News and Updates

Sun., August 31, will be the last Sunday for our Summer Worship schedule. We will resume our regular worship schedule on Sun., September 7:

- Good Samaritan Service at 8 am
- Journey Worship at 8:45 am
- Sanctuary Service at 11 am

Church School classes will also begin on Sun., September 7, and the Christian Education Ministry Team will host a Rally Day Breakfast to kick-off the new Church School year.

Our All-Church Picnic will be on Sun., September 14, at Highland Park. Look for details in the September issue of Reaching Out.

ELPC Welcomes Jon Tyillian

In August, Jon Tyillian will begin working at ELPC as the Associate Director of Music. Jon comes to us from his recent position as Organist and Music Coordinator at Tower Presbyterian Church in Grove City, PA, where he provides all instrumental and service music for the congregation.

He is currently in his senior year at Duquesne University with organ as his primary instrument and piano as a secondary major. His degree work is concentrated in Sacred Music to which he plans to devote his gifts and skills in a career as a church musician.

Jon has been the recipient of numerous awards as a member of the National Honor Society; the Chopin Award for outstanding achievement as accompanist for his high school choirs; the Sharon Music Club Competition in Organ; and has successfully competed in two piano competitions, the Dorothy Sutton Piano Competition and the annual Pennsylvania Music Educators Association competition in Philadelphia.

Jon’s position with us re-establishes ELPC’s partnering with the Sacred Music department at Duquesne University. Outstanding students are employed in churches as Organ Scholars. During their tenure, they receive mentoring and instruction in the daily workings of a diverse music program and are given the opportunity to bring their own skills to play in an established musical situation.

“I am an ambitious and eager person and I am always willing to learn new concepts and to try new experiences,” Jon said of himself.

We welcome Jon to our Staff at ELPC and look forward to his participation in all the worship, music and arts programs of our congregation.

Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am
August Liturgist: Don Breitbarth
Aug. 3* The Rev. Ann Morris, Member-at-Large, Pittsburgh Presbytery
Aug. 10 Darnell Thompson, Deacon, East Liberty Lutheran Church
Aug. 17 Andrew Weber, Graduate, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Aug. 24 Wil Forest, Moderator, ELPC Board of Deacons
Aug. 31 The Rev. J. Howard Cherry, honorably retired United Methodist Minister

Courtyard Worship • 10 am
Aug. 3* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Aug. 10 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Aug. 17 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Aug. 24 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Aug. 31 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain

Koinonia Service of Praise
Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm
Aug. 10 Elder Kathleen Kyle

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing
Third Sunday, March-Nov. • 6 pm
Aug. 17 The Rev. Tami Hooker

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 10 am-3 pm
Wednesdays • 10 am-9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service
Wednesdays • 7 pm
The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Koinonia Potluck
Join us before the Koinonia service for a time of table-fellowship. The potluck supper will begin at 6 pm with the service following at 7 pm.
RSVP with Gloria at 412.441.3800 x22.

Courtyard Worship
Join us for worship on Sundays at 10 am in the church Garth during August as we gather in a beautiful setting within the heart of our urban cathedral. We encourage you to come early to get a good seat. Overflow seating will be available in Room 51 and on the balcony outside the 3rd Floor Music Room.
The press release from the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will announce that the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow was elected to a two-year term as moderator, and the Rev. Byron Wade was elected as vice-moderator. Rev. Reyes-Chow is a 39-year-old pastor of a new church development near San Francisco and Rev. Wade is a 45-year-old pastor of Davie St. Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. If a photo accompanies the release, something else will be seen: Rev. Reyes-Chow is Asian-American and Rev. Wade is African-American.

Have we entered a new period in the life of our church? Are we truly in a time of post-racialism, as some suggested given the candidacy of Barack Obama? I’m not sure how to answer those questions. It’s true that at the General Assembly, the questions largely focused on “big issues” such as how to be a denomination committed to justice, inclusion, active in mission and one that seeks true peace. This was a refreshing change from past discussions arguing over minutiae in our Book of Order or saber-rattling about how change would result in members fleeing our congregations. It was my sense that people were longing to stop wasting resources on internal squabbles, but instead to focus our energies on mission done in the name, and to the glory, of Jesus Christ.

