African Children’s Choir in a FREE Concert at ELPC

Twenty years after its inception, the African Children’s Choir continues to perform throughout the world bringing hope and joy to everyone they meet. On their upcoming eastern seaboard tour of the United States, their first stop in Pennsylvania will be at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Friday, May 26 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

You are invited to come and experience the joy and enthusiasm of these 25 beautiful young children from Uganda and Kenya (13 girls and 12 boys ages 7 through 11). The program, filled with English and native African songs, will warm your heart and delight your ears.

The children sing on behalf of their brothers, sisters, friends and their villages back home. Their songs bring great joy to those who hear them, but through their songs they are asking for help. During the program, a presentation will be made lifting up the work and ministry of the African Children’s Choir Music for Life program. The program currently provides financial support for learning to over 6,700 children in Africa who otherwise would have no access to an education. And, an education can bring freedom from poverty, disease and despair.

The concert is FREE and open to the public—no tickets required. However, we trust there will be a very generous free-will offering to keep this work alive and flourishing for these 25 children and hundreds more back

Gifts of Women Sunday, May 21

ELPC Presbyterian Women is delighted to have the Rev. Connie Dunn, former ELPC Director of Christian Education, preaching at our annual Gifts of Women Sunday on May 21 at the 11 am worship service in the Sanctuary. Several women of the congregation will be participating in the service, and Connie’s message will be on “Loving Each Other.” This service is also an opportunity for us to receive the "Thank Offering" which helps to fund the Creative Ministries of Churchwide Presbyterian Women benefiting mission projects throughout the world. Join us for a Sunday of celebration!

Sunday Worship Services

* Holy Communion.
Offered the first Sunday of the month.

8 am Good Samaritan Worship
* May 7 The Rev. David Carver, Crafton Heights United Presbyterian Church.
May 14 The Rev. Kim Viehland, Bellevue United Methodist Church.
May 21 Brother James Avant, Charles Lawanga Parish.
May 28 The Rev. Clifton A. Anthony, New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

9 am Morning Glory Worship
* May 7 .... The Rev. J. Howard Cherry.
May 14 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
May 21 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain.
May 28 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

11 am Sanctuary Worship
* May 7 .... The Rev. Dr. J. R. Szeremany.
May 14 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
May 21 The Rev. Connie Dunn.
May 28 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Koinonia Contemporary Service of Praise
Second Sunday of each month.
Sunday, May 14 .........................7 pm

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sundays, bimonthly, March through Nov.
Sunday, May 21 .........................6 pm

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays .........................10 am to 3 pm
Wednesdays .........................10 am to 9 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer
Moving to a new place means learning the language of that place. For me, that has meant more than just getting familiar with “Pittsburghese” phrases like “dahn-tahn” and “S’Liberty.” It also involves how we describe our church. In introducing myself to others, I tell others “I’m the new pastor at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.” Sometimes the church name gets shortened to “East Liberty Church” or “ELPC.” Or, I might mention our other designation and website address, “Cathedral of Hope.”

There is truth in each of these names. We are “East Liberty Presbyterian Church,” a congregation whose roots go back to 1819, but one that exists as a colleague of the 156 churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery and sister church with the other 11,100 congregations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We support the work of the denomination through our per capita giving, mission gifts, and special offerings. We also fulfill our relationship to the larger church through our prayers, our activism for needed reform and advocacy for justice, and being informed about the issues facing our church family. (I would ask your prayers for the upcoming General Assembly, which will meet June 15-22 in Birmingham, Alabama and which is considering important work on investments for peace in the Middle East, maintaining the “peace, unity, and purity” of our denomination, and removing ongoing barriers to full inclusion in our church’s leadership.)

We are also East Liberty Church, a crucial partner in the ongoing strengthening of this neighborhood. That means we keep informed about the revitalization plans, engaged through our partnerships with East End Cooperative Ministries and East Liberty Development Inc., and connected through the committees and many projects that bind us together.

