Special Worship Service on Sat., May 5

The route of the Pittsburgh Marathon necessitates cancelling all church services on Sun., May 6, except the 8 am Good Samaritan service. Therefore, we will have a special 5 pm Saturday worship service on Sat., May 5. This worship will focus on the theme of creation, as described in the first chapter of the book of Genesis.

Plans also are being made to have Latino musicians present, as one way to recognize Cinco de Mayo. Following worship, there will be a potluck supper, to which people are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Note: Church School Classes also are cancelled on Sun., May 6.

Youth Sunday

Sun., May 20

Join us as ELPC youth share their gifts and lead us in our 11 am worship service. Our liturgy will be written and led by our Senior High Church School Class, graduating seniors will share their faith stories, Hope Academy student musicians will offer special music, and our Club one sixteen children and youth will show two video presentations that they prepared.

God’s love abounds in the lives of the children and youth who are a part of our faith family. Come and be blessed by the gifts, talents, and testimonies of ELPC’s youth, and be inspired to share God’s love with others!

Pentecost

Sun., May 27

Pentecost is one of the most ancient festivals of the Christian church. It is similar to the Jewish festival that came 50 days after Passover, the feast day recalling the gift of the law on Mount Sinai. The Christian Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter and is when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit at the birth of the church. This holy day is mentioned by the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 16:8 and by Luke in Acts 20:16.

Join us as we welcome Pentecost through a special service of wind, flames, officer ordinations, proclamation and spirit! The 2012 Pentecost Offering, benefiting local at-risk children and national youth-serving and advocacy programs, also will be received.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

If we spent March and early April in the season of Lent, thinking about how our broken lives were part of the reason Christ went to the cross, the goal now is for us to spend April and most of May considering how we can let the Easter good news shine forth from our lives for all the world to see.

Last month I wrote about Easter in terms of “movement;” this month I want to speak about Easter in terms of “location.” First, when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away, her main question was “What have they done to my Lord?” (John 20:13,15). In those first moments of Easter, location was the key to everything. Where was Jesus’ body? The answer to that held the central message of Easter, for Jesus’ body was no longer in a tomb because he was alive! Jesus was out in the world, appearing to the disciples and then united in Spirit with the faithful of all times and places as the resurrected Lord.

This resurrection miracle means that Jesus is no longer limited in terms of “location.” Jesus the risen Christ is one with God the Creator, and therefore available in every place through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. No one place is privileged over another; all are equi-distant from God as well as equally accessible to God. No place is beyond God’s realm of love and justice, which also means that the Easter message links us to all people near and far. We, like Mary Magdalene, are to tell the good news of Easter to all the world. And wherever others struggle or are treated unjustly, we are to still ask the question Mary asked at the tomb: “What have they done to my sister in the Lord? What have they done to my brother in Christ?” As the apostle Paul wrote, “If one member [of the body of Christ] suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it” (I Corinthians 12:26). Thanks to the Easter resurrection, this injunction about suffering and honor is no longer bound to any one location.

Second, I want to share an old Jewish legend. Long ago, a man named Isaac lived in Cracow. He was very poor, but he dreamed three times about a great treasure buried under a bridge in the distant city of Prague. So he journeyed there to find it, but discovered that the bridge he had seen in his dream was patrolled day and night by the king’s guards. He circled the spot from a distance, when one of the guards noticed him and called him forward. When asked what he was doing, Isaac quickly told him about his dream. The captain laughed at the idea of believing in such night visions. “If I believed in dreams, I would have to go all the way to Cracow and find some man named Isaac, because I have dreamed that a great treasure lies buried beneath his bed!” Isaac thanked the captain, returned home, pushed aside his bed, and dug up the treasure that had been there all along.

Rabbi Harold Kushner told this story, and his closing words are true for both Jewish and Christian listeners. “What we are seeking is not in the past or in the future. It is not far away or in the possession of others. It is exactly where we are.” For each of us, remember that the location of the Easter good news ultimately is right where we are. This month start with yourself, then share the good news with others in word and deed!
Session News
Notes from the last Session meeting:

- Elders will be mentoring groups of new members to our church, linking them to worship and ministry opportunities.
- The new Book of Order no longer has a category for inactive members, so as of May 1, all those on our existing “inactive” roll will choose to move to active membership or be removed from our church rolls.
- Pittsburgh Presbytery is restructuring so that clusters of churches will meet several times a year, with the whole Presbytery meeting only 3–4 times a year.

A Rare Opportunity to Serve
The General Assembly (GA) of PC(USA) will hold its 220th meeting here at the David Lawrence Convention Center downtown from June 30–July 7, 2012. Observers are welcome as the commissioners and advisory delegates engage the key issues in our denomination today. You can obtain a free Observers Badge as a gift for volunteering a small amount of your time to help share Pittsburgh hospitality with people from all over the country as well as international visitors.

Register to volunteer by going online to www.cola2012.org and selecting “Volunteer.” After you have registered, you will be able to see the entire array of volunteer tasks along with a description of the responsibilities of each task, and the training required, if any. You will be able to select the day and shift that suits you best. Registration is online only. If you need access to a computer, call Kate Carlson at 412.441.3800 x16 to arrange to use one of the church’s computers.

Contact Fran Wilson if you have questions or need help getting started. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to serve and to see the workings of the GA up close.

A Short Visit to Guatemala
by Isaiah Wilson

When my Mom told me we were going to Guatemala, I got very excited. I wondered what I would see there. What would I hear and taste there? The day finally came, and I thought on the plane, “I’ve never been this far from home.” In Guatemala City, we met our guides for the week, Iman and Jess. They took our mission team to Chichicastenango in their van. Chichicastenango has a large Mayan population and they speak a language called Q’eqchi’.

There were several projects for our group to work on. The first three days I worked on a building project. We built a chicken coop at Maria’s home. Maria is a single mother who lives with her children in a dark run down one room house. The family is very needy like most of the people we met. The idea was to give Maria a way to earn money for her family by raising and selling chickens. We started by clearing the yard and making a concrete floor. When we finished the chicken coop, it was nearly one third the size of the house. We went to the market and bought four hens and two roosters for the chicken coop. Later in the week, I visited in a health clinic where there is a nurse and an EMS technician. The nurse taught me how to take blood pressure and pulse rate readings. There were many patients and I spent the day helping out. At the end of the week, our mission team had a feeding program for some of the shoeshine boys and the men who make their living by carrying heavy loads on their backs. We prepared a lunch for them at the missionary compound, drove to downtown Chi-chi, shared with them the good news of Jesus Christ and served them a meal. I was given the chance to talk about how awesome our God is. I had two interpreters. One who translated English to Spanish and the other translated Spanish to Q’eqchi’.

The people of Chi-chi were very friendly and grateful for any help they received. I found it hard to recognize kids of my age, though, because both the children and the adults are so small. They all thought I was about 18 or 20.

Before I knew it, we were on the plane headed back to Pittsburgh. The trip ended where it started, but I felt different. I had seen how much I have to be thankful for.
What is Jesus worth to you? In nine chapters he challenges us to consider how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our lifestyles and desire for material goods and benefits, all the while ignoring what Jesus really called us all to do and what He wanted us to give up in order to follow him.

If you have questions, email Pam at pam@jcsafety.com or Andrea at ADevries@healthcore.com. Books will be available for purchase. We’d love to have you join us.

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
May 13: Christian Responsibility in the Political Arena, led by Dr. Ronald Stone
Three church members and holders of public office will speak on Christian responsibility in the political arena.

May 20: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming, led by Dr. Ronald Stone
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush and Councilman Patrick Dowd will discuss Marcellus Shale with reference to Presbyterian Church policy on ecology and energy. Dr. Ronald Stone will introduce our Church’s position. The Church’s policy paper will be available on May 13.

ELPC member Noel Clive was born and raised in Pakistan, a country in turmoil today over religion, politics and social issues. Noel will share with us how his Pakistani background and heritage has shaped and informed his Christian faith.

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

May 13: The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing (pages 111–118), facilitated by Doris Dick

May 20: Do Not Be Anxious About Your Life (pages 119–126), facilitated by Joe Hajdu

May 27: The Lord Opened unto Me (pages 127–133), facilitated by Joe Hajdu

CLASS DE ESCRUELA 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.

Sun., May 20: Service Project
Youth have an opportunity to participate in a service project which takes place at ELPC. Youth will have an opportunity to assist with the Young at Heart Luncheon. They will be serving meals to those in attendance and also will be assisting with the clean up process as well. Youth should meet at the church in the Harambe Room no later than 11:30 am, and we will dismiss from the event at approximately 3 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Williams at 412.292.7935.