What lies ahead for our denomination? There will be another round of votes related to the language about “fidelity and chastity.” If we cannot find consensus, my prayer is that our conversations will be respectful and discerning. There will continue to be legal issues related to the decisions of New Wineskins/Evangelical Presbyterian Church-aligned congregations to leave our denomination and take their property with them. There will also be congregations living out the gospel of Jesus Christ in social witness, compassionate outreach and disaster relief programs, whose stories will be unheralded, given the typical focus on abuse, conflict, and discord. We are entering a season not unlike the last, a time of prayer, patience, re-defining and re-discovering what it means to be a Christian in today’s world.

Which brings me back to our new moderator and vice-moderator. I am grateful that part of the gifts they bring is their racial-ethnic heritage, and that our children, youth and members will see their faces as representative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I am hopeful that their stories will be offered honestly and humbly, and that we will hear them with equal honesty and humility. The history of Christianity contains long periods in which racial, ethnic and economic barriers have been erected and overcome by people of faith. There were tensions between Jewish and Hellenistic Christians. There were conflicts between Rome and Constantinople, Protestantism and Catholicism, dominant white denominations oppressing congregations of other races and peoples, and the current split between the Northern and Southern hemisphere global churches. Through it all, the witness of Jesus Christ reminds us that divisions are antithetical to the Kingdom of God; that the Messiah is biased toward the poor and outcast, calling us to invite those in who have been locked out and listen to those who have been silenced unjustly.

To avoid talking about race is to avoid seeking full reconciliation in Jesus Christ. To sweep things under the liturgical rug is to peddle cheap grace in the marketplace of religion. Let us pray for Bruce and Byron and for our denomination, that a new hearing of the gospel may take place through their leadership, and that the face of Christ may at last be seen reflected from all the faces God has lovingly crafted upon this earth.

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor
General Assembly News

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its General Assembly (GA) from June 21-28 in San Jose, CA. The GA is a national gathering of ministers and elders representing all the presbyteries in our denomination; it is held every two years. During the worship services and plenary meetings, church leaders and missionaries were honored and decisions were made about issues facing the entire church. Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick retired after many years of diligent service to the church; Gradye Parsons was elected as the new Stated Clerk.

Among the important decisions were several steps taken to make the church more inclusive. An overture was sent to presbyteries recommending they approve deleting the current language in the Book of Order that restricts ordination to people living in fidelity within marriage and chastity in singleness, replacing it with language about leading lives in obedience to Jesus Christ, guided by the scriptures and confessions. In passing this motion, the GA determined that prior denominational interpretations asserting that all homosexual practices are sinful were no longer in effect. Also, the GA recommended presbyteries approve a revision to the Heidelberg Catechism, correcting a mistranslation contained in our Book of Confessions. This also relates to issues of inclusivity, since the inauthentic language included the insertion of the phrase “homosexual perversion” in a list of sins.

Other important actions taken included a resolution encouraging the United States to explore a single-payer health care system, to speak strongly for peace in Iraq and between Israel and Palestine, to better coordinate national church resources available in response to incidents of clergy sexual abuse, and to continue studying, for two years, the proposed changes to the Form of Government section of our Book of Order.

The GA was attended by over 2000 commissioners, youth advisory delegates, church staff and observers. It was marked by a spirit of prayer and careful deliberation, despite moments of parliamentary confusion while trying to offer balanced debates among so many delegates. The next GA will be held in 2010 in Minneapolis.

Session Summary

Here is a summary of what was discussed and carried out at recent meetings:

• A calendar “planning session” was held to ensure events planned for the remaining months in 2008 are scheduled without conflicts.

• An in-depth financial review of our mid-year church budget status was carried out.

• Recommendations from the Mission Study Area were presented, suggesting ways the mission groups of ELPC can both prioritize and strengthen their mission ministries. A congregational “feedback” session on these recommendations will be held in early fall.

• The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, president of McCormick Theological Seminary, has accepted an invitation to preach at ELPC on February 27, 2009.

• There is no Session meeting scheduled for August, so the next meeting will be a Joint Meeting held with the Board of Deacons on Tues., September 9.
Church School Update
Church School classes will begin on Sun., September 7, and the Christian Education Ministry Team will host a Rally Day Breakfast to kick-off the new Church School year.

