Sunday Morning Services

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Summer Schedule

8 am    Good Samaritan Worship
        * Sept 2  The Rev. Rita Platt, Minister, Crossroads Church.

10 am   Summer Worship
        * Sept 2  The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Regular Schedule

8 am    Good Samaritan Worship
        Sept 9  David Epperson, ELPC Elder.
        Sept 16 Jean Kennedy, ELPC Elder.
        Sept 23 Suzan C. Krauland, Community Relations Director, EECM.
        Sept 30 Edward Frick, ELPC Elder.

9 am    Morning Glory Worship
        Sept 9  The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
        Sept 16 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain.
        Sept 23 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
        Sept 30 Heather Tunney.

11 am   Sanctuary Worship
        Sept 9  The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
        Sept 16 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
        Sept 23 Heather Tunney.
        Sept 30 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

Koinonia Service of Praise

7 pm—2nd Sunday each month
Sept 16  Heather Tunney. Note date change.

Holy Ground

6 pm—3rd Sunday each month, March–Nov
Sept 16  The Rev. Tami Hooker.

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays...............................................................10 am to 3 pm
Wednesdays.............................................................10 am to 9 pm

Taizé Prayer

Wednesdays......................................................................7 pm
The Rev. Christiane Dutton.

Rally Day — Sept 9

Don’t miss a wonderful opportunity to be here on Rally Day to greet old friends, welcome new friends, and to see ELPC off to another year of fulfilling experiences. You are also welcome to invite a friend to join you in this time of celebration and spiritual growth!

On Rally Day, Sunday, Sept 9, we will return to our regular Sunday worship schedule with services at 8 am, 9 am and 11 am, and Church School classes from 9:45 to 10:45 am offered by our Christian Education and Youth and Young Adult ministries (see pages 4, 5 and 7).

At 9:30 am, prior to the start of Church School, juice, milk, tea, coffee, fruit, muffins, bagels and mini-donuts will be served. Breakfast plates can be taken to the classrooms, or you can just mingle and greet one another. New folks are especially welcome to come and discover all of ELPC’s opportunities for spiritual growth. Then, join us at the 11 am worship where we will pray for all who will serve God and our community as Church School teachers through the year. Following the 11 am service, everyone is invited to our annual Rally Day Picnic at the Rhododendron Pavilion in Highland Park. See page 3 for details.

Organ Dedication Worship Service — Sept 30

The 11 am worship service on Sunday, Sept 30 will feature the first hearing of the completely refurbished ELPC musical masterpiece—our beloved Aeolian-Skinner/Goulding and Wood four-manual, 8,000 pipe, 120-rank Chancel pipe organ. Music will begin at 10:45 am prior to the start of the service.

At this dedicatory worship, the organ will be used primarily as a liturgical instrument providing music for worship preparation, accompanying congregational, choir and solo music. The music to be offered will highlight the wide array of beautiful sounds restored to playing—and dependable—condition. The console (where the organists does the playing) will be in the Chancel so you may see the new organ and perhaps to experience it in a different dimension. During the Postlude, you are welcome to come into the Chancel to watch and to spend a few minutes appreciating the magnificent workmanship displayed in the console.

Two public concerts showcasing our newly renovated organ being are planned for October—the first on Sunday, Oct 14 at 4 pm when Dr. J. Richard Szeremey will play an inaugural solo organ recital, and a second on Sunday, Oct 28 at 7 pm with a concert for organ and orchestra. Tickets for both concerts will be available for purchase during Fellowship Time following our Dedication Worship Service on Sunday, Sept 30. See page 8 for details.
"What is the use of praying if at the very moment of prayer, we have so little confidence in God that we are busy planning our own kind of answer to our prayer?"

Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

Already the calendar is starting to look full. Labor Day is soon to be a memory; school is underway and the church’s “Rally Day” is on the near horizon. Prior to that there’s an exciting gospel concert by a group of formerly homeless people from Louisville. After that, we’ll have new members join the church, baptisms to celebrate, and preparations to finalize for our organ dedication service and special concerts.

Church ministry is always a balancing act: We offer programs and plan special events to strengthen the life of the church, while seeking to remain open to the fresh ways God is moving in our midst. We strive to be organized enough to serve a variety of needs, yet unstructured enough to respond to new initiatives whenever they present themselves. It would be dreadful to receive a special aerogram from the Holy Spirit announcing an outpouring of God’s grace upon our church on a given day, only to reply back that we’re sorry, but the social hall and sanctuary are already booked for that day and we’ll need to reschedule!

This same dynamic is likely true in your home life as well. It can be quite a challenge to squeeze church events and ministries of service to others into a calendar already full of work responsibilities, medical appointments, and social activities. We seek to be open to God, yet sometimes the Lord isn’t first in line for our attention and best efforts.

I remain grateful for the activities occurring at ELPC, such as the September events described in this newsletter. I hope you will read through this issue and find fresh ways to engage with our congregational ministry through the offerings of this month. But I also pray that the quote from Thomas Merton sinks in and burrows beneath your skin. It makes no sense to pray to God if we won’t honestly listen for God’s answer. It does little spiritual good to petition God if we won’t cede control in our lives long enough to let God respond to our prayer requests.

The old prophet Isaiah got it right long ago: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” In that spirit of awe and humility, we open ourselves to God in prayer. We pause in our over-scheduled lives and listen for the winds to pick up with new Pentecostal force. We let go and allow ourselves to be held in the everlasting arms of grace.

Remember this: However much is going on, God is doing more and doing it better. So be of good cheer. Thanks be to God!

