Editor’s Note
This month’s theme is Prayer & Praise. Look for articles related to this theme, identified by this symbol. You’ll also find thoughts on what prayer means to youth in our CE classes.

Sunday Morning Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am
Liturgist: Ray Anthony and Leila Richards
April 7 Rev. Tami Hooker, Chaplain, State Correctional Institution Pittsburgh
April 14 Daren A. Ellerbee, M.S., Outreach Coordinator, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA)
April 21 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
April 28 Evangelist Sabrina Anthony, New Bethel Baptist Church

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
April 7 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
April 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 21 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
April 28 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
April 7 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 28 Rev. Amy Miracle

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 7 am–1 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service
Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

Rev. Amy Miracle Set to Visit
ELPC is pleased to host the Rev. Amy Miracle, pastor of Broad Street Presbyterian Church (Columbus, Ohio), on Sun., April 28. She is coming to speak at Pittsburgh Seminary as part of the Shoemaker Distinguished Preacher program, and then will be the guest preacher for our 11 am worship service.
She also will lead a joint Adult Education class beginning at 9:45 am, in Room 234, speaking on the contemporary relevance of the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
Rev. Miracle is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary (NYC) and an active, progressive voice in our denomination.

Prayer Is...
“Prayer does not change you. It reveals you.” – Ada G., grade 8

Welcome to the ELPC Prayer Room
The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to visit the new Prayer Room (Room 135, the former Trustee’s Room) which will be dedicated during our 11 am worship on Sun., April 14. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC. Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to listen for the still, small voice of God.

In the midst of all the good that we do here at ELPC, this quiet space comes alongside to bear witness to who we are as a people of prayer. Our spiritual life, the life of prayer, informs our call and response to mission and ministry and, in turn, our ministry and mission give life and depth to our prayer. Each is incomplete without the other. So, we encourage you to try something new as you go about your ministry and mission at the church. Take a moment to seek spiritual grounding in a space devoted to prayer—just for you. Blessings!

Prayer Is...
“…when people ask God to help them with their troubles.”
– Students in the 2–3rd grade class
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

We have just celebrated the good news of Easter—how Jesus Christ is alive through the miracle of resurrection. That news is overwhelming. Think about how the first witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection fled from the tomb, either shocked into silence (see Mark 16:8) or dismissed as people telling an “idle tale” (see Luke 24:11). Have we gotten any better over the centuries at telling the miraculous, transformative power of Easter?

Perhaps one analogy can come to us from the world of computing. According to a book by George Dyson called Turing’s Cathedral, the modern digital age dawned in 1951 in Princeton, N.J. It was there a special machine was built—the Mathematical and Numerical Integrator and Computer—known by its acronym “Maniac.” For the first time, numbers were no longer tallies used to count things. They could now be numbers or instructions; data was suddenly both a noun and a verb. The people who built “Maniac” knew that they were on the verge of an entirely new way of treating human knowledge. One engineer was quoted as saying: “A tidal wave of computational power was about to break and inundate everything in science and much elsewhere, and things would never be the same.”

The strength of this analogy is how it captures the sheer power of the Easter story. Like a tidal wave washing over the entire world, belief in the resurrection of Christ swept over Jerusalem, around the Mediterranean Sea, and throughout the nations of the world. Because of this good news, things have never been the same. But there are two flaws with the computer analogy. First, the name is no good. Nothing about Christ’s resurrection power should be linked with the word “maniac.” Second, there is an aspect of chaotic, untamed force captured in the engineer’s description of computer power. But God’s plan is never chaotic—never untamed, wild or destructive. It is in every aspect quite intentional, focused, justice-oriented and loving. So, a different analogy is needed.

Andrew Solomon, in his book Far From the Tree, offered this clever comment on the miracle of child-birth: “There is no such thing as reproduction, only acts of production.” Despite our tendency to describe birth as an act of reproduction (as if children were photocopies of one or both parents), children emerge by acts of fresh, unique “production.” We never quite know who or what they’ll be. Part of the joy of raising children is trying to trace the lineage of the different traits present in our sons and daughters. Parents daily note how their children are both related to them and yet so different from them.

