Building Our Future

As you know, ELPC is in the midst of the planning stages of a monumental renovation project. The proposed enhancements will allow us to honor the beauty of our church while preparing our building to meet the future needs of our ministry and community.

In order to make these dreams a reality, we need resources. Therefore, we have begun the Building Our Future capital campaign. The campaign is our initiative to raise $6 million over a five year period to meet our current and future needs. Of that goal, we hope to raise $2.25 million through gifts from the congregation and $3–4 million from local and regional philanthropic foundations. Our campaign is progressing beautifully in both areas. Our congregation has been incredibly generous so far, and we have received substantial support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

The Building Our Future campaign is a large undertaking. Perhaps you, a friend, or someone you know has already been asked to participate. If not, please know that your support is critical to our success. Between now and the end of the year, we will invite every member and friend of the ELPC family to participate. Meanwhile, we ask that everyone, regardless of your current involvement, pray for the success of the Building Our Future campaign. More details will be coming soon.

Sample Our Church Life, Bring a Friend

Our annual Church Life Sampler will be held after our 11 am service on Sun., Sept. 20. Come “sample” the various worship and service opportunities that ELPC offers. Meet leaders, ask questions, and jump on board! Lunch will be provided and a special activity will be available for children.

This also is Visitor’s Sunday, so bring along a friend or two!
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

When was the last time you read the Department of Transportation driver’s manual? Most of us study it when we’re young and preparing to get our driver’s license, but seldom if ever refer to it again. We learn the rules well enough to pass our tests; we (generally) follow the rules as we drive around Pittsburgh; we don’t question the basics of driving etiquette but simply accept them as true and valid whenever we slide into the driver’s seat of our car.

Is there a parallel between how we treat the rules of the road and how we treat the rules of faith? During the coming year, ELPC will be offering confirmation classes again for our older youth. They will have classes about theological topics like the Trinity, the Bible, atonement, grace, worship, ecclesiology (doctrine of the church), and God’s salvation plans for them individually and this world corporately. None of the topics will be covered as fully as they deserve, but at least the sessions will allow for questions and conversations about these important faith subjects. And sometime next summer, the young people can say for themselves, “I am known by God, redeemed by the grace of Christ, and walking each day surrounded by the Holy Spirit; therefore, I choose to acknowledge that good news by becoming part of a church that professes these things.” If that happens, then they will be confirmed during worship and enrolled by Session as part of our congregation of faith.

As our fall church season unfolds, with its schedule brimming over with activities like Rally Day, Church Life Sampler, Congregational Picnic, and educational classes for all ages, the opening series of sermons will be like opening the “driver’s manual of faith” again. The theme will be “Reconfirmation Class.” It is possible that many of us have not thought systematically about topics like the Trinity, salvation, heaven and hell since the days we were youth sitting through confirmation or catechism classes. It is likely that whatever “answers” we carry around within our hearts to these important faith questions, it is true that we could benefit from re-examining them with fresh eyes and open minds. For any garden, it is always wise to regularly turn over the soil, pluck out weeds, and get your hands dirty making sure the flowers and vegetables truly thrive. For any driver, it is prudent to regularly remember the basic rules of the road, correct one’s own bad driving habits, and humble recall how only by sharing the highways we travel can all of us reach our destinations safely.

In the same way, (with apologies to Plato) the unexamined faith is not worth living. May we enter this fall season seeking to re-examine what we believe and be good “reconfirmation” students. Christ’s gospel has much that merits our study. And, by grace, this is spiritual work that always bears good fruit.
Notes from Malawi: Part 1
by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

For over 24 years, a relationship between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian) has been mutually rewarding. Groups from Malawi have visited Pittsburgh in even-numbered years, with Pittsburgh Presbytery delegations traveling to Africa in odd-numbered years. These are often once-in-a-lifetime experiences for both American and Malawian participants, with friendships made that last for years.

