



Newsletter of
The Cathedral of Hope

Reaching Out

www.cathedralofhope.org



December 2006

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

Vol. 25, No. 12

Christmas Eve Family Service

Sunday, Dec 24, 5 pm, in the Chapel

Come and experience the wonder of the birth of Jesus as the children help to tell the story of his birth. On this special evening, we will sing carols, light our candles, and celebrate God's Peace among us. If you have new neighbors or you have recently met someone new at work, at school, or on the bus, please invite them to join us! All are welcome to hear the *Good News* and see the *Christmas Joy!* The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, preaching.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, Dec 24, 11 pm, in the Sanctuary

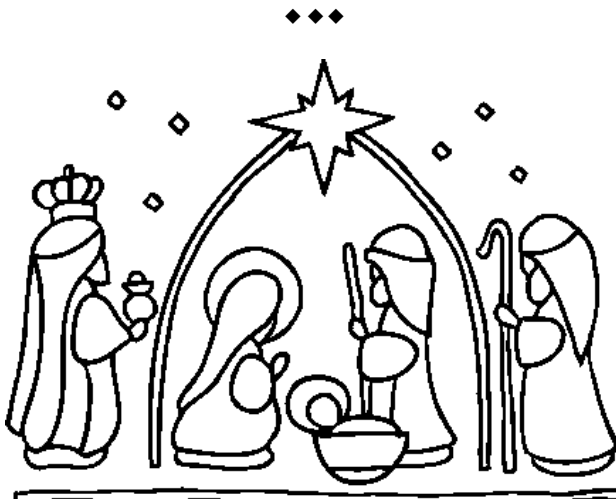
Join us on this special night to gather about our Lord's table to celebrate the love that has come into the midst of our life. **Music starts at 10:45 pm** when the Chancel Choir, organ and hand bells invite you into the wonder of this night of nights. The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, preaching.



New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, Dec 31, 7 pm, in the Sanctuary

Join us for our annual New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion and lots of sharing and music to liven your spirits. A sumptuous dessert buffet in the McKelvy Room will follow the service. The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, preaching.



Sunday Morning Services

**Holy Communion is celebrated.*

- 8 am Good Samaritan Worship**
 * Dec 3 The Rev. Kathryn Hamilton-Vargo, Minister, Southside Presbyterian.
 Dec 10 David Epperson, Elder, ELPC.
 Dec 17 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Dec 24 James L Johnson, Community of Human Services.
 Dec 31 The Rev. Thomas L. Menk, Presbyterian minister (retired).
- 9 am Morning Glory Worship**
 * Dec 3 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain.
 Dec 10 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Dec 17 MoGlos Christmas Retrospective
 Dec 24 No Morning Glory worship.
 Dec 31 No Morning Glory worship.
- 11 am Sanctuary Worship**
 * Dec 3 Heather Tunney.
 Dec 10 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Dec 17 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Dec 24 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.
 Dec 31 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain.

Koinonia Service of Praise

2nd Sunday of each month.

- Dec 10 Heather Tunney 7 pm

Holy Ground Service of Wholeness and Healing

Bimonthly, March–November.

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

- Mondays 10 am to 3 pm
 Wednesdays 10 am to 9 pm
 "World Day of Healing" labyrinth prayer walk,
 Sunday, Dec 31. See page 3 for details.

Taizé Prayer

- Wednesdays 7 pm
 The Rev. Christiane Dutton.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

The Cathedral of Hope
116 S. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412/441-3800
Fax: 412/441-4422
www.cathedralofhope.org

Office Hours:

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

STAFF LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Cynthia I. Jackson
Interim Director of Christian Education

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

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

Chef Jay G. Ritter
Dining Services Director

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

Luke Stevens
Projects Manager

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Director, Worship, Music & The Arts

Geri L. Toth
Communications Director

Heather Tunney
*Director of Youth & Young Adult
Ministries*

Howard Turner
Chief of Security

Reaching Out Newsletter

Reaching Out is a monthly publication of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is free to members and friends.

