



From the Pastor

February is upon us and with it comes the end of that period of the year when the nights seem so long (look in the weather page of the newspaper; we've already gained almost one half hour of daylight in the evening since the beginning of the year). It also will bring us Ash Wednesday, which this year is on February 22 and marks the beginning of Lent. The word "Lent" in Anglo-Saxon initially simply meant *spring* (as in the German word *Lenz*) and both of those words come from the Germanic root for *long* (guess why: because in the spring the days visibly lengthen).

It's not quite spring yet but it is time for Lent. We will observe Ash Wednesday on February 22 with the usual service of Holy Communion (with imposition of ashes for those who desire it) at 7:00 pm. On the Wednesday evenings thereafter I will do a series of meditations on "Deadly Sins and Cardinal Virtues." I have done it once before at Immanuel but never here. Since there are seven Wednesdays, including Ash Wednesday, each meditation will contrast one sin with one virtue. The vices are, in no

particular order: pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, and sloth. Some work "despair" into the list, even if it means ending up with eight vices. The virtues are: faith, hope, charity, fortitude, justice, temperance, and prudence.

So come out for this Wednesday series to help you focus on your Lenten journey. To make things more interesting, and in keeping with the lengthening of days during this season of the church year, Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11 (why not the first or last Sunday?). Don't forget that or you might come too late for worship on that Sunday!

Finally, it will be during Lent that our new fellowship space will become completely functional; current plans call for a brief service of dedication on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (Transfiguration), February 19. Whenever it is, I'm sure a little pride in this reclaimed space is in order, as long as we use it to aid us in the challenge to look forward in this special place to the next 100 years of serving in the city for good for Jesus' sake! And that will require all cardinal virtues, especially faith, hope, and fortitude!

~ *Pastor John Schweitzer*

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Congregational Meeting



Here are some highlights of our annual Congregational Meeting, which was held after the 10:30 service in the fellowship hall on Sunday, January 15, 2012 following a delicious “pot luck” dinner. First of all, the following persons were elected to three-year-terms on our Congregation (Church) Council: Mr. Kevin Murphy, Ms. Joyce Smith, Mr. Jason Stanley, and Mr. Joe Thisted. Ms. Carol McCue and Mr. Wayne Griffin were elected to one year terms to fill out the unexpired terms of persons who had resigned from Council before their terms were up.

Congratulations to our newly-elected Council members! Also, many thank for their faithful service to the following outgoing Council people: Mr. Stuart Myer, Mr. John Ritz, Ms. Cheryl Shiembob, Ms. Elaine Smith, and Mr. Joe Smith.

For the record, the remaining members of Council are as follows: Ms. Sandra Cowett, Mr. Bill Fenerty, Ms. Jenna Hoke, Ms. Polly Brickman, Ms. Jackie Rowland, Ms. Julie Judge, and Ms. Jennifer Gentry. Pastor Schweitzer serves on council *ex officio*; Mr. Linus Ellis and Mr. Brian Wingfield attend the meetings in an advisory capacity.

The next item on the agenda had to do with amends to our congregation’s constitution proposed by Council and announced, as required by this document, by letter to the membership 30 days before the annual meeting. Each of the three proposed amendments passed. This was a first vote, and according to chapter 17 (“Amendments”) of the constitution, section C17.02b these proposed amendments have to be ratified without change at the next annual meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting. Finally, the amendments thus approved are to be sent by the secretary of the congregation to the synod, and will become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless this body determines that one or more of them is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA or the constitution of the VA Synod.

So far as other business was concerned, the budget for 2012 in the amount of \$435,828 was adopted, a special stewardship emphasis during Lent was announced (and our membership encouraged to continue the pledged offering amount for 2011 until the new drive is completed), and the usual reports of our organizations were given. In addition, concern was expressed that there is at present no congregational directory available in convenient form. After some discussion, Ms. Betty Cochran volunteered to work with the office staff to produce such a directory as soon as possible.



