

Annual Report 2017



**East
Liberty
Presbyterian
Church**


The Cathedral of Hope

ELPC MISSION STATEMENT

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 refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- 1. Engagement, Participation & Contribution by All of Us**
Welcomed, loved, fortified and taught, we embrace a wide diversity of opportunities to work and serve.
- 2. Spiritual Development and our Shared Spiritual Life**
Ever open to yearning spirits and questioning minds, we celebrate the journey and spiritual development of people of all ages who seek God’s presence.
- 3. Community Outreach: Ministry Outside the Cathedral Walls**
Through dynamic and respectful relationships, we work to nurture, strengthen, inspire and blaze trails for our East Liberty community and the world.
- 4. The Cathedral as a Place for Praise and Nurture**
ELPC aspires to provide a place that is easy to use for the new person as well as those who are familiar, for young and old alike, those with disabilities and those made shy by its grandeur.



PALM SUNDAY— March 25 - 11 AM
HOLY WEEK SERVICES:
Taizé Prayer—March 28—7 PM
Maundy Thursday—March 29—7 PM
Good Friday—March 30
12:00 noon and 7 PM
Holy Saturday—March 31—7PM
EASTER SUNDAY— April 1
8:45 & 11:00 AM



race. Specifically: Session met with leaders from Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople to share politically different perspectives. We read and discussed several chapters in the book Race in a Post-Obama America to explore challenges of progress in anti-racism. We discussed our denomination's Freedom Rising initiative focused on the worsening plight of the African American male. All these activities helped develop the understanding of our leadership and contribute to the determination of related language and activities of our church.

2. **Exploring the intersection of our international and community mission work.** Specifically: Session received an

extensive and moving report from Pastor Patrice on her mission trip to our sister church in Malawi. We considered redeployment of the \$532,000 returned from our long time investment in Oikocredit, the global cooperative and social investor. Session, based on the Mission Board's recommendation, elected to reinvest \$250,000 in ELDI for low income housing support and make the remainder available, on a bridge loan basis, for the renovations, pending making a later decision on a likely investment in a future international project.

3. **Preparing for the future of ELPC.** Specifically: Regularly reviewing and taking actions needed to support the

effective execution of the renovations. Exploring how to live into the renovations (how to use the newly designed space). Planning and executing a retreat to explore new directions in mission, diversity and engagement consistent with ELPC's mission statement ("...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 Congregation can look forward to hearing and engaging on the ideas generated from that recent retreat.

Current Session Members

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Elaine Bellin	Mark DeWitt	John Buckley
Michele Bossers	Jim Eng	David Carl
Charlotte Bush (Youth Elder)	Barbara Griffin	Lynne Chadwick
Andrea Devries	Katelyn Haas-Conrad	Stefani Danes
Patrick Dowd	Jon Walker	Dee Flaherty
Stephen Evrard	Lenore Williams	Kathy Glass-House
Rebecca Gloninger	Eddie Willson	Charles Krimmel
Steve Massey	Isaiah Wilson	Heather Lawrence
Nate Morley		

Current Deacons

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Mary Evrard	Andrea Brown	Carla Coles
David Gilliland	Douglas Cooper	Tucker Ferda
Adylade Krimmel (Youth Deacon)	Elizabeth Gonda	Richard Frederick
Beth Minnigh	Kathy Kiewra	Elaine Phillips
Sonya Morley	Paul Miller	Matthew Stufft (Co-Moderator)
Carol Sharp (Co-Moderator)	Henry Petrilli	Antwone Wright
David Jennings-Smith	Susan Spangler	
Cameron Teacoach		

ELPC ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Prepared for the Annual Congregational Meeting
February 25, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastors

- The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Head of Staff.....1
- The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor.....2
- The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor.....3

Educational Ministries

- Christian Education.....4
- Youth Ministries.....5
- Young Adult Ministries.....6

Finance & Stewardship.....7

Membership & Outreach.....8

- iSERVE.....8
- LGBTQ Ministry.....9
- Toy Makers, Sewing, Knitting Groups.....10

Mission.....11

- Justice.....12
- Neighbors.....12
- Peace.....13

Personnel.....14

Property.....15

- Business Administrator.....15
- Facilities Manager.....16

Spiritual Life.....16

Worship, Music & the Arts.....17

- Music Director & Organist.....17
- Hope Academy.....18


Board of Deacons.....21

Centennial Fund Trustees.....21

Presbyterian Women.....22

Session.....22





**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

116 S Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-3800 www.ELPC.church

pastor – Randy Bush

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Long ago the city of Jerusalem lay in ruins. The protective walls around the city had been torn down as invading armies had pillaged and destroyed the ancient City of David. In time the Jewish people were able to leave the land of their exile and return home. The Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah highlight what it was like when the repair work began, as exemplified in Nehemiah 2:18, where it says this: "Then they said, 'Let us start building!' So they committed themselves to the common good."

This past year has seen the culmination of many years of planning, deliberation, and preparation, as we finally began the "Building Our Future" renovation work on our historic church building. After going through several sets of architectural drawings and months of financial capital campaigns, construction workers began their work in earnest in late April, 2017. We held a groundbreaking event on Mother's Day (May 14), releasing doves and offering up words of prayer that the projects we planned would be safeguarded and blessed by God, the Lord of our House. Since then, we have been pleased with the improvements, blessed by the new spaces and facility upgrades, and grateful for the

generosity of the congregation and philanthropic community that helped finance the renovation work.

Having said that, a tremendous word of gratitude needs to be expressed for the work of the Renovations Committee volunteers and the patience of the entire staff of ELPC. Renovating three floors of an 80+ year old building, while still striving to offer our full range of programs, worship services, and special events, has involved a high level of forbearance and creativity by everyone here. People at the Highland Avenue hospitality desk have tried to answer the phone while jackhammers and drills were being used around them. Administrative assistants and staff have dealt with office relocations, persistent noise, dust, and disruptions to phone and computer service. Housekeeping and maintenance staff has battled the army of workers and the clouds of dust associated with the construction work. And everyone from Hope Academy to 12-Step Groups has had to be incredibly flexible as room availability sometimes changed from week to week. Please find time to thank the staff, volunteers, and regular users of our building for their patient endurance during the disruptive seasons of repair and renovation we have been enduring.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2018, we anticipate the renovation work will be completed sometime in late April or early May, largely on budget and without any significant problems or obstacles

encountered along the way. We are very appreciative of the good work done by our architects at Pfaffmann + Associates, by our contractors at Landau Construction, and by our owner's representative, Craig Stevenson. We hope to have another celebration in early summer once the renovations are complete, giving praise to God for the vision, planning and generosity that made all this possible.

The Nehemiah verse lifts up an important dynamic we need to hold onto as we plan for the coming months. After their enthusiastic shout of "Let's start building!", it notes that they committed themselves to the common good. Soon we will all be moving around in a newly renovated building. Soon existing programs will live into their new spaces, and new programs will find their way into our building and renovated rooms. The church's Bicentennial is on the near horizon (May 2019). And God still has plans for us – calling us to be faithful witnesses, a place of spiritual refuge, and ambassadors of Christ's gospel through justice and radical hospitality. May we all commit ourselves to work for the common good in the coming months, so that people will rejoice with us at the beauty of our renovated space – but even more so, at the sincerity and conviction of our rejuvenated spirits!

Randy



presbyterian women — Sherry Anderson, Moderator

For more than 200 years, Presbyterian Women have strengthened the Presbyterian Church, played a major role in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and witnessed to the promise of God's kingdom. Following are some of our activities in 2017 that nurtured our faith, supported the mission of the church worldwide, worked for justice and peace and built an inclusive and caring community of women:

- Through May of 2017, we continued our Bible study "Who is Jesus?" on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month. Our evening Bible study on the first Monday of each month continues to have a steady turnout. In September, we began "Cloud of Witnesses" an exploration of the community of faith that surrounds us on our faith journey.
- On March 19 we celebrated the anticipated arrival of Noble Martin, son of Pastor Heather and her husband David. The shower brought our women's community -- young and old -- as well as several gentlemen -- together with food, gifts, games and fellowship.
- In March/April, we came together for our overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield.

Sara Hackett was our leader as we explored "Unnamed Women of the Bible." Traditions of church camp food, group hikes, warming by a fire provided by Carol and JoAnn Chonoska, and good snacking for the whole 24 hours supported our feelings of sisterhood in our faith in God and Jesus the Christ.

- May opened with the last of the Mother's Day card sales. The PCUSA PW has made a determination to cease the sales and to explore other mission support options.
- On October 21, we held a Fall Social with the theme "Celebrating the Stages of Women from Diapers to Golden Years" that invited all women of the church to share an evening of fellowship and food, while supporting feminine needs of women of all ages whose economic resources are limited.
- Presbyterian Women thank the congregation for your generous support of our special missions. In November, you contributed over \$3000 to the **Thank Offering**, which supports start-up ministries to address peace and justice. These gifts supplemented PW's annual



Presbyterian Women's Retreat at Camp Crestfield

mission budget of more than \$20,000. The Presbytery **diaper drive** has been an ongoing success, for which we thank members of the congregation. Your faithful donations have brought health and wellness to many of our



community's youngest and most vulnerable members. Our church donated 7,279 diapers to Western PA Diaper Bank. Over 4,700 diapers were received at the baby shower for Pastor Heather and David Schoenewolf. The Presbytery project, "Living in Liberty," continued in 2017 with a drive for health kit contributions and the sewing of tote bags to carry these items for women whose lives are affected by human trafficking. Members of ELPC's PW group have been active in working with individuals in the care centers provided by Living in Liberty.

We look forward to seeing all women of the church participating in our activities. Each of us is a member. We hope you are able to join us for Bible study and upcoming events. For information speak with one of the members of our leadership team.

Leadership Team:

Sherry Anderson (Moderator), Peta Harrigan Cole (Secretary), Kay Shissler and Pat Kimmel (Co-Treasurers), and at-large members Sonya-Marie Morley, Sue Bailey, Evalynn Welling, Cami Teacoach, and Elaine Phillips.

session — John Buckley, Clerk

John Buckley,
Clerk of Session
Lenore Williams,
Deputy Clerk of Session
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush,
Pastor / Moderator of Session

The Session is ELPC's governing council. It currently consists of 25 Elders elected by the Congregation and our three pastors. It

meets for regular and substantive meetings most months and often has special meetings to receive new members and friends or do other specific business associated with its governing role. The body, excluding the pastors and youth elders, also is Trustees of the Corporation.

In addition to basic governance activities, such as administering membership, reviewing the work of the Deacons and the various

committees of the church and directing the use of the Centennial Fund, the Session discusses and deliberates how our faith in God and witness to Christ's love can be incarnated in the ongoing ministry of ELPC.

Strategic activity of special note in 2017 included:

1. **Understanding and forming responses to the currently divisive political/national climate, especially around**

deacons — Carol Sharp and Matt Stufft, Co-Moderators

The Book of Order defines the ministry of Deacons as one of compassion, witness and service. In 2017 the Deacons served in the following ways:

The Card Ministry sent cards to members and friends celebrating milestones, mourning losses, battling illness and/or those who are not able to leave their homes.

The Communion Preparation Committee organized and prepared the elements for the Journey and Sanctuary services each month and for special services throughout the year when communion was served.

The Deacon on Duty (DoD) was available to assist the pastoral staff on Sundays by handling minor emergencies, maintaining communication with the security staff and being available to answer questions. A DoD is available at both the Journey and 11:00 am

worship service.

The Young at Heart Luncheon provided the opportunity to recognize senior members of the congregation celebrating their many years of service and provided an opportunity for fellowship.

The Thanksgiving Project provided food assistance to 50 families in need. In November the Deacons partnered again with 10,000 Villages and received a percentage of the sales for a designated evening in the amount of \$152. The funds raised went toward providing Thanksgiving gift cards to families in need of assistance.

The Giving Tree Project is coordinated by the Deacons but it is through the incredible generosity of the ELPC congregation more than 100 children and families, who might not otherwise have gifts, were provided with more than 200 Christmas gifts.

The Christmas Dinner was held at the EECM Community House providing an evening meal and a time of fellowship. In addition to the stated program activities, the Deacons also supported and participated in new member dinners, offered support and encouragement to members and friends, and sought to respond to the needs within the ELPC congregation and surrounding community.

The Board of Deacons: *Andrea Brown, Carla Coles, Doug Cooper, Mary Evrard, Tucker Ferda, Rick Frederick, David Gilliland, Elizabeth Gonda, Kathy Kiewra, Adelaide Krimmel (Youth), Paul Miller, Beth Minnigh, Sonya Morley, Henry Petrilli, Elaine Phillips, Carol Sharp (co-moderator), David Jennings Smith, Susan Spangler, Matthew Stufft (co-moderator), Cameron Teacoach, Antwone Wright.* **Staff:** *The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy*

centennial fund — Bryan Lawrence, Chair

The Centennial Fund was established in 1919, on the one hundredth anniversary of the Church, to manage the Church's endowment. It is overseen by the Centennial Trustees, some of whom are elected by the Session, others by the congregation.

The vast majority of the endowment funds are invested in publicly-traded securities with a target allocation of 70% in stocks (large-cap, small-cap and international stocks) and 30% in bonds/fixed income investments, and are managed by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. The value of the endowment under management by Gallagher as of December 31, 2017 was \$24,629,792.

That year-end amount under management by Gallagher would have been significantly higher but for the fact that, during the month of December 2017, the Centennial Fund (a) loaned the Church \$1,900,000 in connection with the ongoing renovation project, and (b) invested \$200,000 with the PCUSA's Investment and Loan Program (PILP) in connection with a loan PILP was making to the Church, also in connection with the ongoing renovations. Upon the closing of the PILP loan in January 2018, the Church repaid \$900,000 of

the \$1,900,000 that had been previously borrowed, leaving an outstanding loan balance of \$1,000,000.

In addition to the professionally-managed portion of the endowment, the Centennial Fund has also had a long-standing investment in Oikocredit, USA, which makes micro-loans in impoverished areas of the world. However, as explained in last year's report, due to certain organizational changes at Oikocredit, we are no longer able to invest directly with Oikocredit USA and, as a result, our entire investment of approximately \$572,000 was returned to us in early 2017. Of that amount, the Session decided to loan East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) \$250,000 in order to support ELDI's housing rehabilitation efforts in the East End. The remaining amount returned by Oikocredit has been earmarked for future international investment. In the interim, however, it has been loaned to the Church for use in connection with the ongoing renovations. The Centennial Trustees have also earmarked up to \$1 million for possible investment in the local community pursuant to its Community Investing Criteria. In 2014, the Centennial Fund made its first such investment – a

\$350,000 loan to ELDI, which currently has an outstanding balance of \$153,233.

Taken together, the total amount of the endowment funds, including the amounts loaned to the Church for the renovation project and to ELDI, was \$27,455,025 as of December 31, 2017. This is up significantly from our total endowment of \$25,052,964 at the end of 2016.

That portion of the endowment managed by Gallagher had a very healthy overall return of 16.37% for 2017, and the cumulative annual returns over the past three-year and five-year periods have been 8.82% and 10.71%, respectively. And the endowment has outperformed its benchmark during all of these time periods.

The chair wishes to thank all of the Centennial Trustees for their dedicated service this past year.

Centennial Trustees: Mark DeWitt, Gene Harris, Roberta London, Bryan Lawrence (Chair), Chris Martin, Carolyn Russ and Pam Walaski. **Staff:** The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, Pastor and Pam Kimmel, Business Administrator.

associate pastor – Heather Schoenewolf

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

“God is inside you and everyone else, who was or ever will be...”

If I were making a list of the aspects of ministry that most pastors find to be “fun”, you would find the bullet point “sermon series.” Now, I don't know where it would fall on the list, but I think that it is *fun* to discern the Spirit's lead in the proclamation of the word in new ways. It is *fun* to step out of the realm of the lectionary and preach on texts not traditionally heard in worship. It's *fun* to be creative and incorporate different elements in worship as instruments of God's grace. So it was *fun* when Pastor Randy and I preached a sermon series in Lent of 2017 in which we engaged scripture and proclaimed the Word while including songs in worship from Broadway musicals!

The quote above, from the title song of the musical *The Color Purple* (one of the songs I included in worship during said sermon series) summarizes so much of my experience of pastoral ministry and life in 2017. In ministry, both at ELPC and as



Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery, there were numerous opportunities to both witness God within and acting through others. And, frankly, it was an amazing gift to experience God's blessing within me and through me as I brought our son, Noble, into the world – as it is a gift and privilege to be his mom. (And BOY oh BOY do I see God inside of him!)

In 2017 I witnessed God in the testimonies delivered by graduating seniors on Youth Sunday, through the flexibility of staff and congregants during exciting and challenging building renovations, through the poignant retelling of the Christmas story through our ELPC Sunday Pageant (“The Pageant of Peace”) and through club 116's pageant, that reimagined the story of Christ's birth using Snapchat, shadow puppets and cowboys as shepherds. (Seriously, though, it was one of the most beautiful pageants I've ever seen!) I've experienced God in youth ushers processing forward in worship, silence in the midst of Tenebrae and prayers over the telephone. I've witnessed God as I've moderated Ordination Commissions, participated in meetings about stewardship and generosity within Pittsburgh Presbytery and as a member of the Freedom Rising steering team, and as I have sought to lead the body so that our business together is handled in decent order.

But most remarkably for me were the many ways in which the congregation to whom I minister turned the tables and ministered to me and my family as we welcomed our son into the world. From the Baby Shower in March to countless cards and calls and dinners prepared, we have been truly blessed by the joy of a community who has extended such loving hospitality to our son as he has entered the world. Opening the mailbox would regularly bring me to tears as more cards would arrive welcoming Noble and praying for God's blessing upon him. I am likewise deeply grateful for the privilege of serving alongside such talented and caring colleagues who stepped in to assume my responsibilities during my maternity leave. My husband David and I feel truly blessed to be raising our son within this family of faith, confident that he will learn of a God who is loving, welcoming, and who desires that justice will roll down like waters.

Yes, God is inside you and everyone else, who was or ever will be....Thanks be to God!



associate pastor – Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Associate Pastor The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy



As always, I am thankful and humbled to serve a community of worshipers who embody that which God calls us to do, love God with our hearts, soul, mind and strength and to love neighbor better than we love ourselves. Every individual, committee and board I have the privilege to work with and walk beside has an utmost commitment to people, but most especially to the disenfranchised, underserved and underprivileged.

In addition to continuing as staff support to the ELPC Mission Board, Neighbors, Justice and Peace committees, and the Board of Deacons, I continue to serve on the Board of East Liberty Development, Inc. as president, and on the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Board of Directors as vice-chair. It is a blessing to engage with so many committed individuals in the East End of Pittsburgh. This year, I was asked to chair a Community Engagement Task Force at the Seminary, serving with board members, seminary administrators, staff and faculty to discern the Seminary's relationship to and within a nearby neighborhood that is in transition.

The highlight of my year was the two week mission trip to Malawi, Africa. In July, I traveled with others from the Pittsburgh International Partnership and 2 South Sudanese missionaries to witness to what God is doing in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. Having received a personal and convicting invitation from Abusa (pastor) Mercy in 2016, I felt God's call for me to travel to the land of my ancestors. Not really knowing what to expect when I arrived, I was totally overwhelmed by the outpouring of love shown to all of us when we arrived at the Chileka airport in Malawi after 24 hours of travel. I was immediately showered with gifts of flowers and hugs from Abusa Mercy and the members of ELPC's sister church, Balaka CCAP. I had the opportunity to be the only female Abusa to present at a leadership conference for church leaders while in Blantyre, where we stayed the first few days

of the trip. At the conclusion of the two day conference, I was whisked away to Balaka, where I was greeted by the women of Balaka CCAP with singing, and dancing. I felt like I had found my long lost home. There are far too many experiences to elaborate on, but I would be remiss if I didn't share that the love and hospitality that were lavished upon me was life changing. Being continually materially and spiritually blessed by all those who opened their homes and hearts to me will never be forgotten.

Attending Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace and Justice, in Washington, D.C. has become an annual right of passage for me and other mission committee leadership. The 2017 theme, "Confronting Chaos, Forging Community" focused on the challenges of and solutions to address racism, materialism and militarism. During the Pennsylvania delegation's visit to one of our state senator's office, I shared the heartbreaking story of Martin Hernandez and how his deportation has torn apart his family, leaving his wife, children and mother in the country without him.

