**Jane Parker-Smith Concert**

*Sun., March 21, at 4 pm*

British organ virtuoso Jane Parker-Smith will perform a recital at ELPC. Ms. Parker-Smith made her London debut at age 20, and has since performed all over the world as a recitalist and concerto soloist. Her recital is being co-sponsored by the Organ Arts Series. Admission is $12; students $5. She also will be giving a Master Class on our church’s organ on Mon., March 22, at 8 pm.

**Easter Season Events**

Later this month, the season of Lent will draw to a close. The last Sunday in March will be Palm Sunday, when God’s people remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus spoke with authority and healed with compassion, but his ministry would draw to a dramatic close with his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Those events will be remembered during our Holy Week services beginning on **Wed., March 31**, and continuing through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Saturday Easter Vigil. The drama will reach its conclusion with the good news of Easter resurrection on **Sun., April 4**. Join us for these special times of worship and reflection.

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**Save the Dates**

- **March 5:** World Day of Prayer, pg. 6
- **March 6:** OHM Workday, pg. 7
- **March 12–13:** John Bell Workshops, pg. 3
- **March 14:** Diabetes Luncheon, pg. 7
- **March 15:** Peter Yarrow Concert, pg. 8
- **March 20:** Race: The Power of an Illusion, pg. 7
- **March 21:** Rev. Dr. Brian Blount Visits Jane Parker-Smith Concert
- **March 27:** Hope Academy’s Spring Music Festival, pg. 5
- **March 28:** Easter Lily Orders Due, pg. 8
- **June 28–July 2:** Vacation Church School
Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe recently published a new book of essays. Achebe is internationally known for his classic 1958 novel “Things Fall Apart.” It is the story of Okonkwo, a wrestler and husband living in a Nigerian village and trying to make sense of his changing world shaped by Igbo culture, British colonialism, and Christian missionaries. The title of his novel comes from a poem by W.B. Yeats, which contains the famous lines: “Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.”

It is a compelling image, this idea that things are changing and risk collapsing upon themselves when the “center cannot hold.” We are living in incredible times, in which change happens dramatically and exponentially. Growth in areas of technology and communication are unfolding around us with dizzying speed. I recently saw a short video by Sony, which pointed out that it took 38 years for radio to reach 50 million listeners and 13 years for television to reach 50 million viewers. But the same threshold of 50 million users was reached by the Internet in only four years, by the iPod in three years, and by Facebook in just two years. It also suggested that the top ten in-demand jobs today did not even exist in 2004, so that students today are actually being trained for work that will use technology not even invented yet. It boggles the mind!

Given both the speed and nature of change today, it is realistic to wonder whether the “center” can hold things together. I would define the “center” as the core values, ethics, and faith perspectives that unite humankind. We believe in God who is Lord of all times, and who commands us to love the Lord and love our neighbor as ourselves. We believe that a commitment to sacrificial love, coupled with the gift of God's grace, are the two things that give shape to our lives and hope for the future. This wonderful truth was fully embodied in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our lives as Christians, it is this “center” that holds things together.

Yet, are the changing times weakening our grasp of the “center”? Are we more influenced by the latest technology than guided by a God who never gets outdated? In Achebe’s new book, he makes this astute observation: “Without doubt, the times in which we live influence our behavior, but the best or merely the better among us...are never held hostage by their times.”

That is the sentiment of Lent, the church season we are now celebrating. Lent is a time to re-focus on the “center” of things in a world spinning and changing at ever-increasing speeds. Lent is a time to see all that is around us through the lens of Christ’s story. Lent is a time to remember that the best among us are never held hostage by their times. That last statement is for you and me. For in Christ, we are “the best or merely the better among us,” not by our own efforts, but thanks to the indwelling grace of God. If it seems that anarchy is loosed upon the world, don’t forget that God's spirit also is loose to make sure that God's will, will be done. The center holds! Trust that, with God, all things are possible!
Session News

Strategic Visioning Launch
Anticipating the future is a core responsibility of leadership, and has been set as a priority by our Session. Join the conversation as we begin ELPC’s Strategic Visioning Process following worship on Sun., March 7. We ask the whole congregation to participate, as this discussion will shape our future vision, mission, and goals. Results from February’s e-survey will guide our discussion, as will the following questions:

- What’s on your mind as ELPC plans for the future?
- Whose opinions need to be sought out?
- How can we best discern God’s will for our congregation’s mission to the city, region, and world?

Facilitated by Peggy Outon and the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management, we look forward to an exciting process and exploration!