Church Council Notes From January 2012 Meeting

At its monthly meeting on January 17th, 2012, our Congregation Council welcomed its new members and elected the following officers for the year: President, Ms. Carol McCue; Vice President, Mr. Joe Thisted; Secretary: Ms. Jenna Hoke; and Treasurer: Ms. Polly Brickman. Congratulations!

Council received a proposal from the Whitlock Group for replacing the sound system in the sanctuary. More information will be forthcoming. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on funding and giving opportunities.)



Did you take home some of our towels to wash? Did you remember to bring them back to church once they were clean?

Our supply of towels is growing short! Please remember to bring back any towels that you took home.

Of if you have any towels that you can donate to the cause, please bring those! Thank you.



Newsletter Deadline

All submissions for the March issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than Wednesday February 15.

Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff



The Youth Group Is Back!

On **Sunday, February 5th** a special meeting will take place for all young people grades 6 – 12 and their parents for the purpose of reorganizing our youth group(s). We had a lot of our core group from the past “glory years” go off to college since 2008, and now have a sizeable number of kids who have recently entered middle school plus some high school age youth who will be glad to act as mentors and help them become a strong group like we had from 2002-2008. Thanks to Jenna Hoke for organizing this meeting.

Also, for kids in grades 5 & 6, Seventh Day, an overnight event in the country near Lynchburg, sponsored by the Virginia Synod of the ELCA, will be held this year on March 3 – 4.

Youth work at First English is part of our Christian Education ministry, with input from anyone willing to help, especially parents.



Women of the ELCA Evening Group

**Lutheran Teaching
in a Nutshell**
Our next meeting
will be **February
10th**. **Pastor**

Schweitzer will be our speaker and is going to talk on what it means to be Lutheran. This will be a type of refresher course on our catechism.

Dinner will be at 6:00, cost is now \$5.00. You should contact Libby Riggle at 779-2036 to make your dinner reservation.



"Books for Dollars" Sale

Choose your books and make any donation that you would like, or just take some books without any obligation if that better suits you. We expect to close up the book corner soon and want to be sure that everyone has the opportunity to select any of the books that they are interested in.

A big thank you to all who have donated books as well as those who have supported us by taking advantage of the "Books for Dollars" corner. We have been pleased with the success of the program. Many, many books were also sold during the yard sale held last year adding to its success.

Thanks again for your support,
~ The Centennial Committee



First English Lutheran Church's second Silent Auction will be on **Saturday, February 18th** at **7:00 pm**. Mark your calendar—it's a lot of fun and a very different type of event for First English. You can enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres while bidding on Art, Jewelry, Puritan Cleaners, a Weekend Beach House and more than 30 other excellent themed packages (Wine & Beer, Cooking, Workout, etc.). You can take the items you win home that night. There will be a Children's Silent Auction, too! (Cash and checks only.) If you were there and had fun last year, please spread the word, the more the merrier!



New Fellowship Space Dedication

Join us on **Sunday, February 19th** just after the 10:30 worship for the dedication of our new fellowship space, the round room located off the narthex. On this day hospitality refreshments will be served there. We will be sharing memories of the room from when it was used for Sunday school classes.





On February 19th, a stewardship program entitled “Make It Simple” will officially begin at First English.

“Make It Simple.” Doesn’t that sound refreshing given the lives that we lead?

We race from one meeting to another. We attempt to meet so many demands from so many people, i.e., aging parents, young children, employers and employees, committee work, the boards of not-for-profits, PTA’s, neighborhood associations, etc. It can be exhausting!

Perhaps, we need a time management course? Or, perhaps, we need to talk simplicity.

According to Barbara DeGrote-Sorensen and David Allen Sorensen, “Simplicity is more than time management. It’s more than holistic health. It’s more than quality time versus quantity time, self-care versus social reform. Simplicity requires us to become more focused—to serve one God instead of many.”

