Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

March 2011

Editor's Note

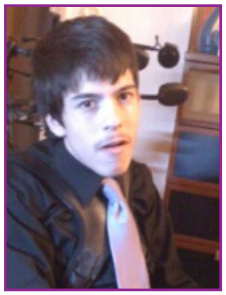
Each month, look for articles written by a member of our faith community. Articles will be identified by a special symbol.

This month, look for:

- *Another Step Towards Accessibility*
- *Update from Bolivia*

Another Step Towards Accessibility

By Tina Calabro and David Steidl



As parents of a teenager who uses a wheelchair, we are pleased that ELPC has made the outdoor garth/courtyard physically accessible. We look forward to seeing our son, Mark, attend services and activities in that wonderful space.

Over the past several years, ELPC leaders have worked steadily toward the goal of making the church building more physically accessible. The conscious movement toward this goal speaks volumes about the welcoming spirit of our congregation.

In 2004, with the addition of the driveway entrance on Highland Avenue, ELPC began providing an easier way for people with mobility limitations to enter the church. Prior to the construction of the driveway, the path to the church via wheelchair from a distant parking space could be quite rugged.

And now—with the new access to the garth/courtyard—all individuals who cannot navigate steps will be able to thoroughly enjoy the beauty and tranquility of that space, rather than observe it from a distance.

It's often said that creating no-step entryways, providing information in alternative formats, and employing other types of accommodations may start out as measures for people with disabilities, but end up being used and appreciated by many more people than originally intended. We thank ELPC for taking another important step toward full inclusion.

Garth Accessibility Improvements

Over the past few months, construction has been underway in the hallway outside the front of the Chapel on a new wheelchair platform lift and other improvements that will provide full accessibility to the Garth from both the First Floor and Ground Level. The lift also will provide access for persons who use walkers or canes and cannot easily negotiate the stairs from the entrance level to the Garth.

Now that this project is complete, the Garth is fully accessible to persons with mobility impairments for our summer worship services, receptions, weddings, social gatherings, and the labyrinth ministry.

The Property Committee would like to extend our thanks to our general contractor, R. D. Stewart Company; our architect, Jan Irvin of Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel Architects; and everyone who assisted the Property Committee in the planning to make this project a reality.

Sunday Morning Services

** Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Mark and Barbara DeWitt

March 6*	Rev. Sheldon Sorge, *Pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery*
March 13	John Culbertson, *Elder, Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church*
March 20	To be determined
March 27	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

March 6*	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 13	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 20	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 27	Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

March 6*	Rev. Rick Otty
March 13	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 20	Moderator Cindy Bolbach
March 27	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

Daylight Savings Time: Remember to set your clocks forward one hour on **Sun., March 13**.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412.441.3800
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www.CathedralOfHope.org

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9 am-5 pm
Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Brian Diebold
Coordinator, Youth Ministry

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Wil Forrest
Coordinator, Young Adult Ministry and Volunteers in Ministry Programs

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

Dr. Lois M. Lang
Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life, Stephen Ministry and Older Adults

Paul Martin
Facilities Manager

Katie Mohr
Seminary Intern

Dr. Edward Allen Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Music Director Emeritus

Reaching Out Newsletter

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

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

A popular word for churches today is the word "discernment." For example, you will hear people say how they are seeking to discern God's will as they consider an important next step in their life. Obviously, to discern involves an act of self-awareness and reflection, but is there a simple way to understand this spiritual practice?

Too often we think of discernment as asking the question "Who am I?", which can be quite difficult to answer since we cannot step "outside" ourselves to gain perspective on who we are. An easier, more productive question is to ask "Where am I?" Where am I in terms of my present location and age? Am I at work or at home? Am I running and rushing about, or am I at rest? All these questions can be given a clear and direct answer.

Now imagine one of those tourist signs that says "You are here." Picture your answers as a star on one part of a much larger map. The next step is to expand your gaze and re-consider your answers in light of the bigger signboard. "Where am I" in terms of location now means "Pittsburgh" versus Philadelphia, Pakistan or Peru. "Where am I" in terms of age now means (in my case) "middle-aged" at a period in history in which life expectancy is such that I can hopefully live for many more years (knowing full well that I have already outlived Mozart and Schubert with far less to show for it.) "Am I at work or at home" is a bit trickier to answer, thanks to the nature of technology today. Are we truly at home if we are answering work e-mails or returning phone messages while back in our apartments? In a similar way, are we ever truly at rest if we are so busy trying to accomplish things on our "To Do" lists, or always distracted by worries that cause our minds to race even if our feet are standing still?

I read an interesting statistic from a World Bank economist who contended that sixty percent of a person's income is determined merely by where he or she was born, and an additional twenty percent is determined by how wealthy his or her parents were. Suddenly "where are you" takes on a life-changing dynamic. Being born in a particular zip code or nation has an impact that can last one's entire life. And unless we stop to reflect on facts like that, we will never have a "big picture" perspective on who we really are as a child of God living in God's world.

