Sunday Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Courtyard Worship • 10 am
Held in the Garth, weather permitting, and also broadcast in the Music Room.
Aug. 3* Rev. Page Creech
Aug. 10 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Aug. 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Aug. 24 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Aug. 31 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Mission Trips
This summer, 26 youth and six adults participated in mission trips sponsored by ELPC’s Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

In July, middle school youth and their leaders (pictured) engaged in mission throughout our region through Camp Crestfiel’s Mission Possible program.

From Aug. 10–16, senior high youth and their leaders will spend a week in Washington, D.C., engaging in mission in partnership with the Center for Student Mission. Please hold these youth and their leaders in their prayers!

ELPC Receives Equality Award
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, along with his fellow pastors—Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, and Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan—received the July 2014 award from the Dignity & Respect Campaign of Vibrant Pittsburgh for making ELPC a place where everyone is welcomed and valued, regardless of race, culture, ability, socioeconomic status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The Dignity & Respect Campaign is a national initiative that promotes dignity and respect in the workplace.

Save the Date: Rally Date
On Rally Day, Sun., Sept. 7, we will kick off our Church School year and return to our regular worship schedule. The Christian Education Committee will host a continental breakfast at 9:30 am, in Rooms 224 and 227 on the Second Floor. Grab a bite to eat, reconnect with friends, and meet new ones before heading off to class.

ELPC offers Church School classes for persons of all ages on Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:45 am. For a full listing of classes and descriptions, visit CathedralOfHope.org.

Taizé Prayer Service
Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule
Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
Aug. 6: No programming
Aug. 13: Time of Extended Singing and Prayer
Aug. 20: Music on the Labyrinth
Aug. 27: Celebrations!

Editor’s Note
In this issue, ELPC members Bob Ross and Lenore Williams tell us about their experiences at the 221st General Assembly, held in Detroit.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 1954 candidating sermon for Dexter Avenue Baptist Church used as its text this obscure verse from Revelation describing the heavenly city of God: “The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width; and [the angel] measured the city with his rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal” (Revelation 21:16). King was advised by an influential church deacon to plan a sermon “which will not require too much dependence on a manuscript.” It’s a wonder that he wasn’t also encouraged to pick a more lively passage of scripture!

But in his opening paragraph, King’s message is quite clear. He commented that when John received his vision of the holy Jerusalem, he saw a city in its completeness. As King put it, “the new city of God, the city of ideal humanity is not up on one side and down on the other; it is not an unbalanced entity. It is complete on all sides.” He quickly went on to assert that a healthy life of faith is “complete on all sides”—complete in its length, its breadth, and its height. He then goes on to describe these three qualities.

“Length of life” is not concerned with how long one lives or the mere duration of our days on earth. It refers instead to the forward movement of life, extending toward personal ends and ambitions. The length of our life is related to our “mission” in life—the goals we hope to achieve while alive. No one’s life is insignificant in the eyes of the Lord; therefore, all have a “length of life” to travel and a “mission in life” to fulfill.

“Breadth of life” involves having an outward concern for the welfare of others. Some people never get beyond the first dimension of life, solely focusing on themselves. Yet one’s life work is always related to serving the common good and a life of length without breadth is dead and narrow. King reminded the congregation that everyone should learn to pray “Lord, teach me to unselfishly serve humanity.”

Finally, the “height of life” is its movement upward toward something distinctly greater than this mortal life. We are to rise above the earth to that “great eternal reality who is the source and end of life” if we wish to live a complete life. For even as we are commanded to love others as we love ourselves, that great commandment still begins with the admonition to “love the Lord thy God.”

The ideal vision of a complete life challenges us to seek equal measures of length (aspiration), breadth (compassion), and height (devotion) in our every day routines. The summer season is typically a time to reflect on our lives and reprioritize our values. May these thoughts from a young Dr. King give us categories for reflection so that we, too, may be faithful building blocks in the city of God.
Divesting from Occupation at General Assembly  
by Bob Ross, ELPC member and chair of advocacy for the Israel-Palestine Mission Network

The 221st General Assembly (GA) of the PC(USA), held in Detroit, reminded us that the work of Christianity is both simple and difficult.

Divesting from Occupation at General Assembly

This duality was especially true with regards to the question of divestment from the Israeli occupation—perhaps the most controversial issue this year. The Church had to decide whether to continue investing in three companies that are used by the Israeli military to violently maintain and expand its occupation of Palestinian territory, or sell its shares in those companies and thus divest from the profiteering of warfare and human rights abuses.

The Christian response is simple: we don’t invest in violence; we don’t profit from the suffering of others, not during the time of Jesus, not in the 21st century.

Moreover, Palestinian civil society, including every Christian denomination in Palestine, had specifically called upon Christians around the world to use divestment as a non-violent tactic to help liberate Palestinians from occupation, inequality, and exile.

Yet, as simple as the choice to divest should have been, only 51 percent of the commissioners voted in favor. Opponents claimed the move would alienate the PC(USA) from our Jewish neighbors, despite the overture’s language reaffirming our partnerships with American Jews and support for Israel. Thankfully, enough commissioners chose divestment—a simple, prophetic action.