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*Pastoral Message*

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

"What is the use of praying if at the very moment of prayer, we have so little confidence in God that we are busy planning our own kind of answer to our prayer?"

Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

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*ELPC Website Update*

Visit our website and click on the “multimedia” link. It will let you listen to sermons, view our photo gallery, see special videos from recent ELPC concerts and worship services, and also arrange for podcast downloads. (Podcasts are worship service extracts that are sent to a podcast player so you can listen to a Sunday service any time.) We have over 15,000 view-
Your Flavor of Stewardship

ELPC 2008
Stewardship Campaign
by Nancy Speed

For some days I’ve been working on this message — trying to come up with just the right words to catch your interest and speak to the needs of ELPC. It’s not been easy and this just might be my fourth effort.

The 2008 Stewardship Campaign is about to begin with the usual messages and pleas for your pledge and commitment to match the goals of our strategic plan. As you may recall, this is the year we want to realize a 25% increase in our income to reduce our dependence on the endowment — which resulted in a substantial increase over our goal . . . so, it doesn’t seem unreasonable to ask you for a 25% increase for the 2008 pledge, after all.

I’d like to ask you a question. What is your definition of your stewardship pledge? Is it all rolled up in the dollar amount you’ll give? Is your pledge a witness to your faith and thanksgiving for graces bestowed upon you? Does it include the time and talent you offer ELPC to sustain your favorite program or activity? Or perhaps, it’s something altogether different.

I invite you to consider stewardship to be a response to the blessed gifts God gives you daily — your life, your home, your family, the earth and all its resources — laughter, work, pain and support. What are the gifts in your life? What are the challenges you face and how do you hear God’s voice helping you decide the best way to overcome the obstacles?

How do you return God’s favor to you? As Christians, we are expected to respond to God’s grace by taking care of the young, the old, those in need and our world around us. Part of our world is ELPC and the ministries, missions, community programs and services we offer. Our dedication and energies support our activities — but this can’t be accomplished without your financial support as well.

I have three questions to pose as you consider your financial pledge for 2008. Please answer the questions with integrity and carefully respond to God’s grace and bounty as you see Him in your life. Your generous financial pledge to this congregation will preserve and grow Christ’s ministry.

♦ What is the congregation’s mission worth to me?
♦ What do I want this congregation to be and what will that require of me?
♦ What do I have available to give?

To that end, what is the flavor of your stewardship?

Rally Day Picnic

Join us on Sunday, Sept 9 for our “Rally Day Picnic” following the 11 am worship (at approximately 12:30 pm) at the Rhododendron Pavilion in Highland Park. The brick pavilion has large picnic tables, portable restrooms, a few benches, and a play area with slides, swings and a great climbing system.

ELPC will provide chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, plates, silverware, and drinks. Please bring a cold dish such as a salad or vegetable dish to share. This year the Deacons will have the responsibility of receiving and refrigerating the cold foods for the picnic. Be sure to tape your name to your dish. Immediately before and after 11 am worship, two carts—one at the Highland entrance and one at the Penn Avenue entrance—will be staffed by the Deacons to receive the food you bring. Note: Please do not bring food that has to be heated.

Directions to the Park from ELPC

Follow Highland Avenue past Home Depot and Peabody High School to Stanton Avenue. Turn right. Go past Dillworth School, the tennis courts and Elm Grove. Watch for Rhododendron on the right. The church van will offer rides to those needing transportation. Call Gloria Knopp at 412/441-3800 x19 to confirm your need for a ride.

Wayside Christian Gospel Singing Choir Comes to ELPC

A special musical treat with the Gospel Singing Choir concert from the Wayside Christian Mission in Louisville, Kentucky will be held on Saturday, Sept 8 at 7 pm at ELPC. The choir is composed of men and women who have faced struggles with major issues in life including homelessness, alcoholism and drug addiction, but have overcome! Singing of Black Gospel — sharing of life stories—an amazing tribute to the power of the faith shared and the faith at work in human lives! Free-will offering. Benefits the Mission and its programs.
Deacons

Sunday Morning
Pastoral Point Person

A rotating schedule of Deacons serve as "Pastoral Point Persons" on Sunday mornings. They will help the office volunteers, security, ushers and staff in managing unexpected situations that arise between 9 am and the conclusion of the 11 am worship service. The DPPP will work to ensure a smoother and minimally disrupted worship time on Sunday morning by listening to, assessing and initially responding to concerns that might distract the pastor or the congregation from worship time. The DPPP will be seated in the front of the east transept in view of the front of the sanctuary and wearing her/his Deacon name badge.


Sept 2, 9 Charlie Meyers
Sept 16, 23, 30 Todd Hoffman
Oct 7, 14, 21 Emma Odim
Oct 28, Nov 4, 11 Theresa Patterson
Nov 18 Judy Roberts
Nov 25, Dec 2 Pat Krimmel
Dec 9, 16 Judy Roberts
Dec 23 Pat Krimmel
Dec 30, Jan 6, 13 Barb Krimmel

Deacons' Men's Shelter

Donations for September

In ELPC’s continuing commitment to the EECM Men’s Shelter located in our church, the Deacons are collecting donations for the month of September 2007. The requested donations for September is again men’s underwear (boxers and briefs in sizes L, XL and XXL). Please drop these items in the basket located in the Highland Avenue hallway. Your continued support in the form of donations and of prayer for the Shelter and for the men who stay there is appreciated.

Christian Education

CHURCH SCHOOL
Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 am

Classes Resume on Rally Day, Sept 9

We will begin our year with the Rally Day breakfast (see page 1 for details).