I attended Judah Fellowship's "Healing the Hurt Conference" for the first time in 2017 and facilitated a workshop on: *What it Means and How to be an Ally*. Other workshops were facilitated by young and talented, straight, gay and trans persons who are recognized on the national level as proclaimers, organizers and leaders in the LGBTQ and Black Lives Matter communities. I was humbled to be asked to participate with, and I was immeasurably blessed by each of them.

This was a year of new beginnings and transition for the Mission Ministry. I served as the field education supervisor for Gerald McClendon as he completed his associate degree in Social Work. Gerald and I met weekly and I supervised him interacting with and facilitating assistance to people seeking help from ELPC. Almost immediately, Gerald proved to be an asset to the Mission Ministry and ELPC, particularly in the material assistance program. His personality, perception, professionalism and skills learned in academy, as well as being a long-term resident of East Liberty, are real gifts that have added to our ministry of providing

assistance to the community members. After graduating, Gerald was hired to work 16 hours weekly in the mission department, as well as continue his position with maintenance at the church. Gerald facilitates ELPC's financial assistance to members of the community and is responsible for intake at the Chapel Market.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the death of Ron Frye. Ron was a delight and a real asset to the Chapel Market, as he volunteered to be responsible for scheduling volunteers working at the market. Linda and Harold Deiss responded positively to the call to take over the responsibility of scheduling, recruitment and training of the Chapel Market volunteers in remembrance of their dear friend and are continuing to ensure the Market is staffed weekly.

After much prayer and discernment, I acknowledged God's heeding to return to seminary to earn a Doctorate in Ministry. Although my original focus, Urban Change was postponed, I begin matriculating January 2018 in the Parish Leadership Focus. I look forward to the next three years of study and beyond. Without ELPC's staff, Centennial Fund, personnel and session's support, I would not be able to take the time necessary to complete the degree, so I am extremely thankful and grateful.

Lastly, I absolutely must acknowledge all the committed, talented and wonderful people with whom I work directly: members of the Mission Board, Board of Deacons, three Mission Committees, The Chapel Market leadership team, all my colleagues in ministry, including support staff, and in particular, Kate Carlson. She is the person who makes me look good on a regular basis. I give God thanks for all of you and for the opportunity to minister in such a special place, as part of the kingdom of God. I look forward to what 2018 holds.

Patrice Fowler-Searcy



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts ... continues

- Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and Buzzword PGH – Three Perform & Play events for children (ages 0-5) and their families at ELPC
- Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, Warhol Museum, Three Rivers Arts Festival, WYEP – Performance opportunities
- City Theatre, Cultural Trust, Tickets for Kids – Tickets to performances
- Renaissance City Choirs (RCC) – Contribution to scholarship program

PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Besides open classes and recitals at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, public performances by Hope Academy students included the Kelly Strayhorn Theater's MLK; "Youth Invasion," presented by the Andy Warhol Museum; WYEP's Summer Music Festival; Buzzword events and CAPA's Battle of the Bands.

Hope Academy students also received recognition for their artistic work:

- Showcase performance at the City Theatre - "things that GET ME UP in the morning /things that KEEP ME UP at night," a cabaret of stories, poetry and songs, written or selected by HAT Co (Hope Academy teen Theater Company). Pre-show by HAT Co band & post-show performance by HAT Co Jr + lip sync contest and world premiere of HAT Co Jr's puppet music videos ("All by Myself" and "One Day More"). Winners of the 2016 WYEP

Re-Imagination Contest (Henry Schultz, Desmond Rucker, James Jaap, Tomi Olaore, Laela Lumsden, Raffaella Carattino, Kira Mukogosi and Kyra Simmons) recorded an original song by Laela Lumsden at the Church Recording Studio and performed at WYEP events, including the WYEP Summer Music Festival and the Three Rivers Arts Festival.

- Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Contest - Over 1,300 students from 80 different schools competed in Pittsburgh Public Theater's 2017 Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest. Of the 32 Hope Academy students who competed, 3 were selected as finalists: Kira Mukogosi, Maya Burley and Zaida Collins. Nine students received honorable mentions: Augustine McDermott, Ariana Gonzalez-Prier, Madeleine Mocker, Clara Swanson, Saniya Mason, Laela Lumsden, Raffaella Carattino, Kira Mukogosi and Henry Schultz.

- August Wilson Monologue Contest – HAT Co member, Laela Lumsden, represented Pittsburgh in the national finals of the August Wilson Monologue Contest in New York City.
- Of the five full scholarships awarded to Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (based on a community audition), one was awarded to a Hope Academy student.
- Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 - Of the 12 students who received individual coaching and support from Hope Academy staff, all received acceptance

into one of the art forms they applied to and most received acceptance into two.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ARTS ACTIVISM

In response to the political climate, Hope Academy engaged in a number of social justice events as organizers and participants in 2017. A highlight of the year of action was EAST LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL: A Celebration of Diversity on the Eve of the Women's March on Washington at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Over 500 people watched performances, made things together, ate, sang protest songs and marched together, and learned how to support each other and empower those who have been marginalized, especially during the Presidential campaign. Donations were taken to support the work of our artists and our social justice partners, The ACLU and Thomas Merton Center.



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts ... continues

The work of Hope Academy also enhances ELPC's commitment to community mission, community development, and justice and peacemaking ministries; reinforcing ELPC's core identities and image as a church that cares about children. Because Hope Academy is based in a church that has consistently cared about children and youth, students and their families know that they are in a safe place to engage in productive play and live out the values consistent with our faith. Hope Academy offers a different way of doing community development through an emphasis on developing people. When children and youth are involved in constructive activities, they are less prone to involvement in dangerous and self-destructive behavior; making this a safer community in which to live, work, shop and spend recreational time.

While most of Hope Academy's program costs are covered by tuition and substantial grants from foundations, such as The Heinz Endowments, The Grable Foundation and PNC Charitable Trust we also depend on individual donors – many who come from ELPC and others through the Pittsburgh Foundation. To all of the individual donors we extend a special thank you for your commitment to making the arts affordable and accessible – and not a matter of privilege.

Hope Academy would not exist without the operational, facilities and logistical support provided by East Liberty Presbyterian Church – including class and office space, security, maintenance, utilities, insurance, bookkeeping... the list goes on. For this, on behalf of our students and their families, we are proud to present what our work together has achieved.

PROGRAM

- Hope Academy offered a combination of free and low cost performing arts and music courses for children and youth from 3 to 19 years old. Classes were held after school during the week, and on Saturdays.
- Courses included: Musical Theater Workshop (voice, tap dance and acting), Theater/Shakespeare Workshop,

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes (Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet A & B, Ballet 2; Bridge Ballet and Bridge Voice), Music Discovery, Teen Ukulele and Songwriting, Flute Choir, Saxophone and Clarinet Ensemble and four levels of Suzuki Violin.

- A continued expansion of HAT Co (Hope Academy teen Theater Company), a performance-based workshop for teens interested in more intensive singing, instrumental, dancing and acting work
- Private lessons (217 students in 2017) studying violin, viola, cello, piano, bass, clarinet, flute, trumpet, saxophone, classical and electric guitar, ukulele, voice, drum set, percussion, Suzuki violin and Suzuki piano and music composition.
- Course tuition rates were set at \$4.00 per class hour; and private lessons at \$16 per half hour.

INTENTIONAL DIVERSITY

- In an effort to be intentional about serving a greater number of minority and low-income students, half of Hope Academy's scholarships, tuition assistance, and available spots for classes, are reserved for students who qualify as being low income and/or who represent a racial, ethnic or cultural minority. Because we recognize that diversity and individual uniqueness brings vitality to the artistic work that we do, we recruit students from across the spectrums of race, ethnicity, culture, linguistic background, sexual orientation, gender, religion, personal style, appearance, and physical ability, as well as people of diverse opinions, perspectives, lifestyles, ideas, and thinking.
- Because "it is hard to be what you can't see," Hope Academy partnered with and supported cultural organizations that present work by artists of color so that our students have a deeper connection to their own culture, as well as the cultures of others. In 2017 our students participated in a workshops and saw performances of "The Color Purple" and

"In the Heights"; performed onstage with Black Violin; and performed as part of the "John Edgar Wideman Experience."

2017 PARTNERSHIPS

The community problem we address is the lack of opportunity for young people to participate in the arts due to limited resources in their families and cutbacks in the arts programming in school. The strength and uniqueness of our programming is derived from partnerships we have developed with some of the city's finest artists and cultural organizations.

- Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) – Teaching artist and accompanist for four ballet classes a week
- Pittsburgh School for the Choral Arts (PSCA) – Music Discovery class for 5 – 7 year olds
- Chamber Music Pittsburgh – Instrument lending program for violin and cello students, plus tickets for all performances
- WYEP Reimagination – Recording and performance opportunities
- Carnegie Mellon University Drama School (professor, Janet Madelle Feindel) - Coaching for the Pittsburgh Public Theater's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest
- Carnegie Mellon University's Social Change 101 (professor, Nico Slate) – Social justice workshops and support for "things that GET ME UP in the morning / things that KEEP ME UP at night."
- Pittsburgh Public Theater and Bill Nunn Theater Outreach Project – Shakespeare and August Wilson monologue contests
- Poetry Out Loud and Autumn House Press – Poetry Out Loud contest
- Tuff Sound Apprenticeship Program – Sound recording and engineering apprenticeship program for recommended students
- Pittsburgh Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute – Scholarships for summer camps

educational ministries – Sherry Anderson & Heather Lawrence, Co-Chairs for C.E. Eddie Willson, Chair for Youth/Young Adult Ministry

Educational Ministries:

Christian Education Ministry Team

2017 was a year of remarkable events for Christian Education Ministries. Change was the operative word as renovations of person, family, building and key events marked the year.

The personal changes occurred most fabulously for both Pastor Heather and Sara Hackett as each joined the ranks of motherhood. Pastor Heather and her husband, David, welcomed baby Noble Martin in April. Sara's daughter, Brianna, having joined the family in late 2016, became an official member of Sara's family in December, 2017. CE rejoices with these additions to both individual and ELPC families.

Pastor Heather was greatly aided in her ability to take maternity leave by the presence of Sara on our staff. Sara not only maintained her duties as Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, but also assumed many duties assigned to Pastor Heather.

Along with the rest of the congregation, CE was impacted by the changes in the ELPC building as the renovation process affected programming in the fall. Preschool moved to the "Shape Rug Room," adjacent to the nursery space. Classes housed for many years on the third floor moved to the second. And most of the Adult Education classes moved from the second floor to the first floor. As a blessing, the teaching staff maintained its integrity.

The most startling change in the realm of CE scheduling occurred in spring and summer as it was decided that Vacation Church School could not safely proceed with the onset of renovations. Staff sought solutions to the problem in several directions; the final decision was to work with Shadyside Presbyterian as they opened their registration to our families and several staff joined their staff for an energetic week. We are grateful for this opportunity for both families, volunteers and staff to share in a unique VCS experience.

Changes aside, CE individuals, families and staff continue to share in the joys of learning, making new friends, teaching and giving in mission both to our local and global families. We praise God for opportunities to nurture the faith of persons of all ages and feel blessed that our call includes coordinating weekly Church School programs, Extended Session, the provision of Lenten and Advent devotionals, our annual all-church retreat, hosting the Church Picnic, producing the Christmas Pageant, and partnering with other ministries to engage children in worship leadership or mission. We continue to partner with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as we provide internship opportunities to students. Sharron Boddy completed her time with us and Kalyn Stevving joined us in the fall.

We continue to give thanks to God for all the gifts of 2017 -- children, program spaces and creativity in the face of our major renovation efforts.

Christian Education

Ministry Team Members: Sherry Anderson (Co-Chair), Lora Bethea, Trish Buben, Kristine Conley, Margaret Edgecombe,

Dee Dee Frye, Carol Hoehn, Heather Lawrence (Co-Chair), Stephanie Lewand, Elaine Phillips, Jack Phillips. Staff: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf and Sara Hackett, Coordinator for CE and Youth Ministry. PTS Intern: Sharron Boddy and Kalyn Stevving.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Youth Ministries:

The year of 2017 was a great year for Youth Ministries. We continue to see growth in all programs and to solidify our purpose and programming in some of our newest ministries. We have enjoyed watching our youth grow and thrive as they learn about the radical hospitality of Jesus. We've seen great success in programming even as we managed the challenges of building renovations and Pastor Heather going out on maternity leave with Noble for a little while. Sara Hackett and Wil Forrest have truly stepped up as leaders in the development of our youth and young adults. We have worked hard to use both qualitative and quantitative data to drive relationship-building within our church and to ensure that every young person feels like they have a place. We thank God daily for the blessings of being able to facilitate growth in the youth of our church and to help them serve Christ through service to others. Some highlights from 2017 include:

- **Mission trips** – Our Senior High and Junior High groups went on great trips this year. The Senior High group took 10 youth and 5 adults to the Big Apple. They worked and played alongside of each other and built great bonds. The



educational ministries . . . continues

Middle School group took a trip to Camp Crestfield for learning opportunities, fun and faith formation.

- **Club 116** – Club 116 continues to see growth, expansion, and success. The kids and staff have been extremely active and resilient through all the challenges faced with the renovations. We hope to see this ministry grow in 2018. It is a true blessing to see youth of all ages find their place in the church regardless of which program(s) they come to.
- **Church School** – Church school has been incredibly successful as the Junior High group has delved into some deep Bible study topics and the Senior High met with the YAMs throughout the month of October to explore the issue of race in the church. Since then, the class has mixed 2 curricula to really explore the relationship between Faith and Science. We are grateful for the delightful teachers who care for our youth each week: Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, Jen and Eddie Willson, Damon Bethea, Bill Johnson, & Sara Hackett.
- **Food 4 Thought Mentoring** – The Food 4 Thought mentoring program continues to build upon all that we're learning from week to week. We were on hiatus during the Fall, but we are restarting in the Spring of 2018. We have seven mentor-mentee partnerships who are working on developing meaningful relationships, while also exploring the world through food each Thursday night.
- **Doing Good Together** – DG2 is a ministry that was brand new in 2016 and we've really seen it find its place in the

church during 2017. We partner with Rodef Shalom to find ways to celebrate culture and religion from multiple perspectives, while also serving the community.

- **College Student Outreach** – 2017 was another year of trying to bridge the gap between youth life and college life. We sent care packages to many of our youth alumni away at college and even hosted a college dinner over winter break. This small but mighty ministry is becoming a staple of our outreach and we hope to see it grow and flourish in 2018.
- **Tween Events** – Our Tweens ministry really began to take off this year. The youth went snow tubing, bowling, had a game night, a retreat at Crestfield, and several other enjoyable events. It is a pleasure to see this group of children who are growing into young adults bring their high level of joy and energy into everything they do.
- **30 Hour Famine** – The 30 hour famine was a huge success again this year. We had more than 30 participants this year. We played games, did a Syrian Refugee - choose your own adventure style simulation. We watched the White Helmets documentary which does a nice job of showing what it is like to remain in Syria. The documentary heartwarmingly portrays the Syrian people (men mostly), and shows Muslims talking about how their faith calls them to help those in need rather than fight. We did a Bible study on what it means that God is a refuge and shopped for items requested by Catholic Charities for refugee families here in PGH.
- **Retreats** – We hosted a Senior High

retreat at Camp Crestfield to kick off the school year with a theme around Creation and re-Creation; and a Middle School Retreat in November with a theme of #nofilter to remind us to be real in front of God and those around us.

One area of focus has been to try to find ways for youth to take on leadership roles in the church. We know that our youth members continue to serve as worship leaders on Youth Sunday and weekly as acolytes and crucifers, and we're looking for more ways to get them involved in the life of the church. The work that they do for this community is inspiring and humbling.

YAYA Committee: Damon Bethea, Lora Bethea, Cami Teacoach, Eddie Willson, Pam Walaski, David Carl, Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, Linda Stephens-Benedict, Nathaniel Morley, Sonya-Marie Morley, Gloria Ritchey, Xander Yates, and Charlotte Bush.
Youth Ministry Staff: Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Anthony Williams

Coordinator of CE & Youth Ministry: Sara Hackett

Because of the renovations, 2017 became a time for the children and youth programming to take inventory! In April the high school youth helped organize and pack many of the classrooms and meeting spaces in anticipation of the renovations. Their help was invaluable. They worked hard but also made the job fun. They found pictures of older generations on mission trips, found art

to accompany Pastor Randy and Pastor Heather's sermons, including several selections from *The Color Purple* on April 2.

April 23 - Mike Tomaro and his jazz ensemble returned to lead worship, with Mike's daughter, Natalie Tomaro on vocals.

Summer Music – Once our single-service summer schedule started, Chancel Choir sang for our services, with the Journey Praise Team leading worship one Sunday in June, July, and August.

October 15 - For *Full Inclusion Sunday*, the *Renaissance City Choirs* joined the Chancel Choir to sing *Would You Harbor Me?* by Ysaÿe Barnwell.

October 29 - Palmer Shonk was our guest bagpiper for *Reformation Sunday*.

Cathedral Concerts

The 6th season of *Cathedral Concerts* concluded with:

January 29 - *Choral Fantasy* featuring the *Duquesne University Choirs* (Dr. Caron Daley, conductor) and *The Arsenal Duo* (Nathan Carterette, piano and Dr. Ed Moore, organ)

February 12 - *A Celebration of Black Song* featuring musicians from the ELPC Music Ministry in a joyous celebration of song in honor of Black History Month.

May 26 - *The Brass Roots and Organ: A Space Odyssey*. The Brass Roots and Dr. Ed Moore joined forces with Pittsburgh Symphony trombonist James Nova to close out the 6th season with another sonic spectacular for brass and organ. The concert was broadcast live on Facebook.

The 7th season of *Cathedral Concerts* opened with:

November 5 - *Essence of Joy* from Penn State University (Dr. Anthony Leach, conductor) returned to ELPC for one final concert tour under maestro Leach's leadership. The ELPC Chancel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Ed Moore, joined *Essence of Joy* for a set of spirituals in the concert.

November 19 - *Eastman at East Liberty*, co-sponsored with the *Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh*. Three rising star organists from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY were featured: Ivan Bosnar, Amanda Mole, and Caroline Robinson. The concert was broadcast live on Facebook.

December 15 - *Christmas in East Liberty* with The Brass Roots, organist Edward Alan Moore, and the ELPC Chancel Choir. This *East Liberty Tradition* is our most highly anticipated concert of the season, with holiday favorites for brass, organ, choir, and audience. The concert was broadcast live on Facebook.

Linda Addlespurger, Director of Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

East Liberty Presbyterian Church founded Hope Academy in 1999 as both a mission and a ministry. It is a beacon of hope for children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to be introduced to and participate in music and the performing arts. Through such participation children grow in self-awareness and self-esteem as they explore their God-given gifts of creativity and discover their hidden gifts and talents. As they develop skills in working together with others from all walks of life on a common artistic goal, children and youth are helped to develop attitudes of acceptance, a concern for social justice and peacemaking, and a capacity for using their voices to speak out against oppression.

Hope Academy remains committed to its goal of creating a diverse and inclusive artistic community that provides deep arts instruction through a sequential and progressive program; supporting the personal and artistic growth of students and teaching artists, alike; and contributing to our communities' positive growth and cultural vibrancy. Since its inception, Hope Academy has grown both in the number of students served, as well as in the depth and quality of programs offered. As the largest outreach program of the church, serving 388 students in 2017, it has consistently met its goal of providing affordable, high quality, fine arts education to a diverse student population, including underserved and minority children and youth. By deliberately recruiting a diverse teaching staff, especially artists of color, Hope Academy helps to increase the expectations of success in the arts for low-income and minority children.



Tween Bowling Event



Food 4 Thought Mentoring



Club 116 Food Team



Club 116



Brass Roots—Space Odyssey



Christmas at East Liberty Presbyterian Church



Celebration of Black Song

worship, music & the arts— Steve Evrard, Chair

In 2017, the Worship, Music and the Arts Committee strived to offer church members, friends and visitors a welcoming and uplifting worship experience, and opportunities for spiritual nourishment through the mediums of music and other arts. Highlights of the past year include:

Worship

- The church experienced continued strong attendance in 2017. The weekly worship attendance averaged 429 participants which is one of the highest attendance averages in the Pittsburgh Presbytery.
- The committee gratefully acknowledges the efforts of many volunteers in serving to support our worship services. These include:
 - Ushers/Greeters** – coordinated by Sherry Anderson and Captains Laura Ristau, David Carl and Carla Depperman.
 - Beadles** – coordinated by Matt Stuff
 - Acolytes & Crucifers** – coordinated by Sara Hackett
 - Communion Servers** – coordinated by Steve Evrard
 - Communion Preparation** – completed and coordinated by the Board of Deacons.
- The Journey Worship service made a successful transition to the Social Hall and attendance has held steady. The committee recognizes the efforts of the volunteers who serve on the Journey Worship Committee.
- The third annual Blessing of the Animals service was conducted on October 7th.