Presbyterian Women
Horizons Bible Study
Begins Tues., September 2, at 10 am
This year, we will study Luke’s Gospel for the Poor. The study was written by Dale Lindsay Morgan and the theme is Jubilee!

Jubilee is a time of great joy, when slaves are to be freed from bondage and debts are forgiven. In Luke’s Gospel, jubilee describes the beginning of the Messianic Age, the “year of the Lord’s favor,” when the Messiah would come down and turn the world upside down.

Luke addresses his gospel to Theophilus (one who loves God).
That means you! So, “most excellent Theophilus,” join us on Tues., September 2, at 10 am as we begin with “Jesus Announces Jubilee” (Luke 4:16-30). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages will be provided. Contact Mary Alice Lightle at 412-682-1504 for more information.

Fall Mini-Retreat
Sat., September 20, at 9 am
What do the parables in the gospel of Luke really mean? That’s the topic we’ll explore with the Rev. Pat Frick on Sat., September 20, at 9 am. Meet us in Room 234 for worship and a workshop. We’ll set aside some time for election and installation of the Presbyterian Women leadership team. The retreat will conclude with a potluck lunch. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. We will also receive the Birthday Offering ($0.10 for every year of your life) to support a special mission project of Presbyterian Women in The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Christian Education in August
Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries

Vacation Church School Was a Success!
ELPC’s Vacation Church school (VCS) offered a day-long program, for a week, which served 54 kids from our ELPC and East End Communities. Of those children, 18 were part of ELPC member families, while the remaining 36 were new to our congregational life. During VCS, children learned about several Old Testament Prophets: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Jonah, and Daniel. We learned about places prophets lived, made greeting cards and crafts for those who are sick or homebound, walked the labyrinth, and baked edible scrolls. We enjoyed songs and drama during our morning worship, had fun making crafts, and played in the gym. A highlight of the week was an afternoon picnic at Squaw Valley Park, complete with water balloon games!

Thank You, VCS Volunteers!
Pastor Heather and the Christian Education Ministry Team would like to thank the volunteers and staff for their hard work, care, and service. We are grateful for those who spent the week with us, and others who shared a few hours to make the program a success. VCS would not have been possible without your participation!

Pre School: Carol Hoehn, Judy Menk, Karen Fraser, Sharon Birt, Maria Meyer, Felicia Ragsdale, Alicia Cooper, Sherry Anderson, Ilana Chambers
First and Second Grade: Ashley Birt, Kristina Hout, Linda Benedict, TJ Benedict, Katie Benedict
Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade: Sandy Edgecombe, Kay Shissler, Lauren Huggins, Cindy DeAngelo, Sue Bailey
Crafts: Diane Jackson, Beth Urbitis
Recreation Leader: Brian Diebold
Kitchen: Jane Sampson, Brenda Johnson, Beverly Kreager, Marilen Bowser
Registration: Gloria Knopp, Judy Williams
Activities: Frances Irvin, Wil Forrest, Brooke Forrest, Florence Johnson, Emily Rosenthal, Joe Buckley

Save the Date
Don’t forget, VCS 2009 will be held from June 22-29, 2009. We will again offer an all-day program.
Keep your eyes open for more details in upcoming issues of Reaching Out about how you can enroll your children or sign up to help out.
Youth and Young Adult Events

Rev. Heather Tunney, Assoc. Pastor for Educational Ministries

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
As the Young Adults group continues to grow, all those in their 20’s and 30’s are invited to come join us for our August offerings.

20/30’s Group: Enjoy Cinema in the Park on Sun., August 24, at 8 pm
On Sun., August 24, we will meet to watch the movie Pride (Rated PG) as part of the 2008 Citipark’s Cinema in the Parks. The film is inspired by a true story about a man’s efforts to create a swim team for troubled teens in Philadelphia. We will meet at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park (across from Phipp’s Conservatory) at 8 pm. Bring a snack to share! Contact Brian Diebold at bdiebold@pts.edu to RSVP or for help arranging transportation.

Calling All Graduates!
ELPC would like to celebrate the accomplishment of those in our church family who have graduated this spring from educational programs. If you are a recent graduate of high school or any post-high school program, please send your name, degree earned, and place from where you have graduated to Gloria Knopp at gloriak@coh.net by Thurs., August 7. We would like to recognize all of our graduates in the September issue of Reaching Out.

