ELPC Welcomes Guest Preachers
This month, we welcome two guest preachers to our Sanctuary services.

On Sun., Feb. 5, the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, our newly named Interim Spiritual Life Director, will share her vision during our 11 am service. (See related article on page 3.)

Then, on Sun., Feb 19, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer (pictured) will be our guest for the day, teaching a combined class during the Church School hour and preaching later that morning. Dr. Aymer is the associate professor of New Testament Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Ga., and is an ordained minister in the PC (U.S.A.). She also is the author of numerous resources, including the 2011–12 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study on the Beatitudes.

It is a joy to welcome both these women to ELPC!

Ash Wednesday Services
On Sun., Feb. 22, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate with a quiet service at 12:15 pm, in the Chapel with prayer, scripture and the imposition of ashes.

Following the service, all are invited to gather for a simple lunch as we hear a presentation from the Rev. Dr. Don Dawson and the Rev. Jennifer Haddox. The Revs. Dawson and Haddox are the director and associate director, respectively, of World Mission Initiative (WMI), a fellowship of Presbyterians dedicated to developing mission vision, nurturing missionary vocations, and cultivating missional congregations, with the goal of equipping pastors to lead the church in our mission calling. In late February, ELPC’s own Isaiah Wilson will travel with his mother, Judith Wilson, to Guatemala through a WMI-sponsored trip.

Later that evening, the Taizé Prayer Service, at 7 pm, will continue the focus on preparing our spirits and souls for Lenten reflection and quiet self-examination.

This will be a good way to begin the season that leads up to Easter Sunday, and be a reminder of how the risen Christ calls us into service both here and around the world.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

In grammar, an ellipsis is the intentional omission of a word or sentence, done either for emphasis or because the repetition of the word(s) would be redundant. A witty example of this can be found in an apocryphal story about a reporter who needed to know the age of the movie star Cary Grant. So he sent him the following brief telegraph: “How old Cary Grant?” To which the actor replied, “Old Cary Grant fine. How you?” The omitted verb may have saved the reporter a nickel, but the snappy comeback is priceless.

Leaving out the verb in the question above is an example of an ellipsis. In writing, such omissions are marked by a series of three dots—like this “…” Sometimes, though, an ellipsis is found at the end of a sentence, when the speaker’s voice trails off and some final thoughts are left unspoken. The singer Judy Collins has written autobiographical books describing her career, her struggles with addiction, and family tragedies. At one point she was blunt in her remarks, saying “Each day I chose not to drink. And I chose not to take my own life.” If I were in a room with her and heard her say that, I would want to hear more—for Judy to break the silence, the ellipsis, at the end of her statements. I’d ask her to finish the sentence: “Each day I chose not to drink and not take my own life because…”

In the ellipsis, in the space marked by three little dots, faith resides. It is there that people finish their sentences and say why they choose not to drink, why they work so hard every day, why they are hopeful for tomorrow. It is there that you and I say out loud to our children or our friends what are the spiritual foundations upon which we stand. These need not be dramatic statements. They may only be mini statements of faith: I do this, because I believe this world is the Lord’s and we’re here to take care of it. I do this, because I believe that love is stronger than hate, and Christ’s Easter resurrection gives me hope for a brighter future. I do this, because I trust that God is in control, not me, and God’s grace will hold me up when all else fails. I do this, because…

In many of our conversations, we are not bold enough to finish those sentences— to complete what the silence of the ellipsis is meant to leave unspoken. Which is why the church wisely moves from the Christmas season into Lent. These forty days prior to Easter are times for self-reflection; they are opportunities to ask “What do I truly value in this life? What is God’s spirit urging me to do (or stop doing)? Where is hope seeking to be born in my own life?”

Is there an unfinished question waiting to be spoken in your life? Is there an ellipsis waiting to be fleshed out by words and deeds in one of your relationships? One place to start is the hymn that goes like this: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. That is all that needs to be said, because…

Randy Bush
Stewardship Campaign Updates and Thanks
On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we want to thank the congregation for their generous support during 2011 and healthy pledge commitments for 2012. Being the Redeemed People of God is both our stewardship motto and our Christian calling, to which we respond by giving our gifts of time and money.

In 2011, the congregation honored previous year pledges, generously gave extra gifts in the plate offerings, and supported the church through pledged contributions totaling $640,000. Because of that, we hope to exceed a stewardship goal of $645,000 for pledges and offerings in 2012. With everyone’s help and God’s grace, truly all things are possible!

