

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

September 2011

See You at the Picnic!

Sun., Sept. 18, following the 11 am worship service



Ernest and Retina Williams pose for a photo at the 2010 Church Picnic.

The Christian Education Committee extends a special invitation to all for our annual Church Picnic in the Garth. Food will be served in the Social Hall, and games will be organized for children in the Gym and Bowling Alley. Seating will be available in the Social Hall as well as in the Courtyard.

The Christian Education Ministry Team will provide fried chicken and hot dogs, and the Stewardship Committee will provide a special dessert in celebration of our congregation's generous giving this year.

Everyone is asked to bring a cold side dish to share. (You may drop these off at the Guard's Desk prior to worship.)

We also will launch our 2012 stewardship campaign, and take a close look at the importance of faithfully supporting our church, our mission programs, and how to discern God's vision for our congregation.

Please plan on joining us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun!

Visitors' Sunday

Sun., Sept. 25

This year, our theme for Visitors' Sunday will be Spiritual Life. Members are encouraged to bring a guest to one of our worship services. Students from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary also are invited. To all of our visitors, the Membership and Outreach Committee will provide a small welcoming gift.

Following the 11 am service, the **Spiritual Sampler** (read **page 3** for more details) will be set up in the Social Hall, highlighting an array of upcoming events and seminars sponsored by our Spiritual Life Committee.

Please remember to wear your name tag, or fill one out when you arrive at church. Take this opportunity to let friends and neighbors learn more about the vibrant worship and active ministry opportunities available at ELPC!

Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: George Rivers

Sept. 4* Rev. Saleem Ghubril

Sept. 11 Rev. George Steffey

Sept. 18 Rev. Pat Frick

Sept. 25 Gordon Jenkins

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Sept. 11 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sept. 18 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sept. 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 10 am

Sept. 4* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Sept. 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 25 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Holy Ground Service

Third Sunday, May–November • 6 pm

Held in the Garth, weather permitting

Sept. 18 Father Kiel

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Christiane Dutton

Session News

At their recent meeting, the Session heard the following reports:

- An update from the Property Committee regarding possible renovation projects;
- An initial description of possible events for Sun., July 1, 2012, when General Assembly meets in Pittsburgh;
- An update on upcoming New Member classes, as well as the recent celebration of three adult baptisms;
- A continued conversation about how to begin budgeting for and implementing some of the goals outlined in the Strategic Vision.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm
Sunday, 9 am–12:30 pm

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Brian Diebold
Coordinator, Youth Ministry

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Wil Forrest
*Coordinator, Young Adult Ministry and
Volunteers in Ministry Programs*

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

Dr. Lois M. Lang
*Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life,
Stephen Ministry and Older Adults*

Paul Martin
Facilities Manager

Katie Mohr
Educational Ministries Assistant

Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Music Director Emeritus

Reaching Out Newsletter

Reaching Out is a monthly publication of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is free to members and friends. Deadlines are the first Thursday of the preceding month.

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



A father, who happens to be a police officer, wrote a letter to his kids, sealed it in a plain white envelope, and put it in his locker at work with instructions not to open it unless something horrible happened to him. He described it this way: "It's three pages long, and it sums up what I've learned in four decades of life...Live in the moment, do not attach yourself to physical things, treat others the way you would like to be treated, find happiness in the service of others, make the most out of today, follow your dreams, etc."

As a police officer, he noted that he'd seen life ended or irrevocably changed in an instant. Knowing that the letter is there makes him more comfortable with his own mortality. And it reminds him to be careful at work and to strive to truly practice all the things he's written down. (Essay by Tim Wilson in book *This I Believe: On Fatherhood*)

As I read this brief essay, I loved the little details it included—how the letter was held in place by a Marvin the Martian magnet, and that it was surrounded by other things, like photos of his kids, "Far Side" cartoons, poems, business cards, and other miscellany. More importantly, the letter is visible every time this father puts on his police uniform, and on some level is a reminder about being safe and doing good as he goes about his work routine.

What are the things you have on your desk or near your workspace (whether at a job or at home)? In particular, what photos or mementos, souvenirs or keepsakes, do you have near you that remind you of what is important in your life? Do a survey of these items. Take stock of the photos, trinkets, postcards, and clippings that fall within your gaze every day. I hope they are things that energize or inspire you; or at least things that make you smile.

But also notice whether any of the items have a clear "faith component" to them. Are any of them religious in nature—a short scripture verse, an inspirational message, a bit of religious artwork? Do any of them make reference to virtues toward which we should all strive—peace, justice, love, hope—or serve as reminders for healthy habits we should practice daily—pray, laugh, forgive, listen?

