

VCS 2011 Recap



Our VCS 2011, *Taste and See that God is Good*, was a wonderful success. For the fourth consecutive year, ELPC offered an all-day program, free to participating families.

Each day, we engaged our Biblical theme through experiential activities. We explored stories from the Old and New Testaments that showed how God has shown care, love, and grace through the provision of food—from

the plants and trees created on the third day of the creation narrative in Genesis, to the great banquet promised to God's people in the kingdom that is to come. Kids crafted communion sets and radish-roses, and planted a vegetable garden in the play yard. We had a cooking contest and packed lunches for guests at the EECM Men's Shelter. The older kids recreated Bible passages through a puppet show, and we enjoyed a day at Squaw Valley Park. We also sang songs of praise to God!

Enrollment for VCS was capped at 100 this year, and we had a waiting list of 10 additional families. Our enrollment was so large that we needed to open a second class for children in Kindergarten and First grade! We served 99 children throughout the week, with an average daily attendance of 84 (up from an average of 71 last year).

Sunday Morning Services

** Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Mark and Barbara DeWitt

Aug. 7* Rev. Michael Stanton

Aug. 14 Tony Norman

Aug. 21 Vivienne McClellan

Aug. 28 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 10 am

Held in the Garth, weather permitting

Aug. 7* Rev. Christiane Dutton

Aug. 14 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Aug. 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Aug. 28 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Holy Ground Service

Third Sunday, May–November • 6 pm

Held in the Garth, weather permitting

Note: We will not meet in August, but please join us on Sun., Sept. 18.

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 August.

Thank You, VCS Volunteers

Pastor Heather and the Christian Education Ministry Team thank all of the volunteers and staff who helped make our week possible: **Sherry Anderson, Mike Anderson, Ray Anthony, Suzanne Bailey, Linda Benedict, TJ Benedict, Ashley Birt, Sharon Birt, Sandra Brake, Jazmier Branch, Beth Bush, Ian Bush, Randy Bush, Kate Carlson, Camden Copeland, Barbara DeWitt, Brian Diebold, Trenel Dumas, Sandy Edgcombe, Ben Engelhardt, Wil Forrest, Karen Fraser, Cathie Haijdu, Joan Heckel, Carol Hoehn, Frances Irvin, Keith Irvin, Diane Jackson, Bill Johnson, Virginia Kane, Carol Kirkpatrick, Maya Klancher, Sophie**

Klancher, Gloria Knopp, Beverly Kreger, Pat Krimmel, Heather Lawrence, Bryan Lawrence, Julianne McAdoo, Vivienne McClellan, Judy Menk, Yukimi Miyashita, Katie Mohr, Gail Noden, Barbara Olivis, Elaine Phillips, Jack Phillips, Jan Pressman, Laura Ristau, Emily Rosenthal, David Schoenewolf, Kay Shissler, John Tunney, Tyler, Beth Urbaitis, Christy Valencheck, Lauren Ward, Tyrese Williams, and Isaiah Wilson.

Thank you also to the ELPC Toymakers who made a puppet stage and puppet faces, the Property Committee for approving and building a raised bed in

the play yard, everyone who donated materials and snacks, and the ELPC security and maintenance staff for your support throughout the week!

Thank you and God bless you all!



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. 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

Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus

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

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



The author Toni Morrison recently gave a commencement address to the students at Rutgers University, in which she made the following comment: “I have often wished that Jefferson had not used the phrase “the pursuit of happiness” (in the Declaration of Independence preamble). I would rather he had written “life, liberty, and the pursuit of meaningfulness” or “integrity” or “truth.” I know that happiness has been the real, if covert goal of your labors here. I know that it informs your choice of companions and the profession you will enter. But I urge you, please don’t settle for happiness. It’s not good enough. Personal success devoid of meaningfulness, free of a steady commitment to social justice, that’s more than a barren life; it’s a trivial one. It’s looking good instead of doing good.”