Sun., Aug. 5–Sat., Aug. 11: Mission Trip to Philadelphia
Youth who have completed grades 8–12, are active in ELPC’s youth programs, and have completed (or plan to complete) three or more service projects with ELPC between August 2011 and June 2012, are invited to participate in our Mission Trip to Philadelphia. If you are interested, contact Wil Forrest at 412.260.2554. RSVPs and a nonrefundable $50 deposit are required by May 31. Registration and permission forms, as well as two training sessions also are required.

Youth Basketball Saturdays, from 6–8 pm

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., May 4: Primer Viernes / First Friday at Your Neighborhood, at 7 pm
Learn to be a good neighbor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 Highland Ave.)! We will learn about a new local mission opportunity called Who’s Your Brother? and then engage their service online (bring your laptop if you have one), then we will head to a local lounge to share in some fellowship time. Meet in Basfield Dining Room in the Main Dining Hall.

Thurs., May 10: Saludo a las Mujeres/Salute to Women, at 6:30 pm
We will gather on Mexico’s Mother’s Day in the Second Floor Parlor to celebrate the women we love. Bring a picture of a woman you love and a story to share.

Sat., May 19: Día de Servico/Day of Service, from 10 am–3 pm
Put your faith in action by rolling up your sleeves to do some service projects around the church for the day. Dress casually and plan to get a little dirty. We will meet in the Trustees Room. Lunch will be provided.

Fri., May 25–28: Peregrinaje de la Confianza/Pilgrimage of Trust
This Memorial Day weekend, Chicago and DePaul University will host thousands of young adults as they come together to pray, worship, meditate and more—all in the Taizé style. The theme is A Pilgrimage of Trust. A pre-registered group will journey together to this exciting worship opportunity. For more information, please visit www.taize.fr/en_article12737.html, or scan the QR code to the right.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Classes will run from April 25–May 30. Each session will meet at 6 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer to bring soup, please call Wil Forrest at 412.260.2554.

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Tai Chi
Tuesdays, from 10–11 am, and 6–7 pm
Classes will end on Tues., May 29.
Reaching Out • May 2012

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., May 1: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of the beatitudes. The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan will lead our lesson, *GREATLY HONORED ARE YOU WHEN YOU PUT YOUR HONOR ON THE LINE FOR CHRIST’S SAKE!* (Matthew 5:11–12, 23:29–36; Luke 6:22–23). 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. Our overnight retreat will begin Friday evening and conclude after dinner on Saturday. Partial scholarships will be available. Watch the bulletin board for details.

Retiring Officers
Join us in recognizing and thanking ELPC’s retiring officers for their service:

- **Elders:** Richard Headley, Paul Outon, Caterina Rosano, Kay Shissler, and Nancy Miller Smith.
- **Deacons:** Suzanne Bailey, Tim Engelhardt, Gary Sadler, Mary Lenox, and Julie Kascal.

Inquirers’ Classes
The next Inquirers’ Classes will be on:

- **Sun., May 20,** from 12:30–2:30 pm (lunch will be provided)
- **Sun., May 27,** from 9:45-10:45 am

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

Fri., May 4: Reel-World Religions: Inter-Religious Encounters in Contemporary Film
Join us from 7–9 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor, as we watch *Keeping the Faith* (2000), directed by Edward Norton. Elder Nancy Klancher will lead our discussion. How are inter-religious understanding, connection, and conflict represented in contemporary films? Come, see, and discern together what these popular images of religious difference mean for us in living out radical hospitality and Christian love.

Sun., May 13: Awakening to Meaning and Wonder in the Cosmos
Join us from 12:15–2 pm, as Karen Bernard leads the last part of our First Sunday 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 inclusive, universal, and filled with hope. The series features discussion, videos, songs, poetry, prayer, interactive dialogue, and interactive meditation.

Music Ministry Notes
Dr. Ed and Friends
Dr. Ed Moore will be joined by pianist Randall Frieling from Indianapolis and violinist Andrew Sords from Pittsburgh for a concert in the ELPC Sanctuary at 4 pm, on **Sun., May 13.** Among the pieces on the program will be George Gershwin’s beloved *Rhapsody in Blue*, arranged for organ and piano. The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be accepted to benefit future Cathedral Concerts. Treat your mother to a delightful afternoon of music!

New Timpani
ELPC is now the proud owner of a set of four Ludwig timpani. This set of timpani was previously a loaner set rented out by Volkwein’s Music, which meant we were able to acquire them at a greatly discounted price. They will be used by ELPC and Hope Academy for worship services, teaching, and concerts. The timpani were heard here for the first time on Easter, with Hope Academy teaching artist Elliot Beck wielding the mallets!

