



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S

Self-Guided

**Walking
Tour**



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

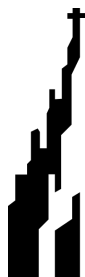
www.ELPC.church

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.

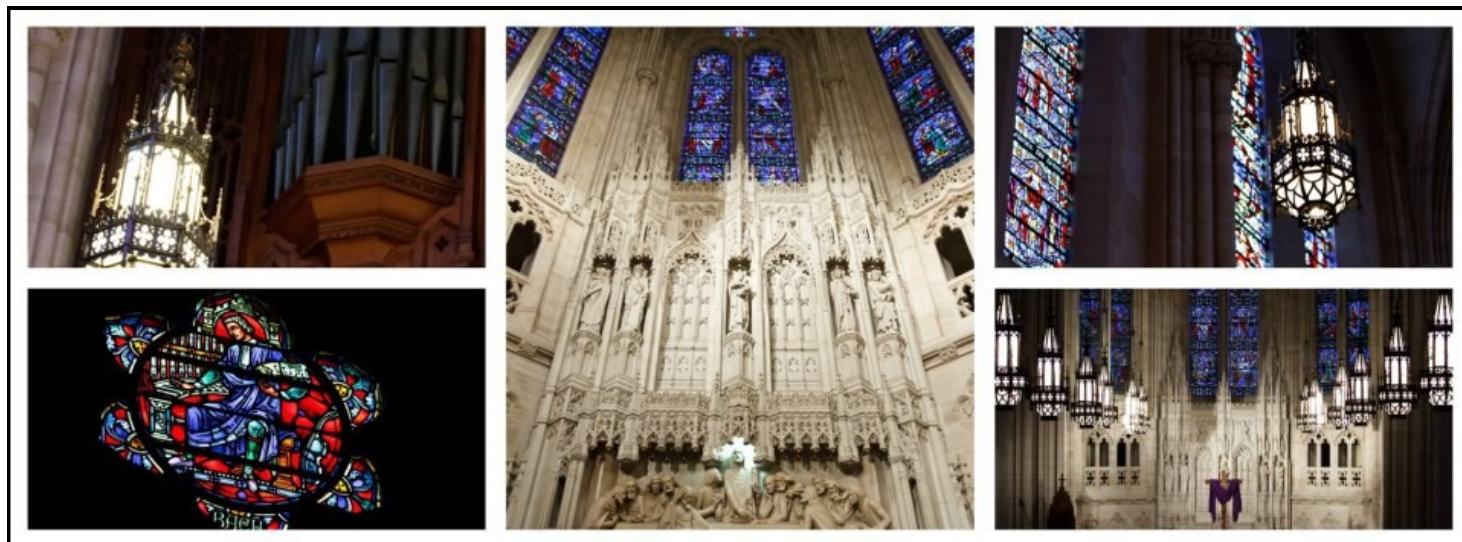
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- 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.