Introducing our New Spiritual Life Director
The Spiritual Life and Personnel Committees are pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan as the Interim Director of Spiritual Life Ministries for ELPC.

The Rev. Callahan is an ordained Presbyterian minister member of Pittsburgh Presbytery with over 12 years experience in pastoral ministry. She is well-familiar with labyrinth ministries and is an experienced Spiritual Director, trained in contemplative and Ignatian traditions. Currently, she is completing her Doctor of Ministry degree in the areas of Ecclesiology and Spiritual Renewal.

As the Interim Director of Spiritual Life ministries, the Rev. Callahan will nurture our congregation to richer faith formation practices through small group ministries, teaching and modeling devotional practices, and exploring the spiritual dimensions of Christian mission. She will be asked to lead programs and retreats while learning more about the variety of spiritual practices already being encouraged at ELPC. This 15–18 hour a week position will begin on Wed., Feb. 1, and the Rev. Callahan will preach during the 11 am worship on Sun., Feb. 5.

Be sure to introduce yourself to Mary Lynn, and welcome her to this important ministry of our church!

ELPC Offers New Employment Ministry
Jobs: A Way to Change People’s Lives
At its October meeting, Session approved the formation of an Employment Ministry Steering Committee based on a proposal from the Poverty Committee of the Mission Board. The intent is to establish a faith-based, comprehensive employment system that is based on a successful model currently operating in three cities, called Jubilee Jobs. The new ministry will serve local residents who need intensive, long-term support to obtain and retain a living-wage job. The initiative is compatible with the goals of our new Strategic Vision.

Currently, a Poverty Committee task force is considering candidates for the Steering Committee, which will be comprised mainly of ELPC congregants and several representatives from potential partner organizations like EECM and Goodwill.

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“Where I’m Suppose to be”
by Lakiya Sommer

Over the years I visited many churches both inside and outside of Pennsylvania. The majority of them were very nice, but I never had the feeling that one of them was where I should be.

In October, 2010, I decided to visit ELPC after previously being here to attend my aunt’s funeral service. On the first day of church, everyone was very warm, welcoming and friendly. The spirit of the church itself was remarkable, and I felt a connection to it. I knew, then, that this is where I’m suppose to be.

During the year, my walk with the Lord grew stronger than it ever has been. It was the first time in my life that I faithfully went to church and made attempts to make my walk stronger with Jesus Christ.

It’s hard to say why I decided to get baptized, but what I can say is that the Lord told me that it was time to do it, and, that for me to grow closer to him, it was what I needed to do. So, in November, 2011, I was baptized in ELPC and it was the best decision that I have made in my life. Every day, my spirit, as well as my love and faith for the Lord Jesus Christ, grow stronger.
Contemporaries Class Second Floor Parlor
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle
Feb. 5: The Church of the Savior...Extra-Ordinary Ministry And A Calling For Us?  Led by Rev. Tom Menk
We will look at the variety of outreach ministries that are functioning within this vibrant congregation. We will focus on the “evolution” process they go through and how this happens with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. A special emphasis will be given to Jubilee Jobs, one of their ministries, inspiring us to consider this type of employment at ELPC. Overall, the reminder that “nothing is impossible for God” will prevail throughout every aspect of this presentation.

Feb. 12: Who made God?
Led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
A young child often asks a question during the Children’s Time that resonates with us and helps us honor the questions we each have in our life of faith. Pastor Heather will lead us on an exploration of the questions young children ask, and how their questions and insights help orient us to the deeper truths at the heart of the mystery of our faith. We’ll also discuss how we can continue to learn alongside persons of all ages and stages of their faith journeys. Come with your questions, stories, and insights to share!

Feb. 26: The Beatitudes: Living a Blessed Life
Led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Continuing the conversation from our time with Dr. Aymer, we will explore how we can put the Beatitudes into action in our daily lives. The poetic language of the words that open Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel may seem as distant as they are familiar. What do the Beatitudes have to do with us? How do they inform our lives and ministry together? We will explore the Beatitudes by delving into the teachings of some ancient and contemporary theologians who have explored these questions as well.

Note: On Sun., Feb 19, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer will lead a combined class during the Church School hour. Please see the CE bulletin boards or visit www.CathedralOfHope.org for more details. Classes begin at 9:45 am.

