Rev. Dr. Howard Dean Trulear Visits

On Sun., Feb. 15, we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Howard Dean Trulear to ELPC as our guest preacher for worship at 11 am. He also will lead a combined adult Church School class at 9:45 am (see page 4).

The Rev. Dr. Trulear is an American Baptist minister, as well as an associate professor of applied theology and the director of the doctor of ministry program at Howard University’s School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. He has lectured for universities, churches, and professional organizations across the country, and has authored more than 100 articles, book chapters, essays, and published sermons.

The Rev. Dr. Trulear also serves as the national director of Healing Communities, a framework for a distinct form of ministry for men and women who are returning from—or are at risk of—incarceration, their families, and the larger community. For more information, visit HealingCommunitiesUSA.com.

Ash Wednesday Services

The beginning of the season of Lent is traditionally celebrated on Ash Wednesday. On Wed., Feb. 18, ELPC will offer a simple service with the imposition of ashes in the Chapel at 12 pm. Following the service, a lunch will be offered in Room 234, including a presentation on “Devotion to Jesus,” by the Rev. Ayana Teter, Associate Minister for Outreach at Pittsburgh Presbytery. Then at 7 pm, our weekly Taizé service of sung prayer will be held in the Chapel, with music, prayers, and the imposition of ashes.

Attend Our Congregational Meeting

Our congregation’s Annual Meeting will be on Sun., Feb. 22, following worship. All are encouraged to attend to hear reports on church programs, receive the 2015 budget, elect the incoming slate of church officers, and participate in discussions related to the proposed renovation projects and other important ELPC ministries. A light lunch will be provided.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

In Chinua Achebe’s classic book, *Things Fall Apart*, a wonderful little parable is shared about why mosquitoes always try to bite us on our ears. Once upon a time, Mosquito had asked Ear to marry him, whereupon Ear fell on the floor in uncontrollable laughter. “How much longer do you think you will live?” she asked. “You are already a skeleton.” Mosquito went away sad and humiliated. But from that day forth, any time he passed her way, he would buzz close and tell Ear that he was still alive.

I love this story’s rich imagery. While I’m not sure how Ear fell onto the floor in uncontrollable laughter (without causing significant damage to the head), I can very well imagine every Mosquito in the world taking joy in buzzing close to our ears and reminding us “I’m still here.” It belongs in the category of mixed blessings—the unpleasant things that happen to all of us that both drive us crazy and yet remind us that we are still alive and kicking. Mosquitoes are annoying, yet they only buzz us because blood is still flowing through our veins, and we only notice them because our hearing is still working fine.

We are moving through an annual period that is rife with mixed blessings—the seasons of winter and Lent. Winter regularly rattles our cages and reminds us “I’m still here” with its frigid temperatures, snow flurries, and unexpected icy patches. Lent shakes us out of our liturgical complacency and calls us to consider correcting what is amiss in our lives through acts of penitence, denial, and spiritual discipline. It whispers into our ears the reminder that life is both precious and yet impermanent. It tells us annually that the good news of the gospel and the joy of Easter follow a road that necessarily goes past the scene of a tragic crucifixion. And its symbol of ashes challenges us to ponder these important truths aware how smudged and imperfect we routinely are.

Yet it is also true that Lent is a blessing. To notice on our calendars that Ash Wednesday has come once again (Feb. 18), means that we are alive and thus can still pray and gather for worship services during this important church season. Lent blesses us by calling us to times of quiet and self-reflection, breaking the tyranny of busyness and distraction that too often rules our daily lives. Lent may point toward a cross, but it does this so that we may remember the one who died on the cross—the loving Savior whose resurrection we celebrate on Easter.

“God-moments” are both the glimpses of beauty and the mixed blessings of things annoying us (like a mosquito buzzing near our ears). For both remind us that we are alive, we have freedom and responsibilities, and—as followers of Jesus Christ—we are never alone. May that Lenten good news tickle your ear and strengthen your soul!
Lenten Devotionals

As we enter another sacred season of our liturgical calendar, the Christian Education Committee will provide devotionals for persons of all ages. They will be available on the Second Floor CE table on Sun., Feb. 15.

Look Around Jerusalem: This devotional invites children to notice the different elements of Jesus’ time in Jerusalem—from Palm Sunday through His resurrection. Each day, children will add a sticker and look for hidden images on the Jerusalem centerpiece as they follow Jesus’ journey through the city, to the cross, and to the empty tomb!

Live Like it’s Lent: This devotional encourages tweens, teens, and college-agers to use their God-given gifts as they live life on Christ’s behalf this season. It includes ideas for faith-filled actions and journaling exercises.

Led by Christ: Actions Begin in the Heart: As we journey toward Easter, this devotional provides an opportunity for families to think and pray about their choices and why they make them. Each devotion offers Scripture, reflection, and a prayer. A discussion question is included for those who wish to share this journey with friends or other family members.

A Wondrous Love: Two of the most widely read spiritual writers of the 20th century, Henri J. M. Nouwen and C. S. Lewis, are together in this daily devotional booklet for adults. Each devotion includes a brief reflection on of their many classic books, accompanied by a brief line of Scripture and a prayer.

Join Us for Faith 101 During Lent

Do you ever feel like you missed something while at church? Do you ever struggle to understand the basics of Christianity that it seems like others already understand?

All inquisitive adults are invited to a new Lenten class, during which, we will examine the fundamentals of faith using a six-part series. All classes, described below, will meet during the Church School hour, from 9:45–10:45 am, on Sundays from Feb. 22–March 29, in the McKelvy Room. Café Justo will be served and childcare will be available.

Feb. 22: God: Faith is a Quest Led by Eddie Willson
How are you embarked on a journey of seeking God and keeping the quest alive?

March 1: Jesus: The Revolution of Love Led by Damon Bethea
What might you need to risk in order to live more fully in the revolution of love?

March 8: Salvation: Abundant Life Now Led by Jan Irvin
Are we willing to wake up to the possibility that the 25,550 days we have are actually the main course?

March 15: Cross: Where God Is Led by Cami Needle
What is it about us that makes us always choose the bedazzled cross and not the actual one?

March 22: Bible: A Book Like No Other Led by Paul Seif
Is it crazy for me to hope that, through years of rereading this Bible, that I might one day get to see a bluer sky?

March 29: Church: An Imperfect Family Led by the Rev. Shanea Leonard
When we call the church a family, do we really mean it? The Rev. Shanea Leonard is the pastor at JUDAH Fellowship Christian Church in the Northside, JudahFellowship.wordpress.com.

Update on Renovation Projects

The Renovations Committee reconvened in January to review the status of the overall project to date, and to consider our next steps. They recommend the following actions:

- Continue to develop a committee, budget and timeline for any congregational capital campaign and foundation grant proposals;
- Continue working with our grant writer, Gale McGloin, to prepare both preliminary summary documents about our project, as well as eventual foundation grant applications;
- Continue to meet with representatives of regional foundations to garner their interest in supporting our project;
- Plan for more detailed presentations at the February Session meetings and inviting congregational feedback; and
- Prepare for a follow-up presentation at the congregation’s Annual Meeting on Sun., Feb. 22.

Do keep the entire Renovations Committee, the Capital Campaign Committee, the Session, and our congregation in prayer as we seek to discern God’s direction with this important work.
Combined Adult Class on Feb. 15
Our guest preacher for our 11 am service, the Rev. Dr. Howard Dean Trulear, will lead a combined adult Church School class in the Second Floor Parlor. He will discuss Healing Communities and the American Criminal Justice System. The Rev. Dr. Trulear describes Healing Communities as building relationships of healing, redemption, and reconciliation in families and communities who are impacted by crime and mass incarceration. See page 1 for more information on the Rev. Dr. Trulear.

Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle
Feb. 1, 8: Combined with the Seekers Class
Feb. 22: Martin Luther King—The Man and His Message
Led by Jim and Carolyn Russ
This three-week series will explore the influences that shaped Dr. King’s development and how he became a prophetic leader using Bible-based principles to wage a relentless resistance to racial oppression, economic disparities, and unequal obligations to support the U.S. war machine in Vietnam.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and decrees (Psalm 25:10). Our scripture readings help us to discern God’s call to travel steadily upon these paths through all seasons and places. Christ and friends provide companionship and assurance that a homecoming awaits. Come join us for these readings:
Feb. 1:  Led by Pastor Heather
Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Mark 1:21–28
Feb. 22: Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

Seekers  Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
Feb. 1, 8: The Christian Churches and American Slavery: Tragedy (and Heroism) in U.S. History
Over two weeks, historian (and Presbyterian elder) Peter Gilmore will explore the economic importance of slavery in the 19th century U.S., the development of an anti-slavery movement, and the response of Presbyterians and other churches. He will examine the national scene and look closely at developments in Western Pennsylvania.
Feb. 22: Finding the Spirit in Sierra Leone
ELPC member Katie Haas worked in Sierra Leone for two years, with the Peace Corp. According to Katie, Sierra Leone is one of the most religiously tolerant countries in the world. She will discuss what she learned about the Christian and Muslim religions and friendships, and about sharing, guilt, love, and community. She will share her personal spiritual journey and give an overview of life in Sierra Leone.

Soul Food  Room 244 and another nearby room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu and other class members
Feb. 1, 8: Traveling Your Road to Joy
We have formed a second, smaller section of Soul Food. Both sections will discuss the theme, Traveling Your Road to Joy, using readings from Thomas Merton and others.
Feb. 15, 22: Lenten Themes
We will discuss Lenten themes using a text to be chosen.

Children and Youth
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”
Junior High (grades 6–8)  Room 341
Curriculum: “Feasting on the Word”
Senior High (grades 9–12)  Room 343
Curriculum: “We Believe”
Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Sun., Feb. 1: YAM Church School at 9:45 am, in the Pastor’s Conference Room
Where do you grow; where do you thrive? The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan will lead our lesson on Religion: Spirituality is Not Enough.

Fri., Feb. 6: First Friday @ Local Churches at 7 pm, meet at ELPC for ride
Tour local churches and points of interest as we explore together, before ending our journey at The Church Brew Works, ChurchBrew.com.

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 13–15: Crestfield Retreat rescheduled from fall
Join us on our annual retreat to Camp Crestfield, as we explore what we believe. Our retreat is complete with our cozy cottage, wonderful people, wacky version of Pictionary, nature galore, plenty-o-snacks, and much more! We will leave ELPC on Friday at 6 pm; return on Sunday at 2 pm. The fee is $25, which includes everything. Limited scholarships are available. Please RSVP to Wil ASAP.

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

Sat.–Sun., Feb. 28–March 1: 30-Hour Famine
Youth in grades 6–12 are spending 30 hours fasting, praying, playing, worshiping, and learning about hunger around the world to raise money for St. Andrew’s Refuge Services in Egypt, which provides food, housing, and education for refugee children and families. On Saturday, youth should begin fasting at home, and be at ELPC at 3:30 pm. The fast concludes on Sunday at 10:45 am. For details, contact Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net.

Youth will be collecting sponsorships on Sun., Feb. 15 and 22, before and after the 11 am service. We are thankful for the congregation’s support and prayers.

Sun., March 1: Mandatory Meeting for Senior High Mission Trip at 9:45 am
All parents and students who plan to, or are thinking about, attending the 2015 Senior High Mission Trip are invited to breakfast in the Social Hall after the 30-Hour Famine. This meeting will provide pertinent information and dates.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director

Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater
Hope Academy Shakespeare students have been preparing for the 2015 Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest. Every year, more than 1,000 students from across the tri-state area participate in the preliminary round.

Hope Academy students will present their monologues and scenes at 3 pm, on Thurs., Feb. 12 and Fri., Feb. 13. This field will be winnowed down to around 30 students who will compete in the Showcase of Finalists at 7 pm, on Mon., Feb. 16.

Hope Academy has been well represented with a number of finalists each year. All competition events are free and open to the public.
Experience Centering Prayer at ELPC

Centering Prayer draws its inspiration from the ancient Christian contemplative prayer tradition. It’s presented in an updated, accessible, four-step method. We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm, in the Prayer and Meditation Room.

Feeling Crafty?

Beginners are always welcome in each group. For more information, call Diane Jackson at 412.441.6021.

- **Knitting Group:** Join us on **Tues., Feb. 3**, from 1–3 pm, in Room 244. Yarn donations are appreciated.

- **Toy Makers:** Join us on **Wed., Feb. 4** and 18, from 9 am–12 pm, for fellowship and crafts, as we construct toys for children, wherever they are needed.

- **Sewing Group:** Join us on **Mon., Feb. 9**, from 4:30–6:30 pm, in the Sewing Room. We are requesting donations of cotton fabric scraps, especially flannels for a project with Presbyterian Women. Please label them for sewing group and leave them in the church office.

Presbyterian Women

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

**Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians**

**Tues., Feb. 3 at 10 am | Mon., Feb. 9 at 7 pm**

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of 2 Corinthians. Our lesson, *The Aroma of God Among Us* is based on 2 Corinthians 2:14–17 and 6:14–7:1. A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday morning study. All are welcome.

**Fri.–Sat., March 27–28: Spring Retreat at Crestfield**

All women are invited to welcome spring at an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield. Led by the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, we will explore the Psalms in word, song, and worship. There will be plenty of time for fellowship and rest. Partial scholarships are available.

Spiritual Life

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

**Fri.–Sun., Jan. 30–Feb. 1: Fast for Hunger**

Our fast brings Friday evening and concludes with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board.

**Opportunities to Learn about the Enneagram**

The Enneagram is an ancient and mysterious means for better understanding ourselves, exploring our motivations, and discovering ways in which we can move toward wholeness.

Throughout Lent and Easter, the Spiritual Life Committee will offer opportunities to discover—in greater depth—who you are and why you do the things you do. For more information or registration forms, visit CathedralOfHope.org/spiritual-growth/spiritual-life.

- We will begin with an Enneagram Retreat with Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof at the Franciscan Spirit and Life Center in the South Hills from **Fri.–Sun., Feb. 20–22**.

- Each Thursday, **Feb. 26–April 16**, we will meet at ELPC to discuss our growing understanding of this valuable tool and to wrestle with questions on how to apply this knowledge to our lives.

- Our Enneagram focus will conclude with an Advanced Enneagram Retreat at Providence Villa in the North Hills from **Fri.–Sun., April 17–19**.

John Calvin said that if we wanted to know God, we must first know ourselves. Plan on participating in this in-depth focus on one of the most highly regarded tools for self knowledge and transformation.
LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Our next spiritual gathering is at 5 pm, on Sat., Feb. 21, as we conclude our book discussion. All people are welcome!

To learn more about, or to get involved with, ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.

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

Good News
• Vanessa Johnson gave birth to a baby boy, Vaughn Austin Johnson, on Jan. 11.
• Amiyah Nichole McCorvey, daughter of Ashleigh Parker, was baptized on Dec. 21.
• Candess Ward graduated from Carlow University.
• On Dec. 14, we welcomed our new members: Douglas Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth, David Carl, Aura Jirau, Beverly Mick, Dr. William and Sharon Nicholson, John Vogelsang, Britney Vokish, and (not pictured) Stephen Simpson and Travis Hunt.

Health Ministry
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Tai Chi  Tuesdays, from 10–11 am; 6–7 pm
Experience flowing movements and a relaxing workout. The cost is $3/session (or $25/10 sessions). Please pre-register with Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

Yoga  Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm
Relax and renew your body, mind, and spirit. Classes are led by Yamuna, a Kripalu-certified instructor. A donation to the instructor is appreciated.

Talk About Love in Action
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

• “The more you become aware of and respond to the needs of others, the richer your own life becomes.”—Mollie Marti
• “You are what you do, not what you say you will do.”—C.G. Jung
• “Well done is better than well said.”—Benjamin Franklin
• “Prayer in action is love, love in action is service.”—Mother Teresa
• “Fill your mind with truth. Fill your heart with love. Fill your life with service.”—Thomas S. Monson
• “When love awakens in your heart, then selfless service is attained.”—Radhanath Swami
• “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others.”—Mahatma Gandhi

Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE and read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or about other service opportunities!

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Morrison “Scotty” Izatt, who was a former ELPC choir member;
• Joyce Martinelli, wife to Anthony Martinelli and mother to Kristine Conley;
• Carroll Lee Nibert, stepfather to the Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly;
• Pat Porter, who was an ELPC member for 54 years; and
• Elaine Turner, mother to Ron Cole-Turner.
Chancel Choir with Nouveau Noir

Our Cathedral Concerts continue at 4 pm, on Sun., Feb. 15, with our very own Chancel Choir, joined by the Nouveau Noir Vocal Ensemble, for a performance of Robert Ray’s Gospel Mass.

Please invite your friends to join you for this exciting and joyous musical event in the ELPC Sanctuary. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be accepted.

“...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.”