Join us for Worship on Sat., May 4
Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, we will not hold Church School classes, nor Journey or Sanctuary Worship Services on Sun., May 5. Instead, the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will lead worship at 5 pm, on Sat., May 4, in the Social Hall. Our Journey Worship music leaders will be our musicians, and we also will celebrate the ELPC members participating in the Marathon.

Following worship, we will enjoy a potluck supper together.

Confirmation
Pentecost Sunday, May 19, will be rich with celebration as we welcome seven youth to our family of faith as adult members of our congregation. Three young women and four young men have been preparing for this day through a series of classes and retreats, where they have explored the questions of our faith.

Be a part of this special celebration by welcoming the youth to our church family, and please hold them in prayer. Keep your eyes open for the June Reaching Out where we will share excerpts from their Statements of Faith.

Conversations About Race
As part of our commitment to diversity, ELPC welcomes J.G. Boccella who will lead a post-worship conversation about race in America on Sun., May 26. This short presentation, beginning at 12:30 pm, and followed by a time for questions and dialogue, will broach topics such as the “disconnect” between racial-ethnic groups in America and the challenge of “meaningful interactions” between different groups in the larger culture.

Mr. Boccella is a Pittsburgh native, who has ties to existing ELPC programs. It is hoped that this opportunity for conversation will further dialogues of “faithful responsiveness” among our church friends and members.

East End Choral Festival
Sun., May 5, at 4 pm
Fill the Sanctuary as ELPC hosts the East End Choral Festival, conducted by David Hill, conductor of the Bach Choir of London and the BBC Singers!

The combined choirs of ELPC, Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Calvary Episcopal Church, and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church will perform music by Benjamin Britten, Gerald Finzi, and Randall Thompson.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Here’s an old, old story. One day a poor peasant named Gordius arrived in an ox cart in the city of Phrygia. As legend has it, an oracle had predicted that their future king would come into town riding in a wagon, and upon seeing Gordius, the people made him their king. In gratitude to Zeus, Gordius dedicated his ox-cart to the Greek god and tied it up in the temple with a highly elaborate knot. Another oracle predicted that whoever could untie this “Gordian Knot” would rule over all of Asia. None mastered this feat until Alexander the Great visited Phrygia in 333 B.C., who upon seeing the famed Gordian Knot drew his sword and simply cut it in half. Was this cheating? Well, the ends of the rope had been spliced back together, so there was no way to untie the knot by manipulating the cord itself. Alexander’s solution was the best and most realistic one available at the time.

In today’s contentious society, it often appears that the pressing issues facing us are tied up in unsolvable Gordian knots. How do we untangle the concerns about adequate wages for all who work, appropriate welfare safeguards for the poor and elderly, and quality education opportunities that honors the needs of both students and teachers? Why have the verbal strands of every argument been distorted and knotted up so that suddenly adequate health care or reasonable support for those who are retired is characterized as an optional, privileged “entitlement?” Why must every moral issue become so politicized that no one can untangle the ropes binding up our governmental processes?

At some point, the church needs to reclaim its “Alexandrian” voice in these debates. We need to wield the sword of common sense and compassionate faith to cut through the Gordian knots plaguing our public discourse. The current debate over gun laws is a good case-in-point. We should speak out for the common sense requirement that any household where children are present that also possesses guns must have child-safety locks and/or locked cabinets for these weapons. We should insist that a person whose gun is lost or stolen report that fact to the police in an expeditious manner. Neither of these actions are infringements on Second Amendment rights, yet both would save lives lost now to accidental gunfire or acts of suicide. In the same way, the NRA has tried to deflect reasonable gun control measures by calling for extra resources for people struggling with mental illness. It is a common tactic to defeat one “good” (e.g., gun control) by pushing for another “good,” since no one can reasonably challenge the need for offering adequate support in confronting mental disease. But like re-weaving the ends of the Gordian knot, it is a disingenuous tactic designed to maintain the status quo and stop all “unraveling” around this issue.

The church’s social justice “sword” is honed on the words of Christ, who remind us that the needs of the poor, vulnerable, abused, marginalized, and hungry always take precedence over those who seek to safeguard their privilege with tightly-knotted ropes of injustice and power. The oracles of our faith have foretold that time when all God’s children shall be free. May we be bold in wielding the sword of Christ as witnesses today for this prophetic word of hope.
Session News

On April 16, the ruling elders examined the recently elected class of church officers and approved them for ordination and installation.

The officers met again on April 20 at a day-long retreat in Greensburg, Pa., where they discussed future mission priorities for ELPC and necessary building renovations in light of the departure of the EECM Men’s Shelter and food programs later this year.

Youth Sunday

We rejoice that the Senior High youth will create and lead our Sanctuary Worship service on Sun., June 2. The graduating seniors also will share their faith journeys with us.

As this is our last day of Church School before summer break, we also will recognize and give thanks for our Church School teachers, and will share in the sacrament of Communion.

Youth who wish to participate in this service are asked to prepare by attending Church School throughout May.

Building Homes, Friendships, Trust and Faith

by Michele Bossers

The first thing you learn on a mission trip to support disaster recovery efforts is that the work includes not just hammering, cleaning and rebuilding structures, but also listening: listening to those who find themselves homeless due to a natural catastrophe; listening for what is most critical to those experiencing chaos; listening for the pain behind the words; and listening to one another to develop a sense of community and purpose. Most importantly, the mission is to listen for the Holy Spirit as God guides each hammer and prayer and overcomes each fear, building hope and trust along with walls and vapor barriers.

For one week in March, six individuals from ELPC traveled to Point Pleasant, N.J., joining 16 other volunteers with Lend a Hand (www.lendahand.net) to rehabilitate and rebuild the homes of eight families who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Together, we provided 733 volunteer hours of service. Our week was full of tears and smiles, loss and new beginnings, courage and support. We were physically exhausted and emotionally drained each evening, but also full of life and energy as we shared our experiences and prayerfully sang, “Here I Am, Lord”.

We were but 22 volunteers supported by a network of more volunteers from Lend a Hand, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and local congregations and businesses. Support for our efforts came in the form of hot dinners and warm bunks provided at Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church; warmth, respite and lunch at St. Paul’s Methodist Church; free dinner at the local Episcopal church for volunteers and the displaced, hot showers at local exercise facilities; fresh homemade cookies and toiletries delivered by a local Girl Scout Troop; and the patient guidance of crew leaders who taught new skills and empowered us to trust ourselves to climb ladders, use power tools, and enter into crawl spaces under homes.

We were humbled by love, gratitude and trust. We went to do what we could to help with rebuilding efforts. We came home prepared to listen for God’s call as we ask again and again, “Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.”

Church Tour Available

Sat., May 4, beginning at 4 pm

Enjoy the beauty of ELPC architecture, learn unknown facts about its history, and view seldom seen corners. A small-group tour will be available prior to our Worship service at 5 pm. Meet at the Highland St. entrance.

Questions? Call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Peter Yarrow Benefit Concert

Sun., May 12, at 7 pm

Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary, is performing a concert to benefit Hope Academy of Music and the Arts, in the ELPC Sanctuary.

Hope Academy’s teen theater company (HAT Co) will open the concert by performing contemporary songs with social justice themes. You also can hear HAT Co perform and promote this event on the Saturday Light Brigade radio show (88.3 WRCT) at 10:30 am, on Sat., May 11.

Admission is pay-what-you can and all proceeds support Hope Academy’s music scholarship fund. This family-friendly event is a great way to celebrate Mother’s Day!
Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Contemporaries Class  Second Floor Parlor
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle
May 12: Conversations of Pittsburgh and Faith  Led by Patrick Dowd, Pittsburgh City Council and ELPC Elder
Patrick has a story to tell regarding what fuels his passions for our beloved city and its direction. His insights from the perspective of local government will be helpful for every concerned citizen. Patrick will share his faith journey, and how it has impacted his family, including his decision to become an officer within our congregation.

May 19: The Lord’s Guidance Directing My Service  Led by Pam Kimmel, ELPC Business Administrator
Pam will take us behind the scenes into the world of church management from her perspective. The Lord’s guidance has truly directed her path every step of the way and that contributes to the personification of her service. A couple of scriptural passages will chart the course of her testimony, and Pam has agreed to include a few aspects of her faith-story before, during and after the commitment of becoming a vital staff participant to enhance the ministries of ELPC.

May 26: Cultivating Community  Led by Joe Kennedy
Community requires commitment. It also encourages honesty, humility, courage, courtesy, intentional participation and acceptance. To be in a community means giving up our self-centeredness and independence in order to become interdependent. But the benefits of sharing life together far outweigh the costs, and the process serves to prepare us for heaven! Congregational life is greatly enhanced through the establishment of spiritual principles that truly amplify the fruitfulness of community.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Irvin
Wisdom speaks. She says, “then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race” (Proverbs 8:30–31). May’s scripture readings call all people to these things: to be loved, to love, to rejoice, to create, and to delight—towards union with all creation and Christ. Come read and reflect!

May 26: Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1–5; John 16:12–15

Notes: Classes begin at 9:45 am. Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, we will not have classes on Sun., May 5.

Parenting Circle  Harambe Room
Facilitator: Pam Walaski
Note: Parenting Circle will not meet in May.

Seekers  Room 234; Facilitator: Gwen Puza
May 12, 19, and 26: Theologians Who Resist Nazism
Though much of the church failed to resist Hitler, theologians Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Paul Tillich were notable exceptions. Their lives, actions, writings, and theological thought will be examined by Dr. Ron Stone in three periods:

May 12: 1931–32
May 19: 1942–43
May 26: 1945

Soul Food  Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu
We will continue discussing Richard Rohr’s book, Things Hidden—Scripture as Spirituality.

May 12: The second half of Chapter 7
May 19: The first half of Chapter 8, led by Tom Menk
May 26: The second half of Chapter 8
June 2: General discussion and review

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”
Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., May 3: First Friday at Station Square at 7 pm
As the weather gets warmer, TRAIL will enjoy an evening dining by the dancing fountain. Come join the group for dinner at Joe’s Crab Shack (124 West Station Square Dr.), and stay to enjoy some fun at Station Square.

Sat., May 11: The Great Outdoors with Jill and Ben at 5 pm
We will enjoy the warming weather, each other’s company, and dinner, as we get to know our hosts, Jill and Ben Markwart. Plan for an active evening outside. Contact Wil for a ride from the church at 4:30pm.

Sun., May 12: Sunday YAM Class from 9:45–10:45 am, in Room 244
As we conclude our spring-long focus on what happens to us when we die, we will use different mediums as we consider images of Heaven. If you have them, bring your copies of Love Wins and The Great Divorce, along with your questions. Café Justo will be served.

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.

Sat., May 18: Youth Car Wash from 10 am–2 pm
Youth will participate in a car wash at Vento’s Pizza (420 N Highland Ave.). Donations will be accepted. Money raised will support the Senior High Youth Mission Trip to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Ky.

Club One Sixteen
Wed., May 15

Club Life: Yoga
Wed., May 1, 8, and 15
Elementary through high school students are welcome to attend three free yoga classes. Christy Valencheck of Yoga Mama Yoga presents Peaceful Warrior, a program that teaches children and youth how to resolve conflicts peacefully and remain awake to their body-mind-spirit connection in daily activities.

Sign up with Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x20.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director

Sat., May 18: Spring Music Festival
Hope Academy’s young singers, dancers, actors and musicians will present an entire day of recitals and performances.

Instrumental and vocal recitals will take place from 10 am–5 pm, throughout ELPC. At 7 pm, EL CEO (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) and HAT Co are sharing the stage in the Sanctuary for a concert featuring classical, rock, pop, blues and original songs. HAT Co (Hope Academy Teen Theater Company) will preview selections from their current show Wiley and the Hairyman.