Simplicity coaxes change in the core of our being as we begin to question some widely held assumptions and ask ourselves:

- What are the values that guide my actions?
- What is my fair share?
- When is enough enough?
- Why don’t I feel good?
- How can I live a more integrated faith?
- Who are my neighbors, and do I really care about them?

Mark your calendars and please attend church —every Sunday, but especially on February 19th.

Call to Action: If you would like to assist in this stewardship program, please reach out to Carol McCue (cmmccue1@cavtel.net), Jason Stanley (t.jasonstanley@comcast.net), or Jennifer Gentry (jgentry@vccs.edu).

“Make It Simple!” Let’s begin today.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHILI COOK-OFF



On Sunday, February 12th, come and show us your secret recipe chili. If you have a favorite chili recipe or just found a great chili recipe that you want to cook, join us after the 10:30 service, during Hospitality time, with your special chili.

Yes, there will be prizes given out.
Yes, you will be the judge of the best chili.
Come and have fun.

If you are planning to participate or if you have any questions, please e-mail me at andree752@yahoo.com or call me at 804 475-8998.

LET'S COOK CHILI



Free 8-week educational program for families affected by autism

Raising a child with autism can sometimes be overwhelming for parents. The symptoms of the disorder are complex, treatment is often expensive and controversial, and connecting with community resources can be difficult. Lutheran Family Services of Virginia is helping parents fill the information gap with Essential Pieces, a continuing free, 8-week education workshop.

•Workshops are 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, beginning January 23 through February 27 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 North Parham Road in Richmond.

•Parents are welcome to bring their children on the autism spectrum and siblings to a social group that will run concurrently. Parents can register their children for the social group at lfsva.org.

For more information or to register for this free workshop, call Taneika Goldman at [804.288.0122, ext. 228](tel:804.288.0122), or email tgoldman@lfsva.org. Lutheran Family Services offers foster care, adoption and community-based services, education for children with complex needs, services for older adults and those who are grieving, and developmental services for adults with disabilities. The Essential Pieces ministry is supported in part through a grant from the Lutheran Services of Children Endowment at the ELCA Foundation.



Can You Hear Me Now?

The council has approved the purchase of a new sound system. A leadership gift has already been made to help defray the costs of the purchase. We are looking to hear from you. If you would like to support this effort, please make your check payable to FELC designated "New Sound System." Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

Souper Bowl of Caring is Coming Up!

Next **Sunday, February 5th**, First English will again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This event, which coincides with the Super Bowl and started in South Carolina in 1990, collects donations to help fight hunger locally. The idea of the Souper Bowl of Caring is to not lose sight of all the needy people in the community given all the hoopla of the Super Bowl. Last year, \$9.6 million was collected in cash and food items by churches and other organizations across the country. Early on with Souper Bowl of Caring, the suggested donation was a dollar to buy someone a bowl of soup but any size contribution is welcome. Funds donated by First English members on February 5th will be matched by Thrivent. The funds will be divided between the William Byrd Community House and the Central Virginia Food Bank. First English youth will be on hand again this year to collect the donations. First English has been very generous in years past; please remember this project on February 5th.



Volunteer for CARITAS

First English will assist St. John's United Church of Christ again this year with the intake component of the CARITAS (Congregations

Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter) program on Monday and Tuesday evenings January 28th through March 30th from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

Volunteers from First English are needed on **Monday and Tuesday** evenings (approximately **5:00 to 6:30 pm**) to meet guests at St. John's UCC (across Stuart Circle from First English). Snacks and hot and cold drinks will be available for the hosts to prepare and serve to guests. Two volunteers are needed each evening.

Sign-up sheets are in the Office Reception area.

Which is it??



Just Growing Pains!

FEBRUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



	February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany	February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany	February 19 – Transfiguration Sunday	February 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent
8:15 Lector	Laura Rice	Kevin Murphy	Nikki Kardouni	Pat McAfee
10:30 Lectors	1. Jackie Rowland 2. Mary Elizabeth Ellis	1. Polly Brickman 2. Joedy Smith	1. Reni Gower 2. Jeff Nelson	1. Emmett Heltzel 2. Nicole Krause
Crucifer	Ed Wiles	Ed Wiles		Ed Wiles
Acolytes	Rachel Allen Sydney Stricker	Cassidy Hoke Cooper Hoke	Rachel Allen Cooper Hoke	Michael Stricker Sydney Stricker
Altar Guild	Jim Byerly	Jenna Hoke Jeff Hoke	Brenda Myer Stuart Myer	Peggy Davis Libby Riggle
Greeter	Jason & Jennifer Stanley	Roger Riggle	Deborah Hubbs	Jason & Jennifer Stanley
Communion Assistants	Wayne Griffin Debbie Lane Charlie Schumann	Sheryl Finucane Stuart Myer Joyce Smith	Jackie Rowland Charlie Schumann Joyce Smith	Polly Brickman Mary Elizabeth Ellis Joe Thisted, Sr.
Head Counter	Rico Matawaran	Rico Matawaran	Rico Matawaran	Rico Matawaran
Counters	Stuart Myer Elaine Smith	Margaret Thisted Joe Thisted, Sr.	Debbie Lane Cheryl Shiembob	Betty Davidson Suzanne Stricker
Ushers	Bill Davidson Sheryl Finucane Jim Johnson Roger Riggle	Jim Byerly Bill Davidson Wayne Griffin Jim Johnson	Sheryl Finucane Wayne Griffin Roger Riggle Joedy Smith	Jim Byerly Bill Davidson Reni Gower Jeff Nelson
Hospitality	Eckhardt Family	Chili Cook-off	Nicole Kraus	
Readings	Isa 40:21-31 1 Cor 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Cor 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Cor 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	Gen 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15



**** Please find a replacement when you cannot serve and notify the church office at 355-9185 as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and service to the Church.**

FELC People News



Cecil Francis Newman died on January 15, 2012 at the age of 85 years. His funeral and burial were held at Westhampton Memorial Park on January 21, 2012 at 10:30 am. Next of kin is his wife, Margarete, and his son Donald with his family.

Let's Celebrate February with the Following Members of our Congregation



to all celebrating a
birthday in February!



to all couples celebrating
an anniversary in
February!

PROJECT LINUS - Providing security through blankets



Thank you, **Lydia English**, for four quilted blankets of attractive colors and designs. Also thank you to an unknown donor for a beautifully crocheted white and orange afghan style blanket found in the church office. Please let us know who you are. Your loving handwork will bring comfort and security to children who are ill or in distress and loving care. With appreciation to you both, A job well done!



<p>Wednesday Feb. 1 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:15 pm: Education Committee Meeting 6:30 pm: Book of Faith 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday February 3 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
<p>Sunday Feb. 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Confirmation Class 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Eckhardt 12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee 12:00 pm: Youth Group Meeting 12:15 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Wed. February 8 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Book of Faith 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday February 10 6:00 pm: Women of the ELCA Evening Group 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>

<p>Sun. Feb. 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Chili Cook-off 12:15 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Wed. February 15 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Book of Faith 6:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health Group 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday February 17 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
<p>Saturday February 18 7:00 pm: Silent Auction</p>
<p>Sunday Feb. 19 – Transfiguration Sunday 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Confirmation Class 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Fellowship Space Dedication and Hospitality – Nicole Krause 12:15 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Tuesday February 21 7:00 pm: Congregation Council Meeting</p>
<p>Wed. February 22 – Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 7:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Friday February 24 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
<p>Sunday Feb. 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – 12:15 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Wed. Feb. 29 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 6:00 pm: Dinner 7:00 pm: Lenten Meditation 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.



FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

gain	as	or	ear	van	an	for	give
gave	her	on	it	one	other	he	an

B _____ w _____ h each

ot _____ d _____ give

_____ e an _____ if _____ y

of you h _____ grie _____ ce

a _____ st some _____ .

For _____ as t _____ L _____ d

for _____ you." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV