclude my ministry in Racine by the end of February and move then to Pittsburgh, officially beginning work on March 13. I ask for your prayers as my family makes this transition. I will join you “mid-conversation,” halfway through the season of Lent, but we will walk and talk together the rest of way, celebrating all the promises found in the resurrection good news of Easter. See you soon!

Randy

Staffing During Transition

There will be about five weeks between the departure of the Rev. Rick Otty, who has served as East Liberty Presbyterian Church’s interim pastor since July 2002, and the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, ELPC’s new pastor.

During the transition time between Rev. Otty’s final Sunday (Feb 5) and Dr. Bush’s arrival (Mar 13), the Personnel Committee of Session is grateful that the Rev. Dr. Richard Szeremany has agreed to serve as acting head of staff. Dr. Szeremany will also moderate the February Session and congregational meetings. Members of the church staff will share preaching responsibilities at the 11 am service during the five Sundays from Feb

Do You Play An Instrument Other Than Keyboard?

We are gathering the names of members and friends who play a variety of wind and stringed instruments with the goal of creating an instrumental ensemble for both ELPC worship and casual enjoyment. If this is YOU please call Dr. Richard Szeremany, 412/441-3800.

Inquirers’ Saturday

Learn what it means to become a member or friend of ELPC by attending our next Inquirers’ Saturday on April 1 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Led by the Rev. Randy Bush and members of the Membership & Growth Committee, this is a chance to hear from members and staff about what it means to be a person of faith and the ministry and vision of our church. Lunch is provided and there is time for sharing stories and getting to know one another.

If you would like to attend our Inquirers’ Saturday, call Gloria Knopp at 412/441-3800 x22. Childcare is available by reservation.

Annual Congregational Meeting Set for Feb 26

ELPC’s annual congregational meeting will be held in the Social Hall on Sunday, Feb 26, following the 11 am worship service. This year we will convene the meeting after a brief fellowship time. (Note: We are not having a full lunch as in the past.)

The agenda for the meeting includes: a review of 2005, presentation of the 2006 budget, and election of officers and nominating committee.

Photos and information about nominees for church officers will be posted on the bulletin board at the foot of the stairs leading to the second floor (near the Security Desk at the Highland entrance) after Feb 13. Annual Reports will be available in the church office by Sunday, Feb 19.

Following is the slate of nominees:

Deacons (class 2009)
Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, Valerie Dixon, Emma Odim, Theresa Patterson, Kay Snyder, (one additional nominee to be named).

Elders (class 2009)
Diana Bloss, Michele Bossers, Valire Copeland, David Epperson, David Hart, Ike Ezekoye, Richard Headley, Paul Outon, Kay Shissler, Nancy Speed.

Elder (class 2008)
Julianne McAdoo

Centennial Trustee (class 2008)
Chris Martin

Centennial Trustee (class 2009)
Justin Johnson

Nominating Committee (class 2007)
Don Addlespurger, Brian Bonsteel, Chuck Carson, Bob Hoon, Marti Moore, Gloria Ritchey.

Note: In order to vote, you must be
The Christian Education ministry is dedicated to teaching and being taught about our relationships with God, neighbors and self. Through the study of scripture and its relationship to human experience, we come to understand and internalize the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By sharing our faith journeys, we grow as a community.

Church School (for all ages) — Sundays, 9:45 to 10:45 am
Class meeting rooms are posted on the schedule board on the second floor.

**ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL**

**Contemporaries**

The Contemporaries class offers presentations and discussions on a variety of subjects including theology, spirituality and current events. Through support and fellowship, study and discussion, the members of this class seek to grow in their faith. Second Floor Parlor.

Feb 5—Letting Their Light Shine: Inspirational Profiles. Led by Joe Hajdu. This four-class series (Feb 5–26), based on Dick Russell’s book *Black Genius and the American Experience*, will highlight both well known and lesser known African-Americans of considerable distinction. Presentation will include the important role of the church and Christian spirituality in the notable accomplishments portrayed within these inspirational profiles. Selected scriptural references will be utilized to enhance the components present within every uplifting story. Weekly handouts, designed to stimulate interest and provide a preview of the individuals and related achievements, will be featured throughout the month.