Updates From Haiti By Carolyn Russ

The Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti—the organization that our church has supported in many ways—is reeling from the effects of the recent earthquake. Our clinic and school are in Thomassin, about 20 miles southeast of Port-au-Prince. We serve an area that also includes La Boule, Boutiliers, and Kenscoff.

Our two contacts in Haiti miraculously survived. The overseer of our projects was leaving Port-au-Prince when he was stopped at a traffic light. In the moment the earthquake struck, all of the vehicles that passed through the intersection were crushed. Our treasurer in Haiti, a pastor, was leading a Bible study in his church when he was called out for a moment. During that time, the church collapsed on the people inside.

With these Haitian leaders in place, we know we can move forward. Our clinic and school are more or less intact. Our medical staff organized a group of young people who traveled to Petionville to help. The schools outside of Port-au-Prince are reopened, though we don’t know when we’ll be able to resume feeding the children. We expect that many of our children are now homeless or orphaned.

We also expect that in the coming weeks, many children from Port-au-Prince will join their families in our area, overwhelming the school. We have an expert putting together training materials for the teachers on dealing with children who have survived a disaster.

One of our volunteer doctors was able to catch a ride to Haiti and took with him our complete supply of pain relievers and several water filters. Two more volunteers plus a couple hundred pounds of medicine and filters have gone down in a private plane. As soon as commercial flights resume, teams of medical volunteers organized by FLM will head down, loaded with supplies.

Weighing heavily on us is the plight of our 60 adult literacy teachers and 2,500 students. Our prayers and support will go a long way in helping them recover.

John Bell Workshops

Join us as Rev. John Bell, from the Iona Community, leads workshops at ELPC, in conjunction with Church of the Redeemer. Rev. Bell is a sought after speaker, who shares a passion for congregational music, spirituality, and reclaiming Jesus for today’s times.

Fri., March 12
- “Why do God’s People Sing?” from 7–9 pm

Sat., March 13
- “Celebrating the Lesser-Known Jesus” from 9–12 pm
- “Scripture as a Source for Song” from 1–4 pm

There are fees for these workshops. Contact Norma Meyer for details.

Without Words By Nadine Banks

I fell in love with Haiti on my very first mission trip in 1998. Each trip, I learned more about the history and the people.

In 2001, I began working with schools in the countryside near Les Cayes. One of the school directors, Pastor Paul, would meet me in Port-au-Prince, and we would chat for five hours during the 90-mile journey to Cayes. Pastor Paul’s English was much better than my Kreyol.

I spent each week-long stay in the home of the St. Remy’s. Madame St. Remy provided breakfast every morning, a tasty Caribbean lunch, and a peanut butter sandwich for supper. Each day, she awoke early to prepare breakfast, and as the week went on, I drank less and less of her stronger-than-Louisiana cup of coffee. On Sunday, we worshipped and enjoyed a dinner feast. Each meal, I would invite Madame to join me, but she was always focused on preparing the next meal.

Traveling to Haiti three times a year for four years, I became dear friends with Madame St. Remy. Our relationship was such that, even when my Kreyol was incorrect, she knew what I was trying to say. With my limited Kreyol and her lack of English, we spoke without words on many occasions.

When I learned of the earthquake, I saw their beautiful faces, and wondered if they were alright. The next day, I learned from their son that they were startled, but well. All of my trips have been for invaluable mission work. Now, I would like to go to Haiti to visit my friend and continue our wordless conversations.
CONTEMPORARIES CLASS  Facilitators:  Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle  
March 7:  What Do Presbyterians Say?  Led by Dr. Jim Russ  
Traditional Christian language about Sin and Salvation is far removed from most of what we preach today.  Is this evolution of thought or evidence of carelessness?  Can we talk about a Christ who died on the cross without talking about the reality of Sin?  Can we talk about the Resurrection without talking about the need for each of us to experience God’s Salvation?  Join us as we finish examining two books by Methodist theologian, pastor, and bishop William Willimon:  “Sinning Like a Christian” and “Who Will Be Saved.”

March 14–28:  Preparing for Easter and All It Means  Led by Dr. John Burgess  
Holy Week and Easter get at life and death questions.  Join Dr. John Burgess, James Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as he explores images and explanations that the Bible and church have used to portray heaven, hell, and life after death.  Are they consistent?  Where do they leave us with questions?  What kind of hope does Easter offer us?

JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE  Facilitator:  Jan Irvin  
March 14:  Joshua 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  

PARENTING CIRCLE  Facilitator:  Frances Irvin  
March 7, 14, 28:  “Growing Compassionate Kids”  
We will continue reading together the book “Growing Compassionate Kids:  Helping Kids See Beyond Their Backyard” by Jan Johnson.  “This book isn’t about doing compassionate things or social action as much as it’s about forming relationships with people.  These relationships heal everyone involved,” writes the author.  The discussion is easy to join.  Books are available in class.

