



Annual Congregational Meeting

January 15, 2012

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 15, 2012**, immediately following the 10:30 am service. As in previous years, we will begin with a potluck luncheon. Among items on the agenda will be the election of Council members, amendments to the Constitution, and the approval of the proposed budget for 2012.

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Mr. Brian Wingfield, Parish Administrator: bwingfield@felcrichmond.org



From the Pastor

Well, it's 2012 and Christmas is behind us. In spite of the construction and the fact that until December 23 the rear pews were moved to the aisles and scaffolding was all over the church to allow for painting, everything looked beautiful on December 24. Our total attendance at both services, 5 & 10:30 was the best since 2007! And the pageant at the early service went off without a hitch! As a special added feature, Christmas day itself was on a Sunday, so our last service for the memorable year 2011 was on December 25. I'd like to repeat here what I wrote for the e-mail out bulletin for the week of December 25, since not everyone receives it; these words sum up what I try to say every year at the Christmas services:

We have heard the Christmas gospel, sung the familiar carols, exchanged presents with family and friends, sent and received cards, enjoyed

a Christmas dinner, and admired the amazing lights which decorated houses all over the metropolitan Richmond area. Now what do we do? Perhaps the answer to this question is in Luke 2:20: "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

For them Christmas was not over after they had heard the announcement by the angel of God of the Savior's birth and visited the place where the Christ child was to be found. Rather, they returned to their work, but renewed in spirit and with a new task: to tell everyone they met that the Messiah was born, that God was true to his promise to his people. They were the first evangelists! Would that all of us took our roles as evangelists this seriously! Christmas is not over. It's only just begun.

Let us in the weeks, months and years to come never cease to witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. And may we all begin the year of our Lord 2012 in this spirit!

So let's make 2012 a great year in the history of First English. And on a personal note, Carol and I thank all our members for the many cards we received, and I personally thank the congregation for all its support, thoughtfulness, and love, and for the Christmas gift presented at the 10:30 service.

~ Pastor John Schweitzer



RENOVATION UPDATES

Women of the ELCA Evening Group

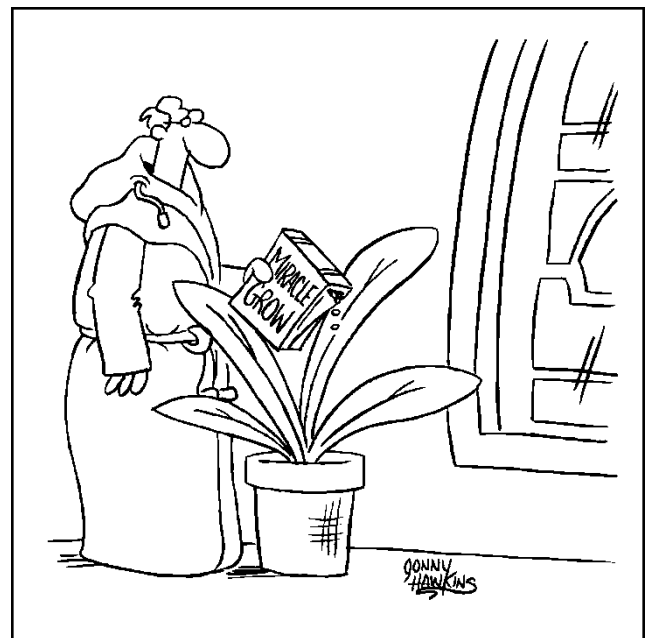
Renovation Updates and Possibilities for the Newly Created Space

Join us for the **January 13th** program of the WELCA to learn the status of the church renovation. We will also have a discussion facilitated by Linus Ellis and Jennifer Gentry about the possibilities for programming in the newly renovated space. Bring your creativity and ideas for exciting new programming, educational opportunities, cultural offerings, social ministry needs, etc. We intend to develop a listing of possibilities to present to the church council for consideration and approval. In addition, this brainstorming session will serve as a springboard for determining furnishings for the space. Please join us and let your voice be heard. All are welcome. We welcome our men also; we value your opinions and need your input.

