New Year’s Eve Worship

Thurs., Dec. 31, at 7 pm, in the Chancel
ELPC staff and congregation members will lead us in readings, prayers, meditations and song. We’ll remember the year past, and look to the year ahead, by giving thanks for all we’ve received and being grateful for God having led us through seasons of challenge and of joy. What will the new year bring?
Come spend the hour with us!

Winter Rally Day: “Epiphany!”

Sun., Jan 10, from 9:45–10:45 am
Join us for a special intergenerational Church School hour! Persons of all ages are invited to share a light breakfast in the Social Hall and a time of learning together. Please bring a breakfast bread to share!
Our theme will be “Epiphany!” Through multisensory learning stations, we’ll explore both the Epiphany event—when the magi visited Jesus—and the epiphany—or realization—of God’s promises through Jesus at the time of Jesus’ baptism.
All are welcome for this special celebration, as we kick off our church school program for 2010.

Seminary Scholarships

Through the generosity of the Stuart Nye Hutchison Memorial Fund, numerous members of ELPC have received scholarship assistance to seminary in preparation for ordination.
Dr. Hutchison was the sixth pastor of ELPC and collaborated with architect Ralph Adams Cram on the design of our church.
If you sense you’re being called to the ministry of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, please speak to Pastor Randy.
Pastoral Message

It’s not by accident that common symbols for New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day are “Father Time” depicted as an old, white-bearded man and as a fresh-faced, diaper-clad infant. We commemorate the first day of the first month by looking back on times past and looking ahead to times to come—“Auld Lang Syne” and New Year’s resolutions.

This month we also move into a new decade, as calendars flip to reveal 2010. The biggest, initial challenge we’ll face is what to call this new year: “two thousand and ten” or “twenty-ten.” I vote for the latter because it’s shorter and in line with what we have been saying for the bulk of the entire previous century. (“nineteen eighty-four” instead of “one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-four.”)

The next challenge will be what to call the past decade—the years 2000–2009. Various pundits and bloggers have offered suggestions. If we want to put an adjective with the decade, like we did for the “Roaring Twenties,” I suggest we refer to the previous decade as the “Lost Aughts” (aught = “zero” for much of the English-speaking world). Numerically the previous decade was defined by the number “two” followed by two zeros, or “aughts.” However, politically and economically, the previous ten years have been defined by fruitless wanderings and misdirection. Global terrorism, culminating in the attacks of 9/11/2001 set the tone for this decade. The American response to 9/11 through wars in Iraq and Afghanistan went on to determine much of the history for the past decade. The resulting expense of money, resources and, most importantly, human lives has affected literally millions of people the world over.

In retrospect, we honor the valor and dedication of those who’ve served their countries overseas (U.S. and coalition forces), and we weep for the destruction so many people have personally endured this past decade. Yet, it is hard to claim that we have significantly improved our lot in life, or that of our brothers and sisters in the world, during the past ten years. Yes, progress has been made in medical research, in AIDS prevention, and in raising awareness on issues like global warming, nuclear proliferation, and environmentalism. Yes, a space station is being constructed by a coalition of nations that were once enemies, and a deeper sense of the interconnection of all countries was strengthened through times of adversity (recent financial meltdown) and celebration (Olympics games).

In hindsight, have we taken advantage of the opportunities that were before us in the “Lost Aughts” so that the decade beginning in 2010 is marked by greater peace, health, faith, and justice being present in the world? I do not wish to encourage a spirit of pessimism, but “to whom much is given, even more will be demanded” (Luke 12:48). Must we always compromise our values and faith convictions so that only partial political solutions are found, partial peace marks our international relations, and partial economic justice is meted out to the fortunate few?

I hope we will do better in the decade to come. “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7). May this coming year and fresh decade mark a time of renewed commitment to the ideals of our faith, embodied in the prophetic voice and resurrection power of Jesus Christ, the One who tirelessly works for true peace, justice and mercy for all God’s children.

Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Reaching Out Newsletter

Reaching Out is a monthly publication of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is free to members and friends. Deadlines are the first Thursday of the preceding month.
Session News

The Session did not have a formal meeting in December, in order to honor a “sabbath” from official meeting during the Advent season.

- Session continued working on the 2010 budget, balancing out projected expenses with the anticipated revenue from the Stewardship Campaign.
- In 2009, Session welcomed a total of 43 new members and 11 friends!
- The Nominating Committee reported that they had compiled a slate of nominees to be voted on at the annual congregational meeting on Sun., Feb. 21.
- An earlier overture from Session was considered and approved at the December Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting. It was an overture from the Peace Committee asking the General Assembly to update the document “Peacemaking: The Believers’ Calling,” and direct the Peacemaking Program to be intentional in its efforts to promote international peace and to warn of the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This overture will next be considered at the 219th General Assembly in July.
- Plans were discussed and approved related to the retirement of the Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany and the staffing needs for the music ministry while a search for a new Music Director is carried out.

Race: The Power of An Illusion

Sat., Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March. 20, and April 17

As part of our ongoing commitment to bridge the racial divide and build community, ELPC is collaborating with Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church to offer the series Race: The Power of an Illusion. This PBS documentary, originally shown in 2003, has been developed into a series for use in community groups, schools and faith communities.

Each event will be held on a Saturday evening. A potluck supper at 5:30 pm, will precede each video segment and small group discussion. Save the dates:

- Jan. 16, at ELPC
- Feb. 20, at Grace Memorial,
- March 20, at ELPC, and
- April 17, at Grace Memorial

Larry Adelman, executive director of the series, states the following: “In producing this series, we felt it was important to go back to first principles and ask, ‘What is this thing called race?’—a question so basic it is rarely raised. What we discovered is that most of our common assumptions about race are wrong. Yet the consequences of racism are very real. How do we make sense of these two seeming contradictions? Our hope is that this series can help us all navigate through our myths and misconceptions, and scrutinize some of the assumptions we take for granted.”

Child care will be provided for children not yet in school. Children in elementary school will be able to participate in age-appropriate activities and conversation.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Michele Bossers, 412.241.5006.

Visitation Ministry

The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain, Visitation Pastor

Important Information Needed

The ELPC records lack information for many members and friends that help the pastoral staff in times of sickness and hospitalization. Current laws allow hospitals and other facilities to give information only to authorized persons. This information is especially important if you have no family in the church or area:

Please let us know the following:

- Name and telephone number of a contact, in case of an emergency.
- Whether or not you have a living will or advanced directive.
- Notification if you’re hospitalized or ill and request pastoral care and prayers.
- If hospitalized, name one of the pastoral staff at the time of admission who may be given information about you. Not medical or personal information, only whether or not you’re a patient and where you went upon discharge.

If you have any further questions, please call the Rev. Miriam Chamberlain at 412.441.3800 x14. Thank you in advance!
Church School Classes
Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am
We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. Adult options are detailed on this page; young adults on page 5. Senior High (grades 9-12) classes follow our denomination’s We Believe curriculum. Junior High (grades 6-8) classes follow the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their lives. Children’s classes (by age) include Godly Play and Seasons of the Spirit.

Classes Canceled
Church School classes will not meet on Sun., Jan. 3.

Mardi Gras Party
Sat., Feb. 6, at 4:30 pm
Join us in the Social Hall for an all-church Mardi Gras celebration, Caribbean style! Enjoy Caribbean music, food, dance, entertainment, games, and more!

Watch the Sunday announcements, website, and the February issue of Reaching Out for details.

Please call Norma Meyer at 412.441.3800 x11 to RSVP.

Christian Education
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

CONTEMPORARIES CLASS and JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE
We’ll meet in the Second Floor Parlor as Contemporaries and Journey with Scripture combine throughout January.

Jan. 17–31: Reading Scripture Together Led by Jan Irvin
To live in the Spirit is to read Scripture with others for the sake of God and the Kingdom of God, as well as to let oneself be addressed, schooled, and transformed. Reading scripture before God with others is recognizing how we are affirmed, commanded, questioned, surprised, and loved by God.

• Jan. 17: Introduction to the Common Lectionary, the Epiphany season, and reading scripture eschatologically
  Passages: Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

• Jan. 24: Interpreting scripture together as members and a body
  Passages: Neh. 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12: 12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

• Jan. 31: Class members share favorite readings on “love”
  Passages: Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13; Luke 4:21-30

PARENTING CIRCLE Facilitator: Frances Irvin
Anyone involved in parenting is welcome to join us. We meet in the First Floor Harambe Room and share experiences, resources, prayer, and scripture.

Jan. 17–31: “Growing Compassionate Kids”
We’ll begin reading Jan Johnson’s “Growing Compassionate Kids: Helping Kids See Beyond Their Backyard.” According to the author, “Teaching kids to care for people is one more way to teach our children to love God. A child growing in empathy is moving from isolation to connection, from self-centeredness to others’ awareness, from hostility to hospitality.” Books will be available in class.

SEEKERS Facilitator: Gwen Puza
We wish to grow in religious understanding, insight, faith, and practice. We meet in Room 234.

Jan. 17–24: How Do We Treat and Feed Our Soul Led by Rev. Miriam Chamberlain
Are we aware of what part our soul plays in our daily lives? Inspired by the movie “Cold Soul” (to be released soon), we’ll explore this important part of ourselves and our faith journey.

Jan 31: Christian Theology and Undoing Violence Led by Dr. Ron Peters
Violence is the cause of more than 1.6 million deaths each year. From bullying, domestic violence, and child abuse, to reckless or illegal use of guns, suicidal bombings, and acts of war; violence harms communities as well as individuals.

Join us as Dr. Ron Peters considers the usefulness of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s ideas about non-violence as a strategy for addressing violence and its harmful effects.

Dr. Peters is the Henry L. Hillman Professor of Urban Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and founding Director of the Metro-Urban Institute.
YOUTH MINISTRIES
Our Wednesday Connection program includes free Hope Academy classes, snacks from Whole Foods, homework help, a simple supper for families in the McKelvey Room, and our Taizé service at 7 pm.

**club one sixteen junior and senior**  
Youth in grades 1-12
We meet in the Game Room at 6:30 pm, for a dinner prepared by an ELPC Member, then split into groups to enjoy an interactive Bible Study from 7–8 pm.

**club one sixteen** will resume on Wed., Jan. 13. Our theme will be **Faith and Hope**. We’ll explore how our faith—the source of our hope—can inspire and transform us in many ways. We’ll look at how hope-in-action can lead us to care for others and ourselves in a way that brings glory to God.

**Senior High Retreat**  
Fri., Jan 22–Jan. 24
ELPC Youth in grades 9–12 are invited to participate in a Presbytery-wide Senior High Retreat at Camp Crestfield from Fri., Jan. 22–Sun. Jan. 23. Plan to meet at ELPC at 6 pm, Friday evening, and return by 2 pm, Sunday afternoon. Tony Angelini leads our retreat, **Christ’s Choices, Christian Choices**.

Cost is $75/person, but scholarships are available upon request. Please RSVP to Pastor Heather by Sun., Jan. 17. For more information, to RSVP, or to receive a permission slip (required), please contact Pastor Heather.

**Youth Basketball**  
Saturdays, from 5–8 pm
Young men in grades 9–12 are welcome to participate in our basketball program in the ELPC gym.

**Note:** We will not meet on Sat., Jan. 2 or 23.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
We welcome all adults in their 20’s and 30’s (married, single, partnered, with or without children) to take part in our Young Adult Ministries. Find us on Facebook and MySpace.com/YoungAdultsELP, or come check us out in person!

**Small Groups**
Email Brian Diebold at bdiebold@pts.edu to see where you might fit in! Meet other people in your age group, and get involved with the life of our church!

