

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

January 2011



Max Stephany on the day of his baptism.

New Beginnings

By Molly Dimond-Stephany



On Aug. 22, 2010, our family was blessed with a beautiful baby boy named Max Avery Stephany. His beginning came with some critical medical issues, but with much prayer and medical care, he is now thriving and well. Throughout this time, ELPC has given our family so much support, for which we are forever thankful. We were proud to have Max's Baptism at ELPC with Pastor Randy and the entire congregation, and we are grateful to be part of such a wonderful church family. Our hope for 2011 is that God sends his love, peace, and health to Max and all the Children of God.

The Third Cord Cannot Be Broken

By Damon and Lora Bethea



There once was a man named Damon who met a woman named Lora, who had two children and three grandchildren. So began their journey. Rather, our journey.

When we started dating in September, 2007, neither of us could have imagined how God would transform our lives into a blended family. As we get set to celebrate our fourth New Year's Day together, we'd like to share some reflections on our path.



- Decrease you, increase God. Children/grandchildren are a gift from God, who we nurture and mold into the vessel that God wants them to become, not what we think they should be.
- Support the spouse who has no children coming into a relationship. Damon had to grapple with becoming an instant stepfather and grandfather. His relationship building had to happen in baby steps and through trial and error, before being recognized as a parent.
- Be stewards of your family time. The world pulls us in so many directions that it is easy to put our family relationships on the back burner. Connect with your family. We are not promised a new day, treasure each one.
- Our favorite Bible verse is Ecc. 4:12, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." We cited it in our wedding ceremony and often think of it during "crisis moments" with children/grandchildren.
- Be blessed and Happy New Year.

Editor's Note

Each month, we will be bringing you themed articles written by a member of our faith community. Each article will be identified by a symbol.



This month, look for these articles:

- *New Beginnings*
- *The Third Cord Cannot Be Broken*
- *Advocacy Hopes for the New Year*
- *Changes in the East End*
- *This is a Day of New Beginnings*

Sunday Morning Services

* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Clark Smith and Ray Anthony

- Jan. 2* Rev. Ann Morris, *Member-at-Large, Pittsburgh Presbytery*
Jan. 9 Rev. Robert Wilson, *Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh*
Jan. 16 Capt. James Jones, *Homewood Salvation Army*
Jan. 23 Dr. Jerome Creach, *Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*
Jan. 30 Rev. Howard Cherry, *Retired United Methodist Minister*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

- Jan. 2* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Jan. 9 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 16 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Jan. 23 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Jan. 30 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Jan. 2* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 9 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Jan. 16 Rev. Johnnie Monroe
Jan. 23 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 30 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

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

Craig Cannon
Interim Music & Choral Director

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
Seminary Intern

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

Donald Wilkins
Interim Organist

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



With the start of a new year comes a wonderful opportunity. The month of January means that a new period in each of our lives has begun. It is true that each of us carry over many things from day to day and week to week, so that our daily routines easily become unending cycles of repetition. But a new year can signify a dramatic break in that cycle.

As you prepare to “turn the calendar,” consider this interesting fact. A recent book about technology and modern culture suggested that colonial American households typically contained fewer than 100 objects. The author (Kevin Kelly) did not list those items, but I can well imagine that the furniture, utensils and accessories for daily life 200 years ago were much simpler than in contemporary homes. As a mental exercise, take out a sheet of paper and jot down the possible items you imagine were present back in those colonial homes. Then look around your own kitchen, family room, bathroom and bedroom. It would be safe to say that our lives involve thousands of objects unknown to our colonial ancestors. In case you think that last sentence is an over-statement, remember that the typical supermarket today sells more than 48,000 different items.

If there are hundreds or thousands of objects in a typical room around you, the obvious question is “Do I need all this?” If those objects could talk, they would likely reply, “Of course, you do!” Worried that some drastic house-cleaning is about to unfold, the frying pans, breadmakers, and toaster ovens would describe how they make your life better and your meals more convenient. The answering machines, cellphones, and computers would insist that they are necessary to stay connected in this electronic day and age. The racks of clothes, piles of shoes, stacks of books, albums, CDs and magazines would let you know that they bring you happiness and help keep you in style.

It is hard to argue with such persuasive household items. But before you invite them into the conversation, re-imagine the colonial house. Then, fill a good-sized box with items that you are reasonably sure you can live without. You don’t have to give it away yet; just mark it “January 2011” and find a place to store it. If you go six months or a year and never need any item from your box, there’s a good chance that you can donate everything and then re-fill the box in January 2012.

A simple exercise like the one I’ve suggested works on two levels. It causes you to look around with fresh eyes and consciously seek to simplify your life. It also causes you to re-think what is important in your daily life. Without self-examination, the “new year” will simply be an “old year” with a new date attached to it. Any time we ask about what is important, we are asking faith questions. And God loves to chime into those conversations. So take some time in early January to look around, to re-think what you truly need in your life, and to listen to the house-cleaning, soul-cleaning advice God lovingly offers.

Randy Bush

Chenoa Stock to Bolivia



During worship on **Sun., Jan. 2**, we will commission ELPC member Chenoa Stock, who will be serving in Bolivia as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-worker. Chenoa recently completed a three-year stint serving with the Joining Hands Network partnership in Sri Lanka.

Chenoa will be a Companionship Facilitator with the Joining Hands group in Bolivia. She will focus on water and environmental issues as industrialization negatively affects local communities and families.

Winter Rally Day



Join us on **Sun., Jan 9**, and explore Jesus' baptism through experiential, interactive learning stations! Our experiences will flow over into our 11 am worship service.

We will gather in the Social Hall for a potluck breakfast at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share.

About Faces

Sun., Jan. 9, following 11 am Worship

Join us as David Roche presents a program as part of the "About Faces" series sponsored by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. His presentation is about "The Church of 80% Sincerity" and the challenge of facial disfigurement in today's image-conscious society.

This program is sponsored by the Spiritual Life and Worship, Music and the Arts committees.

Reception for Interim Music Team

Sun., Jan. 30, following 11 am Worship

For the past 11 months, our congregation has been served by a wonderful trio of musicians (pictured clockwise). **Craig Cannon**, who graciously accepted the role of Interim Choir and Music Director; **Don Wilkins**, who came out of retirement to serve as our worship organist; and **Beth Minnigh**, who served as a part-time accompanist and rehearsal pianist.



Together, Craig, Don, and Beth strengthened our choral offerings and provided exceptional music for our worship life. They've been a true blessing!

Please join us for this special reception to thank them for their gracious service and ministry among us.

Want More Café Justo?



Did you enjoy Café Justo coffee during fellowship time in December? We need your support!

Donate a bit extra towards coffee during fellowship time or see

Wil Forrest about the possibility of bringing Café Justo to ELPC for good! We want to help Café Justo with their main goal of maintaining a Mexican-owned cooperative with economic incentives to encourage people to remain on their family's land.

Our American Footprint in the Muslim World

The ELPC Peace Committee invites you to examine the impact of our country's presence in Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan. For four Saturdays, we will host a potluck dinner, followed by a film or speaker, to gain a closer look at the situation "on the ground." This will be followed by a Q&A period, and an examination of our church's response to these conflicts. We hope these evenings will offer a fresh perspective, and provide you with resources for further study.

The potluck dinners will be on **Sat., Jan. 29, Feb. 19, and March 5 and 19**, from 6:30–8:30 pm. If you have a particular interest in one or more of these countries, please notify Leila Richards at nids@sprintmail.com.

Garth Accessibility Improvements

Physical barriers within ELPC are an impediment to our mission to be an inclusive, welcoming congregation. One of our primary function areas that is not fully accessible to persons with mobility impairments is the Garth. During the summer months, our primary worship service is held in the Garth, and it is regularly used for receptions after services, social gatherings and the labyrinth ministry.

For the past few weeks, we have been installing a wheelchair platform lift and other improvements that will provide full accessibility to the Garth from both the First Floor and Ground Level. The lift also provides access for persons who use walkers or canes and cannot easily negotiate the stairs from the entrance level.

Briefly...

Full details on all Church School classes, Youth and Young Adult activities, and after Taizé classes can be found at www.CathedralOfHope.org, as well as in the weekly bulletin and e-flash.