- Bloom Brigade flowers furnished the flower arrangements for worship services in the Sanctuary to positive feedback from church members.
- A remote camera was obtained which greatly enhanced the sight lines and remote projection of services in the Garth to worshipers in the 3rd floor Music Room.
- Guest Preacher for the 11:00 am service included David Esterline, President of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- New bibles for the Sanctuary were purchased to provide a full number for each of the pews or replace worn copies.
- A project was completed in which light bulbs in the Sanctuary chandeliers were replaced with brighter and energy efficient LED light bulbs.
- In September ELPC hosted Visitors Sunday in which newcomers are welcome to attend worship and learn about our diverse mission and educational and spiritual life opportunities.
- On Sunday, October 29th we celebrated Reformation Sunday, remembering our Reformation roots in readings, Pastor Randy Bush's sermon, and music, featuring bagpipes.

Music and the Arts

- Please see Dr. Edward Moore's Music Ministry report for highlights of ELPC's music ministry in 2017.
- New York based photographer Hannah Price displayed nine photos in an exhibit under the theme of "Cursed by Night" in

the second-floor parlor from May 13th through June 23rd.

Worship, Music and the Arts Committee members in 2016:

Tim Benedict, Henk Bossers, Stefani Danes, Steve Evrard (Chair), Penn Hackney, Lois Lang, Nancy Latshaw, Beth Minnigh, Colleen Vermillion, Lenore Williams. Staff: The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, Dr. Edward Moore, Organist/Music Director.

Organist/Music Director Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Music Ministry Highlights 2017

We were blessed to have an abundance of wonderful and memorable musical moments at ELPC in 2017. Our resident ensembles, the *Chancel Choir*, *ELPC Ringers*, *Journey Praise Team*, and *The Brass Roots*, provided leadership for our services and concerts, along with many special musical guests throughout the year.

Worship Highlights

Brass - Our resident brass ensemble, *The Brass Roots*, joined us for worship on six Sundays throughout 2017: February 26, April 16 (Easter), May 28, September 10 (Rally Day), November 19, and the Christmas Eve 11:00 PM service.

Broadway in Lent – The ELPC Section Leaders sang various selections from Broadway musicals



Photos from Journey Worship Service



Resident Brass Ensemble

educational ministries . . . continues

projects they had made as preschoolers, poked fun at how many empty toilet paper tubes I was hoarding, marveled at how much space all the plates and napkins take up, and giggled at the pictures of "cool" kids on the covers of the youth curriculum from the 90s. They decided what needed to be kept because the memories were important, what we would use, what could be recycled, and what should be donated. It was a deep joy seeing that these rooms belonged to them and they knew they belong in these rooms.

I'm also grateful for that day because I have thought back on it as a metaphor for the spiritual development of children and youth here at ELPC. Just like the bookshelves and drawers get filled around here with Sunday School lessons, paper plates, markers, and old bulletins, our children and youth are filling their metaphorical bookshelves with every Bible study, act of mission, worship service, meal, laugh, cry and friendship. We pray that over time these things make them rich with stories, prayers, resources and experiences that will deepen their sense of belonging and help their faith grow.

There are times when it is important (both literally and metaphorically) for us all to take inventory and renovate! The confirmation class is doing that now. They are sorting through what they believe and what those beliefs will mean for how they live out their faith in community. Their questions and insights amaze me. The committees and volunteers who work with children and youth are also asking great questions about the parts of our programming that we keep and if anything needs reorganization. It's a blessing to work alongside SO many folks who care deeply and work creatively to nurture and love the children and youth here at

ELPC. But for the record, if you are asked this summer for donations of cardboard tubes for Vacation Church School crafts, I wasn't the one who recycled the old ones!

Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry & Outreach Ministries

Wil Forrest Young Adult Ministry:

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) seeks to welcome, connect, involve, and enrich folks aged 18-40 years old through a variety of programmatic opportunities and meaningful relationships. The young adult spring Christian Education church school was led by different young adults addressing topics of their own choosing, such as visions of Sheol, taking the high road, and more. During the fall in addition to the monthly class, we had a weekly class during October when we examined the issue of race in a combined class with the senior high CE class.

Some of the ministry highlights from 2017:

- Events took us to stand up against violence, to march for inclusion, to practice loving-kindness and get massages, dine on soul food, to sing karaoke, to seek peace at Camp Crestfield during a retreat and much more!
- Our summer was a mix of fun and worship as we engaged in a faith exploration, progressive lunch, movie on the lawn, lock-in, prayer walk, and a boat ride.
- During our spring visit, we began a new relationship with folks at the Bruderhof intentional Christian community.

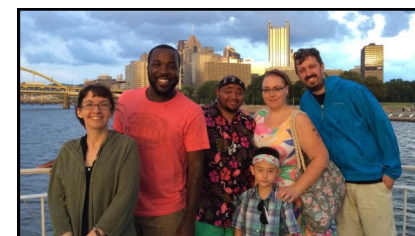
- We continued important partnerships with the Health Committee as we hosted two more interactive multigenerational roundtable discussion (*The Great Exchange*) and with TRAIL and First United Methodist's Worship Jam as we hosted our seventh annual drum circle.
- YAM Spotlight periodically highlights a young adult to others via email (with gratitude to Kara Kimicata), the Talking YAMs Facebook page (with gratitude to many active online), and monthly ushering service opportunities at worship (with gratitude to Nick Genger-Boeldt).
- The YAM Advisory Team advised the purposeful planning of the young adult schedule. Many thanks to the YAM Advisory Team which is comprised of Cami Teacoach, Andrea Brown, and Keith Irvin. Thanks also to Mike Ball who served on their team for years and has since moved on.

I offer my sincere gratitude to the many members of our congregation who supported the Young Adult Ministry this year. I look forward to serving the congregation, the young adults, and God in this new year and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by Wil Forrest,
YAM Coordinator



Youth Retreats & Mission Trips



YAM Outing—Boat Ride



YAM— Peace Retreat

finance & stewardship — Elaine Bellin (Chair of Stewardship), Chris Martin (Chair of Finance)

Finance:

The Finance Committee functions in an advisory capacity, primarily to the Session. Its main task is the development of the Annual Budget and the monitoring during the year of how performance matches the budget. All committee chairs were asked to hold their 2018 budget to no more than the previous year unless there was a special need. This was especially important in light of the continuing renovation project and its financial needs.

As a result, the expense side of the 2018 budget rose 2.56% to \$2,610,101 from the 2017 budget. However, Stewardship, under the leadership of Chair Elaine Bellin, indicated that they were confident of being able to see an increase in pledges and offerings such that the excess draw on the Endowment would only increase by about \$11,000 in 2018. This was especially impressive in light of the annual draw for 2018 being calculated at over \$38,000 less than from the previous year.

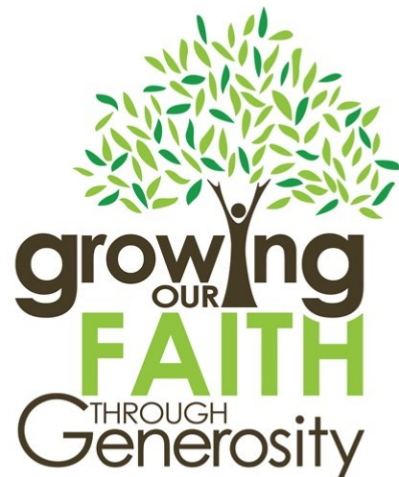
The majority of the increase in forecasted expenses fell into two areas. One was recognition of the increased costs of Information Technology, particularly with upgrading Wifi in general and increased technical needs related to the renovations. The other increase was in Personnel, due to a 9.5% increase in health insurance costs plus a nominal salary increase for the staff.

Finance Committee Members:

The Chair would like to thank the members of the committee, who are *Elaine Bellin, Dee Flaherty, Stuart "Buzz" Hutchison, Nate Morley, Gary Slafka, Rick Walling, and Lenore Williams assisted by staff, Pamela Kimmel, Business Administrator and her team, Deborah Marx, Kate Carlson and the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.*

Stewardship:

The 2018 Stewardship season is well underway and we've been blessed with a positive response. We kicked off our campaign on October 8, 2017 announcing our theme from Psalms 27:13-14 "Wait for the Lord, (for) we shall see the goodness of the Lord". Growing our Faith through Generosity. We are a very generous



congregation, growing our pledges and overall gifts year over year. We are keeping pace with last year's commitments, both in number of pledges and average pledge amount. This is great news considering that many of you have also committed to the Building our Future Capital Campaign and have made significant pledges there too. In 2017 we made our budget, taking in \$806,488. This was helped by strong pledges, pledges from prior year, plate offerings, and recurring gifts. Our total pledges for this coming year remain stable in both average amount of \$2,857 and number, 237. Our total budget from all 4 categories will be \$876,000 with the pledge amount increasing the most by 10% or \$67,000 to \$740,000.

While many churches are losing members, we are attracting new visitors and members at a healthy pace. We are encouraged by how our message is received from those looking for a church home and are confident that those new members and inquirers will be as generous in their new church home as our tenured members. We are grateful for the generosity of our members and friends and for the blessing that God continues to bestow on us.

Stewardship Committee Members: *Elaine Bellin (Chair), Dee Flaherty, David Carl, Laura Ristau, and Tiffany Sudar. Staff: The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush and Pamela Kimmel, Business Administrator.*



property — continues

committee expense tracking, grants, income, special giving such as Hope Academy, special offerings, bequests and so many other needs.

It was an amazing year, and the work continues. If it be God's will, we will see our renovations work come to fruition. I feel that it is the business office and its functions that are the skeletal structure that supports the Body of Christ that is East Liberty Presbyterian Church. It is my prayer that this support is provided in the way that is needed for all of our ministries, programs and activities to flourish.

Facilities Manager Paul Martin

What a year it has been! In 2017, we started our long anticipated renovation project and it has been nonstop since. This has been an exciting time but also many challenges on a day-by-day operation. But looking ahead, it is

clear to see that East Liberty Presbyterian Church is going to be beautiful and will be able to serve the needs of all our members and guests with great pride.

Coming from a hotel background, a renovation to me is very common. Most major hotel chains do a renovation every 7 years. I have witnessed turmoil, confusion and frustration during the many hotel renovations. However, I have never witnessed a renovation that has gone more smoothly and organized as what took place here at ELPC. The planning, commitment and communication have been outstanding!

I couldn't be any prouder then of our staff from Housekeeping, Engineering and Security. These staff members are constantly rising to the challenges. With all the construction, there is no such thing as a routine day. The level of teamwork that has been displayed has been outstanding. We have quickly learned that dust is "our enemy" and dust never seems to "run out" but we know in the end that we will win the battle

and the end result will be a beautiful Church for all to share for many more years.



Whitfield St. entrance under construction

spiritual life — Barbara Griffin, Chair

The Spiritual Life Committee focuses on helping us to become aware of God's action and presence in our lives and assisting in this transformation through the practice of spiritual disciplines that make us more open and responsive to the Spirit's touch. Spiritual Life offers us a variety of tools and resources to deepen our spiritual connection with God. The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan provides staff support for the committee.

The committee is responsible for the weekly Wednesday evening Taizé service and the Spiritual Life Ministries of the Church. Attendance is steady as Taizé continues to be a place of healing and a model for offering the ministry of the Taizé Community in the United States. Ongoing ministries include the Labyrinth and the Prayer and Meditation Room, which houses a Tuesday Centering Prayer meeting and a Thursday Mindfulness Meditation practice.

In addition to these ongoing programs, the

committee offered many other opportunities to the congregation and surrounding communities. Our focus this year was on Science, Cosmology, Theology, and Mysticism based on the work of the 20th Century Jesuit and world-renowned paleontologist, Teilhard de Chardin.

- The committee launched this theme in March with an **Interfaith Panel** that discussed the question, "What is our (Human) role in the universe?" The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush joined representatives from Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and more in this discussion.
- This program was followed by a **study series** to read and discuss *Teilhard's Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution* (Orbis Books, 2014), and watch several videos by other scholars on cosmology and theology.
- We continued in June with a **Mysticism**

Guided Retreat led by Dr. Kathleen Duffy, a Sister of St. Joseph and a professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College.

- In October we were joined by Dr. Elaine Abbott, director of the Music Therapy department at Duquesne University, to explore the science and spiritual dimensions of sound in both our own tradition and that of other faiths as she demonstrated the **healing effect of music**.

The committee also participated in the church's Spiritual Life Sampler to provide information about the many programs it sponsors.

Spiritual Life Committee: *Kathy Glass, Barbara Griffin (chair), Linda Harrington, Jean Kennedy, Dawn Morganstern, and Jon Nelson. Staff: The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and Pastor of Taizé.*

Work on the Building Our Future renovation took much of the Committee's time and energy in 2017. The Property Committee was also able to move several other projects farther along and bring others to completion.

The installation of new cameras in the Sanctuary continued to improve the worship experience there. Additional AV equipment will be purchased in 2018. A new sign was designed and installed on the Whitfield side of the building, so that visitors to the Ace Hotel and others could more readily identify the church. A new telephone system was installed to advance our communication ability. Kitchen equipment had needed so many repairs that at year-end 2017, the Property Committee approved the purchase of a new, industrial-sized dishwashing machine and a new ice making machine. These will be installed in early 2018.

Among the mundane but essential, on-going work, approximately one-fifth of the roof surface was inspected and any repairs were done. This is part of a cycle of roof inspections to examine the entire roof system every five years. The Child Care Suite - #149, #150, #151 was painted. Furniture to augment the renovations work was purchased.

We continue to monitor the effectiveness of the front rain garden, which keeps significant portions of the church facility's storm water out of the combined sewer system.

We would like to thank all the members of our Landscaping Team who worked throughout the year to keep the grounds, courtyard and building beautiful and welcoming. Thanks in large part to the work of the staff, the Property Committee managed its resources to its budget and is preparing for a number of new capital projects in the coming year.

Property Committee Members:

Diana Armstrong, Patrick Dowd (Co-Chair), Dave Egelston, Jason Karns, Charles Krimmel (Co-Chair), Chuck Lukehart, Isaiah Wilson. Staff: The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, Pam Kimmel, and Luke Stevens.

**Business Administrator
Pamela M. Kimmel**

2018 marked my 20th year as Business Administrator here at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, what a personal milestone! 2018 was also the year of Renovating and Re-imagining as you have read and will read in most of the articles in this annual report. The actual construction work of the Building Our Future renovation began on May 15.



But the project has been in our hearts and minds for much, much longer and has had an influence on all three areas of my work here. With the essential support of committee chairs and members, others who come to ELPC and staff, these have been some of my activities over the past year:

1. I acted as the human resources liaison by directing the work of support staff. With the invaluable assistance of Paul Martin, our Facilities Manager, the direct supervisor of housekeeping, maintenance, engineering and hospitality / security, we continued to work to keep the building clean and the rooms set up for whatever functions were scheduled, even when construction made things dusty and dirty and we weren't really sure which room may or may not be available for an upcoming meeting.

Our remarkable Administrative Assistants, Kate Carlson, Gloria Knopp, Norma Meyer, and Karly Threets functioned as in a large corporate structure in that they each have several staff people and Committees with whom they work directly and daily, but it was my role to help see that workloads and work environments are as equal as possible.

I continued to supervise our part-time Projects Manager, Luke Stevens. Luke has done a wonderful job coordinating the Property Committee's Capital Projects in 2017 as in the past, but so much of his work this year revolved around projects that supported the over-arching renovations work, such as coordinating the moving of furniture, equipment and people each time a work area became a construction area.

I also assisted the Pastor and the Personnel Committee with the human resources responsibilities for Program / Ministerial staff by solving logistical situations to support all our ministries, even when offices were moving and we really weren't sure where important supplies had been relocated.

2. I oversaw the use and care of this amazing place, even as temporary walls were being constructed so that other walls could be demolished. I scheduled the activities that took place at ELPC, from one-on-one Hope Academy lessons to worship services, concerts and events, both for ELPC members and for outside groups. This included coordinating the work of maintenance and hospitality / security to see that each individual's and group's needs were met with the radical hospitality for which we want ELPC to continue to be well known. Given the changing of the rooms and spaces, more outside groups were asked to come back and ask another year, but once the renovations are complete we will be even better equipped to open our doors to our church community and the community at large.

3. I helped track the church's financial activity, the usual budgets, as well as the renovations' over \$6 million budget, revenue and expenses, the endowment and special funds. Our exceptional bookkeeper, Deborah Marx, my administrative assistant, the financial administrative assistant and several others input hundreds of millions of numbers so that financial and statistical reports were available for stewardship,

Membership & Outreach:

2017 Membership and Outreach Committee

Membership and Outreach (M&O) had an exciting year, with 59 new members and friends joining our congregation in 2017. The committee provided support for 5 series of Inquirers' classes, hosted a reception during the Fellowship Hour on each of the Sundays when new members joined, and hosted both a new member brunch and a new member chili dinner during the year.

In addition to these new member events, Membership and Outreach served as the coordinating committee for the Church Life Sampler, which was well attended in terms of sponsored tables (>20), participants (150 attendees), and visitors (>20). M&O also hosted the Summer Celebration of Service Picnic for Volunteers (~50 Participants).

This year we served as the coordinating group for a 6-week workshop titled Better Choices, Better Health. The 6-week workshop series focused on helping individuals set goals and develop strategies for healthy lifestyle choices and was sponsored by the Highmark Foundation. We had 20 participants including both ELPC and members from the community.

Membership and Outreach is also home to our Church Tour program. This year we hosted 20 Open Church Tours and 12 Private tours (including Chatham University and DuoLingo). We have 6 tour guides, and 250-275 members and individuals from the

community came for a tour this year. The tours not only allow the congregation to show off the magnificence and beauty of the Gothic and Romanesque architecture, it provides a forum to discuss the Christian Faith, Presbyterianism, and the diverse body of believers who share the space, embracing each other with radical hospitality. Moving forward, the Tour Guide Team is looking to develop an Exterior Church tour this Spring.

M&O is also the home for Happy Wanderers, a group offering fellowship opportunities for seniors. 10 Happy Wanderer events took place in 2017, including outings to the Shakespeare Castle, Coshockton Village and a Christmas Dinner at Rocky's (12 participants per outing).

In 2017, there were 50 members participating in 8 Connections Dinner Groups, informal fellowship groups which meet every 4-8 weeks in homes for a simple meal and great conversation.

Other active groups within M&O include: LGBTQ, Toymakers, and the Knitting and Sewing Groups, all of which had a productive year (updates elsewhere in this report).

Finally, advertising, newsletters, and website communications are housed within the Membership and Outreach Committee. In 2017, our Facebook page grew to include 1,665 friends. If you haven't already done so, please like us on Facebook!

Membership and Outreach Committee: Emma Odum, Janet Pollard, Lynne Chadwick, Linda Harrington, Carla Coles, Gloria Clark, Gwen Puza, Sue Bailey, Carla Depperman, Martha DeMartzi, Shirley Fair, Tim VanFleet, Katelyn Haas-Conrad¹, Andrea DeVries¹, Mary Evrard², Sonja-Marie Morley², Randy Bush³, Wil Forrest³

¹Elder representative
²Deacon representative
³M&O staff

**iSERVE
Ministry:
Wil Forrest,
Coordinator
of iSERVE**



The iSERVE Ministry has had another busy year in organizing volunteers for a variety of service opportunities both inside and outside ELPC. iSERVE's partnership with Membership & Outreach Committee developed as we again shared programmatic efforts this year: the Summer Celebration of Service picnic, the Church Life Sampler, the New Member Host program and the hospitality ministry. The Summer Celebration of Service celebrated the work of its 50 participants. The Church Life Sampler had 20 different ministries represented during this year's event. The New Member Host program pairs established members of ELPC with new members to assist them in connecting and acclimating. There are currently 31 new member hosts that are active. In 2017 we



Church Life Sampler



Better Choices, Better Health—event



Church Tours—in the Tower

welcomed 12 friends and 48 new members to the ELPC family who all have hosts.

iSERVE had a hand in recruiting, training, managing and supporting over 400 servants this year in various ministries serving ELPC and the community.

