Part-time “Visitation Pastor” Position Approved

The Session and Personnel Committee recently approved the creation of a part-time staff position of “Visitation Pastor” to strengthen our ministries of pastoral care to people unable to regularly attend worship. This person will serve communion to the sick and homebound, assist in worship, and work with other staff and church officers in our visitation ministry.

The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain has agreed to serve ELPC in this role and will begin this ministry on March 1. She is an ordained Methodist minister, retreat leader, chaplain, and preacher who brings a wealth of spiritual gifts to the work of visitation ministry. Look for

ELPC Organ Restoration Almost Complete

Things in Indianapolis are going just super with the restoration of our sanctuary organ. Pics-o-the-day keep arriving showing progress in completing new work, and in assembling those divisions of the organ that are to be installed on the lectern side of the chancel (the Great, Swell and partial Pedal organs.) The console (the control "cockpit" where the organist makes it all happen) is nearing completion and soon will be ready for color selection and finishing.

A trip to the Goulding and Wood (G&W) Organ Factory in Indianapolis, Indiana is being organized, for which at least 2 dozen folks have already indicated a desire. The trip is scheduled for the week after Easter, from Tuesday, Apr 10 to Thursday, Apr 12.

We’ll depart ELPC at 9 am on Tuesday, Apr 10. Our transportation will most likely be in a comfortable mini-bus for the 6 1/2 hour trip. Arrangements will be made at

cont’d on page 3.

Sunday Morning Services

*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper.
8 am Good Samaritan Worship
Mar 11 Fr. Regis Ryan, Exec. Director, Focus on Renewal.
Mar 18 The Rev. Jeffrey Lowrey, Asst. Minister, Deliverance Baptist

9 am Morning Glory Worship
* Mar 4 The Rev. Cynthia Jackson.
Mar 11 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
Mar 18 Robert Frankenberry.
Mar 25 5th Sunday in Lent

11 am Sanctuary Worship
* Mar 4 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
Mar 11 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
Mar 18 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Koinonia Service of Praise
7 pm—2nd Sunday each month
Mar 11 Heather Tunney.

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing
6 pm—3rd Sunday, March–Nov
Mar 18 The Rev. Tami Hooker.

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

Taizé Prayer
Wednesdays ..................... 7 pm
Travel has always been a complicated process. It means leaving one’s place of comfort and routine in order to journey on to a new destination. There is always the question of what to take with you (think of concerns over carry-on luggage), what weather you will encounter along the way (think of the recent ice storm), and what will be your reception upon arrival. Lent is a spiritual journey that culminates for all of us at the empty tomb of Easter morning. In worship, we are praying for “traveling mercies” and wisdom as we travel along this way.

Jesus sent out his disciples into the neighboring villages on a journey of their own. He told them to travel light, taking nothing but the bare necessities: no extra food or clothes, no bags or spending money. He knew they would be dependent on the hospitality of strangers, and yet (then as now) in just such hospitality, the heart of the gospel is made manifest.

What is not mentioned in the scriptures is a list of the things the disciples carried within them as they traveled: their doubts and fears, their discomfort over leaving home to preach in these foreign towns, and their personal memories of the hardships of life from which they were never free.

When we travel, there are things we carry in our hands and things we carry in our hearts. Sometimes the inner baggage of loss, pain, depression, fear and doubt weighs far heavier than anything packed in pieces of matching luggage.

Jesus may have spoken directly about the outer luggage we carry on our Lenten journey, but the deeper message of this season is one that primarily addresses our inner baggage. A crucified Savior whose first act as the resurrected Lord is to display the scars in his hands and side is assuredly the One who best knows about the wounds we carry on our bodies and souls. Jesus Christ, the risen Son of God who called...
ELPC Organ Restoration, cont’d from page 1

March 2007

Reaching Out

Vol. 26, No. 3

One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. You can share in that hope by giving generously on Palm Sunday (April 1) and Easter.

a local motel/hotel for single/double occupancy rooms with breakfast. Between 5:30 and 6 pm, we will arrive at the G&W factory (very near downtown) where we will be given a tour of the factory and be served a buffet dinner. Following dinner there will be a "tour" of the Great/Swell and Pedal organs. Dr. Szeremany and our organ curator H. Preston Showman of Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh will demonstrate these portions of the organ. You will have the opportunity to see, touch, hear, ask questions, walk around and into parts of the organ, that once re-installed in our organ chambers, will be inaccessible for show-and-tell for another 70 years! At 9 pm we will return to our motel.