And we are a “Cathedral of Hope,” through all the above efforts and the particular work done by individual members and staff. The message of hope goes forth through our wide range of worship services, through our “Hope Academy” and musical offerings, through our commitment to prayer, spiritual growth, and Christian Education for all ages.

Whatever name you use to describe our church to others, get in the habit of inviting them to visit “ELPC,” “East Liberty Church,” “Cathedral of Hope.” The invitation is the crucial first step in

African Children’s Choir — Host Homes Needed for One Night

We are looking for 10 to 12 homes to host 25 members of the African Children’s Choir and their adult leaders for one night (Friday, May 26) and for breakfast the next day.

If you would like to open your home as well as your heart to these special guests of ELPC, please call Norma Meyer or Dr. J. Richard Szeremany at the church at 412/441-3800 to request an information sheet regarding host homes. For more about the choir’s concert
Session Report for April 2006

The April meeting of the Session included a time to meet with the incoming elders and deacons and, after shared conversation and discussion, to receive them as incoming officers for our congregation. The Session met in small groups with these nominees and enjoyed the time of faith-sharing and reflection.

The action items approved by the Session ranged from approving the baptism of Charlotte Brake-Hoffman to agreeing with the request from Justice & Global Concerns to staff an information table about ELPC at the June 17 Pridefest Parade.

An initial effort at streamlining the Session meeting agendas was put into place, involving a division of the committees into three categories linked to our mission statement “Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching You.” The first cluster of committees (“Reaching Up”) included Budget, Personnel, Property, Stewardship, Spiritual Life, and others; each shared about their cur-

Hope Academy of Music & the Arts Annual Showcase Performances

All are invited to Hope Academy's end-of-the-year showcase performances featuring the musical Once On This Island Jr, a Caribbean adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale The Little Mermaid.

When a peasant girl rescues and falls in love with a young man from a wealthy family, the strength of her love is tested against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death. This touching story with colorful costumes and catchy pop and Caribbean-flavored tunes, is a multicultural feast for the heart, mind and soul. Performed by kids, for kids—of all ages!

Over 70 students, ages 6 to 18, from Hope Academy's Musical Theater, Shakespeare, and African Drumming programs will be performing in this annual event; plus, the Hope-Xpress youth ensemble, in partnership with Xpressions Contemporary Dance Company. Presented through generous support from MCAI and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Tickets: $5 each, available at the door.

Update from the ELPC Planning Team

The ELPC Planning Team met on April 22 for an all-day retreat. Facilitated by consultant, Dan Hotchkiss, the form of the team's final report is beginning to take shape. One metaphor is to see it as a three-legged stool that articulates ministry priorities, people/personnel plans, and a budget/stewardship plan for the next five years. Pastor Bush has attended these meetings since March and is helping craft the strategy.

The next step for the team will be to coordinate the recommendations with the Personnel, Stewardship, and Property committees before submitting a report to Session on June 20. A first draft is expected by late May and the committee hopes to present the material to a focus group in early June.

Help Prevent Malaria with Your Purchase of a Special Mother’s Day Card

Net Workers is a malaria prevention program established by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Your purchase of a Net Workers’ Mother's Day card ($10) to honor a special woman here, will provide an insecticide-threaded net and malaria prevention education for a woman and her family in Africa.

Cards may be purchased during Fellowship Time after the 11 am service on Sunday, May 7, or by calling Joan Heckel, 412/661-7760. A sample of the card is posted on

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Hope Academy of Music & the Arts is a ministry of East Liberty Presbyterian Church. www.hopeacademy.info

Mother's Day Sunday, May 14
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.

Class held in the Second Floor Parlor.

May 7 Joy to the World. A two-class celebration series led by Chuck Carson. “You will teach me the path of life, unbounded joy in your presence.” — Psalm 16:11 (NJB). There is a joy to be had in a personal relationship with God that the regular world often cannot understand. When Jesus prayed, he asked constantly that our joy might be full. You were created in joy, and to joy you will return. Meanwhile, joy on earth is available to you in ways that pass all human understanding.

