General Assembly Worship Services

Presbyterians in the Pittsburgh area are invited to attend the Opening Worship Service of the 220th General Assembly. It will be held in the David Lawrence Convention Center on **Sat., June 30**, beginning at 1:30 pm, and will feature special music from a large choir, as well as handbell and brass musicians. The preacher for the service will be Cindy Bolbach (pictured), Moderator of the General Assembly. Communion also will be served.

Then, on **Sun., July 1**, we hope you will attend a special 10 am Worship Service as we welcome many guests. Our Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, will be preaching with music provided by brass musicians from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and a combined Chancel Choir. A newly commissioned piece will be premiered, and Bishop Gene Robinson will be a guest liturgist for the service. More information will be forthcoming as we prepare to welcome the General Assembly to Pittsburgh!

Join the Chancel Choir for GA Sunday!

You are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir on **Sun., July 1**, as we welcome many guests to our Worship Service.

Rehearsals are at 7 pm, on **Thurs., June 14, 21, and 28**.

If you are interested in participating, email Dr. Ed at EdM@coh.net.

ELPC Interns Offer Reflections

ELPC has been blessed by the ministry of two interns from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary during the 2011–12 Academic Year.

**Jane Anabe** has been serving in a dual internship, exploring the development of ministries serving Latino members of our faith community at ELPC and at Open Door Church. **Darren Belejac**’s ministry has focused on our educational ministries at ELPC.

Both of our interns have had the opportunity to share their gifts leading worship, preaching at Samaritan and Journey services, and assisting with Pastoral Care.

Find articles written by Jane and Darren on page 3.

Editor’s Note

This month’s theme is **Justice for All**. 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**

* Liturgist: Don Breitbarth

  June 3* Rev. Dr. Suzanne Bennett, Retired United Methodist Minister

  June 10 Caitlin Roher, Director, HOPE Pre-Release Program, Allegheny County Jail

  June 17 Rev. Clifton Anthony, New Bethel Baptist Church

  June 24 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**

* June 3* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**

* June 3* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Sanctuary Worship • 10 am**

* June 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

* June 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* June 24 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

* Note: See page 6 for after-Taizé classes

Calling all Graduates

We rejoice that many from our faith family are graduating from high school, college, or other programs. We wish to celebrate these accomplishments!

Please email your name, degree, and area of study (if applicable) to Gloria at GloriaK@coh.net by **Sun., July 1**.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

As the summer fast approaches, people are busy considering vacations and travel plans. There are lots of logistics involved in picking up from one place and visiting another: Who will care for the house while we’re gone? What should be done with the pets? Will I have the right clothing packed? How long should we stay away and what will we see along the way? As my family prepares for our time overseas, these questions are frequent topics of conversation around the dinner table.

The theme of travel is a common one throughout the Bible. Abraham and Sarah left their ancient home to follow God’s call into a new land. Joseph and his family moved to Egypt during a long season of drought. Moses and the Hebrew people wandered for 40 years in the wilderness before settling into their new tribal homeland. The Israelites were forced into exile in far away Babylon and later were allowed to travel back home. Jesus was an itinerant rabbi, of whom it was said “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” Paul’s missionary life was spent spreading the gospel among the cities along the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

We may long for lives spent quietly at home, enjoying the routines and comforts of well-worn paths and familiar surroundings. But lives of faith almost always involve movement and travel—for reasons both practical and theological. The practical reason is that we are meant to live out our faith in community. It is through our interactions with others in church, on the street, in the stores, or during times of travel outside our “home area” that our faith becomes part of our public testimony in a hurting world. Just as Jesus walked the streets, talked to those on the margins of life, and took time to comfort the ailing and bless the children, we are to walk the streets as living ambassadors of Christ’s love.

The theological reason that travel is important relates to our belief that God is present in all the world. Psalm 139 says, “If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me…and hold me fast.” By going out into the world, we are moving in places where God is already active. And by looking for God’s “fingerprints” in foreign lands or listening for God’s “voice” as it is spoken through words delivered with a different accent, we live into the fullness and richness of our global faith.

