Building Our Future: A Groundbreaking Event

After years of planning, ELPC’s long-awaited renovations are finally underway. It is important to kick-off this project and dedicate these efforts with a time of prayer and celebration. As Mother’s Day was the auspicious date of dedicating the ELPC cathedral back in 1935, it is appropriate to pick that same date for our “groundbreaking event” for the current renovations.

Following our Sanctuary worship service on Sun., May 14, gather outside the church on the Whitfield St. side for a brief program and time of prayer, as we continue to “build our future” by maintaining and improving our church for present day and future ministries.

Hannah Price Photo Exhibition

ELPC is proud to host a month-long photo exhibition by noted photographer Hannah Price, beginning on Sat., May 13. Her works will be on display in the Second Floor Parlor. Stop by for a reception on the evening of Sat., May 13, meet the artist, and see her compelling works that touch on issues of gender, race, and justice in America today.

Born in 1986, Price is internationally known for her project City of Brotherly Love (2009–2012), a series of photographs of the men who catcalled her on the streets of Philadelphia. In 2014, Price graduated from the Yale School of Art MFA Photography program. Over the past six years, Price’s photos have been displayed in several cities across the U.S., with a few residing in the permanent collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

On Staten Island, there’s an Italian restaurant called “Enoteca Maria.” Actually, it is only half an Italian restaurant, because the other half of the menu changes daily. The fixed half is Italian, but the rest features different cuisines from around the world. And best of all, these specialty menu offerings are not prepared by professional chefs; they’re cooked by grandmothers. This “international house of grandmothers” is wildly popular. People have to make reservations weeks in advance.

Here’s how it works: Every night a “nonna” (Italian for “grandmother”) from a different country puts together a menu honoring her native cuisine. During a week, you may see food from Sri Lanka, Armenia, the Philippines, Russia, or Japan. Everything’s made fresh and is literally “home-cooked” by a grandmother. There are also one-on-one cooking classes pairing guests alongside these “nonnas.” The beauty of this restaurant is that, whether you are working back in the kitchen and enjoying a meal seated in the restaurant, there is an overall, vibrant exchange of culture, stories and recipes.

I really like several aspects of this creative New York City restaurant. I love the idea of literal grandmothers working side-by-side in the kitchen, preparing home-cooked meals from vastly different cultures. I love the idea of sitting down at a table and finding out I could have lasagna or Japanese gyoza and shrimp dumplings; and that if I came back two days later, I could try Polish food.

We just celebrated Easter a few weeks ago. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled his prophetic role through death on a cross and then being resurrected from the grave. He is now revered as Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. If we are to appreciate this good news at all, it has to be on Jesus’ terms, not our own. This is not an event we can pick and choose the details we like or the theological assertions we approve of. The Easter resurrection is part of our Christian heritage, codified in the four gospels, delineated through various confessions and creeds, and reaffirmed in annual celebrations and Sunday services in churches the world over. This is not to say that the resurrection is easily understood by our rational minds. It’s not. It is meant to be mysterious, awe-inspiring, troubling-amazing-challenging-comforting all at once.

So how can we best approach the wonder of Easter and the promise of resurrection hope that it announces to the world? There are lots of ways to do this, but without getting too academic or technical, here’s one option: Easter is like a meal served at a restaurant whose menu you didn’t choose, but whose offerings you trust as if they come from a loving grandmother’s kitchen. It is a “letting go” of the normal way of doing things—demanding service from waiters, itemizing precisely what we want to eat, calculating the costs and paying bills down to the necessary pennies—and instead, simply enjoying a meal provided out of love and guaranteed to expand our perspective beyond the limits of our own little cultural setting.

God loves lasagna and pierogis and gyoza. Christ has been raised as Lord of all. Shouldn’t our meals and our lives better reflect this rich, diverse perspective? For of such, is the Kingdom of God.
Mission Matters
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

Sun., June 4: The Consumer Health Coalition Presentation 12:30 pm
The Consumer Health Coalition is engaged in an initiative to increase understanding of risks, symptoms, screening guidelines, and resources for screening and treatment for breast and cervical cancers within our community.

This presentation will briefly overview what breast and cervical cancers are, how they may affect each individual personally, and what one can do to act on the risk factors in their own life. The focus will be on the resources available for different types of individuals, who may be struggling to afford care, to access services for screening and treatment. Individual assistance will be available for those who need help getting insurance or paying for screenings or treatments.

ELPC Session Updates
At their April meeting, the Session completed three very significant tasks on behalf of the congregation.

- The Session elected officers of the church corporation to bring us into compliance with our bylaws, giving them authority related to official church contracts.
- The renovation project scope, budget and contract with Landau Construction was reviewed, discussed, and approved—followed by a time of prayer re-dedicating all of us to ministry in this location for generations to come.
- The incoming class of elders and deacons were examined by the Session and duly approved for ordination and installation during upcoming Sunday worship services.