Easter was ultimately an act of production, not reproduction. Jesus was not simply resuscitated. He was not brought back to life to reproduce patterns of life he’d fleshed out prior to his crucifixion. Nor was Easter an attempt to give the status quo a second chance to get things right. Easter was a new thing altogether—a promise of life beyond death, of healing despite brokenness, and of love that is truly eternal. We glimpse aspects of our earthly life in the stories about Jesus’ resurrection appearances, and yet Easter involves something different, better, more loving than our daily life. Maybe as we share this story today, we will capture a bit of that fresh wonder of Easter as we tell what our loving Lord has “produced” for us.
My Journey into Silent Prayer
by Jean C. Kennedy, Ruling Elder

After the Apostle Paul invited believers in Colossae 3:1 to “… seek the things that are above, where Christ is…” it seems practical and reasonable that he would tell the people just how to approach this task. It’s a lesson I know I need to learn over and over again: how do I keep my mind set on Jesus and cast out evil desires and disobedient behaviors so that I may receive and enjoy the gift of God’s love and peace instead?

For me, the first hurdle is to fully believe that I really am God’s chosen and beloved. It’s just too good to be true. The very idea contradicts so much of the evidence I confront in daily life; some are certainly less worthy than others of being forgiven, holy and beloved. I know when “bad” thoughts, words, and actions explode in my mind, mouth, and hands, only to make matters worse rather than better. I am guilty.

My next hurdle is being anxious and distracted. There is too much on my plate, and I have little time or resources available to do anything effective about all that needs to be addressed in this broken world, beginning with myself. I am helpless.

So I return to the Word for reassurance that new life for me is in Christ who has already taken the punishment for all sin. It doesn’t depend upon my own efforts; my life is “hidden in Christ with God. (v. 3)” It’s a mystery to me; nevertheless a clear promise given in writing. I am insecure.

Over the past few years, I have been introduced to the ecumenical Centering Prayer movement. It is an ancient Christian discipline revived by Father Thomas Keating, a Cistercian monk. When I quit talking aloud or mentally, I can listen to God. In silence, my thoughts do not stop; but I simply let them pass as if they were feathers floating away. I pray without words. By being still, I receive spiritual nourishment and I am reminded that “prayer is not work, but an attentive waiting followed by surrender.” (George W. Hunt, S.J. in Foreword to The Daily Reader for Contemplative Living compiled by S. Stephanie Iachetta). I surrender.

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

Sun., April 7: First Sunday Event – What’s a Labyrinth?
Have you heard about the labyrinth; but have not had a chance to understand what it is all about? Have you wanted to walk the labyrinth; but been unable to make it to ELPC on Monday or Wednesday when it is available? Have you walked the labyrinth many times in the Social Hall; but, really love to walk it when it is in the Chancel?

Join the Spiritual Life Committee for a special intergenerational First Sunday event. Following worship, you and your family are invited to the Chapel for a light lunch and short presentation about what the labyrinth is, its history, and use in the church. Then, we will return to the Sanctuary where a labyrinth will be set up for us to prayerfully walk in the silence and beauty of our own worship space.

Experience Centering Prayer
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan and Elder Jean Kennedy invite you to a Centering Prayer Workshop from 9 am–12 pm, on Sat., April 13, in the Second Floor Parlor. We will talk about and teach this simple way of praying.

If there is interest from those who cannot make our Tuesday evening group, we may form a new group to meet at another time.

Be still and know God!

Prayer Is...
“I pray when I need a moment.”
– Gianna G., grade 6

“Be Still and Know that I am God”

God comes to us, abides with us, guides us, and is present to us in many ways; but, millions of Christians have found that the purest, simplest way to really know God is in silence. Jesus goes off to a quiet place to pray, and since the earliest days of the church, men and women also have found quiet places to pray in silence.

