General Assembly Reminders
Here are a few reminders in preparation for the General Assembly’s (GA) presence in Pittsburgh, from June 30–July 7.

• The opening worship at 1:30 pm, on Sat., June 30, is open to the public and will be held in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The GA will convene thereafter and elect a new moderator for the PC(USA).

• The largest concentration of GA guests will be at our church for our 10 am Worship Service on Sun., July 1. Over 300 delegates and visitors will join us for worship and lunch, along with special guest, the Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire.

• From Fri., June 29–Wed., July 4, the GA exhibit hall will be open to the public with displays reflecting the wide range of Presbyterian Church ministries and programs.

• Opportunities for GA volunteering are still available. For more details, call the church at 412.441.3800 or the Pittsburgh Presbytery office at 412.323.1400.

Join us for Worship on Sun., July 1!
As part of the 220th General Assembly of the PC(USA), ELPC will welcome hundreds of GA delegates to our 10 am Worship Service on Sun., July 1. Pittsburgh Symphony Brass will be our musical guests and we will hear a new choral anthem, commissioned by David Schelat from First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Del. The prelude music will begin at 9:30 am.

Please plan on arriving early, and inviting your friends and family to help welcome our guests to Pittsburgh and show them what ELPC is all about!

Editor’s Note
This month’s theme is Faith in Action. 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: Peter Murray
July 1* Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Associate Professor, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta
July 8 Penn Hackney, Elder, ELPC
July 15 Rev. Dave Carver, Pastor, First United Presbyterian Church, Crafton Heights
July 22 Kenneth Wilmer, Bridge Housing Coordinator, EECM
July 29 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sanctuary Worship • 10 am
July 1 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 8* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 15 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 29 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Note: Beginning July 8, Sanctuary Worship will be held in the Garth, weather permitting.

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service
Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton
Note: There will be no Taizé worship service on Wed., July 4.

Taizé Class Schedule
Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
July 25 Celebrations!
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The fourth commandment is one of the longer ones. It says this: “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son or your daughter, your manservant or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.” We tend to shorten this commandment down to a few words—Honor the sabbath—but that misses out on the emphatic character of this word of the Lord.

As most of you know, a few days after this newsletter arrives in your mailbox (or computer inbox), my family and I will be on a plane heading for a three-month sabbatical in New Zealand. It will be a time of travel and seeing a new country. It will be a time for music study for both Beth and me, finally having the opportunity to learn new repertoire and daily practice on the piano (me) and voice (Beth). It will be a time of study for the children, as they are graciously forgoing a good chunk of their summer vacation to be enrolled in an intermediate school in Auckland for 10 weeks. It will be a time to see new things, visit other church congregations, learn about the multicultural nature of New Zealand society, and make contacts at the University of Auckland. Mostly, it will be an important time to be together as a family, sharing unique experiences in this precious period before the kids enter high school and the “merry-go-round of life” picks up the pace considerably.

Even while I’m on this sabbatical (a time of sabbath rest and study), I will need to be careful about honoring the fourth commandment. It is possible to be even busier away from home than we are in our regular routines. How many times have you returned from a vacation feeling like you need a vacation?! There will be the temptation to take advantage of every possible moment to see all there is to see in New Zealand, since it is doubtful trips of this distance will occur more than once in a lifetime. Fortunately, the kids being in school will keep us grounded in the “mundane”, even as we carve out moments for the “exceptional” and keep our eyes open for the “surprises of God.”

In truth, that is part of the formula for honoring the sabbath and keeping the fourth commandment in all our daily lives. To be “grounded in the mundane” does not mean that we are stuck in ruts and frazzled from trying to maintain impossible work schedules. It means that we are “grounded”—standing on firm foundations that are related to the spiritual and personal priorities in life—which allows us to do the mundane details, confident that our words and deeds are making a difference. And to carve our sabbath “moments for the exceptional” means that we take care to truly notice what is happening around us, to look people in the eye, to listen when they speak of pain or joy from their hearts, as well as to find time to breathe, to walk around, to listen, to “be still and know that God is God.” When those two things happen, then we are able to glimpse the “surprises of God”—the providential way things come together for the good, the transformative way we are able to see people around us as women and men with real stories, real passions, real humanity as sibling children of God with us.