I wish people could hear those words from that commencement speech, for it offers an important challenge to us as people of faith. I am not well-informed about the thought processes that guided Jefferson, as he struggled to put into words the ideals of our fledgling nation. I know that he was well-read and influenced by the Enlightenment philosophy of his age (e.g., John Locke). I am sure that the idea of a full democracy, as opposed to a monarch-led, hierarchical system of government, opened the door to a range of individual freedoms that had scarcely been imagined (much less realized) in Western history up to that point in time. Morrison remarked that an earlier draft of the Declaration preamble had used the phrase “the pursuit of property,” but that it was later amended to “pursuit of happiness.” Both speak to ideals of self-determinism and individual liberty. But in the context of modern society, I am afraid that Jefferson’s word choice no longer bears positive fruit.

To pursue happiness is a task too easily defined from personal perspectives. By that I mean that we append onto Jefferson’s phrase (the pursuit of happiness) personal adjectives so that suddenly our foundational document suggests that America exists to safeguard “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for me.” Suddenly the point of reference has shrunk from being national and communal in focus to being individualistic and personal in focus. This interpretative move is counter-productive, for there is no way a democracy can serve the common needs of a commonwealth if its founding principles are shaped solely by the desire to safeguard individual desires and wants. Imagine the chaos in a family if all decisions can be challenged because one person in the household isn’t having his or her total desires met. There are compromises inherent in our life together—whether that involves families deciding which particular television show will be watched that evening or city governments working out how to distribute tax revenues to provide services for the larger public.

I like the idea of our democracy being committed to safeguarding the right of each individual to pursue meaningfulness or integrity or truth. Those terms still bespeak a quality of personal choice, but the horizon toward which the individual aspires is always a communal, shared horizon. Meaningfulness for one person necessarily asks about the well-being of one’s neighbor, for how can something be truthful and “meaning-full” if the expression of it involves the denigration of someone else? How can my life be considered one marked by integrity if my decisions and actions are unjust and unkind toward another?

Continued on page 5

August Events and News

ELPC Partners to Care for Our Neighbors at East Liberty Gardens

One of the ministries happening now at ELPC involves building relationships with families living at East Liberty Gardens, a 127-unit, Section 8 apartment complex a few blocks away from our church. ELPC is represented by Becky Gloninger of the Neighbors Committee on the Board of East Liberty Housing, Inc. (ELHI), which oversees East Liberty Gardens.

In July, ELPC volunteers installed new equipment at the playground with workers from Open Hand Ministries and Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

The Board also is planning improvements to the physical property to fix a few problems, such as water leaks, as well as improving the current playground and creating a community space.

We invite you to join us for an upcoming fellowship opportunity on **Thurs., Aug. 11**, as we meet our neighbors at East Liberty Gardens and take part in their Community Celebration, from 6–8 pm. ELPC will provide the fixings and serve ice cream sundaes!

Volunteers are needed to help serve the ice cream and donate the fixings.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Becky Gloninger at **412.913.6070** or **rag15@verizon.net**, or Kate Carlson at **412.441.3800 x16** or **katec@coh.net**.



Congratulations, Graduates!

College Graduates

Ashley Birt graduated with a master's degree in theater arts from the University of Pittsburgh. She will attend Union Theological Seminary in NYC, and is enrolled as an Inquirer under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Nicholas Engelhardt, son of Nancy Magee, graduated from Oberlin College.

Samantha Engelhardt, daughter of Nancy Magee, graduated with a master's degree from Arcadia University.

Jessica Gordon, daughter of Maurice and Holly Gordon, graduated from Slippery Rock University.

Christine March graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

Ashleigh Parker, daughter of Libby Parker, graduated from Kent State University.

Laura (Russ) Reigle, mother of Ben Reigle and daughter of Jim and Carolyn Russ, graduated with a bachelor's degree from Chatham University. She will begin Chatham's physician assistant program this fall.

Paul Steidl, son of Tina Calabro, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in architectural studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

High School Graduates

Chanteera Blackshear, daughter of Cheryl Blackshear.

Nelse Dumas, son of Teresa Dumas.

Sophie Klancher, daughter of Nancy Klancher.

David Lowry, grandson of Clark and Nancy Miller Smith.

Talora Martin, daughter of Edie Cook.

Madeline Massey, daughter of Steve Massey and Martha Mannix.