Centering Prayer is one way of praying in silence and represents the response of the contemporary church to a cry for greater spiritual depth using an ancient practice. While Centering Prayer is a personal practice, ELPC has hosted an ecumenical group of people who have come on Tuesday nights for over 15 years to share in this prayer together and to support one another in their individual practice.

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Be still and know God!
**Contemporaries Class** Second Floor Parlor
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

**April 7: A Border Immersion Experience**
Led by a Panel of ELPC Members

Our panelists traveled 2,120 miles to Douglas, Ariz., and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. They engaged in a week-long collaboration with Frontera de Cristo (FDC), a partner in ministry. Interacting with many children and adults, the panel experienced a hands-on opportunity to practice and receive radical hospitality. Our panelists are sure to inspire everyone. These are stories that you are sure to remember!

**April 14: Inviting the Gifts of People with Disabilities**
Led by Tina Calabro, Disability Rights Advocate and Writer

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, organizations of all kinds began removing the physical and social barriers that kept people with disabilities out of the mainstream of life. But true inclusion involves recognizing the unique gifts of people who experience life in a different way and inviting them to the tables where community-building happens.

**April 21: Celebrating the Hope Academy**
Led by Linda Addlespurger

This ministry represents a phenomenal success story! Our congregation founded the Hope Academy in 1999. To date, 350 children and their families a year benefit from this safe environment where youth of diverse ethnic, economic and religious backgrounds can further their personal and artistic growth through the study of music and the arts.

**April 28: Combined with Seekers**

**Journey with Scripture** Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Irvin

“See, I am making all things new” – Rev. 21:5. April’s readings can be read with emphasis on the word “making.” Faith, love, and justice are formed and transformed continually. The readings span from the disciples’ initial experiences of meeting the risen Jesus, their early witness, and finally to visions of a new heaven and earth (Revelation). Join us as we read and reflect on these scriptures together.

**April 7:** Acts 5:27–32; Psalms 118:14–29; Revelation 1:4–8; John 20:19–31

**April 14:** Acts 9:1–20; Psalms 30; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

**April 21:** Acts 9:36–43; Psalms 23; Revelation 7:9–17; John 10:22–30

**April 28:** Acts 11:1–18; Psalms 148; Revelation 21:1–6; John 13:31–35

**Parenting Circle** Harambe Room
Facilitator: Pam Walaski

**April 7: Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Seekers** Room 234; Facilitator: Gwen Puza

**April 7: Pink Smoke over the Vatican**
This controversial DVD, about the movement for ordinations of women as Catholic priests, shows the ordinations of women here in Pittsburgh in 2006.

**April 14: Meet a Local Female Catholic Priest**
Joan Houk, a local woman who was ordained as a Catholic priest and is now a bishop, will discuss the movement for more ordinations of women and the obstacles they face.

**April 21: Today’s Catholic Nuns**
A sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence will discuss the lives of Catholic nuns, how they live and work, why they became nuns, and their relationship with the Vatican.

**April 28: The Rev. Amy Miracle on the Good Samaritan**
The Rev. Amy Miracle, pastor of Broad St. Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio, will give an engaging presentation about the Good Samaritan.

**Soul Food** Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu

We will continue discussing Richard Rohr’s book, Things Hidden—Scripture as Spirituality

**April 7 and 14:** Chapter 5

**April 21:** Chapter 6

**April 28:** General Discussion and Review of Chapters 1–6

**Youth Classes**

**Junior High** (grades 6–8) Room 341
Curriculum: “Feasting on the Word”

**Senior High** (grades 9–12) Room 343
Curriculum: “We Believe”

**Children’s Classes**

**Young Children’s Ministry/Infants–age 2** Nursery
Curriculum: “Wee Children at Church”

**Pre-school/Ages 3–5** Room 240
Curriculum: “Gospel Light”

**Kindergarten and Grade 1** Room 336
Curriculum: “Godly Play”

**Grades 2–3** Room 338
Curriculum: “Godly Play”

**Grades 4–5** Room 335
Curriculum: “Seasons of the Spirit”

We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. For a full listing of classes and descriptions, please visit www.CathedralOfHope.org. Classes begin at 9:45 am.
**Youth Ministry**

*Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry*

**Contact Us:** 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.

**Fri.–Sat., April 19–20: Mission Overnight**
Youth in grades 8–12 who are interested in attending the Senior High Summer Mission Trip to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church are required to attend this Mission Overnight. We will gather at 7 pm, on Friday, and spend the evening learning about mission, playing group building games, and worshiping together. Saturday, we will spend the day doing mission work and planning for the summer trip until our time together concludes at 7 pm. For more details and permission forms, please visit the youth page of our website or speak to Sara Hackett.