The season of Lent is a wonderful opportunity to consider the larger map of life and ask ourselves "Where are we?" Lent is designed for reflection on life in light of the answers provided by the gospel. When we are too fixated on our location and age, we remember how God in Christ came to redeem all the world and did so once for all time. When we find the lines between work and home becoming blurred by technology and "To Do" lists, we remember how Jesus is Lord of all places and provides grace for every moment of every day. And when we neglect to take a break from the tasks that fill each day, Lent is the conscious, intentional reminder that we all need Sabbath-times. For in those moments, we are able to pause and pray for Pittsburgh and Pakistan, to consider healthier definitions of work that fit our faith priorities, and to listen once more for God's words of assurance and love. And in doing that, we are truly practicing Christian "discernment." Welcome to Lent!

Randy Bush

Strategic Vision: Study Circles

The Lenten call to seek and discern God's will for our lives is not only for individuals, but for entire congregations. Over the past year, ELPC leaders, committees, and congregation members have been part of a broad Strategic Visioning Process. The next step is to hear more from the collective wisdom of church members about the steps forward God is leading our church to consider.

A series of four Study Circles have been scheduled to which all interested parties are invited. They will be held at ELPC from 6:30–8 pm, on the following dates:

- **Tues., March 1:** Engagement and Participation by All
- **Thurs., March 17:** Spiritual Development and Learning for All
- **Tues., March 29:** Community Outreach to All
- **Thurs., April 14:** The Cathedral as a Place to Worship and Nurture All God's People

The Strategic Vision will be unveiled in a formal presentation on **Sun., May 22**. Add your voice to this important conversation about where God is leading ELPC for the future!

Housing Ministry Opportunities

Sat., March 5 and April 2

ELPC's Housing Ministry is sponsoring Saturday work days in the East Liberty and Garfield neighborhoods. We will work with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm on rehab and landscaping, and preparing planting beds for vegetables.

No special skills are needed, all ages are welcome! For more information, contact Emily Rosenthal, at **ejr116@gmail.com**, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, at **PatriceFS@coh.net**.

Visit by the Rev. Rick Otty

Just over five years ago, ELPC offered heartfelt thanks to the Rev. Rick Otty for his faithful leadership during our church's most recent interim period. From July '02–Feb. '06, Pastor Rick provided pastoral and worship leadership for the congregation after the retirement of the Rev. Chesnut and prior to calling the Rev. Dr. Bush.

It is a distinct pleasure to welcome Rick and Lynn Otty back for a visit on **Sun., March 6**. Pastor Rick will preach and assist with communion during the 11 am worship service and share about his ministry during the past five years.

Ash Wednesday Speaker

Wed., March 9, at 12:15 pm

This year, the season of Lent begins much later than usual. Ash Wednesday opens the season on March 9, and will be marked by a reflective service in the chapel, including prayer, music, scripture, and the imposition of ashes. This traditional symbol reminds us to remember the brevity of life, the need for repentance and self-examination, and the promise that God in Christ is Lord over life and death.

After the Ash Wednesday service, the Rev. Doug Baker will share about his work as the PC(USA) Regional Liaison for Ireland and the United Kingdom. He will talk about Presbyterianism in Northern Ireland and ways for the local church to remain connected with mission workers and congregations overseas. A simple lunch will be served.

Marcellus Shale Conversation

Sat., March 12, at 5:30 pm, in Room 234

Would you like to know more about the Marcellus shale drilling issue in Pennsylvania? Even though there is a ban in the City of Pittsburgh, we need to be more informed, since drilling could have an impact on the Allegheny River and our water supply.

Join members of the Environmental Subcommittee of the Justice Committee for a viewing of excerpts from the movie, *Gasland*. Discussion will follow, led by the Rev. Phil Jamison. Soup and sandwiches will be provided, but you may bring a dessert.

Moderator Bolbach to Speak

Sun., March 20

Last June, the 219th Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly elected as its moderator, elder Cindy Bolbach. She is an elder and member of First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Va., although she was born and raised in Lancaster County, Pa. Baptized and confirmed as a Lutheran, she has said that she was "predestined at an early age to be part of the Reformed tradition, and had a hamster named Luther and a guinea pig named Calvin."

Moderator Bolbach will be in Pittsburgh for the Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting on March 19. We are honored to have her as a guest at ELPC on **Sun., March 20**. She will lead a joint Adult Education class from 9:45–10:45 am, and then preach at the 11 am worship service.

March Calendar Events—Full Details at www.CathedralOfHope.org and in the Weekly Bulletin and e-Flash.