Dinner will be at 6:00 with a cost of \$4.00 and we will have our business meeting following the session.



Our continuing study of the Gospel of Mark resumed **Wednesday, January 4th**, from **6:30 pm to 7:30 pm** in the Church library. This ELCA Book of Faith study will meet for seven sessions until the Lenten Season begins. Selected scripture passages will be discussed from four perspectives: scriptural, literary, devotional, and Lutheran, as well as from our own perspectives. Our lively group has had some very interesting, enjoyable, and inspiring conversations. New books will be distributed at this time. No knowledge of the Bible is needed and each opinion expressed is equal in importance. The goal of this group is to learn to talk about the Bible with others in comfortable ways. Please plan to come as you can, either for a few times or for the whole study! If you have any questions, please call Sandi Cowett. Hope to see you there!





Because of the great success of the Silent Auction last February, as a fund raiser for our 2011 celebrations, the Congregational Life committee has decided to continue the tradition. The event will take place on **Saturday, February 18th**. The proceeds will help an international social agency, a local social agency and support some small improvement project at FELC.

We need your help with item donations. We are looking for hand-made or new-purchased items. We are looking for new, quality items such as, but not limited to: art, furniture, electronics, store and restaurant gift cards, services, entertainment tickets, gifts, collectibles, sports equipment, toys and crafts. Are you able to donate an item or do you know someone who owns a business and might be willing to donate an item for auction? Perhaps get together with another family and create a gift basket for donation. Perhaps you received a duplicate Christmas gift or one that you just can't use – consider making them a donation.

If you can help or know someone who can, please let Joyce Smith or the Church Office know.



Caroling: a Tradition Revived

On Friday evening, December 23 a group of about 20 First English members of all ages visited St. Mary's Woods (a retirement community on Gaskins Road) and sang Christmas carols; a lot of the residents joined in. They then visited Jack and Shirley Harris at their home on Staples Mill Road. Years ago caroling was a tradition at First English, mostly in the immediate neighborhood of the church, and it's great that this tradition is being revived. Let's get several groups together next year and go to as many places as possible! Special thanks to Joe and Margaret Thisted for organizing this activity and to Clay Arthur for accompanying the group on the guitar.



Volunteer for CARITAS

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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.

CARITAS is a shelter program serving homeless in the Richmond area. Churches and other organizations in the greater Richmond area open their doors to provide shelter to homeless individuals. Since many of the overnight shelters are in the suburban areas guests gather at downtown churches (intake centers) and are bussed from there to the overnight location.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

All submissions for the February issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than **Monday January 16th**. Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff



Hats for Heroes

Approximately 450 hero caps have been knitted by our Women of the ELCA and their friends and sent to our soldiers in Afghanistan. We all want to thank all the women who contributed to this outstanding project. You are wonderful!

~ Betty Davidson, Mission Chair
~ Carrie Davidson, Secretary

LINUS PROJECT -
Providing security
through blankets



Thank you, Thank you, **Juliane Riley**, for another beautifully crocheted blanket. Thank you for sharing your talent and your heart to provide love and security to a child, who is seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church – January 2012



On Christmas Eve at the 5 pm service the following young people received their First Holy Communion: **Jake Hamilton, Collin Murphy, Michael Stricker, Parker Vida and Spencer Vida.** Debbie Lane and Pastor Schweitzer had conducted a total of three sessions of instruction to prepare them for this important step in their Christian growth.

On Christmas Eve we were also very happy to celebrate three baptisms, two preceding the 5 pm service and one at the 10:30 pm service. The persons baptized were: at 4 pm, **Parker Vida and Spencer Vida** (child believer's baptism); at 10:30, **Mr. Anthony Ray Johnson** (adult believer's baptism). What an appropriate time to join the Lord's family!



At our 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 18 the following persons were received as members of First English Lutheran Church: **Mr. Mark Allen** and his daughter **Rachael Allen, Ms. Jeanette Camden, and Mr. Sam Gunter.** Jeanette and Sam had received instruction from Pastor Schweitzer and were received as members through the rite of Confirmation. Congratulations; may you all find a spiritual home at First English. We have several other persons who have indicated their desire to unite with First English but were not able to be present on December 18; they will be formally received at the earliest possible date in 2012.