Christian Education

Contemporaries Class

Jan. 16 and 23: Violence in the Bible

Led by Dr. Jerome Creach, in Room 234

Jan. 30: Reading Scripture Together

Led by Jan Irvin, in the Second Floor Parlor

Journey with Scripture

Jan. 16: Isa. 49:1–7; Ps. 40:1–11; 1 Cor. 1:1–9; John 1:29–42

Jan. 23: Isa. 9:1–4; Ps. 27:1, 4–9; 1 Cor. 1:10–18; Mt. 4:12–23

Jan. 30: 1 Cor. 1: 18–31; Mic. 6:1–8; Mt. 5: 1–12

Parenting Circle

Jan. 16–30: “Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith” Book Discussion

Seekers

Jan. 16 and 23: Violence in the Bible

Led by Dr. Jerome Creach, in Room 234

Jan. 30: Discussion about Violence in the Bible

Soul Food

Jan. 16–30: Fresh Starts

Classes After Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes are held on Wednesdays, at 8:15 pm.

Jan. 5: We will not meet for class, but please join us for a special procession for Epiphany!

Jan. 12: Music on the Labyrinth

Led by Charles Anderson

Jan. 19: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Singing

Led by Charles Anderson

Jan. 26: Celebrations!

Young Adult Ministry

In January, we will explore our history from different aspects: historically, culturally, socially, personally and more. Start the new year by taking a look back!

Sat., Jan. 8: Vatican Splendors

From 1–4 pm, at the Heinz History Center

Sun., Jan. 16: Experiencing Freedom

At 12:30 pm, in the Pastor’s Conference Room

Wed., Jan. 26: My History

At 8 pm, in Room 234

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Connections

Our Wednesday Connections and **club 116** programs will resume on **Wed., Jan. 12.**

Confirmation Class

We will next meet on **Sun., Jan. 9**, from 12:30–3:30, in Room 234

Youth Retreat: Abercrombie, Ben, and Zombies: The Challenge of Following Jesus

Youth in grades 9–12 are invited to attend. Check your youth calendars for details.

Presbyterian Women

Tues., Jan. 4: Journeys Through Revelation

Join us at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor as Sandy Brake leads our study of Revelation 7–8:5, **Singing Hymns of Hope: Interludes of Salvation for God’s People.** A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a side to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** for details.

ELPC People

Good News

• Congratulations to **Max Avery Stephany**, son of Robert Stephany and Molly Dimond-Stephany, who was baptized in November.

• Congratulations to the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, who was admitted as an Inquirer ministry candidate under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

• The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* recognized ELPC member **Tina Calabro** for her advocacy work on behalf of disabled people.

Thanks

• A thank-you note received from a family reads: “Thank you to the ELPC elders for their generosity during the Thanksgiving holiday. Your gift card provided our family’s Thanksgiving meal. I feel blessed and privileged for all of the blessings that are bestowed upon my family. I never take any blessings for granted and when I least expect it, God lets me know that he is with me and manifests it in different ways—through good friends or random acts of kindness from his faithful flock.”

• Presbyterian Women thank everyone for their Thank Offering gifts. Your generous gifts, which totaled **\$2,200**, will help relieve pain, provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities and lift up the lives of women and children throughout the world.

• The Deacons thank the congregation for generously contributing to the Giving Tree and the joy of the children and families from our Family Enrichment and Christian Education Ministries. While celebrating the birth of Christ, we get to share gifts of love with one another, seen and unseen.

Prayers

• Our condolences to the families of recently departed members, **Mary Lee Colvin** and **Sarah Nelson**, and **Elizabeth Nordquist**.

Introducing Ed Moore *By Laura Ristau*

The Music Director Search Committee is pleased to announce that Edward Moore has been hired as ELPC's Music Director and Organist, effective Feb. 1. Ed is currently Director of Music Ministries at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, Va., where he has been the principal organist and director of adult, children's and handbell choirs for the past six years.

A native of Girard, Ohio, Ed first became acquainted with the ELPC organ while he was an undergraduate student at Grove City College. After receiving his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from Eastman School of Music, he served as Director of Music at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church in Rochester, N.Y. and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, and was the Minister of Music at the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

The Search Committee highly recommended Ed as the best match for our congregation because of his familiarity with diverse music styles, excellent organ performance, well-received choir direction, and the wealth of experience and vision he brings to the position. This recommendation was seconded by the Personnel Committee and affirmed by the Session in November.

We look forward to Ed's work with us in the music ministry at ELPC.