One last point: I recently read a comment from a returning Iraq war veteran, who said this: “I have been welcomed home many times, but I have never come all the way back from the places I have been.” The veteran was speaking of how the experience of war never fully leaves those who travel abroad on military or humanitarian missions. Alternately, the impact on our souls from mission trips or visiting foreign places stays with us long after our suitcases are unpacked and stored away. We never come all the way back from those places we visit that are outside our comfort zones or immediate neighborhoods. The good news is that God is with us both here and there, and whatever we bring back from our travels is something that bears the loving “fingerprints” of our global, eternal, wayfaring God.
Parting Words by Darren Belajac

Prior to starting my field education at ELPC, my experience with this congregation was quite positive. As an outsider, I knew the church as a welcoming place through my involvement in various community activities that occurred in the building. Thankfully, that impression has been solidified over the last nine months as I’ve gotten to know the congregation from the inside.

I am thankful for all the new people I have met here, and for the opportunities I’ve had to teach, preach, and care for others. I have been impressed with more things than I can list in this short paragraph, but suffice it to say that my appreciation for this church is such that my wife and I intend to continue to be involved after I graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on June 1. In fact, I will be working with ELPC in its role as a vital community partner. I have recently accepted a full-time position with East Liberty Development Inc., and I will be able to continue working with the church as both it and ELDI seek to better East Liberty and the surrounding communities.

I am thankful for the welcome I have received and for the work of this church—both past and to come.

What will Happen at the GA?

The General Assembly of PC(USA) is the council of the whole church. It deals with a complex array of hundreds of business items brought to it through four sources:

1. **Reports and recommendations from the GA Mission Council, the Office of the GA, and the four agencies of PC(USA)**
2. **Overtures, or recommendations from the synods and presbyteries:** There are over 200 overtures for this year’s assembly.
3. **Commissioner resolution:** Commissioners can submit business items within the first 24 hours of the assembly.
4. **Referrals from past assemblies:** Each assembly refers some proposals to study committees who report at the following assembly.

GA committees consider every item before it is presented to the assembly. The 220 GA expects to appoint 20 committees for this work, and there are 6 scheduled meeting periods for the committees as well as 11 plenary sessions for all commissioners and delegates. Observers can attend all of these meetings.

One of the first orders of business will be to elect a new moderator who will preside over the assembly. Candidates include: Rev. Robert Austell, Rev. Randy Bronson, Rev. Sue Krummel, Rev. Neal Presa, and Rev. Janet Edwards. There also will be daily worship opportunities.

It’s not too late for you to be a part of the excitement, history, and educational experience of the GA. Volunteer and receive a gift observer’s badge by registering at [www.cola2012.org](http://www.cola2012.org). Contact Fran Wilson if you need help getting started.

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Session News

At the May Session meeting, a meal was shared to facilitate fellowship and lively conversation as the incoming class of elders and deacons were examined by the current Session members. This fulfilled a Book of Order requirement and was done prior to their ordination and installation, which was held during worship on Pentecost Sunday (May 27).

This meeting also was an opportunity to give thanks for those elders and deacons who have completed their terms of active service. Those honored included: (Elders) Richard Headley, Paul Outon, Caterina Rosano, Kay Shissler, Nancy Miller Smith; (Deacons) Suzanne Bailey, Tim Engelhardt, Gary Sadler, Mary Lenox, Julie Kascal; (Nominating Committee) Don Breitbarth, Liz Hopkins; and (Centennial Fund) Mary Alice Lightle.

The Session also noted that elder Nancy Klawner will be stepping off the Session in order to begin a new teaching position this fall at Bridgewater College, Virginia.

A Reflection

by Jane Anabe

This year has been a great time of learning for me. As a seminary intern, I have had opportunities to discern more clearly where God is leading me in ministry, and I thank you, the members of ELPC, for giving me these opportunities. I have discovered many areas of ministry in which I have an interest, and I look forward to exploring these areas in the future.

Thank you all for your kind support. I have learned so much from you!

Jane Anabe cherishes a moment with her family.

A Reflection

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

Contemporaries Class Second Floor Parlor
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle
June 3: Liberation Theology and its Impact Today
led by Darren Belajac
Liberation Theology is a political movement in Christian Theology which interprets the teachings of Jesus in terms of justice and economic parameters. Darren is prepared to relate these issues to many challenges the church is facing right now. This presentation is a must for those seeking enlightenment and discernment to enhance their Christian journey today.