Malawi is a nation of contrasts. Routinely listed as one of the world’s 10 poorest countries, it has a population of about 17 million and is called the “Warm Heart of Africa.” Although landlocked, the long, skinny nation follows along the 350-mile shoreline of Lake Malawi. As a former British colony, the dominant languages are Chichewa and English. About 80% of the population is Christian, with Presbyterianism being the dominant Protestant faith.

The 2015 delegation from Pittsburgh Presbytery included 13 people (of which 5 were pastors), as well as 3 participants from the International Partnership’s third member nation, South Sudan. Participants spent time in the southern capital of Blantyre, Malawi, as well as at their partner congregations throughout the region. I spent 5 days with ELPC’s partner church in Balaka—a mid-size town about two hours northwest of Blantyre.

To have water in your home is to be wealthy in Malawi. To have hot, running water is to be very wealthy. Any multi-story American home with those resources, plus electricity, refrigeration, books, and Internet access pretty well exceeds what is available in Malawi—except for luxury hotels and Presidential palaces. Cellphones were a new and much-used resource for people, helping them to stay in touch, although not inexpensive to purchase “minutes” for.

The church was poor yet vibrant, with multiple services on Sundays. Prayer houses in villages connected back to larger, city congregations, active women’s guilds, and youth programs. Ministers usually served only 3–4 years at a church before being moved around within the synod. Women clergy have been ordained since 2001, but there remains an overall shortage of ministers.

“I found the trip to be exciting and draining. It was hard to see so many people having to live a subsistence life, and know how much that we take for granted is a rarity or impossible dream for them. Yet I was blessed to pray with them and rejoice in a common faith in the providence of Christ Jesus. And their friendship and love are a joy that will remain with me for years to come.”

—Randy Bush
Classes begin at 9:45 am.

Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor  Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

Sept. 13: Welcome and Introduction
Our intergenerational fellowship of men and women seeks to live as faithful Christians in the 21st century. We cover a wide range of current topics, including theology, justice, mission, and modern life.

Sept. 20 | 27: What Money Can’t Buy
Pastor Randy will discuss issues of faith and economics in today’s world. We will explore the interplay between market economics and Christian morality, based on What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets by Michael J. Sandel.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library  Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer”—(Psalm 19:14). September’s readings begin to explore “wisdom”—wisdom personified, wisdom public, at hand, and ultimately infinite—a grace that exceeds our wits end and grants us peace. Join us as we perhaps wisdom up!

Sept. 13: Proverbs 1:20–33; Psalm 19; James 3:1–12; Mark 8:27–38
Sept. 20: Proverbs 31:10–31; Psalm 1; James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a; Mark 9:30–37
Sept. 27: Esther 7:1–6, 9-10; 9:20–22; Psalm 124; James 5:13–20; Mark 9:38–50

Seekers  Room 234  Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Sept. 13: Uganda Children’s Choir Share their Love for God
Come see a DVD of the Uganda Children’s Choir singing about their love of God. These children once were abused, orphaned, or child soldiers. They will tell their stories and share how they are cared for, loved, educated, and learn about the love of God in Watato Children’s Villages.
We also will hear about upcoming classes for the year.

Sept. 20 | 27: Combined with Contemporaries

Young Adults  Session Room  Facilitator: Wil Forrest

Sept. 27: Experimenting with Faith
We will explore current topics in light of a common reading experience. See Wil for your copy of The Cross in the Closet by Timothy Kurek. This book will enhance the conversation, but it is not necessary to read it to fully participate.

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”

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

Sept. 13: Gathering Session and Introduction
Both sessions will meet in Room 244 for an introduction to our new text, An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor.


Healing the Hurt: Dancing with Broken Bones

On Sat., Sept. 26, people from all around will assemble at Chatham University for JUDAH Fellowship’s bi-annual Healing the Hurt: Dancing with Broken Bones conference.

This event—co-sponsored by ELPC—is for anyone who has an ear and a heart for those most in need of a voice within our society. For more information or to register, visit HealingTheHurt.net.
**Youth Ministry**

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

**Sun.–Mon., Sept. 6–7: Senior High Planning Retreat at Crestfield Camp**
All senior high youth are invited to a planning retreat to brainstorm lesson topics, outreach events, and mission projects for the year. We also will do group-building on the challenge trail and fun camp activities. For details, permission slip, and packing list, see the youth calendar section on the website or talk to Sara Hackett.

