Church Birthdays in May

Two special birthdays happen this month!

On Mother’s Day 1935, a full week of special services and guest speakers helped dedicate ELPC to the glory of God and ministry of Christ in this neighborhood.

This Mother’s Day, Sun., May 10, we will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the dedication of our wonderful cathedral building with a special worship service and commemorative bulletin.

Then, on Sun., May 24, we will celebrate the birth of the church universal through our Pentecost Sunday festivities. Remember to wear red to church this day. The Brass Roots will join us and Pastor Randy will offer another story-sermon installment in his News from Pittsburgh series.

Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty Visits

ELPC is proud to host the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty for two days. On Sun., May 17, Dr. Hasty will lead a combined Adult Education class and then preach at the Sanctuary worship service. Then on Mon., May 18, at 10 am, she will present a lesson from the Horizons Bible Study series Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians, of which she was the author. See the Presbyterian Women article on page 6 for more details.

Dr. Hinson-Hasty is active in the PC(USA) denomination and is the chair of theology at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. She also is the author of many books and articles, including texts on Dorothy Day, Christian Social Justice, and the Problem of Wealth.

Youth Sunday, May 31

Youth Sunday will be held on Sun., May 31, at the 11 am worship service. This special service is written and led by our ELPC youth, and graduating seniors will share their stories of faith. Youth in grades 9–12, who are interested in participating in this service, are encouraged to attend Church School throughout the month to prepare.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

How can one best describe a life of faith? When new elders and deacons are nominated to serve as officers of our church, they are asked to compose a brief Statement of Faith. In answer to the opening question, here are the ways three church officers have described aspects of a life of faith:

• “I feel a call for ministering with the youth, not only because they’re extraordinary young people, but because I don’t think it’s possible for today’s youth to have too many trustworthy adults in their lives.”—Deacon Cami Needle

• “I believe God is within us, among us, and ever-present through our gifts and talents, which are to be used to share God’s love, grace, justice and peace in the world.”—Deacon Sonya-Marie Morley

• “I believe in God’s grace, in Jesus’ love and kindness, and in the Holy Spirit. I believe they are three in one, and are with us always.”—Elder Steve Massey

Most often when we try to describe faith, we do so through contrasts. If in this world we witness war and violence, we comment that faith involves a life of peace – even a peace that passes all understanding. If in this world we know sadness and loss, we stress that faith involves a comfort that comes to all who mourn. To challenge this world’s lies, we point to Christ who is the truth; to counteract the power of darkness and shadows, we draw near to Christ who is the light of the world.

So a simple answer (to the question about how to describe faith) emerges when we cluster together all the positive qualities mentioned above: Faith is peace, comfort after a loss, truth that silences all lies, a light that casts out all shadows. All of that is true (thanks be to God!), but one thing more needs to be added.

This may be common sense, but it bears repeating: We only know something is a lie if we have some sense of what is true. We are only troubled by war and violence because we know what peace feels like. We object to what is hateful because we know the healing power of love. Therefore, faith is not only the possession of peace, truth and love. Faith is also the ability to recognize when such virtues are absent in our lives.

Two famous choreographers were talking one day—Agnes De Mille and Pittsburgh native Martha Graham. De Mille was feeling confused about the quality of her work, when Graham reminded her not to strive just for positive reviews and a sense of satisfaction. In truth all we have, she said, is “a queer, divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive than the others.”

Faith is that “divine dissatisfaction” and “blessed unrest” that reminds us that this world is not as it should be. Faith is the Holy Spirit’s gift of “blessed unrest” that keeps us from both complacency and despair as we march ever onward. Faith is peace, truth and love and the awareness that we haven’t fully attained those virtues yet. And, as Easter people, faith is the assurance that Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, is beside us every step of the way—in our moments of “divine dissatisfaction” and “blessed unrest”—as we run the race set before us with patience, perseverance and joy.
Registered for VCS?
ELPC’s annual Vacation Church School, will run from 9 am–3 pm, Mon.–Fri., June 22–26. Our theme is Message Received: Hearing God’s Call. The curriculum leads us through Old and New Testament stories, where men and women answered God’s call, and invites us to explore how God calls us, today. We will engage the Bible stories through worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and special activities.

VCS serves children ages 4 through those who have completed grade 5. Youth in grades 6–12, and adults, are invited to prayerfully discern if God is calling them to volunteer for VCS.

