Join Us for a New “Journey” of Faith

New Worship Service, Sundays at 8:45 am

Beginning in April, the 9 am worship service will be re-born as “Journey: A Service of Spirit, Hope & Praise.” This interactive and energetic service will build upon the strengths of East Liberty Presbyterian Church while reaching out to people seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This Journey will be intentionally:

- Inter-racial / Multi-racial
- Inclusive and Welcoming
- Interactive and Experiential
- Music-rich in Gospel / Contemporary Styles
- Energetic in its Presentation of the Good News of Christ

People are invited to gather in the third-floor Music Room at 8:30 am for a time of fellowship and coffee, with the gathering music leading us in the spirit of worship beginning at 8:45 am. The Rev. Heather Tunney, the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, and the Rev. Randy Bush will provide primary worship leadership, with a core team of instrumentalists and vocalists offering music leadership. There will be regular opportunities for shared prayer, testimonies of faith, and encountering God’s word in a fresh, compelling way. The blending of classical and contemporary, Gospel songs and hymns, introspective worship and interactive communal praise will ideally reflect the diverse, creative spirit that is already at the heart of ELPC.

Come join us, beginning Sun., April 6. The “Journey” is about to begin!

Ordination and Installation Service

On Sun., April 20, the 11 am Sanctuary worship service will include the ordination and installation of the 2010 class of deacons and elders. Listed below are those officers beginning a three-year term of active service:

**Deacons:** Deborah Brower, Wil Forrest, Karen Fraser, Cheon Graham, Diane Jackson, Jon Nelson, Libby Parker, Carol Untch, Anthony White

**Elders:** Damon Bethea, Don Breitbarth, Ted Brooks, Frances Irvin, Kathleen Kyle, Julienne McAdoo, Judy Menk, Gloria Ritchey, Seldon Whitaker

**Centennial Fund:** Linda Benedict

Special thanks are extended to those officers whose terms will be completed at the end of this month:

**Deacons:** Kristina Hout, Renee Walker

**Elders:** Diana Armstrong, Liz Hopkins, Chuck Nichols, Bruce Pollock, Robert Stephany, Joyce Thomas

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Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am**

* April Liturgist: Donna Ramsey
  * April 6: The Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach, Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
  * April 13: To Be Announced
  * April 20: Mrs. Robyn Aguzzi, Exec. Director, Wilkinsburg Community Ministry
  * April 27: Jeffery Lowry, Asst. Minister, Deliverance Baptist Church

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**

* April 6: The Rev. Heather Tunney
  * April 13: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
  * April 20: The Rev. Heather Tunney
  * April 27: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**

* April 6: The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
  * April 13: The Rev. Heather Tunney
  * April 20: The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
  * April 27: The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Koinonia Service of Praise**

Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm

* April 13: Brian Diebold, Seminary Intern

**Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing**

Third Sunday, March – Nov. • 6 pm

* April 20: The Rev. James Davidson

**Labyrinth Prayer Walk**

Mondays • 10 am to 3 pm

Wednesdays • 10 am to 9 pm

**Taizé Prayer Service**

Wednesdays • 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

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Visit ELPC On the Web: www.cathedralofhope.org

The “multimedia” link on our website provides access to sermon audio files, photo galleries, and videos of recent special concerts and worship services. We have over 40,000 weekly website downloads—so log on and check it out! Also, videos of talented Hope Academy students are online, too. To view them, visit www.YouTube.com/HopeAcademy.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Kwame Anthony Appiah is a professor of philosophy at Princeton University. He shares this anecdote: When he tells a stranger on a plane that he is a philosopher, he often gets the question, “So, what’s your philosophy?” He answers, “My philosophy is that everything is more complicated than you thought.” (New York Times Book Review)

Here I am in the season immediately following on the heels of the triumphant good news of Easter, and I find myself drawn to a troubling comment made by a noted professor of morality and ethics: “Everything is more complicated than you thought.” Shouldn’t the power of life over death and the promise of resurrection held out to a broken and fearful world make things simpler? Shouldn’t the post-Easter message provide the answers we seek instead of raising more questions in our minds? Well, yes and no.

We love to keep things “simple” because then we feel like we understand them, that we can “wrap” our minds around them. So we love simple things like adding 2+2, admiring the colors in a rainbow, or counting the eight notes on a piano that make up a major scale. But even the simple things of life are more complicated than we imagine. Try organizing the rainbow colors into Monet’s water lilies, the notes of the scale into a Beethoven symphony, or getting any column of numbers to add up properly on an income tax return!

To “wrap” our minds around things is part of our natural desire to be in control at all times, the master/mistress of worldly knowledge. Yet being in control shouldn’t be our life goal; being in relationship with the Source/Savior/Sustainer of life is our goal. That means we step back from simple answers and open ourselves to the humble realization that life is deeper, richer and more complicated than we can ever fully fathom. By faith, we step away from easy answers and profess that whatever is, is grounded in God, who is loving and whose purposes (however complex) are fully trustworthy. In that moment of vulnerability, of letting go of our desire always to be in control, we discover the inner peace and healing grace that makes all the difference in the world.

I wouldn’t want a simpler version of Monet’s art or Beethoven’s music. Easter complicates things. The One who was dead is alive and shall live forever. And I wouldn’t want it any other way.

Officers’ Retreat Report

On March 14-15, a group of elders, deacons, and staff of ELPC met at Kearns’ Spirituality Center for a two-day Officers’ Retreat. This gathering of over 40 participants had times of shared worship, reflection, discernment and good-natured fun. Author and pastor N. Graham Standish of Calvin Presbyterian Church (Zelienople, PA) spoke with the group on Friday night about “Becoming a Blessed Church.” It was a welcome opportunity to intentionally envision what God intends and hopes for the future ministry of ELPC.
Hip Hop on Lock
Graduation, Performance and CD Release Party

Saturday, April 26, at 7 pm

Hope Academy singer/songwriter students have been working on a recording project with Ya Momz House Studio. The Hip Hop on Lock Project is an eight-week mentored educational program with the goal of teaching students:

- Leadership skills
- Organizational skills
- Cooperative economics
- Knowledge of the music business

To develop leadership skills, each student was given an executive position for a mock record label. As a team, they are creating a music CD project from start to finish, actively engaging in every step of their project. They will decide on the name of their record label and group, learn how to produce music, record vocals, utilize state-of-the-art recording equipment, design CD covers, write the music and lyrics, recruit musicians and singers, and finally record three full songs for their CD. They will learn about cooperative economics and develop social skills by meeting with community business owners to promote their CD. In addition, a tour at a local radio station (WAMO FM or KISS FM) is planned for April 21, when they will meet the program director for a Q&A session to give them a real-world view of the music business so that they can discover how what they have been learning applies to it.

On Sat., April 26, at 7 pm there will be a public performance and graduation ceremony where the students can present their work to family, friends and the entire community. This is a free event and everyone is invited.
Christian Education in April

**Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries**

**CONTEMPORARIES CLASS** Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

**April 6, 13 and 20: Health Care Reform**, led by Hal Sanders

Health care is a moral issue. This three-week series will begin with a scriptural reference and explore an assortment of layers pertaining to America’s health care crisis. Areas of consideration will include an examination of current trends, a summary of health status in the U.S., an overview of pending federal legislation, and a perspective on the U.S. health care system. This series will create a “spiritual buzz” throughout the congregation — people will be talking for months to come!

**April 27 and May 4: Stages of Faith: Implications of Spiritual Parenting and Christian Education** (Contemporaries / Parenting Circle Collaboration)

This two-week series led by educator, writer and ELPC member Rebecca Cole-Turner, Ph.D., will explore stages of human development as they relate to faith development and how they affect our interactions as parents, teachers, mentors and friends in the church.

**JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE** Teacher: Jan Irvin

This class reads selections of the Hebrew and New Testament Scriptures based upon the Revised Common Lectionary. Members reflect upon and converse about the selected texts with a goal of personal transformation and movement toward a community of vision, justice, and steadfast love.

- **April 13:** Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; I Peter 2:2-10; John 10:1-10
- **April 20:** Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- **April 27:** Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

**PARENTING CIRCLE** Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Beth Bush

In April, join the Parenting Circle in a Bible Study designed to address parenting issues through a Biblical lens. Open to anyone involved in parenting (singles, couples, adoptive parents, grandparents, step-parents, guardians, and mentors).

**SEEKERS** Leader: Nancy Klancher

The Seekers embrace the complexities of our faith within an open, supportive and accepting atmosphere. New friends are always welcome.

**April 6 and 13: Reading the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5–7 Blessings, Instructions, and Warnings. What Do They Mean To Us?**

Please join the Seekers as we turn again to what are perhaps the most widely quoted passages of the New Testament. The first session will focus on the blessings of the Beatitudes; the second session will move to the warnings and instructions.

**April 20: Seeking God’s Kingdom on Earth: Christian Realism and Reinhold Niebuhr**

Elder Ron Stone will continue with the third session of his four-part series on Reinhold Niebuhr, the Protestant theologian who focused on the relationship between Christian faith and the realities of modern politics and diplomacy. We strongly recommend that you purchase the book *Reinhold Niebuhr*, by Robin Lovin, which is available in our bookstore for $10.00.