Wiley and the Hairyman is a play for young audiences based on a folktale rooted in African folklore set in the swamp lands of Louisiana. It is about a young boy named Wiley who sets out for the woods prepared to confront the Hairy Man. The ensemble cast acts, sings, dances and plays instruments, incorporating traditional bayou blues (Balfa Brothers), contemporary pop/blues fusion (The Civil Wars) with original songs and an environmental soundscape. This show also will be performed during the Three Rivers Arts Festival on Sat., June 8.

All Spring Music Festival events are free and open to the public.
Sister Helen Prejean to Speak in Pittsburgh
Thurs., May 16, at 7 pm

Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (PADP.org) is sponsoring a visit to Pittsburgh by Sister Helen Prejean, a tireless advocate for the abolition of the death penalty.

The ELPC Justice Committee invites everyone to hear Sister Helen speak at Rodef Shalom in Oakland. The program is free and open to the public.

Sister Helen is renowned for her book *Dead Man Walking*, which was made into a feature film. She has divided her time between educating citizens about the death penalty and counseling death row prisoners.

Young At Heart Luncheon
Sun., June 9, at 12:30 pm

Those who are 65 and over are invited to the Young at Heart Luncheon, presented by the ELPC Deacons.

Join together for good food, meeting old and new friends, and enjoying a presentation of *Biblical Broadway*.

Admission for one senior member plus one guest is free. For others, there will be a fee of $10. RSVP by Sat., May 25, to Kate Carlson at 412.441.3800 x16.

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., May 15 or 22.

Wed., May 1: Violin Recital
Lisa Joseph, our violinist, will “sing for her supper.” Lisa will be going on a medical mission trip to Indonesia this summer with International Medical Relief. You can support her through a tax-deductible donation. Please make checks payable to International Medical Relief (Tax ID #46-0494595).

Wed., May 8: Music on the Labyrinth
Charles Anderson will play meditative music on the Labyrinth.

Wed., May 29: Celebrations!
If you celebrate a birthday, anniversary or milestone in May, please write it down and put it in the collection basket so we can celebrate with you!

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., May 7: Dispatches to God’s Household at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue with our lesson, *Brothers and Sisters in Harmony*, based on 1 John 2–4 and Jude 17–25. A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided.

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

Note: Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, we will not have a First Sunday Event in May.

Check Out the ELPC Prayer Room
Have you visited the new ELPC Prayer Room? Located in the former Trustees Room, outside the Sanctuary, the Prayer Room offers an opportunity for quiet prayer and meditation in the midst of ELPC’s busy ministries. Stop in for a moment to collect yourself and offer quiet prayer, or sit in extended meditation with God. If the building is open, so is the Prayer Room—a ready witness to what is our essential nature as Christians: a people of prayer. Check it out!

June’s First Sunday Event
Music, Poetry, Mandalas. Each can be tools for prayer; but what happens when these elements are combined?

On Sun., June 2, Sister Donna Marie Beck will guide us in exploring our spiritual depths and enhance our prayer life using the arts. A light lunch will be served.

Sister Donna Marie Beck is a trained spiritual director, Professor Emeritus of Music Therapy at Duquesne and Professor at the Music Psychotherapy Center.
Service Spotlight: Front Desk Hospitality Assistants

by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

As each of us enter the building or call the church, we are greeted by one of two types of people. Most often, we have security staff who many of us know pretty well. However, during the mid-day times throughout the week, we also have volunteers who help make ELPC an even more welcoming and smoothly running place. These folks are Front Desk Hospitality Assistants. As an important aid to individuals and to our community, they provide hospitality and security by answering phones, providing directions, screening visitors and much more.

In recent conversations with our current team, they used these words to describe their service experience: “learning,” “enjoying,” “belonging,” and “connection.”

Thank you, Barbara, Frances, Kay and Jerry! They found a fit for their interests, skills and schedule—let’s talk about what service opportunities might be a fit for you.

Visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html to learn more.

Stormwater Reclamation Project

The bidding process is underway for a storm water management project that will transform ELPC’s front yard along Penn Ave. By the end of May, we expect to select a contractor and begin construction.

This project will intercept the rainwater that falls on one-third of the church’s roofs. It is designed to capture the first inch of rainfall from each storm and allow it to infiltrate into the ground to be used by the water-loving plants that will be growing in the new rain garden.

Diabetes Study Seeking Participants

Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh are conducting a study to understand how spouses/partners can help you take care of your diabetes.

If you have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes within the past two years, are married or have been living together in a marital-like relationship for at least two years, and your spouse/partner does not have diabetes, you can participate three-part study. You and your spouse/partner can each earn up to $200 for your time.

Part 1: In-person session (two hours)—paid $50
Part 2: Questionnaire (five minutes each day for two weeks)—paid $100
Part 3: In-person session (one hour)—paid $50

For details, contact Pamela R. Snyder at 412.268.2784 or ps3x@andrew.cmu.edu.

ELPC People

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

Good News

Please welcome our newest members, Pamela Napier-Boyer and Gloria Knopp.

Roberta London, an ELPC member, was honored as the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh’s Big Sister of the Year. Roberta was chosen for her dedication and services to her little brother, who she has worked with for 10 years.

Thanks

Over 35 volunteers shared their time, talent and love to make Club One Sixteen come to life this year. These volunteers mentored, served, created, cooked, coached, listened, cleaned, danced, cared, taught, laughed and much more. We thank each of our volunteers, especially our weekly volunteers: Will DeLair, Barbara Fotta, Karen Fraser, Jill Markwart, and Felicia Ragsdale. We truly could not do it without you.

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:

• Mark DeWitt’s father, H. Dewey DeWitt;
• Tekiesha Daniel’s mother, Drena Williams;
• Sherry Shaner, who was a member of ELPC for 31 years; and
• Marilyn Castle’s mother-in-law.

OHM and GCF Workday

Join the Neighbors Mission Committee, Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm on Sat., May 4, as we rehab a house in East Liberty and do gardening at the farm.

For details, call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.
“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.”

VCS Now Accepting Registrations

Our Vacation Church School theme is *Breathe It In: God Gives Life!* From stories of God breathing life into creation, to the wind of the Spirit at Pentecost, children will explore how God’s life-giving purpose appeared in Bible stories about air and wind. Through these stories, children will be assured of God’s loving, transformative, life-giving presence with us always.

VCS will be held at ELPC from 9 am–3 pm (registration beginning at 8 am), from June 24–28. Children age 3½ (who have turned three by Jan. 1, 2013) through those who have completed grade 5, are invited to participate in our free program. Our program caps at 100 students, so register early to ensure your child has a spot.

Registration forms are available on the Second Floor CE Table, the counter near the Welcome Desk, First Floor Bulletin Board, and at www.CathedralOfHope.org.

VCS Volunteers Needed

The success of VCS rests in the capable hands and hearts of our dedicated volunteers. We are seeking the assistance of men, women, and youth who are willing to volunteer at least three hours of their time (a half-day) or as much as the entire week to help nurture our children and share God’s love. This is a wonderful way to participate in God’s mission for those who are unable to do mission work outside of Pittsburgh!

Adult volunteers must have current Act 33/34 clearances and pass a Criminal Background check (ELPC will pay for and process these forms), and attend a mandatory training session at 9 am, on Sun., June 16, with a make-up session following worship on Sun., June 23. These sessions will be held in Room 244.

Youth volunteers (those who have completed grades 6–12) are required to attend a training session following worship on Sun., June 23. Contact Wil Forrest for details.

Prayerfully consider sharing your gifts in service to God and the children of our church and community! If you’re interested, please fill out a Volunteer Registration form, located on the Second Floor CE Table, the counter near the Welcome Desk, First Floor Bulletin Board, and at www.CathedralOfHope.org.