Trevor Sheehan, son of Carol Schaefer.

Tramayne Thomas, son of Lorde and Joyce Thomas.

Summer Celebration of Volunteers and Service

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

Have you volunteered your time to ELPC outreach or church ministries? The housing ministry? Community garden? Food pantry? Men's Shelter? With youth? (Sunday school, Club 116) Worship service? Choir? Property and landscaping? Office support? Membership and hospitality? Other activities?

All ELPC volunteers are encouraged to pause from serving so that we can celebrate you and your good deeds at our second annual Summer Celebration of Volunteers and Service. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew



August Calendar Events—Full Details at www.CathedralOfHope.org and in the Weekly Bulletin and e-Flash.

Young Adult Ministry

In July, TRAIL (Three Rivers Adult Interdenominational Links) continued to grow with over 15 participants at the cookout at Second Presbyterian Church. Join us in August as we host at ELPC. We need all young adult hands on deck to welcome local Christian young adults.



Fri., Aug. 5: First Friday at ELPC, 7 pm

We will come together for our next drum circle and experience the labyrinth. We also will enjoy dinner at a local eatery.

Sun., Aug. 7: Morning at the Shelter, from 6–9 am

Come spend the morning with the men in the EECM Men's Shelter. We will serve them breakfast and then stay to worship at Good Samaritan with the men.

Thurs., Aug. 25: Karamazov Caravan – Part 3, at 7 pm, in the Ground Floor Lounge

Join the Caravan exploring the classic novel *The Brothers Karamazov*! All are welcome even if you did not come to the last session or complete the reading as this book discussion will be not only about plot and characters but the important spiritual themes and related topics. There will be potluck dinner, so please bring something to share.

Register Now for the Hope Academy Fall Term 2011

You can download a course brochure and registration form at www.HopeAcademyArts.com or at the front desk. Classes fill quickly, so return the registration form as soon as possible to reserve your place. The deadline for scholarship and tuition assistance applications is **Mon., Aug. 1.**

New classes include Dance Together and Sing Together for preschoolers (groups for 2–3 and 4–5 year olds, with a parent or caregiver), offered *free* on Wednesday evenings, in partnership with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Guitar Society of Fine Art.

There is something for everyone, from Boys Dance!, HAT Co (our teen theater company), and Musical Theater Workshop, to Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes and private music instruction (all instruments and voice).

More classically-inclined musicians—of all ages and abilities—are invited to participate in EL CEO (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra). Find out more and be evaluated for your music level in this *free* community orchestra on **Sat., Sept. 10.**



The cast of Dream On!, Hope Academy of Music and the Arts' 2011 Showcase Performance, based on "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Presbyterian Women

Tues., Sept. 6: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am

The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved, and pointed, teachings of Jesus. Our Bible study will consider the Beatitudes as they might have been heard when Jesus spoke them, during the cruel and brutal regime of the Roman Empire.

Join us on the first Tuesday of each month (Sept.–May) in the Second Floor Parlor, as we make the Beatitudes part of our journey of discipleship.



Exercise Classes

- **Tai Chi** Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
Experience flowing movements and treat your body to a relaxing workout. The cost of this class is \$25 per 10-week session. Please pre-register with Kate at katec@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x16.**
- **Yoga** Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm
Relax and renew your body, mind, and spirit. Classes are led by Yamuna. A donation to the instructor is appreciated.
- **JourneyDance** Fri., Aug. 12, from 7–8 pm
Use movement to celebrate your inner strengths. Classes are led by Yamuna. A donation from the heart is appreciated.

Called to Serve *by Wil Forrest*

Just a few weeks ago, I answered God's call to share my time and love serving Brazilian indigenous people in the Amazon region. Our group traveled around the Amazon Basin hosting vacation Bible school, making home visits, and providing medical care at four villages for over 500 people. What an honor it is to love and serve God and God's people.



God also calls us to help fellow believers reach out to others. In July, I was excited to help co-lead the ELPC youth mission trip to New Orleans. Serving our Lord alongside youth is always a distinct pleasure for me. Experiencing how these young men and women discover their spiritual selves, as they seek to define and use their gifts, while also wrestling with the harsh realities of life that leave some people in need, both inspires and humbles me. Mentoring young Christians to be faithful servants can be done by all of us as we seek justice, love our neighbor, and model servanthood.

