September is Packed with Events

Rally Day
On Sun., Sept. 7, we will resume our traditional worship schedule and all of our Church School classes. As part of our Rally Day celebration, the Christian Education committee will host a light continental breakfast at 9:30 am, in Rooms 224 and 227. Grab a bite to eat, greet old friends, and welcome new ones as we continue our journey of faith together.

In addition, we will commission Church School teachers during both the Journey and Sanctuary Worship services, and present Bibles to incoming fourth graders during the Sanctuary Worship service.

Please see page 4 for more information on the Church School classes that are available for persons of all ages. Parents, please note that you will be asked to complete updated enrollment forms for your children before classes begin. You can fill out one form to cover your child’s participation in all of the ELPC weekly programs (except Food for Thought and Hope Academy).

Church Life Sampler
Come “sample” the various service and worship opportunities that ELPC has to offer. Our annual Church Life Sampler will be held after the 11 am Worship Service on Sun., Sept. 14. This also is Visitor’s Sunday so bring along a friend or two! Food and a children’s activity will be provided.

Church Picnic
ELPC’s Church Picnic will be held on Sun., Sept. 21, immediately following the Sanctuary Worship service. Food will be served in the Social Hall and seating will be available in the Social Hall and Courtyard. Games will be available for kids of all ages in the Gym and Bowling Alley.

The Christian Education Committee is providing chicken, hot dogs, potato salad and a light dessert. Every household is asked to bring a side dish or salad to share, which can be dropped off inside the main entrance of the church and will be refrigerated until the picnic begins. Please join us!

Sunday Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
Sept. 7* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sept. 14 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Sept. 21 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sept. 28 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
Sept. 7* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 28 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.
Sept. 10: Extended Time for Prayer and Music
Sept. 17: Live Music on the Labyrinth
Sept. 24: Celebrations!

Invite-a-Friend Events
In this issue, there are at least eight different special events to be held at ELPC in September, to which you can invite friends to help them get acquainted with ELPC’s ministry. Can you find them all?

It’s Picture Time
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. You will receive a letter in the mail with more information.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

I recently read an article about someone who preferred the old Rand McNally atlas and those hard-to-fold state maps over getting to his destination using a GPS device. My first reaction was to scoff at this old-fashioned sentiment. But the more I thought about this, I think the author made a good point and touched on an important faith lesson.

His essay started with the phrase, “Call me a fossil, but when I take a road trip I like to get around by using printed maps.” (Real Adventurers Read Maps by Steven Kurutz) Yet, in truth, his joy came less from the map itself and more from the connection the old school maps made between him (as the driver) and his wife (who was the navigator/passenger). To reach their destination, they had to work as a team. They had to solve problems, communicate effectively, and be willing to show a measure of forgiveness when the inevitable wrong turns happened. By contrast, listening to a GPS required none of that “teamwork” and allowed them to reach their destination fairly oblivious to the road signs and topography visible outside their car windows. They could simply drive mindlessly until the little voice in the device told them to take a right turn in 500 yards.

This article about driving also prompted me to remember something else. I miss the old-school parking meters—the annoying ones that required you to carry around a pocketful of change to “feed” it. There was a joy in seeing that little red dial move to your allotted time and a pleasure in hearing the reassuring sound of your quarter fall into the coin reservoir. But more importantly, the old-school meters allowed for moments of serendipity, such as when you pulled into a parking space and found 24 minutes happily waiting for you on the meter. Those “lucky breaks” would often prompt us to “pay it forward,” leaving time on a meter as we pulled away because of the knowledge that someone else will benefit from our generosity. But now, the “enter your license plate number” meters disallow both grace and serendipity. No prior person’s generosity can reduce your parking fee obligation, and no altruistic instinct on your part can make you a Good Samaritan for the next person choosing to park wherever you just pulled away.

GPS systems are likely more efficient than reading maps in spiral-bound atlases, but does that automatically make them better? Using parking meters that reset to zero once you pull away from the curb assuredly raise more money for our municipality, but doesn’t it also reduce our sense of being a community? The heart of Christian faith is about covenantal relationships: loving God, loving our neighbor, being at peace with ourselves. To live out the fullness of covenantal faith requires that we interact with others. It means we are teams navigating the hills and valleys of life together. It means we find joy in unexpected moments of grace as well as unprompted deeds of generosity. Holding on to this “other-oriented” perspective is hard in today’s techno-individualistic society. But losing this sense of the interconnection of life means we’ve lost our faith completely. Then our spiritual GPS is broken; our soul “meters” show the red “violation” flag. That is why in little things and big things, we are to be people who live, love, and serve God together.
Welcome, Paul Seif

Paul Seif is a M.Div. student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) and our new intern for 2014–15. He also is familiar face who has been participating in the life of our church since his family moved to Pittsburgh last fall from Portland, Oregon, where he was a member and intern at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Over the last year, Paul has served as our percussionist at Journey Worship, taught in the Contemporaries class, chaperoned a youth mission trip, and helped plan the Circle of Faith event. He also has completed focused studies on the historiography of the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 4, and hopes to publish his research next year.

Paul is thankful for the opportunity to continue in his service to the life of our church and is interested in becoming better acquainted with ELPC’s diverse congregants and various ministries.

If you haven’t previously done so, please introduce yourselves to Paul, his wife Sharla, and his children, Xander and Quinn Poppy.

Introducing ELPC’s New Resident Brass Ensemble

We are thrilled to welcome the members of The Brass Roots to ELPC. Featuring some of Pittsburgh’s finest young brass players, they will be a regular fixture at ELPC throughout the year as our resident brass ensemble. A brass quintet from the ensemble will be in worship on six Sundays between September and May, plus the full ensemble will present two concerts in the Sanctuary in December and May. Their first appearance will be on Rally Day, Sun., Sept. 7. Learn more about the group at TheBrassRoots.com.

PSO Brass to Perform

Join us on Mon., Sept. 15, at 8 pm, as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra’s Brass Ensemble brings its Monday Night Neighborhood Concerts series to the ELPC Sanctuary. The concert is free, but a simple RSVP is required by calling 412.392.8991 or visiting PittsburghSymphony.org/NeighborhoodSeries.

Happy Wanderers’ Events

For older ELPC members and friends, our Happy Wanderers group convenes monthly for fellowship, laughter, and learning. Our next two events are a trip to a dinner theatre at Lamplighter Restaurant and Apple Hill Playhouse on Thurs., Sept. 4, and then a visit to Oakhurst Tea Room and the Somerset area on Tues., Oct. 14.

Later this year, we will enjoy a Mystery Theater event in November and a Christmas Party in December. For more information, contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Interested in Meeting ELPC Members?

A great way to have fun and meet other ELPC members is through our Connections Gatherings. These small groups consist of 8–10 people who join together for potluck dinners or outings in the area.

A sign-up table will be available during the Fellowship Time after worship in September. Contact Jack and Elaine Phillips at 412.673.3778 or the ELPC office for more information.
Reaching Out  •  September 2014

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

Contemporaries Class  Second Floor Parlor
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle
Sept. 7: Welcome Back and an Introduction to our Series
This year’s theme, Discipleship: The Way of Jesus, will inform our learning and relationships as we seek to grow in faith. The study, written by Dr. John P. Burgess, helps us understand the comfort and the challenge of being Christian believers who follow the way of Jesus in the world.

Sept. 14, 22: Jesus the Prophet & Christian Prophets Today
Led by the Rev. Randy Bush
Do prophets tell the future or only speak about current issues of faith and justice? In answering that question, it is important to note that a striking shift happened between the prophetic ministry of Jesus Christ and the appearance of prophets in the early Christian church. This presentation will examine these questions and seek to draw conclusions about the role and relevance of Christian prophets today.

Sept. 28: Prophetic Action Toward a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine
Led by Bob Ross
In the wake of the ongoing atrocities in Israel/Palestine, we will explore what we as individuals and a church can do to help bring about a just peace in the Holy Land.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin
“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). Such an audacious statement by the apostle Paul! How could the community in Philippi—or any community—have the same mind as Christ? Here’s one good answer: “Begin with the book of Exodus, for through it God is revealed as a restless agent of social newness with capacity to redefine the wilderness as a place of care” (Walter Brueggeman, Theology of the Old Testament). Seek a mindshare of Christ with us as we reflect on Exodus, Philippians, and other formative scripture together:

Sept. 7: Exodus 12:1–14; Psalms 149; Romans 13:8–14; Matthew 18:15–20
Sept. 14: Exodus 14:19–31; Psalms 114; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35
Sept. 21: Exodus 16:2–15; Psalms 105:1-6, 37–45; Philippians 1:21–30; Matthew 20:1–16
Sept. 28: Exodus 17:1–7; Psalms 78:1–4, 12–16; Philippians 2:1–13; Matthew 21:23–32

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
Sept. 7: Soweto Gospel Choir
Born from the Soweto slums in South Africa, the Soweto Gospel Choir’s colorful outfits, high energy, and beautiful songs are indeed uplifting. They won a Grammy Award in 2007, and performed last year at the Byham Theater in downtown Pittsburgh. We will watch their performance from the Nelson Mandela Theater. Come see and hear their joy in sharing their love of God.

Sept. 14, 21: Seekers will join Contemporaries in the Parlor.

Sept. 28: Old-World Presbyterianism and the Reformed Tradition
Led by Dr. Peter Gilmore
Join us for a historical overview of the Old-World origins of Western Pennsylvanian’s Presbyterianism. We will look at experiences in Ireland and Scotland, peoples efforts to work out a connection between “faith” and “church” in their own time and place, and the links to Calvin’s Geneva and the Reformation.

Dr. Gilmore is an adjunct professor of history at Carlow and Carnegie Mellon Universities. He also is an elder at Sixth Presbyterian Church.

Soul Food  Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu
September: A Collection of Writings on Discernment
We will continue our discussion of Discernment, by Henri Nouwen, beginning with chapter six. New participants are always welcome.

Children and Youth Classes
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”

Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.
Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Tai Chi  Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
Classes begin on Tues., Sept. 9, and are $3/session ($25/10 sessions).
Pre-register with Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

JourneyDance  Fri., Sept. 12, from 7–8 pm, in the McKelvey Room

Food for Thought Program Begins in October

We are pleased to announce the launch of our Food for Thought mentoring program, a new no-cost learning support and enrichment program for youth in grades 4–8 that is aimed to equip and encourage youth through the exploration and enjoyment of food. This one-on-one mentoring program reinforces skills that are known to be necessary for success in and out of school. The central theme of food and thinking comes to life in mentoring relationships.

Together, mentors and mentees will share healthy and delicious meals; take cooking classes with professional chefs; participate in creating real solutions for hunger, health, and sustainable agriculture; learn about the food we eat; investigate how different cultures around the world eat; extend hospitably and show gratitude; and build meaningful relationships that support them during the joys and the struggles of life.

For more information about how your child can participate in our Food for Thought program, talk to Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926. If you are interested in becoming an adult mentor contact Wil Forrest at 412.441.3800 x14.

Learn more at CathedralOfHope.org/children-and-youth/food-thought.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Sept. 5: First Friday @ Wallace  at 7 pm
Don’t Stress! Join use at Wallace Memorial PC (1146 Greentree Rd., Greentree) for a coffeehouse evening that will include fellowship, treats, and Fair Trade Plus Café Justo. Participants are asked to bring a poem, song, reading, Scripture, story, or anything creative to share with the group, focused on the theme of managing worry and anxiety, as well as to bring a dessert to share.

Sun., Sept. 21: YAM Sunday Class  at 9:45 am, in Room 244
Doesn’t the Bible say women are not to speak in church? The fall, our theme is Scriptures that challenge us as Christians. Tucker Ferda will lead our class as we focus on Paul’s view of women. Café Justo will be served and childcare will be available in the Nursery.

Sun., Sept. 28: Fairy Tales and Faith  at 12:30 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor
Come explore the universal morality of fairy tales and folklore; what that means to Christians then and now. Matthew Anderson and Jackie Walker will co-present our time together. A light lunch will be served.

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.
Behind the Scenes at ELPC: Administrative Assistants and Financial Secretary

A trio of exceptional women provide outstanding support to our ministerial and program staff at ELPC.

Gloria Knopp is the administrative assistant for Pastor Randy and Pastor Heather.

Kate Carlson provides administrative support for Rev. Patrice, Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan and Pam Kimmel.

Norma Meyer is the administrative assistant who prepares all the worship bulletins, assists Dr. Ed Moore, and supports Linda Addlespurger with Hope Academy of Music and the Arts.

In addition, another exceptional staff member is Deborah Marx, our bookkeeper and financial secretary.

Their skill, experience, and faithful spirits are a big part of ELPC’s caring ministry to our community.

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., Sept. 2: Reconciling Paul at 10 am
What questions, assumptions, and experiences do you bring to reading Paul’s letters? Join us in the Second Floor Parlor, as we begin our study of 2 Corinthians. Joan Heckel will lead our first lesson, The Promise and Problem of Paul. A potluck lunch will follow the lesson. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages will be provided. All are welcome!

Mon., Sept. 9: Reconciling Paul at 7 pm
If you missed the Tuesday session, join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we offer another opportunity. Please note that we will not have food following this session.

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

We invite you to embark on a journey of healing and transformation. Our upcoming programming is designed to provide experiences and tools to draw you into a deeper relationship with God and enhance your spiritual growth. We begin with an exploration of contemplative prayer and meditation in the fall, followed by an opportunity for practicing humility beginning in the New Year, and conclude with an opportunity to explore our own inner life with an in-depth study of, and reflection on, the Enneagram during Lent and following Easter. Learn more at the Church Life Sampler.

Sun., Sept. 28: Food, Hunger, and Fasting from 12:30–3 pm
Learn about the deep connection between what we eat and how we care for those who hunger. Discover the way in which fasting is both a means of prayer and also a form of solidarity with the millions of people who do not have adequate food. Light and healthy lunch choices will be provided.

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 17–19: Silent Healing Retreat
Come away with God for a time of healing and wholeness at the beautiful Providence Villa in the North Hills. Besides silence and worship in community, experience Healing Touch, Reike, or Therapeutic Massage, as well as to practice Mindfulness Meditation and Guided Imagery.

