

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church January 2009

New Year's Eve Worship

Wed., Dec. 31, at 7 pm, in the Chancel



ELPC Staff and congregation members will lead us in readings, prayers, meditations and song. We'll remember the year past, and look to the year ahead, giving thanks for all we've received, and being grateful for God having led us through some of those Valleys of the Shadow. What will tomorrow bring? Perhaps we do have a vital role to play in the tomorrows of our lives.

Come spend the hour with us. Sit at the Lord's Table and share His Bread and the Cup. When we've been filled with the grace and presence of God, we'll gather in the McKelvy Room to enjoy a New Year's Eve dessert buffet.

Winter Rally Day

Sun., Jan. 4, at 9:30 am

Join us as we kick off our Church School classes with Winter Rally Day, and return to our regular Sunday schedule. Greet friends over a light, potluck breakfast on the second floor at 9:30 am, then head to class for a time of study, fellowship and renewal. Remember, ELPC offers church school classes for persons of all ages! Please bring a breakfast bread to share.

Peabody Student Interns at ELPC and Hope Academy



On the set of Black Horizons (left to right): Demetrius Dorsey, Emmai Alaquiva, Linda Addlespurger, Chris Moore, Aaron Gibson and Mimette Seate.

"My name is Demetrius Dorsey and I've attended Hope Academy of Music and the Arts for three years in the musical theater program, and as part of Hip Hop On LOCK. I've learned to act, sing and dance; and have grown to become a strong person through the wisdom and guidance of the people here.

Through Peabody High School's Start on Success program, which helps teens in the city of Pittsburgh get jobs and internships, I intern four afternoons a week, at ELPC and Hope Academy. I'm happy to be here, and greatly enjoy learning from everyone, helping wherever I'm needed."

Demetrius was interviewed by Chris Moore for an episode of WQED's Black Horizons, the nation's longest running series for the African American audience. Demetrius represented Hope Academy's hip hop group, MVP, and talked about their participation in the Hip Hop On LOCK Project.

Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

January Liturgist: Karen Fraser

- Jan. 4* The Rev. Connie Dunn, Chaplain, Hospice Visiting Nurses' Association of Butler County
- Jan. 11 The Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson, Interim Pastor to the Presbytery
- Jan. 18 The Rev. Robert Wilson, Pastor, First United Methodist Church
- Jan. 25 Michael Stanton, Exec. Director, Open Hand Ministries

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

- Jan. 4* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Jan. 11 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Jan. 18 The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Jan. 25 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Jan. 4* The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Jan. 11 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Jan. 18 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Jan. 25 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Koinonia Service of Praise

Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm

- Jan. 11 Brian Diebold

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 10 am-3 pm

Wednesdays • 10 am-9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Mission Trip to Malawi

ELPC has been invited by our partner church in Balaka, Malawi, to visit for about 10 days in late June or early July.

Call Kay Shissler, at 412.681.2047.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: (412) 441-3800

Fax: (412) 441-4422

www.cathedralofhope.org

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. Miriam Chamberlain

Visitation Pastor

Cindy DeAngelo

Seminary Intern

Brian Diebold

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Intern

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Minister of Taizé Prayer

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

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany

Director, Worship, Music and The Arts

Jon Tyillian

Associate Director of Music

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. Deadlines are the first Tuesday of the preceding month.

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



A group of ordinary golfers recently had the chance to play one hole of golf with Tiger Woods. Two thousand platinum-colored golf balls had been hidden in packages sold across America; 24 people were selected from that group. The winners were flown to Los Angeles to play alongside Tiger on the tenth hole of the Trump National Golf Club. In writing about this event, one of the winners talked about trying to avoid nervousness by relying on his pre-shot routine. What could be less routine than hitting a golf ball in front of the world's best golfer?

One participant put it best: "We all fear the same thing. We don't want to dribble it off the tee. Everyone is praying, 'Please, God, let me get the ball airborne.'"

I doubt whether anyone keeps score in heaven, but if I had to make a guess, I'd estimate that God hears four or five "Please, God" prayers for every prayer that says "Thank you, God." (If I were playing golf with Tiger Woods, I'd be saying a lot of "Please, God" prayers too!) We go through our days primarily focused on what is before us. Occasionally we notice things that make us smile or surprise us with their beauty, like a pink and red sunset, the antics of a toddler, or the sight of a pet playing in newly-fallen snow. Sometimes we stop long enough to say a prayer of thanksgiving to God, the source of life's wonder and beauty.