Journey with Scripture Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Irvin
We read the Revised Common Lectionary scripture selections while providing time for reflection and response.
June 3: Isaiah 6:1–8; Psalms 29; Romans 8:12–17; John 3:1–17

Parenting Circle Harambe Room
Facilitators: Pam Walaski, Andrea DeVries, and Sandy Edgecombe
June 3: Radical: Taking Your Faith Back from the American Dream
We will continue our study of Dr. David Platt’s book, Radical: Taking Your Faith Back from the American Dream. Our discussion will tackle issues such as social justice and attitudes of consumerism within our families.
If you have questions, email Pam at pam@jcsafety.com or Andrea at ADeVries@healthcore.com. Books will be available for purchase.

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
June 3: How is South Sudan Doing Since it Won its Independence?
Led by Benedict Killang
Benedict Killang is a former president of the Pittsburgh Sudanese Community, and currently the president of the Union of African Communities (UAC) in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Having just returned from South Sudan, he can share the latest struggles of the South Sudanese (Christians) to withstand the attacks and violence from Sudanese forces (Muslim), as they fight over issues of oil and borders.

Soul Food Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu
June 3: Letters to the Blessed Agnes of Prague, by Claire of Assisi
(page 134–138 in Spiritual Classics)

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.

Thank You Teachers!
As the Church School year draws to a close, we celebrate the teachers and facilitators who have shared their gifts to nurture our faith. Our teachers and leaders are dedicated and faithful men and women who impart their wisdom and their love of God with generosity, joy, and hard work. We are so blessed! We thank God for:

Church School Teachers: Jane Anabe, Joaquin Anabe Lopez, Linda Benedict, Valire Carr Copeland, Andrea DeVries, Sandy Edgecombe, Wil Forrest, Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, Bill Johnson, Mary Ruth Johnson, Vanessa Johnson, Joe Kennedy, Mary Alice Lightle, Roberta London, Joyce Martinelli, Judy Menk, Nicole Molinaro, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Carolyn Russ, Kay Shissler, Pam Walaski, Candess Ward, and Candice Zawoiski.


We will honor their service during our 11 am Worship on Sun., June 3.
Thank You, Katie!
This May, Katie Mohr, our Educational Ministries Assistant (EMA) graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). Katie joined our staff in September, 2010, as our PTS Seminary Intern, and then stayed on for an extra year as our EMA, supporting the ministries of the Christian Ed committee, coordinating Extended Session, and teaching the elementary students during club one sixteen.

In addition to graduating this spring, Katie will be married to Will Scott on June 16. We are blessed that Katie will continue her ministry with us through the summer, until Katie and her new husband relocate to Indianapolis.

The Christian Education Committee would like to celebrate Katie’s ministry here by hosting a coffee hour in her honor on Sun., June 3, following our 11 am Worship. Please greet Katie with a word of thanks and congratulations!

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

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.

Two required training sessions will be held in the Game Room from 11 am–1 pm, on Sun., July 15 and 29.

Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., June 1: First Friday at the Hofbräuhaus Pittsburgh, at 7 pm
Heard of Christmas in June? Well, come celebrate Oktoberfest in June instead! Come and kick off the summer with a hearty German meal and some fellowship. Visit www.hofbrauhauspittsburgh.com for details about this lively location at Southside Works. This is a no-host event. Bring a friend!

Sun., June 10: Romans Bible Study – Part 2, at 9 am, in Room 244
The writings of Paul helped shape the early church arguably more than anyone else’s. Romans often has been called the cornerstone of his theology and, hence, that which defined early Christianity and still influences our church today. Read through the letter to the Romans prior to our study. Café Justo will be provided.

Sun., June 10: Show Your Pride, after 10 am Worship
We will head down together in the church van to march in the annual Pittsburgh Pride Parade to show our support for our LGBTQ sisters and brothers. Afterward, we can enjoy the booths and entertainment at the Pride street fair.

Sun., June 24: Sights, Sounds and Stories, at 6 pm, in the Game Room
In our first individual-hosted event, and set to the tunes of the Beatles, Lauren Millikan will guide us through her study abroad journeys to Rome and Greece.

PSO Returns
Sat., June 2, at 7 pm, at ELPC
The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) will return for its 5th annual Community Engagement Concert. PSO Resident Conductor Lawrence Loh will conduct works by Holst, Mozart, Delius, and Schubert. Featured in this performance will be PSO musicians; Jennifer Orchard, Violin; and Marylene Gingras-Roy, Viola; in Mozart’s Sinfonia concertante.

