

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

October 2011

Editor's Note

This month's theme is *Mission*. Articles related to this theme are identified by this symbol.



Mission Month

For the Sundays in October, a special emphasis will be given to the themes of Mission and Contemporary Faith.



The first Sunday, Oct. 2, is the time to celebrate World Communion Sunday and remember that our faith responsibilities extend beyond our borders to all the world. To that end, ELPC will receive the PC(USA) Peacemaking Offering to fund peacemaking efforts locally, nationally and globally. The next week, Oct. 9, will be Full Inclusion Sunday, in which the gift of human sexuality is celebrated, as well as honoring the justice issues related to welcoming the gifts gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members bring to the church and society. Children's Sabbath, Oct. 16, will be the next focus as we welcome to the pulpit Presbyterian pastor and executive director of Pittsburgh Promise, the Rev. Saleem Ghubril.

The focus also will be on "missionaries among us." The Waveland 4 will present information on their mission trip to Mississippi at the Oct. 16 Contemporaries church school class. On Oct. 23, Michael Parker, PC(USA) World Mission coordinator for international evangelism, will lead a church school class about what is a missionary in the 21st century, and there will be a Community Health Fair sponsored by the Health Ministry (see **page 3**). And, everyone is invited to meet "missionaries among us" at a celebration of mission following worship on Oct. 30.

During the coming weeks, keep in mind how Christ sends us out into the world as witnesses to the gospel and agents of peace and change for what is just and faithful.

Children's Sabbath Sunday

Sun., Oct. 16

Children's Sabbath Sunday at ELPC is a time for us to lift up and celebrate the children in our midst, offer prayers for children everywhere, and remind ourselves of God's call to work for the well-being of all children. It also is a Sunday where we educate ourselves about programs and mission efforts that work on behalf of children who are in need.

This year, we are pleased to welcome the Rev. Saleem Ghubril as our guest preacher at our 11 am service. The Rev. Ghubril is the executive director of the Pittsburgh Promise, a program that offers hope through the promise of providing college scholarships to all students enrolled in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Following worship, a reception and opportunity to hear more from the Rev. Ghubril about the Pittsburgh Promise will be held.

Sunday Morning Services

** Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Peter Murray

- Oct. 2* Rev. Chad Collins, *Pastor, Valley View Presbyterian Church*
- Oct. 9 Susy Robison, *Outreach and Volunteer Services Manager, Homeless Children's Education Fund*
- Oct. 16 Dave Brewton, *Vice President for Advancement, Coalition for Christian Outreach*
- Oct. 23 Wil Forrest
- Oct. 30 **Rev. Dr. Suzanne Bennett**

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

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

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Oct. 2* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 9 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 16 Rev. Saleem Ghubril, *Pittsburgh Promise and Mosaic Community Church*
- Oct. 23 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 30 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

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

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Christiane Dutton

After Taizé Class Schedule

- Oct. 12 Music on the Labyrinth, led by Charles Anderson
- Oct. 26 Celebrations!

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

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

Jane Anabe and Darren Belajac
Seminary Interns

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
Educational Ministries Assistant

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



Few words are as beloved in church vocabulary as the word “mission,” yet few words are as routinely, theologically misused as the word “mission.” If asked to give a simple definition of “church mission”, people would likely answer with some version of the following two options: (A) Mission is going out into the community and the world to help others, or (B) Mission is actively making disciples in the community and the world by spreading the gospel of Christ. The first builds on Jesus’ commandment to “love as neighbor as ourselves” and the admonition that whenever we do good deeds “unto the least of these in the Kingdom of God” it is as if we are doing them to Christ himself. The second option builds on the missionary impulse of the early church as found in the Great Commission to “go and make disciples in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Now at the risk of over-generalization, the first option is strongly emphasized in progressive churches while the second option is commonly found in more evangelical churches. The first puts an emphasis on “faith is what we do,” and encourages us to be active in living out our faith as evidenced by our good works for those in need. The second emphasizes “faith is what we believe” and challenges us to be active in articulating our faith to others, so that they too may come to possess a faith that is easily articulated and shared with others.