Far more often, when our focus is distracted from what's before us, it's because something else grabs our attention – a close encounter with a reckless driver, a stressful situation at work when the phone won't stop ringing and the e-mails pile up, or the lingering memory of being told about a medical test result or the death of a friend. At those moments, we send up "Please, God" prayers. Sometimes they're bargaining prayers ("Get me through this and I'll never do that again.") or perhaps life-line prayers ("I need your help, Lord, with just this one thing.").

They are honest prayers from the heart. I would never suggest that you shouldn't offer these prayers to God. But, as you pray those words, I hope you'll remember two things. First, if you're driving the golf ball in front of Tiger Woods, keep your head down and follow-through completely. Second, God in Christ is with you always and knows your needs even before you ask. That doesn't change the fact that you will sometimes hear bad news or face hard times, but it absolutely changes the way you think about living your life in light of those situations.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul wrote these famous words: "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." God's grace, spirit, power and love are the starting point for our lives each day, and the foundation upon which we stand as we respond to the good and bad times in life. We are children of God, shackled not with spirits of fear and defeat, but set free (through the good news of Christ's resurrection) to live lives of hope, power and love.

A new year has dawned. As you move through the early days of 2009, filling in your new calendars, celebrating with our nation the inauguration of a new President, confronting the challenges that come your way from snowy storm clouds and inclement economic conditions, remember that you have not been given a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power and love. The two go together, and with them, through God's grace, every prayer is heard and answered.

Randy Bush

Session News

- At recent meetings, the Session heard good reports from both the Nominating, and the Finance and Stewardship Committees. The 2009 budget was approved, having hit its benchmarks for overall reductions in its endowment income dependence.
- A congregational meeting is being organized to provide information and feedback, related to our budget process. The date is to be determined.
- It was decided to avoid scheduling committee meetings after worship on the first Sunday of the month. It was felt that this time should be spent as part of Sabbath rest or for programs of spiritual growth and nurture.
- A new group of members and friends was received in December, bringing the total for new membership in 2008 to 44 members and 10 friends.

Take a Moral Stand Against Torture

ELPC is an endorsing member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and served as a financial sponsor of **Say No to Torture**, a local conference attended by approximately 100 justice and peace advocates. As a follow-up, several East End faith communities formed a loose coalition, to develop a better understanding of the reach of torture and provide ongoing advocacy and action response.

"Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved – policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable" - "Torture is a Moral Issue" Statement of Conscience

Join over 18,000 people and faith groups who have endorsed the Statement of Conscience, available at www.nrcat.org, and plan on attending the Pittsburgh premiere of *"Taxi to The Dark Side."* Details on [page 6!](#)

Mission Structure

Architecture

A mission study has been taking place for the last 10 months to study ELPC's mission activities with the following goals:

- Increase Focus on Mission
- Improve Coordination & Communication
- Minimize Duplication
- Optimize Use of Resources

Using Isa. 56:1; Mt. 25:40; I Cor. 4:1-2; I Cor. 12:12; and Mic. 6:8 as our guiding scriptures, and a desire to become a more missional church, we developed a structure that would assure ELPC fulfills its mission objectives as a servant of God. By analyzing the groups offering mission opportunities and communication between them, we identified a structure enabling more members to participate in the mission of ELPC, provide fiscal responsibility, maximize our human resources and be flexible enough to meet the needs of our growing congregation.

Framework

Last September, the Mission Study Committee introduced the idea of reorganizing all of our ongoing missions into four working committees: Peace, Justice, Poverty, and Neighbors. Representatives from groups presently providing mission, came together to identify how the current missions would fit into the new structure, ensure that we can make a smooth transition, and effectively maintain the services we provide within our church, to our community and to the global community.

Building Materials

A Mission Board will be formed to oversee the four committees. The board will be composed of two session members, the committee chairs, a deacon, a Presbyterian Women's representative and two members at large. The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy will be the staff person working with the Mission Board. The board will meet every other month, and the committees will meet in the alternate months.

Dick Headley agreed to chair Poverty, Michele Bossers – Justice, and Emily Rosenthal – Neighbors. We are seeking to fill the chair of the Peace Committee and the two at-large board positions. If you're interested, please call the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, at **412.441.3800 x30**.

Completed Structure

The next step will be a **Mission Fair on Sun., Jan. 25**, to highlight all of our mission activities and provide you the opportunity to discover where you can help. At that time, we invite you to prayerfully consider your own gifts and how God is calling you to be of service in the work of ELPC. Watch the bulletin boards and weekly bulletins for information on the four mission areas.



Art Aimed at Our Hearts

Fri., Jan. 23, at 6 pm

ELPC members Karolyn Denson and Dan Siemasko will team up for a special art show: **Spirit Catchers - Paintings to Lift our Spirits.**

At Treasures, Karolyn's gallery, on the North Side, 407 East Ohio St., you'll find jewelry, custom fashions, and other art. Dan will exhibit almost 30 spiritual paintings.



An opening reception begins at 6 pm. The show runs through Memorial Day. For more information, call Karolyn Denson, at **412.231.0888**.

Church School Classes

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am

Classes are offered for persons of all ages. Adult options are detailed on this page. Youth classes on page 5 – junior high (grades 6-8) and senior high (grades 9-12) – follow the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their daily lives. Children's classes (by age) include *Baby Lapsit*, *Godly Play*, and *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Spiritual Life

Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life

Search the Mine for the Treasures of Prayer!

Sun., Jan. 4, following 11 am worship

Have you ever had the feeling that prayer was becoming a chore – that words were lacking, your mind was wandering and your heart wasn't in it? Well, you have lots of company.

Is there anything you can do about this or a similar prayer/spiritual situation? Why does prayer work so easily for some and with difficulty for others?



Well, there's gold in the hills, friends! There's prayer gold and lots of it, unmined and undiscovered.

To discover the hidden riches and to appreciate that wealth as integral to our spiritual journeys, will be the basis of the Spiritual Life Committee's after-worship offering on **Sun., Jan 4**.

Join us in the third floor Music Room, as the Rev. Dr. J Richard Szeremany facilitates this offering.

Bring an inquiring mind, a resilient spirit and a great big bag to pack full of the riches you'll discover as we go mining together for the untapped treasures of prayer!

Christian Education in January

Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

CONTEMPORARIES CLASS *Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*
We encourage one another to carry out ministries of compassion and justice.

Jan. 4 and 11: Order My Steps!

Lenore Williams provides a series of personal experiences that help us reflect on our own spiritual journeys, based upon Job 33:12-14. The presentation emphasizes how we can improve our listening and become more sensitive to the manner in which God speaks to us. God truly guides our steps if we trust in Him. God also speaks to us in opportunities and through situations. For many of us, this interaction isn't embodied by a "burning bush," but rather through a whisper.

Jan. 18: Communities of Faith and Learning Guided by a Theological Vision

Theological schools educate church leaders as well as scholars and teachers of the theological disciplines. These schools differ in deep and significant ways. Nadine Banks will explain how, through their membership in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), they demonstrate a commitment to commonly held values about what constitutes good theological education.

Jan. 25: Sojourner House Moms

Sojourner House Moms (SHM) is a faith-based residential facility where addicted women learn to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty and chemical abuse through an array of helpful programs that address this moral issue. Exec. Director, JoAnn Cyganovich and ELPC member, Sel Whitaker, provide details regarding this essential component of ministry.



JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE

Facilitator: Jan Irvin

We journey towards a community of vision, justice, and steadfast love.

Jan. 4: Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Jan. 11: Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 18: I Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Jan. 25: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12; I Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

PARENTING CIRCLE

Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Anne Jackson

We explore how our faith builds and nourishes our family lives.

Jan. 4: Share Holiday Stories, Joys, and Concerns

Jan. 11, 18, 25: Sharing Our Families' Best Practices

We begin a new series of topics suggested by group members. This month, we explore **Children and the Media: TV, Video Games, Movies and the Internet**. In this three-week session, the group discusses common questions: How much "screen time" is too much? What content is appropriate? How does the media affect our children and their development? Where do we find God in the media?

SEEKERS

Facilitators: Seekers Steering Committee

We wish to grow in religious understanding, insight, faith and practice.

Jan. 4: Ancient Cambodia, Angkor Wat and the Ancient Khmer Empire

An illustrated presentation by ELPC member Krista Reitz, teacher and photographer.

Jan. 11: Modern Cambodia: History, Culture and Spiritual Intersections

Presented by Krista Reitz.

Jan. 18: Black Theology

In preparation for a two-part series.