FOR ADULTS

Contemporaries Class – Second Floor Parlor

An intergenerational community of caring adults united in their focus 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. Individuals at all stages of faith are welcome.

Sept 9 “Grace Has Appeared.” Led by Joe Kennedy.
Sept 16 “Church Life Together: Ghosts & Sharing Secrets.”
and 23 “Church Life Together: Passion & True Community.”
Two-week series led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, ELPC Pastor. Pastor Bush will explore some of the dynamics of healthy church communities, by first relating them to personal stories and then exploring the themes of secrecy and openness (Sept 16) and diversity built upon different gifts (Sept 23).

Sept 30, “Personalizing The Lord’s Prayer.” Three-week series led by the Rev. Jermaine McKinley, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Prayer is a key to personal spiritual formation and demonstrative of faith. Our studies will focus on: Words, Phrases, Meanings, Application; Use of the Lord’s Prayer as a model; Encountering the Extra-ordinary through the Ordinary.

Journey with Scripture Class – Second Floor Library

"Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.” (Psalm 63:3). A single biblical text can bring both immense comfort and terror in our life’s journey. In this class, we will read various scripture readings through an empirical approach—which is to be a reader open to the text and not a critic—with a goal of personal transformation and movement toward a community of vision, justice, and steadfast love. The readings are printed out weekly for use in class and at home.

Sept 16 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

Parenting Circle – Harambe Room (first floor)

This class will provide the opportunity for anyone involved in parenting—singles, couples, adoptive parents, grandparents, guardians, mentors, etc.—to explore how faith impacts family life. By sharing experiences, resources, prayer and scripture, we will learn and grow together. Later in September we will start discussing Wendy Mogel’s book The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children. Books will be available in class. Facilitators: Beth Bush and Frances Irvin.

Sept 9 Gather, Fellowship and Share Summer Stories.
Sept 16 Seeking Balance in Life, Family and Church.
Sept 30 Chapter 4 – “The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Why God Doesn’t Want You to Overprotect Your Child.”
Seekers Class — Second Floor, Room 234

Our theme for this year is: “Spiritual Paths: Finding Our Way to God.” Recognizing that our faith journeys are traveled both as individuals and as members of faith communities, we will explore many different ways of growing in our faith. These will include: study of the Word, contemplation, prayer, the path of the servant, asceticism and mysticism. Classes will be led by a variety of guest speakers as well as class members.

Sept 9 “Rally Day.” We will gather to renew our bonds of fellowship and greet new members as another church school year begins.

Sept 16, 23 “The Stages of Spiritual Growth and Transformational Prayer.” Led by Dr. Martha Robbins, Joan Marshall Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Robbins brings a wide range of academic and clinical experience to her teaching on prayer, spiritual growth and personal transformation. There will also be time for experiential exercises.

Sept 30 “Why We Need Creeds.” Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, ELPC Pastor. Pastor Bush will talk about the nature of Christian creeds, share some background information about several historical creeds of the Presbyterian Church, and lead a discussion about the risks and rewards of putting our living faith down in words.

For Youth

Classes offered for youth in grades 6 through 12, see Youth & Young Adult Ministries on page 7 for details.

For Children

- Young Children’s Ministry: Infants—2 years. 1st Floor Nursery. Coordinator: Sarah Stacy. Curriculum: Each week the children have a combination of a Bible verse, story, dramatic play, art, music and a snack. This time is interactive and joyful! As young children play, they are learning cooperation, self-worth, responsibility, and trust. Children grow spiritually!

- Pre-school: Ages 3, 4, and 5 years. Room 240. Teacher: Jan Pressman. Curriculum: “Godprint.” The children will discover God’s touch that changes lives. Because preschoolers are instinctively creative, they respond with awe and wonder to all that God has made in the lesson “God’s Wonderful World.”

- Kindergarten and Grade 1. Room 336. Teachers: Valire Copeland, Roberta London, Judy Menk. Curriculum: “Godly Play.” The children are given the opportunity to learn the stories of the Bible in an open classroom that emphasizes awe, wonder, and the holy. Respect for one another is essential as children imagine God’s love for each one of them.

- Grades 2 and 3. Room 338. Teachers: Carol Hoehn, Nancy Magee. Curriculum: “Godly Play.” The children are given the opportunity to learn the stories of the Bible in an open classroom that emphasizes awe, wonder, and the holy. Respect for one another is essential as children imagine God’s love for each one of them.

- Grades 4 and 5. Room 335. Teachers: Linda Benedict, Kay Shissler. Curriculum: Children’s Bible lessons in the “Seasons of the Spirit” lectionary-based curriculum. On Rally Day, the lesson “Freed to Be” helps children find the meaning of what the church is. Jesus and Paul call us to embrace both the cost and promise of living in a faith community such as the church.

Baby Lapsit

Baby Lapsit is for infants through 18 months, from 10 to 10:30 am in the first floor Nursery Suite. Coordinator: Laura Ristau. Babies and their caregivers learn rhymes and songs while fellowshipping with others.

Extended Session

Our fall Extended Session program for children begins on Rally Day, Sunday, Sept 9. For children and families who attend 11 am worship, children are encouraged to participate as fully as they are able during the first part of worship. About 20 minutes into the service, children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Sermon. Following the Children’s Sermon, Extended Session classes are provided for: 3 & 4 year olds in Room 240 and kindergarten through third graders in Rooms 217 and 224. Please note that this is a change from last year. Fourth and fifth graders will stay in worship with their families. Activity clipboards will be available, or your child might want to bring his or her favorite book. Following worship, please pick up your children promptly in the rooms noted above.