Parenting Circle Harambe Room
Facilitators: Pam Walaski, Andrea DeVries, and Sandy Edgecombe
We will continue our study of The Five Love Languages of Teenagers and The Five Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell. We will learn the specific love language of each of our children/teenagers (quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service and touch) and how to utilize that knowledge to provide them with the love and guidance they desperately need. We will study the books in parallel to increase the applicability to children and teens. Copies of each book will be available for purchase.

If you have questions or comments, please email Pam at pam@jcsafety.com or Andrea at ADeVries@healthcore.com.

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
Reading through the bible can lead to discoveries of passages that are difficult to read, if not troublesome to accept. Is there a way that God’s light can shine through words that appear to be full of darkness and violence?

Feb. 5: Troubling Texts  Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will address the topic of holy war, with reference to the tension between Israel and the Amalekites that first surfaces in Exodus 17.

Feb. 12: Troubling Texts  Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
We will discuss the book of Jude, a rarely read, late New Testament epistle that raises the topic of fallen angels and God’s wrathful condemnation.

Feb. 26: How the Fragmentation or Schism of Islam Led to Uprising and Revolutions in the Middle East
Dr. Youseff Ragheb returns to explain how the schisms of Islam are shaping the Middle East countries, including Iran.

Soul Food Pastor’s Conference Room
Coordinator: Joe Hajdu
We will examine readings from Spiritual Classics.

Feb. 19: Fasting from Criticalness, by Catherine Marshall
Feb. 26: Fasting, a Source of Trial, by John Henry Newman

Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español
Room 217; Facilitator: Joaquin Anabe Lopez
Nos reunimos cada semana para descubrir lo que la Biblia nos dice. Por favor únete a esta jornada con nosotros. Todos están bienvenidos, y la clase está en español.
**Youth Ministry**

**Note:** For more information on activities for youth and tweens (youth in grades 4–6) or to be added to our youth mailing list, please contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

**Sun., Feb. 12: Youth Outing**
Students in grades 7–12 are invited to participate in an educational field trip to the Carnegie Museum. We will explore the various exhibitions in the museum, including the Teeni Harris Exhibit. Teeni Harris was a famous photographer born and raised in Pittsburgh’s Hill District.

Students should meet at ELPC at 12:30 pm, and will return by 5 pm. A permission slip is required. Please RSVP to Anthony Williams at 412.292.7935.

**Sat., Feb. 18: Worship Night for Tweens**
All tweens are invited to join us on a trip to Mt. Ararat Baptist Church for their “Saturday Night LIVE” worship service. Come and experience a different style of worship with a fellow church in our area!

We will meet at ELPC at 6:15 pm, and drive together. Please RSVP to Brian Diebold at bdiebold@pts.edu or 412.335.9734.

**Youth Basketball** Saturdays, from 6–8 pm
Young men (grades 9–12) are welcome to join us for basketball.

**Young Adult Ministry**

*Wil Forrest, Coordinator*

**Fri., Feb. 3: First Friday at the Smiling Banana Leaf,** at 7 pm
This is our first no-host TRAIL dinner. We will gather at a fun restaurant in Highland Park called the Smiling Banana Leaf (5901 Bryant St., www.smilingbananaleaf.com), eat on our own dime, and share a great time. Hey, that rhymed! Come have a delicious evening!

**Sun., Feb. 12: Paul’s Journeys,** at 12:30 pm, in Second Floor Parlor
In our spring-long examination of Paul, we will follow Paul on his many journeys. Please read through the Acts of the Apostles to prepare for this time together. Bring a question to share with the group for all to consider. Lunch will be provided.

**Sat., Feb. 18: Dinner and a Show,** at 5 pm, in Second Floor Library
Come for a night to remember! We will begin with a special dinner cooked especially for you, and then we will attend Hope Academy’s **Love and All That Jazz** (see related article on page 8). Let Wil know if you are coming by Fri., Feb. 3, so dinner and tickets can be planned for in advance.

**Wed., Feb. 22: “Ashing” Big Questions,** at 7 pm, in the Session Room
Our Ash Wednesday evening will begin with sharing in a Taizé service together, and then spending time examining Lent. We will ask: **Where is the Lord in that? Did Jesus have to die?**
Come for an evening of sung prayer and big questions.
Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., Feb. 7: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of the beatitudes. Kay Shissler will lead our lesson, **Greatly Honored are the Pure in Heart!** (Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24; Psalm 51:1-12). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages will be provided.

