**Holy Week Sanctuary Lighting Project**

For our Holy Week and Easter worship services, a partnership with Carnegie Mellon University will link the talents of students in the school of architecture with the worship life of our church. As a class project, under the oversight of Prof. Cindy Limauro, students will design special lighting features for the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday Worship Services. Some may recall when we had a similar partnership in 2010. This creative blend of liturgy and lighting will enhance our remembrance of the final week of Christ’s earthly life, as well as build on our church’s ongoing commitment to community engagement and support for the arts.

**Holy Week Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>8:45 and 11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Wed. Taizé Sung Prayer</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>12 and 7 pm</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Saturday Easter Vigil</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>8:45 and 11 am</td>
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**Putting Our Faith in Action**

*by Tara Marks*

While reading a Lenten season blog, I came across Luke 17:21: Jesus says: “The kingdom of God is within you.” The blog entry went on to explain that Jesus was talking to his disciples and reminding them that, while on earth, their hearts must reflect God’s kingdom. Advocating is my heart’s reflection of God’s kingdom. I advocate for feeding programs and progressive tax policies, as well as engage allies in the fight. My vision of God’s kingdom is a place where all are fed, clothed, housed and empowered to help others in need. Using our collective Christian voice to end poverty and hunger is putting our faith in action. This sweet victory will be won not just by collecting cans of food, but by solidifying a strong social safety net that displays God’s love to our neighbors.

This Easter season, may we each respond to our heart’s reflection of God’s Kingdom.

**Editor’s Note**

This month’s theme is *Light of Life*. Look for articles written by members of our faith community, identified by this symbol.

**Sunday Morning Services**

* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am**

Liturgists: Ray Anthony

April 1* To be announced
April 8 Combined service at 8:45 am
April 15 Erica McIlroy, Seminary Intern
April 22 Mark Bibro, President, East End Cooperative Ministries
April 29 To be announced

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**

April 1* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
April 8 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
April 15 Darren Belajac
April 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
April 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**

April 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 22 Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut
April 29 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Labyrinth Prayer Walk**

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

**Taizé Prayer Service**

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

**After Taizé Class Schedule**

Classes begin at 8:15 pm
April 11 Music on the Labyrinth
April 25 Celebrations!
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

In reading through the Easter stories in the gospels, I was struck by how much movement is associated with this special day: The women made their way to the cemetery in the early morning light and then ran back to the others with the news that Christ was alive! Two disciples hurried to examine the empty tomb and rushed back to share what they discovered. Two other disciples encountered Jesus while walking on the road to Emmaus and then retraced their steps back to Jerusalem with the news of their experience. And Simon Peter leapt from his boat and excitedly swam to shore when he spotted the risen Christ waiting for him near the water’s edge. Walking, running, swimming, racing out of breath to tell the good news of life conquering death: all these action verbs are at the heart of the Easter message.

And yet, when we gather to remember Easter nowadays, we enter into church sanctuaries and respectfully, quietly, sit in our pew as the gospel is read to us...

Of course there are times of movement on Easter morning. In our church services, we greet one another with a hug and the invigorating greeting, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” We stand to sing our Easter hymns of praise; we move around throughout the day to come to church, to return home, to follow after kids on Easter egg hunts, to gather together at shared meals with family and friends. But all those examples are movements that happen simply because it is Easter, as opposed to “Easter movements.” Let me explain the difference.

Living a life of Christian faith involves a certain number of necessary movements. For example, we move from one place to another to attend church; we make our way to different classrooms for Adult Education classes; we bow our heads at meal times to offer a prayer; we take a walk outdoors and offer thanks to God for life, health, and the beauty of creation. Those are nice “movements,” but they are more functional than exceptional.

Christian faith also involves distinctive movements, special movements, and “Easter movements.” A distinctive movement may be one that turns us off our normal path and takes us down a new road in which we serve others or care for someone on life’s margins. A special movement could be one that follows a time of reconciliation that we didn’t expect or earn, or comes as a heart-warming consequence of hearing words of love and compassion spoken to us by others. Lastly, an Easter movement is best compared to the actions of the Easter cast of characters: It is the fresh awareness that death is neither this world’s dominant reality nor the final word in our relationships with God and one another (like the women at the tomb). It is the mind-changing revelation that our version of reality pales in comparison to God’s version of this created order (like the disciples on Easter day). It is that spirit that causes us to dance, to leap into the water (like Simon Peter of old), to step out by faith, feeling in that act more alive than ever before. Easter movements involve engagement, peacemaking with our heart and soul, justice expressed through little deeds and grand visions, and hope that cannot be dissuaded or deterred at all.

We gather in church on Easter to remember the story. But we get up, move and leave the church to be the Easter story. By God’s grace, may you be moved in distinctive, special, faithful ways this day and every day!
Session News

At the last Session meeting:

* The Rev. Barbara McFarland was approved as a Parish Associate for ELPC. She is a member-at-large in Shenango Presbytery, served congregations in the 1990s, and is currently the owner of a software engineering firm in Murrysville.

* Updates were given from the Property Committee about the first floor architectural study and the stormwater reclamation project.

* Information was shared about the current state of the PC(USA) denomination, including renewed efforts by some churches to form a new Reformed church body.

* A Saturday worship service was approved for 5 pm, on May 5, due to a necessary church closure on May 6, because of the Pittsburgh Marathon.

Expecting our Miracle

by Deborah and Aidevo Hughes-Ihonde

We’re expecting our first child in April. At first we were slow to spread the news, but now we’re telling everyone who’ll listen about our expected bundle of joy. The responses range from blank stares, to bear hugs. Many people give us a smile and a “I know what you’re in for but I’m not saying” grin. Invariably though, people ask “Do you know what you’re having?” Yes! We’re having a baby!

We get it. Humans have a curiosity that demands knowing every detail including the baby’s gender in utero. How will you decorate the room? What about the clothes? Will you know the gender soon? They make “boy rugs” and “girl rugs,” you know. Not to mention the boy lamps and girl lamps. Eck! Know now or abandon all hope!

Well, we don’t know. We figure we’ll find out in April and that will be soon enough. The moment we first lay eyes on our child holds so much promise and excitement! We know we’re having a baby. We hope she (or he!) will be gentle, kind, and caring. We hope he will have a desire to help people and make friends with the kid that other kids make fun of. We hope she will share her gifts and talents and all of her Easter eggs with anyone who asks. We hope he’ll just be a decent person.

Is it a girl or a boy? Only God knows. What we know is that God’s grace is eternal. We know that His love lives in us and passes through us to every life we encounter including our new little one regardless of gender. As brand new parents to be, we have our share of anxiety but we also have the comfort that God will guide and sustain us. After all, God has already blessed us more than we have ever imagined, and God will answer the lingering question, “Do you know what you’re having?,” at the perfect time and place. Until then, we await our miracle.

Coming Attraction:

General Assembly 220

by Frances Wilson, Local Contact

The General Assembly (GA)—the council of the PC(USA)—will meet in Pittsburgh’s Convention Center from June 30–July 7. Who comes to the GA? Thousands of participants and observers:

**688** Commissioners: 344 elders and 344 pastors, elected by their presbyteries.

**173** Young Adult Advisory Delegates, who represent all of the presbyteries.

**25** Theological Student Advisory Delegates who represent the theological institutions.

**8** Missionary Advisory Delegates who are missionaries and fraternal workers.

**15** Ecumenical Advisory Delegates, who represent other denominations and churches (10 from other countries).

Continued on page 6

Pastor Emeriti Sunday

On **Sun., April 22**, ELPC is pleased to welcome back our two “pastor emeriti.” The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut, pastor emeritus, will preach at the 11 am worship service. Dr. Chesnut was senior pastor at ELPC from 1988 to 2002. He is now retired and resides with his wife Jan in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Also assisting in that worship service will be the Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szpremny, pastor emeritus, who was Director of Worship, Music, and the Arts at ELPC from 1995 to 2010. It is a honor to welcome back these two pastors and to have them share their gifts for worship once more in our church.
Contemporaries Class  Second Floor Parlor  Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle  
**April 1, 22: How My Writing Has Brought Me Closer to God**  
Led by Libby Hultberg-Ferda  
Expression through writing can lead to many spiritual and personal break throughs. We benefit from the fact that scripture is written down. We also benefit enormously when we share writing with others. Libby considers writing to be a passion and she is willing to share the components of that gift with our learning community as a means of strengthening interaction to enhance our congregational life. Let us participate in this thought-provoking process along with her.