After breakfast on Wednesday will be a tour to see some of Indianapolis sights. Following lunch, we’ll head just outside the city to see the magnificent United Methodist Church and their G&W Organ which figured powerfully in our decision to award our contract to G&W. Shortly thereafter we will return to the G&W factory where a public "Open House" of the ELPC organ will take place. This will be a good opportunity for us to hear other folks playing "our" organ and talking about it, as well as a time for interaction with other organists and church committees. After the

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer (WDP) will be celebrated Friday, March 2, in some 170 countries. WDP Paraguay wrote the service and developed the theme "United Under God's Tent." This year’s WDP service for our area will be held at Third Presbyterian Church, 5701 Fifth Avenue in Shadyside, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Come, worship and learn about Paraguay and have a Paraguayan

National Recording Artist
and Rhythm & Blues Singer

kelley hunt IN CONCERT

making her
Pittsburgh debut in
a fundraiser for
Hope Academy of
Music and the
Arts.

Thursday
MARCH 8
7:00 pm

Kelly-Strayhorn Theater
5941 Penn Ave, near corner of Penn & Highland

Tickets: $10
In advance through ProArts; or the night of the concert at the Kelly-Strayhorn.

PROARTS

412-394-3353
www.proartsticket.org

Proceeds from the concert benefit Hope Academy of Music and the Arts, a non-profit arts education program of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, providing educational opportunities in the arts to children and youth in East Liberty and surrounding neighborhoods.

ELPC www.cathedralofhope.org
HA www.HopeAcademy.info
Continued from page 3

Trip to Taizé, France with the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
We are again exploring the possibility of a group going to Taizé, France for a first-hand experience of the worshiping community there. Dates for this trip are now from May 5-12, 2007. Pastor Randy Bush will be helping lead the church group. Anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity should contact Christiane Dut-

Spiritual Life Ministry
Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual

Class Series on Father Richard Rohr’s Everything Belongs
Join us for the final two classes of the Spiritual Life Committee’s three-class series with Sue Bailey as the facilitator, based on three CDs by Father Richard Rohr which highlight the contents of his book, Everything Belongs. The CDs present a coherent view of the struggle that we all face to be in the place where "everything belongs." Sundays, March 4 and 11 in Room 234 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

Lenten Bible Study — “Follow the Prayer Path of Jesus”
Join Judy Menk Sunday afternoons, March 18, 25, April 1, in the Second Floor Parlor following 11 am worship until 2:30 pm for a Lenten class series based on the first 3 chapters of the book, Traveling the Prayer Path of Jesus by John Indermark. Each of the 3 chapters includes daily readings and spiritual exercises. Gospel texts will also be used.

March 18 “Out of Solitude.” Jesus often withdrew to deserted places to pray. As we follow Jesus’ path of solitude, we will grow in our appreciation of solitude in our life.

March 25 “By the Roadside.” Jesus’ ministry was one of engagement with those he met along the way. Following his path will lead us to by open and prayerful for the expected and unexpected opportunities and persons and situations one encounters in their daily life.

April 1 “On the Mountainside.” It was on the mountain that Jesus

Holy Ground Service
A Service of Prayers for Wholeness & Healing
Sunday, March 18, 6 pm

Join us in the ELPC Sanctuary for a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading and a time of blessing, with the Rev. Tami Hooker.

Note: Beginning this March, Holy Ground will be held the 3rd Sunday of every month, except in No-
Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Heather Tunney, Director
412-441-3800 x14

YOUTH
(grades 6—12)

Sunday Church School, 9:45 to 10:45 am
“Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum.

Youth Basketball
Youth Basketball is held on Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm in the ELPC Gym. To participate, contact Heather Tunney.

Sunday Youth Group Moves to a New Time
Open to youth in grades 6–12. Beginning Sunday, March 4, ELPC Youth Group moves to a new time—5 to 7 pm (except the Second Sunday of each month, when the group will attend the Koinonia worship service, ending at 8 pm). We will gather at 5 pm in Room 51 for a light dinner, recreation (yes, the basketball court is still open!), and our focus activity for the evening. Each month we will explore a different theme through Bible Study, games and activities, service projects, worship and special guests.

In March, we will explore the theme of “peace” as we come upon the anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. Note: On Sunday March 18, Youth Group will be attending a Presbytery-wide bowling event at FUNFEST. See article below.

Mission Trip Meeting
All youth in grades 9–12 are invited to a Mission Trip meeting on Sunday, March 11 immediately following 11 am worship, to discuss possible dates and places for our Senior High Summer Mission Trip. Please check with your families about vacation times and other commitments scheduled for this summer, and bring that info to the meeting. We would like to include as many youth as possible. If you are interested in attending a mission trip this summer, but can not attend the March 11 meeting, please contact Heather before the meeting.

Junior High FUNFEST Bowling Event
On Sunday, March 18, youth in grades 6–9 are invited to join youth from ELPC and other churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery for fellowship and fun at FUNFEST Entertainment Center. We will meet at ELPC at 4 pm and return by 8:30 pm. Each participant must pay $10 (ELPC will pay the rest) and bring money for snacks. RSVP required by Sunday, March 11. Spaces are limited and our church must make reservations by Monday morning, March 12. For more information or to RSVP, contact Heather Tunney at 412-441-3800 x14.

Confirmation Retreat: "Worship and the Word of God"
The ELPC Confirmation class will participate in our third retreat from Friday, March 30 to Saturday March 31 at Camp Crestfield, where we will explore the theme of worship and the Word of God, which is central to our worship to-gether. We will meet at ELPC at 6:30 pm Friday, and leave no later than 7 pm. We will return to ELPC by 8:30 pm on Saturday evening. A letter and packing list will be mailed to each student prior to the event. If you have any questions, please call Heather at 412-441-3800 x14.

YOUNG ADULTS
(in their 20s and 30s)

Lenten Study Group with Young Adults from Glenshaw PC
This March, our Young Adult group will be meeting with young adults from Glenshaw Presbyterian Church for a Lenten Study together—"Doing Justice." We will meet on Tuesdays, March 13 and 27 from 7 to 9 pm (meeting locations to be determined).

During our time together, we will explore the Biblical imperative to act justly in light of our contem-
Christian Education

March 2007

CHURCH SCHOOL
Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 am
ELPC welcomes you to come and grow your relationship with God. We have many personalities and come from diverse backgrounds, but we are all connected through the transforming love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ. Classes are wheelchair-accessible and near wheelchair-accessible restrooms.

FOR CHILDREN
- Young Children’s Ministry: Infants–2 years. 1st Floor Nursery. The young children will be learning to “love one another.”
- Pre-school: Ages 3, 4, and 5 years. Room 240. The children will be learning that God’s love is all around us.
- Kindergarten and Grade 1. Room 336. In an open classroom that emphasizes awe, wonder, and the holy, the children will learn about the life of Jesus.
- Grades 2 and 3. Room 338. In an open classroom, the children use interactive materials to engage in the Bible story and discover how God comes to us in Jesus.
- Grades 4 and 5. Room 335. The Bible lessons from Seasons of the Spirit. The children will encounter Jesus and God’s glory in a variety of experiential ways.

Extended Session
For children on Sunday mornings offered during the 11 am service. Volunteers needed to help with Extended Session. Parents, grandparents and other adults are needed to help several times a year. If interested, contact the Rev. Cynthia Jackson.

FOR YOUTH
For Church School classes offered for youth in grades 6 through 12, see page 7 for details.

FOR ADULTS
Parenting Circle
Parents, grandparents, adoptive parents—anyone involved in parenting—are welcome to join the caring circle that gathers on the first floor in the Harambe Room. Recently the class discussed “Anger.” What would you like to discuss? Come and share your ideas or concerns. Prayers, support, and acceptance are offered every week. Facilitator: Frances Irvin, ELPC Elder.

Journey with Scripture Class
This class studies and reflects upon the Bible while reading scriptures appointed for the Revised Common Lectionary. What is God saying to us individually or as a community? Printed copies of the weekly scripture lessons are available for study and meditation. Prior familiarity with the Bible is not necessary. Second Floor Library.

Mar 4 “Built on a Promise” God’s covenant with us frames our lives with promises. God honors our questions and encourages confidence in the face of fear. Our covenant is with one who journeys with us and saves. Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.


Mar 25 “Outpouring of Love” There are moments in life that call for extravagance, moments when we must lay aside calculation and caution, and give of ourselves whole-heartedly. Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8.

Contemporaries Class
An intergenerational community of caring adults united in their focus upon Bible reading and meditation.
Individuals at all stages of faith are welcome! Second Floor Parlor.


Mar 4 “Hunger.” The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank continues to serve many hungry people. Although Food Stamps reach 230,000 people in this local area, the average benefit is only $89.31 per person/per month and the program only reaches half of those persons who are eligible.

Mar 11 “Poverty.” People living in poverty face challenges virtually unknown to those living in middle class or wealth—challenges from both obvious and hidden sources. The reality of being poor brings out a survival mentality. What do we take for granted that is a struggle everyday for those living in poverty? Come and participate in these forums of responsiveness as we learn to become more accountable regarding these urgent domains of human need.

“Christ and Other Religions.” Led by Dr. John Burgess, James Henry Snowden Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Mar 18, 25, April 1 “How should Christians relate to members of other religions? What makes Christianity distinctive? What can we learn from other religions?” John Burgess is a bridge builder who understands the importance of being able to collaborate and interact with people from different religious faith traditions. Come and discover strategies of outreach that can impact peace and reconciliation as we engage our Christianity through the filter of other beliefs.

Seekers Class
This year the Seekers are exploring some of the “big questions” of the Christian faith, bringing our beliefs into dialogue with the wide world around us, as well as a plurality of religious traditions. Leaders: Damon Bethea and Nancy Klancher. Room 234. New friends are always welcome.

“Who Do You Say I Am?—Who is Jesus? Who is Christ?” In March, we will feature christological reflections by an ordained friend or member of ELPC. These sessions are a follow-up to the Seekers encounter a year ago with Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" in which, among other things, Borg distinguishes between the pre-Easter Jesus and post-Resurrection "Christ of faith."

March 4 The Rev. Jared Jackson, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, O.T. Professor Emeritus, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
March 18 The Rev. Donald Dutton, Honorably Retired, Presbyterian Church (USA).

News from CE
Thank You ELPC Elder Frances Irvin for Your Commitment to Children and Families
Several years ago Elder Frances Irvin took on the responsibility of renewing the Young Children’s Ministry. She invited parents to share in the spiritual growth and care of their children. The rooms were freshened up and appropriate toys and resources were obtained. Frances created a sign-in system that provides important information and established a weekly program with Bible-based themes. Parents take turns being in the nursery from 9:45 am through the noon hour each Sunday. Nurture, friendship and caring are evident every week. The children become friends as do the parents. Christian Education celebrates the ministry that Frances has shaped and modeled for the young families of ELPC.

Last fall, Frances created the new CE adult class, Parenting Circle, which welcomes all people involved in parenting and meets in

Cathedral Café
Cathedral Café Open for Lunch on Sundays Starting in April
Beginning Sunday, April 22, ELPC’s Cathedral Café will be open every Sunday for lunch/brunch from 12 noon to 1:30 pm in the McKelvy Room. Watch for more details to follow in the next
Poverty Taskforce

“All Just Neighbors” — Examining the Roots of Poverty and Our Response
All are invited to join us for the remainder of our Saturday series of educational and interactive workshops, as we examine the roots of poverty and our response. At 5:30 pm, before each workshop begins, we will gather for fellowship, faith exploration and a pot luck supper. To honor the environment and resources, please bring your own place setting and utensils. Following is the Saturday schedule of workshop dates, topics, presenters, and room locations. Sponsored by the Poverty Taskforce.