Jan. 25: Reflections on James Cone's 'Black Liberation Theology'

Part 1-of-2 with Dr. Ron Peters, Henry L. Hillman Associate Professor of Urban Ministry and Director, Metro-Urban Institute, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Youth and Young Adult Events

Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth meet on Wednesdays, from 3:30-8 pm. In conjunction with Hope Academy, we offer time for homework, gym activities, free Hope Academy classes, dinner, Bible Study, and more! Participate as your schedule permits!

club one sixteen jr. and **sr.** meet for dinner at 6 pm, and Bible Study from 6:30-8 pm. Our series for January will be **Giving Back**. Even when times get tough, we've all been blessed by God in various ways. What is our response as Christians to God's love for us?

Jan. 7: Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday! What does Thanksgiving look like from a faith perspective?

Jan. 14: Talents

God has given us many gifts, including the gift of who we are! What talents do you have? How can you use those talents to serve God?

Jan. 21: Tithing

Tithing is a small word with a big meaning. With Biblical roots, tithing is about more than money, it is about how we use our material possessions and worldly wealth to honor God.

Youth Overnight and Service Project

We continue our **Giving Back** series with an opportunity to put our **club one sixteen** discussions into action, as we give our time in service to God. How we spend our time often shows others what is most important to us. How do we give our time in a way that reflects our gratitude for God's blessing and our call to share that blessing with others?

- Join us on **Sat., Jan 24**, for a morning of service at the East End Thrift Store.
- Youth who participate in the service project are invited to a lock-in at ELPC, beginning **Fri., Jan. 23**, at 7 pm.
- All youth who stay over at ELPC are REQUIRED to participate in the service project. Youth are welcome to just come by Saturday morning to volunteer.
- RSVP and Permission slip are required by **Wed., Jan. 14**. See the youth calendar for more information.

Confirmation Update

Confirmation class resumes on Jan. 4, from 12:30-3:30 pm. Our sponsors are invited to join us for lunch and will begin their journey alongside the Confirmands throughout the spring semester at ELPC.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Those in their 20's and 30's are invited to join our warm and dynamic group for faith and fellowship! Visit us at www.myspace.com/youngadultselpc, or email Brian Diebold, at bdiebold@pts.edu.

Life in the Spirit Sunday School Class - New Series!

Does the Christian faith make sense? Is a 'Thinking Christian' a contradiction in terms? This month, we explore **Apologetics: Christian Doctrine on Trial**. Court will be in session on Sundays in the Pastor's Conference Room, 9:45-10:45 am. Newcomers are welcome!

Tuesday Evening Study Group

Join us on **Tues., Jan. 13** and **27**, from 7-9 pm, in the second floor Parlor for a provocative discussion of the book, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Contact Brian to get a copy, and come on out and join us!



Hope Academy

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Winter Term Begins Jan. 5

- Course brochure and registration form are at www.HopeAcademy.info.
- Courses are offered for children and youth from 4- to 18-years-old in theater, dance, singing and music.
- Private lessons are offered for strings, piano, percussion, guitar, flute, clarinet, organ and voice.
- The registration deadline is **Mon., Dec. 15**. Call **412.441.3800 x11**, to see if there's still room.
- If you'd like to apply for a scholarship for next year, you're encouraged to enroll in one of our free after-school vocal ensembles.



Shakespeare/Stage Combat Workshop, beginning in January, will help young actors explore Shakespeare's plays through voice, movement, acting and theater games in order to prepare for the Pittsburgh Public Theater's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest in March.

Love and All That Jazz

Sat., Feb. 14, at 7 pm

Last year's event filled the sanctuary with excitement and left the audience asking for more. This year, some of Pittsburgh's best-known artists will join the Figureheads, winners of a 2007 Parents' Choice Gold and 2007 NAPPA Gold Awards. Their positive hip-hop music explores themes of making good decisions, discovering one's voice and celebrating the power of family and friendships.

Figurehead songs and information are available at www.figureheadsinc.org

This is the perfect Valentine's Day event for families and people of all ages.

Tickets are **\$5** in advance; \$10 at the door. Children and youth are free, but must be accompanied by a guardian. Proceeds benefit Hope Academy.

All Heart Choir



Do you like to sing but feel you lack singing expertise? If so, you are encouraged to consider becoming a member of the All Heart Choir, a congenial group of about 10 men and women who sing in unison as well as two, three and even four part harmonies. There certainly might be a place for you!

Give it a New Year's thought and let Dr. Szeremany, at **412.441.3800 x24**, or Norma Meyer, at **412.441.3800 x 11**, know that you'd like to receive a notice of rehearsal times.

Calling All Artists

Are you a performing, visual or literary artist? The Pentecost Arts Committee wants to know!

We are gearing up for a church-wide celebration of the arts. We want to identify artists within our ELPC family by building a directory of talents.

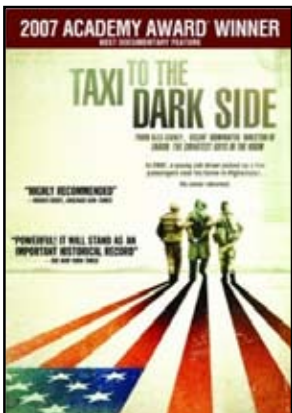
Surveys are available on the Highland Ave. bulletin board and at the Security Desk. Contact Sue, at **412.242.6751**, or **sues1514@hotmail.com**.

"Taxi to the Dark Side"

Mon., Jan. 26, at 7 pm

Save the date, and attend the Pittsburgh premiere of "Taxi To The Dark Side" at First United Methodist Church on Centre Ave., in Shadyside.

This is an Oscar nominated documentary about our government's use of torture when dealing with



political prisoners, with a focus on those captured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Turn to **page 3**, for information on taking a moral stand against torture.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

We will have a soup and bread supper, at 6 pm, prior to the Taizé Prayer services. A free-will offering of \$2.50 is appreciated. Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

Note: Class is cancelled on **Wed., Jan. 7.**

Jan. 14: Sweat Your Prayers, led by *Daphne Anderson*

Liturgical dance will have a Christmas theme as we explore another way to express your love, honor, and worship of God.

Jan. 21: Shape Note Singing, led by *Charles Anderson*

Enjoy singing tunes in three and four part harmony from the oldest American tune book in print. All tunes are taught, one part at a time! Beginners welcome!

Jan. 28: Celebrations!

If you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in January, please write it down and put it in the collection plate. We'd like to celebrate with you!

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Jan. 6: Horizons Bible Study

Please join us on **Tues., Jan. 6**, at 10 am, in the second floor parlor as we continue with our study of Jubilee!, Luke's Gospel for the Poor. Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will lead our discussion of **The Dead Are Raised**, Luke 8:40-56. A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Beverages and soup will be provided. Call Mary Alice Lightle for more information, at **412.682.1504**.

Through Jan. 18: Medicines and Food Money for Haiti

Presbyterian Women are collecting prenatal vitamins, antifungal creams, yeast infection treatments (like Monistat), and money for food (Checks made payable to "FLM-Haiti"), to be taken to Haiti at the end of January. A collection box is placed at the Highland Ave. entrance. Call Carolyn, at **412.421.7630**, with questions.

Health Ministry

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

Tai Chi at ELPC

Is cabin fever already getting to you? Need to get out and stretch a little? How about Tai Chi? ELPC is offering Tai Chi classes beginning on **Tues., Feb. 3**. Classes are held Tuesday at 10 am, and at 6 pm. Judy Crow will return as the instructor. A donation of \$3/class is requested. New students are encouraged to attend!

For more information, call Karla Ballou, at **412.441.3800 x34**.

Diabetes Education Announcement

Do you know what diabetes is? Do you have an interest in bettering your daily lifestyle to reduce your risks? You're invited to join Duquesne University's School of Nursing for a three-part diabetes awareness and intervention workshop. Each workshop will last about 45-minutes, after Sunday worship.

Feb. 1: Review basic diabetes education and awareness

Feb. 8: Daily eating habits and how to modify your diet for your lifestyle

Feb. 15: How exercise positively affects your body

The senior nursing students will be teaching an exercise routine that can be done at home. Come to as many sessions as you're able. Bring your family and friends, all are welcome! Keep your schedules clear and get a fresh start for the New Year!

Summit Against Racism: "Be the Change"

Sat., Jan. 24, from 8 am-4 pm, at ELPC

by Mark and Tris Ozark

The 11th Annual Black & White Reunion Summit Against Racism will feature morning and afternoon workshops, networking, entertainment, and inspiration. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This Summit will be held just after the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States. It will be the first Summit to occur during the presidency of an African American. The election has reawakened an awareness of the problem of racism in America, so this year's Summit will be especially pertinent. Because "change" was one of the themes of the Obama campaign, this year's Summit theme is based on the famous Gandhi quote, "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

The Summit Against Racism was organized originally in the wake of black motorist Jonny Gammage's death at the hands of five white police officers, and is always scheduled around Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. It was founded on the conviction that Pittsburghers are capable of facing the truth about racism, decent enough to see it as wrong, and courageous enough to work to end it. All are invited to attend, and experience **The Power of One to Be the Change**.