**Pastoral Message**

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Seeing Is Believing

I once read that when George Washington was approached about running for a second term as President of the United States, he hesitated for several reasons. He was tired of the demands of office and frustrated by the growing partisan mood of the legislators around him. But he also hesitated because he did not want to die in office. He wanted to be *seen* relinquishing the reins of power, in order to solidify the democratic ideal challenging all hereditary transfers of political authority.

Ultimately Washington did serve a second term, survived it, and was seen relinquishing power. His example became a visible testimony to the principles shaping our young nation. For colonial America, seeing was believing.

I mention these things in this December newsletter, because the season of Christmas is traditionally associated with visible acts of human kindness and generosity. We give gifts to others out of love, respect and gratitude. We take time to say "Thank You" for services rendered and thoughtfulness shown. We decorate and congregate, as a people anxious to proclaim to the world the good news of a Christ-child born in a manger.

The annual challenge in our holiday activity is finding ways to make sure our visible Christmas acts are sincere witnesses to our faith and not just testimonies to our materialism. Can we scale back our consumerism while boosting our compassion quota? Can we, as individuals and families, decide to set aside a portion of "gift money" for those who lack all gifts? Can we reduce the waste of the season so we can focus on what is truly beautiful and never requires gift-wrap?

There is nothing new in suggesting that, in this day of mass marketing and Madison Avenue hype, we return to more faithful and authentic Christmas celebrations. But I believe that change can occur simply by committing to do even one thing that is a visible expression of the message of this season – one intentional act of kindness, generosity, restraint, or love.

Remember how John's gospel opens: *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.* Seeing is believing. May both verbs in that short sentence come true in your lives this Christmas.

Randy Bush

**Session Action Items from November 2006 Meeting**

- ◆ Session heard an update from the Stewardship campaign. While additional pledges are still expected, the initial response was very strong with over 35 new pledges and a roughly 15% increase seen in amounts pledged for 2007.
- ◆ Session has been updating the church membership rolls, removing people from the Active and Inactive rolls for

whom no contact information is available. Following the Inquirers' Class in December, it is anticipated that over 50 new members will have joined ELPC in 2006.

- ◆ Session has begun work on the 2007 budget, setting aside funds for new programs next year while keeping the overall expenditures at 2006 levels.



Santa Shop for Gifts and Christmas Crafts

For children ages 4–grade 5. **Saturday, Dec 2**, second floor—make Christmas decorations (10 am–noon); shop for Christmas gifts (10 am–1 pm). Also, visit with Santa, and for 50 cents, have a picture taken with Santa. **Note:** Young shoppers must be old enough to shop without a parent present. For more information, call 412-441-3800. Sponsored by Presbyterian Women and Christian Education.



ELPC Celebrates Oikocredit Sunday

Oikocredit is an international Christian credit organization which turns investments into loans that bring hope. Oikocredit offers affordable loans to small projects in third world and developing countries, often made to purchase small sewing machines to start a new shop, an improved market facility, or machinery for processing crops. Investments can be made for as little as \$250 and it is a perfect way to put some of your investment funds to work for people who are working hard to help themselves.

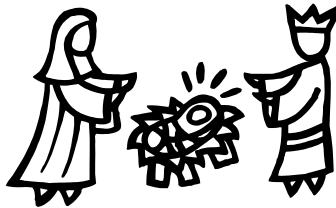
On **Sunday, Dec 3**, ELPC will celebrate Oikocredit Sunday. Immediately following the 11 am worship service, there will be a table set up in the McKelvy Room during Fellowship Time where representatives from Oikocredit will be available to talk to individuals about investing in Oikocredit. For more information, contact Kay Shissler or Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412-441-3800 x30.



Koinonia Fellowship and Potluck Supper

Prior to the 7 pm Koinonia Service of Praise on **Sunday, Dec 10**, all are invited to gather with us for a potluck supper in the Second Floor Parlor at **6 pm**. A main course will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP by Wednesday, Dec 6 to Heather Tunney.

Christmas Pageant “The Birth of Jesus” Sunday, Dec 17



Everyone is invited to hear the Good News! Come and prepare your heart for the birth of Jesus. Join us in the Social Hall at **9:45 am** for Christmas carols followed by the Christmas Pageant at 10 am. “The Birth of Jesus” will be presented by the Church School children, youth, their families and a few friends. Note: There will be no Church School on Dec 17.

Jesus was born into a family, and we rejoice that at ELPC we have an opportunity to experience the whole family of God. As the babe born in Bethlehem changed life two thousand years ago, Jesus comes to change our lives today! Come and share the spirit of Christmas! Joy to the World the Lord Has Come.

Pageant Rehearsal, Saturday, Dec 16 at 9:30 am

Children go to their Church School rooms to get their costumes. Further information will be mailed to each family. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Cynthia Jackson at 412-441-3800 x20 or cynthiaj@coh.net.



Reception for ELPC Staff Member Doris Cook

You are invited to a special reception to honor Doris Cook for her more than 20 years of dedicated service as receptionist at ELPC. The reception will be held in the Second Floor Parlor following the 11 am worship service on **Sunday, Dec 17**. Your presence and offerings of cards and well-wishes are most welcome as Doris' service ends effective the close of this calendar year.



Join in the Fun of Caroling

All are invited to join us on **Sunday, Dec 17** for a fun afternoon of Christmas caroling. This intergenerational event comprised of carolers from the congregation will be held from **1:30 to 3:30 pm**. One group of carolers will go to Highland Park Care Center, and another group will carol at Canterbury Place in Lawrenceville. There will be hot chocolate and cookies for our carolers back at ELPC after the event.

If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Heather Tunney at 412/441-3800 x14 by Sunday, Dec 10, so that we that can arrange transportation to our event locations, and enough refreshments for everyone.



Labyrinth Prayer Walk “World Day of Healing”

On **Sunday, Dec 31**, the ELPC labyrinth will be set up in the Social Hall and available for walking from 7 am to 7 pm.

To begin the day on Dec 31, in recognition of “World Day of Healing,” you are invited to walk the labyrinth **between 7 and 8 am** Pittsburgh time, in the most comprehensive prayer activity — a planetary affirmation of peace, love, and forgiveness involving millions of people in a **simultaneous global mind link**.

Since 1986, men, women and children around the world have gathered to participate in this special global event.



“A Cup of Christmas Tea”

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson invites you to join her on **Thursday, Dec 21** between **10:30 and 11:30 am**, 2nd Floor Parlor to hear the story *A Cup of Christmas Tea* and to remember those dear ones who have a special place in our hearts. Tea will be served followed by a reading of the story at 10:45 am. Sponsored by Christian Education.



The Joyful Noise Children’s Choir

Children ages 5–Grade 5 are welcome to participate. The choir will practice on **Sunday, Dec 3** at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary and sing at the 11 am service the same day. New singers welcome.



Worship Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers for the 11 am Sanctuary worship service (10 am service in the Courtyard during summer worship), in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Barbara Davis at 412-441-3800 x16. The cost is \$70 a Sunday.

The following 2007 dates are available:

Jan 14	July 29
Jan 21	Sept 16
May 13 (<i>Mother’s Day</i>)	Sept 23
June 3	Sept 30
June 17 (<i>Father’s Day</i>)	Oct 14
July 8	Nov 11

Questions? Please call Barbara Davis.



Board of Deacons

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

The Giving Tree – There’s Still Time to Participate

There’s still time to participate in this year’s Giving Tree. On Sundays, Dec 3, the Giving Tree will be set up near the Highland entrance from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you wish to participate, stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be available to answer any questions. During the week days, gift tags are available from Doris Cook in the church office. To participate by donating money, make the check payable to "ELPC" and designate for the Giving Tree on the memo line, and deliver it to the church office.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are **due** back in the church office by noon on **Sunday, Dec 10**. The Giving Tree benefits children and families from ELPC’s Mission Ministries and Christian Education Ministry, EECM.