**Fri., Sept. 11: Food 4 Thought Applications are Due**
Food 4 Thought is a no-cost, learning support and enrichment program for youth in grades 4–8. This one-on-one mentoring program equips and encourages youth through the exploration and enjoyment of food, and reinforces skills that are known to be necessary for success in and out of school. Together, mentors and mentees share healthy meals; take cooking classes with professional chefs; create real solutions for hunger, health, and sustainable agriculture; learn about the food we eat; investigate how different cultures around the world eat; extend hospitality; show gratitude; and build meaningful relationships that support them during the joys and struggles of life.

For more information, talk to Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926. Learn more at CathedralOfHope.org/children-and-youth/food-thought.

**Sun., Sept. 27: Training for Youth Worship Leaders**
Youth in grades 4–12 can serve as worship leaders in the Sanctuary service as acolytes, crucifers, and ushers. Training for those who are interested will be from 10–10:45 am, on Sun., Sept. 27, in the Sanctuary.

**Sun., Oct. 4: Confirmation Class Informational Meeting**
ELPC will offer Confirmation Class for students in grades 8 and 9 (or older). Confirmation Class will meet monthly, and students will be Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. Students and parents should join us for this informational meeting and a light lunch following Sanctuary worship. Please RSVP to Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

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**Club One Sixteen**

*Wednesdays, beginning Wed., Sept. 16 from 3:30–7:30 pm*

Our faith-based, after-school program serves children and youth in grades 1–12. Facilitated by ELPC staff and volunteers, this joy-filled program welcomes kids for fellowship, recreation, a nutritious meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible Study with friends. Our schedule is as follows:

- 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/ Homework Help/Open Gym
- 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
- 5 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm: Bible Study
- 6:30 pm: Gym (older youth)/club life (younger youth)
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal

**Note:** A registration form is required.

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**Young Adult Ministry**

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

**Fri., Sept. 4: First Friday @ Wallace** at 7 pm

Laugh it up at Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Green Tree! This coffeehouse evening will include fellowship, treats, and lots of Fair Trade PLUS Café Justo coffee. Participants are asked to bring a poem, song, reading, story, Scripture, or anything creative to share with the group that is focused on the theme of humor, as well as to bring a dessert to share.

**Wed., Sept. 9: A Reflective Evening** at 7 pm

We will begin with Taizé worship in the Chapel and then explore Zentangle—a meditative drawing process—in the second floor Parlor. No artistic talent is needed, but you will be amazed at the intricate, complex work that you will achieve. Reported benefits are reduced stress, improved concentration, affirming self, and a sense of accomplishment at making decisions and finishing a product.
**Spiritual Life**

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

**Complete our Fast for Hunger Survey**

The Spiritual Life Committee has sponsored the Fast for Hunger in the hopes of growing awareness of the connection between the spiritual life and the life of compassion for others. We would like to know if this practice has been meaningful and if it should be continued. Let us know by responding to the survey on the Spiritual Life bulletin board or at the Church Life Sampler.

**Get Ready for Cathedral Yoga**

Experience the prayerful movement of Yoga with live music in our beautiful, gothic Sanctuary! Sacred practice in a sacred space! Beginners are all welcome. While the class is free, your donations to offset costs are appreciated. Classes will be from 5:30–6:30 pm, on Wednesdays, beginning in September. Keep an eye on the bulletin board and website for updates.

**Sat., Sept. 19: An Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation from 9 am–1 pm**

Mindfulness is the moment-to-moment awareness of our experience with an accepting, non-judgmental, kind attention. In this Introduction—and then on Mondays, from 7–8:30 pm—Susan Spangler will guide us as we explore mindfulness meditation. The course will include meditation instruction, guided meditations, and practices for supporting mindfulness in everyday life. Meet in the Prayer Room and bring a brown bag lunch. No experience is necessary.