Smoke Free
For those who smoke this ain’t no joke
We love you dearly I’ll say this clearly
But we need to be most definitely smoke free you see
Inside our place
Around this space
So think of this when you light up
please make the cut don’t flip that butt
We’ll have a spot saved just for you
So when that smoking thing you do
There’ll be a solution to smoke pollution
So thank you kindly for being mindly
Of our request we’ll pass this test
And get along cause not to’s wrong
Nic O’Teen

Please be considerate of your brothers and sisters at ELPC and smoke only in the designated areas.

Thanks,
- Property Committee

Hope Academy
Linda Addlespurger, Director
Hope Academy’s Fall Term Begins in September!
Hope Academy of Music and the Arts’ Fall term course brochures, registration forms and Discover the Talent Scholarship applications are available online at www.HopeAcademy.info. The deadline for Discover the Talent Scholarship applications is Fri., August 15.

New courses for this year include a third Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre class (Ballet 1), a teen theater and dance workshop on Saturday afternoons, and string and woodwind choirs. Courses fill quickly so submit your registration forms as soon as possible to ensure your place in the course of your choice.

An exciting year is planned for the students (ages 4-18). Make sure that you are part of it!

Waterfall Spirits
Through Sun., Aug. 24
William D. Wade has a solo photographic exhibit titled “Waterfall Spirits” through August 24, at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art located at 221 North Main St., Greensburg, PA 15601.

Visit www.wmuseumaa.org for more information.

Photos taken on our recent Nature Hike at Ohiopyle State Park.
Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

**NOTE:** All classes begin at 8:15 pm, following the Wednesday Taizé Prayer Service.

August 6: Evening Tour of the Sanctuary
Join Marti Moore as she leads a sanctuary tour.

August 13 and 20: No Classes

August 27: Celebrations!
If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in August, please write it down and put it in the collection plate so we can celebrate with you!

Volunteer with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

From Volunteer Corner on Page 3

Enjoy fresh air and exercise on a working farm, while helping to feed hungry people in our region! Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank needs your help to glean, or harvest, fresh fruits and vegetables at local family farms. Gleaning means picking and gathering fruits and vegetables that remain in orchards and fields after traditional harvesting is over. This produce, which would otherwise go to waste, is then transported back to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and distributed to over 350 member agencies serving low-income communities in southwestern PA. Gleans last about three hours and take place weekdays, Saturdays, and weekday evenings from August through November. The Food Bank provides training, tools, water, snacks, gloves, hand wipes, and a first-aid kit. All you need is transportation to the farm. They glean at farms near Cranberry, Mars, Wexford, Evans City, Butler, Beaver Falls, Valencia, Bridgeville, and Indiana County. Individuals and families with children ages 7 and over, or groups ages 12 and over are welcome.

Contact Deidra Gross at 412.460.3663 x211 or visit [http://www.pghpresbytery.org/news/gleaning.htm](http://www.pghpresbytery.org/news/gleaning.htm) for more information.

Tips:
- Try to dress in layers, for example a lightweight long-sleeved shirt over a t-shirt. It is recommended that you wear long pants for protection against scratches or poison ivy.
- Wear closed-toe shoes that support your ankles and can get dirty.
- Bathroom facilities are unavailable at most gleaning fields, so use facilities before coming to the farm.
- We’ll take a break halfway through the glean. However, you are encouraged to drink water throughout the glean and to take extra breaks as needed.
- If you are concerned about insects or insect borne diseases, you may bring insect repellent for your own use. Please put the repellent on prior to entering the fields and wash your hands before handling the fruits or vegetables.
- You should bring: hat and/or sunglasses, sun block, sturdy sneakers, insect repellent and raingear.

- Worship, Music and Arts Committee
Reduce the Dangers of Diabetes
by Sue Whitaker

What is diabetes? This is a serious chronic disease involving a problem supplying energy to the body's cells. Much of the food we eat is turned into glucose, a form of sugar, which is delivered through the bloodstream to the millions of cells in the body. What normally happens is that a hormone called insulin helps move the sugar out of the blood and into the cells, where it can supply the energy the cells need to do their job. When there is diabetes, there isn't enough insulin to help the sugar into the cells, or it isn't able to do it properly. The result is that the sugar is blocked from entering the cells properly and it builds up to high levels in the blood. There is plenty of sugar in the body, but it's in the wrong place – the blood – and the cells are left without their usual energy source. Knowing this, we can understand why so many people with diabetes are tired most of the time. More seriously, there are other effects of uncontrolled diabetes.

