Associate Pastor for Missions Position

All ELPC members are called to attend a congregational meeting following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Nov. 8, to hear a motion to call the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy as associate pastor for mission ministries.

Pastor Patrice has served ELPC for the past 19 years as the director of mission ministries, filling a wide range of roles from supporting mission committees and the Board of Deacons to facilitating direct mission aid to individuals and families in need. While earlier ordained in the Baptist Church, she officially joined ELPC in 2008 and has completed all the educational requirements for ordination in the PC(USA). Since the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches are not in full communion, the motion before the congregation will be to ordain Patrice as a teaching elder in our denomination and call her to serve as our associate pastor for mission ministries.

Pastor Patrice will preach at both worship services on Sun., Nov. 8. There also will be a reception for her on Sat., Nov. 7, from 7–8:30 pm, in the Parlor for people to greet her and learn more about this calling. Following the congregational meeting, if the way be clear, there will be a second reception held in Patrice’s honor on that day. Please pray for Pastor Patrice and join us for this momentous event in the life of our church.

Observing Children’s Sabbath

On Sun., Nov. 22, ELPC will take part in the annual observance of Children’s Sabbath, co-sponsored by the Justice and Christian Education Committees. This year’s theme is How Long Must I Cry for Help? Bending the Arc Toward God’s Vision of Justice for Children. Sister Linda Yankoski, president and CEO of Holy Family Institute (HFI), will deliver the message at the Journey and Sanctuary services.

HFI was founded more than 100 years ago by the Sisters of Nazareth. Their mission is to empower children and families to lead responsible lives and develop healthy and meaningful relationships built on faith, hope, and love. Most recently, HFI provided the Journey of Hope Initiative, offering housing and services to unaccompanied children under 12, who entered the United States through the southwestern border.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Spaces are important. Where are your favorite spots at home? Some will say that they have a favorite, comfortable chair at home; others will mention a kitchen table where they can read the paper with a cup of coffee or a porch swing that’s just perfect on a fall afternoon.

Go one step farther: What things do you want around you in your favorite space? Do you like to sit near your collection of books or with flourishing houseplants close by? Is your favorite space made enjoyable because of the way the light comes in through the windows, or because the pillows are so comfortable, whether supporting your lower back or nestled under your head during a midday nap?

Now ask yourself: What type of space helps you focus on God? In many churches, there is only one worship service, which means there isn’t much choice associated with the space available on Sunday to focus on God. At ELPC, we are blessed to have three weekly services and they’re offered in three different spaces. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses. Each allows the gathered congregation to focus on God in a slightly different way because of how the spaces are made holy by everyone’s presence.

Taizé worship on Wednesday evenings is a “space set apart” by the muted rays of evening light coming through the stained glass windows. The Chapel is a place of candles and color (orange-red flame banners), of icons and woodwork, and quiet. Journey worship on Sunday mornings is a “space set apart” by the chairs organized in a pattern to encourage visual interactions. It is a place of images projected up front with musicians performing front and center, a place with others’ faces seen and prayers mutually shared. The Sanctuary worship is a “space set apart” by the sheer height of the cathedral itself—its stonework and brilliant windows; its diverse array of worshipers young and old; its acoustics, aesthetics, and Gothic grandeur welcoming everyone.

The Greek word for “holy” basically means something is “set apart.” In a religious sense, something is holy that is set apart for work and worship that is sacred, God-directed, and spiritual. We all need “holy” spaces in our lives. We need places set apart from mundane use where we can rest, quiet our spirits, think, pray, and reflect on a loving God who is close at hand. We each need an intentional place to go to when we desire to re-charge our batteries emotionally and spiritually. Jesus often went off by himself to a “set apart” place to pray. We should follow his example, even if only for a few minutes each day.

Be mindful of the space around you when you come to ELPC for worship. Be mindful of the places where you live, work, and play the rest of the week. Discover what is “holy” about these locations and spend intentional time in your particular “set apart” places. You’ll be amazed at how easily worship can become a part of the daily rhythm of your life.

Randy Bush
Building Our Future Campaign Kick-Off

ELPC has long played a central role in the East Liberty community. Given the dramatic, positive changes occurring in our neighborhood, and with East End Cooperative Ministries having moved to their new location, our church leadership began discerning what new initiatives God was setting before us. After years of planning, prayer, and due-diligence, the Session has inaugurated our renovation project’s capital campaign, Building Our Future.

The renovation work involves improvements to our church’s infrastructure, public meeting rooms, youth and fellowship spaces, and exterior entrances. It will prepare our church for the full array of present ministry needs and possible programs for our future. We look forward to sharing this exciting initiative with you on Sun., Nov. 8, after Journey worship in the Social Hall, and after Sanctuary worship.

The renovation project currently has a budget of $6 million. Over half of that amount is to be raised from community foundations, with a goal of $2.25 million set for our congregation. This amount can be pledged over a five-year period and our capital campaign leadership has made great progress on reaching this goal already. Listed below are several campaign informational meetings scheduled in mid-November. There, you will learn more about the renovations planned for our historic building, our vision for the future, and how you can help. Everyone is welcome. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Campaign Meetings:
• Wed., Nov. 11, after Taizé prayer service in the Chapel
• Sun., Nov. 15, after Journey worship in the Social Hall
• Sun., Nov. 15, after Sanctuary worship in the Chapel

Session News

At recent Session meetings, reports were heard about the status of the Stewardship Committee, the work of the Nominating Committee, and updates from Pittsburgh Presbytery. The following is a recap of specific action items:
• Pastor Heather was granted a partial sabbatical leave during November, to be completed with a two-month leave in July and August 2016;
• A matching $20,000 grant will be made available to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians to support their work in the areas of LGBTQ inclusion and racial justice within the PC(USA) denomination; and
• An ELPC team of nine participants was commissioned for their mission work in Point Pleasant, N.J., for ongoing repairs after Hurricane Sandy.

Full Inclusion Sunday

Each year, we take the opportunity to highlight the importance of inclusion within our congregation, especially as it relates to welcoming and engaging members who identify as LGBTQ.

ELPC will celebrate Full Inclusion Sunday on Nov. 15, with special music provided by members of our resident LGBTQ-friendly choir, The Renaissance City Choir. A new hymn will be premiered with text composed by Pastor Randy for this occasion.

Art Exhibit: Seeking Light

We are pleased to display photography by ELPC member and artist William D. Wade in the Second Floor Parlor. The exhibit—titled Seeking Light—will open with a reception following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Nov. 15, and run through mid-December.

William D. Wade (Bill) has been a long-time photographer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and, before that, The Pittsburgh Press. His art work has been shown regionally—frequently with the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh—as well as nationally and internationally, occasionally in mediums other than photography.

Stop by and view his work any time the church is open.

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Reaching Out  •  November 2015

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

Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle
Nov. 1: Joint Class with Seekers
Nov. 8 | 15 | 29: Reinhold Niebuhr as Preacher
Professor Stone has learned in his retirement that the reading of good sermons provides the best guide—other than worship at ELPC—for the development of his Christian life. This month, he will share with us three sermons by Reinhold Niebuhr, America’s greatest theologian of the 20th Century. Professor Stone served as his assistant from 1966 until his final retirement in 1969, continued as a friend until his death, and preached his memorial sermon in 1971.

Nov. 8: The Providence of God, based on Matthew 5:43–48
Nov. 15: Humor and Faith, based on Psalm 2:4
Nov. 29: We See Through a Glass Darkly, based on I Corinthians 13

Following Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, we will use Dr. Kenneth Bailey’s scholarship to peel away centuries of Greek, Roman, and European paint from the birth narrative of Jesus, to reveal the classic story within. Pete Murray will begin our four-lesson series, which will conclude on Jan. 17.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God—Ruth 1:16. The lectionary cycle of readings ends with stories of marginalized women—a foreigner, a poor widow, a childless wife. They love steadfastly and become pivotal figures for our faith, our history, and the Advent of our Lord. Come join us.

Nov. 1: Ruth 1:1–18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11–14; Mark 12:28–34
Facilitator: Lora Bethea

Nov. 8: Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24–28; Mark 12:38–44
Facilitator: Jan Irvin

Nov. 15: 1 Samuel 1:4–20; 1 Samuel 2:1–10; Hebrews 10:11–25; Mark 13:1–8
Facilitator: Mary Lynn Callahan

Facilitator: Jan Irvin

Facilitator: Mark Blank

Seekers  Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
Nov 1: Update on EECM Community House
What is happening at Community House? How are their services going? What new services are being offered? Rev. Kellie Wild, program director, will answer these questions.

Was Jesus human, divine, or both (and how did that work)? How did the early Christians understand the nature of Jesus? Rebecca I. Denova, Ph. D., will help us examine these questions. Dr. Denova teaches Early History of Christianity in the Department of Religious Studies at Pitt.

Nov. 8: Jewish Monotheism in the Greco-Roman World
Ancient Jews proclaimed monotheism, but they were polytheists. We will examine the historical, religious, and cultural context of Second Temple Judaism and their pagan neighbors, regarding their understanding of “divinity.”

Nov. 15: The Sayings of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels
Did Jesus himself claim to be God? We will explore the context of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and examine if and how the writers inferred or directly claimed divinity for Jesus.

Nov. 22: Paul, the 4th Gospel of John, and the Road to Nicea
The letters of Paul reveal the earliest beliefs of the divinity of Jesus. But how did Paul the Pharisee reconcile this with his own views of Judaism? The gospel of John claims that Jesus pre-existed as a co-creator with God before his earthly manifestation. How did the claims of both come to be finalized at Nicea?

Nov. 29: Discussion about How Jesus Became God
What does our church teach us about Jesus as God? What do we make of what we heard the past three weeks? Pastor Randy will answer our questions. During Dr. Denova’s talks and your reading, make note of any questions you have.

Soul Food  Third Floor Music Room
Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members
November: Chapters 3–5 of An Altar in the World
We will finish chapter 3 and discuss chapters 4 and 5 of An Altar in the World, by Barbara Brown Taylor. New participants are always welcome.

Young Adults  Session Room
Facilitator: Wil Forrest
Nov. 15: Finding Jesus on the Margins
Come seek Jesus on the margins in light of a common reading experience, The Cross in the Closet.
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat., Nov. 7: Touring Robert Morris University
Interested high-school students are welcome to join us for an open house at Robert Morris University. We will check out their 230-acre campus; meet faculty members; talk to current students; and get a first-hand look at RMU’s residence halls, classrooms, athletic venues, and other facilities. We will meet at ELPC at 9 am, and we should return at about 2:30 pm.

Sat., Nov. 7 | 14 | 21: Youth Basketball 5–8 pm
Students in grades 9–12 are invited to play basketball in the ELPC Gym.

Sun., Nov. 8: DG2! at GCF
Students in grades 4–12 are invited to join Doing Good Together! (DG2!)—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—for a day of service at Garfield Community Farm. We will meet for lunch at ELPC at 12:30 pm, travel to the farm to work, and then return to ELPC at 3:30 pm. A permission slip is required and can be found on the youth calendar page at ELPC.church.

Sun., Nov. 15: Confirmation Class 12:30–3:30 pm
Confirmation Class will meet in the Second Floor Parlor. We will ask, “Who is Jesus?” We also will discuss Jesus as savior, teacher, healer, and redeemer.

Fri., Nov. 20: Guys Night Out: Fry-day 5 pm
Boys in grades 6–8 are invited to dinner on Fry-day, Nov. 20. Dinner will be fried, but the conversation will be healthy! For more information, talk to Wil Forrest.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Nov. 6: First Friday @ Northside Common Ministries
Join other area young adults and the residents in the homeless shelter for a simple Taizé worship experience beginning at 7 pm. Afterward, we will have some dinner and drinks. Learn more about Northside Common Ministries at NCMin.org.