Items for the Men’s Shelter

Please consider purchasing and donating small items for the Men’s Shelter—flip flops (various sizes), deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, knit hat/scarves, men’s gloves, long underwear, sweat socks, and combs/picks. **Note: No clothing please.** Only items listed.

Place the items in the Deacons’ box located near the Security Desk at the Highland entrance. Monetary donations are also accepted and will be used to purchase additional necessities for the men. Make check to ELPC and submit it to the church office (DO NOT place it in the Deacons’ box with the donated items).



Free-will offering. No tickets required.

Seasonal Music

Sunday, Dec 3 at 2 pm

Instrumental and choral music of the season with *Dr. J. Richard Szeremany* (organ) and *Sue Garton* (solo handbell artist). Also, all will be invited to enjoy a seasonal carol sing.

“Messiah” Sing-A-Long

Sunday, Dec 10 at 2 pm

Join the Chancel Choir in a “Messiah” sing-a-long. Also, soprano *Denise Sheffey Powell*, contralto *Anna Vogelzang*, tenor *Robert Frankenberg*, baritone *Peter Bianchi* and organist *Dr. J. Richard Szeremany*.

Musical Pageant “The Incarnate Word”

Sunday, Dec 17 at 7 pm

Chancel Choir, soloists, and narration with a cast of Biblical characters portrayed by various members of the congregation. **Note:** Please bring an item of non-perishable food for the East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM) Food Pantry.





Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

After-Taizé Classes

Wednesdays at 8:15 pm, following the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service. Second Floor Parlor.

- Dec 6 St. Nicholas Day!** Learn the true story about Santa Claus. Have fun singing some songs, eating some cookies and making an apple Santa Claus! Led by The Rev. Christiane Dutton.
- Dec 13 Introduction to Ignatian Prayer (part 1 of 2).** Led by Dr. Lois Lang.
- Dec 20 Introduction to Ignatian Prayer (part 2 of 2).** Led by Dr. Lois Lang.
- Dec 27 Celebrations.** Join us after our Taizé service for celebration cake. If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or an anniversary in December, write your name on a piece of paper and put it in the offering plate during the month.

Bread & Soup Meal and Fellowship

Because of the Christmas holiday, our Bread & Soup Meal, normally offered the last Wednesday of each month from 5:45 to 6:45 pm in the McKelvy Room, **will not be held on Wednesday, Dec 27**. Our next scheduled meal will be Wednesday, Jan 31, 2007. Please plan to join (\$2.50 donation).



Justice & Global Concerns

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

Environmental Taskforce Meeting

Everyone is welcome to the Environmental Taskforce meeting following the 11 am worship (12:15 pm) in Room 224 on **Sunday, Dec 3**. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm. The taskforce is a subgroup of the Justice & Global Concerns Committee with a focus on environmental justice issues and projects. Becky Maiman at 412-242-7179.

Volunteers Needed for Field Learning Program

Trip to Carnegie Art Museum

The Field Learning Project provides field trips to recently arrived Somalia Bantu and Burmese children. These trips are designed to help the children make connections with cultural institutions and diverse people in their community. A December field trip for families has been scheduled to the Carnegie Art Museum on **Saturday, Dec 9** from **9 am to 1 pm**.

The project again this year is in need of volunteers for these monthly field trips—chaperones, drivers, and helpers for breakfast preparation. If you would like to volunteer for the December field trip to the Carnegie Art Museum, or explore other volunteer needs connected to the Field Learning Program, please contact Junghwa Oh at 412-401-5745 or fieldlearning@hotmail.com or Judy Menk at 412-798-8569 or JAMenk@comcast.net. Future Saturday field trip dates: 2007—Jan 20, Feb 17, March 17, April 21, May 5 and June 16.

The Field Learning Program is collaborative effort between ELPC Women and Children's Taskforce and the Islamic Community Center of Pittsburgh.

