



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

July 2011

Summer Worship and Pulpit Exchanges

During July, there will be two opportunities to experience Sunday worship in a fresh way. On **Sun., July 31**, the Rev. David Thornton of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church will preach during our 10 am worship service. After, he and the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will head to Grace Memorial for their 11 am service, where Pastor Randy will preach for their congregation. You are invited to attend one or both of these services as part of a new Pulpit Exchange with our Presbytery colleagues in ministry.

Also, on **Sun., July 17**, Pastor Randy will be preaching for the 5 pm service at Open Door Presbyterian Church (corner of Stanton and Negley Ave.) on the theme of "radical hospitality." Consider attending that unique, contemporary worship service as well!

Stewardship is Alive and Well at ELPC

by Fran Wilson, Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee

In his second letter to the early church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul offered advice on giving generously by providing the example of Jesus' giving:

For, you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. – 2 Cor. 8:9

The spirit of generous giving continues to move through our church. Each year, the number of pledging units has increased. This year, 238 of our membership units pledged \$566,541, for an average of \$2,380 per pledging unit. As of May 31, we have contributed \$292,000 in total offerings of current year pledges, plate offerings, and completing of prior year pledges. Our giving is slightly ahead of expectations for this date. We are thankful to all of the ELPC members, friends and affiliates for their generous commitment, time, talents and treasure.

Since stewardship is a year-round commitment, we want to continue our faithfulness as we enter the summer and the second half of the year. It is important that each of us remain consistent in our pledges and offerings during the summer vacation months. This will keep the church's cash flow available for budgeted expenses. It is by our giving that we will continue to make progress on the Session's Five-Year Sustainability Plan while supporting the church programs that are close to all our hearts. We look forward to continuing to increase the number of pledging units as the spirit of generous giving and commitment moves through our church.

Sunday Morning Services

** Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Peter Murray

July 3* Rev. Don Dawson
July 10 Father Ryan
July 17 Rev. Dr. Douglas Portz
July 24 Rev. Greg Green
July 31 Rev. Etta Calvert

Sanctuary Worship • 10 am

Held in the Garth, weather permitting

July 3* Rev. Christiane Dutton
July 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 24 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 31 Rev. David Thornton

Holy Ground Service

Third Sunday, May–November • 6 pm

Held in the Garth, weather permitting

July 17 Rev. Howard Cherry

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Christiane Dutton

Note: After Taizé classes will not meet in July and August.

Helpful Websites for Drilling Information

The Environmental Task Force found the following websites with up-to-date information on the Marcellus Shale Drilling debate:

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Pipeline
www.post-gazette.com/pipeline

Clean Water Action
www.cleanwateraction.org/pa

Group Against Smog and Pollution
www.gasp-pgh.org

Penn Environment
www.pennenvironment.org

PennFuture
www.pennfuture.org

Sierra Club
www.alleghenysc.org

Christian Education

Adult Summer Series

**Through July 24: Being Reformed:
Theology for Presbyterians**, at 9:15 am



Join us in the Second Floor Parlor for a journey of faith seeking understanding of our rich theological heritage.

Young Adult Ministry

Fri., July 1: First Friday at Second, 7 pm

Join TRAIL (Three Rivers Adult Interdenominational Links) as our friends at Second Presbyterian Church (300 Hay St., Wilksburg) host a cookout. You are encouraged to bring a side or dessert.

Thurs., July 14: Karamazov Caravan – Part 1, at 7 pm

Don't know your Dostoyevsky from your Dickens? Join us in the Ground Floor Lounge for a series on the classic novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, and Russian culture. You can purchase a copy in the ELPC bookstore. All are welcome, even if you did not complete the reading. Dinner will be provided.

Thurs., July 28: Karamazov Caravan – Part 2, at 7 pm

Youth Ministry

Youth Mission Trip

Please keep our youth mission team and their leaders in your prayers as they serve our brothers and sisters in New Orleans. A delegation of 15 missionaries (nine youth and six adults) will spend the week of July 17 serving those who are still rebuilding their homes and lives after Hurricane Katrina. We will commission our mission team at the 10 am service on Sun., July 10.

