October is Mission Month!
Throughout October, ELPC will provide worship and educational opportunities focused on the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

The month opens with World Communion Sunday on Oct. 3, a day churches all over the globe affirm our oneness in the Lord through an intentional focus on ecumenism and world peace. Also, the Peacemaking Offering will be received and 25 percent of the collected offering will be donated to the East Liberty Family Health Care Center.” Guests from Malawi (part of our Pittsburgh Mission Partners) will be present in worship on that day.

The next Sunday, Oct. 10, following 11 am worship, the Justice Committee will show “Life Lived on Death Row;” a documentary film that follows the journey of a family through a brutal murder, incarceration, reconciliation and forgiveness. (See article on page 4.)

On Thurs., Oct. 14, the ELPC Mission Board and related committees will sponsor a “Day of Action,” highlighting justice issues related to hunger and global poverty. ELPC member and mission co-worker Chenoa Stock, along with local food assistance program representatives, will be present to educate and inspire us on the importance of the biblical injunction to feed the hungry. (See article on page 3.) We also will focus on these themes during worship on Sun., Oct. 17.

Then, on Fri., Oct. 29, liturgical dance artist Tevyn East will bring together dance, theatre, spoken word, and biblical texts as part of the Afording Hope Project. (See article on page 3.)

During this month, many worship services will offer prayers and reflections on mission topics related to domestic abuse and children’s rights, as part of remembering how October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In a more tangible form of mission outreach, the children’s Church School Offering will be collected. Each year, the children of ELPC participate in an offering that supports either a local or international mission agency. This year’s offering will be collected in support of East Liberty Family Health Care Center’s Pediatric Programs. Children can pick up envelopes in their church school classrooms and return them to their teacher or through a donation in the collection plate at the 8:45 am and 11 am services. In addition, the Deacon’s will hold a Bake Sale after worship on Sun., Oct. 17, to raise funds for their Thanksgiving gift baskets.

The month will conclude with an All Saints’ Celebration on Sun., Oct. 31, recognizing how the legacy of others sustains each of us today and how the work of Christian mission knows no end.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

What is happiness? I am struck by how seldom we talk about happiness anymore. The media always has a lot to say about national moods of anger and anxiety, and banner headlines routinely tell us that people are fed up, frustrated, and “fit to be tied”, to use one of my grandmother’s phrases. But when was the last time you read or heard anything positive about happiness?

On the rare occasion that people try to analyze happiness, it usually is defined as something dependent on a few fundamentals: 1) Have your basic needs covered (food, shelter, health and safety). 2) Get enough sleep. 3) Be in relationships that matter to you. 4) Show compassion to others and yourself. 5) Have work or interests that engage you. [Summary from Amy Bloom, NY Times Book Review, Jan. 31, 2010]

But once you have given yourself a grade on this checklist, do you feel happy? Or do you end up feeling worse, beating yourself up for not having engaging hobbies, coupled with lousy sleep habits?

One secret of happiness is that it is “other-focused.” Being happy does not result from self-inventories, but rather from being aware of things outside ourselves that make our lives meaningful and put a lilt in our step. This is more than just counting your blessings; it is being able to remember and give thanks for the way that your body and spirit are fed through times of beauty, words of good humor, and opportunities to serve and be served by others. This issue of Reaching Out, with its emphasis on mission, hopefully will spark some interest in deeds that encourage an “attitude for gratitude.”

As one who routinely gets a song stuck in his head, I think that another helpful resource is to have a “happiness mantra”—a word or phrase that we remember when times are tough and which gives us a dose of encouragement. This mantra should be something more than the autosuggestion that “everyday in every day I am getting better and better.” It needs to be more than Norman Vincent Peale’s power of positive thinking; more than Disney’s “Whistle While You Work” or Bobby McFerrin’s “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.”

My recommendation for a phrase that can elicit happiness and inner peace is the opening line from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, which says that the chief end of humanity is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever. Our primary role in life is other-focused, or more specifically, God-directed. Our words, deeds, thoughts and prayers are for glorifying God. But equally as important is that we enjoy God forever—to literally be graced by God with joy and happiness. This is not something we do; rather it is something God does through us and for us. The knowledge of God’s love (revealed in Jesus Christ) and the experience of the Holy Spirit’s providential presence in our daily life leads us to states of joy. It frees us, encourages us, and thereby brings us happiness. This month add that phrase to your “happiness checklist” and see what a difference it can make!
Session News
At recent meetings, the Session:
- Received seven new members;
- Heard updates on the stewardship campaign, the 2010 budget, and the Strategic Visioning process; and
- Considered a request from the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy to be enrolled as an Inquirer seeking ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Financial Conversations
The Budget and Finance Subcommittee will host a meeting on Sun., Oct. 24, at 12:30 pm. This meeting will include a progress report on the Five-Year Sustainability Plan, plus share an update and answer questions about the 2011 church operating budget.

Churches Week of Action on Food  By Dick Headley
Chenoa Stock has served as a missionary in Sri Lanka for over three years, as part of Presbyterian Church’s (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). PHP has helped plan the Churches Week of Action on Food, which will be observed internationally from Oct. 10–17. The Churches Week of Action on Food incorporates the International Day for Rural Women (Oct. 15), World Food Day (Oct. 16) and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17).

On Thurs., Oct. 14, at 7 pm, in Room 234, Chenoa will help us commemorate this event by sharing her experiences in Sri Lanka, where the displacement of people from farmland and fishing sites by the government (and war) is still a major problem. We will raise our awareness and act to bring food justice issues to the forefront on behalf of those who suffer from hunger. We will invite you to fast for one day, and donate the savings to the PHP.

Hunger haunts millions of people in every country, and for some just down the street from us. Join in the effort to increase food production, promote sustainable agro-ecological technologies, and protect communal lands from land grabbing. The discussion will be lively, the cause is undeniable, and we will accentuate the reality of scarcity for far too many of our brothers and sisters.

Affording Hope Project Performance
Fri., Oct. 29, at 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary
The Affording Hope Project presents Leaps and Bounds, a one-woman, family-friendly show that explores the intersection of faith, ecology, and the global economy.

Developed and performed by Tevyn East, this show is circulating among a variety of faith communities and institutions of higher learning.

Using a number of creative tools including storytelling, song, poetry, prayer, movement, and music, this work of theater sheds light on the driving factors of our ecological crisis while awakening the imagination to a new way of living with and relating to Earth.

Grounded in theological reflection, Leaps and Bounds, embodies an adventure, searching for the values that would support an economic system that promotes human well-being and ecological health.

A freewill offering will be received. Following the performance, there will be opportunities for discussion about how the church can offer a prophetic witness on these important issues.

Stewardship 2011: “Why I Pledge”  By Brian Bonsteel
Being called to stewardship is to be entrusted with a precious gift. “For where your treasure is, there your heart is also.” Our treasure as a faith community is found at ELPC. This is evident in the Vision Board quotations from members and friends who answered “why I pledge” in so many different ways. By our giving, mission moves from potential to reality; Christian witness shifts from idea to experience; and hope becomes as tangible as a hug, a prayer of support, a voucher for food, and being reminded that Christ is with us, “even to the end of the age.”

Be part of the celebration of Stewardship on Sun., Nov.14, when we bring our pledge cards forward in worship. This year’s pledge card has two items to make budget planning easier. First, we are having great success with Electronic Fund Transfer, which is safer than writing a check, more convenient, and saves money.

Secondly, for those who aren’t able to determine their pledge amount by Stewardship Sunday, just check the box marked “amount to be determined by December 31.”

We pledge and contribute in order to glorify God and provide a church home, just as others have provided for us. Trusting in the Lord, who holds our heart and who is our treasure, let us pledge with joy to return our first fruits back to God.
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.

Note: Full details on classes can be found at www.cathedralofhope.org and in the weekly bulletin.

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

CONTEMPORARIES CLASS  Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

Oct. 3: Follow the Money  Led by Mary Alice Lightle

We must learn to start within our own households as we make important consumer decisions, including our personal investments. Examine strategies to make personal consumption and investment decisions a more effective witness.

Oct. 10: Kairos Palestine  Led by Dr. Leila Richards

Leila has extensive knowledge of strife-torn areas in the Middle East. The Kairos document was prepared by the Christian churches of Jerusalem in response to the Israeli occupation. To learn more, visit www.pcusa.org/middleeastpeace/.

Oct. 17–Nov. 7: Heroes and Heroines of Pittsburgh  Led by Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

This series will emphasize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s initial call into prophetic ministry; “Letter from Birmingham Jail” as a prophetic act; and later prophetic work for social justice and peace, including his “Drum Major Instinct” sermon.

JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE  Facilitator: Jan Irvin

Oct. 3: Lam. 1:1–6, (Hab. 1:1–4, 2:1–4); Lam. 3:19–26, (Ps. 37:1–9); 2 Tim. 1:1–14; Luke 17:5–10

Oct. 10: Jer. 29:1, 4–7, (2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15C); Ps. 66:1–12; Ps. 111; 2 Tim. 2:8–15; Luke 17:11–19


Oct. 24: Joel 2:23–32; Ps. 65, (Ps 84:1–7); 2 Tim. 4:6–8, 16–18; Luke 18:9–14

Oct. 31: Hab. 1:1–4, 2:1–4, (Isa. 1:10–18); Ps. 119:137–144, (Ps. 32:1–7); 2 Thess. 1:1–4, 11–12; Luke 19:1–10

PARENTING CIRCLE  Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Yamuna

Oct. 10: We’ll join the SOUL FOOD class. Please see details below.

Oct. 17–Nov. 7: “Involving Children in Worship and the Life of the Church”

We will continue our series of discussions about how to best engage our children to participate in various aspects of our faith community.

SEEKERS  Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Oct. 3: The Prophets of Islam

Imam Abdusemih Tadese, Outreach Principal of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh will tell us about the importance of the Prophets in the Islamic faith.

Oct. 10: What the Koran says about Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Imam Abdusemih Tadese will tell us what the Koran says about the Holy Family, including the beautiful passages devoted to Mary and the teachings about Jesus.

Oct. 17–Nov. 7: Heroes and Heroines of Pittsburgh

Dr. Charles McCollester, author of “The Point of Pittsburgh, Production and Struggle at the Forks of the Ohio,” will discuss the spiritual and political partnerships that have impacted Pittsburgh. They helped destroy slavery, stood up for the civil and labor rights of working people, and created the middle class in America. Hear about the social morality of several Pittsburghers.

SOUL FOOD  Facilitators: Rebecca Cole-Turner, Bobby Eggleston, Hajdu, Rebecca Cole-Turner, Nancy Klancher, and Cynthia Jackson

Oct. 10: “Dance, the Sacred Art”

Cynthia Winton-Henry will present “Dance, the Sacred Art.” Cynthia is the co-founder of InterPlay. For more information, visit www.InterPlay.org.

“Love Lived on Death Row”

Join us after worship on Sun., Oct. 10, as we view and discuss “Love Lived on Death Row.” This documentary follows the journey of a family through a murder, incarceration on death row, reconciliation and forgiveness. Their story will help us examine capital punishment and what it means to forgive. How does our faith impact our feelings towards those who have committed unspeakable crimes? A light lunch will be served.
Youth Ministry
The Rev. Brian Diebold, Coordinator

Wednesday Connections
Join us Wednesday evenings for fun, fellowship, and learning, as we praise God! Gather for homework help and snacks. Then, join Miss Diane and Miss Katie for crafts. From there, youth may join a free Hope Academy class; parents are invited to join Pastor Randy and Pastor Heather for Bible 116 Bible Study. At 6 pm, kids may stay for supper and club one sixteen, while parents enjoy a soup and bread supper and attend our Taizé worship service. Our schedule is as follows:

- 3:30–5 pm: Homework help and snacks (McKelvy Room)
- 4–5 pm: Crafts (Sewing Room)
- 5–6 pm: Boys Dance
  Voices of Hope Junior, 1, and 2 (according to age)
  Bible 116 (Bible Study for adults)
- 6–7 pm: Soup and Bread supper in McKelvy Room
- 6–6:30 pm: club one sixteen dinner (for kids staying for Bible Study)
- 6:30–8 pm: club one sixteen Bible Study
- 7–8 pm: Taizé Sung Prayers Service

club one sixteen Youth in grades 1–12

On Wednesdays at 6 pm, youth are invited to share a meal, prepared by an ELPC member. From 6:30–8 pm, we will split into age groups for Bible Study. Our theme is I am... We will explore the character and nature of God, learn the stories of Biblical characters and investigate what their stories mean to our lives. We will wrap up with a study about who God has created and called us to be.

- Oct. 6: I am...Three-in-one
- Oct. 13: I am...faithful
- Oct. 20: I am...called
- Oct. 27: I am...sent

Youth Basketball Saturdays, from 5–8 pm
Young men in grades 9–12 are welcome to join us in the ELPC gym for pick-up games, drills, and time with friends.

PSO to Perform
Fri., Oct. 15, at 7 pm
The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is returning to ELPC for a fourth annual Community Engagement Concert! The performance will feature works by Beethoven, Mozart, Rossini, and Tchaikovsky. Student performances will take place in the Social Hall from 6–6:45 pm, and 8:30–9 pm.

All proceeds from pre-sold tickets benefit Hope Academy (on sale Wednesdays and Sundays). Tickets are available the night of the performance.

Tickets prices are as follows:
- $10 for adults
- $5 for college students/seniors (65+)
- FREE for children and youth 18 and under, who are accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Welcome, Katie Mohr!
Join us in welcoming our new seminary intern, Katie Mohr. Katie is a second year student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She graduated from Edinboro University in 2008, and spent a year serving as a Young Adult Volunteer in Nashville, Tenn.

Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator

We welcome all adults in their 20’s and 30’s to join our warm and dynamic group for faith and fellowship! Find us on Facebook or come check us out in person!

The prophet Micah reminds us that the Lord calls us to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God. Examine aspects of justice with us.

Sun., Oct. 17: Border Justice  12:30 pm, in Room 234
Examine the US/Mexican border issues focused on migration and economic justice through pictures of current border ministry, from a recent mission trip. Come for worship, stay for fellowship and lunch!

Sat., Oct. 23: Capitalist Justice  6 pm, in Room 234
What does it mean to be a capitalist? Together we will watch and discuss Michael Moore’s Capitalism: A Love Story. Popcorn and fun included. Bring a friend!

Wed., Oct. 27: Biblical Justice  8 pm, in the Pastor’s Conference Room
What does the Bible say about justice issues? Wrestle with current issues, such as American and church policy, and building mosques using a biblical justice lens.

Contact Wil Forrest with questions or to RSVP at wil@coh.net.
Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm. We will note meet for class on Wed., Oct. 6.


Wed., Oct. 20: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Singing  Led by Charles Anderson

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

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., Oct. 5: Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today
Please join us on Tues., Oct. 5, at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor, as we continue our journey. Judy Menk will lead our lesson: “Seven Letters to Seven Churches” (Revelation 2–3). A potluck lunch with our Malawian guests follows in Room 234. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages are provided. Call Diane Jackson for details at 412.441.6021.

PW Scholarships
Congratulations to Caitlyn Engelhardt and Lauren Huggins, who were awarded academic scholarships by Presbyterian Women and the Youth and Young Adult Committee. Caitlyn is attending Westminster College. Lauren is going to CCAC and plans to transfer to a four-year university next year.
Anyone who is active in the life of ELPC, and pursuing a post-secondary degree or certificate, is eligible for a one-time scholarship. The awards are made in appreciation for service to the church and as encouragement for the student’s next step in life. Applications are available in April. For more information, call the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf at 412.441.3800 x 21 or Cathie Hajdu at 412.793.8151.

Hygiene Kits for Disaster Victims
Through your generosity, we collected over 130 hygiene kits for disaster victims of the earthquake in Haiti, the floods in Pakistan, and other global disasters. We also sent a gift of $405 to Church World Service to cover other expenses. Thank you!

Identity is a Borrowed Image
From Sun., Oct. 10–31
We all choose, in varying degrees, to appropriate attributes we deem admirable or desirable. Our identity becomes a borrowed image. For those who are marginalized, the circumstances may be so extreme as to require “acculturation” as a matter of survival. Such is often the case for gays, especially the transgendered who are considered an “aberration” by much of contemporary society.

Our next exhibit features Patricia Patterson. The exhibit opens on Sun., Oct. 10, after the 11 am worship service, in Room 234 and the Second Floor Parlor.

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

Sun., Oct. 3: Experiencing the Labyrinth
Join us in the Social Hall following 11 am worship for this year’s first, First Sunday Event: Experiencing the Labyrinth. This is a great opportunity for you to walk the labyrinth in prayer if you have never done it, or to renew your labyrinth experience on a Sunday when you are already here at the ELPC.
Health Ministry
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death amongst women. It is important to begin a routine self exam at an early age. Your Gynecologist, PCP, or a nurse can teach you the proper techniques. Here are some recommendations:

- Talk to your family to learn about your family health history.
- Talk to your doctor about your personal risk of breast cancer.
- Ask your doctor which screening tests are right for you if you are at high risk.
- Ask if you should start getting mammograms or other tests before age 40.
- Have a clinical exam every three years starting at age 20; every year after 40.
- Know how your breasts look and feel. Report changes to your doctor.
- Make healthy lifestyle choices (maintain a healthy weight, exercise, and limit alcohol intake). New moms are encouraged to breastfeed if they can.

Exercise Classes
- Tai Chi  Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
  The class costs $25 for 10 classes, or $3/session. Registration is required.
- Yoga  Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm
  A donation to the instructor is appreciated.
- JourneyDance  Second Friday of each month, from 7–8 pm
  A donation from the heart is appreciated.

We encourage you to wear comfortable clothing that allows for a full range of motion. Call Kate Carlson at 412.441.3800 x17 for more information.

Housing Ministry
Emily Rosenthal, Chair of the Neighbors Mission Committee

Sat., Oct. 2 and Nov. 6: “Hands On” Mission Opportunities
All ages are welcome! No special skills needed. For details, call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.

In March 2009, ELPC volunteers working with Open Hand Ministries (OHM) rehabbed a vacant property in Garfield (pictured before, left; and after, right). The rehab was completed in June 2010 with new electrical wiring and plumbing; walls, windows and exterior doors; and a kitchen and bathroom. The Lighty family, a single mom with two children, moved into a safe, sound, and energy-efficient home!

Our service to the family continues! A major component of our relationship is to assist the families as they transition into homeownership. We need volunteers to help the families with budgeting, GED tutoring, home maintenance, landscaping and gardens, donation of furniture, and other issues. If you would like to be involved in the family care component of the housing ministry, call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139.

ELPC People
Good News
- Molly and Rob Stephany are the proud parents of a baby boy, Max Stephany, born on August 22.
- Join us in welcoming our new members, Ted Cmarada, Linda Devine, Laura Dobrich, Shirley Fair, Kathleen Moga, Charlotte Smith, and Susan Spangler.

EECM
Food Pantry
The “Food of the Month” is pasta sauce.

Men’s Shelter
Requested items are XL underwear, t-shirts, and deodorant.

Please drop these items in the hallway baskets. Your support in the forms of donations and prayer is appreciated.

Christmas Cards for Jail Inmates
Each year, the Chaplain’s office at the Allegheny County Jail gives each inmate two Christmas cards to send to loved ones. Secular or religious cards are welcome. Envelopes must be plain white. Oversized or odd-sized cards cannot be accepted.

Please leave your gift of Christmas cards in the marked box in the Church office by Sun., Oct. 3. Any help is very much 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.”

Fall Volunteers in Ministry Day
Sat., Oct. 30, from 9 am–12 pm
All members and friends are invited to spend a cool, crisp autumn morning using our hands and hearts to serve the Lord! It is fall cleaning time at ELPC, hosted by the Volunteers in Ministry and Landscape Team. Outside activities include clean up, trimming, and tulip planting. Inside activities include some clean up, organizing, and more.

Join us for recreation with our church family! Supplies are provided, but we could use tools for planting the tulips. If you have questions, call Wil Forrest at 412.441.3800 x14 or Chuck Lukehart at 412.782.6447.

Lunch with Malawi Visitors
ELPC’s Presbyterian Women are hosting our Malawi visitors for a potluck lunch on Tues., Oct. 5, at 12 pm, in Room 234, following our Bible study (see page 6).

We hope you can join us for Bible Study, but if you can’t, don’t miss this time of fellowship! Please bring a dish to share. Place settings and beverages are provided. Call Diane Jackson at 412.441.6021 with questions.

Volunteers in Ministry
As we begin the new Volunteers in Ministry (VIM) journey, we will want to make sure our hearts, heads and hands are all doing God’s work in our church and community. A Time and Talent Inventory of Interest has been distributed (available in the office and on the VIM website. New items have been added, so please complete one and return it by Sun., Oct. 31. Please bring your completed Inventory to worship that day. There will be a collection and dedication of our commitments at the 11 am worship service. You also can drop your completed form in the office.

Uncertain about your gifts? Explore your gifts with Lois Lang on Sun., Oct. 10, after the 11 am worship. As Paul reminds us in his first letter to the church in Corinth, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” We each have gifts we offer to the Lord. However, each of us needs to share our part to create the whole.

If you have any questions call Wil Forrest at 412.441.3800 x14.

Offices Closed: Offices will be closed on Mon., Oct. 11, for Columbus Day. We will open at 7 pm, for evening activities.