Dedication of Our Stormwater Project

Tues., April 22, at 10 am

A special Earth Day ceremony will happen in our church’s front yard! We will dedicate the stormwater reclamation and rain-garden landscaping that now graces our Penn Ave. and Whitfield St. lawns. Please join us as we invite the press and community to share in our joy, as we use our soil, plants, and trees as partners in sustainable environmental practices to benefit all of God’s community.

This extensive project was funded by grants and donations, working with groups like 3 Rivers Wet Weather, TreeVitalize, Tree Pittsburgh, and East Liberty Development, Inc.

Three Rivers Ringers in Concert at ELPC

Sat., April 26, at 5 pm

Pittsburgh’s premiere handbell ensemble, under the direction of Nancy Lutz, will present a concert in the Sanctuary.

The concert is free and a freewill offering will be collected. Invite your friends for a spectacular finish to the 2013-14 Cathedral Concerts’ season!

Welcome L. Roger Owens

Sun., April 27, at 11 am Sanctuary Worship

The Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens will be our guest preacher for worship. Rev. Dr. Owens is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and a pastor in the United Methodist Church. He also serves as the associate professor of Leadership and Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and is the author of several books about the pastoral vocation and spiritual direction. We welcome this chance to hear more about answering God’s call to Christian leadership and outreach.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The novelist Barbara Kingsolver once wrote that all stories begin in one of two ways: “A stranger came to town” or “I set out upon a journey.” Which option best fits the Christian gospel? Thinking about the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ, the first story option appears to be the appropriate choice.

Into the 1st century world of ancient Galilee and Judea came a stranger—a king born in a manger bed, the Son of God raised in a carpenter’s family in Nazareth. From early in his life, people wondered about this “stranger.” They marveled at the young boy who bantered with the teachers in the temple. They crowded around him as he taught through parables and deeds of wonder, noting that his authority exceeded that of the scribes and Pharisees. They told others about him, saying that never before had such a prophet been seen among the people of Israel. King Herod longed to lay eyes on him, while Governor Pilate tried to distance himself from this strange rabbi by washing his hands of him and turning Jesus over to the mob. And when he arose from the dead, the women’s strange testimony about the empty tomb was first dismissed as folly before finally sinking into believers’ hearts so deeply that it has become good news for all people.

The incarnation (God’s Son becoming flesh and dwelling among us) can be understood as the epitome of the story type about a “stranger coming to town.” That is the central message of the Hymn to Christ, composed by the early church and recorded by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians, which speaks about “Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.” And it is at the heart of the famous verse from John’s gospel reminding us that “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17).

But I believe the power of the Christian story only sinks into our hearts and souls when we allow both of Kingsolver’s options to be applied to the gospel of Christ. Yes, Jesus came into the world as a “stranger” to save us and inaugurate a kingdom of justice, love and peace. But in the end, the point of Jesus’ coming was to prompt us to re-tell our own life stories beginning with the phrase, “I set out on a journey.” Christ came to set us in motion, to move us from where we are to where we should be (as re-born, renewed disciples of the Lord). Christ came to bring release to us captives and comfort to the us afflicted so that we can go forth on a God-blessed, Christ-healed, Spirit-sustained journey of faith.

The Easter news is ever before us: “Christ is alive. Alleluia!” May we tell our story in light of that good news, saying, “Knowing that Christ lives, I set out on a journey of faith—and I’ve never looked back since.”
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**Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

**April 13: Passion Sunday**  
11 am, Sanctuary worship service, led by Rev. Dr. Bush

**April 16: Taizé Sung Prayer**  
7 pm, in the Chapel, led by Rev. Callahan

**April 17: Maundy Thursday**  
7 pm, Communion service in the Sanctuary, led by Rev. Dr. Bush

**April 18: Good Friday**  
12 pm, in the Chapel;  
7 pm, Tenebrae service in the Sanctuary, led by Rev. Schoenewolf

**April 19: Easter Vigil**  
7 pm, in the Chapel and Sanctuary, led by Rev. Callahan

**April 20: Easter Sunday**  
8:45 am, in the Music Room, led by Heather Schoenewolf;  
11 am, in the Sanctuary, led by Rev. Dr. Bush

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**Hope Out of Chaos**

On February 16, seven ELPC members joined Lend a Hand of Carlisle Presbytery and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in supporting Hurricane Sandy’s long-term recovery efforts in New Jersey. Upon our arrival, each volunteer was given a PDA tee shirt with the inscription, “Hope out of chaos.”

During our first trip to N.J. last winter, chaos was visible everywhere, with debris piled up, homes knocked off their foundations, and neighborhoods without utilities. Now, the visible chaos is less evident, but it still exists inside homes in need of restoration, displaced families and minds confused with insurance claims, municipal requirements, complex grant applications, and dwindling financial resources.

While a small team may not complete the rehab project, the volunteer effort does bring hope out of chaos. Installing drywall, laying tile, painting, and helping to create order in temporary housing provides hope for a better day. Hope also grows through sharing work, stories, hugs, and meals. Communities are restored, not just by repairing homes, but by building relationships and sharing God’s love.

It was recently reported that only about 10 percent of the U.S. population volunteers. How sad for those who don’t avail themselves of an opportunity to volunteer. They will never know the blessings one receives by serving others and by establishing deeper relationships with sisters and brothers in Christ.

If you are interested in participating in a future Hurricane Sandy recovery mission trip, contact Michele Bossers at 412.303.9243 or michele2285@gmail.com.

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**More Than Coffee, It’s a Mission of Justice and Equality**

Two years ago, ELPC made a conscious decision to support our brothers and sisters in Mexico by serving Café Justo at all church functions, as well as making packages available for sale in the Bookstore. Though a simple decision, it has helped improve lives and communities in Agua Prieta and Salvador Urbina, Mexico.

Café Justo is a coffee cooperative—formed 11 years ago under the guidance of Frontera de Cristo (FDC), a PC(USA) mission partner—that grows, roasts, packages, and ships their own coffee. It’s more than fair trade, it’s Fair Trade Plus because the real profit in coffee comes from roasting the beans and selling them, not growing them.

By keeping farmers in the process, success is shared through sustainable wages, environmentally sound growing practices, and families who are able to stay on their lands, give back to their communities, and reduce immigration.

The ELPC Mission Board is coordinating a mission trip to deepen our relationship with FDC, Café Justo, and our brothers and sisters in Mexico. Throughout the journey, we will cultivate growth in positive relationships across borders, and reflect on the connections between coffee, migration, and faith.

In Agua Prieta, we will walk desert migration trails, visit maquiladoras (factories), and learn about the history, economics, and politics that have led to our current immigration system.

In Chiapas, we will stay with families in the cooperative, pick and harvest coffee beans, learn how the cooperative has improved the lives of families, and visit the Water for Life treatment plant and other community projects.

Interested? See the display on the Mission bulletin board or contact Michele Bossers at 412.303.9243 or michele2285@gmail.com.

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**Left to right (back row) Henk Bossers, JoAnn Chonoska, Jeff McLaren, and Michele Bossers; (front row) Vivienne Selia, Liz Hopkins, and Doris Dick**
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Contemporaries Class Second Floor Parlor
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

April 6 and 13: How Do We Know Who God Is?
Led by Rev. Dr. John Burgess, Pgh. Theological Seminary
Christians regularly use the word “God,” but what do we mean? The question of who God is has become urgent in a time in which people seem to have forgotten God, yet are seeking God more than ever. This series will help us think about who God is and how people come to know God. Three great Christian conversation partners will guide us: the apostle Paul, the medieval theologian Anselm, and the 20th century Eastern Orthodox thinker, Alexander Schmemann.