Feb 19—Saint Patrick and The Green Man. Facilitator: The Rev. Pat Frick. The Rev. Frick returns to the Seekers with more tales of the evolution of Celtic spirituality from paganism to Irish Christianity to Roman Christianity. We will specifically follow the transition of the pagan gods to Saints of the Roman Catholic Church. All are welcome to join the Seekers for this enlightening and thought-provoking two-class series.

**Seekers**

The Seekers class explores issues of faith and spiritual growth through a variety of lenses such as focused Bible readings, books by current authors’ presentations of theology and study of religious art. Leaders include class members, church staff and guest presenters. We welcome the sharing of questions and doubts, as well as faith convictions and affirmations.

Feb 5—Compassion and the Role It Plays in Living Our Christian Faith. Facilitated by Diana Bloss. A three-class series, which began Jan 29, on studying “Jesus, Compassion and Politics” from Marcus Borg’s *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Borg suggests that Jesus upended the politics of the day by challenging the notions of purity; replacing it with a message of compassion. Feb 5—We will look at a variety of other writings on the subject of compassion as a component of Christian faith. Feb 12—We will discuss situations in which doing compassion provides a challenge.

Feb 19—Saint Patrick and The Green Man. Facilitator: The Rev. Pat Frick. The Rev. Frick returns to the Seekers with more tales of the evolution of Celtic spirituality from paganism to Irish Christianity to Roman Christianity. We will specifically follow the transition of the pagan gods to Saints of the Roman Catholic Church. All are welcome to join the Seekers for this enlightening and thought-provoking two-class series.

**Lectionary Bible Study**

Study the scripture texts based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week, texts from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle, and a gospel reading will be identified. The sequence of these texts within the liturgical seasons of the church year provides a guide for our spiritual formation.

The time from after the Epiphany until the beginning of Lent is called Ordinary Time. The liturgical color is green to represent growth and new life. As we read of the call of the disciples and the prophets, and the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, we are invited to be open to God’s calling us to new possibilities.

A biblical background is not required. Bring a Bible if you have one or there will be one made available for you. Second Floor Library.

Feb 5—God who lifts and heals God’s people, is revealed in...
February 2006

Reaching Out

Christian Education, cont’d . . .

Jesus. These passages suggest reaching out to God through prayer and reflection as we strive to keep our focus for ministry. Sustained and restored by faith, we are able to serve in fresh and vital ways as messengers of good news.


Feb 12 The passages this week open windows of understanding about the choices we make and the risks we take as we seek healing for ourselves. As we encounter God’s restoration and life, we bear witness—along with Jesus—to God’s healing presence in the world.

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1–14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Mark 1:40–45.

Feb 19 Today’s passages invite us to explore the irony of looking for wholeness in body, then receiving wholeness in soul as well. God works through friends and community to give new life through gifts of forgiveness and restoration. Martin Luther wrote of these gifts: “Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.”

Readings: Isaiah 43:18–25; Psalm 41; 2 Corinthians 1:18–22; Mark 2:1–12.

Feb 26 God’s voice has called us to a journey with Jesus in which God’s presence is revealed through extraordinary teaching and healing. We hear God’s voice again on Transfiguration Sunday—the last Sunday before Lent—calling us to follow Jesus into an even more profound revelation of God’s love.


YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes for youth in grades 6–12 are offered through our Youth & Young Adults Ministries. See page 7 for information. Note: No classes Jan 1.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHOOL

Preschool ages 3, 4 and 5; kindergartener and grade 1; grades 2 and 3; grades 4 and 5. The children get to know new friends, learn Bible stories and find ways to share God’s love. As they learn more about the life of Jesus and others in the Bible, they discover that people long ago had feelings, disappointments, and hopes and dreams.

YOUNG CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Infants to 2-year olds. Childcare is offered with an integrated Bible-based theme each week, including nurture, stories, play, craft, snack and music. This time is interactive and joyful! This ministry is available for parents wishing to attend 9:45 am adult Church School and/or the 11 am worship service.

EXTENDED SESSION

For 3, 4 and 5-year old and K to Grade 5. After the Moments with Children during 11 am worship (approximately 15 minutes into the service), the children may leave to have a snack, and to be nurtured spiritually through interactive activities. Note: There is no Extended Session for K to grade 5 on the first Sunday of the month when Holy Communion is celebrated.

Children in Extended Session Celebrate Black History Month

The children in Extended Session will be given the opportunity to celebrate Black History during February 2006—Black History Month. Both the United States and Canada recognize the importance of learning about the vital contributions African Americans have made to the culture and history of

YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes for youth in grades 6–12 are offered through our Youth & Young Adults Ministries. See page 7 for information. Note: No classes Jan 1.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHOOL

Preschool ages 3, 4 and 5; kindergartener and grade 1; grades 2 and 3; grades 4 and 5. The children get to know new friends, learn Bible stories and find ways to share God’s love. As they learn more about the life of Jesus and others in the Bible, they discover that people long ago had feelings, disappointments, and hopes and dreams.

YOUNG CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Infants to 2-year olds. Childcare is offered with an integrated Bible-based theme each week, including nurture, stories, play, craft, snack and music. This time is interactive and joyful! This ministry is available for parents wishing to attend 9:45 am adult Church School and/or the 11 am worship service.

EXTENDED SESSION

For 3, 4 and 5-year old and K to Grade 5. After the Moments with Children during 11 am worship (approximately 15 minutes into the service), the children may leave to have a snack, and to be nurtured spiritually through interactive activities. Note: There is no Extended Session for K to grade 5 on the first Sunday of the month when Holy Communion is celebrated.

Children in Extended Session Celebrate Black History Month

The children in Extended Session will be given the opportunity to celebrate Black History during February 2006—Black History Month. Both the United States and Canada recognize the importance of learning about the vital contributions African Americans have made to the culture and history of

YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes for youth in grades 6–12 are offered through our Youth & Young Adults Ministries. See page 7 for information. Note: No classes Jan 1.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHOOL

Preschool ages 3, 4 and 5; kindergartener and grade 1; grades 2 and 3; grades 4 and 5. The children get to know new friends, learn Bible stories and find ways to share God’s love. As they learn more about the life of Jesus and others in the Bible, they discover that people long ago had feelings, disappointments, and hopes and dreams.

YOUNG CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Infants to 2-year olds. Childcare is offered with an integrated Bible-based theme each week, including nurture, stories, play, craft, snack and music. This time is interactive and joyful! This ministry is available for parents wishing to attend 9:45 am adult Church School and/or the 11 am worship service.

EXTENDED SESSION

For 3, 4 and 5-year old and K to Grade 5. After the Moments with Children during 11 am worship (approximately 15 minutes into the service), the children may leave to have a snack, and to be nurtured spiritually through interactive activities. Note: There is no Extended Session for K to grade 5 on the first Sunday of the month when Holy Communion is celebrated.

Children in Extended Session Celebrate Black History Month

The children in Extended Session will be given the opportunity to celebrate Black History during February 2006—Black History Month. Both the United States and Canada recognize the importance of learning about the vital contributions African Americans have made to the culture and history of

CE Children’s News!

New Friends — Charlotte and Ian

On Jan 8, during worship, the children had the opportunity to meet the next pastor of ELPC, Dr. Randy Bush. They soon discovered that Pastor Randy grew up on a farm in Kansas and one of his chores was to take care of the pets. Today he is married and has two children: Charlotte who is age 4 and Ian who is 6. That same day during the Extended Session, the ELPC boys and girls colored messages for Ian and Charlotte. They were given to Pastor Randy to take home and give to his children. About a week later, Pastor Cynthia received greetings for the ELPC children from Charlotte and Ian. How ex-
Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Taizé Prayer
Every Wednesday at 7 pm. A candlelight service with silent meditation and chanted prayer, in the Chapel.

After-Taizé Classes
Wednesdays at 8:15 pm, following the Taizé Prayer at 7 pm.

Feb 1 Taizé in Harmony. Led by Elizabeth Downey. Learn to sing Taizé chants and responses in harmony.


Bread & Soup Meal
All are invited to join us in the McKelvy Room on the last Wednesday of each month from 5:45 to 6:45 pm for a bread and soup meal and fellowship ($2.50 donation). Next meal—Feb 22. Following our meal together, for those

Volunteer to Lead a Mentoring Workshop for Youth and Young Adults Facing Transitions in Their Lives

We are looking for ELPC members with an expertise in any of the following topic areas to volunteer their time and talents to help lead or co-lead a mentoring workshop to assist youth and young adults as they face significant transitions in their lives.