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.

Reaching Out • November 2015
Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

**HEALTH ALERT**

Influenza

Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection that can cause severe illness and can be potentially fatal! Getting an annual flu vaccine is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older. This year, the Allegheny County Health Department is offering a high-dose flu vaccine that is four times more concentrated than the regular flu shot, and is available only for seniors 65 years of age and older.

Visit ACHD.net/flu or check your local pharmacy to get more details. Also, read about the 2015–16 flu season at CDC.gov/flu/about/qa/flushot.htm.

Feeling Crafty?

**Knitting Group:** Join us on Tues., Nov. 3, from 1–3 pm, in Room 244. Yarn donations are appreciated. Help us fill The Chapel Market Christmas tree with small gifts for their shoppers to share.

**Toy Makers:** All handy crafters are invited to join us in the Sewing Room on Wed., Nov. 4 and 18, from 9 am–12 pm, for fellowship and crafts, as we construct toys for children.

**Sewing Group:** You asked for it! We are expanding our hours for those who must come later after work or school. We will meet in the Sewing Room on Mon., Nov. 16, from 2–8 pm, on a drop in basis. We will make items for The Chapel Market Christmas Tree. All skills levels are welcome.

Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at 412.441.6021 or dnjcks@verizon.net.

Presbyterian Women

*Come to the Waters Bible Study* Second Floor Parlor

Mon., Nov. 2 7 pm  |  Tues., Nov. 3 10 am

Join us for our lesson, “Absence of Water—Thirst and Longing,” based on Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 42:1–2, 63:1; and John 19:28. We have dry spells in our lives—our bodies and our souls thirst. How do we survive times of little or no water?

A pot luck lunch will follow the Tuesday Bible study; please bring a snack or salad to share. We welcome all women and men.

Spiritual Life

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

**Sun., Nov. 8 | 15: Images of God** 12:15–3 pm

What is your image of God like? We will explore how we think about who God is following Sanctuary worship in the Music Room. We will begin by looking at how God is portrayed in our culture—both secular and Christian.

- First, on Sun., Nov. 8, we will look at representations of God in the movies. We will watch movie clips and discuss how God is portrayed, and how that image agrees or disagrees with our personal image of God.
- Then on Sun., Nov. 15, come together for a good old fashioned hymn sing—with a twist. We will take a look at the images of God in our favorite hymns and how those hymns may have shaped our own beliefs.

**Sat., Nov. 14: Experience Healing & Wholeness** 9 am–4 pm

Gestalt Pastoral Care is rooted in the Christian ministry of healing, and integrates Gestalt growth work, spiritual companioning, and prayer for healing. This work rests on the belief that God’s grace is constantly at work in each person. Although we can’t predict how you will be healed, you can expect to be touched in body, mind, spirit, emotions, and social/relational context in a process unique to you.

Betty F. Voight, M.Div., will be our leader. Betty is an ordained minister in the PC(USA). Her vocation for the past 20 years has been to guide others on their spiritual journeys through individual spiritual companioning, prayer retreats, spiritual formation work and inner healing workshops.

Visit the church website for more information on Betty and Gestalt Pastoral Care.

**Sat., Nov. 21: Silent Saturday** 9 am–4 pm

Our monthly Silent Saturdays are an open, flexible opportunity to pray in silence surrounded by community, whether you are a beginner at being in silence or a long-time meditator. Feel free to quietly come and go at any time; participate in shared prayer fully, partially, or not at all; explore creative opportunities, the beauty of the Courtyard, or the devotion of the Chapel.

Refreshments will be available in the Parlor throughout the day. Come and experience the community, peace, and power of shared silence! See the website or Spiritual Life Bulletin Board for a breakdown of our schedule.

Influenza

Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection that can cause severe illness and can be potentially fatal! Getting an annual flu vaccine is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older. This year, the Allegheny County Health Department is offering a high-dose flu vaccine that is four times more concentrated than the regular flu shot, and is available only for seniors 65 years of age and older.

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**LGBTQ Ministry**

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

Our next business meeting will be at 12 pm, on **Sun., Nov. 29**, and our monthly spiritual gathering will begin with lunch at 1 pm.

To learn more about ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**. All people are welcome!

*God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.*

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**Mission Matters**

*The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Director of Mission Ministries*

- **The Chapel Market Begins Second Season**
  The Chapel Market is accepting new or gently used fall and winter clothes on Mondays, from 10 am–12 pm, and Thursdays, from 6–8 pm. Men’s casual clothes, shoes, and jackets are needed. If you would like to volunteer, email **TheChapelMarket@gmail.com** or contact Kelli Booher or Fran Wilson. The Market is located by ELPC’s Whitfield Street entrance.

  A hearty *Thank you* to congregation members, community friends, and volunteers for making our first season a success! From April–September, more than **1,000 shoppers** (mostly from the East Liberty area) visited the Market and selected more than **4,800 articles of donated clothing**.

- **New Dining Ministry for OHM**
  The Neighbors Committee has started a ministry to serve dinners for the participants of the Circles program of Open Hand Ministries. The participating families are working on goals with allies to improve their lives—and many families are preparing for homeownership!

  ELPC will provide dinner on **Tues., Nov. 10**, and again in February. We need folks to help prepare and serve a delicious and nutritious dinner! If you are able to help in any way, contact Henry Petrilli at **hlp615@gmail.com** or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30**.

- **Shop! in the Name of Love!**
  ELPC is teaming up with Ten Thousand Villages to raise money for the ELPC Thanksgiving Food Ministry. Ten Thousand Villages is an independent, nonprofit organization that supports artisans from around the globe by establishing a sustainable market for their products in North America.

  This event offers a great opportunity to support these artisans and those in our midst who are in need this Thanksgiving season. Join us on **Tues., Nov. 17**, from 6–8 pm, at Ten Thousand Villages (5824 Forbes Ave.) to get your Christmas shopping started early and help make this event a success. We have had a great turnout for this event in the past, and look forward to another busy night.

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**ELPC People**

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

**Good News**

Join us in congratulating **Alexandra Siobhan Harries***, daughter of Kent Harries and Cara Lynn Jones-Harries Melnick, who was baptized on Oct. 4.

**Prayers**

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

- Connie Rankin, an ELPC member
- Rachel D’Abruzzo’s mother. Rachel is Gabe D’Abruzzo’s wife.

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**Christmas Decorating**

You’re invited to help with our annual holiday decorating on **Sun., Nov. 29**, following Sanctuary worship.

We’ll have a variety of activities, from sorting ornaments to hanging wreaths. No experience is necessary!

When we’re done, we’ll celebrate our festive setting with holiday cookies, provided by the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee.
“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 Great Exchange: Play**

Following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 1**, folks of all ages are invited to the Great Exchange in the Music Room. Together, across the generations, we will explore fun and important questions about our theme of “play.” We will share lunch and our life experiences and stories with one another.

This event is co-sponsored by the Young Adult and Health Ministries.

**Musical Notes for November**

On **Sat., Nov. 21**, our **Cathedral Concerts** series continues with performances by some of our talented Hope Academy teaching artists. The concert will be in the Chapel and begin at 5 pm. For a full list of performers, please visit **ELPC.church**.

Then on **Sun., Nov. 22**, our resident brass ensemble, The Brass Roots, will be with us at Sanctuary worship.

**Examine our Stained Glass**

Enjoy an opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary stained glass windows in our Sanctuary and Chapel.

Elder Penn Hackney will provide a 45-minute tour following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 8**. Meet below the Pulpit.

**Annual Thanksgiving Feast**

Following worship on **Sun., Nov. 22**, join us in the Social Hall for a turkey luncheon with all the trimmings!

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share (sign up outside the East Transept on Sun., Nov. 8 and 15). Label all dishes with your name. Serving utensils are not needed.

If you are interested in volunteering with setup, serving, or cleanup, contact Wil at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**.