It’s Been 10 Years Since The East End Blitz
An Update from Open Hand Ministries

Please join the Mission Board and Neighbors Committee on Sun., May 21, at 12:30 pm, as the Rev. Michael Stanton, executive director of Open Hand Ministries (OHM), updates us on the impact of OHM in East Liberty and Garfield.

ELPC is a founding church of OHM, which was established in 2008, following the success of the 2007 East End Blitz. OHM reflects the desire of several neighborhood churches to develop an ongoing ministry to address the injustices of unequal access to wealth-building activity (such as home ownership), create neighborhood stability, and break the cycles of poverty. OHM promotes social justice in our community by helping families become wealth-builders, rehabilitating vacant properties, and remaining in supportive relationships with families after they become homeowners.

In the last 10 years, OHM has:

- **Helped 12 families** become homeowners;
- **Assisted more than 16 families** through family development programs; and
- **Rehabbed more than 20 properties** in East Liberty and Garfield.

OHM’s work to provide affordable housing in our changing neighborhoods is an important part of East Liberty’s overall development plan. ELPC supports OHM through yearly mission grants, volunteers for work days and family development programs, and board membership.

For details about this program, email Emily Rosenthal at ejr116@gmail.com or call Pastor Patrice at 412.441.3800. For more information about OHM, visit OpenHandPgh.org. To learn more about housing development in East Liberty, visit EastLiberty.org.

Construction’s Underway:
What To Know
The long-awaited renovation work at ELPC has finally begun! This will be a significant project affecting three floors of the building and several of the exterior entrances. Construction is scheduled to be completed in a 10-month time period, barring any unforeseen delays.

The sequence of work will begin with the Whitfield Entrance and Ground Floor improvements first, with work on the Second Floor offices and work spaces happening this summer. Renovations on the First Floor will likely begin this fall.

Throughout this time of construction, your patience, prayers and flexibility will be greatly appreciated. Programs and events will largely continue as planned, although rooms hosting the events or pathways to the events may at times be different than normal.

If you have specific questions, contact Pam Kimmel, business administrator, at 412.441.3800 x118.
Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor  
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle  
May 14: Restoring Addicted and Marginalized People to Productive, Independent Lifestyles
Betel began in Madrid, Spain, about three decades ago, when a small group of missionaries began to care for a few drug addicts and marginalized people. Today, more than 100 Betel communities in 24 nations serve 2,400 individuals. Elliott Tepper, International Director of Betel International, will talk about how Betel works to restore personality through the Gospel.

May 21: The Confession of 1967: Reconciliation Responds to Grace  Part 1
Paul Seif, MDiv, begins a two-week series on the Reformed Confessions: a Public Witness to Grace. In this session, we will observe how the Confession of 1967 reaffirms God's heart for all God's people in a season of dynamic social change—America in the 1960s.

In this session, Paul Seif will lead us as we witness how central themes at the heart of the Gospel—faith in “Christ Alone” and not in the nations and their leaders; grace for all God’s people and not a select few—are reimagined and reaffirmed within our century’s collective darkest hour—Europe under the Nazi threat.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library  Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin
Do not let your hearts be troubled...In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.—John 14:1–2. In the risen Christ, followers hear of the assurance of eternal life so that they may be encouraged to patiently witness to the kingdom of God and the gospel—to journey in paths of justice, steadfast love, and faithfulness. Love crosses continents and careers to places unimagined. Join us as we reflect on Easter season scripture:

May 14: Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16; 1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

Seekers  Room 234  Facilitator: Gwen Puza
May 14: Science & Religion in Dialogue
The big questions of science today deserve to be discussed in light of the big questions of our faith. Join Pastor Randy and ELPC member and physicist Ayres Freitas as they dialogue about intriguing subjects such as matter/anti-matter, dark matter, particle physics, and how what we’re learning about our universe deepens our appreciation for and faith in God the Creator.

May 21: Our Place and Responsibility in Cosmic Evolution
Evolutionary philosopher Brian Swimme’s award-winning film, Journey of the Universe, tells of our living Earth, and the drama of the origins of life. He shows how we humans developed as the mind and heart of the universe, a partner to the sun and stars, and our responsibility to align our consciousness with the cosmic evolution. As Christians, we can ask how the hands of God worked/work in this drama.

May 28: Making a New Life in America
We will hear from a panel of refugees about how they have made new lives in our country. Panelists will include a former Sudanese refugee who has been here for more than 15 years and is a strong example of how refugees go on to be successful citizens. We’ll also hear from a Rwandan refugee who arrived last year and has been extremely successful in her short time here. Bhutanese, Burmese, and Iraqi refugees also may join us. Our moderator will be Jaime M. Turek of Northern Area Multi-Service Center (NAMSC)—Community Assistance and Refugee Settlement.