**Sat., Oct. 3: Silent Saturdays from 9 am–4 pm**

Silent Saturdays are an open, flexible opportunity to pray in silence surrounded by community. Feel free to come and go; to participate in shared prayer fully, partially, or not at all; and to explore creative opportunities, the beauty of the Garth, or the devotion of the Chapel. Check the Spiritual Life webpage or bulletin board for the schedule and additional information.

**Register Now for Our Fall Silent Retreat**

Join us from Fri.–Sun., Oct. 16–18, for a time of silence and prayer in community! We will gather at the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center on Friday evening for Compline Prayer as we enter into silence. On Saturday, you can walk the Labyrinth, enjoy the beautiful grounds, participate with the sisters in mass, or sit in the common rooms of the old mansion as you draw closer to God and to your self. Our silence will end on Sunday morning following worship, as we share brunch before departing. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan for spiritual direction if desired. Registration forms are available on the website and bulletin board.

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**Exercise Classes Resume**

- **Tai Chi** Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 8, 10–11 am; 6–7 pm
  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, 7:15–8:45 pm
- **JourneyDance** Fri., Sept. 11, 7–8 pm

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**Child Safety Reminder**

ELPC strives to ensure the safety of every child and youth who enters the building, whether for an ELPC program or with a community group. In order to ensure that ELPC can remain an “open door church” and a safe haven for all, we have updated our Child Safety Policies to conform to Pennsylvania state law.

Now that a new school year is upon us, it’s a fitting time to review some of our policy, remembering that we all must work together to ensure the safety of our kids. Please remember that:

1. Every child or youth in grade 12 or younger must be supervised at all times. Kids of all ages must be supervised by adults at all times—either those who are running the program or by their parent/caregiver.
2. Children in grade 5 or younger must be accompanied to class and/or to the restroom. Youth in grades 6+ may transition between spaces and go to the restroom on their own.
3. Everyone who works or volunteers with children or youth must have their Act 33/34 Clearances—and FBI clearances for those who have not lived in Pennsylvania for the last 10 years. ELPC will facilitate and pay for this process for all who volunteer or work at ELPC.

Finally, please remember to complete a registration form when enrolling your child/youth in any ELPC program. You only need to fill out one form per year, as it can be used across programs.

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**Presbyterian Women**

**Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator**

**Tues., Sept. 8: Come to the Waters Bible Study at 10 am**

Join us in the second floor Parlor as Judy Menk leads our lesson, Birthing Waters—Creation, based on Genesis 1:1–2:4. A pot luck lunch will follow; bring a snack or salad to share. Bible study books will be available after worship on Sun., Sept. 6.

**Note:** If you are interested in forming an evening bible study, please contact Sherry Anderson at mishand408@comcast.net or 412.361.4419.
Reaching Out • September 2015

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

Good News
• Best wishes to Garrett and Raegan (Neff) Breisinger, who were married on July 18.
• Best wishes to Allie Tiangco (Journey Praise Team member) and Scott Craig, who were married on Aug. 1.
• Congratulations to Leslie Terrill Lazor, who celebrated her baptism on Aug. 2.
• Please join us in welcoming our new members and friends: Ashley VanAlen, Michael Hellman, Leslie & Matthew Lazor, Karen Overfield, Scott Rhodehamel, and Mario Seneca.
• Congratulations to Chenoa Stock and José Villarroel, who were married at ELPC on Aug. 15. Chenoa is a mission co-worker for the PC(USA) in Bolivia.

Prayers
• Please join us in praying for Isaiah Wilson, who suffered injuries after a hit-and-run accident.
• We offer our prayers and condolences to family and friends of those who recently passed away:
  - Marti Moore, on the death of her brother, John Moore; and
  - Brian Rayne, on the death of his father, John Rayne.