Workshop topics may include:
- discerning your career
- resume preparation
- interviewing for jobs or college
- college application essay writing
- student financial aid
- budgeting/financial management
- volunteerism
- summer opportunities

These workshops will be held once a month and will be open to youth and young adults at ELPC and throughout the community. If

Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Heather Tunney, Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Koinonia Fellowship
Before the Koinonia worship service on Sunday, Feb 12, we will have a potluck supper for ELPC’s youth and young adults. We will meet in the Second Floor Parlor for a light meal and time of fellowship at 5 pm, concluding by 6:45 pm. A main course will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP by Wednesday, Feb 8 to Heather at 412/441-3800 x14.

Jubilee Conference for High School Seniors and Young Adults
Join thousands of other youth and young adults from the tri-state area as they gather together at the Pittsburgh Hilton for the Jubilee Conference, Feb 24–26. The Jubilee Conference will inspire you to see the world ignited for Jesus, connect you with amazing people, and give you a powerful vision of your place in God’s story. The conference theme is "Imagine the Kingdom." The keynote address will be given by Tony Campolo.

For details, including costs, contact Heather Tunney at 412/441-3800 x14. Early-bird registration by Feb 10. Scholarship money is available.

Mentoring Workshops to Help You with Transitions in Your Life
The Youth and Young Adult Ministries Committee of ELPC will be sponsoring monthly mentoring workshops at ELPC to assist youth and young adults as they face significant transitions in their lives. These workshops will be open to both youth and young adults at ELPC and throughout the community.

Workshop topics may include: budgeting/financial management, interviewing for jobs or college, discerning your career, financial aid for students, resume preparation, essay writing for college applications, volunteerism, summer opportunities, etc.

cont’d on page
Youth & Young Adult Ministries, cont’d . . .

More information will be available as soon as workshop topics, dates and times are confirmed. Heather Tunney at 412/441-3800 x14.

YOUTH
(grades 6 through 12)

Sunday Church School Classes
9:45 to 10:45 am. Church School junior-high youth and senior-high youth classes use the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum which follows the Revised Common Lectionary Readings for each week.

ELPC Youth Group
Sundays, 12:30 to 3 pm. The Youth Group meets for lunch, Bible Study and fellowship. Note: No Youth Group Feb 19.

Youth Basketball for Young Men Grades 9–12
Youth basketball for young men grades 9–12 is held on Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm in the ELPC Gym. Note: No basketball on Feb 18.

30-Hour Famine at ELPC
On Saturday and Sunday, Feb 18 and 19, we will fast together for 30 hours to raise money and awareness about the hunger needs of those in our community and throughout the world.

Your fast will begin on Saturday morning after an early breakfast. At 3 pm Saturday afternoon, we will gather together at the church to enjoy fellowship, prayer, awareness-raising games, hide-n-go-seek, bowling and more! The fast will be broken with Communion at the 9 am Morning Glory service on Sunday. Following the service, we will have a hot breakfast meal together during the Church School hour. Please RSVP to Heather by Sunday, Feb 12. Permission slip required for this event.

Jubilee Worship
On Sunday, Feb 26, the senior high Church School class will be attending worship on the last day of the Jubilee Conference at the Pittsburgh Hilton (Feb 24–26). We will meet in the senior high Church School room at 9:40 am and return by 12:15 pm. A permission slip is required. RSVP to Heather Tunney, 412/441-3800 x14 by Sunday, Feb 19 to ensure that there is enough transportation to and from this worship event. See article on page 6 for information about registering to attend all three days of the conference.

Other Events
See page 6.

CROSSROADS YOUNG ADULTS
(ages 18–23)

Crossroads Fellowship
If you are a recent high school graduate, or a college student, or a young adult in your late teens or early twenties exploring God's call on your life, join us each Tuesday evening for a light dinner and fellowship from 5:30 to 7 pm. Note: Crossroads does not meet the third Tuesday of the month (Feb 21).

On Feb 28, in lieu of our usual gathering, we will attend a Mardi Gras Celebration in ELPC’s Social Hall. This year’s event benefits Pittsburgh Presbytery’s Katrina Disaster Assistance Fund to help disaster survivors.

Other Events. See page 6.

ELPC Prayer Group
Praying for Others. If you would like to share your love and concern for others by praying for them, consider joining the ELPC Prayer Group. The group meets Thursdays at 1:30 pm to pray for the church staff, members and friends of ELPC (names selected on a rotating basis), congregational events and concerns, local and national events and individual prayer requests. Your commitment would be for 10 weeks. A new Prayer Group session will begin Thursday, Feb 2 and end Thursday, April 6. Contact Bobby Egelston at 412/767-9212 or egelston@verizon.net.

To Submit a Prayer Request. To submit a prayer request, fill out a request card and put it in a designated prayer request box. Request boxes and cards can be found in the church office and on the table near the east transept doors. The ELPC Prayer Group collects the requests and prays for them every Thursday.

Koinonia

Service of Praise
Koinonia (kwin-o-nee-ah), a word from

This new contemporary worship service—FOR EVERYONE—is led by ELPC youth and young adults. The name was chosen to reflect the belief that through our faith, we are called into a new community—a community of praise, of love and of service. As we gather to praise and worship God, the center of our community of faith, we will be strengthened in our love for others and our call to serve the community beyond the doors of ELPC.
Hope Academy Students to Compete in Pittsburgh Public Theater's 2006 Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest

February is a busy month for 20 Hope Academy's Shakespeare Workshop students who have been preparing for the Pittsburgh Public Theater's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest since September 2005.

This annual competition encourages students in grades 4 through 12 to work for recognition and applause by preparing and performing monologues and scenes from the 37 plays of William Shakespeare. Close to 1,000 students from the tri-state area will compete in the semi-final round; from that group around 30 students will be selected to perform in the "Showcase of Finalists" on Monday, Feb 13 at 8 pm at the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

Before announcing last year's contest winners, Pittsburgh Public Theater artistic director Ted Pappas said, “It honors the theater to see your talent, hard work and passion for Shakespeare. An evening like this reminds us why art matters and why Shakespeare matters and why support for the arts, arts in the schools and arts in this city matters.”

Of the 30 students in last year's "Showcase of Finalists," Hope Academy was well represented by four students: Jamal Williams, Jodi Lincoln, Tess Naughton and Rosa DeFerrari.

Hope Academy's Shakespeare Workshop program provides intensive training in the study of William Shakespeare and his plays. Every year the students become more confident and competent as they not only become better actors, but increase their understanding of the text of the plays. Even the youngest 4th-grade students are able to tell the story of the play that their monologue is from, as well as describe their character and the meaning of every word and phrase in their monologue.

The program is greatly enhanced by Hope Academy's ongoing partnership with Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. Spearheaded and led by Professor Janet "Madelle" Feindel, who is also an ELPC friend, the partnership provides individual coaching by CMU drama students and master voice and speech classes. Professor Feindel is a highly trained and qualified professional, certified in Alexander Technique, and in both Linklater and Fitzmaurice vocal techniques. Her work is based on the science and anatomy of voice and speech, and uses imagery, games, and child-like spontaneity to make complex techniques remarkably accessible to young people. Professor Feindel's passion for her work encourages and inspires Hope Academy's Shakespeare students and we are thankful for her and her students’ willingness to share their talents and expertise.

The Pittsburgh Public Theater's

Katrina Relief Benefit
A festive event for all ages! Sponsored by churches of the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Mardi Gras Celebration
Tuesday, Feb 28
6 to 10 pm
Hosted at East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Music
The Dixieland Dudes (Dixieland Jazz)
Tangueros de Ley (Tango)

Dancing
Line Dancing
Tango Dancing

Food
Including a Mardi Gras dinner buffet, kid-friendly foods and “King Cake”

Crafts & Activities
Mask & hat making; balloon sculpture; special crafts & activities for children

Tickets: (by reservation)
$5, adults
$2.50, ages 12 and under
$15, maximum family cost
Covers food and program.

412/441-3800 x11

Tax-deductible donations will be gratefully accepted and will provide help to Katrina disaster survivors. Make check to: Pittsburgh Presbyterian and indicate on memo.
Stewardship Committee

Seminar on Planned Giving
The Stewardship Committee will host a two-hour seminar on Planned Giving at 12:30 pm in the Second Floor Parlor, following the 11 am worship service on Sundays, Feb 12 and March 12. Attendees will learn everything they have always wanted to know about how to give resources to the church in ways that are comfortable for the giver.