**Fri.–Sat., April 26–27: Tweener Retreat**
The Tweener Retreat at Camp Crestfield in Slippery Rock, Pa., for youth in grades 4–6, is a time to join tweens from around Pittsburgh to learn about God's call in your life, grow as a church group, learn tools for Biblical exploration, have FUN FUN FUN, and worship. We will meet at ELPC at 5 pm, on Friday, and return to ELPC at 8 pm, on Saturday. For more information including registration and health forms, packing list, and scholarship request information, please visit the youth page of our website or speak to Sara Hackett.

**Notes:** The cost per student is $55. Full and partial scholarships are available. Registration forms and $5 deposits are due by Wed., April 17.

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**Young Adult Ministry**

*Wil Forrest, Coordinator*

**Fri., April 5: First Friday at Second UP Church**  at 7 pm
As we enjoy the warming weather, we will do some work in Second United Presbyterian Church’s (300 Hay St., Wilkinsburg) permaculture garden and orchard, and share in a picnic dinner together. Bring a side or dessert to share.

**Sat., April 13: A Day in the Laurel Highlands**  leaving ELPC at 9 am
We will spend a day enjoying nature as the Earth begins to bloom in the beautiful Laurel Highlands. The group will decide what direction our day will take us, but the central piece of our journey will be to visit the sacred white buffalo at Millioke Meadows. Bring money for lunch and activities. Let Wil know if you are going so you can have a seat in the van.

**Sun., April 21: Sunday YAM Class**  from 9:45–10:45 am, in Room 244
In our spring-long focus on what happens when we die, we will next ask the question, “What is Heaven?” Pastor Randy will lead the discussion as we also examine C.S. Lewis’ *The Great Divorce*. See Wil for your copy, and remember to bring it, along with questions. Café Justo will be served.

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**Mother’s Day Cards**

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

Mother’s Day cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and may be purchased on **Sun., April 21** and **28**, following 11 am worship, during the fellowship time before worship on **Sat., May 4** (Marathon weekend), or from Kate Carlson in the church office during the week.

**Presbyterian Women**

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

**Tues., April 2: Dispatches to God’s Household** at 10 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue with our lesson, *The Bad Seeds*, based on 1 John 2; 2 Peter 2–3; and Jude 1–16. A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided.

**Classes After Taizé Prayer**

*The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer*

**Note:** Classes begin at 8:15 pm. We will not have class on Wed., April 3.

**Wed., April 10:** Music on the Labyrinth

Charles Anderson will lead us.

**Wed., April 17:** Grace – Honoring Holy Moments with Writing Practice

Led by Laurie Arnold, we will share writings that capture aspects of grace and have a short creative writing exercise to reinforce the wonder and invitation grace can bring.

**Wed., April 24:** Celebrations!

We will celebrate March and April birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones.

**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!

**Prayer Is...**

“Prayer is a continuous action of finding God’s love in our lives.” – TJ, grade 12

**Living as Women of Faith in a Culture of Fear**

*Fri., May 17–18*

We live in “a Culture of Fear.” But our scriptures repeatedly say, “Do not fear...” and “Do not worry...” How do we do that?

Women of ELPC are invited to an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield, led by Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan. We will explore our fears and faith in search of a better way to deal with our 21st century reality. Partial scholarships are available. Check the bulletin board outside the Library for details.
Low Hanging Fruit by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

One of my dearest friends, who has dedicated his life to serving those in need all around the world, once said to me that he did not understand why I went on mission trips, served in the homeless shelter, and served as a deacon. He did not understand why I would spend so much time “putting bandages on when surgery is needed.” He thought individual acts of service were largely wasted while more systemic and sweeping changes were what was needed to have meaningful change.