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Seminar on Lifetime and End of Life Planning

Members of the congregation and the community are welcome to take advantage of the following opportunity offering by Stephen Ministry. On **Monday, Sept 24** from 7 to 9 pm in Room 234, Stephen Ministry will be offering a seminar titled “Lifetime and End of Life Planning” presented by ELPC member Carolyn Russ. This is a good opportunity to gain information for personal use or for other family members or friends. Watch for details in our next newsletter on other seminar topics to be held on Oct 29 and Nov 26.

ELPC Knitting and Crocheting Group

ELPC’s knitting and crocheting group will continue to be offered twice a month this fall—the 3rd Thursday morning and the 4th Friday evening in the Second Floor Parlor. You may attend one or both meeting times. All ages and skill levels are welcome. New knitters and those wishing to learn are encouraged to join. Projects may include chemo caps, afghans for Afghans, baby blankets for the Children’s Home, items for the military, and scarves for the homeless.

- **3rd Thursday — Sept 20**
  - 10 to 11:30 am, Second Floor Parlor
- **4th Friday — Sept 28**
  - 7 to 8:30 pm, Second Floor Parlor

Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at 412-441-6021 or dnjcks@verizon.net.

Spiritual Life Sampler

All are invited to join us in the Social Hall on **Sunday, Sept 23** following 11 am worship for our annual Spiritual Life Sampler and Fellowship Time. Find out more about an assortment of new and continuing small groups, workshops and classes to be offered in 2007-08, sponsored by ELPC’s Spiritual Life Ministry. Representatives will be available to give you all the details and to sign you up for those activities in which you are interested.

This year’s event will showcase a variety of opportunities. Our samplings include:

- Short-term Classes
- Prayer Groups
- Stephen Ministry
- Workshops
- Small Groups

If you would like to share your thoughts and skills by facilitating a small group or class offering, please contact Lois Lang at 412-441-3800 x41.

My Own Spiritual Workshop

**3 Sundays in October**

Oct 7, 14, and 21; 5 to 8 pm

Sometimes it’s not easy deciding to take action on something that’s important to you. Certain things fall into that category, such as, making a necessary life change, committing to our health maybe, or working on a difficult relationship. My Own Spiritual Workshop gives you an opportunity to focus on one such special effort of your choosing, with others doing the same. It’s gutsy, but there are few places you could be so beautifully and sensitively encouraged.

We pray things out. No one gives advice. Everything is confidential. There is no cost for the workshops, but you have to commit to the three 3-hour sessions. There is also work to do between sessions, and you’ll probably choose to keep at it thereafter.

**Register now.** Limited to a dozen. Held at Siemasko’s home in Squirrel Hill. For more information, call Patsy or Dan at 412-421-1885 or email at siemasko@peoplepc.com.

**Sponsored by ELPC’s Spiritual Life Ministry.**
Rally Day Picnic
Join us on Sunday, Sept 9 following the 11 am worship for a picnic in Highland Park (see details on page 1).

Youth (grades 6–12) are asked to help to lead games (relay races, duck-duck-goose, etc.) with the younger children at the picnic. If you need transportation, there will be room in the ELPC van for rides. Call Heather Tunney for more details or if you would like to help out with games!

Young Adults (in their 20s or 30s). A table will be reserved for young adults at the Rally Day all-church picnic so that we can get to know other young adults from our church community, visit with old friends and meet new ones. Please call Heather Tunney if you are interested in joining us so that we can save enough seats!

**YOUTH (grades 6–12)**

**Sunday Church School — Resumes on Rally Day, Sept 9**
Both junior and senior-high classes will continue to use the “Seasons of the Spirit” lectionary-based curriculum. Church School meets from 9:45 to 10:45 am. **Note:** There will be a **Rally Day Breakfast** at 9:30 am before Church School begins. Join us on the 2nd floor for a light breakfast that you can carry back to your classrooms. See page 1 for more details.

- **Junior-high youth (grades 6, 7, 8)** . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Room 341
  - Teachers: Maurice Gordon, Heather Tunney

- **Senior-high youth (grades 9, 10, 11, 12)** . . . . . . . . Room 343
  - Teachers: Kathleen Kyle, Nicole Molinaro, Chuck Nichols

**Youth Group**
**NEW this year:** . . an exciting Wednesday program offered in conjunction with the Hope Academy for Music and the Arts. There will be time for homework, gym activities, Hope Academy free classes (beginning Sept 26), dinner and Bible Study. Youth are invited to participate in any portion of the Wednesday program as their schedule permits. However, youth must stick to designated areas for activities, sign in for youth group, and register for classes.

There will also be activities offered for siblings and parents so that families can spend Wednesday evenings together at ELPC. Families with young children are invited to grab a snack and do homework in the McKelvy Room, participate in Hope Academy classes for younger children (for class schedule go to www.HopeAcademy.info), enjoy a simple supper from 6 to 7 pm, and attend the Taizé Prayer service at 7 pm.

**Youth Group Schedule — Sept 26, 2007 to May 2008**
- 3:30–4:30 pm Open Gym time. Basketball, kickball, or other games. Gym.
  - The McKelvy Room will be open for snacks and homework.
- 4:30–5:30 pm Voices of Hope Vocal Ensemble. Music Room, third floor.
- 5:30–6:30 pm Step Class. Gym.
- 6:30–7:00 pm Dinner. Gallery.
- 7:00–8:00 pm Bible Study. Room 61.