March 3  Housing Matters Dave Epperson Room 234
March 24 Prejudice, Privilege & Poverty Junghwa Oh Room 234
April 21 Our Children, Our Future Judy Menk Room 234
May 19 Justice for All: Economic Inequality Ron Stone Music Room
June 16 Conclusion: Stepping Out in Faith Dick Headley Music Room

Free childcare (by reservation) will be available during the program portion of the evening (6–8 pm). Call Kelly at 412-441-3800 x19 to let her know how many children.

Women & Children’s Taskforce

Women & Children’s Taskforce Meeting
Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 4, at 12:30 pm in Room 234. If you would like to join with other church members in working on behalf of women and children locally, nationally and globally, please join us. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, call Judy Menk at 412-798-8569 or JAMenk@comcast.net.

Field Learning Program Information and Idea Gathering Session
On Sunday, March 11 following 11 am worship, the Women and Children’s Taskforce invites members of ELPC to join them in Room 234 so they can

New Books in the ELPC Library

Further Integrate Our Inclusiveness
The Full Inclusion Task Force has donated 40 new books to the library. These materials are for families and friends to experience in a new way, families comprised of two mothers or two fathers raising their children, and families in which one or more children discover they are different from their siblings and classmates—they are gay. Beyond these variations from the nuclear family are complexities of race, religion, nationality—many permutations that create the colorful richly woven fabric of life.

Starting with this issue and then again in upcoming Reaching Outs, we will give a sampling of book reviews.

For Children

King and King. Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland have created a delightful story based on an age-old theme—it’s time for the prince to marry—with a refreshing outcome. A picture book for all ages, 4 and up. This reviewer laughed aloud. It’s fun! Reviewed by Pen Lytle

For Adults

Straight into Gay America, My Unicycle Journey for Equal Rights. Rev. Lars Clausen, a Lutheran pastor, chronicles his 1,000 mile unicycle trip from Massachusetts to Washington, DC, asking people what they think about gay rights. As his travels unfold, you will meet the many people who contributed to his story as well as share Lars’ personal experiences that lead him on this quest. Lars’ colorful analogies and passionate insight into what it means to be different make this book a lively read. I almost couldn’t put it down. Reviewed by Carol Untch.

For Families

Love Makes A Family: Portraits of...
Presbyterian Women
Heather Lawrence, Moderator

Horizons Bible Study
All women at ELPC are invited to participate in this year’s Presbyterian Women’s Horizons Bible Study—"In the Beginning: Perspectives on Genesis" by Celia Brewer Sinclair—based on 9 lessons. Second Floor Parlor.
Heather Lawrence (Presbyterian Women Moderator), 412-486-0826.

Lesson #7 March 6, Tuesday MORNING, 10 am to 12:30 pm
Perspectives on Matriarchs: Rebekah, Leah, Rachel (Genesis 24-25, 27, 29-32)
10 am. . . . . .sharing, prayer time, opening devotions
10:30 am. . . . . .Bible Study
11:30 am. . . .Lunch, soup provided, bring bread, salad or fruit to share
Lesson #6 March 27, Tuesday EVENING, 5:45 to 7:30 pm
Perspectives on Sacrifice: Abraham (Genesis 22:1-24)
5:45 pm. . . . . .fellowship and a soup-and-bread meal
6:30 pm. . . . . . .Bible Study

Prayer Breakfast at Bethany Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery will be sponsoring a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 24 from 8:30 am to 12 noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Bridgeville. The theme is “Divine Availability.”
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Justice and Global Concerns
Workshops on the Roots of Poverty and Our Re-

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”