Walter Brueggemann is an eloquent, cantankerous, prophetic theologian whom I admire. He is an Old Testament scholar, but also a man skilled in rebutting our modern tendency to water down the Christian faith. Brueggemann reminds us that God is not a quaint, easily-comprehended God; God is often hidden, opaque, and certainly not prone to self-revelations at our beck and call. Unfortunately, our language about God and mission often forgets that fundamental fact. Here’s a few sentences from Brueggemann that I promise you’ll have to read slowly at least two or three times:

Liberals, embarrassed by the otherness of the biblical idiom, have kept control of matters through rationalistic speech that in the end affirms that “God has no hands but ours,” issuing in burdensome self-congratulations. Conservatives, fearful of speech that is undomesticated, have insisted on flattening biblical testimony into the settled categories of scholasticism that freezes truth... Neither liberal rationalism nor scholastic conservatism will yield any energy or freedom for serious, sustained obedience or for buoyant elemental trust.

Mission is not just what we do (“God has no hands but ours”), nor is it what we believe and convince others to believe (“flattened biblical testimony that freezes truth”). Mission is our **encounter** with God that leads to testimonies of words and deeds. God comes to us, seeking us out to shake us, comfort us, inspire us, discipline and train us. God in Christ does this on God’s own terms, not ours. Yet it is done out of God’s covenant love and compassion for us. To give testimony about this (in word and deed) is to live a life of integrated faith—in which what we believe undergirds how we live with others. Both liberals and conservatives are called to do this type of “mission testimony” because in doing real Christian mission, we are the church. So in the coming weeks, think about how you’ve encountered God and how you define “mission” in your own life, and join us for worship in October as we humbly consider this subject together.

Randy Bush

October News and Events

First Sundays October Event

Sun., Oct. 2, from 12:30–2 pm



Deborah Gilboa, MD, will present a program entitled *Raising Up Children to Respect and Responsibility*. She will discuss the behavior of children at ages 2–18 and give strategies for teaching the important values at different

developmental stages with examples and a lot of laughter. Dr. Gilboa will help parents and educators see the joy of instilling these values and advantages of outlasting the difficult behavior.

Child care will be provided.

Dr. Gilboa is a board certified Family Physician and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee.

Health Fair

Sun., Oct. 23, from 12–2:30 pm, in the Social Hall

ELPC Health Ministry will host a Health Fair for the congregation and neighboring communities. Everyone is invited to participate.

The Health fair is an event that will educate and nourish the mind and body. We will offer *free* education, health screenings, and healthy refreshments. Flu shots, diabetic screenings and blood pressure checks also will be offered *free* of charge.



Young Adult Ministry

Sun, Oct. 2: **Genesis**, at 12:30 pm

In the first session of our fall series, we will examine the genesis of Genesis, Creation, covenant and more. Please read to the end of Chapter 11 and come with ideas and questions. Lunch will be provided.

Fri., Oct. 7: **First Friday at Sixth**, at 7 pm, at *Sixth Presbyterian Church (1688 Murray Ave., Squirrel Hill)*

Be a good neighbor in one of Pittsburgh's most amazing neighborhoods. We will make sandwiches for hungry people in Squirrel Hill, and then walk to a local eatery to satisfy our own appetites.

Sun., Oct. 16: **Funding Justice**, after 11 am worship

Together, we will use our God-given gifts, talents, and interests for justice! We will host another young adult auction. Proceeds will benefit our Café Justo project, therefore healing and helping families in Mexico.

Sun, Oct. 30: **Food, Fear, and Fun**, at 6 pm

We will meet at ELPC for a potluck dinner and discussion on ghosts, fear and more. Then, we will head to a local haunted house for a good scare!

YAM is for YOU. Your friends are always welcome! To For questions or to RSVP, please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or 412-260-2554.

Presbyterian Women

Tues., Oct. 4: **Confessing the Beatitudes**, at 10 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as Elaine Phillips leads our lesson, **Greatly Honored are the Mourners!** (Mt. 5:4; Luke 6:21b, 25b). A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share, and a place setting. Beverages are provided.