**April 15: Passover and the Significance of this Jewish Festival**  
Led by Richard A. Feldstein, Clark Smith and Selected Guests  
In a combined class with Seekers, experience a Passover celebration including a taste of lamb accompanied by other essentials. Explanations will be provided regarding the significance of the components related to this sacred ceremony. Please come with questions and observations as we share in this treasured opportunity of fellowship.

**April 29: Living the Resurrection**  
Led by Tucker Ferda  
The act of coming back to life after being dead makes quite a statement. Yet, that is exactly what Jesus did! We continue to benefit from that provision in ways beyond our comprehension. However, we too must learn to lead the transformative life that His resurrection makes possible. We will explore the paths of this process in a series designed to challenge and inspire those seeking a fresh revelation embodied through this concept.

Parenting Circle  Harambe Room  Facilitators: Pam Walaski, Andrea DeVries, and Sandy Edgecombe  
This spring, we will shift from a discussion on family relationships to an outward focus, tackling issues such as social justice and attitudes of consumerism within our families. As a jumping off point, we will be reading *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* by Dr. David Platt. Our discussion will begin on Sun., April 15. Throughout his book, Platt urges us to discover Jesus—not heaven—as our sole treasure, to lay aside everything that keeps us from pursuing Him above all else, and to realize that “It's not about me.”

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  
**April 1, 29: What is Shari’a Law?**  
Led by Professor Haider Hamoudi, University of Pittsburgh Law School  
Mostly what we hear about Shari’a Law is negative. But how many of us really know what Shari’a Law is? Professor Hamoudi will explain Shari’a Law and the manner in which it might be relevant to the lives of pious Muslims in the United States, as they deal with the intersection of these two different legal systems, while remaining true to their beliefs.

**April 15:** (See description under Contemporaries)

**April 22: Presentation on Peace Issues**  
The Rev. Dr. Chris Iosso, coordinator of the General Assembly’s Committee on Social Witness Policy, will speak about the peace issues that the General Assembly will consider when it meets in Pittsburgh, including issues in the Middle East.

Soul Food  Pastor’s Conference Room  
Coordinator: Joe Hajdu  
We will continue examining readings from *Spiritual Classics*.  
**April 1: The Shepherd in Search of Lost Obedience**  
(pages 176–183)  
**April 15: Wait and Wait Again**  
(pages 184–189)  
**April 22: God’s Instrument, by Alan Paton**  
(pages 190–196)  
**April 29: The Silent Beach, the Bowl of Stars**  
(pages 141–147)

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 (grades 4–6) or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Fri., April 20: Tween Movie Night, from 6:30–9:30 pm, in Room 234
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a movie night at ELPC! We’ll watch Soul Surfer (Rated PG), the true story of faith and resilience in a young woman’s life after losing an arm in a shark attack. Discussion will follow! RSVP to Brian Diebold at bdiebold@pts.edu. Bring $5 for pizza and snacks. See you there!

Sun., April 22: Youths Skating Trip, following 11 am Worship
Youth in grades 6–12 will head to Romp N Roll Skating Rink in Glenshaw for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We will gather at 12 pm, and return by 3:30 pm. Youth are asked to contribute $5/person for skating, and to bring additional money for snacks. Bag lunches will be provided. RSVP to Anthony Williams at 412.292.7935. Permission slips are required. See the Youth Calendar for details.

Youth Basketball Saturdays, from 6–8 pm
Note: We will not meet on Sat., April 7.

Save the Date: Youth Mission Trip
Youth who have completed grades 8–12, and have been active in ELPC’s youth programs or worship life, as well as have participated in at least 3 service projects with ELPC since September 2011, are invited to participate in our annual youth Mission Trip. This year’s trip will be from Sun., Aug. 5–Sat., Aug. 11.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., April 6: First (Good) Friday at First Trinity, at 7 pm
The crucifixion death of Jesus Christ will be remembered all over the globe this Good Friday. How does it speak to us today? What does your denomination believe? What do you believe? Join us for a meditative service at First Trinity Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh (535 N. Neville St., Shadyside/Oakland) and an informal discussion, with refreshments. Pastor Eric Andrae, chaplain for Lutheran Student Fellowship, is our host.