Soul Food  Third Floor Music Room  Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu
May: Exploring Spiritual Growth
We will discuss topics relating to spiritual growth that are of interest to our participants, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

Young Adults  Pastor’s Conference Room  Facilitator: Wil Forrest
May 21: Celebration and Prayer Time
Over breakfast, we will celebrate graduations and transitions, and then end with some group prayer time.
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

**Wed., May 17: Sr. High Mission Trip Meeting**  5–7 pm
The Senior High Mission Trip team is required to attend this meeting to plan meals, devotions, theme, t-shirts, and fun activities for our week in New York City.

**July 23–29: Trinity Youth Conference**
TYC is a regional Presbyterian leadership conference for youth who have completed grade 9 through college-age students at Living Waters Camp in Schellsburg, Pa. The week will be full of faith formation, intentional Christian community, play, worship, and thoughtfulness. Information about cost, workshops, registration, and schedule can be found at TrinityYouthConference.org.

**Attending a Summer Mission Trip?**
Youth who are attending one of our summer Mission Trips should return their completed registration form and a $25 deposit by **Wed., May 10**. For registration and scholarship forms, please contact Sara Hackett.

**Junior High Mission Possible**
Youth in grades 6–8
Crestfield Camp
July 9–14

**Senior High Mission Trip**
Youth in grades 8–12
New York City
Aug. 6–12

**Coming Soon for Youth**
For complete details, please see the youth calendar at ELPC.church.

**Mission Trip Commissioning**
Sun., July 9

**Junior High Mission Possible**
Sun.–Fri., July 9–14

**Trinity Youth Conference**
Sun.–Sat., July 23–29

**Senior High Mission Trip**
Sun.–Sat., Aug. 6–12

**Faith Night at PNC Park**
Thurs., Aug. 17

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**LGBTQ Ministry**

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Our next Spiritual Gathering will be held on **Sat., May 20**, from 4–6 pm. During this monthly meeting, we will share fellowship, make final plans for summer activities, and share our stories. All people are welcome!

To learn more or to get involved in our LGBTQ Ministry, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

God created you.
God loves you.
Be yourself.

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**Young Adult Ministry**

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

**Fri., May 12: (Not) First Friday @ Inside Out**  7 pm
For the first time, TRAIL will meet on the second Friday of the month. We’ll go inside to be outside, while we enjoy an evening in the ELPC Garth (courtyard) as we share food, fellowship and watch a movie together.

YAM is for you, and your friends are welcome too! For details, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

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Register Now For VCS
Registration is open for our 2017 Vacation Church School program, which will run Mon.–Fri., June 26–30, from 9 am–3 pm. Hurry, spots are filling fast!

This year’s theme will be Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed, and we will explore the spiritual treasure of Jesus’ teachings to us through the stories he tells his disciples, called parables. Our days will be filled with worship, games, Bible study, art, reflection and lots of fun!

Children, ages 4–grade 5 (completed), are invited to attend as campers. Registration forms for campers are available at ELPC.church and on the Christian Education bulletin boards.

Presbyterian Women
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

Bible Study: Who is Jesus? Second Floor Parlor
Mon., May 1 7 pm | Tues., May 2 10 am
Join us as we complete our study by examining Who is Jesus according to Contemporary Cultural Interpretations? A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday study, with soup and beverages provided. Please bring a table setting and soup bowl, as well as a side to share. Childcare is available by request for the Tuesday study.

Collecting for Our Community
Presbyterian Women will continue accepting diaper donations for our community’s youngest members, and also will be collecting healthcare toiletries for women who are seeking sanctuary from the streets.

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

Thurs., May 4 & 18: Book and Video Study 6:30–8 pm
Continued on Thurs., June 1
Evolution, Creation, Black Holes, and Incarnation! Oh My! Join us for our ongoing conversation as we explore the connections between science and religion. We are reading Teilhard’s Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution by Kathleen Duffy (Orbis Books, 2014), and watching videos by Ilia Delio and Brian Swimme as the basis for our conversation. Haven’t read the book? No worries! Come anyway!

Fri.–Sun., June 16–18: Teilhard’s Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ
Mark your calendar now for a retreat guided by Teilhard’s Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ. Our retreat will be led by Dr. Kathleen Duffy—a Sister of St. Joseph (S.S.J.) and a professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College, where she directs the Interdisciplinary Honors Program and the Institute for Religion and Science. More information will be available soon!

Explore Your Spiritual Life at ELPC

Centering Prayer
Tuesdays, 7–7:20 pm
Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this prayer method is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ. Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room.