Youth Ministry

Basketball

Basketball will begin on **Sat., Oct. 1**, from 6–8 pm.

Carnegie Science Center/Sports Works

On **Sun., Oct. 23**, ELPC youth in grades 6–12 will head to the Carnegie Science Center and Sports Works for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We'll gather for pizza at church immediately following worship (12:15 pm). We'll depart for the Science Center by 1 pm, and return by 5 pm. A permission slip is required, and each youth is asked to bring \$5 to offset the cost of lunch. For more details, see the Youth Calendar. To RSVP, contact Gloria Knopp.

club one sixteen

We will hear the stories of Jacob and Joseph, and how the stories from long ago connect with our lives and faith. Our schedule will be:

3:30–4 pm: Homework Help/Snacks

4–5 pm: Open Gym/**club life** (see below)

5–5:30 pm: Dinner

5:30–7 pm: Bible Study

club life Wednesdays, from 4–5 pm

Register now for our *new* program for boys and girls of all ages. We will offer a *free*, 4–6 week workshop about different aspects of life: from food to fitness to faith. Our schedule will be as follows:

club cook: Cooking and Baking from **Oct. 5–12** (drop-ins welcome)

club make: Sewing from **Oct. 19–Nov. 9** (pre-registration required)

club fit: Fitness/Exercise from **Nov. 16–Dec. 14** (pre-registration required)

Registration forms for **club one sixteen** and **club life** can be found on the CE table, our website, or by contacting Gloria Knopp.

October Christian Education Schedule

We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. For a full listing of classes and descriptions, please see the CE bulletin boards inside the church or visit www.CathedralOfHope.org. Classes begin at 9:45 am.

Note: Pre-school classes (ages 3–5) now follow the *Gospel Light* curriculum, and the Nursery is now following the *We Believe* curriculum.

Contemporaries Class *Second Floor Parlor; Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*

Oct. 2: Cross-Cultural Communication in Mission *Led by Katie Mohr, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

When we come together around specific global needs, we discover that God is able to transcend cultural differences. Learn about strategies that help nurture communication techniques.

Oct. 9: Bread For The World *Led by Tara Marks, Co-Director of Just Harvest, and Jon Nelson*

As Christians, we must look at budget proposals from the bottom up...how these proposals treat those Jesus called “the least of these” (Mt. 25:45).

Oct. 16: The Waveland 4’s Gulfport Mission Trip *Panel Moderated by Jon Nelson*
Hear from Liz Hopkins, Laura Ristau, Carol Hoehn and Jon Nelson about their mission trip to Waveland, Mississippi, and how an opportunity to help others resulted in a great learning experience featuring the demonstration of Christ’s love.

Oct. 23: The Mission Movement in the 21st Century *Led by Michael Parker*
Speaking from the accumulation of many first-hand experiences, Michael will present a highly informative overview on the importance of mission throughout the coming decades.

Oct. 30: Amazon Mission Trip *Led by Wil Forrest*

Mission advocacy involves hearing the stories of our brothers and sisters throughout the global Kingdom. Join us as Wil shares the gift of his trip in a highly spiritual and passionate manner.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library; Facilitator: Jan Irvin*

Oct. 2: Ex. 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Ps. 19; Phil. 3:4b–14; Mt. 21:33–46

Oct. 9: Ex. 32:1–14; Ps. 106:1–6, 19–23; Phil. 4:1–9; Mt. 22:1–14 (*Led by Damon and Lora Bethea.*)

Oct. 16: Ex. 33:12–23; Ps. 99; 1 Thes. 1:1–10; Mt. 22:15–22

Oct. 23: Deut. 34:1–12; Ps. 90:1–6, 13–17; 1 Thes. 2:1–8; Mt. 22:34–46

Oct. 30: Josh. 3:7–17; Ps. 107:1–7, 33–37; 1 Thes. 2:9–13; Mt. 23:1–12

Parenting Circle *Harambe Room; Facilitators: Pam Walaski, Andrea DeVries, and Sandy Edgecombe*

October: Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children about Sex and Character *Led by Pam Walaski and Andrea DeVries*

Using *Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children about Sex and Character* by Pepper Schwartz and Dominic Cappello, and materials from the Presbyterian Church Doctrine, we will address how to introduce the concept of sexuality to children.