**Music Ministry Notes**

**Sun., Feb. 5: Concert of Spirituals, at 4 pm, in the Chapel**
Invite a friend to join you for *Ain’t-a That Good News*, an inspirational program of spirituals in honor of Black History Month. The concert is **free** and open to the public. A freewill offering will be accepted. The concert will be presented by singers from the ELPC Music Ministry and will feature sacred music of Harry Burleigh, Hall Johnson, and William Dawson. (And don’t worry, you will be home in plenty of time for the Super Bowl kickoff!)

**Sun., Feb. 12: Musical Guests in Worship, during 11 am worship**
*Essence of Joy* from the Pennsylvania State University (pictured) will return to ELPC as our guests in worship. *Essence of Joy*, conducted by Dr. Tony Leach, was organized in 1991 to perform sacred and secular music from the African/African-American traditions. Invite a friend to join you for worship to hear these talented young singers as they lead us in worship.

Employment Ministry

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The goal is to have the Steering Committee operating in a month, so that an implementation plan and budget are ready for review by Session this fall.

This exciting ELPC ministry is expected to make a significant difference in the lives of all those who participate. This is reflected in the mission statement for the Employment Ministry: *The ELPC Employment Ministry is an inter-faith organization that prepares women and men who are ready and willing to make positive changes in their lives to become contributing members of their community.*

For more information, email Dick Headley at headley.r@comcast.net.
Love is an Action Verb by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

When we love someone or something, we act upon that feeling. We seek to spend time with those we love. We engage in activities that we love. When we truly love, action is demanded.

In being part of this church over the past several years, I have heard so many of us exclaim how we love ELPC. We love the building. We love the friendliness. We love the commitment to justice. There is so much to love! So, let’s put that love into action. We can demonstrate our love for our beautiful church by serving during work days or by helping clear sidewalks of snow. We can demonstrate our love of our friendliness by becoming involved in the Connections Dinner, the club 116 dinner, and greeting or hospitality ministries. We can demonstrate our love for our commitment to justice by joining one of our Mission Committees or by buying Café Justo in the bookstore and sharing the justice message driving to this ministry.

There is much to do to demonstrate your love for our church, our congregation and our mission. To do this, please first fill out an iSERVE Time and Talent Form and/or then meet with me to talk about how to demonstrate your love by serving in our community. Put your love in action.
“As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God—the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.”

Love and All That Jazz
Sat., Feb. 18, at 7:30 pm

Join us at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) for a love-themed evening of music in the spirit of Valentine’s Day to benefit Hope Academy of Music and the Arts! This family-friendly event features Blues/R&B singer-songwriter, Kelley Hunt.

“Kelley Hunt delivers the goods with a voice that grafts passionate blues to scorching soul—instantly endearing her to all within earshot, as her band surrounds her in a greasy funk that completes the package and brings you back for more.”
– Eric Thom, BLUES REVUE

Hope Academy’s HAT Co band, with special guest Randy Bush sitting in on keys, will open for Kelley Hunt!

Advanced tickets, at a discounted rate, will be available after the 11 am worship services: $10 adults; $5 students, seniors 60+ and artists; or $20 per family.

If you would like to pay by credit card, visit www.brownpapertickets.com. Use the password “ELPC/HA” to get the advanced ticket rate.

Tickets also will be available at the door of the Kell-Strayhorn Theater on the night of the event: $15 adults; $10 students, seniors 60+ and artists.

For more information, please visit www.HopeAcademyArts.com or call 412.441.3800 x11. Listen to Kelley Hunt’s music at www.KelleyHunt.com.

Annual Congregational Meeting Date Set
Sun., Feb. 19, following 11 am worship

Join us in the Social Hall for our Annual Congregational Meeting.

A simple lunch will be provided, followed by an opportunity to review our ministry areas and committee work from the past year. In addition, the gathered body will be presented with a slate of candidates for Elder, Deacon, Centennial Fund, and Nominating Committee, which they also will be asked to consider and vote upon.

Building Closed: The ELPC office will be closed all day on Mon., Feb. 20, for Presidents’ Day. The building will open for meetings at 7 pm.