I have a rock upon which my daughter painted "Best Dad Ever", as if it was a movie review. I have another polished rock that has been engraved with only one word—justice. I have a small wooden copy of the crucifix that St. Francis of Assisi saw on a chapel wall, in which he heard the voice of Christ tell him to "go and repair my house." I have a photograph someone gave me of a beautiful sunset.

I mention these things only to spark your own imagination. It takes so little to tilt an entire day in the direction of God, as opposed to only being focused on the ways of the world. It takes so little to remind us to do good, love justice, and walk humbly with the Lord. And yet, from so little can come so much. This month, find something "faith-full" to put in your line of sight each day and allow God to use that little thing as the means to a deeper commitment to the ways of the Spirit and Truth and Joy.

Randy Bush

September News and Events

Mission Opportunity

Sat., Sept. 10

ELPC's Neighbors committee is sponsoring a work day with our partners, Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm. Projects include a house rehab for a family ELPC is sponsoring, and preparing crops that will benefit our community.

No special skills needed, all ages are welcome! Contact **Emily Rosenthal** at **412.963.0139** or **ejr116@gmail.com**, or the **Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy** at **412.441.3800 x30** or **PatriceFS@coh.net**.

An Afternoon of Prayer and Meditation for Peace on 9/11

Sun., Sept. 11, 2011, is the 10th anniversary of the events of 9/11, 2001. On that Sunday, the Spiritual Life and Peace Committees are sponsoring an afternoon of prayer, meditation, and community on behalf of peace for people all faiths. Please freely invite friends of all religious traditions.

The schedule includes:

- 12:15 pm:** Dedication and planting of a Peace Pole
- 1-4 pm:** Silent prayer rooms, walking the labyrinth, and making prayer cranes
- 4-5 pm:** Interfaith prayer service

Childcare and snacks will be provided. For more information, email **Nancy Klancher** at **nbk8@pitt.edu**.



Sign up for Connections

Connections recently wrapped up its sixth fun-filled season of members and friends gathering for dinners, conversation, and fellowship. New groups will be forming soon. If you would like to get to know others in an informal, small-group setting, then consider signing up at the Church Picnic on **Sun., Sept. 18**, or by calling Gil Hickman at **412.243.8837**.

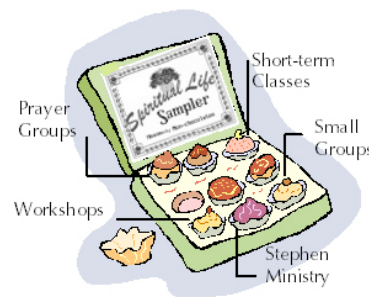


Spiritual Life Sampler

Sun., Sept. 25, following 11 am worship

All are invited to join us in the Social Hall for fellowship and our annual Spiritual Life Sampler. Learn about new small groups, workshops and classes. Representatives will be available.

We hope this year's Spiritual Life Sampler will provide food for thought as well as an opportunity for fellowship. See you there!



AGO Opening Service

Mon., Sept. 26, at 8 pm

Join us in the ELPC Sanctuary for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' opening service and installation of officers. The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will preach, Dr. Ed Moore will play the organ, and our Chancel Choir will sing.

W. Don McClure Lectures

Mon., Sept. 26, from 11:30 am-7:30 pm

The Mission Board encourages you to learn what it means to be a missional church. Join us at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as Dr. Darrell L. Guder addresses the "The Gathering and Upbuilding of the Missional Community for its Sending."

The lectures will conclude with a chapel service on Tues., Sept. 27, at 11:30 am.

The lectures are free and open to the public. There is a charge for the dinner on Monday, and reservations are required at **www.pts.edu/WMI_Dinner**.

For more information, check the bulletin board outside the library visit **www.pts.edu**.

Deacons' Bake Sale

Sun., Oct. 2, following 11 am worship

The Deacons will hold a bake sale to help fund the Deacon's annual Thanksgiving Basket project. Enjoy a sweet treat and help us assist our brothers and sisters at the same time!



Christian Education

Classes begin at 9:45 am, unless otherwise noted.

