



Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



Hopefully during this month, you'll be able to connect with family and friends. This might be part of your vacation plans or simply mailing a postcard. For the electronically-inclined, these acts of "connectivity" also may include e-mail, Skype (video calls), Facebook, Twitter, and other outlets.

The question of connectedness is a growing spiritual issue. I ask you to consider the following pluses and minuses.

Plus: Technology can link us with family and friends over vast distances, allowing us to exchange thoughts, photos, and updates more frequently than an annual letter.

Minus: Technology creates distance between people, through the gap between those who use it and those who choose not to (or don't have the resources), and in the loss of personal contact (substituting text for face-to-face conversations).

Plus: Our experience of the world is much richer through e-mails, video-sharing, and Google connecting us with people and places across the globe.

Minus: Our understanding of the world is diminished because we encounter other cultures in less depth (sound-bite news stories) and through more haphazard (at times, unreliable) information sources.

Plus: Our spiritual lives are strengthened by the Internet when it allows us to keep in touch with a range of people, facilitate our prayer concerns being heard quickly by friends, and making available a variety of online devotional and church material right at our fingertips.

Minus: Our spiritual lives are diminished by the Internet with its demand of staying electronically connected 24/7, its blurring of "office hours" and "off-hours," and the "busyness" that undermines true Sabbath rest for the soul.

Hear Paul's words of encouragement: "In Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away. Everything has become new! All this is from God, who is reconciled with us through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Remember this: Connectivity with Christ should precede all other connections. Newness of life is first spiritual, and then technological. To walk in nature, to breathe deeply, to hug a friend is a form of prayer. So this month, be people of prayer in a world of both natural and technological wonders.

Randy Bush

Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgists: Barbara and Mark DeWitt

Aug. 2* The Rev. Patricia Frick,
Retired Presbyterian Minister

Aug. 9 Fay Morgan, Executive
Director, North Hills
Community Outreach

Aug. 16 Susy Robison, Volunteer
Coordinator for Homeless
Children's Education Fund

Aug. 23 Dr. Leila Richards, MD, M.P.H.,
ELPC Member

Aug. 30 Kathy Dain, Student, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary

Courtyard Worship • 10 am

Aug. 2* The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 9 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 16 The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain

Aug. 23 The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Aug. 30 The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Koinonia Service of Praise

Second Sunday of each month • 7 pm

Aug. 9 Elder Kathleen Kyle

Holy Ground Service

Third Sunday, March-November • 6 pm

Held in the Garth, Weather Permitting

Aug. 16 The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 10 am-3 pm

Wednesdays • 10 am-9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

The Rev. Christiane Dutton

Save the Dates

Aug. 2-8: Trinity Youth Conference, pg. 2

Aug. 9: A reception to celebrate Jane and Bob Sampson and their ministry will be held immediately following Courtyard Worship

Aug. 2: Malawi Mission Trip
Commissioning Service, pg. 4

Aug. 15: Hope Academy deadline, pg. 3

Looking Ahead

Sept. 8: Horizons Bible Study, pg. 3

Sept. 12: HAT Co Auditions

Sept. 13: Rally Day, pg. 4

Sept. 19: Hope Academy Begins, pg. 2

Sept. 20: All-Church Picnic

Sept. 26: Presbyterian Women Retreat

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. Miriam Chamberlain
Visitation Pastor

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

Paul Martin
Supervisor of Security and Hospitality

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.

Educational Ministries

Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

August 2-8: Trinity Youth Conference – Always Loved

TYC is a week-long event for high school youth (who've completed grade 9) and college-age young adults, sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity. Youth focus on spiritual and leadership development, discipleship and evangelism through worship, group activities, and workshops. It's held at Camp Living Waters, in Schellsburg, Pa. Pastor Heather is the Worship Leader this year.

Registrations and deposits must be received by **July 30**. Forms are available on the Youth Bulletin Board, the CE table, or at www.trinityyouthconference.org. Contact Pastor Heather for scholarships and transportation details.

Mission Trip Update

ELPC youth joined youth and young adults from Wallace Memorial PC for five days of service to our East End community. We spent time preparing a house for rehab with OHM, and celebrated that our work was the first step toward renovation and homeownership for a local family! We learned about the needs of the growing refugee community, served dinner at EECM Men's Shelter, and spent time in fellowship with residents at Highland Ave. Care Center. We also learned about perceptions on poverty through interviews at Kennywood. We saw that there's more to learn about our community, the breadth of God's love, and our role in sharing that love with others.

Vacation Church School

We rejoice that our VCS program served over 65 children from our church and local community! Our full-day program grew 16 percent in average daily attendance from its pilot program in 2008! We "caught God's Spirit" through worship, prayer, service and arts. It was an enriching and Spirit-filled week! See page three where we recognize everyone who helped make this week a success.



Children enjoy flying kites at Squaw Valley Park during VCS.

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 on MySpace and Facebook!

Watch for details this month as we continue to improve ELPC's recycling program. Email Brian Diebold at bdiebold@pts.edu if you're interested in getting involved.

Housing Ministry

Emily Rosenthal, Chair of the Neighbors Mission Committee

Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Please join ELPC's Housing Ministry as we work with Open Hand Ministries to rehab a house for a single mom who will be a first-time homeowner. The house is located in the East Liberty/Garfield neighborhood and is the same house volunteers helped to clean out in March. There'll also be opportunities to work in the Garfield Community Garden. Work days this summer include:

- **Aug. 13-15** (Thurs.-Sat.)
- **Aug. 27-29** (Thurs.-Sat.)

Please call Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30** if you are able to volunteer!