Service Spotlight: Food 4 Thought Meal Team
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

In May, we concluded the first full year of our Food 4 Thought mentor program. While our mentors and mentees spent time doing activities and building relationships in one room, our Food 4 Thought meal team was preparing healthy, home-cooked meals next door. Each week, the meal team skillfully and lovingly prepared dinner for the entire group, making it possible for us to have energy and live into our name and mission, as we provided Food 4 Thought.

Thank you to our talented meal team: Michele Bossers, Linda Harrington, Becky Maclean, David Phillips, Jackie Walker, and Jennifer Willson.

Do you want to impact a young person’s life in a substantial and meaningful way? Talk with Wil Forrest about serving as a mentor or as a member of the meal team.

For more information, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

To learn more about serving or becoming a member of the weSERVE list, visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director

Hope Academy’s Dance, Theater, and Music Classes Begin Sept. 14
There is something for everyone—from Musical Theater Workshop (voice, tap dance, and acting) and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes on Saturdays, to private music lessons (instruments and voice) all week, to a new Music Discovery music and movement class for 5 and 6 year olds. Plus, Suzuki Violin and Piano; and HAT Co—our audition-only teen theater company for singers, dancers, actors, and musicians.

Download a course brochure and registration form at HopeAcademyArts.com or pick one up at the ELPC front desk. Classes fill quickly, so return the registration form as soon as possible to reserve your place.

Hope Academy Announces New Partnership with PSCA
The Pittsburgh School for the Choral Arts (PSCA) is partnering with Hope Academy to develop a progressive and sequential vocal/choral program (similar to Hope Academy’s partnership with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre for dance). The first level—Music Discovery for 5 and 6 year olds—begins this fall. An audition-only class—Bridge Chorus for 7 and 8 year olds—will be offered in the spring term.

PSCA believes in the power of every voice and celebrates the unique gift of each person. Their programs welcome people of all ages, cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds, and those with special needs to create a diverse community of mutual respect and encouragement. Learn more at PghChoralArts.org.

Want to Join a Choir?
Our musical ensembles will resume their regular rehearsal schedules. The first rehearsal for each group is:

- **Chancel Choir**: Thurs., Sept. 3, from 7–8:30 pm, in the Sanctuary
- **Journey Praise Team**: Fri., Sept. 11, from 5–6 pm, in the Music Room
- **Handbell Choir**: Tues., Sept. 15, from 6–7 pm, in Dr. Ed’s Office

New members are always welcome. There is a place for you! If you have any questions about our choirs, email Dr. Ed Moore at EdM@coh.net.
“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.”

Building Closed
The ELPC office will be closed all day on Mon., Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen Tuesday morning.

Come on a Tour
ELPC Elder Steven Evrard will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel after 11 am worship on Sun., Sept. 13. Please meet in the Hospitality area following Sanctuary worship for a one-hour tour.

Join us at the Church Picnic
The Christian Education Committee invites you to our annual church picnic on Sun., Sept. 27, following our 11 am service. The picnic will be held at ELPC, with seating in the Social Hall and Courtyard, and games in the Gym and Bowling Alley.

Fried chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, and a light desert will be provided. Please bring a side dish or salad to share. Sign up on the sheets outside of the East Transept to indicate what food you are bringing.

Carts will be available at every entrance on the day of the event, before each worship service so that the food you bring can be refrigerated until the picnic.

Cathedral Concerts are Tuning Up
Finishing touches are being put in place for the fifth season of Cathedral Concerts. The season brochure will be available soon, but be sure to mark your calendars now for the first concert at 3 pm, on Sun., Oct. 11, when Dr. Ed will be joined by The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh for a concert of music by Maurice Duruflé, including his beloved Requiem.

For a complete listing of this season’s concerts, please visit ELPC.church or Facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian.

Celebrate Love and Marriage Equality
ELPC members and friends are invited to renew marriage vows with their beloved or be a witness as our church family celebrates love and marriage equality together on Fri., Oct. 23. A renewal of marriage vows ceremony will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm, with a reception to immediately follow in Social Hall and Courtyard.

More event information is available on the church website. Couples who wish to participate are asked to RSVP via our online form by Thurs., Oct. 1.