Welcome New Members

Happy
Birthday



Happy Birthday to all celebrating a birthday in the month of January!



Congratulations to all celebrating a wedding anniversary in January!

SERVING IN JANUARY



	January 1 – 1st Sunday of Christmas	January 8 – Baptism of Our Lord	January 15 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	January 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	January 29 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany
8:15 Lector		Kevin Murphy	Nikki Kardouni	Nikki Kardouni	Kevin Murphy
10:30 Lectors	1. Joe Thisted Sr. 2. Polly Brickman	1. Jackie Rowland 2. Mary Elizabeth Ellis	1. Nicole Krause 2. Emmett Heltzel	1. Charlie Schumann 2. Rob Comet	1. Cheryl Shiembob 2. Nicole Krause
Crucifer	Ed Wiles	Jim Byerly	Jim Byerly	Stuart Myer	Stuart Myer
Acolytes		Cassidy Hoke Cooper Hoke	Colin Murphy Sydney Stricker	Cooper Hoke Cassidy Hoke	Ellie Fenerty Nate Fenerty
Altar Guild	Brenda Myer Stuart Myer	Jeff Hoke Jenna Hoke	Peggy Davis Libby Riggle	Polly Brickman Jim Johnson	Emmett Heltzel
Greeter	Deborah Hubbs	Deborah Hubbs	Roger Riggle	Roger Riggle	Deborah Hubbs
Communion Assistants	Jackie Rowland Charlie Schumann	Polly Brickman Debbie Lane Ed Wiles	Mary Elizabeth Ellis Jim Johnson Ed Wiles	Debbie Lane Jackie Rowland Joe Thisted Sr.	Charlie Schumann Joe Thisted Sr. Ed Wiles
Head Counter	Kurt Stricker	Wayne Griffin	Wayne Griffin	Wayne Griffin	Wayne Griffin
Counters	Mary Elizabeth Ellis Debbie Lane	Cheryl Shiembob	Betty Davidson Cheryl Shiembob	Jenna Hoke Margaret Thisted	Betty Davidson John Ritz
Ushers	Bill Davidson Jim Johnson Roger Riggle	Rob Comet Bill Davidson Jim Johnson Stuart Myer	Bill Davidson Debbie Lane Joedy Smith Jeff Tehovinik	Bill Davidson Sheryl Finucane Reni Gower Jeff Nelson	Bill Davidson Reni Gower Jim Johnson Jell Nelson
Hospitality		Libby Riggle & Betty Margulies	Meeting & Potluck	Lane & Oldershaw Families	Emerson Family
Readings	Num 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	Gen 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Sam 3:1-10 1 Cor 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5,10 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Deut 18:15-20 1 Cor 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

**** 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.**



<p>Sunday Jan. 1 – 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30 am: Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion</p>	<p>Tuesday January 17 7:00 pm: Congregation Council Meeting</p>
<p>Wednesday Jan. 4 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm: Richmond Mental Health 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>Wed. January 18 – Wednesday’s Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 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 January 6 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>	<p>Friday January 20 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
<p>Sunday January 8 - Baptism of Our Lord 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 – Libby Riggle and Betty Margulies 12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee</p>	<p>Sunday January 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 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 – Lane & Oldershaw Families</p>
<p>Wed. January 11 – Wednesdays Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:30 pm: Book of Faith 6:45 pm: Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Wed. January 25 – Wednesday’s Together 12:00 pm: Wednesday Noon AA Group 5:30 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 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 January 13 6:00 pm: Women of the ELCA Evening Group 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>	<p>Friday January 27 7:30 pm: Not Saints AA Group</p>
<p>Sun. January 15 – 2nd 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: Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck</p>	<p>Sunday January 29 – 4th 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 – Emerson Family</p>
	<p>Monday January 30 5:00 pm: CARITAS</p>
	<p>Tuesday January 31 5:00 pm: CARITAS</p>

NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6" -long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.



A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcitne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenica			
___ fadoo			
Her name in Greek			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoaatnm			