Annual Thanksgiving Feast
Sun., Nov. 21, following Sanctuary Worship

Join us in the Social Hall for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings! Turkey, stuffing, and gravy are provided. Congregation members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you are interested in volunteering with set-up, serving, and/or clean-up, please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

¿Hablas Español?
ELPC is looking to develop a new Hispanic/Latino outreach ministry. If you are interested in learning how you can get involved, please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

As part of our outreach, we are looking to invite and include Hispanic/Latino guests at our 11 am, Worship Service on Sun., Nov. 21. We will expand our worship liturgy to include congregational responses and hymns in both English and Spanish. In addition, the sermon will be simultaneously translated (via headset receivers) from English into Spanish.

After Worship, our guests are invited to stay for fellowship and attend our congregational Thanksgiving Feast in the Social Hall (details above).

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Tues., Nov. 23, at 7 pm

ELPC is proud to host the 35th Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This service brings together people from the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Islamic communities. Bob Nelkin, head of the United Way, will be our guest speaker. Come give thanks to God for the blessings generously provided to people of all faiths.

Please bring a canned good or other non-perishable item to this family-friendly service, as a way to support the East End Cooperative Ministry food pantry.

Save the Dates
Nov. 2: Remember to Vote
Nov. 6: OHM Workday, pg. 7
Young Adult Retreat, pg. 5
Nov. 7: Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov. 10: Anglican Prayer Beads Workshop, pg. 6
Nov. 14: Stewardship Sunday
Confirmation Class, pg. 5
Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Feast
PW Thank Offering, pg. 6
Honoring 50-Year Members, pg. 8
Nov. 23: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Ten Thousand Villages, pg. 3
Nov. 27: Young Adult Activity, pg. 5
Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Isaac Newton’s Third Law of Motion states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Physicists know this to be true, as do parents, where there is more than one child in the household. Newton’s law is important for the physical sciences, but this principle is much less helpful in interpersonal relations. Imagine how counterproductive it would be if every time a person offered to help someone else, the recipient would run the other way or question the motives of the would-be Good Samaritan.

I recently read that, in the computing world, a company was developing a “contradiction search engine.” This product is designed so that whatever statement you input as data, the Internet will be searched to find examples that will contradict it. Tell the computer that the sky is blue, that it will be sunny today, or that the President is a Christian, and it will find responses that insist just the opposite. It is a feature that appears to be aimed at political commentators and curmudgeons of all persuasions.

The nature of public media today leads us to distrust much of what we read, or at least to question to what we are hearing a full, unbiased account of events. The old battle cry of a previous generation—“Question Authority”—has now been expanded to insist that “There is No Authority.” In the days of the apostle Paul, people used to visit the altars and temples of numerous gods, offering sacrifices and hedging their bets by currying favor with a variety of deities. Now people show a tendency to shy away from altars, temples, synagogues and churches of all types, living lives of functional atheism or at least non-engaged spirituality.

Is there a way to counter the spiritual version of Newton’s Third Law of Motion? How do we live lives of Christian witness and positive action without provoking negative, opposite reactions that cause people to avoid church altogether? The surprising answer is that Newton’s Third Law seldom applies when a life of faith is led with humility, integrity and sincerity.

Everyone’s definition of happiness still centers around the same basic goals of peace, health, being in loving relationships, and having a sense of purpose for one’s life. A life in relationship to God, grounded on the grace and hope made real in Jesus Christ, is a life that seeks what is peaceful, life-sustaining, and loving. And despite the “ups” and “downs” that mark everyone’s life journey, an Easter-faith that looks toward a promised horizon promised by God will be a faithful life that has a strong sense of purpose. Where that is present in your life, others will take note—and if they are wise, they will ask you to share your secret. Or they will follow your example as you mention where you attend church or comment that you will be holding them in prayer.

Long ago, Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, “Come, follow me.” He didn’t begin with handing out a study guide or doing an intake exam. It was in the act of following that the fishermen became disciples. Walk your daily life in such a way that others can follow you, and in that act of following, find their way to faith, to a Christian community, and to a life of hope. Start this month. Make the season of Thanksgiving into a spirit season of “Thanksliving.” For something higher than Newton’s Third Law is active in our world. Thanks be to God!

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Volunteers in Ministry  By Wil Forrest

Sir Winston Churchill exclaimed, “We make a living by what we get...we make a life by what we give.” Life gives us many opportunities to give. Here at ELPC, we have many diverse opportunities to give and to serve in the name of our Lord.

Last month, as I asked each of you to submit a VIM Time and Talent Interest Inventory (please still do if you have not), I sought to know your skills, interests and experiences so I can better assist you with your service journey.

Together, our next step will be to pair your time and talents with volunteer opportunities. As you see opportunities in the weekly bulletin, email blasts, and on the VIM website and bulletin board, please contact me. Likewise, as I find fitting opportunities I will contact you. We are partners in this journey!

As volunteers, it is important that we engage in ministry that fulfills our needs for involvement and commitment. We should volunteer in areas that we are impassioned, excited and committed. As the VIM coordinator, I am here to:

• Help you find the opportunity that best fits your abilities, skills and experiences given your current life stage and situation;
• Provide what you need to be successful, including additional volunteers; and
• Let you know how much you are appreciated for all that you do.

Let me know what I can do for you! Feel free to contact me at wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14. I look forward to serving you!

Scripture reminds us: “Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.” That which we love and value is reflected by our acts of faithfulness, creativity, and generosity. We put at the top of our list the things that matter most to us, which hopefully includes our support of ELPC’s ministries.

This is the second year of our three-year “Toward the Tithe” campaign.

The Stewardship committee has done its best to provide reasons why it is important to contribute to ELPC through a pledge or tithe. Since 2004, our congregation has responded well to this spiritual discipline, with the number of pledges increasing by 38% and the dollar amount increasing by over 54%!

It is the committee’s view that our congregation has turned the corner toward stronger financial sustainability. To help reach our goal, we are seeking an additional $85,000 in giving and at least 65 new pledges. You’ve heard the message on Sunday or through the Pony Express. You’ve seen the graphs charting our progress. Consider where your treasure is and let your heart guide your response as you bring your pledge on Stewardship Sunday.

Organist/Music Director Search Update

The Organist/Music Director Search Committee completed interviews with three candidates who came to Pittsburgh to meet with the committee, staff and the choir.

Please keep the committee in your prayers as the search culminates with a nomination to the Personnel Committee. Our targeted start date for the selected candidate is the new year.

– Laura Ristau

Shopping at Ten Thousand Villages

The Board of Deacons is sponsoring a shopping night at Ten Thousand Villages (5824 Forbes Ave.) on Thurs., Nov. 23, 6–8 pm. A percentage of all the sales will benefit ELPC hunger programs.

Ten Thousand Villages sells unique artwork, hand crafted (70% of our artisans are women) in the least developed parts of the world; this work enables families to provide food and education for their children. All goods are produced in strict adherence to fair trade principles to insure that workers are paid a fair, sustaining wage.

Come visit, browse the new nativities and Christmas ornaments, and sample fair trade coffee. Besides getting a beautiful gift for a loved one (or yourself), you can know that your spending is part of the work of repairing the world and establishing justice, one purchase at a time!

Stewardship Sunday  By Brian Bonsteel, Stewardship Campaign Chair

Sun., Nov. 14

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This is the second year of our three-year “Toward the Tithe” campaign.
Introducing our New Childcare Workers!
Join us in welcoming Jane Anabe and Candice Zawoiski to our ELPC ministry team! Jane and Candice will provide childcare during worship services and events (upon request), and lead the Young Children’s Ministry on Sundays. They will be here from 8:30 am–12:30 pm, on Sundays, and from 6:45–8:15 pm, on Wednesdays.

Jane enjoyed working in various ministries with children while in college, and believed God was calling her to ministry and missions. She served in various ministries with children and youth for three years in Bolivia. Jane and her family recently relocated to Pittsburgh so that she could begin her studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Candice is also a student, working toward her Master’s degree in Elementary Education, and is student teaching at the Urban League Charter School. She brings experience working with children in a variety of early childhood educational settings.

Contact Pastor Heather if you would like more information about offering childcare for other ELPC events.

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

**CONTEMPORARIES CLASS** Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle
Nov. 7–14: The Elusive Balance of a Christian Lifestyle Led by Tim Engelhardt
Many Christian leaders struggle with the aspect of balance in their personal lives. Many of us are too busy working for the Lord that we fail to become more intimate with the Lord of the work. We will use Matthew 23 as a scriptural guide.

Nov. 21: From Sri Lanka to Bolivia Led by Chenoa Stock
Chenoa Stock, ELPC member and Mission Co-Worker for PC(USA) and the Joining Hands Network in Sri Lanka, will share her journey of working with the network of grassroots community groups. She will talk about the history of the country, the context in which they worked, and her next position in Bolivia in January.

Nov. 28: Reframing Circumstances, Unlearning to Learning Led by Joe Kennedy
Most of us blame our circumstances when things aren’t going well. Maybe our problem isn’t our circumstances, maybe it’s our perspective. If you study the teaching of Christ, you’ll realize that learning was not His primary goal. It was unlearning. Joe will provide suggestions for “connecting the dots” with regards to these two challenging spiritual concepts.

**JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE** Facilitator: Jan Irvin
Nov. 14: Isa. 65:17–25, Mal. 4:1–2a; Isa. 12; Ps. 98; 2 Thess. 3:6–13; Luke 21:5–19
Nov. 21: Jer. 23:1–6; Luke 1:68–79; Ps. 46; Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33–43
Nov. 28: Isa. 2:1–5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11–14; Mt. 24:36–44

**PARENTING CIRCLE** Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Yamuna
Nov. 7: Sharing Joys and Concerns
Nov. 14: Involving Children in Worship and the Life of the Church
We will continue our series on how to engage our children to participate in our faith community. Tina Calabro leads our topic, “Including Children with Disabilities.”

Nov. 21–28: Thanksgiving Meditations

**SEEKERS** Facilitator: Gwen Puza
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. Hear about the social morality of several Pittsburghers.

Nov 14: From Hell to Heaven
ELPC member Ray Anthony will describe his journey from drug addiction to deliverance through Christ in the church. Hear his moving and inspiring story!

Nov. 21: From Sri Lanka to Bolivia Combined with the Contemporaries Class
Nov. 28–Dec. 5: Scripture You Won’t Hear in Church Led by Pastor Randy
We’ll focus on some of the scripture passages omitted from the Revised Common Lectionary. By learning about the Old and New Testament material left out of the preaching rotation, we’ll gain new insights into how the church is constantly challenged to present the entire, living, prophetic gospel.

**SOUL FOOD** Facilitators: Bobby Egelston, Rebecca Cole-Turner, Joe Hajdu, and Nancy Klancher
Nov. 7–28: “Generosity: God’s and Ours”
We will join in prayer and discussion around the November theme from Joyce Rupp’s book *Fresh Bread*. Newcomers are welcome!
Youth Ministry
The Rev. Brian Diebold, Coordinator

Wednesday Connections
Join us for fun, fellowship, and learning, as we praise God! Gather for homework help, crafts, and snacks. 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.

Club one sixteen Youth in grades 1–12, from 6:30–8 pm
Join us for Bible Study as we continue our theme I am... Explore the character and nature of God, learn the stories of Biblical characters and investigate what their stories mean to our lives. Who has God created and called us to be?

Nov. 3: I am...afraid
Nov. 10: I am...loved
Nov. 17: I am...doubtful

Note: We will not meet on Nov. 24, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Confirmation Class For youth in grade nine or older
Confirmation Class is an opportunity to deepen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, while exploring membership at ELPC. Throughout the Church School year, we will discuss the beliefs that are central to the life of our church, as well as those which are integral to each of our personal faith journeys. Youth who decide to be confirmed will join ELPC through baptism or affirmation of faith on Pentecost Sunday (June 12). Class will be taught by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf and the Rev. Brian Diebold. We will meet on the second Sunday of every month from 12:30–3 pm (lunch provided), in the Second Floor Parlor, beginning on Sun., Nov. 14. Contact Pastor Heather to RSVP or if you have questions.

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.

Youth Basketball

Hope Academy
Linda Addlespurger, Director

EL CEO to Perform
Hope Academy’s EL CEO (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) will perform during HA’s Winter Concert on Sun., Dec. 5, at 3 pm. EL CEO will be joined by 25 teen members of HAT Co and HAT Co Rock Band, plus musical theater students and our Wednesday singing, dancing and drumming students.

Kick off the holiday season with this free Classical, Rap, Rock, Gospel and World Music-filled concert featuring kids from 4–18 years old!

New Music Director Michael Chapman
Michael came to Pittsburgh from Trinidad and Tobago in 1996, when he was offered a scholarship to study music at Duquesne University. Sensitivity to the effect music had on his own life inspired him to share fine art with others. In 2001, he founded the Guitar Society of Fine Art, and then joined the guitar faculty at Duquesne University in 2002. Since then, Michael and the Guitar Society of Fine Art have partnered with Hope Academy to give youth an opportunity to further their personal and artistic growth through the study and performance of music.

As the new Music Director of Hope Academy, Michael will oversee all public performing activity of the various performing ensembles.

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!

In November, we will be “On A Mission.” As believers, we are called into action. This month, we will put our faith into action. Join us on our mission!

Sat., Nov. 6: Mission Retreat Meet at ELPC at 6 pm
Together, we will play, eat, plan, worship and do mission, lots of mission! We will stay at ELPC so we may spend more of our resources on local mission. Please RSVP to Wil by Wed., Oct. 27, so plans can be made accordingly. Our time together will end with worship at ELPC in the morning.

Wed., Nov. 17: Time with our Missionary At 8 pm, in Pastor’s Conference Room
One of our own young adults, Chenoa Stock, will talk about her experience in Sri Lanka and her preparation for her next mission experience in Bolivia.

Sat., Nov. 27: Mission Opportunity From 9 am–12 pm
We’ll work off Thanksgiving food by engaging in some local mission work! Returning college students and out-of-town visitors are encouraged to come.
Advent Crafts and Santa Shop
Sat., Dec. 4, from 10 am–1pm
In cooperation with Presbyterian Women’s Santa Shop event, the Christian Education Committee is hosting Advent Crafts for families. The craft workshop will be set up in Rooms 224 and 240, from 10:30 am–12:30 pm. Join us, as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Devotional material and crafts are available on Sunday mornings on the Christian Education table.
Children (ages 4–grade 5) may shop for gifts (from $.50–$4) and visit with Santa (pictures cost $.50).
Note: Parents and older children are not permitted in the Santa Shop. Shoppers must be old enough to shop without a parent. Santa’s Helpers will help choose and wrap gifts. Please send a list of the people for whom your child needs to purchase gifts.

Jail Caroling
Sat., Dec. 18
Share a message of hope, prayers, cookies and songs with inmates at the Allegheny County Jail during the Advent season! We will leave ELPC at noon and return around 4 pm. Men and women are invited to participate in this meaningful service in the busy advent season.
• Become a caroler! Carolers must be at least 21 years old and have received clearance through the Chaplain’s office by Tues. Nov. 30.
• If you enjoy baking, we need hundreds of homemade Christmas cookies.
Call Mary Alice Lightle, at 412.682.1504, for details. You will be a blessing and you will be blessed!

Classes After Taizé Prayer
The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer
Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
Wed., Nov. 3: Hebrew Chant Led by David Goldstein
We will use sacred phrases from Psalms, Isaiah, and other Old Testament sources to dive deeply into prayerful intentions. All are welcome!
Wed., Nov. 10: Anglican Prayer Beads Led by Sue Schneider
Learn to make and use Anglican Prayer Beads! Similar to the Catholic rosary, Anglican Prayer Beads are a tool for meditative prayer. The 33-bead design helps focus our mind, body and spirit on prayer in the presence of God. Individuals and families will string their own beads. Instructions on using the beads for prayer will be explained. All supplies tools and supplies are provided, but if you have beads, medallions, or other items that are meaningful to you, please bring these for possible inclusion.
Wed., Nov. 17: 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., Nov. 24: Celebrations!
Do you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in November? Write it down and put it in the collection plate! We’d like to celebrate with you!

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator
Tues., Nov. 9: Journeys Through Revelation at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor
Join us as we study “Worshiping God and the Lamb” (Revelation 4–5). A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or side to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Diane Jackson for details at 412.441.6021.
Note: We are meeting on the second Tuesday in November due to elections.
Sun., Nov. 21: Thank Offering
On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will honor the women of ELPC by receiving the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women.
The Thank Offering has supported programs that relieve pain, provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities and lift the lives of women and children throughout the world. It began in 1888, when Eliza Clokey challenged members of the Women’s General Missionary Society to make a special gift as a “thank offering to her Lord.” Last year, ELPC members and friends contributed nearly $2,200, which helped fund 31 projects around the world.

