ELPC’s 75th Building Anniversary

Sun., May 9, at 11 am

On Mother’s Day, 1935 (May 12) the magnificent cathedral home of ELPC was dedicated with a special service. Over 1,700 people filled the sanctuary and thousands more listened in through speakers in other rooms. While our church’s history goes back to the early 1800’s, this year marks the 75th anniversary for our present sanctuary and church building.

This anniversary will be remembered as part of our worship service, which will include the ordination and installation of the current classes of Elders and Deacons. We will reflect on the changes in East Liberty over the years, celebrate the diverse types of ministry supported by our church, and honor the leadership past and present that faithfully live into the vision of Christ for our congregational and community life. Join us for this special day!

Pentecost

Sun., May 23

Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter, is one of our principle holy days. It is the commemoration of the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples that led to the birth of the Christian church. This day is called Whitsunday (“white Sunday”) in Britain, after the white robes worn by people ready to be baptized on Pentecost. This holiday also has strong ties to the Jewish faith, for Easter comes around Passover, a holy day of unleavened bread, while Pentecost comes near Shavuot, the festival celebrating the harvesting of wheat and symbolized by the sharing of leavened bread.

Join us for worship as we celebrate the gifts of God’s spirit and the fruits of those gifts as they are present in our congregation!
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The month of May is full of commemorative holidays. There is Mother’s Day, on which we give thanks for the “mothering” figures in our lives. There is Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, on which we remember with gratitude the women and men who died for our nation while serving in the military. And this year on May 9, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our current church building’s dedication.

There is much that can be said about each of these anniversary celebrations. I could wax poetic about the love and nurture we have received from the mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers in our lives. I could toss out statistics about the number of people who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms, going back to the earliest Memorial Days after the Civil War. I also could share anecdotes about the 1,700 people who squeezed in our sanctuary (and the hundreds more who gathered elsewhere in the building) on that Mother’s Day in 1935 when the cathedral worship space for ELPC was officially dedicated.

To do all that would mean I am writing more as a historian than as a pastor. Imagine if the starting point for this conversation is not the calendar, but rather a profession of faith. Imagine if we start by saying, “God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Lord of all times and seasons.” This would give us quite a different perspective on the May holidays.

One example: God has known us from the first time we lay in our mother’s arms and throughout all our days of nurture. Through God, we have been blessed with loving adults who provided for us long before we could provide for ourselves. In a challenging world, where at times parenting is difficult and resources are scarce, God remains God—bringing many mothers into our lives, comforting us in times of trial and rejoicing with us in times of celebration, beside us like a loving parent all the days of our lives.

Another example: God is the Lord of all nations, who has come to us as Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Christ showed us the full expression of sacrificial love by His death on the cross for us and all humankind. We honor those whose sacrificial deaths in times of war served causes of freedom, democracy and justice greater than any individual’s own story. Yet we work for a day when all war ceases and no one’s life story includes memories of violence and sacrificial suffering.

A last example: Through God’s Holy Spirit, the church becomes the body of Christ in the world. Since bodies are physically located, we erect physical structures where we can worship, teach, feed, and nurture bodies and souls. But every edifice, even the most magnificent, finds its sole glory in the gospel of Christ. Remembering the commitment of past generations inspires us to continue the ministry they began, even as we continually ask what Christ would have us do today and tomorrow.

Consider the calendars and celebrations of your own life in this same way—not as dates to be commemorated but times to reflect on the God who is active in all places, nations, and relationships. As you awaken each day in May, begin by affirming “This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.” Let each day be a Christmas day (Immanuel—God-with-us), an Easter day (He who was dead is now alive), and a Pentecost day (The Spirit sends us out in a hurting world). Mostly, let each day be celebrated as a gift from God, who is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, our hope and our salvation.
Session News
At their April meeting, Session examined the incoming Deacons and Elders and approved them for ordination/installation on Sun., May 9. They also saw preliminary figures for the 2011 budget and heard a report updating them on the Strategic Visioning process.

Memories of ELPC’s Construction
By Roy Hiller
Being an “East Liberty Kid” and not quite ten years old in the spring of 1933, I was fascinated with what was happening in the heart of the second largest shopping area in Pittsburgh. The Church that stood at the southwest corner of Penn and South Highland Avenues was being torn down. It was another black stone building like most other churches in the city (Little did I know the reason they were black was because every house around the area burned coal for heat, and the soot produced by thousands of furnaces billowed out of chimneys and settled onto everything in the area). Much of the interior furnishings and the windows were removed; the sharply slanted roof was torn off and hauled away. While this was going on, a ten-foot-tall fence was constructed and painted gray, along the interior edge of the sidewalk circling the block on which the church now partially remained. Stenciled about every ten feet on the fence were signs saying “POST NO BILLS.”

I hated this fence because I was no longer able to see what was going on behind it, until one day my mother took me for a check up at Doctor Flood’s office. This turned out to be one of the happiest days of my life up to that point, since the office was on the sixth floor of the Highland Building and the waiting room had two windows facing Highland Ave. From there, I had a bird’s-eye view of almost everything happening behind the “monster.”

Since my parents bought me a Youth membership at the East Liberty Y.M.C.A., I also had access to its building, which faced ELPC. Although youths were “confined” to the Boys Department, many of us would ride the elevators to the top floor and climb a set of stairs to the roof where a hand ball court was located. The roof was surrounded by a parapet which we felt would keep us from falling. From this vantage point, I spied a stone which had a number and letters painted on a face that would not show. While standing on the roof of the “Y”, I came to realize the scope of the planning that had gone into the design of our building.

Work continued but it was no longer necessary to seek high elevations to keep abreast of the progress as the building soared high above the gray fence. In time, new sidewalks were poured with ground glass embedded in the top layer. At night, under the glare of the arc street lights, they sparkled, and many believed that the “Mellon Church” had diamonds in its sidewalks. The Monster was removed and grass and trees were planted, all in time for Mother’s Day, 1935.

I confess I was one, who in 1935, believed there truly were diamonds in the sidewalks of this shining white edifice!

Save The Date: VCS
June 28–July 2, from 9 am–3 pm
Children age 3 1/2 (potty trained) through Grade 5 are invited to explore Bible stories of mystery, power, and truth that will take them on an exciting journey, and help them experience God’s presence in their lives. Our days will be filled with worship, recreation, arts and crafts, service, and fun! We also will enjoy a mid-week field trip to Squaw Valley Park.
Registration forms are available on the CE Bulletin Board, the CE Table, and at www.cathedralofhope.org. For details, call Pastor Heather at 412.441.3800 x21.

Landcape Team’s Mother’s Day Bake Sale
Sun., May 9, in the McKelvey Room
The ELPC Landscape Team is hosting a Bake Sale and Fundraiser to help cover costs for flowers and other landscape items to be used during the upcoming planting season. Please join us in the McKelvey Room for this special time of fellowship before and after our Worship Service on Sun., May 9, at 11 am. Your taste buds are sure to explode when you taste the wide sampling of delicious treats made from our homemade recipes! Coffee and beverages will be provided.

Members of the Landscape Team will be on hand to answer questions and sign up volunteers for our Spring 2010 Planting Day on Sat., May 22. We look forward to seeing you and your sweet tooth!
Pondered Pieces
From Sun., June 6–20
Our last exhibit until the fall features Laura Landry, a local artist who describes her art as colorful, childlike, yet sophisticated with Spiritual undertones that appeal to all ages.
The exhibit opens on Sun., June 6, in Room 234 and in the Second Floor Parlor. A portion of the sales will benefit ELPC.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Phil Jamison at 412.462.4689 or philjjr@gmail.com with “ELPC Art” in the subject line.
Youth Ministry
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

club one sixteen junior and senior  Youth in grades 1–12
Join us on Wed., May 5, for our final club one sixteen of the school year. We’ll have a cook out in the Garth and give thanks for the community of friends with whom we have learned, prayed, and grown. Snacks and homework help begin at 3:30, recreation time at 4:30, dinner at 5:30, and Bible Study at 6 pm.

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.

Service Opportunities
Service is an integral part of our life as a people of faith. In following Jesus, we follow His command to love our neighbor as ourselves. Contact Pastor Heather for more details on any of the following activities!

• Sat., May 1: Valley View Food Pantry
  On the first Saturday of each month, ELPC and Valley View Presbyterian Church host a food pantry. We need two youth to fill and carry bags of food.

• Sun., May 30: Youth Sunday
  Youth who would like to help write the liturgy, lead prayers and Scripture readings, or share other gifts are invited to attend Church School in May.

• Sat., June 5–6: 30-Hour Famine  Youth in grades 6–12
  Youth will host a 30-Hour Famine to raise donations for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund, to provide relief to earthquake victims. Youth also will participate in a service project and celebrate God’s goodness during a midnight worship service. Fundraising begins on Sun., May 23 and 30.

• Mon., June 28–July 2: Vacation Church School  Youth in grades 6 and up
  We are in need of youth volunteers to help “shepherd” younger children to their activities; assist with skits for morning worship; and help with craft, recreation, lunch, and afternoon activity stations. Training is required.

• Wed., July 21–25: Mission Trip  Youth who’ve completed Grades 8–12
  Youth are invited to participate in a local summer mission trip! We’ll stay at ELPC and partner with local mission ministry agencies. Youth are required to have completed three service projects with ELPC throughout the school year.

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 or come check us out in person!

New Spring Series  Wed., May 5–19 , at 8 pm, in room 234
The Easter celebration has gone and we’re left with the question, “So what now?” Join us for a 5-week, DVD-driven Bible Study entitled, The Easter Experience. Together, we’ll ask “What if what happened then changes everything now?”

May 5: My Life Has a Plan
May 12: I Have the Promise of Eternal Life
May 19: My Hope is Secure

May Coffee Hours  Sun., May 16–30, at 7 pm
Come by to chat or to say hello at Oh Yeah! (232 S. Highland Ave.)

Note: We will not have our First Sunday gathering in May.
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.

**Wed., May 5:** Writing Workshop  Led by Laurie Arnold

**Wed., May 12:** Music on the Labyrinth  Led by Charles Anderson

Join us as we listen to Charles play the flute on the Labyrinth.

**Wed., May 19:** 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!

**Wed., May 26:** Celebrations!

Do you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in May? Write it down and put it in the collection plate! We’d like to celebrate with you!

---

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

**Tues., May 4:** Horizons Bible Study  10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor

Join us as the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf leads our lesson, “The Challenge of God’s Covenant” (Joshua 23:14–24:28). 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.

**Hygiene Kits for Disaster Victims**

Through Labor Day, we will be collecting hygiene kits for disaster victims around the world. Kits consists of one new: hand towel (approximately 16x28”, no fingertip or bath towels), washcloth, wide-toothed comb, nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards), bar of soap (bath size in wrapper), toothbrush; and six Band-Aids®. Please drop items or completed kits in the church office. If you wish to make a monetary gift, make checks payable to “Presbyterian Women in ELPC.” Monetary gifts will be used for kits or to cover delivery costs.

Blankets for Nkhwinimba Prayer House

At their meeting on **Tues., May 4**, the Presbyterian Women will dedicate 12 blankets made for the women of the Nkhwinimba Prayer House in Balaka CCAP, Malawi. On **Sun., May 16**, the blankets will be on display in the Sanctuary. Stop by the McKelvey Room after Worship to add your prayers and good wishes to a banner we will send with the blankets! Also, please pray for our sister church in Malawi during this time of drought.

---

Support the “Joyful Noise” Fundraiser

**Sun., May 23, from 4–7 pm, at the Westin Convention Center Hotel**

Help us make a “Joyful Noise” to benefit the East Liberty Family Health Care Center! ELFHCC is a Pittsburgh Presbytery mission agency that provides medical care to persons in need, regardless of ability to pay. Four members of our congregation are ELFHCC staff members—Frances Irvin, Peter Murray, George Rivers, and Heather Lawrence; volunteers include ELPC members Diana Armstrong, Cathie Hajdu, and Kay Shissler.

Tickets are $75. Please call Heather Lawrence at 412.486.0826 or Frances Irvin at 412.363.0319 for details.
ELPC People

Good News
- Congratulations to Jason and Julie (Fair) Karns, who were married on March 27.
- An award for Distinguished Service to the Shepherd Wellness Community was given to the Rev. Howard Cherry, at the 18th Annual City Theatre Benefit.

Thanks
- Many thanks for the prayers, phone calls, get-well cards, and best wishes following my accident. I really appreciate my ELPC family! – Ruth Henderson
- Hope Academy Shakespeare students would like to extend a special thanks to Janet Madelle Feindel, a faculty member in Voice and Alexander technique at Carnegie Mellon. Ms. Feindel brought her students in throughout the winter term to provide individual coaching.
- Wednesday Connection and club one sixteen would like to thank the volunteers who provided snacks, dinner, soup, and time, for us throughout the year: Don and Paula Addlespurger, Sherry Anderson, Beth Bush, Kathy Benninger, Sharon Birt, Don Breitharth, Mark and Barb DeWitt, Christine Fleming, Karen Fraser, Joe and Joan Heckel, Carol Hoehn, Diane Jackson, Bill Johnson, Carol Kirkpatrick, Nancy Klancher, Heather Lawrence, Mary Alice Lightle, Judy Menk, Paul Miller, Amanda Morin, Claudia Neely, Enrico Novelli, Janet Pollard, Joyce and Melanie Reese, Caterina Rosano, Emily Rosenthal, Lou Ann and Greg Ross, Kay Shissler, Nancy Wright, and Kim Ziegler; and Bread Works for their weekly bread donation.

Prayers
We offer our condolences and ask that you keep the following members of our faith community and their families in your prayers:
- Florence and Justin Johnson, for the passing of their sister-in-law, Rochelle Lester.
- Liz Hopkins, for the passing of her friend, Jerry Owens.
- Byron and Diane Jackson, for the passing of Diane’s brother-in-law, Richard DeLong.
- Fran Wilson, for the passing of Fran’s husband, Jim Wilson.
- Judy Menk, for the passing of Judy’s aunt.
- Jocelyn Thompson, for the passing of Jocelyn’s husband, Robert Thompson.
- Dick Headley, for the passing of Dick’s sister, Donna Schutte.
- Paul Martin, for the passing of Paul’s father-in-law, Don Woodfill.
- Laura Lou Struthers, for the passing of Laura’s husband, Thomas Struthers.
- Kate Carlson, for the passing of Kate’s husband, Ron Carlson.
- Paul and Peggy Outon, for the passing of their sister-in-law, Michelle Outon.
- David Maloney, for the passing of David’s partner, Paul Smithdale.

Health Ministry

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

Note: Exercise classes are on hiatus. Classes are expected to resume near the end of May. Check the weekly announcements for updates.

EECM

Food Pantry
May’s “Food of the Month” is soup.

Men’s Shelter
The Deacons are collecting razors and skin lotion in May.

While the need has remained consistent, donations have declined. We need your help! Please drop donations in the hallway baskets. Your continued support in the form of donations and prayer is appreciated.

Young at Heart Luncheon

Sun., June 6, following 11 am, Worship
The Board of Deacons will once again honor the seniors of ELPC with a luncheon in the Social Hall. We hope to see you there as we stroll down memory lane. Please check the weekly bulletin for more details.

Housing Ministry

Emily Rosenthal, Chair of the Neighbors Mission Committee

Mission Opportunities Sat., May 1, and June 5
We will continue to work with Open Hand Ministries to rehab a home in Garfield for first-time homeowner Linda Lighty. Projects will focus on finishing the home’s interior and landscaping its yards. Also, there will be opportunities to help with building and planting garden beds at the Garfield Community Farm, a project of The Open Door PC.

For details about work days or about becoming a first-time homeowner, call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.
“...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.”

Marathon Sunday Worship Schedule Changes

Sun., May 2
Due to the road closures associated with the Pittsburgh Marathon, there will be a Good Samaritan service, but no Church School classes or Journey/Sanctuary services. A special service will be held at 4 pm, using music and worship leadership from the Journey and Sanctuary services. This family-friendly service will have something for all the senses, as communion is celebrated and God’s word is presented in a fresh way. Cheer on the racers in the morning and then join us for worship!

Youth Sunday

Sun., May 30, at 11 am
Our annual Youth Sunday is a time to celebrate and give thanks for the gifts of our youth in the life of our church. Join us on Sun., May 30, at 11 am, as we hear faith stories from our graduating seniors, enjoy original praise music written and performed by club one sixteen, and worship together under the leadership of our youth.

Pittsburgh Gospel Choir Presents: “The Gift of Song”

Sat., May 8, at 4 pm, in the ELPC Sanctuary
Join the Pittsburgh Gospel Choir as it celebrates it’s 1st Anniversary! A $5 donation is appreciated.

Office Closed: Church offices will be closed on Memorial Day, Mon, May 31.