Camper registration forms and volunteer application forms are available at CathedralOfHope.org.

Renovation Project Update
In moving forward on possible renovation work, a Capital Campaign Committee has been formed. The co-chairs of this committee are Barbara and Mark DeWitt, Lora and Damon Bethea, and Elaine Bellin. Working with Session and the Renovations Committee, a local consultant firm—Linden Partners—was hired as of April 1, to begin guiding the church in fundraising from the church governing bodies, congregational members and friends, affiliated groups, and foundations.

In addition, the architectural and engineering firms are developing schematic design ideas, hoping to complete this phase for Session consideration before the end of June.

The Chapel Market is Up and Running
The Chapel Market, which provides gently worn, donated clothing to those who need it for free, is open for shoppers. The Market is located on ELPC’s Ground Floor, with its entrance on Whitfield Street. The Market is open for shopping and donating on Mondays, from 10 am–12 pm, and Thursdays, from 6–8 pm.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support in starting this ministry. Questions? Send an email to TheChapelMarket@gmail.com.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director
Sat., May 9: Recitals from 12–5 pm
Hope Academy’s young singers and musicians are presenting their end-of-the-year recitals throughout the ELPC building. Check the website calendar for details.

Child Safety Training
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has updated its state regulations for those who work or volunteer directly with children, to better ensure the safety of children and improve reporting of suspected abuse.

We recently updated our Child Safety Policy to comply with these regulations, and will offer mandatory training sessions for all who work with children and youth. We will offer several different training times to accommodate scheduling needs.

While we will directly invite those who are current volunteers and staff, these training sessions are open to anyone. If you are interested in participating in a training session or in learning more, please feel free to contact Pastor Heather.

This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Says Nothing
HAT Co Showcase Performance

This Girl Laughs, The Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing is Finegan Kruckmeyer’s award-winning, fairy tale-esque play about the journey of three sisters who take different paths, yet ultimately reach the same place. This highly original tale explores complex themes of loss and self-discovery, as the three girls experience incredible adventures on their way to becoming independent women.

Using an innovative, DIY-design aesthetic, plus an original soundscape and songs, Hope Academy’s Teen Theater Company (HAT Co) will bring this poetic, humorous, and action-packed story to life for young people and adults (ages 10+).

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children; a link can be found on the calendar event posting on the ELPC website.
Notes: There will be no classes on Marathon Sunday, May 3.

There will be a combined adult class on Sun., May 17, led by the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. Check the website, e-flash, and/or bulletin for more information.

Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor  Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

May: Enough: God’s Blessing in Abundance

Explore dimensions of what it means to have enough through parables of Jesus and other biblical references. Author Laura Mendenhall encourages students to look at what is really most important to have in life—God’s blessings, which are in abundance for us. This six-week study is part of our Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding series.

May 10: Enough for Transformational Giving
Luke 12:13–31, led by Peter Murray

May 24: Enough Is Good for the Body
Acts 4:32–5:11, led by Lenore Williams

May 31: How Much Is Enough to Leave Our Children?
Matthew 25:14–30, led by Paul Seif

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library  Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

May’s scripture readings begin with Jesus saying, “I have called you friends” (John 15:15) and they culminate with Pentecost in a rush of sound and varied speech. While there may be many ways of describing the Spirit, starting with abiding friendship is a fine way. Through friendship, love can move within and across boundaries, outside and within margins. Through friendship in Christ, the dimensions of love become unlimited, unfathomable. Join some friends for one of May’s classes:


May 17: Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; Psalm 1:1–6; 1 John 5:9–13; and John 17:6–19


May 31: Isaiah 6:1–8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12–17; and John 3:1–17

Seekers  Room 234  Facilitator: Gwen Puza

May 10: Hear from one of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan
Led by Benedict Killang

During Sudan’s Civil War in the 1980s, over 20,000 Christian boys escaped by walking for five years across Africa to refuge in Kenya, each carrying their Bible. Benedict Killang was one of them. He is here to tell us about his experience, and how his faith supported him. You are encouraged to watch the two moving segments by 60 Minutes below. Or, if you wish to see them on May 10, before Benedict talks, come to class at 9:10 am.