Unopened Gifts *By Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*

It is likely far enough after Christmas that most of our trees are taken down, and our presents are all handed out. But, if you are like me, you may still have one or two gifts for a loved one whom you thought you would see over the holidays.

God gives us each spiritual gifts and calls us to use them. Much like other presents, it is impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until they have been opened. We often recognize these gifts and their roles in our lives when we use our gifts of praise and musical ability while singing in the choir, when we use our gifts of wisdom and curiosity while studying the Bible, or when we use our gifts of compassion and service while aiding those in need. Unfortunately, we leave many of our spiritual gifts unopened.

Have you opened your gifts from God? How can you serve God and God's people by using these gifts?

Feel free to contact me if you would like to talk about your gifts and how you can find a fit at ELPC or in the community to use your gifts to serve God.



Say Cheese: Photo Directory Updates

An update to our 2008 church photo directory will be available in the coming months. New members, or those who were not included in the previous directory, can register for a photo session at www.CathedralOfHope.org. Sessions will be from **Thurs.–Sat., Jan. 27–29**. There is no cost to have your photo taken for the directory, but families may purchase photos at their session.

Questions? Contact Gloria Knopp at **412.441.3800 x22**.

Library News

If you have borrowed books from the library in 2010 (or 2009 or 2008), please return them to the basket on the shelf inside the door to the library. Church library books are stamped with the name of the church inside the front cover. Thank you.

Advocacy Hopes for the New Year



By Gary Sadler

2011 has arrived. As I reflect on the past year, I feel it has been a difficult one for many people. The economy has taken away homes and jobs, and if you add a chronic illness to their losses, it truly complicates their situation. As an advocate for HIV and AIDS, I feel it's important that we think about our brothers and sisters and support them in their struggles.



On Dec., 1, 2010, we celebrated **World AIDS Day**. Its theme of *Universal Access and Human Rights* encouraged us to deepen our understanding, develop partnerships, and challenge discriminatory laws, policies and practices that stand in the way of access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for all.

I feel the faith-based community should have a special responsibility to work to promote human dignity and respect and to protect the human rights of people living with or affected by HIV, as well as those who are vulnerable to infection.

While I feel our congregation does promote peace, justice and human dignity, I ask that you think about who you can advocate for in 2011. Besides those who are affected by HIV and AIDs, there are many other causes to support. Psalm 82:3–4 reminds us to *“Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.”*

Make your choice today!



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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

www.CathedralOfHope.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 691

"...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."

Changes in the East End

By Rebecca L. Maclean



I live in Highland Park, worship and shop in East Liberty, and drive daily to Friendship and Point Breeze to collect my children from school and daycare. As a result, I am a regular driver through the massive construction zone formerly known as Penn Circle. My main resolution for 2011 (at least while driving) is to make it

through those intersections in one piece!

However temporarily painful and inconvenient the Penn Circle conversion can be, I am thrilled to look forward to its completion. I'm seeing a reversal of poorly thought-out, reactive planning decisions from half a century ago being replaced by traffic patterns that work. I'm seeing businesses—big and small—having a stake in a community that was lined with vacant storefronts. And, I'm seeing affordable housing side by side with new upscale construction.

The mix of uses coming back to a traditionally mixed-use (and mixed-income) neighborhood gives me hope. Hope that East Liberty, like ELPC, will continue to have something for everyone!

This is a Day of New Beginnings

By Ed Moore, ELPC's New Music Director and Organist



"Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new!"

As I think about my upcoming move to Pittsburgh and ELPC, this verse from Brian Wren's hymn, *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*, is floating around in my head. My 2011 will begin with a series of endings in the Washington, D.C. area, followed by a new beginning in Pittsburgh. Amidst all the details involved with moving on and saying goodbye, I am excited about the possibilities that await me, as we enter into ministry together.

I am grateful for the warm welcome I received from everyone involved in the search process, and I look forward to getting to know the rest of you throughout the coming year. May this new year be filled with love, hope, joy and peace for all of us, as we begin this new journey together and discover how God is making all things new. Happy New Year and see you soon!

Note: See page 5 for an introductory article on Ed Moore.

Offices Closed: Offices will be closed all day on **Sat., Jan. 1,** and **Mon., Jan. 3,** until 7 pm, for the New Year's holiday; and on **Mon., Jan. 17,** until 7 pm, for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.