Full Inclusion Taskforce Meeting

There will be a Full Inclusion Taskforce meeting on **Sunday, Dec 10**, following the 11 am worship (12:30 pm) in Room 224. We will be hearing a report from the Covenant Network Conference and making plans for the next year. All are welcome to join us in a discussion of ways to promote open dialogue, welcome, and inclusion within the Pittsburgh Presbytery and ELPC. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

This taskforce is a subgroup of the Justice & Global Concerns Committee with a focus on justice issues surrounding the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the PC(USA). For more information, call Carol Untch, 724-272-9722.



Volunteer Mentors Wanted for CLAA Y Program

You can make a positive impact on the lives of high-school students by becoming a career mentor. Career Literacy for African American Youth (CLAA Y), a program of Duquesne University, is a school-based career mentoring and academic tutoring program serving students at ten high schools in the City of Pittsburgh, and five high schools and one middle school in Beaver County.

The time commitment to be a volunteer career mentor is 15 hours during the school year. Career mentors meet with their students at their school two hours per month. If interested or for more information about the program, contact Damon Bethea at 412-325-1565 x31 or at damon@winnets.com, or Megan Grabski with the CLAA Y program at 412-396-1676 or at grabski@duq.edu.





Christian Education

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Interim Director

CHURCH SCHOOL

All classes are in wheelchair-accessible locations and near wheelchair-accessible restrooms. Detailed information about any of the following CE classes is available at the "Welcome Table" on the second floor or by contacting the Rev. Cynthia Jackson..

December Schedule

Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 am

- Dec 3, 10.....All classes meet in their regular rooms, 9:45 am.
 Dec 17.....No classes. Christmas Pageant in the Social Hall (9:45 am).
 Dec 24, 31No classes. Reminder Dec 31, "The Clown's Best Gift."

CHILDREN

- ◆ Young Children's Ministry: Infants--2 years. The young children will be learning that Jesus was a special baby. 1st Floor Nursery.
- ◆ Pre-school: Ages 3, 4, and 5 years. The children will discover: I can look for Jesus, I can tell others about God's greatest gift, I can bring gifts to Jesus. Room 240.
- ◆ Kindergarten and Grade 1. In an open classroom that emphasizes awe, wonder, and the holy, the story of the birth of Jesus is shared. Room 336.
- ◆ Grades 2 and 3. Interactive materials enable the children to engage in the story and discover how God comes to us in Jesus. Room 338.
- ◆ Grades 4 and 5. The Bible lessons from Seasons of the Spirit. The children will meet Jeremiah, Zechariah, Elizabeth, and learn how each one leads us to Jesus. Room 335.

YOUTH

For Church School classes offered for youth in grades 6 through 12, see page 7 for details.

ADULTS

Parenting Circle

All involved in parenting are invited to share in this caring group of adults who seek to understand how faith impacts family life. First Floor, Harambe Room.

Journey with Scripture Class

This class studies and reflects upon the scriptures. Prior familiarity with the Bible is not necessary. Second Floor Library.

- Dec 3 Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalms 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.
 Dec 10 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

Contemporaries Class

An intergenerational community of caring adults united in their focus upon Bible reading and meditation. Individuals at all stages of faith are welcome! Second Floor Parlor.

- Dec 3 Marshall Rosenberg's *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict*. A discussion of Rosenberg's book on nonviolent communication. Led by Beth Bush.
 Dec 10 "God's Health Care Plan." Led by Joe Kennedy. What does God intend for us regarding our health?

Seekers Class

Explores issues of faith and spiritual growth in an open, supportive, and accepting atmosphere. New members are welcome. Room 234.

- Dec 3 "How do we Relate to the Holy?"
 Facilitators: ELPC member Bobby Egelston and ordained United Methodist minister Joe Hajdu. Come and experience a variety of ways of praying.
 Dec 10 "Season of the Arts: A Christmas Celebration." Members of the class and friends share poetry, music, and other forms of art.