• www.CBSnews.com/videos/the-lost-boys-part-one
• www.CBSnews.com/videos/the-lost-boys-part-two-2

May 24: Views From the West Bank, Working to End the Occupation

My Neighborhood is a short video seen through the eyes of a Palestinian teenager in East Jerusalem. As he watches Israeli settlers evict his family from their home, he is surprised to find support from Israeli activists who protest against the settlers. We also will view a short video message from the Tent of Nations, in the West Bank, which is working to build bridges and peace among all peoples.

May 31: A History of Religion in Three Objects: Incense, Drums, and Bread
Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Pastor Randy will lead an exploration of the ways in which these diverse objects help people from many faith traditions reflect on—and respond to—the Holy in their lives. His thoughts will be guided by Brent Plate’s recent book, A History of Religion in 5 1/2 Objects.

Soul Food  Room 244 and Pastor’s Conference Room  Facilitator: Joe Hajdu and other class members

May: Travelling Your Road to Joy

We will continue our sessions with Traveling Your Road to Joy. New participants are always welcome!

May 10: Session seven of Traveling Your Road to Joy, led by Michele Bossers and another class member.

May 17: Session eight of Traveling Your Road to Joy, led by Sel Whitaker and another class member.

May 24|31: Review and discussion sessions, led by Joe Hajdu and other class members.
Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., May 1: First Friday @ North Shore at 7 pm
We will enjoy a delicious meal together at the place voted best sports bar in Pittsburgh since it opened. Come hungry for food and conversation. Learn more at JeromeBettisGrille36.g3restaurants.com. This is a no-host event.

Sun., May 17: YAM Church School at 9:45 am
How we live out our faith ties us to Christians from all times and places, and to Jesus. Join us in the Session Room as the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf leads our lesson on Practices: Sacraments and Traditions.

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.

Snapshots from Food for Thought
Youth involved in ELPC’s Food for Thought program packed lunches for EECM, after taking a tour of Community House and hearing about the hunger services they provide to our community.

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

Wed., May 13: Registration Deadline for Mission Trip
Registration forms and a $25 deposit are due on Wed., May 13, for both the Junior High Mission Trip to Camp Crestfield from July 6–11 and the Senior High Mission Trip to Maxwellton, West Virginia, from August 9–15.

For registration and scholarship forms, please contact Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net.

Sun., May 17: DG2! Team Tassy Run/Walk following 11 am worship
Youth in grades 4–12 are invited to participate in the DG2! (Doing Good Together!) Team Tassy Run here at ELPC with our friends from Rodef Shalom. Team Tassy is an organization doing work in Cite de Soleil, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Port-Au-Prince Haiti. The organization started their work in this neighborhood after the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. Team Tassy works in one neighborhood to help people train and find jobs so that families may have the dignity of work and self sufficiency. Families and youth can get more details and sponsorship forms online.

Wed., May 20: Senior High Mission Trip Planning Meeting
Youth in grades 8–12, who are planning on going on the mission trip to Maxwellton, West Virginia, are asked to attend a planning meeting from 5–7 pm.

“I take joy in the opportunity for relationships and Christ-centered community. I seek to live with arms wide open, for it is with open arms that I can embrace, be embraced, and point toward God.”—Deacon Will DeLair
**Spiritual Life**  
The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

**Fri.–Mon., May 22–25: Memorial Day Retreat for Peace** at 12:30 pm, in Room 234  
Come to our discussion to learn how even minor changes in your routine—adding movement to sedentary lives—can bring about positive changes toward better fitness. Caterina Rosano, MD, MPH, will share information on the benefits of movement, the downsides of sedentary lifestyles, and examples of minor changes that can make a positive difference.

Light refreshments will be served. There likely will be standing room only.

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**Presbyterian Women**  
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

**Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians**  
Mon., May 18 at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor  
Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, author of this year's bible study, will lead our final lesson, A Call to Apostleship in the Twenty-First Century, based on 2 Corinthians 12:1–13:13. This text includes a “vision of a ‘third heaven’” and Paul’s description of a “thorn in the flesh.” A potluck lunch will follow the study.

**Note:** we will not meet on Tues., May 5, or Mon., May 10.

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

**Sun., May 17: Move Toward Fitness** at 12:30 pm, in Room 234  
Come to our discussion to learn how even minor changes in your routine—adding movement to sedentary lives—can bring about positive changes toward better fitness. Caterina Rosano, MD, MPH, will share information on the benefits of movement, the downsides of sedentary lifestyles, and examples of minor changes that can make a positive difference.