**Note:** On Wednesdays, Sept 12 and 19, Youth Group will meet with a modified schedule—4:30 to 6:30 pm: open gym time and homework, and from 6:30 to 8 pm: dinner and Bible Study. Also from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, families may register for Hope Academy classes.

**Youth Basketball**

For young men in grades 9–12, Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm in the ELPC Gym beginning Saturday, Sept 15. To participate, contact Heather Tunney.

**Youth Bowling Event**
Youth in grades 6–9 are invited for an evening of fun and fellowship on Friday, Sept 14 from 7 to 9 pm at Funfest in Harmarville—bowling, laser tag, video games and fun with friends. We will meet at ELPC at 6:30 pm (please eat dinner on your own) and return by 9:30 pm. Cost is $10 per youth for bowling, laser tag, and a pizza snack. Bring extra money for additional snacks or video games. RSVP to Heather Tunney by Friday, Sept 7 to ensure that there are enough chaperones and transportation for everyone. Permission slip required.

**YOUNG ADULTS**
(in their 20s and 30s)

**Young Adult 20/30s Study Group**
All young adults are invited to join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month for a time of fellowship and study. This month we will meet on Tuesdays, Sept 11 and 25 from 7 to 9 pm. On Sept 11, we will select a book or topic to study together this fall. **Note:** Childcare is available upon request. For more information, call Heather Tunney.

This month’s Koinonia service (normally held the 2nd Sunday of each month) has been rescheduled for Sunday, Sept 16 at 7 pm. On this Sunday, we will have a special service revolving around peace-making as we prepare to celebrate the International Day of Peace on Friday, Sept 21. Please join us as we pray for peace together. After the service we will have cookies and lemonade and a brief time of fellowship. **Note:** There will be no Koinonia Fellowship/Potluck Dinner in September.
Taizé Prayer Service
A candlelight service every Wednesday at 7 pm in the Chapel.

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

Sept 5 No class

Sept 12 Beaded Prayers. Led by Sue Schneider, this hands-on workshop gives instruction on ways to make beaded prayers using simple sewing and beading techniques. All skill levels welcome; no experience is needed. Each crafted piece is a sealed beaded packet containing written wishes, hopes, dreams and prayers. These pieces derive from the cultural traditions of African amulets, that manifest themselves in communities from Latin America, throughout the Caribbean, to the Middle East and, of course, Africa. For background information, go to www.beadedprayersproject.com.

Sept 19 Clogging Anyone? Believe it or not, you’re in Appalachia! So let’s do a little Flat Foot, Buck Dance, and Clogging to old-time string band music of Charlie Anderson and friends. All ages welcome!

Sept 26 Celebrations. Join us after our Taizé service for celebration cake. If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or an anniversary in September, write your name on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate during the month.

Worship Music & The Arts
The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, Director

Solo Organ Concert
J. Richard Szeremany, ELPC’s Director of Worship, Music and the Arts and organist, is designing a program for Sunday, Oct 14 at 4 pm to highlight many of the beautiful sounds of our magnificent, newly refurbished pipe organ. His selection of music for this program will include pieces that are “audience friendly” as well as tunes you can take home with you. Music by J.S. Bach, Widor, Dupré, Sowerby and others will be featured. A special portion of the program will be dedicated to a duet for piano and organ—“Romance” by Luis Sanford—with a guest appearance by Randy Bush, pianist. Also being planned is a 15-minute segment of “requested favorites.” Here’s how you can participate—just jot down your favorite choice on a card, including the title and composer, and mail it to J. Richard Szeremany at ELPC, 116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 by Sunday, Sept 16, or call Norma at 412-441-3800 x11 or Richard x24 with your choice. Should there be more requests than we can accommodate, we will plan another “favorites” program later in the season. See below for concert ticket information.

Organ and Orchestra Concert
Join us on Sunday, Oct 28 at 7 pm for a program of orchestra and organ concertos with 22 brass, strings, timpani and harp, plus J. Richard Szeremany on the organ. Selections will include: Gigout’s “Grand Choeur Dialogue”; Campra’s “Suite of Dances”; Dupré’s “Poeme Heroique”; Hanson’s “Concerto for Organ, Strings and Harp; Lindsay Lafford’s “Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani; and Poulenc’s “Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani.” See below for concert ticket information.

Tickets for the Oct 14 and Oct 28 Organ Concerts
Tickets may be purchased at the door the day of the concert; or, in advance on Sunday, Sept 30 during Fellowship Time following the 11 am Dedication Worship Service for the “new” organ, and on Sundays, Oct 7 and Oct 14.

Cost for each concert: $15 for adults; $3 for students 18 or older with ID; free for children and youth through 12th grade.

“Two-fer Special” — Buy tickets for both concerts and save!
$20 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets are transferable. If you can only attend one concert, buy a “Two-fer” and give one ticket to a friend—a gift from you!

Wanted: Spinet, Console or Small Upright Piano
We are looking for someone who owns a spinet, console or small upright piano that is in good condition, but no longer used or wanted in the home. The piano(s) we have been using in the Small Dining Room for the Sunday morning Samaritan worship are showing their extended age and are in need of repair that would not be financially wise investment, given the condition of the present instrument. If you should know of or hear of a piano—in decent condition—that might become available, please call Richard Szeremany at 412-441-3800 x24. Thank you for your help in this search.