We are all called to serve our gracious God. Where are you called to serve? Who are you called to lovingly mentor to serve God?

Community Update

In June, the Neighbors Committee welcomed Skip Schwab from ELDI for an update on development happening in and around East Liberty. Along with Target's imminent opening, the discussion centered on the new parking garage being constructed behind the former Guiding Light building, the Penn Circle conversion, and the new mixed-use building on Penn Ave. Both the Highland Building and the YMCA are still in development.

Of concern to many participants is the state of parking near ELPC, which is being discussed at length at ELPC and ELDI. However, increased parking pressure is seen as a good thing since it means more people are coming to East Liberty.

For more information about ELPC community development, contact Rebecca Maclean, ELPC's representative to ELDI.

Pastoral Message *continued from page 2*

Aspirational language has been at the heart of the American historical experience, coupled with a commitment to the "self-evident" quality of doing what is right. Our faith would go farther and remind us that God too wills the best for us and calls us to aspire for the greater goods. (I Corinthians 12:31 – "Strive for the greater gifts and I will show you a still more excellent way.") The example of Christ and the Spirit of God calls us to pursue something deeper than happiness—we are called to seek joy, to work for justice, to trust in God's gift of perfect peace. All of that involves something more than the contemporary definition of being happy. Which is a good thing. Really.

In deciding what we should pursue in this life, let us do so faithfully, mindful that we walk farthest when we walk together and there are many, many things of greater value in this life than the mere experience of personal happiness.

Randy Bush

ELPC People

Good News

- The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush's sermon was selected as the winning sermon in the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance's (EAA) Food for Life Sermon Competition. The competition, launched during the 2010 Food Week of Action, encouraged individuals to submit sermons reflecting on food and faith, as a basis of campaigning together for food justice. The prize is a trip to Geneva to deliver the sermon in the Ecumenical Center at the Mon., Oct. 17 worship service for the 2011 Churches Week of Action on Food.
- Congratulations to **Joan Heckel**, a 2011 recipient of the Valiant Woman Award. This award is sponsored by Church Women United and is given to a woman for outstanding service to Church Women United, her local church, and the community. Joan shepherds the Pakistan component of the Peace Committee of the ELPC Mission Board.

Thanks

- A big thank you from the Neighbors Committee to all who helped make this year's EECM Off to College Drive a success! We came together as a church community to help make sure graduates of EECM's youth programs will have dorm necessities—from sheets to towels and school supplies—as they head off to the next stage in their educations. These students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, receive these kits because their families do not have the extra money to afford such items. Thank you again for your support!

Prayers

- Condolences to the families of Pat Dill and David Epperson.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Gladys and Marvin May, whose daughter-in-law passed away.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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

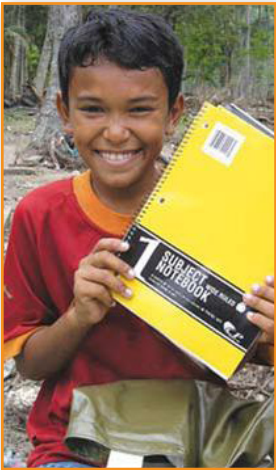
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“...inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

School Kits for Children



In August, Presbyterian Women will collect school kits for children around the world. Instructions for the kits can be found on the PW bulletin board, outside the library.

Please leave completed kits or articles for kits in the box 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 help cover shipping costs.

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

Special Summer Music Guests

Sun., Aug. 21, during the 10 am worship service

During the 10 am worship service on **Sun., Aug. 21**, special music will be provided by the male vocal quintet Voices for Christ. This local ensemble offers wonderful renditions of old hymn favorites and gospel selections. Under the leadership of Henry Biggs, it is a pleasure to welcome them back to ELPC!



Rally Day will be on **Sun., Sept. 11**, when our classes and fall worship schedule resume. Please keep your eyes open for a special mailing in August, which will have the latest information about our Christian Education offerings.