Editor’s Note
This month’s theme is Live into Hope. Look for articles related to this theme, identified by this symbol.

Sunday Morning Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am
Liturgist: Karen Fraser
March 3* Rev. Brian Diebold, Pastor, Verona United Presbyterian Church
March 10 Mr. Dylan Rooke, Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community
March 17 Paul Spangler, Seminarian, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
March 24 Rev. Dr. John Burgess, Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
March 31 Joint Service with Journey

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
March 3* Journey Testimony
March 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 24 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
March 31 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
March 3* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 10 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 24 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 31 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 9 am–1 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.
March 13: Music on the Labyrinth
Join us after our service as Charles Anderson plays meditative music.

Note: In observance of Holy Week, we will celebrate our March birthdays and anniversaries in April.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing, exemplifying God’s love to people who are experiencing need. Our gifts have supported ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development.

There are three things you can do to ensure “that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

• Give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering when it is received at ELPC on Sun., March 24;
• Visit www.pcusa.org/oghs to find out how your support helps people all over the world; and
• Pray for Michele and Henk Bossers, Wil Forrest, Joe Hajdu, Liz Hopkins and the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, as they travel with Lend A Hand, a disaster aid ministry of the Presbytery of Carlisle, to help rebuild communities damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Your giving and prayers are greatly needed and appreciated. For details, contact Carol Chonoska, Emily Rosenthal or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.

Our Lenten and Easter Journey
Join us as we reflect on important “life lessons” during the season of Lent, and celebrate the good news of God’s definitive answer in the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday!

Holy Week Worship Schedule
March 27: Wednesday Taizé Sung Prayer 7 pm, in the Chapel
March 28: Maundy Thursday with communion 7 pm, in the Sanctuary
March 29: Good Friday 12 pm, in the Chapel; 7 pm, Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary
March 30: Saturday Easter Vigil with communion 7 pm, in the Chapel and Sanctuary
March 31: Easter Sunday with communion 8:45 am, in the Chapel; 11 am, in the Sanctuary

East Liberty Presbyterian Church • 116 South Highland Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • www.CathedralOfHope.org
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The topic of environmental stewardship is often neglected in the church. We are mindful of being called “caretakers” for God’s good earth, and yet, like Adam and Eve standing outside the Garden of Eden, we are filled with guilt by our broken relationship with much of creation around us. The season of Lent is a time to be honest about our shortcomings in our relationships with God, with one another, and with the world in which we live. Likewise, the season of Easter is a time to remember how God acts to make amends for our wrongs and to bring healing to all parts of life broken by sin, abuse, and apathy. My hope is that when we pray for the world, we move beyond human-centered perspectives and open our hearts and souls also to pray for the well-being and loving care of the air, soil, water and living creatures who are also part of God’s creative plan.

What follows is a brief essay on this subject that I was asked to submit for a Lenten devotional for the group, Presbyterians for Earth Care.

The data about how human actions affect the world in which we live is overwhelmingly negative. Sadly we read regular reports about global climate change, soil erosion, water pollution, persistent national addictions to fossil fuels, damage done to the ozone layer, and much more. Film documentaries show us the depletion of the vital polar ice caps. Meteorological statistics weary us by noting how current weather patterns are the worst in recorded history. And our mailboxes overflow with donation requests from overworked conservancy and advocacy groups, desperately fighting for eco-justice.

But all this cannot be the final word we offer on this subject. To give up or accept a defeatist position runs counter to other scientific evidence as well as our Christian faith. Other data points to how the earth can heal many of its ecological wounds, once we stop the worst forms of damage and environmental abuse. Nature does adapt, re-group, and re-claim what we have wrongly usurped. Air, water, and soil can come back through rejuvenating wonders built into God’s essential design of this world.