Spiritual Life
Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life
Sun., Nov. 7: “The Shack” at 12:30 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor
November’s First Sunday Event will be a discussion of “The Shack” by William P. Young. The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will lead the discussion to explore both personal reactions and theological reflections of this popular novel.
Health Ministry
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

What is the Health Ministry Team?
The Health Ministry Team is a group of congregational members—medical and nonmedical—who are interested in promoting health and wellness of body, mind and spirit within the ELPC congregation and community. Our focus is on:
- Educational programs
- Blood pressure screenings the third Sunday of every month. If you don’t need your blood pressure checked, stop in and ask any questions you may have. We may not have the answer but can find it or point you in the right direction.
- Weekly exercise groups
- Planning support groups for people with various health conditions and grief.
- Making information/agencies available on home safety for the elderly and help in the home when needed.

Last year, we conducted a congregational needs assessment. The information we collected will help plan programs that are of interest to you. In addition, there are a variety of resources available in the library on the Health Ministry shelves. Studies show the major factors that cause our immune system to weaken and allow us to become ill include lack of meaning in life, lack of a sense of belonging and a feeling of loneliness. These are issues that can be addressed at ELPC. Health and spirituality are truly related. “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul” – 3 John 1:2

Exercise Classes
- Tai Chi Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
  The class costs $3/session.
- 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., Nov. 6: Mission Opportunity
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.

Thank you to volunteers who joined us in October to serve our neighbors in East Liberty and Garfield: Jules Golz, Ann and Maureen Morris, Jon Nelson, Forrest Paul, Jim Russ, and Tyrese and Retina Williams. These projects were located on streets where Open Hand Ministries is focusing its efforts to make a positive neighborhood impact. In East Liberty, we painted the new front porch of a home on Euclid St. The interior of this house was rehabbed in 2007 as part of the East End Blitz. In Garfield, volunteers did interior demolition of an abandoned house on Fairmount St.

Food Pantry
The “Food of the Month” is instant mashed potatoes.

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.

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

Food Pantry
The “Food of the Month” is instant mashed potatoes.

EECM
EECM is accepting donations of new and gently used coats. Last year’s Coat Drive was a huge success, as we provided hundreds of warm winter coats to the Hunger, Homeless, and Children and Youth programs. All sizes are welcome, but we do need men’s L and XL coats. Please leave donations at the box in the ELPC front office by Fri., Nov. 5.
Thanksgiving Bags

The Christian Education Ministry Team will pass out grocery bags and lists during the worship services on Sun., Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. Prayerfully consider taking a bag, and returning it on Sun., Nov. 14. During the 11 am service, we will bring these bags forward as a special offering, and dedicate them to God's use. They will be donated to the EECM Food Pantry and given to needy families in the East End.

Honoring 50-year Members

Among the anniversaries worth celebrating each year are the anniversaries of membership at ELPC. In 2010, two members will have joined exactly 50 years earlier—Susan Gilmore and Pat Porter, an achievement that will be acknowledged during worship on Sun., Nov. 21. They join a stalwart crew of members who have been a part of ELPC’s life and ministry for over half a century, in some cases well over 60 years!

The Giving Tree

Every year the Deacons organize a Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from EECM, our ELPC Mission Ministry, Hope Academy and Educational Ministries. Our congregation has been wonderful in its support through generous gift purchases and monetary donations. On Sun., Nov. 28 and Dec. 5., the Giving Tree will be set up near the Highland Ave. entrance, from 9:30 am—12:30 pm. If you would like to participate, select a tag that contains gift and recipient information, and leave your contact information on the donor tag. Deacons will be available to help.

Wrapped gifts, with tags, are due back to the ELPC office by noon on Sun., Dec. 12. To make a monetary donation, make your check payable to “ELPC Giving Tree” and deliver it to the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy. The Board of Deacons thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this ministry.

Offices Closed: Offices will be closed on Thur., Nov. 11, for the Veterans Day Holiday, but will open at 7 pm for evening activities. Offices also will be closed on Thurs., Fri., and Mon., Nov. 25, 26, and 29, for Thanksgiving. We will open at 7 pm for evening activities on Mon., Nov. 29.