March 21:  Mark and the Book of Revelation  Led by Rev. Dr. Brian Blount  
We’ll meet in Room 234 and combine with the Seekers class.

SEEKERS  Facilitator:  Gwen Puza  
Join us as we continue discussing Marcus Borg’s book, “The Meaning of Jesus.”

March 21:  Mark and the Book of Revelation  Led by Rev. Dr. Brian Blount  
The Rev. Dr. Brian Blount will share his extensive research on the gospel of Mark and the book of Revelation, and also lead a discussion about how one reads scripture through an African-American “lens.”

March 28:  Sharing My Trip to Israel/Palestine  Led by Gwen Puza  
Gwen will present pictures, news, and reflections from her trip this past summer.

SOUL FOOD  Facilitator:  Rev. Cynthia Jackson  
Join us in the Pastor’s Conference Room as we feed our spirits and create a life of joy and inner peace with a happy heart.  Discover new ways to feed your spirit and live into the fullness that God offers each one of us.  Joyce Rupp’s “Fresh Bread” will be a catalyst for reflection upon our spiritual selves.  No previous experience with spirituality is required, but it will be helpful to bring a journal.  “Fresh Bread” will be for sale.  Call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22 to reserve or donate a copy.  There will be copies in the library.
Youth Ministry
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Our Wednesday Connection program includes free Hope Academy classes, snacks, homework help, a simple supper for families, 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.

In March, we will begin a discussion on *God’s Love for Us: A Journey to Easter*.

**Youth Basketball** Saturdays, from 6–8 pm, in the ELPC Gym
Young men in grades 9–12 are welcome to participate in our basketball program.

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Young Adult Ministry
The Rev. Brian Diebold, Coordinator, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

We welcome all adults in their 20’s and 30’s (married, single, partnered, with or without children). Find us on Facebook and MySpace.com/YoungAdultsELPC, 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., March 7, at 5 pm
Join us for our monthly, group-wide gathering: *Easter Candy Making*!

**March Coffee Hours** Sun., 21 and 28, at 7 pm
Come by to chat or to say hello and enjoy some coffee, ice cream, and waffles at Oh Yeah! (232 S. Highland Ave.)

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Holy Week Lighting Project

A partnership has been established between ELPC and the theater and architecture departments at CMU, in which a class of students has taken on the project of designing special lighting for our Holy Week and Easter worship services. For many people, the beauty of our sanctuary chancel is both inspiring and a bit overwhelming. Through creative lighting done to highlight details of the architectural artwork related to the Holy Week events of Christ’s life, it is hoped that a richer dimension will be added to the experience of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter worship. This collaborative venture embodies our church’s ongoing commitment to the arts and to creative engagement with the community. Look for more information in April’s *Reaching Out*!
Stewardship 2010: Toward the Tithe

By Brian Bonsteel

The first year of our three-year Toward the Tithe stewardship campaign has brought promising results! With gladness, I report that our pledges have saved our most important programs and remain equal to last year. Many of you increased your pledge during a year of economic uncertainty. Thank you for your faithful support!

Our journey towards financial sustainability isn’t over, but if we change the way we look at stewardship, we’ll find opportunities to serve and promote the message of God’s love, right here at ELPC! I call it “Everyday Stewardship.” What if each of us invited 10% of the people we know? Imagine if we gave 10% of our Saturdays to serve in church and community projects! Remember that “with God, all things are possible!”

In 2010, our committee will develop ways for members to provide legacy gifts to keep ELPC strong for our children, and encourage a new generation by focusing on children’s stewardship. Our commitment to “Everyday Stewardship” will enrich us in ways only God knows.

Greeting Card Donations

The deacons are once again requesting donations of greeting cards to send to ELPC members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend church. While cards for all occasions are appreciated, the most used are get well, thinking of you, and sympathy. Cards may be left in the church office.

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., March 2: Horizons Bible Study 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor Join us as Kay Shissler leads “God’s Concern for Justice: The Cities of Refuge” (Joshua 20:1-9; 21:13-41). A potluck lunch follows; please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Mary Alice Lightle at 412.682.1504 for details.

Fri., March 5: World Day of Prayer 11 am, at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church Join Christians for a service of song and praise at the World Day of Prayer. The service was written by the women of Cameroon and is based on Psalm 150, “Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God.” A luncheon of foods from Cameroon follows worship. Call Mary Alice Lightle at 412.682.1504 for details.