Phillip Blake, Development Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, will be with us to discuss wills, trusts, donor-advised trusts, charitable gift annuities, and other vehicles for remembering and honoring your church and others. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, call Gloria Knopp at the church, 412/441-3800 x22.

An Expression of Stewardship — “For God Loveth a Cheerful Giver”
By Carla Depperman

For me, giving money to the Presbyterian Church (USA) is a good investment. My contribution helps to support our local church, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, as well as, added to the gifts of many others, it ripples across the national church and the world, supporting many Presbyterian missions. I want to be a part of that effort.

On Sunday morning, I marvel at the children’s hour as the little ones, young and open, are so ready to hear the stories of Jesus. I want to support this development of our young—surely a good investment.

On Communion Sundays, as our people walk to the front of the church for the gift of bread and wine, I marvel at how we are—tall, short, young, old, diverse in culture and race—but all of the same heart in our love for Jesus Christ. Surely this is how it will be when we come before God on our final day. I want to be one of God’s people, an active and faithful participant.

Thus, for the world, for our community of ELPC, and for my own soul, I support the Presbyterian Church with time and money—a good investment.

ELPC’s Annual Mardi Gras Celebration to Provide Katrina Disaster Assistance

Mardi Gras, the last day before the fasting season of Lent, means “Fat Tuesday.” In many places around the world, it is celebrated by spectacular parades, masked balls, street dancing and excessive indulgence in food and drink. One city famous for its celebration of Mardi Gras, New Orleans, is struggling to rebuild after hurricane Katrina.

And so, it is fitting that ELPC’s Worship, Music and The Arts Committee is donating the proceeds from this year’s annual Mardi Gras celebration, on Tuesday, Feb 28, to the Pittsburgh Presbytery’s Katrina Disaster Assistance Fund to provide help to disaster survivors.

As in other years, the event has fun activities for all ages (see ad on page 8) including early evening “party music” for the entire family.

New this year and one of the evening’s highlights will be Tangueros de Ley playing Tango music. If you are interested in learning how to Tango before Mardi Gras, classes are offered at ELPC on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 pm ($10/ per person per lesson). For more information about the Tango classes, please call Julieta Ugartemendia from Tangueros de Ley at 412/853-8246.

If you would like to help at Mardi Gras, or contribute prizes or your talents, as well as purchase tickets, please call Norma Meyer at the church at 412-441-3800 x11.

Sermon Copies Available
Printed copies of most sermons preached at the weekly Sanctuary service are available in the sermon rack by the Highland entrance. Tapes of the Sanctuary services can be requested by contacting Doris Cook in the church office. If you plan to keep the tape, a $2 donation is appreciated.

A Renewed Ministry of Greeting and Ushering
The Deacons, Membership & Growth, and Worship, Music & The Arts invite all congregation friends and members to participate in a renewed ministry of greeting and ushering.

This ministry, on Sunday mornings at the 11 am service, allows ELPC family members to share their joy in being in this congregation. Individuals can minister by either greeting or ushering within a variety of time frames.

Please let us know if you would like the opportunity of serving in this ministry. We will work with you to define the level of your commitment. Call Norma Meyer in the church office at 412/441-3800 x11, or contact Sherry Anderson, Liz Hopkins or Chuck Nichols.

We look forward to talking with you and sharing this exciting opportunity to meet other church members.
21 Representatives from ELPC Attend Politics and Spirituality Conference in Washington, DC

“The biggest questions we face...are ultimately connected to moral and spiritual choices.” These words of conference presenter, Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners*, sum up the Politics and Spirituality Conference in Washington, DC attended by 21 representatives of the greater ELPC community over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in January.

The conference provided a living forum where all participants explored their hunger to replace a politics of blame and fear with a politics of solutions and hope, and one which embraces our country’s core moral values. It was a weekend that transformed all who attended.

More than 1,600 Christians from across the US and Canada came together to study, worship, pray and to provide a public witness on the steps of the US Capitol to call our nation’s leaders to “care for the least of these.”