Bread & Soup Meal Fellowship
All are welcome to a bread and soup meal and fellowship Wednesday, Sept 26 from 5:45 to 6:45 pm in the McKelvey Room ($2.50 donation). Following our meal together, for those of you who wish to, plan to stay for our 7 pm Taizé service in the Chapel.
**Health Ministry**

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

**Strokes and Mini-strokes**

A stroke happens when a part of the brain is starved of blood, usually by a clot, but sometimes by bleeding in an artery which interferes with the delivery of blood to the brain tissue. Stroke is the leading cause of long term disability and the third leading cause of death for Americans. Time is crucial in determining how effective treatment will be. Every minute of hesitation can result in the death of nearly 2 million brain cells.

*One or more of these symptoms may occur suddenly with a stroke:*

- numbness, weakness, or paralysis of the face, arm, or leg—especially on one side of the body
- confusion or difficulty understanding others
- slurred speech or difficulty speaking
- double vision, loss of sight, or dim vision—especially in one eye
- trouble with walking or coordination, dizziness
- severe headache

A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is sometimes called a mini-stroke. In this condition, a clot temporarily blocks blood flow to a part of the brain but clears on its own. Even though the symptoms may disappear within an hour, it is still a medical emergency. TIA’s are predictive of strokes; about 1 in 4 people who have a TIA will go on to have a stroke within 5 years.

Stroke and heart disease share many of the same risk factors. Some, like gender, race, age, and family history, are beyond your control. Males are more likely to have a stroke than females. African Americans and Hispanics are more prone than whites. While strokes can occur at any age, people 60 and older are at greater risk. Having one stroke or TIA increases the risk of having another stroke.

*Other risk factors for stroke are within your power to control:*

- high blood pressure is the biggest risk factor [get blood pressure below 130/80]
- smoking [quit!]
- overweight [get BMI below 25]
- physical inactivity [do a half hour of moderate exercise on most days of the week]
- high cholesterol [get total cholesterol below 200, or LDL below 100]
- diabetes [keep HbA1c at 7% or less]
- heart disease, especially atrial fibrillation [get doctor’s guidance on taking anticoagulant medication]
- excessive alcohol intake [limit to one drink/day if you are a woman, or two/day if you are a man]


**Correction** from last month’s article on high blood pressure: Normal blood pressure is 120/80 or lower.

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**Tai Chi Classes**

The Health Ministry Committee is again offering Tai Chi classes at ELPC. Two 10-week class series will be offered on Tuesdays beginning Sept 11—one in the morning at 10 am and one in the evening at 6 pm, in the Sewing Room. A free-will offering of $2 per class would be appreciated. If interested, please contact Lois Lang at 412-441-3800 x41 and leave your name and telephone number and which time you prefer.

**Free Blood Pressure Screening**

Free blood pressure screenings are held the third Sunday of each month in the first floor Library following the 11 am worship service (from approximately 12:15 to 12:45 pm). Next screening: Sunday, Sept 16. For more information, contact Lois Lang at 412-441-3800 x41 or Patrice Fowler-Searcy at x30.

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**Holy Ground**

Worship Service of Prayers for Wholeness & Healing

Join us in the beauty of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church for a contemplative service of prayer, singing, scripture reading, and a time of blessing.

**Sunday, Sept 16**

**6 pm**

**Rev. Tami Hooker**

Holy Ground is offered at 6 pm the third Sunday of each month, March–November, except when noted. Following is our schedule for the remainder of 2007:

Oct 21 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov 11 Father William J. Kiel.

**NOTE: Holy Ground will be offered the 2nd Sunday in November 2007.**

“*Oh taste and see that the Lord is good.*”

(Psalm 34:8)
Hope Academy Fall Program

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts offers after-school and Saturday classes in performing arts, dance and music for children and youth, ages 4 through grade 12, right here at ELPC. Partnerships with some of the city’s finest arts organizations (including City Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Guitar Society of Fine Arts, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Xpressions Contemporary Dance Company, and others) allow us to offer students opportunities to perform in professional theaters and study with master teaching artists. Course enrollments are limited as class sizes are small to ensure a low student-to-staff ratio.

Performing Arts — Musical Theater Workshop, Shakespeare Workshop, Young Creators’ Workshop, Creative Dramatics.


Private Instruction — Piano, Organ, Classical Guitar, all Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Voice.

Class meeting times, descriptions and registration are available at the church, on our website www.HopeAcademy.info or by calling Norma, 412-441-3800 x11. Or, attend an on-site registration.

CLAAY Program Looking for Volunteer Career Mentors

Duquesne University’s Career Literacy for African American Youth (CLAAY) program is looking for career mentors to work with middle-school and high-school students during the 2007-2008 school year.

Time commitment is 15 hours during the school year. CLAAY career mentors meet with their student at their school two hours per month between October 2007 and May 2008.

If interested in becoming a volunteer career mentor for the CLAAY Program, contact Damon Bethea at 412-325-1565 x31 or damon@winnets.com.

Presbyterian Women
Heather Lawrence, Moderator

2007-2008 Horizons Bible Study Begins Sept 4

All women at ELPC are invited to participate in the 2007-2008 Presbyterian Women’s Horizons Bible Study—"Above and Beyond: Hearing God’s Call in Jonah and Ruth"—based on 9 lessons, one each month, from September to May. Jonah and Ruth were called by God to play a part in God’s salvation history—for God’s chosen people Israel, and through them, for the whole world. These are stories of God’s surprising steadfast love. These stories invite us to examine our own call and to explore what our call can mean for a lifelong journey of faith.

Our study group will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10 am in the Second Floor Parlor. Plan to stay for lunch following the bible study at 11:30 am. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages will be provided. For more information, please contact Mary Alice Lightle (PW Vice Moderator) at 412-682-1504.