Seekers *Room 234; Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

Oct. 2 and 9: Texts of Terror *Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush*

In *Texts of Terror*, theologian Phyllis Tribble explores bible stories that are commonly avoided in worship. Our first session will focus on the Old Testament (episodes described in Judg. 19 and Gen. 19). Our second session will focus on the New Testament (writings of the apostle Paul in I Cor. 11 and 14).

Oct. 16: The Jewish “High Holy Days” *Led by Deborah Fidel, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee*

Deborah will explain the meaning and practices of the major Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the Festival of Sukkot.

Oct. 23: What Jews would like us to know about them when we have Interfaith Dialogue *Led by Deborah Fidel*

We will discuss the mindset of Jews who engage in interfaith dialogue, as well as some of the justifications for Jewish and Christian participation.

Oct. 30: Amazon Mission Trip *(Combined class)*

Please see the description under Contemporaries.

Soul Food *Pastor’s Conference Room; Coordinator: Joe Hajdu*

October: Spiritual Classics

This fall, our resource will be *Spiritual Classics*, edited by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin. This book focuses on 12 spiritual disciplines and offers stimulating excerpts by spiritual masters that will help us discuss our own spiritual concerns. Extra books are available and newcomers are welcome!

Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español *Room 217; Facilitator: Joaquin Anabe Lopez*
Nos reunimos cada semana para descubrir lo que la Biblia nos dice. Por favor únete a esta jornada con nosotros. Todos están bienvenidos, y la clase está en español.

Note: We will now meet in Room 217 during the Church School hour (at 9:45 am)

The Mission Field of the ELPC Toymakers

In this era of alternative energy sources, the ELPC Toy Makers have found a fuel that keeps us going long and strong: a child's smile. We see it in a photograph from Kenya of a young girl playing with a tractor-trailer truck decorated with her nation's flag. We hear it in laughter as a boy tries out a big rocking horse in the church's preschool room.



Our toys—all wood and decorated with non-toxic paint—are really getting around. ELPC members and staff have taken them on mission trips to Mexico, Haiti, and Kenya. SurgiCorps, which sends doctors on week-long trips to Third World nations, will be taking our toys to Guatemala, Zambia, and Vietnam.

Several women's shelters receive bags of our toys for Christmas distribution. One of those, Sojourner House, expressed a need for children's furniture, so they now have several rocking chairs and beanbag chairs, a toy box and a rocking horse.

Knowing the happiness these gifts bring keeps the Toy Makers going. There are problems in this world too huge for us to address, so we focus on those smiles.

Deacons' Bake Sale

Sun., Oct. 2, following 11 am worship

The Deacons will hold a bake sale to help fund the Deacon's annual Thanksgiving Basket project. Enjoy a sweet treat and help our brothers and sisters at the same time. We'll see you there!



Building Tour

Sun., Oct. 9, following 11 am worship

Have you ever wanted to learn more about our Cathedral building and the ministries housed here? Are you curious about the symbolism in the sculpture inside and outside the building? Join us for an hour-long tour that explores the stories told by our building. Please wear comfortable shoes for walking and standing.

The Truth about VIM *by Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*

Myth: VIM is just Wil Forrest trying to get you to do other peoples' work.

Truth: VIM is a whole group of people from Membership and Outreach, including Wil, who are trying to find a good fit for your time, skills and interests within the needs of our church and community. It is important work for us all to share!

Myth: All VIM requests for volunteers get filled.

Truth: Each week, at least one or two ministry descriptions are highlights because there is a specific need within the church. Only about 50 percent of these calls for help are initially filled, so please check to see if you can help.

Myth: You must have a lot of time to serve via VIM.