Words to Serve By
by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try spending the night in a closed room with a mosquito.” – African saying

“Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.” – Henry Van Dyke

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” – Mother Teresa

Put your love into action by serving in our community. To learn more, visit the iSERVE webpage at [www.cathedralofhope.org/about/iSERVE.html](http://www.cathedralofhope.org/about/iSERVE.html).
Mission Opportunities
ELPC’s Neighbors mission committee, in partnership with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm, is sponsoring volunteer work days on the first Saturday of each month in 2012.

ELPC is a founding church of Open Hand Ministries (OHM) and has partnered with OHM for four years now to rehabilitate abandoned properties into homes for first time homeowners and support the families as they transition into homeownership. In 2011 OHM rehabbed two houses with the help of volunteers, one in East Liberty and one in Garfield! ELPC also supports the Garfield Community Farm (GCF) which has grown substantially in its three-year existence. In March 2012, GCF provided fresh spinach to over 60 families at the Valley View Church food pantry and started preparation of a new field, its fourth, for crops that will benefit the community.

The accomplishments of both OHM and GCF could not occur without the help of volunteers. Upcoming workdays are Sat., May 5 and June 2. OHM is doing a rehab of a house in East Liberty. Projects will include interior demolition, construction, painting, and landscaping. Projects at GCF will include preparation and cultivation of hugelkultur plant beds, and harvesting of produce. 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.

ELPC People
If you have news to share, contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Good News
• John and Jackie Walker are the proud parents of a baby girl, Madison Suzanne Walker, born on March 16.
• Please welcome our new members: Douglas Ahlstedt, Linda Ahlstedt, Cameron Needle, Juan Robles, Lydia Vanderhill, Treshea Wade, Shandra Williams, and Alison Winters.
• Congratulations to Pat Valoon, who was recently inducted into the Duquesne University School of Nursing Hall of Fame.
• In March, 33 youth fasted to raise awareness and funds to combat hunger during our annual 30–Hour Famine. Their efforts raised over $500 to support EECM’s Have a Heart for Hunger campaign and the Haiti School Lunch Program.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to:
• David Johnston, whose father, Dr. James Johnston, III, passed away on March 19.
• Beverly Kreger, whose daughter-in-law, Linda Kreger, passed away on March 19.
• Elmer Harkema, whose fiancée, Janet Metcalf, passed away on April 2.

Vacation Church School 2012
Take Me to the Water: God’s Love Flows
Mark your calendars for our Vacation Church School! From June 25–29, kids age 3½ (who have turned three by Jan. 1, 2012) through grade 5, are invited to spend the weekdays at ELPC learning more about God’s love through worship, Bible Study, crafts, games, recreation and special daily activities. VCS will be held each day from 9 am–3 pm, and is free to all participants.

Volunteers Needed
If you are a youth (grade 6+) or an adult with gifts for working with children and a desire to teach about God’s love, please consider volunteering for VCS. Volunteers are needed in every aspect of this ministry to ensure that we can offer the best week possible: classroom teachers, craft leaders, recreation leaders, event leaders, snack helpers, assistants in every area, and the list goes on! Please note that according to the ELPC Child Safety Policy, all adult volunteers will need to have their Act 33/34 Clearance and Pennsylvania Criminal Background Check (ELPC will pay for and process these forms).
“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.

Mother’s Day Cards Still Available

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 will be offered by Presbyterian Women during the fellowship time before worship on Sat., May 5, or from Kate Carlson in the church office during the week.

Young At Heart Luncheon

Sun., May 20

All of those who are 65 and over are invited to our annual Young At Heart Luncheon, presented by the Deacons. Join together for good food, meeting old and new friends, and hearing great music by our own Music Associate, Gabe D’Abruzzo.

One senior with one guest will be admitted for free. For additional guests, there will be a $10 fee. Be sure to RSVP Kate at 412.441.3800 x16.

Mother’s Day Bake Sale

Sun., May 13, in the McKelvey Room

The ELPC Landscape Team is hosting a Bake Sale and Fundraiser to help cover costs of flowers and other landscape items.

We will have a wide sampling of delicious treats. Coffee and tea will be served. Members of the Landscape Team also will be on hand to answer questions and to sign you up if you would like to become a Landscape Team Volunteer. We look forward to seeing you and your sweet tooth!

Please plan to join us for this special time of fellowship before and after the 11 am worship service on Sun., May 13.

Building Closed: The church building and offices will be closed all day on Mon., May 28, for the Memorial Day Holiday. The office will reopen Tuesday morning.