Fri., March 19–20: World Mission Initiative Conference Find out what God is doing in the world and how you can share in that work at the World Mission Initiative Conference at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Be inspired through worship, plenary sessions, workshops and networking. Your registration has been paid, but you are responsible for your meals. Pick up a registration form on the PW bulletin board outside the library. For details, contact the WMI office at 412.924.1441 or WMIconference@pts.edu.

Spiritual Life

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

Sun., March 14: A Fresh Look at Depression Led by Ted Cmarada Depression can manifest in vastly differing ways and degrees of severity. It’s often misunderstood, mistreated, and neglected. Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we understand and respond to this troubling condition both skillfully and compassionately. If you or someone you love suffers with depression, don’t miss this discussion with Ted Cmarada—a holistic psychotherapist for over 30 years.
Housing Ministry
Emily Rosenthal, Chair of the Neighbors Mission Committee

Sat., March 6: Ministry Volunteer Opportunity
We will continue working with OHM on a home in Garfield for a single mother. All skills and ages are welcome. Call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30 for details.

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

Diabetes Luncheon Sun., March 14, after the 11 am Worship Service
The Health Ministry invites diabetics in the congregation, and their significant others, to a luncheon featuring several diabetic dishes. If you have a recipe you’d like to share, please bring a copy! Even if you’re comfortable with managing your diabetes, you probably have lots to share! RSVP to Gail Noden at 412.661.0509.

Exercise Classes
Yoga Tuesdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm, in the Sewing Room
Tai Chi Tues., March 2, 9, and 16, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm, in the Sewing Room
JourneyDance Fri., March 12, from 7–8:30 pm, in the Harambe Room
Contact Amanda Nolan at 412.441.3800 x34 for more information.

ELPC People
Good News
- Please welcome our new members who joined in February: Susan and Vincent Allen, Sally Joe Guzik, George Fong, Carol Hickman, Daniel Ridley, and Mark Roth.

Prayers
- Our prayers are with the family and friends of Ken Clive, who recently passed away.

Race: The Power of An Illusion
Join us on Sat., March 20, at ELPC, in the Social Hall, as we continue exploring the PBS documentary Race: The Power of an Illusion. A potluck supper, at 5:30 pm, precedes each video segment and discussion.

Have a Heart for Hunger
Each year between Feb. 14 and March 31, EECM holds its Have a Heart for Hunger Campaign, when the congregations of EECM are asked to make a special effort to combat hunger in the East End. The demands on the EECM food pantry are great. Each month emergency groceries and household supplies are provided for an average of 475 families.

During the Lenten Season, the Poverty Committee of ELPC in conjunction with the Christian Education Committee will hold a major food drive to help the pantry continue to meet the demands that are being placed on it by the current economic situation. A list of items that are needed will be handed out during worship on March 7 and 14, and should be returned on March 21, when they will be received during the 11 am, Worship Service.

Please respond by giving generously this Lent, so that others may eat. For more information and additional ways to contribute to EECM’s Have a Heart for Hunger Campaign, visit www.eecm.org.
**Peter Yarrow Returns**  
*Mon, March 15, from 7–8:30 pm*

Peter Yarrow—of Peter, Paul, and Mary—is making a return visit to ELPC! His performance will benefit EECM’s [Have a Heart for Hunger Campaign](#) (details on page 7). Donations of food and money will be collected at the doors. All ages are welcome!

**Lenten Crosses**

Lent is an opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God. The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to imagine what you want to give to God during Lent. We are creating crosses that will be used to receive your offerings. Offerings can be expressed on paper. There is no limit to what you can give to God, but suggestions include:

- Prayer Requests
- Confessions
- Thanksgiving

These may be expressed with a single word or as a picture, song, or poem. The crosses will be placed in various locations during the Lenten season, and will be presented as part of the Easter procession.

**Pittsburgh Youth Artworks**

*From Sun., March 14–28*

Our third exhibit will feature youth artwork, coordinated by ELPC member Sue Bailey. Selections from students at the Neighborhood Academy and the Schumann Youth Detention Center will be on display in Room 234 and the Second Floor Parlor.

For details, contact Phil Jamison at 412.462.4689.

**Easter Lily Orders**

*Orders due by Sun., March 28*

All are invited to have Easter lilies placed in the Chancel for Easter Sunday service on **Sun., April 4**, at 11 am. Following the service, the flowers may be picked up by the donors or left in the Chancel for delivery to hospitalized or homebound members. The names of those honored and memorialized will appear in a bulletin insert.

Each 6.5” potted plant costs **$10**. Order forms are available on tables throughout the church. Return order forms to the Church Office.

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**Daylight Saving Time:** As a reminder, Daylight Saving Time (spring forward) begins on **Sun., March 14**.