Two new projects for iSERVE this year were supporting the building renovations and augmenting our hospitality ministry. To assist in the renovation process, dozens of volunteers helped organize, move, pack, and unpack as we managed and prepared office, meeting, storage, bookstore and library spaces. At the Highland welcome desk, we added evening hours when we have a team of 12 new volunteers helpfully welcoming visitors to our church. Many thanks to Linda Harrington who coordinates these desk hospitality assistants.

Donations received this year continued to be an important part of our ministry. Each week we receive at least two donations from La Gourmandine in Lawrenceville (bread, pastries, sandwiches, soups) and two donations of flowers from Trader Joe's (food donations discontinued this year from this Trader Joe's). We utilize these food donations in the programmatic life of our church as well as with multiple outside partners who enable us to share food directly

with hungry individuals and families in the community in addition to feeding folks in the ELPC family. Many thanks to Michele Bossers who manages the food donations, Diane Jackson who delivers the flowers, and Jon Nelson and Ryan Booher who deliver the food donations.

The Congregational Care Team continued to offer short-term assistance to congregation and community members in need. This small team of compassionate people makes a big impact as they brought meals to families after surgeries and births, supplied transportation to important medical appointments to folks who could not drive, and have done many other helpful things to show love and support to our church family. Many thanks to Pat Krimmel and David Phillips who coordinate this team of dedicated individuals.

I offer my sincerest gratitude to the many members of our congregation and community who actively supported the iSERVE ministry this program year. I look forward to serving the congregation, the iSERVE ministry and God in this new year and beyond.

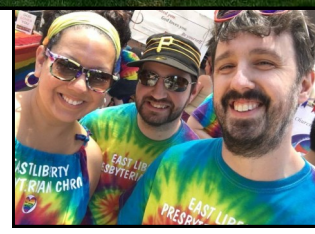
Respectfully submitted by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

LGBTQ Ministry: Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry

ELPC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Ministry has thrived this year again as it continued to welcome self-identified LGBTQ Christians and their allies. In addition to our monthly spiritual gatherings, we have reached out to others in the community through an increasing amount of events promoting full inclusion and celebrating God's love for all. While most Ministry participants are ELPC members or friends, we still steadily draw a significant number of participants who are members at other churches or have no church home, but come to ELPC due to the welcome and acceptance they feel as part of this Ministry. It is a place of connection and sanctuary for many.

Some ministry highlights from 2017:

- In June, we expanded ELPC's participation in the Pride events as we hosted booths at both Delta Foundation's PrideFest and at the Mayor's Pride on the Square events. We also marched in the Delta March.
- In July, we again worked with Black Pride Pittsburgh to co-host their Family Game Day at ELPC.



Before discussing the past year, it may be useful to know what the Personnel Committee does. At its core, the committee is responsible for overseeing our church staff. This includes development of personnel policies and procedures, annual performance and salary evaluations, staff concerns and personnel-management issues ranging from hiring to termination, and management of the Personnel portion of the church budget. Much of the work it does is confidential and behind-the-scenes, and is centered on caring for and supporting our valuable staff.

It has been written and spoken many times but bears repeating: the staff at ELPC is the backbone of this church; without their dedication and contributions, this church doesn't work. That was particularly the case in 2017 when major renovations got underway, creating significant disruptions from constant noise and unavoidable messes to a high level of in-and-out traffic. Offices had to move to temporary quarters. Dust was a constant issue. Sometimes computers and phones didn't work or weren't readily accessible. On top of this, prolonged absences of key staff required others to take on more duties.

Through it all, the staff pressed on, welcoming visitors, maintaining and securing the grounds, running the programs, doing the payroll and generally ensuring that ELPC not only met the requisite affairs of the day but also the call of extending "radical hospitality" to all, helping the church continue to grow and expand its mission. Particular shout-outs go to Sara Hackett, coordinator of Christian Education & Youth Ministry, for her efforts during Rev. Heather Schoenewolf's leave of absence for the birth and care of her and David's son, Noble Martin, and Allen Miller for taking on added maintenance responsibilities during Mike Maiolo's convalescence from a horrible accident.

Personnel tried to help through increased workplace flexibility, i.e., staggered hours, work-from-home, etc., and occasional food and treats. But at the end of the day, it was the staff that stepped up when the church needed it most. As additional signs of our appreciation—and with assistance from committee member Emma Johnson who has a knack for knowing how to throw a party—we held our annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast in October, where we recognized significant service anniversaries with appro-

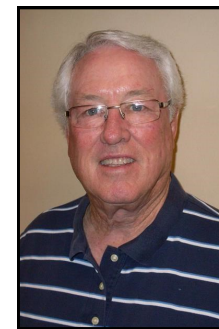
prate gifts and thanked each and every staff member for the work they do on behalf of ELPC. A delightful Staff Christmas Party followed two months later, capping off the year and, hopefully, reinforcing among the staff the sense of appreciation we feel for each.

Also notable during the year, Ja'Mara Miles was hired for full-time hospitality work, and Gerald McClendon was moved to full-time, splitting church maintenance work with social work/case management for Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy. The committee also welcomed new member Lynne Chadwick, an elder who will be taking over this year as committee chair.

In all the work we do, the Personnel Committee seeks to discern God's will for the many decisions we are called upon to make on behalf of the staff at ELPC.

Personnel Committee: Diana Armstrong; Bill Buchanan; Lynne Chadwick; Mark DeWitt; Emma Johnson; Chris Martin; Steve Massey (chair). **Staff:** The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush and Pam Kimmel.

Some of ELPC Support Staff



Luke Stevens,
Projects
Manager



Chaz Clemons,
Maintenance/
Housekeeping



Allen Miller,
Boiler/Maintenance /
Housekeeping



Robert Polk,
Maintenance/Housekeeping



Carol Chontos,
Maintenance/Housekeeping



Alex Hornezes,
Hospitality Staff



Left to right: Gloria Knopp, Kate Carlson,
Norma Meyer, (Administrative Assistants)
Deborah Marx (Bookkeeper)



Karly Threats,
Administrative
Assistant



Ja'Mara Miles,
Hospitality Staff

Community Development and

Partnership: We supported other community projects through funding and participation including the **Valley View Presbyterian Food Pantry** (funding and volunteers), **Greater Community Pittsburgh Food Bank** (volunteers fill backpacks with food for children), **Neighborhood Academy** (subsidized funds to provide children with food over school breaks), Larimer Healing Garden (provided grant for community project), **Goodwill SWPA** (provided 50 "interview go-bags" of toiletries for clients seeking employment. Bags were assembled by ELPC youth),

Community Housing: Members of this committee continue to serve on **East Liberty Development Inc (ELDI) and East Liberty Housing Inc (ELHI)** on ongoing initiatives to bring and keep affordable housing in the local communities.

Neighbors Committee Members: *Diana Armstrong, Ted Cmarada, Nancy Heastings, Pat Krimmel, Judy Menk, Tom Menk, Jon Nelson, Henry Petrilli, and Emily Rosenthal. Staff: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy.*

Peace Committee:
Jon Walker, Committee Chair
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff

The Peace Committee seeks to promote peace in our local and global communities through prayer, education, involvement, and advocacy in response to the Gospel.

2017 was a tumultuous year. Domestic political conflict and division have given rise to xenophobia, neo-fascist violence, racism, sexism and a culture of fear. The result has been a rise in mass shootings, death in Charlottesville, continued unmitigated police

violence, and the exposure of many cases of sexual violence against women. While this hatred and violence has continued domestically, we continue to see conflict and violence throughout the world. Although it's been a dark year, we draw on the light of Christ to guide us. We work to lift up those who are in darkness and hear their voices.

The Peace Committee has worked to raise up these issues to the congregation and beyond. Last year committee members worked with the **Pittsburgh Presbytery's Peacemaking Team** in drafting a gun violence resolution that was brought before Session, and with the Pittsburgh Presbytery's International Partnership, continuing to work in Africa, forging partnerships between Malawi, Sudan, South Sudan, and the United States.

We began the year by continuing a series of discussions on the topics of gun ownership and gun violence. In 2018, we will continue this work and will be looking to expand our scope into the community.

In the spring, more than seventy people attended this year's forum on the conflict in **South Sudan**, where dignitaries and activists from Sudan and South Sudan spoke about the conflict in the region and about the efforts that the people are taking to bring peace back to the region. In 2018, we will continue to lift up this conflict and ways that we can act toward peace as people of faith.

In the summer, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy traveled to Malawi to continue to forge relationships between the two countries. ELPC continues to maintain a relationship with our sister church **Balaka CCAP through Pittsburgh Presbytery's International Partnership.**

part of Mission Board's summer film Series. The Peace Committee sponsored the showing of "The Brainwashing of My Dad", a film analyzing media's influence on a culture of hatred and violence, and how to be able to bridge gaps and build dialogue with those of differing points of view. We will continue this conversation in 2018.

In 2017, our committee made it a priority to promote **Unbound**, an online Presbyterian social justice journal, to the congregation. With the support of the Mission Board, we will work to get this social justice resource in the hands and minds of more people of Christ.

The Committee had lent financial support to Malawi, South Sudan and Foreman Christian College, as well as several smaller peace projects locally and globally.

In 2018, the Peace Committee will work to:

- In the wake of continued mass shootings and continued gun-related violence, we will work to continue and expand the discussion and move to action
- Continue to build and forge partnerships internationally to help those in need and to respond to conflict and violence
- Bridge the divide between people of differing points of view, and work to create a space for pragmatic discourse and collective empowerment
- Increase awareness within the congregation and the community of issues and initiatives that promote peace

Peace Committee Members::
Peta Harrigan Cole, Derek Harrigan, Joan Heckel, John Jordan, Gwen Puza, Pepo Mazingi, Kay Shissler, Ron Stone, and Jon Walker (Chair). Staff: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy.