Continued on page 3
Session News
Notes from the recent meeting:
- The Session had a positive dialogue with representatives from the Presbytery Committee of Ministry for their periodic consultation about the goals, strengths and challenges of ELPC’s ministry;
- The calendar for the remainder of 2012 was reviewed, with particular attention given to plans during the Rev. Dr. Bush’s sabbatical;
- Updates were provided regarding another successful Vacation Church School, ongoing work related to property renovations, and plans for the fall Stewardship Campaign.
- The congregation was encouraged by the Session to honor their pledged giving during the summer months, as this helps maintain a positive cash flow for the church.

Pastoral Message  Continued from page 2
“Surprises of God” happen when we drive through the Ft. Pitt tunnel and see our hometown skyline with renewed appreciation or when a dolphin leaps in a harbor outside Auckland. “Surprises of God” happen when we remember how enriched we are to have friendships that cross racial-ethnic-economic barriers, whether here or overseas. “Surprises of God” happen when a prayer is offered for someone else, whom we trust enough to ask them to pray for something in our lives as well, whether that involves Pittsburghers or New Zealanders.

While I’m away, I will send back some dispatches from abroad to let you know how things are going, even as I will receive occasional e-mail dispatches from Gloria and the staff. Heather, Patrice, Christiane and Mary Lynn will be leading worship and providing pastoral care, and you will continue to be a caring, active, God-directed congregation. My family flies back home on October 6 and I will resume work on October 15. My sincere prayer is that this upcoming season will provide many opportunities for all of us to re-learn how to honor the Sabbath, to rest and be renewed, and to be uplifted by the grace and “surprises” of our loving God.

Brunch with the Bushes
Please join us for brunch in the Social Hall after our 10 am Worship Service on Sun., July 8, as we send Pastor Randy, Beth, Ian and Charlotte off on their three-month New Zealand adventure with blessings, best wishes, and Godspeed.

Young Adults’ Taizé Pilgrimage of Trust
By Elizabeth Downey
This past Memorial Day weekend, six young adults from our congregation—including Cornelius and Shauna Franz-Deppe, Elizabeth Downey, Leah Marmo, Lakiya Shealey-Sommer, and Wil Forrest—boarded the church van to venture to Chicago on a Taizé “Pilgrimage of Trust.” The group was welcomed by the Taizé Brothers, who have been in residence at DePaul University for the past few months, and joined several hundred other young adults from around the world for a weekend of Taizé prayer services, scriptural studies, workshops, and shared meals.

Highlights from the Young Adults’ trip included:
- An information session on Chicago’s “Night Ministry” for the homeless;
- A non-stop, two-and-a-half-hour coaching in sacred miming;
- Discussions around the dinner table followed by improvised table games and fellowship; and
- Making new friends through their host, Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Many of the pilgrims hope to attend another international Taizé meeting and are looking toward the Taizé convergence scheduled to happen next August in Rome.
Faith in Our Community  

By Emily A. Mohn

When I joined ELPC in the fall of 2009, I was unsure about how to get involved and had a hard time reaching out on my own. Then, Emily Rosenthal encouraged me to join the Neighbors Committee, and I quickly felt like a part of ELPC.

Our Committee works to engage the congregation in service to our community in a manner that responds to God’s commandment to “love our neighbor as ourselves.” As part of my role, I serve as ELPC’s representative on the East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) Council of Congregations.

As a Pittsburgh native, I grew up hearing about EECM and its work, but until I served on the Council, I did not fully understand the programs, love, and care that EECM infuses into the East End.

The most exciting project underway at EECM is Community House, a new building that will allow EECM to:

• Consolidate over 10 youth program sites and a computer center;
• Provide round-the-clock care for homeless residents, and daytime counseling and educational programs;
• Serve 25,000 more meals each year through its hunger programs; and
• Help more children through tutoring and other services.

Over the past year, I’ve witnessed so much effort being put into this next step for EECM. I can’t wait to see it come to fruition, as it brings our community closer to what we all hope for it to be.

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Adult Summer Series  From 9:15–9:50 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue studying the Beatitudes in their literary, historical and cultural context.

July 1: Greatly Honored are the Humbled! Led by Joe Kennedy
July 8: Greatly Honored are Those Who are Famished and Parched for Justice! Led by Mary Alice Lightle
July 15: A Call to Discipleship Led by Mary Alice Lightle

Stormwater Reclamation 2012

When Pittsburgh was growing in the early 20th century, rain water was hardly a concern in America’s most industrial city. Roads were cobble stone or gravel, huge parking lots did not exist, and most houses had their roofs drain into their yards. As the years went on, however, pavement and concrete crept over the county, and rooftops were tied to downspouts that led into storm drains. We were putting more stormwater into an overburdened system, and our government partners could not build enough infrastructure to keep up with the growing amount of water in the pipes. To make matters worse, main pipes also conveyed our sewage. This system continues today—but is now worse than ever.

In rain events both large and small, our current system overflows into our creeks and rivers, relieving pressure, but also merging raw sewage and everything else flowing from streets and parking lots directly into our drinking source—the three rivers. These flood events also are responsible for the flooding in our basements, and tragically, the loss of life on Washington Blvd. We need a solution, and fast.

A popular solution is one of rebuilding with BIGGER pipes, BIGGER storage facilities, and BIGGER treatment plants—all with a HUGE price tag. In contrast, others are advocates for green infrastructure. For example, if rain were to fall on a permeable surface (lawns or plants) instead of an impermeable surface (concrete or asphalt), it would drain into the earth as it did for millions of years.

Our church will be a pioneer of this new system of green infrastructure, with the support of many organizations. To begin, we will remove 100 years of clay-based, construction-fill from the front lawn and replace it with an engineered system of perforated pipes and structured soil that will “hold” the water long enough for hundreds of plants and trees to soak it up or let it flow back into the earth. Above ground, we will install a beautiful new Town Square for East Liberty with lush plants that complement our historic façade and spaces to gather in our revitalizing neighborhood.

We will be doing our part to make East Liberty a more livable place, while being a model for our region on how to be good stewards of the earth.

Project Supporters

3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc.
Environmental Protection Agency
Heinz Endowments
East Liberty Presbyterian Church
East Liberty Development, Inc.
PA TreeVitalize
Mosites Company
RK Mellon Foundation
Laurel Foundation
Pittsburgh Foundation
Urban Redevelopment Authority
City of Pittsburgh Mayor’s Office

Image captions:

Community members look on at the Community House groundbreaking ceremony this past spring.

Over the past year, I’ve witnessed so much effort being put into this next step for EECM. I can’t wait to see it come to fruition, as it brings our community closer to what we all hope for it to be.
**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., July 29–Aug. 4: Trinity Youth Conference**  
Trinity Youth Conference (TYC) 2012 is from July 29–Aug. 4, at Living Waters Camp and Conference Center in Schellsburg, Pa. This year’s theme is *Future with Hope.* High school youth (who are at least 15 years of age and have completed grade 9) and college-age young adults are welcome and encouraged to attend. TYC offers its participants opportunities to explore their faith through powerful worship, caring small groups, recreation, thought-provoking workshops, and individual free time in a safe and loving camp environment.  

TYC begins on Sunday at 2 pm, and concludes on Saturday by noon. Registration forms and deposits must be received by Thurs., July 26. Forms are available on the Youth Bulletin Board, the CE table, and at www.trinityyouthconference.org. Scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Heather at 412.441.3800 x21 for details.

**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.

**Reminder:** Required training sessions will be held from 11 am–1 pm, on Sun., July 15 and 29, in the Game Room.

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**Young Adult Ministry**

*Wil Forrest, Coordinator*

**Fri., July 6: First Friday at the Shadyside Salon, at 7 pm**  
The Young Adult and Graduate Student Ministries of Shadyside Presbyterian Church are pleased to offer a “Salon” for all participants in TRAIL. At this Salon (modeled off of Gertrude Stein’s regular gatherings at her house in Paris, during the 1920’s), we will discuss the oft-complex topic on “How Christians Should Vote.” Participants are encouraged to consider the topic in advance (feel free to do a little studying) and come prepared to share their perspective for the good of the group. Contact Wil Forrest for details on the location.

**Thurs., July 12: Up on the Farm, from 6 pm – dusk**  
We will learn about, and serve on, a reclaimed urban gardening lot with Garfield Community Farms. Meet in the ELPC lobby at 5:30 pm, or at GCF at the corner of Cornwall and Wicklow Streets. Dress to work in the dirt.

**Sat., July 21: Family Time with the Engelhardts, at 4 pm**  
We will meet at Tim and Maria’s home to enjoy their hospitality and to get to know them better while we will share in food and fellowship. The conversation for the day will focus on experiences with foster parenting and parenting. Contact Wil if you need a ride from the church or address information.

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**Hope Academy**

*Linda Addlespurger, Director*

Hope Academy students opened for Grammy Award-winning bassist and vocalist, Esperanza Spalding, with Terri Lyne Carrington and Geri Allen, on June 1. They received a standing ovation from more than 400 people who attended the benefit to support the programs of the Hill House Association.