Truth: VIM has service opportunities to fit all schedules, from a few minutes to a repeated commitment over months. If you are interested, we can find a fit for you and your schedule. There is always time to do what is important!

VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY **i SERVE**

Each week, there is a revolving set of volunteer opportunities for you to consider printed in the bulletin and on the VIM bulletin board and website. Please review the descriptions and consider the fit for you. Please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or at **412.441.3800 x14** to discuss your involvement. Look for Wil wearing the red stole at worship.

Retirement of Lois Lang

On Sat., Oct. 1, Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life, Stephen Ministry and Older Adults, will retire from her position at ELPC. For over 17 years,



Lois has provided members and friends of ELPC with many and varied opportunities to grow spiritually through classes such as the Ignatian Exercises, and a monthly Holy Ground Worship Service with prayers for healing. She also has overseen the training and supervision of Stephen Ministers, and provided leadership to the Happy Wanderers, a fellowship group for Senior Adults. During this time, she has touched the lives of many of us.

In gratitude for Lois' years of service to ELPC, a special recognition in worship and a reception in her honor will be held on **Sun., Oct. 9**. Please join us for this special time and take the opportunity to express your thanks to Lois.

ELPC People

If you have news to share, please contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Good News

- Congratulations to **Caterina Rosano**, who was highlighted in a recent issue of *Pitt* magazine for her medical research related to aging and brain functions.
- Congratulations to these students who were awarded academic scholarships by Presbyterian Women and the Youth and Young Adult Committee:

Sophie Klancher (Allegheny College)

Talora Martin (Grinnell College)

Madeline Massey (Duquesne University)

Ainslei Payne-Reid (Penn State Altoona)

Tramayne Thomas (California University of PA)



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

“As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God—the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.”

Find us on Facebook

Search for “East Liberty Presbyterian Church” or scan the QR code below.



2012 Stewardship Drive Kicks Off

Being God’s Redeemed People

The 2012 stewardship campaign kicked off in September with thanksgiving and celebration for the commitment demonstrated during 2011. Our annual Stewardship Sunday celebration will be on Nov. 13.



The Stewardship Committee’s vision for next year is to attain a higher level of congregational giving, which will permit both covering our standard expenses and additional programming by ELPC’s Mission Board. You can play an important role by making a first-time pledge or by increasing your pledge amount. We hope to increase our budget for pledges and offerings from the current level of \$585,000 to a higher level of at least \$640,000 for 2012. There is a direct link between our pledges and offerings and an extra level of available funding for ministry and mission causes. At the same time, we are continuing with our long-term goal of reducing dependency on endowment funds.

So far this year, we celebrate that we are ahead in our pledges and offerings on which the church budget is based. As of the end of August, we contributed \$410,600 in total offerings. Offerings remained consistent during the summer vacation months, which helped keep cash flow available for the church’s budgeted expenses.

With God’s help, our generosity can translate into additional ministry and mission opportunities. Let’s all get involved by opening our eyes and our hearts to the stewardship possibilities awaiting us as God’s redeemed people.

Who are Our Neighbors?



Have you ever wanted an opportunity to minister cross-culturally right here in Pittsburgh? Have you noticed that there is a growing Latino/Hispanic population in the East End? Would you like to learn some basic Spanish?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you may be interested to know that a new and exciting partnership is being formed between The Open Door and ELPC to explore possibilities and issues related to Latino ministry.

A seven-week group will be offered on Monday evenings, **Oct. 3–Nov. 21** (we will not meet on Oct. 31). Our first meeting will be from 6–8 pm, at ELPC. Food will be provided. The time for subsequent meetings may change depending on the group’s preference. Topics include, but are not limited to: immigration, Biblical hospitality, statistics, Latino faith and culture, and basic Spanish pronunciation.

If you have questions, or to express interest in the group, please contact Jane Anabe, seminary intern from PTS, at janabe@pts.edu or **412.224.0985**.

Building Closed: The church building will be closed on **Mon., Oct. 10**, but will open at 7 pm.