"The Clown's Best Gift" A Christmas Story

Friday, Dec 15
7 pm, Music Room

Sunday, Dec 31
10 am, Music Room

A special telling of the Christmas story (for all ages) by Cathie Hajdu, accompanied on the piano by Joe Hajdu. Five unhappy clowns happen upon a baby in a stable. They eventually find the best gift to give the baby and receive true happiness and joy.

Everyone is invited to come with an 'open heart' and be transformed by the Christmas love. A free-will gift offering will be accepted. Anyone wishing to, may **bring a package of diapers** for infants or toddlers which will be distributed to the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

Sponsored by Christian Education.



Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Heather Tunney, Director
412-441-3800 x14

YOUTH Grades 6–12

Sunday Church School, 9:45 to 10:45 am

"Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum. **Note:** No class Dec 17, 24 and 31.

Youth Participation in Annual Christmas Pageant

Middle-school youth participating in the annual Christmas pageant are requested to be at **rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 16 at 9:30 am**. Senior-high youth interested in helping the younger children, or to serve as ushers or stage crew, are also invited to attend the rehearsal.

Junior-High Christmas Service Project

On **Saturday, Dec 16**, youth will go shopping to purchase gifts for area children in need of assistance this Christmas season, as identified through a local social service agency. Permission slip and RSVP required by Dec 10. For more information, times and to participate, contact Heather Tunney.

Youth Group

Open to youth in grades 6-12, **Sundays, 12:30 to 3 pm**. We will meet for lunch, Bible Study and fellowship in Room 51 (ground floor). **Note:** No Youth Group Dec 24 and 31.

Youth Group December Service Project — "Christmas Caroling"

On **Sunday, Dec 17**, ELPC youth will be joined by others from the congregation in going Christmas caroling at two local nursing homes. A permission slip and RSVP are required by Sunday, Dec 10. For details, times and to participate, contact Heather Tunney.

Youth Basketball

Youth Basketball is held on **Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm** in the ELPC Gym. To participate, contact Heather. **Note:** No Youth Basketball on Saturdays, Dec 23 or 30.

YOUNG ADULTS In their 20s and 30s

Sunday Church, 9:45 to 10:45 am

See Christian Education for adult Church School classes, pages 6.

Young Adult Study Group

Young adults in their 20s or 30s are invited to join us on **Tuesday, Dec 12 from 7 to 9 pm** in the Pastor's Conference Room as we examine the theological issues involved through several different theological lenses within the Reformed tradition. You do not need to be a scholar to attend this study group—just come with questions and an open mind! For more information, contact Heather. Meets every other Tuesday.

Christmas Caroling

Join ELPC youth and others in the congregation in spreading some Christmas cheer to residents of two local nursing homes. We will meet in Room 51 on **Sunday, Dec 17 at 1:30 pm**, and return to ELPC by 3:30 pm for cookies and hot chocolate. RSVP to Heather at 412-441-3800 x14.



Presbyterian Women

Heather Lawrence,
Moderator

Christmas Donations for Northside Common Ministries

Our Presbyterian Women are collecting the following gifts for Northside Common Ministries: large or X-large men's hoodies; games for children ages 6–14. Please prayerfully consider helping us. Leave your donation in the church office marked for "Presbyterian Women" by Dec 1.

Christmas Cookies

In place of our annual Cookie Bake at the church, those who would like to donate Christmas cookies needed for the Allegheny County Jail, PW Christmas Gathering and the ELPC Christmas Pageant, should bring your already baked cookies (packed in a disposable container for freezing), to the church office on Sunday, Dec 3. Questions? Contact Mary Alice Lightle at 412-682-1504.

Christmas Gathering

All are invited to join us on **Saturday, Dec 9 from 3 to 5 pm** in the Second Floor Parlor, for a festive time of friendship and fellowship. For more information, contact Nancy Wright at 412-508-0040 or nancywright@remax.net.