May 14 Joy to the World, continued. See May 7 class description above.

May 21 Journey of Transformation. Led by Chenoa Stock. Traveling to India was a transforming experience for Chenoa, providing an opportunity for contemplation, reflection and the creation of a deeper understanding of her role as a Christian, embracing God’s mission in her life. The interactions she encountered will help to serve as a bridge toward her personal transformations, her relationship to the world, and the solidarity of her faith. This progression to follow the teachings of Jesus will be focused on life, God and the model of love provided by Christ.

May 28 C.S. Lewis versus Sigmund Freud. Led by Donna Ramsey. Join in the discussion or sit comfortably as a spectator as Donna presents the disparate worldviews of Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis, based on Dr. Armand Nicholi Jr.’s book *The Question of God*. Nicholi’s book provides a riveting opportunity to consider the most important question mankind has ever asked: Is there a God? Does God care about me? Topics include: the Creator, conscience, happiness, love and sex, pain and suffering, life and death. While Freud and Lewis never actually met to debate these issues, Nicholi’s book places their brilliant and lasting arguments side by side.

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.

Class held in Room 234.

May 7 Islam. Led by Farooq Hussani from the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh. All are welcome to join us to learn more about the faith of Islam and our Islamic friends. Mr. Hussani will introduce us to a brief passage of the Quran (Koran) as an introduction to the faith of Islam.

May 14 Islamic Art. Led by Farooq Hussani from the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh. Mr. Hussani will present an introduction to the symbolism and meaning of Islamic art, which being non-representational is a departure from the Christian art with which we are so familiar.

May 21 The Respect We Owe One Another. Led by Paul Adlespurger. “Our lives are built one small brick at a time, ordinary day by ordinary day. With each little expression of thoughtfulness, we create something of immense significance...character, both our own and that of others.” Dr. McCullough, author of *Say Please, Say Thank You, The Trivialization of God*, and *Walking from the American Dream*.

The news and our own experiences remind us daily of the inci-
vility and violence that has become commonplace. Is basic human courtesy vanishing from our lives? How does the neglect of courtesy lead to the collapse of community? Does lack of respect for persons have less to do with breaking rules of etiquette than with breaking the ties that bind us together? We will discuss what world religions have to say about how we should treat one another and then explore many of life’s opportunities for treating others with decency and consideration.

May 28 The Respect We Owe One Another, continued. See May 21 class description.

Lectionary Bible Study
Study the scripture texts based on the Revised Common Lectionary. The sequence of these texts within the liturgical seasons of the church year provides a guide for our spiritual formation. During the Season of Easter, we join Thomas and the other disciples in opening our hearts and souls to recognize Jesus as the Christ, alive in new ways. Even as the church emerges and new communities of faith are formed, these stories lift up the ancient promise—God is always present and has the future in hand. A biblical background is not required. Bring a Bible if you have one or there will be one made available for you. Facilitators include class member and church staff.

Class held in the Second Floor Library.

Many churches observe today as Good Shepherd Sunday. The focus text and psalm invite us to imagine God’s ultimate care for humankind through the essential qualities of a good shepherd: caring, rescuing, feeding, protecting, and guiding. In these passages, we encounter the nature of self-giving love and how this is part of discipleship.

As Jesus’ followers move out into the world, the Christian community grows. Three images in the texts speak to the welcome that all are to receive in the church. The waters of baptism (Acts), the love within church (1 John), and the vine and branches (John) place the standard of inclusion in front of us as we live out our faith.

We engage Jesus’ hopes and instructions for the community of followers. As these followers banded together, the church emerged. Following their lead, we continue to look to Jesus as our friend who sets the rhythm of discipleship and invites us to respond creatively and fruitfully.

Note the role of prayer in today’s passages. The early church seeks leaders with integrity and prays for guidance. Jesus, through prayer, gives the disciples over to God’s keeping. The psalm speaks of choices made in the context of a prayerful relationship with God. As we journey in faith, we prayerfully entrust our lives to God.

YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL
Church School classes for youth in grades 6–12 are offered through our Youth & Young Adults Ministries. See page 8 for information.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHOOL
Preschool ages 3, 4 and 5; kindergarten 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

Sing with the Joyful Noise
Children’s Choir
Children ages 4 years to 5th grade are welcome to come and sing! We will be practicing on May 7, May 21, and June 4 at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary, and singing on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. For more details, contact choir director Robyn Peterson at 412/875-6382 or...
“Fish Banks” Update

When we help somebody else, it is like we are helping Jesus! The children of ELPC collected coins and paper money for the One Great Hour of Sharing! They brought their ‘Fish Banks’ to church on Easter Sunday, April 16. When the money from all of the banks was combined, the children had $160 to give! Here are some ways our gifts can help:

- $10 to start a small Moringa tree nursery with 10 seedlings.
- $20 to help a Haitian villager purchase a pair of goats which can help support his family with milk and offspring.
- $50 to provide a small loan to a woman in Latin America to start a small business; or to purchase a rabbit hutch, two rabbits.
- $65 to purchase a treadle pump to help a farmer irrigate fields.
- $75 to purchase a wire chicken coop with a batch of chickens.
- $150 to purchase fishing nets and 500 fish fingerlings.

Thank you to the families who participated in Living Lent and who helped the children to learn about the needs of other people. —Pastor Cynthia

Volunteers Needed to Help with Vacation Bible School

It takes many hands for our VBS ministry to happen. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help for one week in June (June 19–23) during the morning hours from 9:30 to 11:45 am.

- hospitality & snacks
- teaching or assisting
- arts & crafts projects
- music
- recreation & games
- childcare

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Interim Director of Christian Education the Rev. Cynthia Jackson at 412/441-3800 x20.

Note: Youth who have completed 5th grade are also invited to help.

Fellowship Time for Families with Children

On Sunday, May 21 immediately following the 11 am worship service, Interim Director of Christian Education the Rev. Cynthia Jackson invites all ELPC families with young children (infants through grade 5) to gather for fellowship in Room 157 (directly across from the Security Desk at the Highland Entrance on the first floor). Refreshments for adults and children will be provided as well as a time to get acquainted with one another and to welcome new members.

On Sunday, June 18 (the first day of our Summer Worship schedule), our second Families with Children Fellowship Time will be held in the Narthex following the 10 am Summer Worship service in the Courtyard.

Please plan to attend on either or both Sundays. For more information, call the Rev. Cynthia Jack-
Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing
All are invited to join us on Sunday evening, May 21 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary, for a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading and a time of blessing. Service leader: the Rev. Randy Bush.

“Young at Heart Luncheon” Recognizing ELPC’s Senior Members
Save the date Sunday, June 25 on your calendar and plan to attend the annual “Young at Heart Luncheon” in recognition of the senior members our church. The theme this year is “Music of the 50’s.” This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

At the beginning of June, the deacons will send out invitations to our senior members inviting them, along with one guest each, to be our guest at the luncheon. Others may join us for a cost of $6 per person. We hope to make it a celebration for the whole congregation. Watch for more details in June’s Reaching Out.

Koinonia Service of Praise
Koinonia—an ancient Greek word meaning “community.” All are invited to our Koinonia contemporary worship service to praise and worship God, the center of our community, Sunday, May 14 at 7 pm. The service, led by ELPC youth and young adults, is offered the second Sunday of each month. Music Room, third floor.

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

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

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

May 3 Taizé in Harmony. Led by Elizabeth Downey. Learn to sing Taizé in harmony. At Taizé, there is choir practice every afternoon for all who want to sing the chants and responses in their own voices: soprano, alto, tenor, bass.

May 10 Open the Voice, Open the Spirit. Led by Janet Madelle Feindel, Associate Professor of Voice and Speech at Carnegie Mellon University. This class deals with some of the spiritual aspects of voice production. We will explore gentle sounding and toning combined with simple physical softening exercises that allow for deeper spiritual connection. Participants will read a variety of prayers, investigating the ease of sound and movement within the prayer to achieve a fuller connection to God.

May 17 Non-Violent Communication. Led by Chuck Carson. Practical ways to relax and remain calm in a non-violent, supportive dialogue. Focusing on the feelings and needs of self and others. This process has been very life-giving to me. Come and explore dialogues without criticism, judgment, advice or education.

May 24 Monthly Taizé Bible Study. The community of Taizé sends one scripture text a month which we are invited to study and live with. Join us as we come together in small groups for Bible study and a sharing of our experiences with our text for the month. May—Jeremiah 1:4–10.

May 31 Birthday’s and Other Celebrations. After Taizé, we will have birthday cake in the Narthex for all. If you celebrate a birthday, or a milestone or an anniversary in May, please write it on a piece of paper with your name and place it in the offering plate during the month, so we can honor you and celebrate with you.

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.
Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Heather Tunney, Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Koinonia Fellowship for ELPC Youth & Young Adults

All ELPC youth and young adults are invited to bring their mother (or someone else in their life who is like a mother to them) to our pot-luck supper on Sunday, May 14 from 5 to 6:45 pm (Second Floor Parlor), and to the 7 pm Koinonia service which follows. This will be a special time of fellowship to honor these women as we celebrate Mother’s Day together. A main course will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP by Wednesday, May 10 to 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. Lunch, Bible Study and fellowship.

Youth Service Project
ELPC youth will serve as ushers for the Hope Academy's performance of "Once On This Island Jr." See the Youth Calendar or Sunday bulletin for details.

ELPC Boys Basketball Team Wins Championship Game

Congratulations to the ELPC's Boys Basketball team (ELPC All-Stars) and their coach Anthony Williams, on winning first prize in the CISP Championship game. Our team competed against teams from the CISP organization and other local social service agencies and churches throughout the area.

Junior High Mission Trip — Crestfield’s “Mission Possible”

Youth who have completed 6th through 8th grades by Summer 2006, and are active at ELPC in Youth Group, Church School or two or more service projects, are invited to participate in “Mission Possible” at Camp Crestfield in Slippery Rock from June 18–23. ELPC youth will work alongside youth from other churches at three different mission settings throughout the day, following a day of training. There will be opportunities for fun and fellowship at Camp Crestfield and at Moraine State Park. Cost is $200/person. ELPC will pay half, and each youth is responsible for the remaining $100 (limited scholarship assistance available). RSVP is required by Sunday, May 28. Each participant is required to attend one pre-trip meeting to go over details of the trip. Contact Heather Tunney at 412/441-3800.

CROSSROADS

(young adults ages 18–23)

Crossroads Fellowship Moves to a New Time

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 once a week in Room 51 for a light dinner, fellowship and a Spirit-filled discussion. To better accommodate everyone's busy schedule, beginning in May, Crossroads will now meet every Sunday afternoon from 3 to 5 pm, except the second Sunday of the month. No meeting Sunday, May 14.

Spring Retreat at Camp Crestfield

See article under Young Adults.

YOUNG ADULTS

(in their 20s and 30s)

20/30s Book Study

If you are a young adult in your 20s or 30s, you are invited to join us for a book study of The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, on Tuesday, May 23 from 7 to 9 pm. We will be reading chapters titled “Wednesday” and “Thursday.” The book cost $10. Some scholarship money available if needed. For more information or to purchase a book, contact Heather Tunney, 412/441-3800 x14.

Spring Retreat at Camp Crestfield

Young adults in their 20s and 30s, college students and recent high school graduates are invited to join in with friends from the ELPC community and other churches throughout the Pittsburgh Presbytery for a time of renewal, worship and fun at this year’s spring retreat at Camp Crestfield in Slippery Rock, May 5 and 6.