A pre-concert student recital will be held at 6 pm, featuring students from Dilworth Elementary, CAPA Middle School, and EL CEO (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) from Hope Academy of Music and the Arts.

A post-concert student recital and bake sale will follow the PSO concert.

Ticket Prices
$10 for adults
$5 for students and seniors 60+
Free for youth 18 and under with adult

Tickets will be available at the door the evening of the performance, online at Brown Paper Tickets, or through the East Liberty partner schools (Dilworth, CAPA, Obama, Hope Academy of Music and the Arts).

All ticket proceeds from the concert will benefit area music education programs at Dilworth Elementary, Obama 6–12, CAPA Middle School, and Hope Academy of Music and the Arts. Proceeds from tickets purchased in advance at ELPC benefit EL CEO.

Thank you for your support!
Free Legal Forum for Women

Sat., June 9, from 9:30–11:30 am
All are invited to the 5th annual Legal Forum for Women in the Social Hall, sponsored by the Justice Committee. The panel will include a lawyer, judge, and an advocate for children’s rights. Participants will hear about issues that are pertinent to women, including:

- Finding and retaining a lawyer,
- Child custody,
- Housing,
- Parental rights,
- Immigration, and more!

Bring questions and a notebook for this informative forum. To register, reserve child care, or if you have questions, contact Kate at 412.441.3800 x16 or kate@coh.net by June 1.

Health Ministry

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

Harriet Tubman Guild
Blood Drive
Fri., June 8
11 am–5 pm
in the Social Hall

Tai Chi
Tuesdays, from 10–11 am, and 6–7 pm
Experience flowing movements and treat your body to a relaxing workout. The cost of this class is $3 per session.

Yoga
Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm
Relax and renew your body, mind and spirit. A donation to the instructor is appreciated.

JourneyDance
Fri., June 8, from 7–8 pm
Use movement to celebrate your inner strengths. A donation from the heart is appreciated.

For more information on these activities, contact Kate Carlson at kate@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
Wed., June 6: Young Adults Report on their Trip to Chicago
Wed., June 13: Jennifer Gorske’s Recital
Wed., June 20: Music on the Labyrinth
Wed., June 27: Tower Sing following our Celebrations!

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., June 5: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we complete our confession of faith in response to our study. The ancient practice of confession marks Christians as a people who recognize the truth, learn about the truth, and speak the truth—both about God and about ourselves. A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages will be provided.

I’ve Been Thinking About Serving, but…

by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

…I do not have time.
…I am not sure what I can do.
…don’t we already have folks doing that?

Talk with Wil Forrest about your “but.” Serving at ELPC may surprise you. Visit the iSERVE webpage at www.cathedralofhope.org/about/iSERVE.html.

Should Someone from Your Group be a TUK?

The new Trained User of the Kitchen (TUK) program is for individuals and members of groups at ELPC who utilize the main church kitchen. An hour-long training session will include where to find things, how to set up and clean up items in the kitchen, how to use kitchen equipment, expectations of those who use the kitchen, and more.

To sign up for a training session, please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14. These training dates will be held in the church kitchen:

- Sun., June 10, from 11:30–12:30 pm
- Tues., June 12, from 6–7 pm

Note: A TUK must be present when the ELPC kitchen is in use.
Please Pray for… Chenoa Stock

More than a year ago, ELPC member Chenoa Stock left Sri Lanka after five years of service there to work with the people of Bolivia as part of her mission service in the PC(USA) Hunger Program. Chenoa’s willingness to share her faith by witnessing for the Lord in dangerous and remote parts of the world is an inspiration.

In Bolivia, she is helping the Joining Hands for Life Network (Uniendo Manos Por la Vida, UMAVIDA in Spanish) to speak out against the environmental impact of mining practices that have been a part of the country for the past 500 years. Much of these impacts concern the contamination of primary water sources.

Due to this, UMAVIDA has created the campaign, El Agua Dulce Vale Mas Que El Oro (Clean Water Is More Valuable than Gold). The focus of the campaign is to research and make public the contamination and degradation of fresh water sources so that constructive action can be undertaken.

The ELPC Poverty Committee is supporting Chenoa and her mission work with financial assistance, prayers, and advocacy efforts. If you would like to participate, there are Prayer cards for Chenoa available on the Mission Board bulletin board. Please take one and pray for Chenoa and the people of Bolivia.