ELPC People

Good News

- Congratulations to Tim & Maria Engelhardt for the birth of their first child, **Genevieve Grace**, on July 4.
- Welcome to the newly baptized **Kiefer Teuteberg** (son of Winnie and Jeff Teuteberg), and **Donell Robinson, Jr.** (son of Talisha Thomas & Donell Robinson).

Thanks

- Thank you to all those who volunteer to maintain God's church grounds, by mowing, mulching, planting, watering and weeding. So far this year, volunteers have donated over 200 hours of their time to do these tasks. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chuck Lukehart at **412.782.6447**.
- The Christian Education Ministry Team would like to thank the many volunteers who made such an amazing week possible. Whether a volunteer offered 3 hours or 30 hours, contributions were immeasurable! Thank you to our leaders:

Registration: Gloria Knopp and Judy Williams.

K-1: Beth Bush, Heather Lawrence, Judy Menk, Gary Nolan, and Mimi Thomas.

Grade 2-3: Ashley Birt, Marissa DeAngelo, and John Polizziani.

Grade 4-5: Linda Benedict, Cindy DeAngelo, Sandy Edgecombe, Lauren Huggins, Bill Johnson, and Kay Shissler.

Music Leader: Heather Lawrence.

Craft Leaders: Diane Jackson, Maya Klancher, Talora Martin, DaMisha Probst, and Dawn Young.

Recreation Leaders: Brian Diebold, Ben Engelhardt, and Ben and Josh Lawrence.

Refreshments: Marilyn Bowser, Beverly Kreger, Dee Murrell, Elaine and Jack Phillips, and Jane and Bob Sampson.

Afternoon Activity Leaders: Linda Addlespurger, Kate and Mitchell Barutha, Randy Bush, Howard Degenholz, Andrea Devries, Frances and Keith Irvin, David Schoenewolf, and Mark Steidl.

Thank you to Chef J for sharing the kitchen with us, and to Bernie Banovski, Pam Kimmel, and Paul Martin and the Security and Housekeeping departments for your support! Thank you who donated supplies and refreshments! We are grateful for your important contribution to the success of our VCS program!

Prayers

- Our prayers are with the family of ELPC elder **Ted Brooks**, who died on July 4.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

Aug. 5: Writing Workshop, led by Pen Lytle

Some churches celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord in August. May we come together in the Spirit of transfiguring through writing and draw fresh insight of our own transformation through new eyes.

Aug. 12: My Trip to Rome, led by Brother James

Aug. 19: The Lure of the Bells, led by Jim Cover

Jim presents anecdotes and demonstrations of the roles of bells which have vanished from our culture. Take part in a practice known as "change ringing."

Aug. 26: Celebrations!

Do you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in August? Write it down and put it in the collection plate! We'd like to celebrate with you!

Hope Academy

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Fall 2009 Term Begins on Sept. 19

Our 2009-10 course brochure, registration form and scholarship applications are available online. Act soon to reserve your spot, classes fill quickly! We continue to offer Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes, Musical Theater, Shakespeare, Voices of Hope Vocal and Drumming Ensembles, and private music instruction.



The deadline for scholarship applications is **Sat., Aug. 15**.

EECM

Summer Food Drive

The Poverty Committee and the EECM pantry ask that our August offerings include juice boxes, applesauce, graham crackers, and dried fruit.

Men's Shelter

Requested donations for August are **toothpaste** and **floss**.

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Sept. 8: Horizons Bible Study

Join us at 10 am, in the second floor parlor as we begin a new journey! The nine lessons of "*Joshua: A Journey of Faith*" invite us to explore the heartrending book of Joshua. Pursuing themes such as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of "holy war," and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn to find rest in the mercy of God. A potluck lunch follows. Beverages are provided. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Call Mary Alice Lightle at **412.682.1504** for details.



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Session News

At recent meetings, the Session:

- Named Bryan Lawrence (Class of 2012) to the Centennial Fund Committee.
- Elected Lenore Williams as Deputy Stated Clerk.
- Approved guidelines for the 2010 budget, to help ensure next year’s target of \$200,000 reduction in the endowment draw will be reached.
- A group of 35 pastors and elders from ELPC, Eastminster, Grace Memorial, Bethesda, and Shadyside, met for a productive “East End Summit.” This event nurtured a spirit of cooperation as we jointly seek to minister in the East End neighborhoods. A follow-up meeting is planned for early January.

Mission to Malawi

The commissioning service for the group going on the trip to Malawi will be held at Bethany PC, in Bridgeville, on **Sun., Aug. 2**, at 7 pm. Refreshments and fellowship time will follow. Call Kay Shissler at **412.681.2047** for more information.

Congratulations Graduates

Join us in congratulating the graduates from our faith community!

High School Graduates: Michael Benedict, Demetrice Daniels, Ben Lawrence, Charlie Meyers, and Casey Poindexter.

College/Trade School Graduates: Rebecca Blackwood, Samantha Engelhardt, Brie Gordon, Ben Hoehn, Michael Hoehn, Kristina Hout, Marita Hout, Michael Lawrence, Kimberly Ragsdale, and Vanessa Veltre.

Graduate School Graduates: Rebecca Marquette and Wil Forrest.

Thanksgiving Basket Project

Each fall, ELPC seeks to care for local families through multiple programs. Unfortunately, the need increases more quickly than the funding required to support these programs comes in. The Board of Deacons sponsors an annual Thanksgiving Basket Project that has seen increasing need from local families. We’re seeking ways to increase congregational support of this important outreach program. In August, September and October, a series of opportunities will be available for the congregation to support this important program. Look for details in upcoming bulletins.

Rally Day: On **Sun., Sept. 13**, we’ll resume Sunday School Classes at 9:45 am, and our regular Worship schedule: Good Samaritan Worship at 8 am, Journey Worship at 8:45 am, and Sanctuary Worship at 11 am.