For information, registration, program advertising reservations, or a workshop facilitators' application form, contact: blackandwhite_reunion@yahoo.com, www.blackandwhitereunion.org, or 412.441.3800 x32.

Holiday Reflections

By Gail Noden

As a volunteer at the EECM's food pantry, I was recently reminded of the loving, generous spirit that pervades our congregation at ELPC.

It started on the Sunday that the more than 150 Thanksgiving bags were brought into ELPC, for the food pantry distribution. On Mon., Nov. 16, it continued when I helped give them out. On that day, over 33 people received the extra Thanksgiving bags. That week, over 250 people came through the pantry. Turkey vouchers also were distributed. I share with you the many "thank you" and "God bless you" phrases that were spoken to us.

During November, I interviewed some of the families registering their children for the giving tree. Again, it was wonderful to see those tags flying off the tree.

Thank you ELPC members and staff for your continued caring!

Men's Shelter Donations

In ELPC's commitment to the EECM Men's Shelter, the Deacons are collecting donations. While the need has remained consistent, donations have declined. We need your help!

Requested items for January are **t-shirts** and **socks**. Please drop these items in the basket located in the Highland Ave. hallway.

Your continued support in the form of donations and prayer for the Shelter and for the men who stay there is appreciated.

COOPERATIVE
**East
End**
MINISTRY

Food Pantry

The EECM Food Pantry provides food for people facing hunger in Pittsburgh. ELPC continues to answer the call in the struggle against hunger, but we still need help. Donations may be left in the baskets located throughout the hallways. January's "Food for the Month" is **Peanut Butter**.

The EECM Food Pantry is open from 1-3 pm, Mon.-Fri. For information on the many services EECM provides, please visit www.ecm.org.

ELPC People

Good News

- Congratulations to Session Elder David Epperson in whose honor the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work has endowed the David E. Epperson Chair. David served as Dean of the School of Social Work from 1972-2001.

- Please welcome our new members and friends:



Left to Right: LaRoux Hopper, Dee Flaherty, Katherine Hackney, Gwendolyn Daniels, Michael Zielinski, Tom Downing, George Hazimanolis

Howard Turner Retirement Celebration

Sun., Jan. 25, after the 11 am worship

Just over 16 years ago, Howard Turner was hired as ELPC's Chief of Security. Over the years, Howard has seen many changes: church staff and families that have come and gone, changes in East Liberty and the neighborhood in which we are situated. Through it all, he has performed his work with great respect for the people and the place, with a quiet sense of caring.

Join us for a special retirement reception held in Howard's honor, celebrating his many years of service!





East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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 boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

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25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Sun., Jan. 18, at 3:30 pm



This January marks the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to be held by EECM and the Council of Congregations. It is the only time each year when all of the congregations come together in an interfaith worship service.

The service will be held on **Sun., Jan. 18**, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 250 North Highland Ave. Music performed by several groups

and individuals will begin at 3:30 pm. The Worship Service will begin with a Congregational Role Call at 4 pm. Bishop David Zubic, of the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese, will speak.

Prior to the worship service, Bill Wharton, ‘the Sauce Boss’, will play and sing spicy Florida blues, while cooking gumbo for all. Lunch will begin at 1:30 pm, in Eastminster Presbyterian Church’s Fellowship Hall. There’ll also be a vegetarian soup. The suggested donation for the lunch is \$8/ person over 12 years of age.

A reception will follow the worship service. Please come for the afternoon, and help us celebrate at this year’s very special event!

For questions or more information, call **412.361.5549 x411**.

Church Offices Closed: On **Thurs.-Fri., Jan. 1-2**, in celebration of the New Year, and on **Mon., Jan. 19**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday.

Black and White Reunion

Sat., Jan. 24, from 8 am-4 pm, at ELPC

ELPC is proud to host the 11th annual Summit Against Racism. This event is sponsored by Black and White Reunion, and brings together people in our community to talk about racial justice and progressive change for our city.

Advance tickets for this event are **\$25** for adults; **\$15** for youth. Volunteers from ELPC are needed to assist participants in finding meeting rooms and workshops. Registration fees are waived for church volunteers.

If you can assist, or would like more information, call the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at **412.441-3800 x30**.

Turn to **page 7**, for more information about the Summit Against Racism.

Attend ELPC’s Annual Benefit Performance Featuring the Figureheads

Sat., Feb. 14, at 7 pm. Details on page 5!