Fast for Hunger
Our Fast for Hunger begins the evening of Fri., Sept. 5, and ends with Communion on Sun., Sept. 7.

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

Interested in learning 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 see the board in the hallway leading to the McKelvy Room.

Our next spiritual gathering is at 5 pm, on Sat., Sept. 13, and our next business meeting is at 12:30 pm, on Sat., Nov. 30. Everyone is welcome!

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.
Pastor Randy to Receive Award

On Thurs., Sept. 11, Pastor Randy Bush will be presented a Faith in Action award by the Pittsburgh chapter of the NAACP at their inaugural Faith Works Reception. This award is to acknowledge the contributions made by Pastor Bush and the ELPC congregation to support the Pittsburgh community and the NAACP. The reception will be held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 5:30–7:30 pm, with Ms. Lisa Sylvester of WPXI serving as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Feeling Crafty?

- **Sewing Group** will meet from 4–6 pm, on Mon., Sept. 8, from 9 am–12 pm, on Wed., Sept. 17.
- **Knitting Group** will meet after the PW Bible Study on Tues., Sept. 2. We also will be accepting yarn donations in the front office. For more information, please contact Diane Jackson dnjcks@verizon.net or 412.441.6021.
- **Toy Makers’ Group** will meet from 9 am–12 pm, on Wed., Sept. 10 and 24.

Words to Serve by...

*by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs*

“The first question that the priest and the Levite asked was, ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But the good Samaritan reversed the question and asked, ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”—Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Faithful servants never retire. You can retire from your career, but you will never retire from serving God.”—Rick Warren

“Don’t say you don’t have enough time or enough money to change the world. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Gandhi, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci and Jesus Christ.”—Shannon L. Alder

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”—Galatians 5:13

Contact Wil to get on the WeSERVE list. For more information and to read about other service opportunities, please visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE.

ELPC People

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

**Good News**

- We celebrate the baptism of *Adeline Gabriel Blass*, daughter of Timothy and Abby Blass.
- Congratulations to *Mary Anne Kirby* and *Diane George* who were married on July 19.
- Congratulations to *Sara Fest* and *Andrea Kamouyerou* on the birth of their daughter, *Quinn Kamouyerou Fest*, on July 19.
- We welcome our new members who joined on July 27: *Dorothy Radcliff*, *Allison and Gene Freeman*, *Betsy and Chuck Gianakas*, *Jill Millard*, *Amy Bialek*, and *Liz Gonda*.

**Prayers**

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

- Rev. Sidney Hills, who passed away on July 17. Rev. Hills was a friend of ELPC and a descendant of the Rev. William McIlvaine, who was the founding pastor of ELPC.
- Cheryl Myers, who passed away on July 28. Cheryl was a member of ELPC and had served as a deacon.
- Vadis Robshaw, who passed away on July 29. She was the wife of the Rev. Dr. Charles P. Robshaw, pastor at ELPC from 1957–80 (Emeritus 1980–03), and the mother of ELPC member Katherine Hackney.
“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.”

Choir Rehearsals Resume
September means the resuming of our regular rehearsal schedule for our musical ensembles. The first rehearsal for each group is:

- **Chancel Choir**: Thurs., Sept. 4, from 7–8:30 pm
- **Journey Praise Team**: Fri., Sept. 5, from 4:45–5:45 pm
- **Handbell Choir**: Tues., Sept. 9, from 6–7 pm

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Ed Moore at EdM@coh.net.

Cathedral Concerts Return
Planning is well underway for the fourth season of Cathedral Concerts! This year, there will be seven exciting concerts. A brochure will be available on Rally Day, Sun., Sept. 7. Please visit CathedralOfHope.org/worship/cathedral-concerts and Facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian for a listing of concerts.

HA’s Fall Term Set to Begin
Hope Academy’s fall term begins on Tues., Sept. 16. New offerings include **Tap Dance; Flute Choir** for advanced-beginner to intermediate flutists; **Beginning Ukulele Class** for 7–10 year olds; **Suzuki Piano**; and a second-year level for our **Suzuki Violin Program**.

An intensive Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) dance class also is being offered to prepare select dancers for PBT scholarship auditions in the spring. **Bridge Ballet 1** is for committed and focused dancers, from 5–8 years old. There is a placement session at 10 am, on Sat., Sept. 6.

In addition, **HAT Co** is expanding with a new level for youth in grades 6 and 7, called **HAT Co Jr**; and an opportunity for proficient musicians to be part of **HAT Co Rock Band**, without being required to take part in the dance and theater ensembles.

Learn more at CathedralOfHope.org/Hope-Academy.

Building Closed: The ELPC office will be closed all day on Mon., Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day.