Contemporaries Class *Second Floor Parlor*

Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

Sept. 11: Positive Conditions of the Heart

Led by Joe Kennedy

Sept. 18: Karl Barth's Responses to Conflict

Led by Will Scott

Sept. 25: A Pacifist Theologian's Response to 9/11

Led by Will Scott

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Irvin

Sept. 11: Ex. 14:19–31; Ps. 114; Rom. 14:1–12; Mt. 18:21–35

Sept. 18: Ex. 16:2–15; Ps. 105:1–6, 37–45; Phil. 1:21–30; Mt. 20:1–16

Sept. 25: Ex. 17:1–7; Ps. 78:1–4, 12–16; Phil. 2:1–13; Mt. 21:23–32

Parenting Circle *Harambe Room*

Facilitators: Pam Walaski, Andrea DeVries, and Sandy Edgcombe

Sept. 11–25: Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children about Sex and Character

Led by Pam Walaski and Andrea DeVries

Seekers Room 234

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Sept. 11: Schedule for 2011–12

Led by Gwen Puza

Sept. 18: Israel's Judgement (Amos 1:1–6:11)

Led by Pat Frick

Sept. 25: Israel's Restoration (Amos 7:1–9:15)

Led by Pat Frick

Soul Food *Pastor's Conference Room*

Facilitator: Joe Hajdu

September: Accepting God's Rainbow Grace

Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español *Room 343*

Facilitator: Joaquin Anabe Lopez

Note: Class resumes on Sept. 11, details to come.

Full Details at www.CathedralOfHope.org
and in the Weekly Bulletin and e-Flash.

Young Adult Ministry

Fri., Sept. 2: First Friday, at 7 pm

Demand Justice! Join us at Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church (1146 Greentree Rd.) for fellowship, treats, and coffee. Please bring a poem, song, reading, Scripture, or anything creative (focused on the theme of justice), and a dessert to share.

Thurs., Sept. 8: Karamazov Caravan (Part 4), at 7 pm

Meet at ELPC and we will travel together to a fun destination for dinner and discussion.

Sat., Sept. 17: Road Trip, from 10 am–5 pm

We will take the church van to Amish country, outside Akron, and browse crafts, enjoy good food, and have a nice drive together. More details to come.

To RSVP or if you have questions, contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or 412.260.2554.

Youth Ministry

club one sixteen: Our Wednesday fellowship for youth in grades 1–12 will resume on **Wed., Sept. 21**. Our theme will be **stories of our faith**, as we investigate how God's story in scripture connects with the stories of our lives. Our schedule will be as follows:

3:30–4 pm: Homework Help/Snacks

4–5 pm: Open Gym/Workshop

5–5:30 pm: Dinner

5:30–7 pm: Bible Study

Due to Hope Academy scheduling changes, there will be no Wednesday evening Voices of Hope classes. We will offer workshops throughout the year.

Registration forms for **club one sixteen** are available at the Front Desk. Please see the Youth Calendar and website for more information.

Presbyterian Women

Tues., Sept. 6: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we study **Greatly Honored are the Poor!** (Mt. 5:3; Luke 6:20, 24). A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share, and a place setting. Beverages are provided.

Sat., Sept. 24: Fall Retreat at ELPC, 8:30 am–1:30 pm

All women are invited to deepen their prayer lives at our Fall Retreat. Pick up a brochure on the bulletin board outside the library. The cost is \$5 (or \$7 after noon on Wed., Sept. 21). Breakfast and lunch are provided. Call Kate at 412.441.3800 x16 for details.

Birthday Offering

Celebrate life's blessings at our Fall Retreat with a gift of 10 cents for each year you have lived (or \$10 if you prefer not to reveal your age). Please make checks payable to "Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church." This year's offering supports:

- Teacher training in Jonglei, South Sudan;
- The boarding program at the 100-year-old Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and
- A program to support parents returning to school at Anderson Interfaith Ministries in South Carolina.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

Classes begin at 8:15 pm, following our prayer service

Wed., Sept. 7: Tower Sing

Wed., Sept. 14: Music on the Labyrinth

Wed., Sept. 21: To be announced

Wed., Sept. 28: Celebrations!

Exercise Classes

- **Tai Chi** Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, 10 am and 6 pm
The cost \$25 per 10-week session. **Pre-register** with Kate at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.
- **Yoga** Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm
- **JourneyDance** Fri., Sept. 9, from 7–8 pm

Choosing Topics, Selecting Speakers

by Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

Our ministry in the Contemporaries Church School class is designed to formulate a learning community based upon the truth of God's Word as it is amplified by the profound wisdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Toward this end, there is an effort to nurture and develop teachers within our class. Once you have designed a presentation to enhance the rotational diversity of learning, you then begin to appreciate the instruction of other leaders.

We specialize in topics of compassion, justice, mission, faith initiatives and current events, rendered through an analysis of scripture. Hearing from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professors has helped us foster a deeper understanding of these themes, and this term, we are including seminary students as presenters.

Mission is becoming a much greater priority for our educational concentration. So many ELPC members go on mission trips that we recognize the validity of bearing one another's burdens. It's important to provide a forum for hearing about these excursions and it's imperative that mission is elevated as one of the ways to stretch and challenge our directional thrust.

We prefer to initiate a style of learning that includes young adults as instructors. This provides an opportunity for God to transcend the barriers of age. We look for young adults to enrich our comprehension through the sharing of their stories, testimonies, and topics of interest.