2006-07 Horizons Bible Study December: Lesson #4

All women at ELPC are invited to participate in this year's Horizons Bible Study based on 9 lessons, one each month. "In the Beginning: Perspectives on Genesis" by Celia Brewer Sinclair. Lesson #4 — "Perspectives on Promise: Abraham and Sarah" (Genesis 12:1-20; 18:1-15; 20:1-18). First **Tuesday morning, Dec 5**. 10 am—sharing, prayer, opening devotions; 10:30 am—Bible Study; 11:30 am—lunch, soup is provided, please bring bread, salad or fruit to share. **Note:** No fourth Tuesday evening Bible Study in December. The Tuesday evening discussion of Lesson #4 will be held on Tuesday, Jan 23, 2007.



Inquirers' Class

Learn what it means to be a person of faith and about the ministry and vision of ELPC. If you are interested in joining as a member or friend, we are offering a two-part Inquirers' Class

Sunday, Dec 3 9:15 to 10:45 am

Sunday, Dec 10 9:45 to 10:45 am

Childcare is available. To attend our two-part Inquirers' Class or for future classes, contact Gloria at 412/441-3800.



Shop for Hope, Joy and a Fairer World this Holiday Season

There are two local places to shop for gifts this holiday season, and at the same time bring hope and future joy to families in poor countries.

ELPC's *Gifts of the Spirit* bookstore, located on the first floor near the Highland entrance, has for sale not only books and tapes on many areas of spirituality and religions, but hand-crafted items from developing nations including jewelry, candles, religious icons, cards, scarves, purses, and other hand-made objects. The sale of these items helps provide income to poor families in these nations. For hours open, call the church office at 412-441-3800.

Ten Thousand Villages, located on Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill, also markets the fairly-traded handicrafts of artisans in poor countries, bringing them hope for the future and joy in providing for their families. For the store's holiday hours, call 412-421-2160.



Open Class and Party for "Voices of Hope"

You are invited to Hope Academy's open class/workshop performance (of works in progress) and party for Suzanne Polak's vocal ensemble *Voices of Hope* on **Wednesday, Dec 13 at 6 pm** in the third floor Music Room. RSVP to Norma at 412-441-3800 x11, and bring a goodie or snack to share.



ELPC People

Good News, Thanks and Prayers

Thanks

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the many staff and church members for their assistance with the 2007 "Celebrating God's Work Here" Stewardship Campaign. Particular thanks are extended to ELPC staff: Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, Geri Toth, Gloria Knopp, Deborah Marx, Barbara Davis and Chef Jay Ritter; and to the efforts of church members: Tim Benedict (video production), campaign champions: Donna Ramsey and Justin Johnson; speakers: Peggy Outon and Raymond Anthony; and Strategic Planning Committee: David Hart and Brian Bonsteel. Finally, thanks to hosts/hostesses: Damon Bethea, Brian Bonsteel, Randy Bush, David Epperson, Richard Headley, Justin Johnson and Emily Rosenthal.

Prayers

Our prayers and sympathies are with the following ELPC members and their families . . .

—Alex Ebbert on the death of his father *George Mercier* on Oct 23.

—Marva Harris on the death of her sister.

—Sherry Anderson on the death of her mother *Jeane Renz* on Oct 30.

—Anne Haseltine on the death of her brother *Hamilton Whitlinger*.



Renaissance City Choirs Holiday Concert

The Renaissance City Choirs, Pittsburgh's only choir comprised of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and supportive individuals, will present this year's holiday concert "Holiday in Our Home" on **Saturday, Dec 9 at 8 pm** in the beautiful Sanctuary of East Liberty Presbyterian Church. As always, the concert will combine a number of traditional holiday tunes with an assortment of contemporary compositions. WQED-FM will record the concert live for broadcast on Friday, Dec 15 at 8 pm.

For ticket information, contact the RCC office at 412-362-9484 or visit RCC's website at www.rccpittsburgh.org. The RCC hold Choirs-In-Residence status at ELPC.



Free Blood Pressure Screening

On **Sunday, Dec 17** following the 11 am worship service, ELPC's new Health Ministry Initiative will be in the first floor Library to offer free blood pressure screenings to help individuals take control of their health and wellness.