To make this happen requires an “Easter perspective” on nature. In between the time on the cross and the sunrise on Easter morning, the earth waited. The followers of Jesus mourned and stopped what they had been doing. The violence of the cross was over for a spell. Then came the third day—a time of life reborn, of hope renewed, and of resurrection in every sense of the word. To step away from ecological violence means we have to be still, waiting and watching and praying and believing. For to our longing eyes, a miracle is anxious to unfold.

Resurrection is not just a one-time event. It is a way of life—real life—and a walk of faith—this day and for all time. For that good news, let us say: Thanks be to God!
**My Hope**

*by Martha DeMarzi*

Because I have been a member of ELPC for many years, Pastor Randy asked me to write a paragraph about my hope for the future of ELPC.

Outside of my family, ELPC has been the center of my life. Here, I received my religious training from wonderful teachers like Mary Grey Burnham and Flora Park. I learned to appreciate beautiful music through Dr. Kettring, and magnificent architecture. But more importantly, ELPC has been an extended family and all members were instrumental in helping me grow in my religious life.

The future of our church is in our children and young adults. My hope and prayers are that our young people can experience even just a small part of what I had growing up at ELPC.

---

**Good Friday Mission Walk**

Fri., March 29, beginning at 9 a.m.

Join us for a tour of some of the missions serving the homeless in East Liberty. We will leave McDonald’s (120 Penn Circle West) and conclude with lunch before returning to ELPC for Worship. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing for walking outside.

**Hope & Retrospect: Reflections on Graduating**

*by Sarah Overby*

The year 2013 has finally arrived, and for some of us, this date jumps out with a peculiar sense of déjà vu. We have been writing this date on forms and school papers since perhaps as early as elementary school. “The class of 2013” has finally reached its blast-off into a new beginning. The implications of graduation are both exciting and uncomfortable. Whether it’s college, work, or some other adventure, we are facing a whole new kind of freedom and certainly a stretch from our habits and comfort zones.

What I have found the most startling is the feeling of moving on. The closer I get to graduation, the more real my disappearing childhood becomes. ELPC has fostered a deep sense of community and love for my neighbors. Being able to interact with and get to know so many of my peers and elders has given me the opportunity to learn about and appreciate so many different people. It also has given me the strength and diversity of thought to grow in ways I never would have otherwise. ELPC has flung the doors wide open for me to love all my neighbors. I am especially thankful for this powerful life lesson, as it is too often lost in today’s hectic and impersonal collective lifestyle. Through experiences at the Mens’ Shelter, Open Hand Ministries, Church School, and tutoring, I have learned to appreciate the intrinsic and irreplaceable value of others’ insights and the joy of connecting with other people.

These memories are happy ones. Even though I do not know what is ahead, I hope to make my last few months as a regular high school “ELPC-er” just as happy. I hope to be able to enjoy the “now” moments for the rest of however long I have in this wonderful community that has been such a blessing in my life with the same happy abandon I did as a child.

My hopes for the future are that I never lose track of this community, both in my heart and in my habits. As the graduating seniors move on to new experiences, I hope that we all find things that challenge us, and that the things we have learned here will help us grow in the face of new and difficult things. I hope that no matter where we end up, we will keep the same love we have learned here with us and that we will be mindful of the gifts we have been given. I hope that we are able to take these gifts with us to impact our world for the better and make a brighter tomorrow for those who come after us. We have had such a blessing in our solid foundation of respect and love here at ELPC, and I hope that we will be able to use this foundation to impart the changes this world needs to become a safer and more loving place.

Above all, I hope ELPC stays bright in my heart and the hearts of the young people to come, and that they are kindled by the love in this community just as I was.
Contemporaries Class  Second Floor Parlor
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle
March 3: Grief and Mourning
What provides genuine solace in the face of loss? What happens when we grieve? How do we find comfort? If death is not a tragedy, what is the meaning of grief? Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler, psychotherapists with experience helping people face loss and grief, will lead us.