He is partially right. Our world is broken and the structures that keep the hungry, hungry, and keep the marginalized, marginalized, need to be changed. We need people like my friend who will challenge the powers that be and seek a larger justice.

Recently, I came across this anonymous quote: “In Christian service, the branches that bear the most fruit hang the lowest.”

Yes, we are called to seek justice in more broad ways, but an important part of this is serving individuals today. This service might be demonstrated through welcoming a visitor to the church, teaching during the Christian Education hour, helping someone move, or providing a meal to men in the Shelter or kids in club one sixteen. Every day, people need to be fed, and reassured that they are of value and are loved. This is an important call of being a Christian. We need to serve one another. Most often, this service is realized through quiet, individual acts of servanthood. Never doubt that the “small” things you do each day to serve God’s people are part of a larger picture that together create the image of Christ. They are, in fact, not small at all.

Contact Wil to get on the WeSERVE list. For more information about other service opportunities, visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html.

Local Mission and Fellowship Opportunities

Spring is here and so are local mission opportunities! The Neighbors mission committee invites you to join us in service and fellowship with our partners, Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm.

On the first Saturday of each month, April–December, we will finish the rehab of a house in East Liberty for a first-time homeowner, a single mom with three children, and do gardening tasks at the farm.

No special skills are needed and all ages are welcome! Upcoming work days are on Sat., April 6 and May 4. For more information, call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.

As We Praise, Let Us Also Pray

W invite each of you to pray for:

- ELPC Confirmation class of 2013;
- All the children and young people of our congregation;
- Incoming ELPC elders and deacons;
- The health and vitality of the PC(U.S.A.) denomination;
- Our PC(U.S.A.) mission co-workers, including ELPC’s Chenoa Stock;
- Relief workers assisting victims of Hurricane Sandy;
- Peace in our Pittsburgh community;
- For our home planet Earth, in honor of Earth Day (Mon., April 22); and
- Victims of genocide and oppression, for Holocaust Remembrance Day (Wed., May 1);

We also offer condolences to the friends and family of those who passed away:

- Gail Kubrin’s sister, Margo;
- Jean Thomas’s daughter-in-law, Catalina Thomas
- Ron Cole-Turner’s father, the Rev. Robert Phillips Turner; and
- Sonya-Marie Morley’s mother, Cynthia S. Williams.

Exercise Classes

Tai Chi
Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
$3 per session. Pre-register with Kate Carlson at katec@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

Yoga
Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm

JourneyDance
Fri., April 12, from 7–8 pm
“...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.”

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

It’s Spring, and Music is in the Air

Sun., April 7: Jazzing Up Our Worship Service
The Sanctuary will be filled with the sounds of jazz at our 11 am worship service. Mike Tomaro, director of jazz studies at Duquesne University, will be joined by three other players and a vocalist to lead our music. This first Sunday after Easter is going to be anything but a low Sunday! Bring a friend to be inspired by the sounds of jazz woven throughout the worship service.

Sun., April 14: York County Junior Honors Choir
Founded in 2002 and under the direction of Mrs. Donna Knott, the York County Junior Honors Choir (pictured) is comprised of students in grades 7–9 from across York County, Pa. As part of their journey to Pittsburgh to sing with the Heinz Chapel Choir, they will lead us during our 11 am worship service.

East End Choral Festival
Mark your calendars for the East End Choral Festival on Sun., May 5, at 4 pm! The combined choirs of ELPC, Shadyside Presbyterian, Calvary Episcopal, and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Churches will be featured. Our guest conductor will be David Hill from London, conductor of the BBC Singers and the Bach Choir of London.

Prayer Is...
“...When you bow your head and speak to God.”
“...when you worship God and ask Him for stuff that we want and need. And give Him love.”
“...when you close your eyes and make peace with the Lord.”
– Students in the 2–3rd grade class