We are learning to create an atmosphere of invitation and hospitality to cultivate a greater opportunity for learning. We believe that God intended for every one of us to become a life-long learner. We came to this conclusion after recognizing that Jesus invested in the education and nurturing of his disciples. If learning was that important to Jesus, it should be very important to us. Let the celebration of learning become a defining characteristic for our entire congregation!

Hello Again, ELPC

by Katie Mohr

It is my pleasure and joy to introduce myself as the new Education Ministries Assistant (EMA). It is blessing to have the opportunity to continue to serve ELPC in the area of Christian Education. As I transition from a seminary intern to EMA, I see my role in the community transition from an observer to a server.

Seminary life is filled with wonderful opportunities. I enjoy each day of study, fellowship, and worship within that community. As I finish up my summer language class and I begin my final year of study, I am aware of the limitations that are created within a graduate program. I find the greatest limitation to be time. Like so many of us who juggle multiple hats, there never seems to be enough time. There is a constant strain to manage relationships, jobs, reading, homework, etc. With that said, it is a blessing to bind together relationships, work, and educational development in my work at ELPC.

Last year, I loved to take the things I was learning in seminary and apply it to my **club one sixteen** class. Working in the church has allowed for the intense academics and studying to intersect the ways in which we, as individuals and a community of faith, are moved by God.

Though no one can replace Ashley Birt or recreate her excitement and commitment, I feel blessed to be able to step into her role and will fill it the best that I can.

Whom do you Serve?

by Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator

You might first think of your kids, an aging parent, or work. In the modern American lexicon, we typically shy away from labeling ourselves as "servants" (this often creates ideas of hierarchy and servitude). However, as Christians, we are called to serve. We can rest assured that God's call to servanthood is not about power or imbalance, it is about teamwork and communal reconciliation.

As you accept the love and grace of Christ in your heart, you also accept the call to serve. You simply need to hear your call and to follow it.

What is your call to serve? To discuss more or for help to find your fit, please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x14**.

ELPC People

Good News

- Congratulations to **Maelene Myers** and **Valire Copeland** for being named two of the *New Pittsburgh Courier* "50 Women of Excellence." They were honored at a banquet in August.

Thanks

- This spring and summer, many folks from ELPC have worked with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm. Their hard work has yielded a beautiful home for a first time homeowner, and a bountiful crop of fruits and vegetables for our neighbors. Thank you: **Mike Anderson, Diana Armstrong, Jason Ferrante, Chloe Ferrante, Suzy Flynn, Becky Gloninger, Michael Hart, Carol Hoehn, Jack Jessup, Sonya Morely, Ann Morris, Jon Nelson, Janet Pollard, Jordan Pollard, Laura Ristau, Emily Rosenthal, Gracemary Rosenthal, Jim Russ, Pam Walaski, and Isaiah Wilson.**

Prayers

- Condolences to Barbara Davis on the recent death of her mother, Kathryn.



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“...inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

Rally Day

Sun., Sept. 11



Our regular worship schedule and full array of Church School classes resume on **Sun., Sept. 11**. Join us for this fall kick-off event, as children get reacquainted with their Sunday School teachers, youth catch up with one another after the summer break, and adults find opportunities for fellowship and learning through our many educational programs. A light, continental breakfast, sponsored by the Educational Ministries Committee, will be available on the Second Floor at 9:30 am.

We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. Adult and young adult offerings are detailed on **page 4**. Senior High classes (grades 9–12) follow our denomination’s *We Believe* curriculum. Junior High classes (grades 6–8) follow the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their daily lives. Children’s classes (by age) include *Godly Play* and *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Note: A list of classrooms and teachers is available on the first–third floors of the church, as well as on the CE Bulletin boards and the website.

Also, our 11 am Sanctuary worship service will include special music and litanies in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Read the article on **page 3** for more special events.

A Church School Offering

What does a quarter buy?
One stick of gum? One bite
of a candy bar? 1/40 of a
Sandcastle ticket?

How about a nourishing
lunch and vitamin for a
schoolchild in Haiti? That’s
right, 25 cents is what
stands between a child and
unbearable hunger.

This year, our Church School classes are participating in a Lunch Bucket Brigade to raise money for lunches at a school in Thomassin, Haiti. When you see a lunch bucket in your child’s classroom—or in your own—you’ll know that the coins in the buckets will soon be on their way to children whose hunger for an education is so great that some of them walk two hours to get to school. With our help, they will succeed because they have food in their bellies.



Office Closed: The church office will be closed on Labor Day, **Mon., Sept. 5**, and will open Tues., Sept. 6.