Christian Education

Note: Classes will meet in the Parlor on **March 20** to hear Moderator Cindy Bolbach.

Contemporaries Class
March 6: Hands-On Mission Opportunities
Led by Emily Rosenthal

March 13, 27: The Prophetic Depth of Jeremiah
Led by Dr. Jim Russ

Journey with Scripture
March 6: Ex. 24:12–18; Ps. 2; 2 Peter 1:16–21; Mt. 17:1–9
March 13: Gen. 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12–19; Mt. 4:1–11
March 27: Ex 17:1–7; Ps. 95; Rom. 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

Parenting Circle
March 6, 27: Book Discussion – "Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith" by Anne Lamott

March 13: Sharing Joys and Concerns

Seekers
March 6: Atonement Theology and Redemptive Violence *Led by Rev. Heather Schoenewolf*
March 13: Coptic Christians as a Religious Minority in Egypt *Led by Dr. Youseff Ragheb*
March 27: Evolution Today – The New Challenge to Christian Faith *Led by Ron Cole-Turner*

Soul Food
March 6–27: To Be Determined

Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español
Nos reunimos cada semana para descubrir lo que la Biblia nos dice. Por favor únete a esta jornada con nosotros. Nos reunimos cada domingo de 12:30–1:30 en el cuarto No. 343. Todos están bienvenidos, y la clase está en español.

Young Adult Ministry

Sun., March 6: Worship at the Open Door Church
Meet at ELPC at 4:30 pm. Service begins at 5 pm.

Fri.–Sat., March 11–12: Camp Crestfield Retreat
RSVP to Wil by Tues., March 1. There is a small cost, but assistance is available.

Fri., March 25: Drumming Circle
Meet at First United Methodist Church at 7 pm.

Youth Ministry

club 116
In March, we will discuss **Big Questions about Belief**.

30-Hour Famine
Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to our annual 30-Hour Famine from **Sat., March 19–20**, to raise money to fight hunger. We will gather at ELPC at 4 pm, on Saturday. A permission slip and RSVP are required.

Famine Fundraising
Youth will be fundraising on **Sun., March 6** and **13**. All money raised will offer hunger-relief for our brothers and sisters in New Orleans who are struggling to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. If you would like to support the youth in their efforts to help fight hunger, visit one of the tables in the hall outside of the East Transept or in the Narthex before or after the 11 am worship.

Hope Academy

Sat. March 26: Spring Music Festival *At 7 pm*
Join us as we celebrate our young musicians, singers, dancers and actors during a day-long marathon of recitals. All events are *free* and take place at ELPC.

A complete performance schedule will be posted at the front desk and at **www.HopeAcademyArts.com**.

Presbyterian Women

Tues., March 1: *Journeys Through Revelation*
Join us at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor as Heather Lawrence leads our study of Revelation 13, 15–16, and 19, **Rapture, Violence and Exodus**. A potluck lunch follows. Beverages and soup are provided. Bring a side to share and your own place setting. Call Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** for details.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

March 2: Music on the Labyrinth *At 8:15 pm*
Charles Anderson, Flute

Note: During the Lenten season, classes will not meet, but please join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm for the Taizé service.

Spiritual Life

First Sunday Event for March
The March event will run for three Sundays (March 6, 13 and 20). Suzanne Bailey will present "The Divine Dance: Exploring the Mystery of the Trinity" by Father Richard Rohr. His material opens up the central yet hidden mystery of the Trinity to show its practical and pastoral implications for community, family, politics, sexuality, and spirituality.

Join us each week in room 234 from 12:30–2 pm. Child care and light refreshments will be provided.

Exercise Classes

- **Tai Chi** *Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm*
- **Yoga** *Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm*
- **JourneyDance** *Fri., March 11, from 7–8 pm*

Call Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17** for details.

Have a Heart for Hunger

Hunger is increasing in Allegheny County. Hundreds of people in the East End of Pittsburgh don't know where their next meal is coming from. East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM) reaches out to those who are experiencing the pain of hunger. Their food pantry alone provides groceries for nearly 500 families each month.

Join in the fight against hunger by participating in ELPC's efforts to support EECM's Have a Heart for Hunger Campaign. Here are two ways to participate:

Give: Make a financial contribution. Donations made between February 13–March 31 will have a matching donation made up to $30,000.

Collect: Fill a bag with a selection of the following items (always needed by the EECM Food Pantry) and bring it to ELPC on **Sun., March 27**.

- Pasta
- Syrup
- Dish Detergent
- Mac and Cheese
- Tuna/Hamburger Helper
- Biscuit/Baking Mix
- Diapers in all Sizes
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Dry Hot and Cold Cereal
- Household Cleaning Products

He Qi Exhibit

As part of ELPC's continued commitment to the arts, it is a distinct pleasure to exhibit prints by Chinese artist He Qi. Currently residing in Minneapolis, Dr. He Qi was a professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. In his works, he blends together Chinese folk customs and painting techniques with the western art of both medieval and modern periods in depicting bible stories. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally, and was a featured artist for the Presbyterian Planning Calendar.

Sponsored by the Worship, Music and the Arts committee, his works will be on display here beginning in mid-March, and arrangements are being made to bring Dr. He Qi in early April for a lecture series on his work. Through this exhibit, it is hoped that seeing familiar bible stories depicted in a fresh, global way will enrich and expand our own faith vocabulary.

Volunteers in Ministry *By Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*

In March, the VIM Program will continue partnering with ELPC children and youth who are busy volunteers in our church and community. They will be doing volunteer activities related to feeding hungry people.

Also, new Child and Youth VIM Interest Inventories are coming out soon and are due by Sun., March 20. With your partnership, I hope to find new ways to support children and youth volunteers. Let me know if you have ideas and/or interest!

"I try to volunteer whenever I can. Much of this volunteer work takes place within the walls of ELPC. Be it teaching at Vacation Bible School or carrying the cross up the aisle on Sunday afternoons, I relish the opportunities I have to volunteer in the church. Volunteering is something anyone and everyone can do. As an anonymous author once said, 'Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.'"

– TJ Benedict, ELPC youth and volunteer

ELPC People

Good News

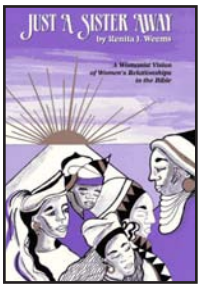
Join us in welcoming our new members and friends: **Andrew Bartle**, **Suzanne Flynn**, **Callie Gropp**, **Frederick Kuehn**, **Stephen Leadman**, **Amiena Mahsoob**, **Yukimi Miyashita**, **Cynthia Peterson-Handley**, **Amy Simpson**, **Andrew Simpson**, **David Smith**, and **Stephanie Smith**.

Prayers

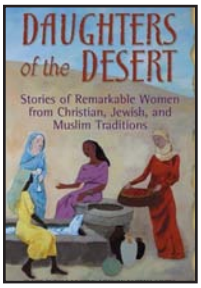
Muriel Szeremany, wife of Richard Szeremany, passed away on Sat., Jan. 15. A Memorial Service was held at ELPC on Sun., Feb. 13.

New in the Library

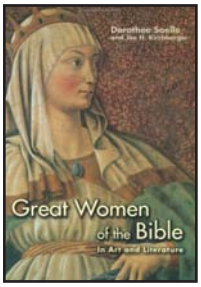
- Stories of women in the Bible can be found in *Just a Sister Away* by Renita J. Weems. This is the author's vision of women's relationships in the Bible.



- *Daughters of the Desert* is a collection of short stories of remarkable women from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions.



- Dorothee Soelle's *Great Women of the Bible in Art and Literature* explores the meanings artists have found in the Bible's female figures.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church
The Cathedral of Hope

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

www.CathedralOfHope.org

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"…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."

World Day of Prayer

Fri., March 4, at 11 am, at ELPC

Join Christians in the East End of Pittsburgh for a vibrant service of song and praise at the World Day of Prayer at ELPC. This year's service, written by the women of Chile, asks "How Many Loaves Have You?" A luncheon of foods from Chile follows worship.

Call Mary Alice Lightle at **412.682.1504** for details.

New CE Offering

See page 4 for details

Jane and Joaquin Anabe pose for a photo with their son, Isaac.

Joaquin Anabe will lead a new Spanish Sunday School Class each Sunday from 12:30–1:30 pm, in Room 343, to discover what the Bible says to us. All are welcome, and the class is in Spanish! Bilingual Bibles are available.

Update from Bolivia

ELPC member Chenoa Stock is currently serving as a mission co-worker in Bolivia. Earlier this year, she arrived in Cochabamba for five months of language training. As she discerns her call to ministry, she shared her thoughts.

"As I look around in this world of newness, I look within and ask 'What do I have to offer?' I am called to offer an open mind to the opportunities and adventures that lie ahead, plus respect for the culture that is embracing me. Perhaps the greatest thing I can do is trust in God, being open to the Mystery that dwells in each new moment. Only then can you be awoken to what you hold in your hand and how that can contribute to the global community around you."

Save the Date: VCS 2011

ELPC invites all children—age 3½ through grade 5—to join us for Vacation Church School, from **June 27–July 1**, from 9 am–3 pm.

This year's theme is "Taste and See: God is Good," the Mennonite Publishing House Curriculum. We'll explore Biblical stories in which God uses food to extend promises to God's people. Kids will learn about gratitude, generosity, and how food is a constant reminder of God's active presence in our midst!