The Pittsburgh team is committed to bringing the witness to our own community. In the words of Fr. Richard Rohr, also a conference presenter, “Everything worthwhile begins with a spiritual encounter and ends in a social encounter.” And in the words of Anne Lamott, author and the third presenter, “Everything feels crazy. But on small patches of earth, I can see just as much messy grace and mercy as ever…”—Michele Bossers

New Taskforce Forming to Study Issues of Poverty

The Justice & Global Concerns Committee is forming a new task force to study the issues of poverty and discern our response. If you are interested in participating, please contact ELPC’s Director of Mission Ministries Patrice Fowler-Searcy, 412/441-3800 x30 or PatriceS@coh.net.

From the Women and Children's Taskforce . . .

Women and Children Taskforce Meeting

Join with other church members in working on behalf of women and children locally, nationally and globally. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 5 in Room 224 at 12:30 pm, (following 11 am worship). For more information about the Taskforce, call Judy Menk at 412/798-8569.

Legal Forum on Women and Children’s Issues

Join us on Saturday, March 25 from 1 to 3 pm in the Social Hall for a “Legal Forum on Women and Children's Issues.” Come and hear professionals speak on a variety of issues pertinent to women and their children. More details to follow in the March issue of Reaching Out and upcoming bulletin announcements.

Full Inclusion Taskforce Meeting

The next meeting of the Full Inclusion Taskforce will be held following the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Feb 12 in Room 234. Please bring a sandwich or snack and join us as we discuss ways we might promote welcome, inclusion and open dialogue at East Liberty Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery. We will hear a report from the “Presbytery Task force on Ministry with Sexual Minorities,” as well as their insight and direction for 2006.

For more information, please call Carol Untch at 724/272-9722.

Volunteers Needed for Cultural and Educational Field Trips to Help Refugee Children

The Field Learning Program is collaborative effort between ELPC and the Islamic Community Center of Pittsburgh to help recently arrived refugee children from Somalia, Burma, Afghanistan and Iraq, enhance their learning outcomes in school and strengthen their social ties with the Pittsburgh community. As a means of accomplishing this, the program sponsors monthly field trips to various cultural and educational centers in Pittsburgh.

Volunteers are needed as chaperones for the following Saturday field trips or to help prepare lunches:

Feb 18 . . . . Carnegie Library
March 18 . . . Children's Museum  (tentative)
April 22 . . . . TBA
May 20 . . . . TBA

If you are available to volunteer on one or more of these Saturdays from
Horizons Bible Study
All women of the church are invited to attend discussions based on lessons relating to the 2005-06 theme, “For Everything, A Season: A Study of the Liturgical Calendar,” by the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Long Bostrom. Each lesson is offered twice—Tuesday mornings (first Tuesday of the month); or Tuesday evenings (fourth Tuesday of the month). Choose whichever time your schedule permits:

Tuesday morning, Feb 7 — Lesson 6: “Lent” 10 am, fellowship and sharing of joys/concerns (short business update if needed); 10:30–11:30 am, Bible study; 11:30 am–12:30 pm, potluck lunch.

Tuesday evening, Feb 28 — Lesson 5: “Epiphany” 5:45 pm, fellowship and a light dinner; 6:30–7:30 pm, Bible study.

Women Called to Lead in the Presbyterian Church
The Presbyterian Church (USA) is celebrating three anniversaries concerning women—the 100th anniversary of women ordained as deacons (1906); the 75th anniversary of women ordained as elders (1930); and the 50th anniversary of women ordained as ministers of Word and Sacrament (1956).

In 2006, the Women’s Ministries Area, National Ministries Division, Presbyterian Church (USA) will be sponsoring two 2005-2006 Women Ordination Celebrations: “Spirit Flames,” March 9–10, hosted at the First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta; and “Tending the Flame, Telling the Story,” Oct 6–9, at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel.
The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
www.cathedralofhope.org

Address Service Requested

ELPC ELECTS NEW PASTOR

Christian Education Church School
Classes for adults, youth and children
Sundays, 9:45 to 10:45 am

Stewardship Seminar on Planned Giving
Sunday, Feb 12

Koinonia Service of Praise
Sunday, Feb 12, 7 pm

Youth 30-Hour Fast
Feb 18 and 19

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Feb 26

Mardi Gras Celebration /Katrina Benefit

ELPC CELEBRATION AND LUNCHEON
Sunday, Feb 19