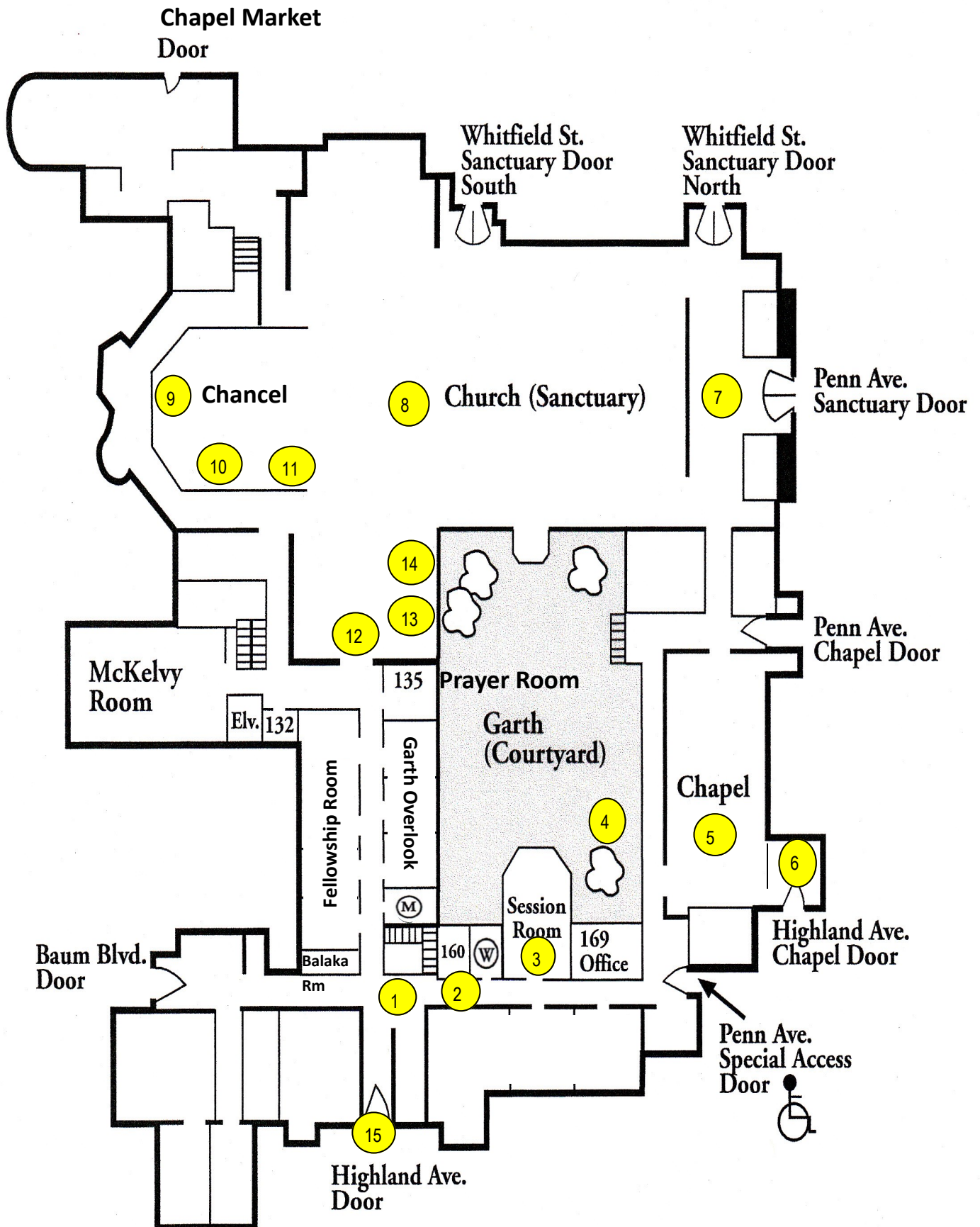


**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church



First Floor



SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

East Liberty Presbyterian Church
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

www.ELPC.church

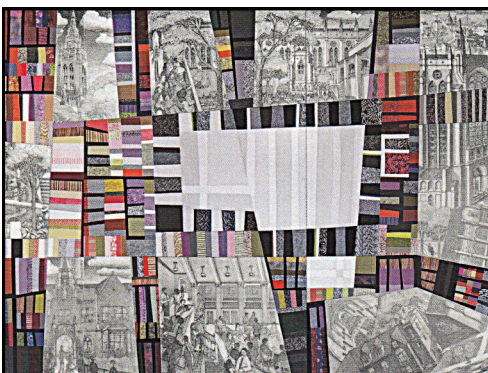


Point #1: Hospitality Area

Welcome to East Liberty Presbyterian Church! This simple tour will lead you through the main features on the church's first floor. We hope you enjoy learning a bit more about our congregation's history as you enjoy this architectural masterpiece.

While our congregation traces its roots back to 1819, this is the fifth Presbyterian Church built on this site. The property was originally donated by Barbara and Jacob Negley. As the East End of Pittsburgh grew and prospered, a series of ever-larger church buildings were erected. This fifth building was dedicated in 1935 and is an outstanding example of Gothic architecture, a style which encourages one to look upwards and to wonder at the interplay of high ceilings and tall stained glass windows, all for the glory of God. Our church building has space for various worship services as well as a wide range of church programs and community gatherings. We celebrated our bicentennial in 2019.

(Continue down the hall to your right to the mural on the right-hand wall.)



Point #2: City Church City Mural by Doug Cooper

While East Liberty Presbyterian Church has always played a key role in the development of East Liberty, it has long had a commitment to regional, national and global outreach. In addition, the church's ministry in recent decades has focused on racial diversity, full inclusion, promoting the arts, and working for economic and social justice. This is part of the reason ELPC is also known as the Cathedral of Hope.

(Just past the mural is a wooden door to your left. Open this door to enter the Session Room.)