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



The English language is a language of verbs. Other languages are full of nouns. Think of German, with its long, compound words to describe persons, places, and things. By contrast, English is a language built around verbs. For example, the current edition of the Oxford English Dictionary lists 645 different meanings for the verb “to run.” Think about the different ways we use that particular verb: run a race, a run on the bank, run an idea up the flagpole, run a fever, running on empty, runs in the family, iPod’s running apps, cars running on gas, getting a run in one’s stockings, and running a ship aground, to name a few.

Verbs, by definition, mostly deal with action and movement. They can be passive (e.g., being pushed on a swing) or active (e.g., competing in a marathon), yet quite often they communicate a sense of motion and vitality. Now here’s the tie-in for our church newsletter: Christian faith should be built more around verbs than nouns. Nouns are important, for they provide us with points of reference for our faith life—but what is the real use of a “church building” unless you “enter” and “worship” therein? What is the lasting value of a “bible” that is never “read” or a “hymn” that is never “sung”? Faith is something that animates us in our daily walk of life; it’s not just something we ponder abstractly or treat like an object on display in a museum somewhere.

When John Bell, the musician/theologian from the Iona Community, visited us last year, he commented that too much of our church art and music is focused on images of Jesus that are static and passive. We love the image of Jesus as the baby born in the manger, but babies are helpless and totally dependent on others. We are moved by the image of Jesus crucified on the cross, but the nails literally keep Christ fixed in one spot. And we are filled with awe at the image of Jesus as the Risen Lord, enthroned in heaven in all his glory; but that is also a distant, static portrayal of Christ. We need to remember how Jesus lived and moved and engaged others during his earthly ministry. We need to picture Jesus touching the wounded and outcast, embracing the grieving and vulnerable, laughing with his friends, eating with saints and sinners alike, and generally being on the move as much as possible.

During the upcoming summer months, what are the verbs you’ll be using as part of your life of faith? To “be still” in times of prayer and Sabbath-rest counts as an appropriate passive verb. To “engage”, “serve”, “volunteer”, and “study” all count as positive active verbs. Perhaps the options from Micah 6:8 are as good a trio of “faith verbs” as any when looking for guiding principles: “to do justice,” “to love kindness,” and “to walk humbly with your God.” Build your faith around verbs, trusting in the Holy Spirit, who animates and enlivens and invigorates us each day to the glory of God.

Randy Bush

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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



Office Hours

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

Tel: 412.441.3800

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www.CathedralOfHope.org

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.

Covenant Groups are Forming at ELPC

Supported by the Spiritual Life Committee

This summer, there will be a new opportunity at ELPC for intentional spiritual fellowship in Covenant Groups. These small groups of 4–8 individuals wish to share ideas and thoughts on matters of faith, spiritual experiences, and commitments in a confidential setting rooted in Christian values. Sample structures and guidelines will be available for groups to get started.

Please contact either Nancy Klancher, nbk8@pitt.edu, or Caterina Rosano, crosano51@hotmail.com, to indicate your interest and also any spiritual topic(s) you would like to explore with others.

Volunteers in Ministry *By Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*



The Miyashita family, Yukimi, Naoyuki, and Waka (clockwise) are one of the many families who serve together.

Do you find yourself asking, “I have been thinking about volunteering at ELPC, but what is VIM all about?” Together, we embrace a fully, and fulfilling biblical strategy to church volunteer ministry using three principles:

- *Every Christian is meant to serve. We’re priests, all of us.* (Mt. 28:19, 1 Pet. 2:9)
- *Every Christian is gifted. God gave us powerful spiritual gifts.* (1 Cor. 12:7–11)
- *Every Christian is unique. Each of us has something to offer.* (1 Cor. 12:18–22)

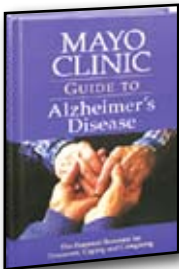
That’s it, plain and simple.

Visit our webpage at www.cathedralofhope.org/about/volunteer.html, or email Wil at wil@coh.net for more on how you can serve the Lord at ELPC or in our community.