Explore how we as a generation can influence the vitality of the church. The topic for our weekend will be “Generation X: Defining the Variable” with keynote speaker Rodger Nishioka, a dynamic preacher and a professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. Our worship leaders for the weekend will be “The Smokin' Gators,” a contemporary praise band from Hampton Presbyterian Church.

Total cost for both days is $30
Women and Children's Taskforce Meeting
The next meeting of the Task Force on Women and Children will be Sunday, May 7 at 12:30 pm (following 11 am worship) in Room 234. Our meeting will focus on a review/evaluation of what we have done this past year and planning for what we would like to do in the coming year. The work of the task force is to educate and advocate on behalf of the needs of women and children in our world. If you have not been a part of the task force, now is an excellent time to join us. Bring a bag lunch. Judy Menk at 412-798-8569.

Katrina Mission Trip...UPDATE
The Mississippi Katrina Mission Team from ELPC—Don Addlespurger, Marilyn Castle, Wil Forrest, Karen Fraser, Jules Golz, Joe Hadju, Kristina Hout, Jon Nelson, Cathy Regush, Kurt Regush and Clark Smith—left Pittsburgh on Friday, April 21 and headed for Longbeach, Mississippi to assist the community there affected by the Katrina disaster. They arrived Saturday, April 22, at the Longbeach Presbyterian Church, the contact church coordinating the efforts of the teams sent there to help. The folks from ELPC met up with four other visiting teams, two from Pennsylvania, one from Connecticut and one from Illinois.

Each day, teams were assembled and work assignments were given depending on what needed to be done and what was a priority that day. Job tasks included both inside and outside work such as putting up new dry-wall and insulation, yard repair work and cleanup, gardening and cutting down damaged trees. The work was hard and the weather was hot, but everyone was in good spirits doing God’s work helping to put back the lives of those affected by the disaster. At the suggestion of the host church, the ELPC team took one day to view the damage of some of the hardest hit areas, including a visit to New Orleans to see the devastation there. The team returned to Pittsburgh on April 30.

Thanks to all those who attended our two Katrina fundraisers to help send the ELPC team to Mississippi—the April 1 car wash which raised...
Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Pastoral Care. ELPC has several ministries devoted to offering Christian compassion and a listening ear for those who are hospitalized, grieving, homebound or otherwise living through a difficult time. If you know of someone in need of pastoral care, please call Gloria Knopp, 412/441-3800 x22. Gloria will direct your call to someone on our pastoral staff. All calls are kept confidential.

Prayer Requests. 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 meets every Thursday to pray for them. All requests are kept con-

Presbyterian Women
Heather Lawrence, Moderator

Horizons Bible Study
All women of the church are invited to attend the last of our discussions based on this year’s lessons relating to the theme “For Everything, A Season: A Study of the Liturgical Calendar” by the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Long Bostrom.

Tuesday morning: May 2 — Lesson 9: Pentecost and Ordinary Time 10 am, fellowship/sharing joys/concerns (short business update if needed); 10:30–11:30 am, Bible study; 11:30 am–12:30 pm, potluck lunch.

Tuesday evening: May 23 — Lesson 8: Easter June 27 — Lesson 9: Pentecost and Ordinary Time 5:45 pm, fellowship and a light dinner; 6:30–7:30 pm, Bible study.

Presbyterian Women’s Spring Retreat
ELPC’s Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church—members, friends and visitors—to join together May 5 and 6 at Camp Crestfield in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania for our spring retreat with the theme “Being Family” led by Elder Jean Kennedy.

Crestfield’s beautiful camp setting provides the backdrop for a time of fellowship, spiritual growth and a break from the stresses of daily life. We’ll gather together Friday evening for a pot luck dinner and social time. Saturday will include workshops, singing, creative arts, hiking and worship. Registration forms are available on the PW bulletin board. Need a ride? Ask about carpool opportunities. Some scholarship aid is available for this event. For more information, call Diana Bloss, 412/441-9237 or dmbloss1@comcast.net.

PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville
Registrations are now being accepted for the Presbyterian Women’s triennial conference in Louisville, Kentucky, July 7–11, 2006. The gathering is open

Renaissance City Choirs
Spring Concert 2006
The Renaissance City Choirs, Pittsburgh’s only choir comprised of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and supportive individuals, will hold its Spring Concert on Friday and Saturday, May 19–20, at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, where the choirs hold choirs-in-residence status.

This year, the Renaissance City Men’s Choir, directed by Dr. Bill J. Adams, will share the bill in a combined program with the Renaissance City Women’s Choir, led by Jack Kurutz, Interim Artistic Director.

The Renaissance City Women’s Choir will open the first half of the concert with At The Beach, a stunning salute to the impending arrival of summer. Join us to hear the tale of “Summer Love,” meet us “Under the Boardwalk,” and sway with the “Girl from Ipanema.”

As the sun sets on the first half of the program, the audience will be invited to experience the wonders of the Lush Life, a vignette of tunes, drawn from the works of Pittsburgh’s own Billy Strayhorn and the performances of Gene Kelly including Take the A Train, Something to Live For and Lush Life. The performance will also spotlight choir members in trio and quartet of Strayhorn-Ellington collaborations Satin Doll and It Don’t Mean a Thing. Gene Kelly’s performing and directing legacy will then take center stage with renditions of I Got Rhythm, S’Wonderful, Singin’ in the Rain, Get Happy, and much more.

Tickets: Students—$7; general admission—$15 in advance and $20 at the door; premier seating—$50. Tables of 8 with general admission—$100 and $350 premier
ELPC People — Thanks, Good News and Prayers

Good News
Congratulations to Rob Stephany and Molly Diamond on the birth of their son Elliott Stephany. Elliott was born on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006.


ELPC extends a warm welcome to the following new members and friends who were received by the Session on Sunday, April 9:

Affirmation of Faith — Katherine Neely and Harry Smith.
Friend of ELPC — Noel Clive, James Parker and Patti Wheeler.

We have prayer for. . .
Our prayers and sympathies are with Joe and Cathie Hajdu on the death of

Do We Have Your Current Information on File?

We have a system, and it works, but we need your cooperation to help us keep your church information on file at ELPC current.

If you have changes in any of the information below, please contact Deborah Marx directly—412/441-3800 x17, or debrahm@coh.net, or submit your change(s) on paper (please type or print clearly) and put it in her mail folder in the church’s front office:

u new address
u home phone number
u email address
u name change
u changes in other information

Thank you.

Stewardship

New Beginnings. Spring has arrived, bringing May flowers and new life everywhere. Pastor Randy Bush has arrived, bringing new life and opportunities to East Liberty Presbyterian Church. The Easter season has arrived, bringing new life and hope to all Christians.

In joyful celebration and thanksgiving, let us, as individuals and as a congregation, recommit our talents, our money, our visions, and our time and energies to support and nurture these new beginnings.

ELPC Tour Ministry

Tours of our beautiful and historic church building may be arranged by contacting ELPC Business Administrator Pam Kimmel at 412/441-3800 or ELPC church tour leader Cathy Regush at 412/414-5555 or cathy_regush@yahoo.com. Interested in learning how to conduct
Reaching Out Newsletter
MAY 2006

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Gifts of Women Sunday Planning Team Update Session Report
Katrina Mission Report Koinonia Service of Praise Spring Retreats
Holy Ground Service Christian Education Classes Taizé Classes

Hope Academy Year-End Performances, May 12-14 featuring “Once On This Island”

AFRICAN CHILDREN’S CHOIR
Friday, May 26, 7 pm
FREE CONCERT

“The Cathedral of Hope
inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending all boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”