Point #3: Session Room

The arched hallway leads to a room known as the Session Room. The walls are decorated with linen-fold wooden paneling and the floral coat-of-arms of six countries associated with Presbyterianism. These include the Swiss Church (edelweiss), the Church of the Netherlands (tulip), England (rose), Scotland (thistle), Ireland (shamrock), and the French Huguenots (fleur-de-lis/lily).

The five stained glass windows in this room were made by the firm of Henry Lee Willet of Philadelphia. They have been designed to picture scenes from poetry having to do with religion in the home. The first is a representation of the wedding in Tennyson's poem "The Day Dream." The second comes from Whittier's poem "My Trust." The third has for its subject Robert Burns' "The Cotter's Saturday Night." The fourth comes from Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith" while the final window depicts a line from the 23rd Psalm: "He spreadeth a table before me."

(Continue down the hallway and turn left, proceeding ahead through the large wooden door at the end of this short hallway.)





Point #4: Garth (Garden Courtyard)

The architect of this church, Ralph Adams Cram, intentionally designed it after the model of a Gothic cathedral, in which the meeting rooms and worship spaces surround an interior courtyard. A range of activities are held in this garth, including weddings, youth events, musical concerts, and walking the labyrinth. Our summer worship services, weather-permitting, also take place here during July and August.

Interesting features of this courtyard include the stone pulpit built into the staircase and (on the lower level) the cornerstones from the first four churches that preceded the current edifice. The bell is from the former Highland Presbyterian Church that merged with ELPC in 1981.

(Return back to the Garth stairs and go through the carved wooden door next to these stairs. There is a light switch on the inside wall to the right of this door. Turn on those lights and proceed forward and to your right into the Chapel.)



Point #5: Chapel

The chapel is a different architectural style than the sanctuary – more Romanesque than Gothic. For example, the windows have rounded tops and in this way are unique in the building. The pews, woodwork and several of the windows are from the previous church building. Note the rear two stained-glass windows made for this building by Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock of Boston: a beautiful representation of the Nativity and across from it a “Missionary Window” depicting Jesus “Sending out the Twelve” as well as the death of Dr. David Livingstone, the medical missionary to Africa and courageous antagonist of the slave trade.

Also note over the side doorways the scripture quotations from Micah 6:8 (“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”) and John 3:16 (“For God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life.”)

The chancel area is decorated with candles, banners, and icons for our mid-week Taizé prayer service (Wednesdays, 7:00 pm). This hour-long service includes sung prayers, reflective music, and times for individual reflection and anointing.



Point #6: Columbarium

This side chapel has an exterior door that was used by individuals entering the church to attend a memorial service. The space was recently re-designed as a columbarium – a place for the interment of ashes of deceased church members. It is a lovely spot for quiet reflection. The stained glass window, also by Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock, depicts Easter morning at the tomb.

(Exit through the door at the rear of the chapel, continue ahead into the outer entrance area – Narthex. Pause to appreciate the beauty of this large vestibule before entering the sanctuary.)

Point #7: Narthex

The narthex ceiling is a copy of one found in Cambridge University, England. The inner doors to the sanctuary and the outer doors to Penn Avenue are made from English oak. The inner doors to Penn Avenue are made from Siamese teak and weigh four tons. In one corner of the narthex is a mounted stained glass window, which was removed from the sanctuary when they built the Mellon Trinity Chapel. It is a depiction of Life, Assurance, and Thanksgiving in Psalms 90, 46, and 103.





Point #8: Sanctuary

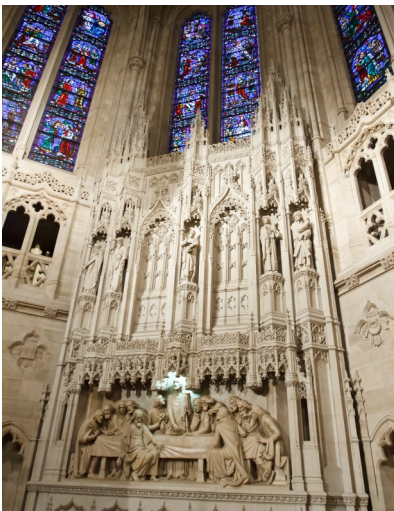
The interior dimensions of the sanctuary are: length of central seating area (nave) = 202 feet; height of nave = 75 feet; breadth of front area of sanctuary (transepts) = 117 feet. The sanctuary and balcony can hold over 1500 people. The tower (located above the sanctuary) rises 300 feet above the sanctuary floor.

