**Sunday Services**

* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am**

*Held at the EECM Community House*

**Liturgist: Charles Nordquist**

Jan. 5* Rev. Christiane Dutton, Honorably Retired

Jan. 12 Bible Study

Jan. 19 Jay Poliziani, director, Northside Common Ministries

Jan. 26 Bible Study

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**

Jan. 5* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Jan. 12 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Jan. 19 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Jan. 26 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**

Jan. 5* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Jan. 12 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Jan. 19 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Jan. 26 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Labyrinth Prayer Walk**

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

**Taizé Prayer Service**

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

**Note:** There will be no Taizé service or class on Wed., Jan. 1.

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**Winter Rally Day**

*Sun., Jan 12, from 9:45–10:45 am*

Everyone is invited to join us for a special Winter Rally Day Church School Event! Our theme for the day will be *The Word in Action*. We will reflect on the Baptism of Christ—and the impact of our own baptism on our lives and call.

We will gather in the Social Hall for a continental breakfast, and an opportunity to explore the Scriptures for the day through a range of interactive learning stations for people of all ages. Each station will tie into our 11 am worship time together, and there will be many informal ways to participate in the service.

We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship and fun as we celebrate the start of Church School for 2014.

**Reminder:** We will not have Church School classes on Sun., Jan. 5.

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**LGBTQ Ministry Wants to Include You**

At ELPC, we seek to be a fully inclusive church, trusting in a gospel that does not discriminate in any manner, including sexual orientation. We are in the process of developing a new ministry to offer fellowship, education, support and more for LGBTQ folks and their allies.

At this time, we are seeking to define needs, interests and opportunities. Please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 for more information or details on our next meeting.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

At the turn of the last century, James Ward Packard (founder of the Packard Motor Car Company) and Wall Street financier Henry Graves Jr. had a unique rivalry. For unexplained reasons, these two men were determined to own the world’s most expensive pocket watch. Packard was trained as an engineer and loved tinkering with timepieces. Graves, by contrast, knew little about how watches worked, but had the financial resources to be a collector of items he felt were the world’s best. The highpoint of this rivalry came when Packard commissioned a watch from the Swiss firm of Patek Philippe that was so complicated, it took five years to build, before being handed over to him in 1927. However, this prompted Graves to request the same watchmaker to build a watch whose only real requirement was that it be “more complicated than that of Mr. Packard!” This one took eight years to build and was completed in 1933. In 1999, an anonymous collector paid more than $11 million for this “supercomplicated” watch, even though in truth it is less accurate than any $25 quartz Timex you can buy today.

The Packard-Graves rivalry was less about the specific watches and more about owning something that can be called the best in the world. In reviewing a book written about this competition (A Grand Complication by Stacy Perman), it was noted that so often, it is not sufficient simply to possess great wealth or power. The wealth and power must “be put in evidence,” or in other words, exhibited through visible signs like mansions, yachts, or in this case expensive pocket watches.

There is a fine line between appreciating things of good quality and coveting such things solely to impress others. It is a difference in priorities, and as such, I would contend, it is a spiritual issue. Every day we make assumptions about others based on what we see them wearing, driving, or spending. For example, there is a YouTube video about the drastically different ways a homeless veteran is seen by himself and others once he gets a haircut, shave, and change of clothes. (YouTube.com/watch?v=6a6VVncgHcY)

A central tenet of our faith insists that Jesus Christ, as the Messiah, fulfilled the old prophecy in Isaiah that noted “he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). The Christmas story we just celebrated often speaks with wonder about how the son of God was laid humble and lowly in a manger—not in a cradle of gold in a king’s palace.

The New Year is the perfect time to reflect on our personal priorities; and on this topic, it is a good time to think about what we value in ourselves and others. Putting wealth in evidence so as to impress friends and acquaintances lacks all biblical support. Looking with eyes of faith to see the value in the people around us, even if the world has passed them by, has lots of biblical support. Perhaps one New Year’s resolution is to ask ourselves, “How well am I able to follow a Messiah who lacks form and majesty and worldly power?” For that is precisely the Christ we are called to follow today.
**Spiritual Life**

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

**Wednesdays: Healing and Wholeness from 9 am–12 pm**

Join us as Pen Lytle offers healing energy prayer in the Ground Floor Lounge. Pen utilizes several different forms of energy prayer work toward healing: healing touch, sacred meditation, and reconnective healing.

Although one of the forms is called healing touch, none of the forms involve actual touch. Rather, Pen will hold her hands over, but not touch, the areas in need of healing.

To experience this healing ministry, please schedule with Pen in person or by signing up for an appointment in the main office. Come discover the healing power of touch!

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**Make our Monthly Fast for Hunger a New Year’s Resolution!**

Start the year off with a commitment to spiritual growth and justice. During the week before the first Sunday of each month, pick up information and resources from the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board.

On, the **Fri., Jan. 3**, begin your fast. Then on **Sun., Jan. 5**, bring a bag of groceries for the food pantry, take a few moments to sit silently in solidarity in the prayer room, and then break the fast by receiving communion during worship.

After our 11 am worship service, come to Room 234 for a light lunch and our First Sunday Program. At this month’s First Sunday Program, Sue Schneider will guide us in Meditative Drawing (no artistic ability or experience is required).

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**Presbyterian Women**

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

**Tues., Jan. 7: 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 will be “God Provides” (Exodus 15:22–18:27). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Soup and beverages will be provided.

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**Service Spotlight: Sisters and Servers**

*by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator*

After coming to ELPC when they were four and two years old, sisters Kimberly and Felicia Ragsdale (respectively) have worshiped and served God as a part of this church family for over two decades. First, they came as youth in church school, confirmation class and youth group. They then served in worship, at VCS, and on too many mission trips to count. Now as young adults, they use their time and talents each week at **club one sixteen**, where they serve with youth, assisting with homework, building relationships, and teaching Bible lessons. And, of course, they still participate with youth mission trips—but now as chaperones! While they also find family here (mom Renee and aunt Libby), Kim and Felicia see ELPC as a second home. It has been a part of their lives since they can remember—so has serving. Kim believes that “helping others is what God expects us to do as Christians.” They even have chosen careers in the medical/health area.

The Ragsdale sisters have found their service niche at ELPC. Need help finding yours? Let’s connect and see what God has in store for you. Visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iserve-2 to read about service opportunities.

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**Save The Date: Spring Retreat at Camp Crestfield**

**Fri.–Sat., March 28 and 29**

All women of ELPC are invited to an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield. We will gather Friday evening and return home Saturday evening. Partial scholarships are available. Watch the bulletin board outside of the Library for details.
**Exercise Classes Resume**

**Tai Chi**
Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
Classes begin on Tues., Jan. 7, and are $3 per session ($25/10 sessions). Pre-register with Kate at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

**Yoga**
Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm

**JourneyDance**
Fri., Jan. 10, from 7–8 pm

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**Health Ministry**

_The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative_

Join us from 12:30–2:30, on Sun., Jan. 19, in Room 234, for an Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid discussion, with a light lunch.

Our discussion will be led by a representative from APPRISE, which is a health insurance counseling program designed to help Pennsylvanians who are 60 years of age or older. Volunteer counselors are trained to answer questions and offer education about Medicare, HMOs, long-term care insurance, supplemental insurance, and Medicaid benefits. Services are free, objective and completely confidential.

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**Classes After Taizé Prayer**

_The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, Minister of Taizé Prayer_

**Note:** Classes begin at 8:15 pm. We will not meet on Wed., Jan. 1 or 22.

**Wed., Jan. 8: Music on the Labyrinth**

**Wed., Jan. 15: Poetry Reading**
Bring and share a piece of poetry that has helped you on your spiritual journey. Listen to and be moved by the favorite poems of others.

**Wed., Jan. 29: Celebrations!**

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**Christian Education**

_The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries_

**Note:** Classes begin at 9:45 am.

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**Contemporaries Class** _Second Floor Parlor_

_Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle_

**Jan. 19 and 26: East of Eden...Christian Faith and the Growing Ecological Crisis**

_Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush_

We will examine the issues related to Christianity and the environment. The first week will explore the theme, “Bless the Beasts and the Children,” touching on our responsibilities that extend to the flora, fauna and natural resources around us. The second week will focus on “Food for Thought” and how our choices around diet and farming have far-reaching impacts on God’s created order.

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**Journey with Scripture** _Second Floor Library; Facilitator: Jan Irvin_

Epiphany can be thought of as a season of emerging consciousness and call. This month’s readings stimulate the unconscious: Then I said, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me” (Psalm 40:7); and “For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). Through Scripture, God enters our world to awaken us to God and to our very own selves. In Christ, God calls us to present ourselves to the world with an ever-enlarging stature of active peace rather than violent control—a stark reversal of our behaviors and current world order.

**Jan. 19:** Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 40:1–11; 1 Corinthians 1:1–9; John 1:29–42

**Jan. 26:** Isaiah 9:1–4; Psalm 27:1, 4–9; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–23

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**Parenting Circle** _Harambe Room; Facilitator: Pam Walaski_

Join us as we use God’s words to discover His plan for our families and to help us lovingly parent the children He has graciously given to us to raise. No advance preparation or reading is necessary—we have copies of the texts being discussed available. Babies and toddlers are welcome to be with us if they are not yet ready to separate and attend the children’s Church School programming.

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**Seekers** _Room 234; Facilitator: Gwen Puza_

**Jan. 19:** Discovering God’s Reconciling Spirit at Work in the Balkans

_Led by Shauna and Cornelius Frantz (via Skype)_

Shauna and Cornelius will video chat with us from Bosnia, to discuss their work in Eastern Europe. They will introduce the challenges of confronting history in this context and how the biblical vision of Shalom is being shared.

**Jan 26:** The History of the Concept of Hell in the Bible

_Led by Rob Jones, student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary_

Did you know the concept of Hell is completely foreign to the Old Testament? Join us as we explore the historical and theological circumstances that led to the emergence of the concept of Hell in the New Testament, and seek to understand the function of this concept in the Bible. Our study concludes with an eye toward the possible contemporary implications of this concept of Hell.

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**Soul Food** _Pastor’s Conference Room; Facilitator: Joe Hajdu_

**Jan. 19 and 26:** Book Discussion

We will discuss chapter three of A Testament of Devotion, by Thomas Kelly.
Snapshots from 2013
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat., Jan. 18 and 25: Youth Basketball from 5–8 pm
Young men in grades 9–12 are welcome to join us for basketball in the ELPC Gym.

Sun., Jan. 19: Help Us Sew
Help sew new acolyte cottas (the white shirt-like thing that the acolytes wear). We need people who can machine or hand sew, cut, or who are willing to learn. Talk to Sara Hackett if you are interested in helping.

Sat.–Sun., Jan. 25–26: Confirmation Class Overnight beginning at 3 pm
Confirmation Class continues with an overnight. We will discuss how participation in the sacraments and in mission allows us to participate in Christ’s mission. We will be visiting the EECM Community House to participate in Samaritan Worship on Sunday Morning.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator for Young Adult Ministry

Fri., Jan. 3: First Friday at Community House at 7 pm
Come share in a service opportunity sure to feed body and soul at the EECM Community House kitchen (6140 Penn Circle North). Email Wil at Wil@coh.net before Tues., Dec. 24, to sign up to bring something to feed the guests in the homeless shelter and other residents in the new EECM Community House. We will meet and prep at 7 pm, and serve the guests at 8 pm.

Sun., Jan. 12: Getting to Know Sara at 6 pm
Come get to know our very own Sara Hackett, while visiting her at home in Forest Hills. She will make us a home-cooked meal and we will spend the evening playing board games. If you’d like a ride, the van will leave ELPC at 5:30 pm.

Sun., Jan. 19: Sunday YAM Class from 9:45–10:45 am, in Room 244
We will begin our new theme, Testimony. Will Delair will lead us as we focus on experiencing loss. We will examine this topic through Scripture, personal testimony and group discussion. Bring your Bible. Café Justo will be served and childcare will be available in the Nursery.

ELPC People

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

Good News
On Sun., Dec. 8, we welcomed Dee and Elizabeth Alcorn, Thomas Caulfield, David and Alyssa Cowan, Bill Johnson, Joel and Margaret Minnigh, and Henry and Lisa Petrilli, who were received as new members; and Allison Fromm, Janice Herzer, and William Laboon who were received as Friends of ELPC.

Thanks
The ELPC Board of Deacons extends their gratitude to everyone who made donations, supported the Ten Thousand Villages’ shopping night, and prayed for the families who were assisted with a gift card for Thanksgiving. It’s always a blessing to extend ourselves and assist others, who may not have the means or support to enjoy the holiday season. This year, 50 families (131 individuals) received gift cards to purchase food for Thanksgiving as a result of your generosity. Thank you, ELPC.

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

- The Rev. John Scott, former ELPC associate pastor under the Rev. Charles Robshaw.
- Libby Parker’s father, George Ragsdale. (Grandfather to Felicia and Kimberly Ragsdale, and Ashleigh Parker)

The Great Exchange: Testimonies
Sun., Feb. 23, at 12:30 pm, in the Music Room
Save the date and keep a look out for more details.
“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.”

Find us on Facebook
Facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian

Bowling, Bingo and Games
Sat. Feb. 1, from 5–8 pm
Christian Education Committee invites folks of all ages to enjoy an evening of bowling, bingo and a wide collection of board games. Chili will be provided, please bring a side to share.

Have a Hobby to Share?
If you have a passion, talent or hobby that you would like to share with our children and youth at club one sixteen as a club life opportunity, contact Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net. We gather from 6:45–7:30 pm, on Wednesdays, and are always looking to try different things and welcome new people!

Building Closed
The ELPC office will be closed on Wed., Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day, and until 7 pm, on Mon., Jan. 20, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Hope Academy’s Winter Term Begins
Hope Academy’s winter term begins on Tues., Jan. 7.
Check out our social media pages for updates, photos and videos. Our blog has moved to the new ELPC website and you can get to our page using the same address: HopeAcademyArts.com. Our new twitter is twitter.com/HopeAcademyArts and instagram is instagram.com/HopeAcademyArts. Like, follow and share us to show the love!

Special Thanks Goes Out To:
Bryan Gardner’s family for purchasing and donating a xylophone. It is a generous gift that will enhance our community orchestra!

Betty Rieley for asking her friends and family to make donations (in lieu of birthday presents) to Hope Academy for her 80th birthday concert. This special gift will allow us to purchase Suzuki violins for 5 new students. Happy birthday and thank you to Betty!