Summer Celebration of Volunteers and Service

Save the Date: Thurs., Aug. 18, from 5–8 pm, in the Garth.

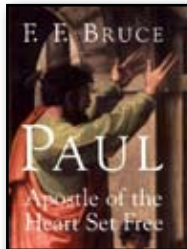
New in the ELPC Library



We have a new book, entitled *Mayo Clinic: Guide to Alzheimer’s Disease*. Topics include Alzheimer’s Disease; non-Alzheimer’s forms of dementia; expanding knowledge of dementia; and an action guide for caregivers. There also are past copies of *Living with Diabetes* available.

The Apostle Paul was one of the most influential early Christian missionaries. He spread the Gospel across the Roman empire. Learn more about him in these three books:

- *Introducing Paul: The Man, His Mission and His Message* by Michael F. Bird
- *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free* by F. F. Bruce
- *Jesus and Paul: Places They Knew* by F.F. Bruce



Session News

The ELPC Session held their June meeting at ShadySide Presbyterian Church, where they heard a presentation about that congregation’s recent capital campaign and renovation project. Other items discussed included:

- Next steps for the Water Reclamation Project in partnership with ELDI,
- Conversations about improving the quality of hospitality offered at our Highland Ave. entrance, and
- Examination of Ashley Birt, who will be attending seminary in the fall and is applying to become an Inquirer under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

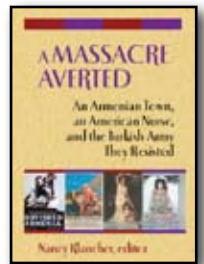
ELPC People

Good News

- Please welcome our new members and friends: **Kay Blackburn, Megan Burke, Christine Jones, and Rick Townsend.**

- **Penn Hackney** won the honor of being named *Outstanding Assistant Federal Public Defender of the Year*. He received the award at the annual meeting of defenders in Baltimore.

- Congratulations to Elder **Nancy Klancher**, who edited the recent publication of *A Massacre Averted: An Armenian Town, an American Nurse, and the Turkish Army they Resisted*. *An Armenian Town, an American Nurse, and the Turkish Army they Resisted*, the memoirs of Mary Watson Super. Super, a friend of Nancy’s family, was a nurse who lived in the mountains of Cilicia as part of a relief corps, providing medical care to Armenian refugees. Nancy has donated a copy of the book to the ELPC library.



Prayers

Condolences to the families of **Tony Allen** and **Olive Wells**, who passed away in May.



The Cathedral of Hope

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

www.CathedralOfHope.org

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

Hygiene Kits for Disaster Victims



In July, Presbyterian Women will collect hygiene kits for disaster victims around the world. Details are on the PW bulletin board outside the library.

Please leave items in the church office. If you wish to make a monetary contribution, please make your check payable to “Presbyterian Women in East

Liberty Presbyterian Church.” Monetary gifts will be used for additional kits or to cover shipping costs.

Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families the world over.

Calling All Graduates!

We wish to celebrate the accomplishments of those from our faith family who are graduating from high school, college or other programs—but we need your help!

Please email your name, degree earned, and area of study to Gloria Knopp at GloriaK@coh.net by **Wed., July 6.**

ELPC Building Tours

Sun., July 10, following 10 am worship

Have you ever wanted to learn more about our Cathedral building and the ministries housed here? Or, do you want to explore the subbasement, discover the inner workings of the organ, and enjoy the views of East Liberty from the tower?



A 30-minute walk on the main level, and a 90-minute, top-to-bottom tour are available. Flat, close-toed shoes are required for the 90-minute tour.

South Sudan Independence Event

Sun., July 17, at 4 pm, at ELPC

On Sat., July 9, South Sudan will officially declare itself independent. In recognition and celebration, the Peace Committee will host an informational session, featuring speaker Benedict Killang, former Pittsburgh Sudanese Community President and current President of the Union of African Communities in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

Refreshments will be served. For details, call Peta Harrigan Cole at **412.363.1876** or Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x17.**

Office Closed: The ELPC office will be closed all day on **Mon., July 4,** and will reopen Tuesday morning.