**First Sundays at ELPC**  
Sun., Jan. 3, at 5 pm
Join us for our monthly group-wide get together. Topics and activities vary, but the time remains the same. This month’s topic: **Spiritual Gifts**.

**January Coffee Hours**  
Sun., Jan. 17–31, at 7 pm
Come by to chat or to say hello and enjoy some coffee, ice cream, and waffles at Oh Yeahs (232. South Highland Ave.)!!

Hope Academy
Linda Addlespurger, Director

**Winter Term Begins Jan. 9**
The 2009–10 course brochure and registration form are available online at [www.HopeAcademy.info](http://www.HopeAcademy.info). Courses are offered for children and youth from ages 4–18, in theater, dance, singing and music. Private lessons are offered for strings, piano, percussion, guitar, flute, clarinet, brass, organ and voice. The registration deadline has passed, but you’re invited to call Norma Meyer at 412.441.3800 x11 to see if there is room available.

If you’re interested in applying for a scholarship for 2010–11, you’re encouraged to enroll in one of our free vocal and drumming ensembles on Wednesdays after school.

We also have a new orchestra (EL CEO - East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) for young musicians and their parents. It is also free and meets on Saturdays from 3–4:30 pm.
Love and All That Jazz

Sat., Feb 13, at 7 pm
Join us for the perfect Valentine’s Day event for people of all ages!
Tickets are $5 in advance; $10 at the door. Children and youth are free, but must be accompanied by a guardian.
Proceeds benefit Hope Academy.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm. Enjoy a supper at 6 pm, in the McKelvey Room.

Jan. 6: Consulting the Compass  Led by Laurie Arnold
Join us for a writing workshop to assist us in contemplating the new year.

Jan. 13: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Singing  Led by Charles Anderson
Enjoy singing tunes in three- and four-part harmony from the oldest American song book in print. All tunes are taught one part at a time! Beginners welcome!

Jan. 20: Hebrew Chanting  Led by David Goldstein
David is a composer of Hebrew chant and sacred choral works, the leader of the Tikkun Chant Circle, and a graduate of the Kol Zimra Chant Leadership Training Program. No prior knowledge of singing, chanting, or Hebrew is necessary!

Jan. 27: Celebrations!
Do you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in January? Write it down and put it in the collection plate! We’d like to celebrate with you!

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., Jan. 5: Horizons Bible Study  10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor
Join us as we continue our journey through Joshua. Diane Jackson leads our lesson, “Can War Be Holy?” (Joshua 6:1–8:28; 10:16–11:23). A potluck lunch follows; please bring a salad or snack to share and a place setting. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Mary Alice Lightle at 412.682.1504 for details.

Health Ministry

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

Yoga  Tuesdays, from 7:15–8:30 pm, in the Sewing Room
Relax and renew your body, mind and spirit through Yoga with Yamuna, a Kripalu-certified instructor! Yoga tones muscles, increases flexibility, detoxifies the body, increases joint lubrication, and massages organs. Bring a blanket or mat if you have one. Donations for the instructor are appreciated.

Tai Chi  Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm, in the Sewing Room
Experience the flowing movements of Tai Chi, with Judy Crow, and treat your body to a relaxing workout. Tai Chi aids in the reduction of stress; increases energy, agility, and flexibility; and improves muscle strength and definition. Attend 10 classes for $25, pre-registration is required. Contact Amanda Nolan to register.

Zumba  Thursdays (Jan. 12–March 16), from 6–7 pm, in the Sewing Room
Zumba combines high energy and motivating music with unique moves. Led by LuAnn Ross, it’s based on the principle that workouts should be fun and easy. Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the EECM food pantry.

JourneyDance  Every second Friday of the month (January–May), from 7–8 pm, in the McKelvy Room
We now are offering JourneyDance, an intuitive method of using movement to discover and celebrate our inner strengths. Led by Yamuna, JourneyDance combines expressive and ritual movement, guided imagery, affirmations, and sounding. A donation from the heart is requested. Bring a water bottle if you have one. All ages and bodies welcome!