Giving yourself the gift of health this holiday season and stop by to participate. For more information, contact Lois Lang (x41) or Patrice Fowler-Searcy (x30) at 412-441-3800.



EECM Food-of-the-Month

The East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) Food Pantry, located in ELPC, distributes food during the week to those persons and households living in poverty. Designated baskets are available for food dropped off inside the church.

December's item: CANNED TUNA





Calendar Event Highlights

December 2006

- 2.....Santa Shop and Christmas Crafts
- 3.....Inquirers' Class (part 1)
- 3.....Communion
- 3.....Oikocredit Sunday
- 3.....Joyful Noise Children's Choir at 11 am service
- 3.....Seasonal Music Concert, 2 pm
- 3.....Sunday Advent Workshop, 5 to 8 pm
- 8.....Happy Wanderers Christmas Party
- 8,9.....Young Adult Advent Retreat
- 9.....Presbyterian Women Christmas Gathering
- 9.....RCC Holiday Concert, 8 pm
- 10.....Inquirers' Class (part 2)
- 10....."Messiah" Sing-A-Long, 2 pm
- 10.....Koinonia Fellowship and Potluck Supper, 6 pm
- 10.....Koinonia Service of Praise, 7 pm
- 13.....Voices of Hope Open Class and Party
- 14.....Deacon's Shelter Christmas Party
- 15....."The Clowns Best Gift" 7 pm
- 16.....Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 9:30 am
- 16.....Jr. High Christmas "Shopping" Service Project
- 17.....Christmas Pageant, 10 am
- 17.....New Members & Friends of ELPC join
- 17.....Reception for Doris Cook
- 17.....ELPC Health Ministry Blood Pressure Screening
- 17.....ELPC Christmas Caroling at local nursing homes
- 17.....Musical Pageant "The Incarnate Word", 7 pm
- 21....."A Cup of Tea" Storytelling, 10:30 am
- 24.....Morning worship services at 8 am and 11 am (no 9 am Morning Glory)
- 24.....Christmas Eve Family Service, 5 pm
- 24.....Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 11 pm
- 25,26....CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED
- 31.....World Day of Healing, Labyrinth Prayer Walk, 7 am to 7 pm
- 31.....Morning worship services at 8 am and 11 am (no 9 am Morning Glory)
- 31....."The Clowns Best Gift" 7 pm
- 31.....New Year's Eve Service, 7 pm

January 2007

- 1.....CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED



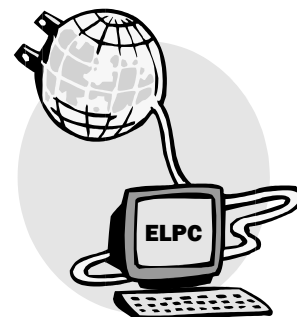
December 2006						
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31						

Church Building Closings

Monday, Dec 25
 Tuesday, Dec 26
 and
 Monday, Jan 1, 2007

The Cathedral Café will also be closed
 Dec 22 through Jan 1
 Reopens Tuesday, Jan 2

The Labyrinth will be unavailable
 for walking on
 Mondays, Dec 25 and Jan 1



www.cathedralofhope.org



The Cathedral of Hope

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 ☎

www.cathedralofhope.org

Address Service Requested

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

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ELPC Reaching Out Newsletter ♦ December 2006



Christmas Eve Family Service

Sunday, Dec 24, 5 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, Dec 24, 11 pm (music begins 10:45 pm)



New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, Dec 31, 7 pm

Santa Shop & Christmas Crafts
Christmas Pageant
The Giving Tree
Christmas Music Concert Series
Reception for Doris Cook
Labyrinth Walk “World Day of Healing”
Inquirers' Class
Jr. High Christmas Service Project



Young Adult Study Group
ELPC Christmas Caroling
PW Christmas Gathering
After-Taizé Class: St. Nicholas Day
Two Christmas Story Events:
“The Clown's Best Gift”
“A Cup of Christmas Tea”

. . .AND, MORE!