April 27: Presbyterian Border Ministry of Agua Prieta
Led by Rev. Mark Adams
Pastor Mark will update us on social, economic, and political issues at the U.S./Mexico border via Skype. He will challenge us to think about our discipleship in light of our interconnectedness with our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

Journey with Scripture Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin
April’s readings span Lent and Easter. They can bring to mind the poem, “Resurrection,” by Mary Ann Bernard. A few verses below:

Long before this winter’s snow
I ran from pain, looked high and low
For some fast way to get around
Its hurt and cold. I’d have found,
If I had looked at what was there,
That things don’t follow fast or fair.

...A flower comes. It groans, yet sings,
And through its pain, its peace begins.

Join us as we ponder cross, tomb, garden, and locked room.

April 6: Ezekial 37:1–14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45
April 13: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19–29; Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 21:1–11
April 27: Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

Parenting Circle Harambe Room
Facilitator: Pam Walaski
We will use passages from the Lectionary to help us discern and explore God’s plan for our families, and share our joys and struggles through a facilitated discussion. We welcome children who may not yet be able to leave their parents.

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
April 6: Mission in the slums of Cairo
In summer of 2013, Marc Johnston, a senior at the Univ. of Pittsburgh, went with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship to a Coptic Christian slum in Cairo, Egypt. They worked amidst 115-degree heat and putrid smells. The Arab Spring revolution was brewing, and when it became too dangerous, the U.S. Embassy ordered their evacuation. Come hear about his moving experiences.

April 13: Executing God: Re-Thinking the Cross
led by Rev. Randy Bush
Christian theology has long looked to the cross as the crucial symbol of God’s saving love for all humanity. It is a paradox, involving an act of capital punishment as well as sacrifice leading to salvation. Guided by a new book by Sharon Baker, Pastor Randy will explore how we can look to the cross with integrity as we contemplate God’s persistent love and power.

April 27: Spirituality In a Postmodern Age
led by the Rev. Dr. Roger Owens,
Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens will help us explore the possibilities opened up for Christian spirituality and our own lives of prayer by the massive cultural changes we’ve seen over the last 50 years.

Soul Food Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu
April 6, 13, and 27: A Collection of Writings on Discernment
Join us as we begin reading and discussing our new text, a collection of Henri Nouwen’s writings on discernment. New members are always welcome.
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Fri.–Sat., April 4–5: Sr. High Mission Overnight from 7 pm–7 pm
Youth in grades 8–12, who are interested in attending the Sr. High Mission Trip to Washington, D.C., this summer, are required to attend this Mission Overnight. We will learn about mission, play group building games, and worship together. Saturday, we will complete mission work and plan for the trip. For details and permission forms, visit the youth page of our website or speak to Sara Hackett.

Sun., April 13: Confirmation Class at 12:30 pm
Confrimands will meet with their sponsors for lunch and to write their Statements of Faith, which will be shared with Session in May.

Sun., April 6: Jr. High Mission Trip Informational Meeting from 12:30–1:30 pm
The Jr. High Mission Trip to Mission Possible at Crestfield Camp, from July 6–11, is open to youth currently in grades 6–8. Interested youth and their parents should attend this meeting. We will cover dates, projects, cost, and more. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.673.2926.

Fri.–Sat., May 2–3: Tween Retreat at Crestfield Camp
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to join tweens from around Pittsburgh to learn about God’s call in their lives, grow as a church group, learn tools for Biblical exploration, worship, and have fun! The cost is $55/student. Scholarships are available. Registration form and $5 deposit are due by Wed., April 16.

We will meet at ELPC on Friday at 5 pm; return on Saturday at 8 pm. For details, and registration and scholarship forms, visit our website or contact Sara Hackett.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., April 4: First Friday at the Neighborhood at 7 pm, at ELPC
Enjoy an evening of fellowship and service as we reach out to our neighborhood with random acts of kindness.

Sun., April 13: Sunday YAM Class from 9:45–10:45 am, in Room 244
We will examine intimacy with God through Scripture, personal testimony, and group discussion, as led by Jen Vinsel. Bring your Bible. Café Justo will be served and childcare will be available.

Sat.–Sun., April 26–27: Real, Live Camping
This is the real thing…no cabins, no kitchen. We will head out to the woods, pitch our tents, and spend the evening gathered around the fire. Bring a tent, sleeping bag, campfire story, and your sense of adventure. Food will be supplied. We will leave ELPC at noon, on Saturday; return at 2 pm, on Sunday. RSVP to Wil by Fri., April 18.

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

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

Yoga
Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm

JourneyDance
Mondays, from 6:30–7:30 pm; and Fri., April 11, from 7–8 pm

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 412.441.3800 x14.
The Seeds of Spring
by Darrell and Denise Bupp
“For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”—Song of Solomon 2:11–12

As winter comes to an end and spring starts to take hold, we begin to get ready for planting. We start seeds in small containers inside, and watch as they grow. As it gets warmer and the frost has past, we start to plant.
Our garden produces our needs for the year. We freeze and can our own vegetables. We make our own sauces, juices and relishes. We feel so blessed by God for what our garden produces—and our blessings allow our neighbors to also reap what we sow!

LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs
Our next spiritual gathering will be at 3 pm, on Sat., April 12, in the Ground Floor Lounge, and our next business meeting will be at 5 pm, on Sun., May 4, in the Pastor’s Conference Room.

Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 for details or to get on the distribution list.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., April 1: An Abiding Hope at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy. Our lesson is “Temptations Along the Way” (Exodus 32:1–34:10; Deuteronomy 6:10–25). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Soup and beverages will be provided.

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

Sat., April 12: A Contemplative Entry to Holy Week from 9 am–4 pm
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor for a special retreat as the Rev. Callahan guides us using silence, the word, image, and experience in preparation for the journey to the Upper Room, to Gethsamane, Golgatha, and to the Garden Tomb. Come and prepare your heart to be open to the presence of God in the story and ritual of Holy Week—that you might experience new life in the celebration of Easter!
RSVP by calling Kate Carlson at 412.441.3800 x16. There is no charge, but we ask that you contribute $7 to cover your lunch. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a pen and journal if you use one.

Fri.–Sun., May 2–4: Spring Silent Retreat
The practice of keeping silence is a part of all faith traditions. Essentially, keeping silence is an act of surrender in order to draw closer to God; surrendering our speaking to hear God more clearly; letting go of our use of technology to become aware of the divine in our lives; emptying our minds so that we can focus on our creator; becoming still so that we might know the God who is.
To make this practice available to our church family, the Spiritual Life Committee is offering a two-night silent retreat beginning at 5:30 pm, on Friday, until noon on Sunday, at Providence Villa on Babcock Blvd. in the North Hills. You also can sign up for an appointment with the Rev. Callahan for spiritual direction if you choose.
The cost for two nights of quiet in a lovely setting and five meals is $130/person. Scholarship money is available, but space is limited. Complete a reservation form (available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board) and submit it along with your check to Kate Carlson by Fri., April 28. If you have questions, contact the Rev. Callahan.

Fast for Hunger
Join your brothers and Sisters in our monthly Fast for Hunger, beginning the evening of Fri., April 4, and ending with the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper on Sun., April 6.

First Sunday Program
A light lunch will be served with our First Sunday Program, Praying with Icons, following 11 am worship on Sun., April 6, in Room 234.
William Shakespeare’s 450th Birthday Bash at ELPC on Sat., April 12

Hope Academy students, teaching artists, and other musicians, visual artists and performers from the community, are coming together to celebrate the 450th birthday of William Shakespeare…and everyone’s invited!

**Birthday Party**  from 2–4 pm
This family friendly party for the Bard features music, art-making activities, storytelling, monologues, and scenes from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. And yes, there will be birthday cake!

**Shakespeare-ience**  from 6–9:30 pm
More adult-themed performances and activities—based on *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*—will take audience members through the building on “tours” featuring monologues and scenes, opera, dance, and stage combat, with our own strolling minstrels, The Band of Misfits, leading the way. There will be two tours, at 6:30 and 8 pm, with activities in the Social Hall all evening long.

All events are FREE and open to the public. Reserve your spot for the afternoon birthday party and/or one of the two evening performance tours by visiting the event listing on the ELPC website and clicking through to Brown Paper Tickets, or by calling Norma Meyer at 412.441.3800 x11.

Share your images from the event with us on social media using: #HAshakes450.

A Richness in the Body
*by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs*

Paul’s metaphor in I Corinthians, about us as the church being the body of Christ, has always been a powerful one to me. Since serving as iSERVE coordinator, my understanding of this body has become richer and more meaningful.

Each of us has various God-given resources to share together, making us a whole. First, we often think of talents. The Bible tells us that each of us is given at least one talent that we can use to serve as part of the body of Christ. Second, each of us is blessed with an amount of treasure. Giving a percentage of the income you are blessed with helps the operation of the body function, and the church can do great things through mission, outreach, youth, and other efforts. Third, there is time. While talent and treasure vary, we all have 24 hours each day.

We make choices that use our time, including work, relationships, entertainment, sleeping, eating, etc. These choices express our values by placing an emphasis on the things we do most often. Do the choices you make reflect your values?

When we ask this, we often find that we desire to reduce time spent in some areas and increase our time in relationships with others and God. Should you find yourself there, I invite you to talk to me and consider some options. We, as the body of Christ, are rich in resources and have unique gifts to give. Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iserve-2 for more information.

Presentation on The Foundation of H.O.P.E
*Sun., April 27, at 12:30 pm, in Room 234*

The Justice Committee invites you to hear Jody Raeford, director of the Aftercare Mentoring Program, explain the history and purpose of the Foundation of H.O.P.E., and discuss how ELPC can be involved. Refreshments will be served. Email Vivienne Selia at vselia@comcast.net for details.

This Christian social service program, is a faith-based response to the issue of recidivism. It is sponsored by the Allegheny County Jail’s Chaplain’s office and Christian Associates of Western Pa.

Food for Thought
*Begins Tues., April 1, from 4:30–6:30 pm*

Pray for us as we begin our eight-week Food For Thought pilot program of eating, thinking and mentoring. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far.

Check the ELPC website and Facebook for pictures and stories.

ELPC People
*If you have news to share, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.*

**Good News**
- Londell and Talisha Taylor-Robinson celebrated the birth of their daughter, Telah Shay. Telah is welcomed by her big brothers Royce and Londell, Jr.
- Congratulations to Benjamin Joseph Randi, son of Joseph and Laurel Randi, who was recently baptized.
- Ruling Elder Lenore Williams was installed as the Sr. Vice Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery at the February meeting of Presbytery.

**Prayers**
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
- Leslie Hammond’s mother, Gail Hammond
- Frances Irvin’s mother
Little Dresses for Africa

Presbyterian Women at ELPC are participating in the Presbytery’s Dresses for Africa collection. We would appreciate donations of new/lightly used pillow cases, or one to two yards of cotton fabric.

Donations can be left in the basket in the church office. For more information or to help, call Diane Jackson at 412.441.6021. Our deadline is Sun., April 13.

Celebrate Kay’s 50 Years!

The 2013–14 Church School year marks the 50th consecutive year of teaching for ELPC member Kay Shissler. Christian Education invites you to join us in the first of two celebrations of this important milestone in ministry.

ELPC is hosting a celebration in Kay’s honor at 6:30 pm, on Sat., April 26, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland. Join us for a meal, music, and a program, so that together, we can give thanks for the love and faithfulness Kay has offered children and youth throughout the years in service of our Triune God. Individuals and committees also can sponsor tables as a way to recognize Kay’s involvement and impact in our ELPC community beyond Christian Education.

Tickets are available after worship on Sun., April 6 and 13, and cost $25/adult; $10/child. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.380 x22.

There also will be a reception in Kay’s honor following worship on Sun., June 8. More details to come.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering received on Palm Sunday, April 13

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will help those most in need find hope and help through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Program.

Join Christians all across the country and open your hearts to witness the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.