Sunday Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
Jan. 4* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Jan. 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 18 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Jan. 25 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
Jan. 4* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 25 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 7 am–1 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

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

After Taizé Class Schedule
Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
Jan. 14: Extended Time of Music and Prayer
Jan. 21: Live Music on the Labyrinth
Jan. 28: Celebrations!

Winter Rally Day: Simple Gifts

Join us for an intergenerational celebration as we resume our Church School classes. Gather in the Social Hall from 9:45–10:45 am, on Sun., Jan. 11, to enjoy a continental breakfast and engage our Scripture lessons through learning stations for persons of all ages. From Bible Study to movement to a quiz show challenge, all of our stations will be represented in our Sanctuary worship service at 11 am. Bring a breakfast bread to share.

Reminder: We will not have Church School classes on Sun., Jan. 4, and will not have individual classes on Sun., Jan. 11.

Coming Soon: Faith 101
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 weekly Lenten class, where we will examine the fundamentals of faith using a six-part series. Topics will include God, Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible, and Church.

Classes will meet in the McKelvy Room during the Church School hour, beginning at 9:45 am, on Sundays, Feb. 22–March 29.

Celebrate a Contemplative New Year’s Eve

World Healing Day  from 6:55–8 am, in the Social Hall
Since 1986, millions of people continue to gather in prayer on Dec. 31, at the same moment in time, for a planetary affirmation of peace, love, and forgiveness. Join us in body or spirit for a walk on the Labyrinth and meditation. Add your love and light to this moment of oneness.

New Year’s Eve Reflection  from 8:15 am–12 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor
Join us in a directed Examen of the past year. The Examen is an ancient form of prayer that helps us to discern the movement of God in our lives. The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan leads our time of quietness, imagery, exploration, and prayer, as we apply this pattern of reflection to the past year as a way to find God in the rhythm of our days. A light breakfast will be served.

Taizé Prayer Service  from 7–8 pm, in the Chapel
Attend our Taizé service for a time of worship and prayer, singing and silence, candles and icons, as we end 2014 and welcome 2015, designated by the Taizé community to be a year of moving “Towards a New Solidarity.”

Etta Cox to Jazz Up Worship

Pittsburgh jazz vocalist Etta Cox returns to ELPC as our guest musician at our Sanctuary Worship service at 11 am, on Sun., Jan. 25. Etta has been voted “Best Jazz Vocalist” in Pittsburgh for eight years in a row. Please invite a friend to join you for worship as Etta adds a touch of jazz to our service.
For many of us who are active users of computers at home and at work, one task that happens with some regularity is typing in a password. This act is always fraught with tension, because we need passwords that are both secure yet easy to remember. The truth is that almost no one has a good password. Who among us can remember a random series of letters, numbers and signs—especially if you access a dozen or more websites that are password protected?

A journalist (Ian Urbina) recently asked a variety of people to tell him their passwords. Some passwords were playful, like using the word “incorrect” (because if they forget it, the computer would prompt them with the phrase “your password is incorrect”). He soon discovered that lots of people’s passwords had fascinating stories behind them. Some were “a motivational mantra, a swipe at the boss, a hidden shrine to a lost love, an inside joke, an emotional scar.” He called them “keepsake passwords” since they offered personal glimpses into the things people value.

I began to think about my own passwords, which usually involve some variation of letters and numbers built around the name of my hometown in Kansas. Granted, it’s not a particularly secure password, but it is one I can easily remember. More importantly, every time I type it in, I briefly picture something from my childhood—our farm, the school I attended, the school bands I played in. A part of my life comes back to me and I pause for a moment to reflect on the passing of the years.

What are your passwords? Are they “keepsakes”? Do they tell part of the story of your life? As you reflect on these questions, think about the other “keepsake passwords” and secrets you carry around within you—the stories and scars that are part of the privacy walls you erect to keep your personal “data” secure. Now consider that God knows all our passwords and the stories that go with them. The memory from years ago (good or bad), the love (lost or found), the special day (happy or sad) that is part of our secret narrative. God doesn’t need a Post-It note to remember our passwords. I believe God holds them (and us) gently in God’s hands, and looks at us with love and healing grace, fully aware of who we are, what we’ve done, and what we still carry around within us.

A new year is unfolding all around us. The month of January sometimes involves mundane tasks, like changing the batteries in our smoke detectors, making an appointment to get our teeth cleaned, and changing the passwords on our computers. There is a faith opportunity present in this New Year. As you start fresh in 2015, trust that whatever secrets you carry around within you are known to a loving God who will not leave or forsake you. And while you may need a password to access your computer files and secure websites, nothing like that is necessary to walk with Christ. Maybe make a New Year’s resolution that every time you type a password, you’ll say a quick “thank you” prayer to the Lord who knows you inside and out.
Update on Renovations

The November Session meeting involved a presentation from the Renovations Committee and their partners (architectural and engineering firms), resulting in two motions being passed.

First, the Session accepts the report shared with them, and how it details the overall scope and $6 million preliminary budget for the proposed ELPC capital improvements. While more work still needs to be done on specific design details, the project currently focuses on seven main areas:

- **Welcoming and Access:** glass exterior doors, new entrance on Whitfield St.;
- **Ground Floor Assembly:** new hallway and lobby, expanding Small Dining Room, upgrade A/V in Social Hall;
- **Ground Floor Education:** upgrades to rooms to provide for dance, music lessons, and exercise classes, plus community groups;
- **First Floor Hospitality:** new fellowship and meeting rooms, move nursery closer to Highland entrance, upgrade restrooms;
- **First Floor Worship:** flexible seating and Labyrinth in Chapel, upgrade A/V in Chapel and Sanctuary;
- **Second Floor Education and Support:** renovate spaces for classrooms and offices; and
- **Building Infrastructure Improvements:** safety and fire code enhancements, improved A/C and ventilation, and energy conservation.

Second, the Session authorized the formation of a Capital Campaign Committee, which will submit a schedule, budget, and goals for review and approval. It is anticipated that congregational support and resources can be coupled with foundation grants to reach our budget goals.

While this process remains in the early stages, this information is being provided to help keep the congregation informed as we joyfully anticipate enhancing our church so that ELPC can minister effectively for generations to come.

Food for Thought: Service Learning

Food for Thought: Service Learning is a leadership program that empowers youth in grades 9–12 to learn about issues of hunger and food justice, and then make a difference by planning and leading group service projects.

We will meet on from 6–7:30 pm, Thursdays, beginning on Jan. 15. To learn more, visit CathedralOfHope.com or email Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Sign Up for Weekly Email Updates and More

Do you receive our weekly News Flash via email? If not, sign up at CathedralOfHope.org or Facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian. Once you are subscribed, you also can manage your preferences to receive Reaching Out in your email before it arrives in the mail.

A Change May Do You Good

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

It is healthy to periodically review your commitments and see if there is still a fit. Does this responsibility make sense in your life? Does it edify you? Does it use your God-given gifts? Do you still enjoy it?

Talk with your committee chair or your staff member about your current commitment at ELPC, and discuss if it still fits or if something else is calling you. You sharing your time and talent is much appreciated and needed, however, it may be time to use your gifts elsewhere. Consider taking on new challenges and new ways to serve God. A change may do you good.

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

Feeling Crafty?

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

- **Knitting Group:** Join us on Tues., Jan. 6, from 1–3 pm, in Room 244. Yarn donations are always appreciated.
- **Sewing Group:** Join us on Mon., Jan. 12, from 4:30–6:30 pm, in the Sewing Room.
- **Toy Makers:** Join us on Wed., Jan 7 and 21, from 9 am–12 pm, for fellowship and crafts, as we construct toys for children, wherever they are needed.

The Sewing Group is requesting old towels for a Women’s Presbytery hygiene project. Please label them “Sewing Group” and leave them in the church office.
**New Tour Offered**

On Sun., Jan. 25, Tim VanFleet will teach us about our beautiful Sanctuary and Chapel. Meet at 12:15 pm, at the Hospitality Desk. The tour will last about 45 minutes.

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**Christian Education**  
*The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

**Contemporaries Class**  
Second Floor Parlor  
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

**Jan. 18: The Problem of Discipleship**  
Led by Paul Seif, seminary intern

We will continue exploring Dr. John Burgess’ book, *Discipleship: The Way of Jesus*, by discussing chapter three, “The Problem of Discipleship.” We will re-imagine what it means to be a modern-day disciple of Christ, as we are confronted with social problems that can affect our ability to trust traditional systems of authority.

**Jan. 25: Dialog on Christian Discipleship**  
Led by Paul Seif, seminary intern

As we continue our book discussion of *Discipleship: The Way of Jesus*, we will touch on portions of chapters one through four, focusing on Jesus’ teaching on discipleship as presented in the Gospels. Together, we will reflect on what Jesus’ instruction to “Follow me” might mean in the context of our everyday lives.

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**Journey with Scripture**  
Second Floor Library  
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

Our Epiphany season readings include these words from the Apostle Paul, “For the present form of this world is passing away” (1 Corinthians 7:31). The words were meant to encourage and to awaken a Christian community. Can we read Paul again in such ways at the beginning of 2015, especially during our time of social divisions and environmental decline? Other texts for January call us to a new consciousness, to move outward, free from anxieties. Join us for these readings:

**Jan. 18:** 1 Samuel 3:1–20; Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; John 1:43–51

**Jan. 25:** Jonah 3:1–5,10; Psalm 62:5–12; 1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

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**Seekers**  
Room 234  
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

For the earliest Christians—both Jews and Gentiles—there was not yet a New Testament. Their Scripture, instead, was the Hebrew Bible (or the Septuagint—Greek translations of the Hebrew Bible).

**Jan. 18: A Look at the Gospel**  
Led by Tucker Ferda

We will consider how early Christians used this collection of ancient wisdom, teaching, and narrative in their proclamation about Jesus and his significance. We will focus on the creative and subtle ways in which the Gospels shape the identity of Jesus via citations, allusions, and echoes of the Hebrew Bible/Septuagint.

**Jan. 25: A Look at Paul’s Epistles**  
Led by Tucker Ferda

We will further our discussion of “intertextuality” in the New Testament—that is, the nuanced ways the texts invoke, speak to, and transform the Scriptures of Israel. We will focus on the role of the Old Testament in New Testament texts besides the Gospels—in particular, Paul’s epistles. We also will discuss the theological significance of the inclusion of the Hebrew Bible in the Christian biblical canon, and what the upshot may be for dialogue between Jews and Christians in our day.

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**Soul Food**  
Room 244  
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu

**Jan. 18 | 25: Book Discussion**  
We will be discussing a new text, which has not yet been chosen.

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**ELPC People**

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

**Good News**
- Two infants were recently baptized:
  - **Duncan Bray McCrimmon**, son of Samuel and Courtney McCrimmon;
  - **Kai Peter Kimball Slate**, son of Nico Slate and Emily Mohn-Slate.
- Congratulations to Ashley Birt who was recently certified ready to receive a call by Pittsburgh Presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Now, she can seek a call as a teaching elder in the PC(USA).

**Thanks**
- The true meaning of Christmas is to give gifts that bring joy and denote our love for one another, as God loves each of us. The Board of Deacons gives thanks for, and to, the ELPC members and friends for their faithful support of the 2014 Christmas Giving Tree ministry. As a result of your generosity, 84 children and individuals received two gifts each. This vital ministry is a success because of you. Thank you!

**Prayers**
- We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
  - Walter Fuchs, husband of Alice Fuchs, who passed away on Nov. 28. He was an ELPC friend for 16 years.
  - Tony Woods, partner of Ron Guest, who passed away on Nov. 30. He was an ELPC member for 13 years and had served as an Elder.

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**Note:** Classes begin at 9:45 am.
Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Sun., Jan. 18: YAM Church School at 9:45 am, in the Pastor’s Conference Room
Who are we as Christians and as Presbyterians, and how did we get to this point? Join the Rev. Heather Vacek, PTS history professor, as we begin examining our new topic, Origins: Being Formed and Being Reformed.

Mon., Jan. 26: Friends and Food at 5:30 pm, meet in the Session Room
Come show our neighborly hospitality and enjoy some time with our guests from Chatham. We will welcome them to our church, perhaps bowl a bit, and then walk to a neighborhood restaurant for dinner together.

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians
Tues., Jan. 6 at 10 am | Mon., Jan. 12 at 7 pm
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of 2 Corinthians. Our lesson, Reconciliation and the Whole Creation is based on 2 Corinthians 5:11–6:10. A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday morning study. All are welcome!

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 instructors is appreciated.

JourneyDance
Fri., Jan. 9, from 7–8 pm
Use movement to celebrate your inner strengths. Classes are led by Yamuna. A donation from the heart is appreciated.

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

Our next spiritual gathering is at 12:30 pm, on Sun., Jan. 18, as we continue our book discussion.

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.

Reaching Out • January 2015
“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.”

The ELPC office will be closed on:
• Thurs., Jan. 1, all day, for New Year’s Day
• Mon., Jan. 19, until 7 pm, for MLK Day

Hope Academy’s Winter Term Begins
Hope Academy’s winter term begins on Tues., Jan. 6. Registration forms are available online at HopeAcademyArts.com. Check out our social media pages for updates, photos, and videos. Like, follow, and share us to show the love!

Instagram/Twitter: HopeAcademyArts; Facebook: HopeAcademy

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 is offering an opportunity to discover—in greater depth—who you are and why you do the things you do. Save the following dates and watch the bulletin and our website for more information.

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.

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Council of Congregations and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary invite you to the 31st annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., from 3:30–6 pm, on Sun., Jan. 18, at St. Paul’s Baptist Church (6701 Penn Ave.). This year’s keynote speaker is Cecile Springer.