**April 27: When Bad Things Happen To Us, Where is God? (Part 1 of 2)**

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer, leads the first of two sessions on the presence of evil as we see it in our lives and those of others. How do we struggle with absorbing the seemingly inevitable “bad things” happening to people, whether they are “good people” or not, as the popular expression goes? Where is God in these realities? How do we reconcile ourselves to God’s seeming absence or passivity? The second class will be held on May 11.

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**Church School Classes**

**Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 am**

Church school classes are offered for persons of all ages, from infants to adults. Adult options are detailed in the article at right. Youth classes — junior high (grades 6-8) and senior high (grades 9-12) — follow the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their daily lives. Children’s classes (by age) include Baby Lapsit, Godly Play, and *Seasons of the Spirit*.

**Vacation Church School**

Mark your calendars for our annual summer Vacation Church School. This year, VCS will be held June 23-27 at ELPC. Please note that we will now be offering VCS for the whole day (from 9 am to 3 pm). All children ages 3 (who are toilet trained) through grade 5 are welcome to join us for a week of fun. Also, adult and teen volunteers of many ages are needed to help make VCS a success! Keep your eyes open for student and volunteer registration forms in early May.

**Nursery Open House**

Members, friends and visitors to ELPC with children age 2 and under are invited to a Nursery Open House on Sun., April 6, from 10:00 to 10:30 am. Join us in the first-floor Nursery for a light breakfast and an opportunity to meet ELPC and nursery staff and volunteers, visit with other families of young children and learn more about our ministry to young children and their families. Please RSVP to Gloria Knopp if you plan to attend so that we know how much food to prepare.
Youth and Young Adult Events

Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries

club one sixteen: Join us on Wednesdays for an afternoon of music, learning, food and fun for people of all ages. Come by anytime between 3:30 and 6:30 for homework help, board games and snacks from Whole Foods. And if you are already registered, participate in Hope Academy free classes (Voices of Hope Vocal Ensemble, Step Team, Sing and Dance to a Latin Beat, Percussion Ensemble, Latin Ballroom, Writing/Acting Workshop).

- **Club one sixteen senior: Youth in grades 7 – 12** are invited to join us for dinner and Bible Study after participating in HA's free classes on Wednesday afternoons. At 6:30, eat a home-cooked meal donated by an ELPC member, and then stay for a thought-provoking discussion about how our faith impacts different elements of our lives. We will seek to learn together what God is calling us to as individuals and as a community, and to open our eyes to God's Spirit moving in our world today.

- **Club one sixteen junior: Youth in grades 1 – 6** will join teens for dinner, then break out for their own study time. Children will share what God is doing in their lives through drama, creative arts, games and discussion.

April's topic will focus on “World Affairs.” Both club one sixteen junior and senior will explore issues facing the world today and discuss how we, as Christians, can respond to the concerns of the world. Issues include: war, hunger, poverty, international relations, HIV/AIDS, healthcare, and the environment.

**30-Hour Fast:** Save the Date! Our annual 30-Hour Fast event will be held Sat., May 3 through Sun., May 4, at ELPC where youth in grades 6-12 will fast (abstain from eating solid food) for 30 hours to raise money to fight world hunger. Once again, we will enjoy a weekend of fellowship, learning, worship, and fun with friends from ELPC and East Union Presbyterian Church as we join in our fast together. ELPC members and friends are invited to support the youth in their efforts and partner with us. We welcome your prayers and, if you are able, your financial sponsorship. All of the money raised will be donated to a ministry fighting hunger and poverty. Members of our Jr. and Sr. High Church School Classes will be fundraising before and after 11 am Worship on Sundays, April 20 and 27. Stop by the tables located in the Narthex and outside of the East Transept doors to make a donation and find out how you can help. Note: All youth participants in the 30-Hour Fast are required to RSVP by April 27 and must have a permission slip to attend. Please call Gloria Knopp for more details.

**20/30s Tuesday Evening Study Group — Faith and Film Series will continue:** Please see the bulletin board in the first floor main hallway for more details.

**Young Adult Church School Class:** Come join us for this Sunday School class tailored for young adults in their 20s and 30s. Through discussion, prayer, and Bible study, we will explore together the blessings and challenges we face as young adults seeking to live by the Spirit.

East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry

EECM’s Food Pantry assists those in immediate need of food and deeply appreciates donations. If you can, please leave food donations in the baskets located throughout the church’s hallways. In April, the “Food for the Month” is pasta sauce.

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**Reaching Out • April 2008**
Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Writing Workshop, led by Pen Lytle: April 2, at 8:15 pm

Sacred Harp, led by Charles Anderson: April 9, at 8:15 pm

Enjoy singing tunes in three- and four-part harmony from the oldest American tune book in continuous print (since 1844). Joining in this joyful American singing tradition is easy and enjoyable. All tunes are carefully taught, one part at a time. Beginners welcome!

Writing Workshop, led by Laurie Arnold: April 23, at 8:15 pm

What's Springing in You? A creative writing workshop to celebrate emerging life and the beauty and opportunity of Spring.

Celebrations: April 30, at 8:15 pm

If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in April, please write down your information and put it in the collection plate so we can celebrate with you!

Health Ministry

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

Good Cholesterol / Bad Cholesterol By Sue Whitaker

Cholesterol is a waxy material found in every cell in the body. It is an essential part of cell membranes and also certain hormones. The body can make all the cholesterol it needs. Extra cholesterol can clog the arteries and increase the risk of heart attack or stroke.

High blood cholesterol is associated with obesity, inactivity, and eating certain unhealthy foods. Other risk factors include smoking, having high blood pressure, uncontrolled diabetes, and a family history of heart disease. You can’t change your family history, but you have control over the other conditions. If necessary, your doctor can prescribe certain medications to help lower cholesterol, too.

Cholesterol is found only in foods with an animal source. Limit intake of fatty meats, cheeses, butter, 2% or whole milk, cream, egg yolks, lard. Other foods contain saturated and/or trans fats which contribute to the formation of cholesterol, so cut back on these, too: most oils, margarine, fried foods. (Beware of “saturated” or “trans” fats on the label.) Choose healthy snacks like fresh fruits and vegetables instead of candy, cookies, muffins, doughnuts, chips, and pies.

Cholesterol travels through the blood in little packages called lipoproteins. Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) deliver cholesterol to the body’s cells and thus are “bad” for health. High-density lipoproteins (HDL) remove cholesterol from the blood, so are called “good.” A blood test (lipid panel) measures levels of total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, other cholesterol, and a type of fat called triglycerides. It is good to aim for a total cholesterol below 200 mg/dL, LDL cholesterol below 130 (even lower if there is a high risk of heart disease), HDL cholesterol above 60, and triglycerides below 150. Since it is very important in predicting heart disease, the LDL number is even more important to know than the total cholesterol.

Service of Remembrance

Sun., April 20, at 2 pm

The Center for Victims of Violence and Crime is holding their annual Remembrance Service on Sun., April 20, at 2 pm in the ELPC chapel. This special, ecumenical service is for anyone who has lost a loved one due to acts of violence or tragic loss. There will be music, poetry, and time to mention the names of loved ones as part of the program. ELPC member Valerie Dixon is the Director of the Center for Victims of Violence and Crime and is the organizer for this annual event. Call 412-482-3240 with any questions.

Full Inclusion Task Force

Viewing of Film Documentary: For the Bible Tells Me So

On Wed., April 23, ELPC will join with Community House Presbyterian Church to host the showing of this engaging film about the intersection of scripture, homosexuality, and how Christian families come to (or fail to) understand their gay children. This is an opportunity to share in the journey of five gay and lesbian people and their parents, coupled with analysis of what the Bible says about homosexuality and how that has been interpreted. Theologians of a number of denominations and traditions share insight into the Biblical implications of their experiences. This award-winning film was featured at this year’s Covenant Network Conference in Atlanta.

Join us at 7 pm at Community House Presbyterian Church, 120 Parkhurst, at the corner of Sandusky, across from Allegheny General Hospital. Parking is reserved at a hospital lot. Dessert and discussion will follow. For more information or carpooling, please call Carol Untch at 724-272-9722.

Writing Workshop, led by Pen Lytle: April 2, at 8:15 pm

Sacred Harp, led by Charles Anderson: April 9, at 8:15 pm

Enjoy singing tunes in three- and four-part harmony from the oldest American tune book in continuous print (since 1844). Joining in this joyful American singing tradition is easy and enjoyable. All tunes are carefully taught, one part at a time. Beginners welcome!