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**Health Ministry**

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

**Tai Chi**  
Tuesdays through July 31, from 10–11 am, and 6–7 pm  
The cost of this class is $3 per session.

**Yoga**  
Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm

**JourneyDance**  
Fri., July 13, from 7–8 pm

For more information on these activities, contact Kate Carlson at katec@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.
Recession Stewardship  
by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

Stewardship has been defined as an ethic that embodies responsible planning and management of resources. In the church, we typically talk about being good stewards of our financial resources, but this is only one of the blessings that God gives to us. We all have other resources we must responsibly plan and manage, such as our time, gifts, talents, and more. These are all an important part of what we are called to give back to God in response to God’s generosity.

In lean times—like during a recession—we may struggle to find the financial resources to give as much as we would like. However, while these resources are important to our mission as a church, they are not the only resources our church needs to serve God and our community. We all have the ability to be generous with our time, gifts, and talents as our offering in response to God’s abundant love.

Contact me to find how ELPC needs you to share your resources. There is much to do and we need your help. To learn more, please visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html.
Faith In Action One Saturday Morning

We are blessed to have many opportunities to put our faith in action in our community. We are privileged to partner with our neighbors who allow us into their lives and with organizations that provide service opportunities, enabling us to witness and experience God’s grace.

Last month, 15 volunteers with Open Hand Ministries rehabbed an abandoned house in East Liberty for a first-time homeowner and her family. Volunteers cleared debris out of the cellar and framed walls in the bedrooms. The new homeowner—a single mom with three children—cut wood on a chop saw. Asked how she was feeling about the rehab and homeownership, she replied, “a bit anxious, very excited, and deeply humbled to be working with people who are giving their time to make this house a home for my family.”

At the same time, 15 volunteers were working at Garfield Community Farm (GCF), clearing a plot for vegetables and preparing tomato plants to be sold at the GCF Farmers’ Market, held on Wednesdays at Valley View Presbyterian Church.

Down the street, the Food Pantry was open at Valley View Presbyterian Church. More than 100 families were served with groceries, while volunteers greeted the families, helped them with paperwork, and assisted them with their groceries.

Interested in putting your faith in action? Contact Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30 or PatriceFS@coh.net.

Farmers’ Market and Volunteer Opportunity

Garfield Community Farms (GCF) is offering a weekly Farmers’ Market with fresh fruits and vegetables on Wednesdays from 3–7 pm, at Valley View Presbyterian Church (601 N. Aiken Ave.). Come early!

GCF also is looking for volunteers to work each Thursday evening from 5:30–7:30 pm. To help, contact John Creasy at 412.979.7764 or garfieldcommunityfarm@gmail.com.

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 together, but we need your help!

Please email your name, degree, area of study (if applicable), and any future plans to Gloria at GloriaK@coh.net by Tues., July 3.
“…inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

Hygiene Kits for Disaster Victims

Presbyterian Women are collecting hygiene kits for disaster victims around the world. Instructions for the kits are on the PW bulletin board outside the library. Please leave completed kits or articles for kits in the box in the church office.

If you wish to make a monetary contribution, please make your check payable to “Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church.” Monetary gifts are used for additional kits or to cover costs associated with delivering kits to where they are needed.

Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families around the world.

Celebrating Our Offerings

Over the past year, we have been receiving a weekly church school offering to help provide school lunches for children in Haiti, in cooperation with Functional Literacy Ministries, a Pittsburgh-based outreach organization. Adults and children have participated in a “bucket brigade,” placing their donations in buckets in their classrooms, and leading special offerings on the third Sunday of each month at our Sanctuary Worship Service. In addition, half of the money raised by the youth during their 30-Hour Famine has gone to support the ministry in Haiti.

We are pleased to announce that the grand total for our donations to support children in Haiti is $2,090, which will provide 8,360 school lunches!

In cooperation with this ministry, the ELPC Sewing Group has made more than 150 dresses for girls in Haiti. They will continue to make dresses through summer, and are receiving donations of gently used pillowcases and cotton material. Additionally, Presbyterian Women are continuing to donate infant pain relievers and Monistat-type creams.

Contact Dianne Jackson for more information on the Sewing Group’s ministry, and Mary Alice Lightle for more information on Presbyterian Women’s ministry.

Please continue to keep our brothers and sisters in Haiti in your prayers! And, thank you all for your ongoing support of these important ministries!