We encourage you to wear comfortable clothing that allows for a full range of motion. Contact Amanda Nolan at 412.441.3800 x34 for more information on classes.
Spiritual Life
Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life

Sun., Jan. 3: Worship Without Words
To some folks that title might seem blasphemous. To some others it might sound like a blessed idea. But to most, it probably sounds confusing, impossible, or even arrogant. Whatever may be your reaction, that’s what we’re going to explore—with a minimum of words. All necessary materials are provided. The focus of our non-worded worship is on our understanding of how faith was taught and communicated in long-ago times, before the invention of the printing press.

Join us in the Sanctuary at 12:30 pm, for a time of worship in a “new for us” but “tried and true experience” for our ancestors in the faith. Call Norma at 412.441.3800 x11 for details.

A Gift from the Spiritual Life Committee
The decorated tree near the chancel steps in the sanctuary was this year’s Advent and Christmas gift to the congregation. The tree was decorated with white and gold Chrismons. The word “Chrismon” is a combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram.” Therefore, a Chrismon is a monogram of Christ. The purpose of the tree is not only to be beautifully decorated in Christian symbols but also to help those who see the tree become familiar with the meaning of the various symbols. Booklets are available to help explain the meaning of the symbols.

We wish to thank the following people for offering their time and talent to create the beautiful Chrismons:

Counted cross-stitch Chrismons: Carol Kirkpatrick (chairperson), Sherry Anderson, Doris Dick, Joan Heckel, Diane Jackson, Heather Lawrence, Judy Menk, Gail Noden, and Kay Shissler

Beaded Chrismons: Cathie Hajdu (chairperson), Kathy Cunningham, Sandy Edgecombe, Sharon Geibel, Diane Jackson, Mary Alice Lightle, Emma Odim, Sue Schneier, and Beth Urbatis

Fabric Chrismons: Katherine Hackney (chairperson)

We hope to continue the project next year. Keep a look out for details!

EECM
Food Pantry
The EECM Food Pantry provides food for people facing hunger in Pittsburgh. ELPC continues to answer the call in the struggle against hunger, but we still need help. January’s “Food of the Month” is peanut butter.

Men’s Shelter
In ELPC’s continuing commitment to the EECM Men’s Shelter located in our church, the Deacons are collecting bar soap and razors in January. We need more of these important winter items for the men!

Please drop donations in the hallway baskets. Your support in the form of donations and prayer is appreciated.
 “…inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

“Spirit Catchers”

View over 20 spiritual paintings—from an icon of Christ, to a tribute to Pittsburgh—as Dan Siemasko exhibits “Spirit Catchers” at ELPC. Dan is a member of ELPC and the Pittsburgh Watercolors Society. This is the beginning of efforts to have regular art exhibits at our church. Displays are in the Second Floor Parlor and Room 234, sponsored by the Arts-subcommittee of Worship, Music and the Arts. ELPC Members and friends may submit requests to display original works in our church for upcoming months. February features Sue Schneider.

For details, please contact Phil Jamison at 412.462.4689 or philjjr@gmail.com with “ELPC Art” in the subject line.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Sun., Jan. 17

The congregations of East End Cooperative Ministry invite you to the 26th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, to be held on Sun., Jan. 17, at Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church located at Collins Ave. at Rodman St., in East Liberty.

Musical performances begin at 3:30 pm, and the formal service commences at 4 pm. The Rev. DeNeice Welch, pastor of Bidwell United Presbyterian Church, is our featured speaker.

The celebration is the only annual gathering for all the congregations’ members. All are encouraged to attend! For more information, please call Gary Sadler at 412.661.7935 or EECM at 412.361.5549.

Offices Closed: Offices will be closed all day on Fri., Jan. 1, for the New Year’s Holiday. Offices also will be closed all day on Mon., Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; the church will open at 7 pm for meetings.