Light refreshments will be served. There likely will be standing room only.

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**Save the Date: Young at Heart Luncheon**

The 2015 Young at Heart luncheon will be on Sun., June 7, after the 11 am Sanctuary service. This is ELPC’s opportunity to celebrate and honor our senior congregants. Special musical entertainment will follow.

The event is free for congregation members 65+, and $10 for all others. Invitations will be sent in early May. RSVP by contacting Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16 by Fri., May 29.

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“I believe in a universal God, one who has no boundaries or limitations, without form, encompassing all of creation…I believe that we err in trying to make God too small, too limited, too human, too much like us!”—Deacon Beth Minnigh

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**Grief Support Group**

Grieving is a process that, when met with compassion and care, can flow into a renewed and deepened engagement with life.

Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler, ELPC members and grief counselors, are leading a Grief Support Group for those who are grieving or struggling with loss and change, whether recent, resurfacing, or ongoing.

This group meets in the Parlor from 5:30–7 pm, on Wed., May 6 and 13.

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“We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves.”—The Dalai Lama

“Meditation (Centering Prayer, Contemplative Practice) is a means for each of us to make a powerful, personal contribution to the collective peace and coherence, strengthening life in the way that’s needed most—from within.”—The Huffington Post

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“Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection all show never-ending love. Believing in Jesus as Lord changes my day-to-day living. It makes me watch my actions and words, as well as strive to be a better person.”—Elder Lynne Irvin

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**“I believe in a universal God, one who has no boundaries or limitations, without form, encompassing all of creation…I believe that we err in trying to make God too small, too limited, too human, too much like us!”—Deacon Beth Minnigh**
LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Our next Spiritual Gathering is at 1 pm, on Sun., May 31. We will share a potluck lunch and then attend the RCC Pride Concert at 4 pm. 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.

“We have such a good thing going on at ELPC. I want everyone to experience its gifts. Yet, I value the “smallness” of being able to easily connect with others, so growing our flock needs to be done in a way that nourishes that sense of community.”—Elder Steve Evrard

Serving Outside of Our Walls

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Anyone at ELPC can tell you that being caring and involved in our community is a hallmark of who we are as a congregation. In fact, it is a major reason why many of us joined as members or friends (it sure was for me!).

While there are many year-round opportunities to reach beyond the church’s walls to serve our community, being outside sounds like the ideal place for many of us as the sun warms our days and nights. So please consider these few—of the many—ways to represent ELPC, while enjoying the great outdoors this summer:

• Serve at the Garfield Community Farm volunteer nights each Thursday;
• Rehabilitate homes for ownership with Open Hand Ministries on the first Saturday of each month;
• Work with fellow dedicated volunteers who keep our church grounds beautiful and inviting by taking care of our flowers and grass; and/or
• Represent ELPC as we stand for full inclusion at the Circle of Faith event, or as we march in the parade and staff the ELPC booth at Pittsburgh PrideFest.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14. Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE to learn more about serving or becoming a member of the weSERVE list!

Volunteer Day with OHM and GCF

Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on Sat., May 2, for neighborhood mission opportunities with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm.

For more details, contact Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or ejr116@gmail.com, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.

ELPC People

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

Prayers

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

• Martha DeMarzi’s cousin, Herb, in March;
• Bob Pressley, ELPC Security Guard, on April 1; and
• Cami Needle’s uncle, Michael, on April 2.
“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.”

ELPC Stained Glass Tour
On Sun., May 17, Elder Stephen Evrard invites you to join him for a 45–60 minute tour that will examine the stained glass windows in ELPC’s magnificent Sanctuary and Chapel.

Join the tour on the steps at the front of the Sanctuary, following the organ postlude.

Mother’s Day Cards
Honor your mother or other beloved women in your life with a specially designed Mother’s Day card to transform lives of women and children around the world. Your gift will help promote the health, education, and development in impoverished communities.

Cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and may be purchased from Kate Carlson in the church office during the week.

The Brass Roots and Organ in Concert
Join us at 4 pm, on Sun., May 17, as The Brass Roots and Dr. Ed Moore close out the Cathedral Concerts season with another sonic spectacular.

Building Closed
The ELPC office will be closed all day on Mon., May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.