ELPC People

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

Good News

Congratulations to our faith family’s new parents!

- John and Jackie Walker are the proud parents of a baby girl, Madison Walker, who was born on March 16.
- Devo and Deborah Hughes-Ihonde are the proud parents of a baby boy, Alexander Hughes-Ihonde, who was born on April 14.
- Nathan and Jenni Knopp are the proud parents of a baby girl, Mya Claire Knopp, who was born on May 7. Nathan is the son of Gloria Knopp, administrative assistant to Pastor Randy and Pastor Heather.

Thanks

- To my caring congregation of faith: Every prayer, every get-well wish, every loving expression of concern and support, and your heart-felt condolences upon the passing of Ruth Ann Davies continue to touch me deeply. I thank you most humbly.
  – Corinne P. Clendening

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of:

- Ruth Steiner, who passed away on April 4. She was a member of ELPC for 39 years.
- Ruth Davies, who passed away on April 11.
- Christopher Hackney (affiliate member of ELPC), son of Colleen Hackney and nephew to Penn and Katherine Hackney, who passed away on April 25.
- Erwin Dorsey, the nephew of Wayne Gaines (our sound technician at ELPC), who passed away on April 29.
- Laura Lou Struthers, who passed away on May 7. Laura Lou was a member of ELPC for 52 years. She served as an Elder and was active with several groups at ELPC. Laura Lou was serving as the chair of New Missions Committee at Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Lancaster Seminary Inauguration of President

In April, Dr. Carol E. Lytch was inaugurated as the 11th president of the Lancaster Theological Seminary (U.C.C.). ELPC members Florence and Justin Johnson, Jean Kennedy, and Emma Odim travelled to Lancaster for the ceremony.

Dr. Lytch and her husband, Steve, both ordained Presbyterian ministers, attended ELPC for two years. While in Pittsburgh, Steve assisted our congregation in the discernment of our mission structure, while Carol served as Associate Director of the Association of Theological Schools in Moon Township. Both were delighted to find ELPC included in the festivities.

Take a Tour of ELPC!

Do you want to learn more about our Cathedral building and the ministries housed here? Or do you want to explore the subbasement, discover the inner workings of the organ, and enjoy views of East Liberty from the tower?

Join us following 10 am worship on Sun., June 24, as tour guides offer two tours: a short 30-minute walk on the main level or a 90-minute, top-to-bottom tour.

Please wear comfortable shoes (flat, close-toed shoes are required in the subbasement and tower).
“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.”

Pridefest 2012

Our summer worship schedule will begin on Sun., June 10, in time for members to participate in Pride March at noon. We will run a shuttle downtown to the March site, following our 10 am worship service.

The Pride March is a wonderful witness opportunity for us as people line the streets to watch the parade. ELPC has a banner that we carry, and we need to have a large group of ELPC members to walk behind the banner, showing the LGBTQ community that our church truly stands for radical welcome.

ELPC also will have a booth on Liberty Ave. during Pridefest, where members can provide information and answer questions about our church. Sign-up sheets for the March and Booth will be available on the bulletin board.

Call Carol Chonoska at 724.272.9722 for more information, and Wil Forrest at 412.260.2554 to ride the shuttle.

We need YOU to represent ELPC at Pridefest!

VCS 2012: Take Me to the Water, God’s Love Flows

June 25–29, from 9 am–3 pm

Registration is filling up fast for this summer’s Vacation Church School. If you’d like to register your child, complete a registration form and return it to Gloria Knopp or Pastor Heather in the church office.

VCS Volunteers Needed

In order to offer the best program possible, we need volunteers to help with everything from teaching to preparing snacks. If you have a heart for service, a gift for working with children, and availability during the last week of June, prayerfully consider volunteering for VCS!

Volunteers need their Act 33/34 clearances (ELPC will process and pay for them!), and need to be trained on our Child Safety Policies. Please fill out a volunteer registration form and talk with Pastor Heather to find out more!

Adult Volunteers: A required training session will be on Sun., June 17, immediately following 10 am worship.

Youth Volunteers: Youth interested in volunteering must attend a youth training event at 11:30 am, on Sun., June 24. Call Wil Forrest at 412.260.2554 for more details.