Is diabetes fatal? When blood sugar levels are properly controlled, many of the health problems associated with diabetes can be prevented and people can live long and happy lives. A big barrier, however, is that people have heard of the health problems which can develop after years of uncontrolled diabetes – heart disease, strokes, kidney disease, blindness, amputations – and are so afraid of the disease that they try to ignore it. Paying little attention to their diabetes is the surest way to lead to these very problems! These complications associated with diabetes are not from diabetes itself, but from prolonged high blood sugar levels. Getting sugar levels under control is the most important thing.

In future articles, there will be more information about diabetes, including risk factors, how to reduce your chances of developing the disease, symptoms, controlling the sugar levels, and more!

Thank You, Young at Heart Luncheon Helpers!
Many thanks to all those who helped make the Young at Heart Luncheon a success. Kathy Benninger, Jayla Griggs, Moses Cheeks, Todd Hoffman. Miriam Chamberlain and Richard Szeremany provided delightful entertainment. Chef Jay prepared a delicious meal, assisted in serving by our youth helpers, TJ Benedict, Chanteera Blackshear, Rikesha Cottrell, Jamal Williams and Sophie Klancher. Finally, thanks to all the deacons who helped with calls, set up, serving and clean up.

East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry
The East End Cooperative Ministry's Food Pantry provides food for many people facing hunger in Pittsburgh.

Our congregation continues to answer the call in the struggle against hunger, but we need your continued support. Donations may be left in baskets located throughout the church's hallways. Augusts's “Food for the Month” is macaroni and cheese.

Housed at ELPC, the EECM Food Pantry is open from 1-3 pm, Mon-Fri. Please visit www.eecm.org for more information.

ELPC People
Good News, Thanks, and Prayers

Good News
Congratulations to Ronald H. Stone and Linda Haddad who united in marriage in Duck, NC, on July 1.
Congratulations to Robert Lee Sykes and Brooklynn Aaliyah Sykes, children of Robert Sykes and April Turner, who celebrated their baptisms on June 15.

Men’s Shelter Donations
In ELPC’s continuing commitment to the EECM Men’s Shelter located in our church, the Deacons are collecting donations for August 2008. The requested donations are socks and moisturizing skin lotion. Please drop these items in the basket located in the Highland Avenue hallway. Your continued support in the form of donations and prayer to the Shelter and for the men who stay there is appreciated.
Bells in the Garth
Sun., August 31, at 9:45 am

Yes, it’s that time of summer again when we have the wonderful sound of solo and duet handbells ringing throughout the Garth. We welcome back for the third year Roberta and Robert Erickson from the Oakmont Presbyterian Church who will bring us selections for both solo bells and duets. The gentle ringing of the handbells has, in years past, encouraged the birds in the courtyard to begin their song in concert with the bells. We are happy to have these two splendid musicians and friends of ELPC with us again.

Hosts Needed for Malawian Visitors

A delegation of 25 missionaries from Malawi will arrive in Pittsburgh on Fri., Sept. 19, for two weeks as part of the ongoing partnership between the Synod of Blantyre and Pittsburgh Presbytery. ELPC will host a few of them, engaging them in our congregation’s life.

We are looking for host families for our Malawian visitors. The hosting dates will be Sat., Sept. 20 (after dinner) through Wed., Sept. 24 (after breakfast) and Wed., Sept 24 (after Taize) through Mon., Sept. 29 (after breakfast).

If you are interested in being a host, please contact Kay Shissler at 412.681.2047 for more information.

Sermons Online

Printed copies of most sermons preached at the sanctuary or courtyard worship services are available in the sanctuary narthex and the display area near the church office. For copies of past sermons, contact Gloria at 412.441.3800 x22.

For sermon audio files and a video of Pastor Randy’s June 28 sermon, Bedtime Stories, visit www.cathedralofhope.org.

Offices Closed

The church offices will be closed on Mon, September 1, in observance of Labor Day.