The sanctuary is an extraordinary example of Gothic architecture. The foremost American architect, Ralph Adams Cram (from Boston) designed this church and considered it the pinnacle of his professional career. He was selected by the church, in conjunction with Richard Beatty Mellon and his wife, Jennie King Mellon, who donated just under four million dollars in 1931 for the construction of a "church of cathedral proportions in honor of their mothers and to the glory of God." Ground was broken on August 18, 1931, a cornerstone was laid June 19, 1932, and the church was dedicated on Mother's Day, May 12, 1935. Dr. Stuart Nye Hutchison, pastor before and during construction, played a key role along with a committee of church members in deciding on a myriad of design details.

Gothic cathedrals first arose in Europe in the 12th century. Their architectural style is characterized by the use of pointed arches, an emphasis on light shining through colored stained glass, and a cruciform (cross-shaped) floor plan.

Off to the east side of the nave is the Trinity Chapel, which serves as a crypt for the remains of Richard Beatty Mellon and Jennie King Mellon. The stained glass windows in this chapel, by the Wilbur H. Burnham Studios of Boston, are a visual representation of the Apostles' Creed. This chapel was added in 1942.

The stained glass windows in the nave are organized in the following manner (as viewed from the rear of the sanctuary): East side - Psalms (lower left), Old Testament people and events (upper left); West side - Miracles of Jesus (lower right), New Testament people and events (upper right). The clerestory (upper) windows are by Charles J. Connick of Boston and the aisle (lower) windows are by Howard Gilman Wilbert of Pittsburgh."

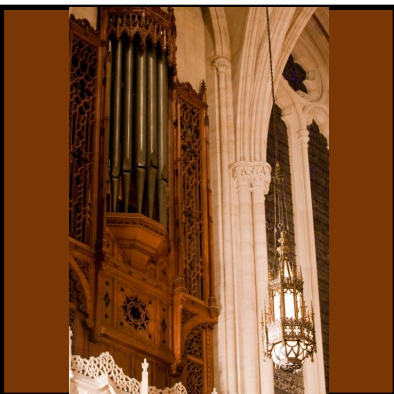


Point #9: Chancel

The front of the sanctuary holds the chancel area with the extended marble pulpit on the left and the carved, wooden lectern on the right. At the rear of the chancel is a large communion table, whose red marble was imported from Algeria, and whose pilasters depict the symbols of the disciples. At the front of the sanctuary in the chancel are three large stained glass windows, also by the Wilbur H. Burnham Studios, which tell the story from Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

Below the stained glass windows is a large marble carving of the Last Supper, done by John Angel (who also did the bronze doors at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City). The sculpture was carved from a single block of French Hauteville marble and weighs almost 14 tons. Angel also carved the five large figures above the table which represent (from left to right) the apostles Peter, James, Paul, John and Andrew. Below these sculptures are symbols associated with the crucifixion of Jesus.

The chancel floor contains approximately 10 different types of marble from around the world. The center area contains an inlaid Jerusalem Cross, a design that dates back to 1099.



Point #10: Pipe Organ

We are fortunate to have a world-class pipe organ in our sanctuary. The original organ was designed and installed by the Aeolian-Skinner company (Opus #884) as part of the Mellon bequest to the church. The current organ reuses pipework from the original organ and was installed in 2007 by the Goulding & Wood (Indianapolis, IN). The organ contains almost 8,000 pipes serving over 120 ranks, with the size of the pipes ranging from a length of a cotton swab to over 32 feet long. In addition to being used for our 11:00 am Sunday sanctuary worship service, the organ is highlighted during several special concerts each year.



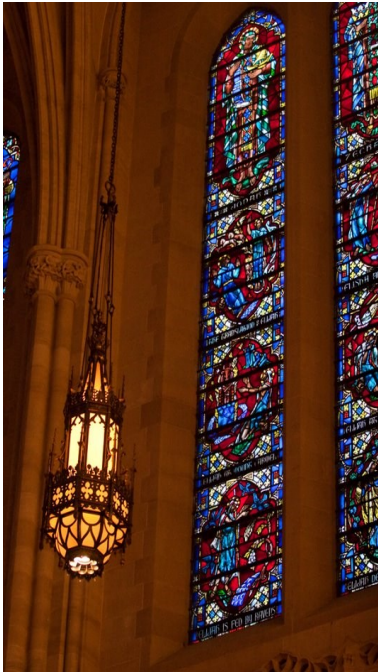
Point #11: Pulpit & Lectern

The stone pulpit that extends into the nave of the church has carvings on three sides, depicting Presbyterian Reformer John Calvin, Jesus Christ, and early Christian preacher John Chrysostum, aptly illustrating the hymn “In Christ There Is No East or West.” Over the pulpit is an “abat-voix” – an elaborately carved wooden sounding board designed to help project the preacher’s voice into the sanctuary. Inside the pulpit is carved the scriptural verse, “Sir, we would see Jesus” (John 12:21).