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Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Women’s Retreat: April 25 and 26
The women of the church are invited to get away to Camp Crestfield. We will explore “Friendship” with our leader Rev. Ann Morris. Of course, there will be plenty of time to relax, walk the camp grounds and get to know each other better. We will gather after dinner on Friday evening and return Saturday evening after supper and worship. Your registration fee includes overnight accommodation in Scott Lodge and meals on Saturday. Scholarships are available. Invite your friends! Pick up a brochure, with registration form, on the Presbyterian Women’s bulletin board next to the Highland Ave. entrance to the Sanctuary. Register by noon on Mon., April 21. For more information, call Kay Shissler, 412-681-2047.

Help Prevent Malaria with Mother’s Day Cards
Net Workers is a malaria prevention program established by the Presbyterian Church (USA). By purchasing a Net Workers’ Mother’s Day card to honor mothers, daughters or friends, you can help safeguard the health of mothers and children in Africa. Your $10 donation for a card will provide an insecticide-treated net and malaria prevention education for a woman and her family in Africa. Cards may be purchased after the 11 am worship service on Sundays, April 20, 27 and May 4, or from Kate Carlson in the church office.

Each year, malaria causes more than one million deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, mostly among children and pregnant women. The number one killer of children under age five, malaria claims 3,000 young lives every day. Women are four times as likely to contract malaria during pregnancy and twice as likely to die from it.

Horizons Bible Study: April 1
Join us as we continue our Horizons Bible Study, “Above and Beyond: Hearing God’s Call in Jonah and Ruth.” Brenda Johnson will lead a discussion of “In God We Trust?” as we study Ruth 3. A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share; beverages will be provided. For more information, call Mary Alice Lightle, 412-682-1504.

Housing Ministry
Volunteers needed! On Sat., April 5, we will gather to install a fence and do some light landscaping for one of our Blitz homeowners. If you can help, please talk to Bruce Pollock, 412-361-5165, or Emily Rosenthal, 412-963-0139.

Open Hand Ministries, the housing ministry that carries on the mission of the East End Blitz Partnership to provide affordable housing to low-income households in the East Liberty and Garfield, is establishing itself in the East End. Under the direction of Michael Stanton, it has worked with volunteers to repair a leaking roof, and gut a home that will be rehabilitated in May 2008. Open Hand Ministries continues to serve new clients as they qualify for mortgages and look at houses that could be potential homes — all while raising funds and creating partnerships with congregations, trade skill professionals and building materials businesses. By June 2009, the ministries’ goals are to rehab three houses for three families and provide continuing support to them, as well as to assist four additional families through credit repair process to make them viable home owner candidates.

Open Hand Ministries also has developed a “wish list” of material items and skills that it could use as it becomes an ongoing faith-based organization. If you are able to help with any of the items at right, please contact Michael Stanton, 412-400-7253, Emily Rosenthal, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.
Earth Day 2008: April 22

In recent years, the Environmental Taskforce has hosted a Sunday worship service and environmental fair focused on caring for God’s creation in conjunction with Earth Day. This year, we will host a joint event with the Prophetic Voices Taskforce on May 18 and 19. This will center around guest speaker Dr. Daniel C. Maguire, Professor of Moral Theological Ethics at Marquette University, and author of many books, including *Sacred Energies: When the World’s Religions Sit Down to Talk about the Future of Human Life and the Plight of this Planet.*

Although ELPC will not be having a special service for Earth Day this year, the Environmental Taskforce would encourage the congregation to make every day “Earth Day” and to do one thing on April 22 that reinforces your commitment to loving and caring for God’s creation. Plant a tree, take a walk, participate in Earth Day events around the city, switch to CFL light bulbs that are more energy efficient, recycle your paper in the Abitibi bins, etc. Small changes multiply and make a difference.

Becky Maiman

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**Stephen Tharp in Concert**

*Friday, April 11, at 7 pm*

Stephen Tharp, performing above at the Konzerthaus Dortmund, is the Organist-in-Residence at Grace Church, Broadway in New York City.

Join us on **Fri., April 11**, at 7 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary for a wonderful performance by international organ virtuoso Stephen Tharp. Repertoire includes: U.S.A. premiere of Samuel Adler’s “Sonata for Organ” dedicated to Stephen Tharp; Franz Liszt’s “Ad nos, ad salutarem undam”; and a monumental transcription of Richard Wagner themes. Tickets are available at the door. Prices: $10 for adults; $5 for students age 18 or older with ID; free for children.

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Becky Maiman

**Inquirers’ Classes**

Want to learn more about ELPC? Join us for the upcoming series of Inquirers’ Classes, which will be held on **Sundays, March 30 and April 6**, from 9:45 to 10:45 am.

New members and friends of ELPC will be received in worship on **April 13**.

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**Reminder to Vote**

Remember to vote in the Pennsylvania Primary on **Tues., April 22**.