Sat., April 14: Not All Work Nor All Play, from 10:30 am–3 pm, in Room 244
Join us for our first-ever YAM business meeting, where we will make plans for our summer schedule and beyond. Then, we will decide the fun to be had...perhaps cook lunch together, go out to eat, catch a movie, etc. Bring money for lunch and activities. If you want to learn more about our Café Justo partnership, come at 9 am, in the Second Floor Parlor, to see a presentation some YAMs saw about border and economic justice. We will discuss our growing partnership to serve Café Justo and support justice at ELPC and beyond. Café Justo will be served at both events.

Sun., April 22: Caring for God’s Creation/Earth Day Sunday, at 12:30 pm

Sun., April 29: Romans Bible Study, Part 1 of 2, at 12:30 pm, in Room 244
The writings of Paul arguably helped shape the early church more than anyone else’s writings. Romans is often been called the cornerstone of his theology and, hence, that which defined early Christianity and still influences our church today. Read through the entire letter to the Romans prior to this study. Lunch provided.

You are Part of a Whole
by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator
Did you complete your iSERVE time and talent interest inventory? If not, pick one up on the table outside the East Transept or print one from the iSERVE website. Return it to that table, to Wil Forrest’s folder in the office, or directly to Wil.

We each have an important part of the gifts that together make up the whole for ELPC which is what serves our church, our community, and our God. Share your part.

Other opportunities are available on the iSERVE webpage at www.cathedralofhope.org/about/iSERVE.html.
Mission Opportunities

ELPC’s Neighbors mission committee, in partnership with Open Hand Ministries (OHM) and Garfield Community Farm (GCF), will sponsor work days on Sat., April 7, May 5, and June 2. OHM will begin rehabing a house in East Liberty and GCF will prepare hugelkultur plant beds and harvest produce.

The accomplishments of both OHM and GCF could not occur without the help of volunteers. Please join us! All ages and families are welcome! No special skills are needed. We will find a task that fits your interests and skills.

For more information, contact Emily Rosenthal at ejr116@gmail.com or 412.963.0139, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at patricefs@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x30.

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., April 3: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of the beatitudes. Sandy Brake will lead our lesson, Greatly Honored are Those Who Have Been Persecuted for the Sake of Justice! (Matthew 5:10, 13:20-21; Romans 8:31-39). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Soup and Beverages will be provided.

Fri., May 18–19: Spring Retreat – The Powers of Choice and Empathy

A peacemaker by nature and a lawyer and mediator by profession, Elder Diana Bloss will share the gift of accepting empowerment and the practice of empathy. Partial scholarships are available. Watch the bulletin board for details.

Spiritual Life

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, Interim Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

First Sunday Event: Awakening to Meaning and Wonder in the Cosmos

On Sun., April 1, from 12:15–2 pm, Karen Bernard, co-founder of Dream of the Earth, will continue our series on the New Cosmology, a grand, unifying, and sacred story that awakens us to the meaning and wonder of our universe. This story is not specifically Christian, but is inclusive, universal, and filled with hope. The series features video, discussion, songs, poetry, and prayer, as well as interactive dialogue and meditation.

General Assembly  Continued from page 3

100 Office of the General Assembly staff and assistants who perform a wide variety of tasks related to the assembly.

500 Staff and elected members of committees including GA Mission Council, its divisions, and related corporations.

250 Staff of presbyteries and synods, ecumenical and interfaith representatives and guests, theological institution presidents and the press.

450–650 out of town observers

1500–2500 local area observers

All assembly sessions and committee meetings are open to the public. The presence of observers who come to see their church at work and to meet friends from across the country adds to the unique experience.

Keep abreast of GA news as it develops and register to sign up for volunteer opportunities at www.cola2012.org. Also, check the First Floor GA bulletin board for news and feature stories.
**Hope Academy**

*Linda Addlespurger, Director*

**Sat., March 31: Hope Academy Spring Recitals and EL CEO Concert**

Hope Academy private voice and instrumental students will perform in their Spring Recitals at ELPC. All performances are free and open to the public. **EL CEO**, Hope Academy’s community engagement orchestra, will play a concert at 3:45 pm, with special performances by Hope Academy teaching artists and graduating senior, Bethan Neely, on organ; followed by Hope Academy’s Teen Theater Company (**HAT Co**) performing their individual recitals at 5 pm. A schedule of events is posted in the Front Lobby and at [www.HopeAcademyArts.com](http://www.HopeAcademyArts.com).

**Congratulations to Hope Academy Shakespeare Students**


**City of Pittsburgh Honors Hope Academy**

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl recognized and honored the efforts of Hope Academy, for “providing quality arts programming to City youth” and declared **March 2: Hope Academy of Music and the Arts Day** in Pittsburgh. Hope Academy’s director, Linda Addlespurger, also received individual recognition through the **Citizen Service Award**, recognizing community leaders who have contributed exceptional levels of service toward the advancement of Pittsburgh communities.

**Save the Dates**

**Sun., May 20: Young at Heart Luncheon**

Lunch and entertainment provided. We hope all ELPC members and friends who are 65 and over will plan to attend.

**Mon.–Fri., June 25–29: Vacation Church School**

Mark your calendars for ELPC’s annual Vacation Church School. This year’s theme is *Take Me To The Water—God’s Love Flows*. We will explore Bible stories where we learn about God’s love, God’s healing, and God’s power through stories that involve water. Once again, our days will be filled with worship, music, crafts, recreation, study, special daily activities, and a field trip to the park. **Notes:** VCS is open for children age 3½ (must have turned 3 by Jan. 1, 2012) through children who have completed grade 5. Youth in grades 6 and up, and adult volunteers, are needed to help make our week a success. VCS will run daily from 9 am–3 pm. Volunteer and participant registration forms will be available on the CE Bulletin Board, CE Table, and online. For details, contact Pastor Heather.

**ELPC People**

*If you have news to share, please contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.*

**Good News**

- Congratulations to Hope Academy Teaching Artist, **Anna Elder**, for being selected as Squonk Opera’s new principal vocalist!

**Prayers**

We offer our prayers and condolences to:

- Diana Joss, whose husband, Frederick Joss, passed away on Feb. 19.

**Clothes Washer Needed**

Are you upgrading your clothes washer and dryer or going with a more energy efficient model and need a good home for your current washer? ELPC is in need of a clothes washer to launder our cleaning cloths, mop heads, etc. Can you help? Please call Pam at 412.441.3800 x18.

**Going Green at ELPC**

In the coming months, ELPC will pioneer a new type of “green” infrastructure designed to capture rainwater. Instead of this water flooding our city sewage system, a new engineered system will re-direct the rainwater into underground pipes and out to the root systems of water-absorbing plants and trees. This combination of green engineering and lush landscaping will complement our church’s historic commitment both to the neighborhood and to faith goals of environmental stewardship. ELPC is partnering with East Liberty Development, Inc., 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Heinz Endowments, PA TreeVitalize and others to make this significant project happen. Look for big changes in our front yard in the near future!
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.”

Find us on Facebook
Search for “East Liberty Presbyterian Church” or scan the QR code below.

One Great Hour of Sharing
How would you like to join millions of Christians to show God’s love and make a difference in the world? That’s what Presbyterians have done since 1946 through the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Through the generosity of you and others, millions of people have been assisted during times of natural disasters, food has been provided to the hungry, refugees have been assisted with resettlement, and communities and families have been built and strengthened.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we are called to respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers find hope for a brighter future. When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts are distributed to The Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

ELPC will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, April 1, and Easter Sunday, April 8. Please prayerfully consider a generous gift this year!

Mother’s Day Cards
Honor your mother or other beloved women with a Mother’s Day card to improve the lives of women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, and the Republic of South Sudan. Through Healthy Women Healthy Families, women are learning to grow and prepare nutritious foods, families are being protected from malaria, children are getting immunized, and women are receiving prenatal care.

Mother’s Day cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and may be purchased after 11 am worship on Sun., April 22 and 29, during fellowship before worship on Sat., May 5 (Marathon weekend), or from Kate Carlson in the church office during the week.

Day One Broadcast
A special conversation and sermon recorded by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will be broadcast on the Day 1 Radio network at 10:30 am, on Sun., April 22, on WWNL (1080 AM). This broadcast also will be available at Day1.org. Day 1 is the voice of mainline churches in America, featuring distinguished preachers, sermons, meditations, and community discussions of important issues.

Building Closed: The church building and offices will be closed on Easter Monday, April 9.