Fall Gathering of PW in the Pittsburgh Presbytery

All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery (PWPP) Fall Gathering on Saturday, Sept 15 at Third Presbyterian Church, Fifth and Negley. The theme for the gathering is "Together In Service."

Emily Miller, recent Pittsburgh Theological Seminary graduate and former litigation attorney, will lead the worship service. Two workshops will be presented. Mary Alice Lightle, Vice Moderator of ELPC Presbyterian Women, will give the bible study, and Charlesetta McKinney, Moderator of PWPP and elder at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, will lead the study of the new PW mission program guide "Together In Service." Lunch will follow the program. Registration at 9 am followed by our program at 9:30 am. Fee: $8.

ELPC PW Annual Meeting and Mini-Retreat

All women are invited to a mini retreat of the Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Sept 29 from 9 am to 1 pm in Room 234. Activities will include worship, an introduction to Presbyterian Women, election of officers and a devotional led by Lois Lang. We will also receive the Birthday Offering ($0.10 for each year of your life) in support of the Creative Ministries of Presbyterian Women. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share for lunch. For more information, call Mary Alice Lightle at 412-682-1504.
Environmental Task Force

**Task Force Meeting.** A meeting to discuss future projects will be held following the 11 am worship service on **Sunday, Sept 16** in the Pastor’s Conference Room. For more information, call Becky Maiman at 412-272-7179.

**Backyard Composting Class.** A two-hour class on backyard composting will be given on **Wednesday, Sept 19** from 6 to 9 pm at the East End Food Cooperative, 7516 Meade Street in Point Breeze. Cost is $25 per person or $35 per couple, includes an 80-gallon capacity bin. To register, call Corinne from Conservation Consultants, Inc. at 412-431-4449 x325.

**Household Hazardous Waste Recycling.** Sponsored by Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force and PA Resources Council, Inc. **Saturday, Sept 29** from 9 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the Four Seasons Ski Lodge in Boyce Park. Go to www.swpahh.org for more information.

Full Inclusion Task Force

**Task Force Meeting.** A meeting to write a mission statement, set goals, make plans for the coming year, and set dates for future meetings. All are invited to attend immediately following the 11 am worship service on **Sunday, Sept 16** in Room 244. For more information, call Carol Untch at 724-272-9722.

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Commemorating The United Nations
International Day of Peace

**Creating a Culture of Peace**

Established by a United Nations resolution in 1981, the International Day of Peace (IDP) was first celebrated September 1982. IDP provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of Peace on a shared date, Sept 21 of each year.

This year, ELPC is working in collaboration with other regional faith groups to provide over two weeks—**Sept 16 to Oct 2**—reflection, prayer, education, and celebration to mark our individual and collective progress toward building cultures of peace, and to serve as a reminder of our permanent commitment to peace in our community and in our world.

**Several events will be held at ELPC. These include:**

**Sunday, Sept 16.** The initial worship observance at our Sunday evening Koinonia service. 7 pm.

**Friday, Sept 21.** On the actual anniversary of the International Day of Peace, the labyrinth will be available for prayer and meditation for 24 hours. A Mandala workshop will also be available from 3 to 6 pm.

**Sunday, Sept 23.** ELPC is helping to coordinate an Interfaith Sunrise Gathering at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park. The theme for the gathering is “Welcoming the Dawn of Peace.” 7 am.

**Thursday, Sept 27.** ELPC will host “Most Dangerous Women,” spoken word and song performed by the Women’s International League for Peace and Justice and the Raging Grannies. 7 pm.

There are many other additional events. A partial listing includes: Pittsburgh Schools Constitution Day; Coalition to End Violence observation at Hill House; Spirituality and Activism: A Zen Perspective at Calvary Episcopal Church; Conversations with Iraq War veterans at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer; Workshop on Torture at the Quaker Meeting House; and From Violence to Wholeness Retreat: Engage in Exploring Non-Violent Living sponsored by the Network of Spiritual Progressives and Pax Christi. The concluding event—a Celebration and Simple Observance of Gandhi’s life and work—will be held **Tuesday, Oct 2** at Hindu Jain Temple in Monroeville.

For more information about these and other events, please visit this website: peacedayspittsburgh.googlepages.com.

Children’s Sabbath Weekend

**Hold these dates.** On **Saturday, Oct 20 and Sunday, Oct 21,** ELPC will be participating in the 2007 National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths, sponsored since 1992 by The Children’s Defense Fund. This inspiring weekend unites religious congregations of all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children, focuses attention on the urgent plight of children in our world, and calls us to put our faith into action to meet children’s needs through direct services and work for justice.

Weekend events at ELPC will include guest speaker and preacher and child advocate, the Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner, Deputy General Secretary for Research and Planning of the National Council of Churches, USA.

ELPC’s events are being sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry and the Children & Children Taskforce of the Justice & Global Concerns Committee. Watch for event details in the October newsletter.
Staying Connected – ELPC
Pastor Visitation Program

One of the aims of our Pastor Visitation Program is to keep those members who find it difficult to attend Sunday worship, because of life’s circumstances, connected to the congregation. Some who found it difficult to attend services every Sunday, are now able to attend occasionally with the help of the Deacons who supply transportation.

If you know someone who needs transportation or an occasional visit, please contact the Rev. Miriam Chamberlain at 412-441-3800 to let her know of these needs.

Do We Have Your Current Information on File?