As



Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy travels to Malawi



- Twice in 2017, we continued our welcoming outreach to LGBTQ college students from Grove City College for lunch, connection, and conversation.
- In October, we had our annual retreat at the home of Michele and Henk Bossers and we focused on finding affirmation in the Bible as we broke bread, laughed much, walked and talked, and were led in thoughtful conversation by Pastor Randy.
- In 2017, Ministry members represented ELPC while participating in the Circle of Faith, People's Pride, Pittsburgh Black Pride, Pittsburgh TransPride, Pittsburgh LGBTQ Film Series, the Pittsburgh Clergy Consortium, and at a number of vigils and marches.
- In the fall, we had a small group of dedicated individuals who thoughtfully and prayerfully devised a plan for ELPC's Pride engagement for 2018 which allows us to reflect God's love to many people and send a message of inclusion to the people of our city.
- Continued Ministry visibility was offered by an informational bulletin board in the hallway leading to the McKelvy Room, a bookmark in the pews with an inclusiveness pledge and ministry information, announcements in the bulletin every week, colorful tie dyed Ministry t-shirts, etc.
- We continued our relationship with the

Renaissance City Choir by not only offering a welcome and treats at the beginning of their year, but by regularly ushering at RCC concerts (as well as attending together).

I offer my sincerest gratitude to the many members of our congregation who supported the LGBTQ Ministry this year. I look forward to serving the congregation, our community, and God in this new year and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by Wil Forrest, LGBTQ Ministry Coordinator

Toy Makers—Sewing—Knitting Groups:

The Knitting & Sewing Group

The sewing group has continued to work on dignity robes for cancer patients and angel gowns for still born and infant deaths. In addition we have made bags for the Living in Liberty project to hold supplies and personal possessions of the women being served there. We are making welcome bags for new residents at Presbyterian Senior Care. We also make "fidget quilts", an aid to engaging and calming Alzheimer and dementia patients at the same institution. We have also made stuffed toys and dolls for the same unit.

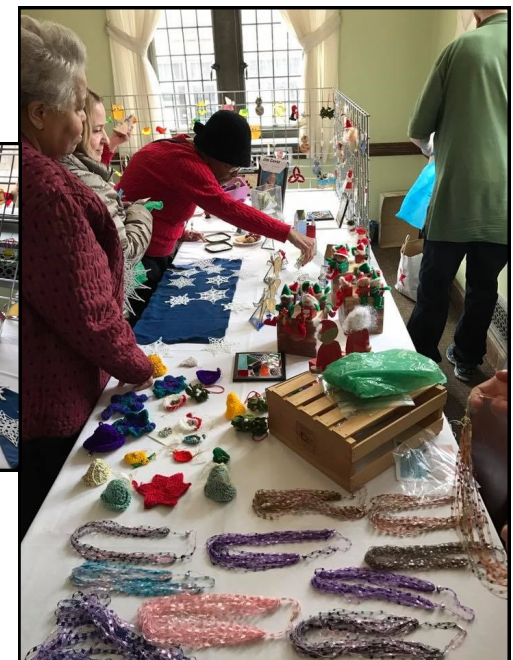
The knitting group has continued to create afghans for graduates, prayer shawls, and baby blankets for baptisms. We knit the small bonnets for Littlest Angels and crochet plastic mats for the homeless.

We want to thank the congregation for the generous donations of fabric and yarn that we have received and encourage anyone who would like to join in our efforts to contact the groups. All levels of experience are welcome. We learn from each other.

The Toy Makers

The ELPC Toy Makers produced about 250 wooden toys in 2017. The toys were distributed to Sojourner House and the Women's Shelter of Pittsburgh. Some toys have been kept in reserve for ELPC folks to take on church mission trips.

Our small but enthusiastic group had fun last year making 20 Nativity puzzles, which we offered to the congregation at our annual sale. That sale netted about \$900 and will pay for all the wood and paint we'll need in 2018. Thanks to the incredibly generous congregation for their support.



Knitting & Sewing Photos and The Toy Makers Photos

Mission Board:

The Mission Board saw a few changes in 2017. Carol Chonoska finished her term as co-chair, but continues to serve on the board as chair of the Justice Committee. Emily Rosenthal has stepped up as the new co-chair. Cami Teacoach had to step down as the Deacon's representative to focus on her role as a new mother! Ryan Booher took her place as an at-large congregation representative. Changes in the board have brought fresh ideas and energy in our continued commitment to follow Christ and serve God.

Gerald McClendon, already on staff at ELPC, made the transition to become our new mission assistant. He manages the Chapel Market, and financial assistance to individuals from the community seeking assistance. Under his guidance, Chapel market has been running more effectively, serving more individuals and families. Also, Gerald has done an excellent job of discerning the best ways to assist families seeking financial assistance.

In the spring, the Mission Board received a presentation from ELDI about the possibility of investing in a low-income housing development in the Larimer neighborhood. Having recently received a return on our church's Oikocredit investment, the Mission Board then brought a proposal to the Session to reinvest part of the Oikocredit funds into ELDI's low-income housing project, which was approved by the Session. The remaining funds will be reinvested back in Oikocredit, thus we serve others both locally and globally.

In April, some members of the Mission Board and other mission committees attended The Ecumenical Advocacy Days in D.C. and the pre-conference sponsored by the PC (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington. The theme of the 2017 conference was: Confronting Chaos, Forging Community – Challenging Racism, Materialism and Militarism.

This past year the Mission Board focused its attention on confronting systemic and institutional racism. We've held several meetings to discuss and discern this issue, bringing in new participation from members of the congregation. Utilizing information from the Presbytery's Anti-Racism Transformation Team; PCUSA's "Waking Up White" curriculum, and materials from Ecumenical Advocacy Days, the Mission Board is working to develop a program for our church in 2018.

Much of Mission Board's work lies in its three committees: Peace, Justice, and Neighbors. Please see their committee reports for more details on their work. The Mission Board also continues financial support for organizations both locally and globally who carry out the mission of helping those in need or in times of crisis and conflict.

Mission Board members:

Michele Bossers (at large); Carol Chonoska (Justice chair); Peta Harrigan Cole (PW representative); Jim Eng (Neighbors chair); Rebecca Gloninger (at large); Emily Rosenthal (MB co-chair); Ryan Booher (Deacons representative); Jon Walker (Peace chair, MB co-chair); Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff).

Justice Committee:

Carol Chonoska, Committee Chair
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff

This year brought a new commitment and support for environmental justice and for those whose lives are touched by incarceration. We have a solid foundation on which to build in the coming years as well as new leadership and congregational engagement.

Following our "Healing Communities" training, we met several times to network with other faith groups on how to support returning citizens in Pittsburgh. We co-sponsored an exclusive training for returning citizens and a panel discussion about their needs and some of the barriers to reintegration. In July we showed the film, "A Justice that Heals" about the power of forgiveness and God's grace that allows us to see past the labels we put on people in jail or prison. In October we set aside one Sunday in Mission Month to hold up the returning citizen. We brought in the director of the HOPE program at the Allegheny County Jail, a current Mentee of the program and his mentor, John Buckley, to speak directly about their experiences with the HOPE program. Four other ELPC members have become mentors following this presentation. We are committed to making ELPC a strong station of hope in the coming year.

Concern for **Environmental Justice** has come back to our attention from a newly formed sub-committee making plans for bringing important issues to our attention,

providing educational opportunities for engaging all ages with God's amazing creation and teaching us how we can take responsibility with monthly tips for energy efficiency in Reaching Out. They started with a tour of the new Frick Environmental Center and a commitment from the Justice Committee to use regular tableware in place of paper and plastic at all of our events. They have been working diligently on plans for this year. We look forward to a much "greener" year in 2018.

We continue to confront the ongoing issues surrounding racism, incarceration, death penalty, solitary confinement, women and children's health and the full inclusion of immigrants, refugees, and the LGBTQ community as children of God. We could really use your help. Please consider becoming involved in the work of the Justice Committee this year.

Justice Committee Members:

Sherry Anderson, Margaret Baco, Michele Bossers, Robert Brown, John Buckley, Carol Chonoska (Chair), Carla Coles, Nancy Gippert, Becky Gloninger, Linda Harrington, Nancy Heastings, Cynthia Peterson-Handley, Ida Joiner, Judy Mancini, Janet Pollard, Frank Reeves, Kay Shissler, and Vivienne Selia. Staff: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy.

The Neighbors Committee:

James Eng, Committee Co-Chair
Emily Rosenthal, Committee Co-Chair
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff

The Neighbors Committee is comprised of

congregational members who are committed to supporting community initiatives that help the underserved in Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods. We strive to engage the congregation in service that responds to God's command to "love our neighbor as ourselves." The committee provides volunteer opportunities to anyone who would like to participate in hands-on ministries in the local neighborhood. We invite everyone to participate at any level possible, and become a member of the Neighbors Committee!

2017 MINISTRIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Open Hand Ministries (OHM) OHM is "committed to promoting justice in our communities through homeownership." ELPC is one of four founding churches of OHM. We continued to support OHM financially and by providing volunteers to its primary programs of house rehab and family development (OHM-Circles) and encouraging congregation members to participate in the OHM Marathon event. Two ELPC members serve on the OHM Board of Directors.

2017 highlights include **House Rehab:** Monthly workdays (Sat) and weekly workdays (Wed., Fri); over 40 volunteers helped out in 2017, including many new members, **OHM Circles dinners:** Hosted 4 times with over 20 volunteers providing dinner to over 60 people. **Family sponsorship:** Assisting two families towards homeownership. **Fundraising:** Assisted with the OHM Pittsburgh Marathon Fundraiser; running individually or on ELPC relay team; hosted pasta party.

This summer we celebrated with OHM when it dedicated a completed home in East Liberty with an open house on June 17th. OHM/ELPC teams are currently working on 3 properties in various stages of completion.

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM)

Shelter Meals: ELPC volunteers support EECM by serving its shelter residents breakfasts and dinners several times a month on a regular basis.

Chapel Market: After a hiatus in the early part of 2017, the Chapel Market re-opened in April to continue this free clothing ministry as phase 2 of the pilot. The Market successfully implemented a registration system to assure that clothes were equitably distributed, and the second pilot was deemed successful. In the fall, the Market added one Thursday a month to its hours to the community. This summer, we mourned the passing of Ron Frye, who served the Market with abundant energy, faith and dedication.

The committee also extends its gratitude to Harold and Linda Deiss, two faithful members who are doing an amazing job in keeping the Market organized and operational!

Advocacy: Efforts included letter-writing campaign to legislators in January to reauthorize the Childhood Nutrition Act of 2015 with adequate resources for 2017 and film sponsorship in July (*The Secret Life of Your Clothes*).



Writing letters to our government officials.



Off to Washington D.C. For the Ecumenical Advocacy Days



Open Hand Ministries at work.