March 10, 17, and 24: Insights from a Sabbatical to Russia
After living and worshipping with the Russian Orthodox, the Rev. Dr. John Burgess, professor of systematic theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will discuss:

March 10: The strengths and weaknesses of American Protestantism.
March 17: How being a foreigner in Russia has deepened his faith
March 24: How the Russian Orthodox Church is trying to re-Christianize Russia and what that can teach us as North American Protestants about reaching out to our society with the Gospel.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Irvin
“Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’” – Luke 15:1–2

Developing table manners is a lifelong pursuit! Our Lenten readings speak of long journeys with thirsting, homecomings and feasting. They speak of an earthy existence being fulfilled while proclaiming an ethic of broad inclusiveness. Join us as we read how God in Christ lives for our deep needs and imperfections as much as dying for them.

March 17: Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalms 126; Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8

Parenting Circle  Harambe Room
Facilitator: Pam Walaski
March 3: Sharing Joys and Concerns
YAM is for YOU
Your friends are always welcome too!
To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.260.2554.

Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and 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., March 3: Jr High, Girls Night Out from 4–7 pm
Girls in grades 6–8 are invited for a Girl’s Night Out at ELPC. More details are arriving in the mail via invitation. If you know a Junior High girl (maybe a granddaughter, neighbor, or friend) who might be interested in joining us, please pass along her name and address to Pastor Heather Schoenewolf or Sara Hackett.

Sat., March 23–24: 30-Hour Famine
Youth in grades 6–12 will spend 30 hours fasting, praying, playing, worshiping and learning about world hunger to raise awareness of the hunger in our neighborhoods and world and to raise money for a-MAIZE-ing Grace!, which is working to prevent famine and save lives in Malawi, Africa.

Youth will begin fasting at home and should arrive at the church at 3:30 pm, on Sat., March 23. We will break our fast together and celebrate communion at the Good Samaritan Worship service, and then enjoy breakfast together. The event concludes at 9:45 am, but youth are welcome to stay for Church School and Worship (11 am–12 pm). To RSVP or for more information, contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.673.2926.

Congregation members and friends can sponsor youth by making a donation after worship on Sun., March 10 and 17.

Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., March 1: First UMC Worship Jam at 7 pm
Drumming is a great way to throw off the stresses of your day, connect to the spirit, and center into community. Just let your hands follow the rhythms and you will be in sync in no time. You will feel confident in minutes, even if you have never drummed before. The Worship “Jammers” at First United Methodist Church (5401 Centre Ave., Shadyside) will share the rhythms, calls and responses, chants, and spiritual practices that they use during their Wednesday evening Worship Jam. Bring your own drum if you have one.

Sun., March 17: Sunday YAM Class from 9:45–10:45 am in Room 244
In our spring-long focus on what happens to us when we die, we will next ask the question, “Who goes to Heaven?” Rev. Heather will lead our discussion. Bring your copy of Love Wins, your Bible, and your questions. Café Justo will be served.

Sun., March 24: Sunday Funday at 2 pm
We’ll gather in the Game Room for an afternoon of fun and games. Snacks, games and friends. Group’s choice—we may have a rematch on Pictionary, we may bowl, who knows? See you there!

Grief Support Group
Grieving is a process, a human experience which, when met with compassion and care, can flow into a renewed and deepened engagement with life. The emotional challenges that can accompany personal loss, such as persistent sadness, mood swings, distress in personal relationships or daily functioning, can be experienced suddenly, or arise subtly over time.

ELPC members Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler, experienced psychotherapists and grief counselors, will lead a Grief Group at ELPC for those who are grieving or struggling with loss and change.

The group will meet from 6:30–8 pm, on Thursdays, beginning April 4, and will continue for six weeks.
Have a Heart for Hunger

Hunger is on the increase in Allegheny County. Hundreds of people in the East End of Pittsburgh don't know where their next meal is coming from.

East End Cooperative Ministry reaches out to those who are experiencing hunger. Join the fight by supporting EECM's Have a Heart for Hunger Campaign. Here are two ways to help:

**GIVE:** Make a financial contribution. Donations made between **Feb. 14** and **March 31**, will have a matching donation made up to $30,000.