Fall is often a time for many of us to have new beginnings. Let us know if you have changes in any of the following information:

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

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 any of your above information has changed, please contact Kate Carlson directly—412-441-3800 x17, or katec@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. Thank you.

EECM Food Pantry in Need of Food Items

The East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM) Food Pantry is in urgent need of non-perishable food items. EECM’s greatest need is for peanut butter, canned fruit and tuna. While you are encouraged to donate these suggested items as well as the item of month (September’s item is Jelly(Jam)), donations do not need to be limited to just those foods, but should be nutritional.

IMPORTANT: For food safety and sanitary reasons, only unopened food packages and those that are not past its expiration date will be accepted.

Donation baskets for non-perishable food items are available at the following locations at East Liberty Presbyterian Church: inside the Highland Avenue entrance, on the second floor near the main staircase inside the Highland entrance, and at the entrances leading to the Courtyard located at either end of the Chapel.

Mission Ministries

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Director

Mission Ministries

Community Mission Committee

East End Blitz Homeowner Volunteer Support Teams

This summer three families sponsored by ELPC became first-time homeowners as a result of the efforts of the East End Blitz Partnership made up of 7 local Presbyterian Churches, East Liberty Development Inc. (ELDI), several East End community organizations and Hosanna Industries.

The next phase of the Blitz partnership—homeowner-support—will help our families settle into their new homes and transition into the demands of homeownership. Our goal is to support our families in the areas of: home maintenance, health/well being, finance, neighborhood information/family activities, and fundraising.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help—no special skills are needed—please contact Emily Rosenthal (412-963-0139) or Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (412-441-3800 x30). Or, visit the Mission Ministries bulletin board on the first floor near the Highland entrance. There you will find a sign-up forms with all the details, as well as a sign-up sheet.

Church Building Closed

ELPC will be closed and the Labyrinth unavailable for walking

Monday, Sept 3, 2007
Labor Day
ELPC People

Good News, Thanks and Prayers

Good News

Congratulation to Vanessa Johnson on her graduation from Carlow University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Marketing with a minor in Human Resource Management and Technology. Vanessa is one of our Church School teachers for 3 and 4-year olds.

Thank You

Thanks to those of you who are volunteering to participate in visits to the shut-ins. This is an important part of the ministry of this church and is greatly appreciated by those who cannot attend church. For those of you who would like to volunteer an hour or two for visitsation, please contact the Rev. Miriam Chamberlain at 412-441-3800.

Prayers

Our prayers and sympathies are with the family of Carolyn Lappe who died on June 26, 2007. Carolyn was a member of ELPC for 70 years, and served as an Elder in 1985.

NEW Assistants at ELPC

We are pleased to welcome two new full-time Administrative Assistants and one part-time Educational Ministries Assistant to the staff at ELPC.

Kate Carlson who began work in July, serves as Administrative Assistant to Business Administrator Pam Kimmel, as well as administrative support for Lois Lang, Spiritual Life, and Finance & Stewardship. Kate helps keep our membership rolls updated and prepares various financial reports. To begin working in early September will be Karla Ballou as Administrative Assistant to Director of Mission Ministries Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, and administrative support for Miriam Chamberlain, Justice & Global Concerns, Community Mission, and Deacons. Karla will also provide initial screening and referrals for people seeking rental assistance and "last resort" aid from our congregation.

In preparation for Rally Day, a part-time Educational Ministries Assistant (EMA) position has been created. This person will provide logistical support for our Sunday morning Christian Education programs and our Extended Session children's program. The EMA will also help with planning, organization and teaching with our junior and senior-high youth groups. We are pleased that church member and recent college graduate Ashley Birt has agreed to help in this role.

Please welcome Ashley, Kate and Karla when you see them around the church!

Ashley Birt

L-R. Karla Ballou and Kate Carlson

September 2007

2.........Communion; 10 am Summer Worship in the Sanctuary
3 ........ Church Building Closed
7.........Happy Wanderers Outing
8.........Hope Academy Open Registration, 1 to 4 pm
8.........Wayside Christian Gospel Choir concert, 7 pm
9.........Rally Day. Church School—9:45 am and regular worship schedule—8 am, 9 am, 11 am resume
9.........Rally Day Picnic at Highland Park following 11 am worship
11.......Tai Chi classes begin
14.......Youth Bowling Event
16.......Blood Pressure Screening, 12:15 to 12:45 pm
16.......Holy Ground Service, 6 pm
16.......Koinonia Service of Praise, 7 pm
21.......World Day of Peace—labyrinth available for walking all day; Mandala workshop from 3 to 6 pm
23.......Spiritual Life Sampler
24.......Seminar on Lifetime and End-of-Life Planning
24.......Hope Academy classes begin
27.......“Most Dangerous Women” Merton Center Performance at ELPC
29.......ELPC PW Annual Meeting
30.......Organ Dedication Recital, 11 am worship; music begins 10:45 am

Calendar Highlights

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Pastor Bush Elected to Covenant Network’s National Board
ELPC Pipe Organ Dedication Recital
Holy Ground Service for Wholeness & Healing
Koinonia Service of Praise
ELPC Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting
Taizé Classes: “Beaded Prayers”; “Clogging Anyone?”
Blood Pressure Screening
Tai Chi Classes

Health Ministry: Strokes and Mini-strokes
International Day of Peace — ELPC Events
Seminar on Lifetime and End-of-Life Planning
Youth Bowling Event
Hope Academy of Music and the Arts Fall Classes
“Most Dangerous Women” Performance at ELPC
Wayside Christian Gospel Choir Concert at ELPC

. . . and, more.