Cathedral Yoga
Wednesdays, 6–7 pm
Practice prayerful yoga in our beautiful Gothic Sanctuary. Please bring your own mat. Yoga is free, but donations are appreciated.

Contemplative Prayer
Wednesdays, 8–8:20 pm
Join Susan Spangler in the Prayer and Meditation Room as we engage in this ancient prayer form together. Both those who are new to meditation and those with experience are heartily welcome.

Calling All Volunteers
We are in need of additional volunteers for VCS. Is God calling you to assist with crafts or help in the gym for a day? Is the Spirit nudging you to offer an afternoon of your time to help facilitate one of our afternoon activity stations? Has God placed it on your heart to be a teacher’s helper for the whole week or to help in the kitchen for just a few hours?

If so, we need your help! Fill out a registration form, which can be found at ELPC.church and on the Christian Education bulletin boards, and return it to Gloria Knopp.
Thank You, From The Schoenewolfs
We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Presbyterian Women (PW) and the whole ELPC congregation for the amazing baby shower held in anticipation of our son's birth. We are grateful for PW’s dynamic planning team for hosting such a spectacular event, and remain overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity, love and support from our entire church family during this exciting time. Thank you all!

Thank you also for donating 4,705 diapers to the Diaper Bank in honor of our family. We are deeply touched that a celebration for our child has had such a wonderful impact on other children and families in our community. We are truly blessed to be a part of the ELPC community, and can’t wait for our son to meet you all!

With love and gratitude,
Heather and David

Better Choices, Better Health Workshop
Are you an adult who is experiencing on-going health issues, or a caregiver who is responsible for taking care of family or friends? If so, the Membership and Outreach Committee is offering a free Better Choices, Better Health workshop in the mornings of Tuesdays, May 2–June 6. Attendees can learn workable techniques in managing their day-to-day responsibilities. To register, call Carla Coles at 412.661.1363.

How Are You Serving This Summer?
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs
With so much happening throughout summer, now is a good time to look at your schedule and think about how you will fit some service in between vacations and working in your own yard. Here are some of this summer’s opportunities:

Witness to God’s inclusive love at ELPC’s PrideFest Booth on Sat., June 10, between 12–5 pm, and Sun., June 11, from 1–7 pm.

Sweat as you help our neighbors at workdays with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 am–3 pm.

Volunteer to help at our Vacation Church School program, Mon.–Fri., June 26–30.

Celebrate your faithful work at the Summer Celebration of Service on Thurs., Aug. 17.

Visit ELPC.church/programs/ISERVE to read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities! For more information or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

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

Good News
Congratulations to Brynn Allison Beth Barker, daughter of Taylor Goodson and Joseph Barker, who was baptized on March 26.

Thanks
The ELPC Justice Committee thanks the congregation for demonstrating strong support in response to the hateful and negative communications and actions recently received by our friends, sisters, and brothers at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh (ICP). The letter, which was signed by the congregation following worship on April 2, was delivered to ICP prior to Holy Week.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
- William Nicholson’s mother, Irene Nicholson
- Steve Evrard’s mother, Susan Evrard
- Tim Englehardt’s grandmother
- Deborah Marx’s cousin, Eileen Carlins
- Justin and Florence Johnson’s niece and Bill Johnson’s cousin, Allison

Thank you also for donating 4,705 diapers to the Diaper Bank in honor of our family. We are deeply touched that a celebration for our child has had such a wonderful impact on other children and families in our community. We are truly blessed to be a part of the ELPC community, and can’t wait for our son to meet you all!

With love and gratitude,

Heather and David
Exploring ELPC’s Stained Glass

On Sun., May 21, join Elder Penn Hackney following Sanctuary worship for a 45-minute guided tour of the incredible stained glass windows in ELPC’s Sanctuary and Chapel.

Designed and created by eight Pittsburgh stained glass shops during the 1930s, the windows tell many of the Biblical stories, as well as the history of Presbyterianism and our faith.

Experience A Space Odyssey

On Fri., May 26, from 7:30–9 pm, The Brass Roots and organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore will join forces for a sonic spectacular of music for brass and organ. The concert will open with the iconic sounds of Richard Strauss’ “Also Sprach Zarathustra” (featured in 2001: A Space Odyssey). Also featured will be arrangements from Star Trek, Star Wars, and Superman by Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra trombonist James Nova.

This performance is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be received.

Building Closed

The ELPC office will be closed all day for Memorial Day on Mon., May 29. The office will reopen on Tues., May 30.

Want Reaching Out In Your Email?

Did you know you can sign up to receive Reaching Out via email? Visit ELPC.church/elpc-news/newsletters to sign up. Each issue will be delivered to your inbox prior to the end of the preceding month. Our apologies for delays with the April issue.