**COLLECT:** Fill a bag with a selection of the items listed below and bring it to church on **Sun., March 24**.

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Mac and Cheese
- Stuffing Mix
- Rice-A-Roni
- Biscuit/Baking Mix
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper

**Spiritual Life**

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

**Sun., March 3:** Mandalas and Mysticism

"Rekindle the gift of God within me" – II Timothy 1:6

This particular scripture reading will be our focus as we look at nurturing “relationships,” particularly the one we have with Christ Jesus—our Lord. We will use ancient mystical mandala arts and the inspirational writings/tapes of authors and pioneer theologians.

Join us in probing discussions and challenging discoveries, led by Suzanne Bailey.

**Presbyterian Women**

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

**Tues., March 5:** Dispatches to God’s Household at 10 am


**Sat., March 16:** Prayer Breakfast

Join us for a prayer breakfast for Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery. Michelle Hanna-Snyder, from Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute, will teach on *Spiritual Practices to Reduce Anxiety and Depression*. Registration begins at 8:30 am, followed by breakfast, study and worship led by Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan. Walk the labyrinth, from 8:30–9 am, or after the program. Registration is $10; reservations are required. Call Mary Alice Lightle for more information.
We Serve Together by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

Each season in the life of the church brings some predictable service needs. Summer requires talented help for Vacation Church School. Fall invites us to serve one another at the annual Thanksgiving Feast. And in the spring, dedicated workers transform the church grounds into a colorful, manicured scene. However, there are service needs that are often unanticipated. When these opportunities arise, I turn to a special group of people. I turn to the WeSERVE list.

WeSERVE list helpers are those who step up as a group of ready, willing and able servers who respond to needs in the ELPC community. These folks receive a brief notice periodically when assistance is requested from the iSERVE ministry.

Contact Wil to get on the WeSERVE list. When an opportunity to serve arises, if it fits your schedule and interest, then help out. If not, do nothing. Consider being part of this important ministry that enables us as a congregation to more nimbly and effectively respond to need in our church community.

Visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html for more information.
“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.”

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour on Sun., March 10.

**Concert Series Continues**

**Sun., March 3: Chamber Music Concert No. 2 at 4 pm**
Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will perform his second concert this season. He will be accompanied by a woodwind quartet, Rev. Dr. Richard Szeremany on piano, and mezzo soprano Beth Bush. The event will be free and an offering will be accepted.

**Sun., March 17: Organ Artists Series at 4 pm**
Robert McCormick will be the featured soloist. Mr. McCormick is director of music at St. Paul’s Parish, K Street, in Washington, D.C. This is a ticketed event through the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. Limited complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members. Contact Norma Meyer or Dr. Ed Moore for details.

**Chili Diner and Square Dance**

**Sat., March 9, from 5–8 pm**
Folks of all ages are encouraged to attend a Chili Dinner and Square Dance event at ELPC in the Social Hall. Please bring a salad, side, or dessert. Chili is provided.

Barb MacDonald, from the Western Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance Federation, will teach us what we need to know. Balcony and floor seating will be available for folks who might not want to dance themselves, but want to be part of the fun.

RSVP via Facebook or the sign-up sheet located on the Second Floor CE Bulletin Board to let us know you are coming and if you are bringing a salad, side, or dessert. This event is free, so bring a neighbor or a friend!

**Save the Dates**

**June 24–28: Vacation Church School**
Mark your calendars for VCS. We’ll offer an all-day program for children age 3 ½ (who have turned 3 by Jan. 1) through those who have completed grade 5. Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to serve as volunteers. Our theme is *Breathe it In: God Gives Life.*

**Oct. 25–27: Church Family Retreat**
Plan on joining us for a Church Family Retreat at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center in Slippery Rock, Pa. This intergenerational retreat is open for persons of all ages and stages of life. More details to come soon!