On the opposite side from the pulpit is a carved wooden lectern, which is used by worship leaders reading scripture lessons or offering prayers. It has a trio of angels carved into it, depicted reading, singing and praying. Above them is an eagle, a symbol of the preached Word of God.

Point #12: Rose Windows – East Transept & Rear of Sanctuary

To the left of the stone pulpit is the east transept area of the sanctuary. High above it is a dramatic rose window depicting the New Jerusalem: the church as a bride coming from God, a beautiful figure surrounded by angels. This theme comes from Revelation chapter 21 and was the work of D’Ascenzo Studios (Philadelphia, PA).



At the rear of the sanctuary is another vivid window that takes its theme from the book of Revelation. It comes from the studio of Reynolds, Francis & Rohnstock. It shows the ascended Christ surrounded by seven candlesticks, God the Almighty holding the book with seven seals, the heavenly host surrounding them, and other events described in the Apocalypse of John.

Point #13: Transept Windows

The long, narrow windows in the East and West Transepts describe the history of the Christian church from the call of Paul down to the day this church was built. The west wall of the West Transept, by the D’Ascenzo Studios, has a trio of “historical windows,” over which is a rose window depicting Paul’s vision at Troas. Below that window are long windows with the disciples James, Peter and John at the top, and important church leaders like Stephen, Charlemagne, Gregory, John Wycliffe and John Milton show below. On the north wall of the West Transept is the “Reformation Window” by the Henry Lee Willet Studios. These paired windows depict Martin Luther, John Knox, John Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli, among others.

The paired windows in the north wall of the East Transept, also by Henry Lee Willet, relate to the history of Presbyterianism in America. They show the first meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly, held in Philadelphia in 1789, as well as depictions of Francis Makemie, William Tennant, John Witherspoon (Presbyterian minister and signer of the Declaration of Independence), and many others. See if you can find the reindeer in the lower left-hand window next to the picture of Sheldon Jackson, Presbyterian missionary to Alaska.



Point #14: ELPC Coat of Arms

The ELPC coat of arms consists of three parts: the cross, an open bible, and the patchwork squares of William of Pitt’s coat of arms, later used for the city of Pittsburgh. A copy of our coat of arms is mounted amidst the organ pipes in the south upper wall of the East Transept.

Point #15: Highland Entrance

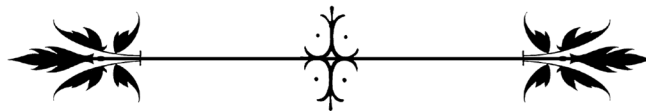
As you leave the sanctuary and return to the Highland entrance, note that a Prayer Room is immediately to your left (as you leave the east transept), where people can always pause for prayer and reflection. After you return these materials to the hospitality desk and then exit by the Highland Avenue doors, take a moment to notice the small ‘gargoyle’ perched high in the stonework, and to read the inscription carved over them. It is the first verse of Psalm 122, “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’” I hope that sentiment has been true for you as you have toured some of our cathedral church.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800

www.ELPC.church



WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



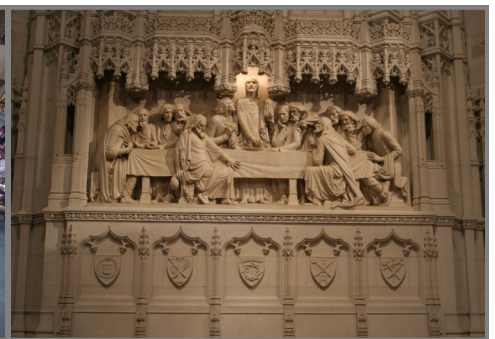
TAIZÉ SUNG PRAYER
Wednesdays, 7 pm
Chapel

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France.



JOURNEY WORSHIP
Sundays, 8:45 am
Social Hall

A gospel/contemporary service for a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



SANCTUARY WORSHIP
Sundays, 11 am
Sanctuary

Our largest service with a multicultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.