Prophetic Christian action is even more simple and difficult now. Nearly two months later, we find the situation in Israel/Palestine increasingly troubling. After three Israeli teenagers were murdered in June, the Israeli military launched full-scale attacks on the occupied West Bank and Gaza. At the time of this writing, the Israeli military has killed more than 100 Palestinians, injured 1,000, and raided 2,200 homes since June 12. Palestinian rocket fire has critically injured at least one Israeli.

It should be clear that this violence takes place within the context of a 67-year-old occupation. The road to ending that occupation may be difficult, but in order for peace, justice, and equality to prevail, the occupation must end. So, while divestment is a step toward that goal, we must now discern what steps we as a church should take next.
Thank You for a Successful VCS

The Christian Education Committee and Pastor Heather would like to thank all the volunteers and staff (listed below) whose skills, hard work, and love helped make Vacation Church School 2014 a huge success.

Each day, we served an average of 80 children from our East End community and beyond. Our Workshop of Wonders engaged the spiritual imagination and creativity of children and youth by inspiring them through music, worship, Bible study, crafts, and activities to use their diverse gifts to serve God and reach out with love to God’s people.


Hope Academy’s fall term begins the week of Sept. 16. Download a course brochure and registration form at HopeAcademyArts.com or pick one up at the front desk of ELPC.

Classes fill quickly, so return the registration form as soon as possible to make sure a place is reserved for you. The deadline for scholarship/ tuition assistance applications is Fri., Aug. 15.

There is something for everyone, including Musical Theater Workshop (voice, tap dance, and acting) and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes, on Saturdays; private instrument and voice instruction all week; and a new ukulele class. Plus, Suzuki Violin and Piano and Hope Academy’s audition-only teen theater company, HAT Co, for singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

Films will be shown after our Courtyard Worship service, along with a light potluck lunch in Room 234.

Aug. 3: Sick Around the World 60 min
Four in five Americans say the U.S. healthcare system needs “fundamental” change. Can the U.S. learn anything from the rest of the world about how to run a healthcare system, or are these nations so culturally different from us that their solutions would not be acceptable to Americans? This film examines how other advanced capitalist democracies deliver healthcare. Filmed prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, this subject is still pertinent and points out what the U.S. might learn from other countries’ successes and failures.

Aug. 10: A Place at the Table 84 min
Presented by the Poverty Committee, this film looks at hunger and proposed solutions. 50 million Americans (1-in-4 children) don’t know where their next meal is coming from. This documentary follows three people who maintain their dignity as they struggle to eat. This riveting journey will forever change how you think about the hungry.

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

Sun., Aug. 24: Summer Fun leaving ELPC by 12:30 pm
As summer winds down, youth in grades 6–12 are invited to an afternoon of food, fellowship, and swimming at Pastor Heather’s childhood home. We’ll travel together and return to ELPC by 5 pm. A permission slip is required. RSVP to Sara Hackett by Thurs., Aug. 21.

Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Aug. 1: First Friday @ Gateway Clipper at 7 pm
Spend a summer evening on the three rivers with friends. We will set sail on the Gateway Clipper and return to Station Square for some fellowship and refreshments. Bring money to sail and snack. Learn more at GatewayClipper.com.

Sat., Aug. 23: A “Difficult” Day from 10 am–2:30 pm, meet in Room 234
Not sure what to do with some parts of the Bible? Does it seem to contradict itself and tell stories that don’t seem very Christian? Along with our young adult presenter, the Rev. Sarah Robbins, come and wrestle some difficult Scriptures that challenge us as people of faith. We will spend part of the day together exploring this topic and Scripture, as well as sharing lunch, fellowship and a time of prayer.

Sun., Aug. 31: Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival after 10 am worship
Take a step back 500 years as we experience the annual Pittsburgh Ren Fest. Bring money for admission and food, and your sense of adventure. Learn more at PittsburghRenFest.com.

YAM is for YOU
Your friends are always welcome too! To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.
LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Interested in learning more about, or getting involved with, ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry? Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 for more info and/or see the board in the hallway leading to the McKelvy Room.

Our next spiritual gathering is at 3 pm, on Sat., Aug. 9, and our next business meeting is at 11:30 am, on Sat., Aug. 23. All people are welcome!

God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.

Spiritual Life

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

Take a Peek!
Our programming for fall offers an opportunity to grow spiritually and reach new depths in our relationship with the God, who is ever present with us. Mark your calendars so that you can be a part of this transformative programming.

Sun., Sept. 28: After-worship program on Hunger, Food and Fasting
Sun., Oct. 12: Panel Discussion on Buddha and Jesus; Meditation and the Body/Mind Connection; and Meditation and Christian Practice
Fri.–Sun., Oct. 17–19: Silent Healing Retreat (with Healing Touch, Reike, Therapeutic Massage, Mindfulness Meditation; and Guided Imagery)
Thurs., Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, and 13: Learn the practice of Mindfulness Meditation
Nov. 15: Day Retreat with author, Martin Laird

Fast for Hunger
Remember, hunger doesn’t take a summer vacation! Participate in our monthly Fast for Hunger, beginning the evening of Fri., Aug. 1, and ending with Communion on Sun., Aug. 3. More information and monthly materials are available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board.
Community Party and Volunteer Opportunity

Please join us at 4 pm, on Tues., Aug. 5, at East Liberty Gardens for a community party and an ice cream social as we celebrate National Night Out with the families who live at the apartment complex. There will be music, face painting, dancing, and a cookout! Then, there will be a make-your-own-sundae activity for kids, sponsored by ELPC!

We would love to have some volunteers to help serve the ice cream, and we also could use some toppings, such as caramel/chocolate/strawberry sauces, sprinkles, mini chocolate chips, M&Ms, candies, and nuts! We will begin serving ice cream at 5:30 pm.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Becky Gloninger at 412.913.6070 or rag15@verizon.net.

Do you Sew? Got Yarn?

The Sewing Group will meet from 4–6 pm, on Mon., Aug. 4, and 9 am–12 pm, on Wed., Aug. 20. Also, the Knitting Group is collecting yarn donations in the front office. For details, contact Diane Jackson at dnjcks@verizon.net or 412.441.6021.

ELPC People

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

General Assembly in Review

by Lenore Williams, GA Commissioner from ELPC

The 221st General Assembly (GA) was held in Detroit under the theme of “Abounding In Hope.” If you are a person who loves governmental processes, this was an event for you!

As ELPC members, most of us have longed for the privilege of marriage to be shared by all whose heart is devoted and committed to another devoted, loving, and committed heart. This was overwhelmingly approved by GA. However, before the vote was taken, everyone on the floor had been warned by our new moderator, Heath Rada, that no matter how the vote goes, someone will be deeply hurt, deeply troubled, and in pain, and we must respect that. As a group, we did. The marriage of two people, whether same-sex or not, is still the responsibility of the teaching elders (the pastors) and the ruling elders of the congregation, but it still hurt many, including those who watched the stream of the proceedings. So, we stopped after the vote and we prayed together.

We prayed again as the decision on divestment came. We prayed before, we prayed during, and we are still praying. The action of divestment was not in any way meant to put one group over another. It was a way of addressing three companies: Hewlett-Packard, Caterpillar, and Motorola Solutions, which would not comply to a standard of non-violence in the use of their equipment in assaulting both Israeli and Palestinian innocents. It was a statement that PC(USA) would not profit by investing in these companies until they come to a table to talk about peace. It was not an easy vote, as was told by the 313 to 306 decision.

I looked with pride at ELPC when churches came to ask for changing our Book of Order to make it a requirement to do background searches on pastors and question the qualifications of our children’s educators. At ELPC, we have already gone through the steps needed to protect our children, members of our congregation, and visitors, thanks to the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf and others.

And so, we left Detroit, where folks were saying “I can see Canada from my hotel window!” We exchanged hugs, contact information and memories with new friends. There were promises of gatherings in Portland in 2016. There was devotion, dedication, and some disappointment, but above all else, there was prayer and hope.

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Good News

• We congratulate Doris Dick and Sharon Geibel on their marriage.

• Alicia and Jesse Melnick are the proud parents of a baby girl, Abigail Sue, born on May 2.

• We celebrate the baptism of Raylan Harold-Joseph Seidel, son of Tim and Alison Seidel, and brother of Darrah.

• We also celebrate the baptism of Nora Atwood Wagner, daughter of Rob and Carrie (Gilmore) Wagner and sister of Marshall.

• Congratulations to Ashley Birt, who received her M.Div. degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She is currently director of Christian Education at Rutgers Presbyterian Church in NYC.

Thanks

• Thank you for all the thoughts, cards, and prayers that were received in support of me and my family during our bereavement over my father’s death. We are most grateful.

  – Liz Hopkins

Prayers

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

• Agnes Kinard, who passed away on May 23. She was an ELPC member for 46 years.

• Dorothy Autore’s son, Martin, who passed away on June 10. Martin also was Carol Hoehn’s brother.
...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.”

New Tours Offer a Different Look
ELPC is offering new one-hour tours to showcase different aspects of our beautiful building that you may not be familiar with. If you are interested, meet at the Hospitality Desk following worship on Sun., Aug. 10 and 24, and wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes.

Sun., Aug. 10: Penn Hackney will guide us, starting with a view of church archives in the Session Room. We will then explore the Sanctuary and Chapel, viewing key elements of each.

Sun., Aug. 24: Are you curious about the boilers that heat our cathedral? Have you wanted to see the “lungs” of the organ? Bruce Pollock will guide a tour of the sub-basement levels. There will be some stairs and a few places with limited head room.

Celebrate Your Service
All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our fifth annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers, from 5:30–7:30 pm, on Thurs., Aug. 21, in the Garth. Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time.

Main dish and drinks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a side dish or a dessert to share.

Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE to learn about available service opportunities.

Photos for Pictorial Directory
The Membership and Outreach Committee will sponsor a new pictorial directory for ELPC. Photos will be taken from Sept. 30–Oct. 4, and Oct. 9–11. A letter will be mailed later this month with more information.

On Sun, July 13, we celebrated the important role that mentors play in the lives of children and youth.