



But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit
comes on you...
Acts 1:8

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1603 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220-2906

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Pentecost

From the Pastor

On Sunday, May 24 we at First English, along with most all other churches which claim the name Christian, celebrated Pentecost, the third great festival in the church year and the only one which has not been taken over and commercialized by society at large. While we might have to compete with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, there is no worldly symbol associated with the day we observed last month.

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church, commemorating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the assembly of believers who had gathered in Jerusalem fifty days after Easter. As the Bible states in Acts 1, they were empowered to be Christ's witnesses, *...in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

We in turn are the modern day successors of that original band of disciples, and we are called upon to continue the Lord's work in our own time just as they did then. Little wonder that the world has left this festival strictly alone; to put it bluntly, there's just no way to secularize it!

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses on Stuart Circle, in the Fan, in all of greater Richmond, and to the ends of the earth. "Now wait a minute," someone will say, "I can't find that in my Bible." Maybe not worded in quite this way. But that's what it means translated into our specific situation as the people of God here at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in RVA.

During the past year we've been doing a lot of talking and planning about how we can continue to grow as a congregation and share the Spirit with those around us, especially in our immediate neighborhood as well as in greater Richmond. On February 22 at a special

congregational meeting we approved the hiring of a part time staff person to help make this specific kind of growth possible.

I have been talking with colleagues, especially Pastor Chris Price, who is the Assistant to Bishop Mauney assigned to VA Synod congregations "east of the mountains." Again and again I've heard that we're surrounded by a rich mission field just waiting to be harvested.

Of course this won't happen simply by "hiring someone." Rather, we will continue to grow as a church both in our immediate neighborhood and beyond when every member of First English is inspired by the story of Pentecost and sees him or herself fitting into it in some way.

For further guidance and inspiration, here's another verse from Acts: *They [the early Christians] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (2:42).*

In other words, Sunday worship is the most important element in any attempt to grow! It's out of this experience that the desire to share the Spirit with others arises, and it is to worship that we return every Sunday to be strengthened through the Word and nourished at the Lord's Table for the tasks lying ahead.

The Lord *will* allow new and exciting things to happen in our midst. So: I hope I'll see you in church this summer — even on the many Sundays after Pentecost! (Of course a few Sundays for vacation or getaways to the beach, mountains or river are allowed!) And I look forward to continued blessings from on high as together we continue to do God's work, each in his or her own unique way.

~ Pastor John Schweitzer

Please join us following the 10:30 service

Sunday, June 7th
for our annual

Church Picnic



We're saving money and changing it up this year!

We'll be grilling, eating and playing
in front of the Education Building and Monument Ave. median.

Hotdogs, hamburgers and dessert will be provided
Please bring your own beverage and a side dish to share.



Ladies' Tea

All women and girls are invited to a Ladies' Tea on June 27th from 2:00 – 4:00. It will be an afternoon of fun, memories, and treats to honor and remember our grandmothers, mothers, daughters, and sisters. Please bring a picture or memento of one of these special ladies to share a memory of them with your tea partner. We will be receiving donations for Lutheran Family Services. Please RSVP Peggy Davis at 737-6691 or Melissa Shaffer at 550-4727. This will be a TEA-riffic party for all ages!



Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now for our one-day Vacation Bible School on **Sunday, July 19th**, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. We will start with a potluck lunch. There will be Bible stories, crafts, music, games and more! VBS will run until mid-afternoon. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please see Debbie Lane or Susan Fenerty.



June Worship Assistants

	June 7 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	June 14– 3rd Sunday after Pentecost	June 21 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost	June 28 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 Lector	Marlene James	Grace Gulick	Nancy Mondrey	Kathy Massie
10:30 Lectors	1. Bill Fenerty 2. Charlie Schumann	1. Wayne Clark 2. Ion Jovin	1. Deborah Hubbs 2. Mary Elizabeth Ellis	1. Wayne Griffin 2. Chris Hamilton
Crucifer	Nate Fenerty	Jim Byerly	Ellie Fenerty	Cooper Hoke
Acolyte	Ellie Fenerty	Amanda Jarvis	Cassidy Hoke	Jake Hamilton
Altar Guild	Polly Brickman Emmett Heltzel	Jim Byerly	Billy Duke Linda Wallace	Lynn Heltzel
Communion Elements to Altar	Rob Comet	Caroline Heltzel	Molly McCue	Debbie Lane
Head Counter	Laura Rice	Laura Rice	Laura Rice	Laura Rice
Counters	Rob Comet Bill Fenerty	Sheryl Finucane Bob Lane	Grace Gulick Carol McCue	Stuart Myer Kevin Murphy
Ushers	Kirk Fenerty Roger Riggle Bill Davidson Joedy Smith	Bob Lane Debbie Lane Nate Fenerty Ellie Fenerty	Linda Smith Joe Smith Caroline Heltzel Lynn Heltzel	Rob Comet Sheryl Finucane Reni Gower Jeff Nelson
Hospitality	Church Picnic	Lynn Heltzel Jim Byerly		Women of the ELCA
Readings	Gen 3:8-15 2 Cor 4:13—5:1 Mark 3:20-35	Ezek 17:22-24 2 Cor 5:6-10, 14-17 Mark 4:26-34	Job 38:1-11 2 Cor 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41	Lam 3:22-33 2 Cor 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

**** 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.**

FELC People News



Audrey Mae Schumann died on April 30, 2015 at the age of 92 years. Her funeral was held at the Central Chapel of Bennett Funeral Home on May 4, 2015, and she was laid to rest at Westhampton Memorial Park. Audrey was a life-long member of First English. For many years she served as the sacristan for our 8:15 service in our chapel, and spent her final years at Greenfield Residences on Allen Avenue, one block from the church.

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



On Sunday, May 24, 2015, **Madison Reese Tehovnik**, daughter of Jeffrey Charles Tehovnik and Genevieve Sutphin Tehovnik, born in Richmond VA on February 9, 2015 was baptized in our church at the 10:30 service.



On Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 2 pm **Jessica Reif Smith** and **Roger Larry Bright Jr.** were united in marriage in Sunset Beach, NC. Pastor Schweitzer performed the oceanside ceremony.

On Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 5 pm **Richard Thomas Myer** and **Christina Garcia** were united in marriage in our church.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE
CELEBRATING A
BIRTHDAY IN THE
MONTH OF JUNE!**



Congratulations to all celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in June!



Sunday June 7 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion
9:15 am: Adult Sunday School
9:30 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion
12:00 pm: Hospitality – Church Picnic

Friday June 12

6:00 pm: Women of the ELCA

Sunday June 14 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion
9:15 am: Adult Sunday School
9:30 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion
11:30 am: Hospitality – Lynn Heltzel, Jim Byerly
12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee

Tuesday June 16

7:00 pm: Congregational Council Meeting

**Sunday June 21 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Fathers' Day**

8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion
9:15 am: Adult Sunday School
9:30 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion
11:30 am: Hospitality –
12:00 pm: Outreach Committee Meeting

Saturday June 27

2:00 pm: Ladies' Tea

Sunday June 28 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion
9:15 am: Adult Sunday School
9:30 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion
12:00 pm: Hospitality – Women of the ELCA
12:00 pm: Worship & Music Committee Meeting



Newsletter Deadline

All submissions for the July issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than Monday June 15.

Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff

