



**Stuart Circle Palm Sunday Procession – March 20th at
10:00 am**

Palm Sunday Worship – March 20th at 8:15 and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Service – March 24th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service – March 25th at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Services – March 27th at 8:15 and 10:30 am

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

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



RESURRECTION DAY

From the Pastor

Writing this article is a challenge. This is the March Newsletter. Almost the entire month of March falls in the season of Lent, even though Easter is quite early this year (March 26), but not as early as it was in 2008 (March 23!). So do I write a Lenten article or an Easter article?

Thinking about this, I had an insight which might be helpful to those of us who often struggle trying to live out an Easter faith in a Lenten world. The month of March is a wonderful “parable from nature” for our lives on earth!

First of all, the month starts out with winter still upon us, at least so far as the calendar is concerned. But the daffodils underneath my office window here at church had already begun to bloom during the last week of February. And wasn't Tuesday, March 1 a great preview of the season to come? Even the “spring peepers” started their vernal song that evening. Then came Thursday night, March 3, with all the media hype about a “winter storm warning;” yet somehow you knew they were simply going through the motions. It did snow overnight but was no big deal: a minor inconvenience, so to speak, and by afternoon not a trace of snow was left.

Compared to the weather in the upper Midwest where Lutherans are in the majority, we don't have much of winter here in Richmond. But let's face it: January and February aren't a time to

go to the beach and sunbathe! Most of the trees are bare. There are days that are downright cold, and sometimes we even “enjoy” a snowstorm, with the inevitable coming to a halt of all activities and long lines at the supermarket on the evening before.

Thus goes the Christian life. We have the promise that our Lord is indeed risen from the dead, and that because he lives, we shall live also. Nevertheless, the sorrows and woes of life often overtake us, and it seems hard to believe that death has been swallowed up in victory for all who believe in Jesus Christ. Like a Virginia snowstorm, death breaks in from time to time as a reminder of our mortality; thus the words spoken on Ash Wednesday: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” are right on target so far as our natural state on this earth is concerned.

But even in Lent we are a resurrection people! The Sundays of this season are really feast rather than fast days; they remind us, like the green of our Southern Magnolias, that Christ's victory over sin and death is an accomplished fact, no matter how much we may be struggling at the present time.

To return to the “parable from nature” I referred to above, we would do well to observe how as the month of March progresses, spring advances; the days become longer, the bare trees take on a green hue, the ornamental pear and cherry trees bloom, and by the end of the month the new season is here in all its glory. This year all of that will coincide with Easter!

We dare not compare Easter with spring: it is simply a coincidence that it occurs at this time of the year. In the southern hemisphere it's beginning to be autumn. But God can and does use the month of March as a beautiful reminder that, as we read in Psalm 30:6, *Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

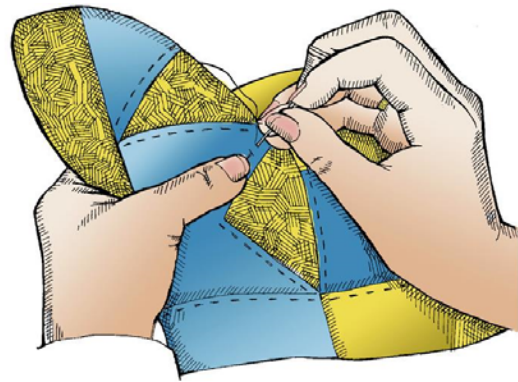
And so let us prepare for that great morning that ended mourning for all time, Easter, which we celebrate on March 26! Believe me; it involves infinitely much more than simply the reawakening to life of nature. Rather, it reminds us once again that “now is Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep.”

~ Pastor John Schweitzer



Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will meet **Friday, March 11, 2016** at **noon**. Our program will be a DVD entitled "Who was Jesus? - Part 3 - His crucifixion". Deborah Hubbs will prepare our meal at a cost of \$5.00 per person. We'll begin with our luncheon, followed by the program and conclude the afternoon with a short business meeting. If you do not receive a call from Gloria Jones and would like to attend, please contact Gloria, Libby Riggle or Peggy Davis for reservations. Hope to see you March 11th.



SOUL STITCHERS

Soul Stitchers will meet on **Sunday, March 14th** after the 10:30 service. We will meet on the Third Floor of the Scherer Building (top floor) in the Room by the staircase that goes out to the parking deck. We now have a bookcase with patterns available and a worktable as well as comfortable chairs. We want to thank those who have made anonymous donations of yarn during the last month. If you would like to learn a new needlecraft, please come join us. The baskets for donations are now located in our new space. We will provide instruction for beginners. If you would like to see what we are doing or have a request for a special order, please drop by when we are working. The group meets for approximately two hours, once a month and focuses their work on a project for the congregation.



We will be decorating the altar on Easter Sunday with lilies. The cost is \$14.00 each. Please call the church office (355-9185) or fill out the space provided for this purpose on the white insert sheet in the church bulletin and place it in the offering plate. Write "Lilies" on your check. The deadline for ordering is **Wednesday, March 23rd.**

Volunteers needed for the CARITAS Emergency Shelter program:

First English will assist St. John's United Church of Christ (at St. John's) with the intake component of the CARITAS emergency shelter program from **February 15 - April 12, on Monday and Tuesday** evenings. Volunteers are needed from **5:00** until about **6:30 or 6:45 pm.**

The job is simple, provide warm hospitality and set out and serve drinks (coffee, hot chocolate, lemonade) and snacks (provided) to individuals in need of shelter.

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.

St. John's United Church of Christ is across the circle from First English and is one of our fellow Stuart Circle Parish congregations.

Sign up on the schedule in the Wagner Room.

Contact Sheryl Finucane 1-448-3754 (h), 833-5434 (c) or sdgfin@gmail.com for additional information.



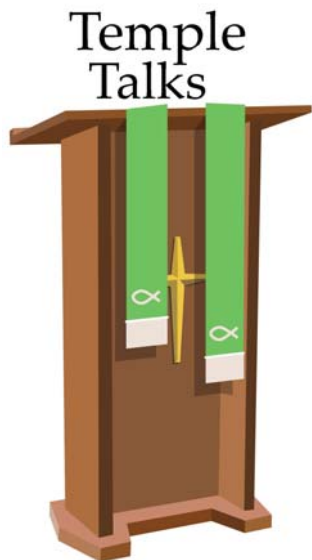
The Leisure Group has the following trips planned for 2016:

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|------------|---|
| April 21 | Virginia International Tattoo |
| May 17 | Occoquan - tour, boat ride, lunch, and shopping |
| Oct. 5 & 6 | Samson at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pa. and Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Del. |

We are also planning a trip to Poplar Forest in the fall.

For more information please see Libby Riggle or me. You can call me at (804) 338-8783. We hope you will join us.

~ Grace Gulick



Temple Talks

Temple Talks Update

Five Richmond social services organizations provided “Temple Talks” on various Sundays in 2015, updating the congregation about their activities and opportunities for volunteers. At the end of the services, First English members and visitors generously made contributions to support the organizations, which were collected by church youth. The contributions were supplemented by funds from Thrivent Financial. Checks were issued recently to the organizations for the following amounts: ACTS- \$308.14; Circle Center Adult Day Care Services-\$525.26; CrossOver Healthcare Ministry-\$477.23; Daily Planet-\$411.94; and VIPCare (formerly Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care)-\$384.18. The total amount of the checks was \$2106.75. All the organizations expressed their thanks for the contributions.

Additional organizations have been contacted about providing Temple Talks in 2016.



Souper Bowl of Caring 2016 - Update

For the Souper Bowl of Caring (souperbowl.org) collection on Sunday, February 7th, First English members and visitors were once again very generous, contributing \$485.50. The Social Ministry Committee will be directing half of the funds to benefit FeedMore (Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and Community Kitchen) and half to HomeAgain (a Richmond shelter program). Thanks to all who participated!



Newsletter Deadline

All submissions for the April issue need to be turned in to the church office no later than Tuesday, March 15.

Thank you for your cooperation. Church Office Staff



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Good Friday Blood Drive

Sponsored by the Stuart Circle Parish Churches

Grace Covenant Presbyterian
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

St. James's Episcopal Church
City Church of Richmond

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John's United Church of Christ

Friday, March 25, 2016

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

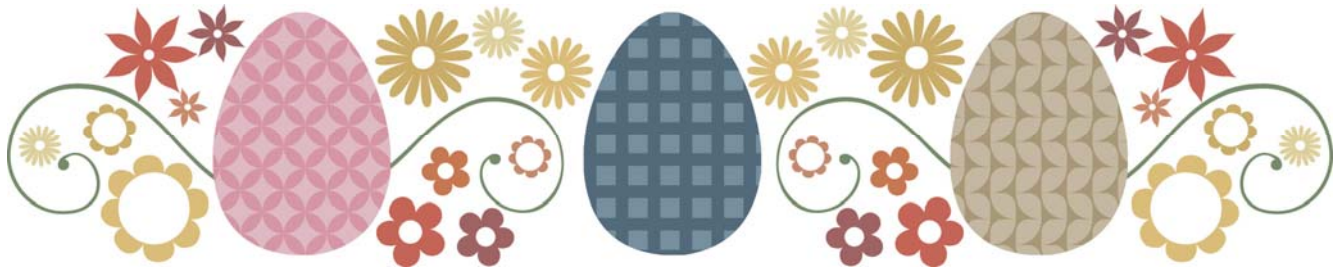
Location: Grace Covenant Basement Fellowship Hall

1627 Monument Avenue (parking in rear)

To schedule an appointment, go to www.redcross.org and use the sponsor code: *GOODFRIDAY* or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

Remember to drink plenty of water, eat a good meal, and
Bring a photo ID with Date of Birth.





March Worship Assistants

| | March 13 – 5th Sunday in Lent | March 20 – Palm Sunday | March 24 – Maundy Thursday | March 25 – Good Friday | March 27 – Easter Sunday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 8:15 Lector | Marlene James | Pat McAfee | | | Nancy Mondrey |
| 10:30 Lectors | Cheryl Shiembob | Jim Byerly | Rob Comet | Lydia English | Bill Fenerty |
| Crucifer | Jim Byerly | Caroline Heltzel | | | Jake Hamilton |
| Acolyte | Ellie Fenerty | Amanda Jarvis | | | Kirk Fenerty |
| Altar Guild | Stuart Myer | Jim Byerly | Libby Riggle | Polly Brickman | Lynn Heltzel |
| Communion Elements to Altar | Linda Smith | Debbie Lane | | | Jim Byerly |
| Head Counter | Jennifer Gentry | Grace Gulick | | | Jenna Hoke |
| Counter | Rob Comet | Betty Davidson | | | Bill Fenerty |
| Ushers | Rob Comet Bill Fenerty Reni Gower Linda Smith | Lynn Heltzel Mark Crumpton Jim Byerly Debbie Lane | | | Sheryl Finucane Jeff Nelson Joe Smith Linda Smith |
| Hospitality | Sheryl Finucane | Deborah Hubbs | | | |
| Readings | Isa 43:16-21 Phil 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8 | Isa 50:4-9a Phil 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23;56 | | Isa 52:13—53:12 Heb 10:16-25 John 18:1—19:42 | Job 19:23-27 1 Cor 15:51-57 John 20:1-18 |

**** 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.**



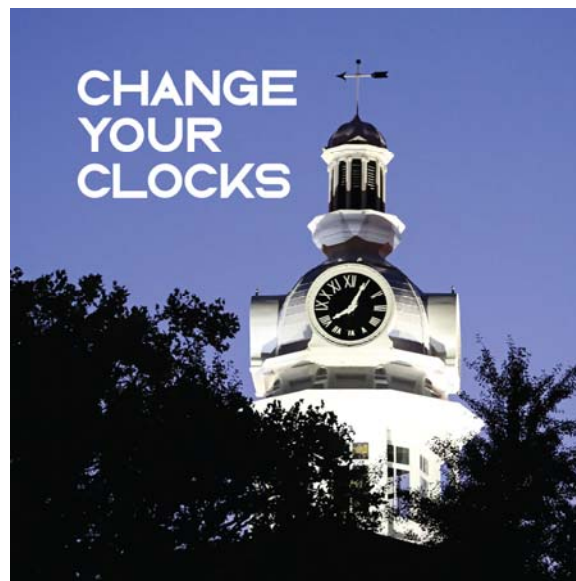
MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating
a birthday in the month of March!



MARCH
ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to all celebrating a
Wedding Anniversary in March!



Daylight Savings Time

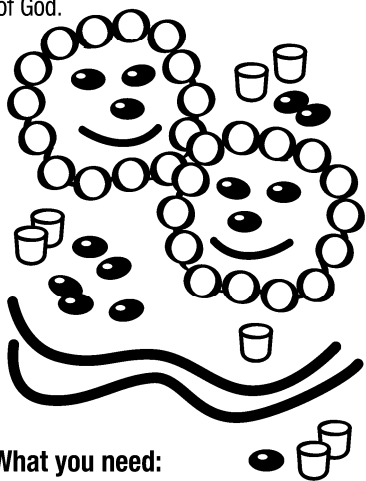
Sunday March 13, 2016



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|---|--|
| Sunday March 6 – 4th Sunday in Lent 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Congregational Life | Sunday March 20 – Palm Sunday 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: Palm Sunday Procession 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Deborah Hubbs 12:00 pm: Outreach Committee Meeting |
| Wed. March 9 – Wednesdays Together 5:00 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm: Lenten Bible Study | Wed. March 23 – Wednesdays Together 5:00 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm: Lenten Bible Study |
| Friday March 11 12:00 pm: Women of the ELCA Meeting | Thursday March 24 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service |
| Sunday March 13 – 5th Sunday in Lent <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – Sheryl Finucane 12:00 pm: Soul Stitches 12:00 pm: Congregational Life Committee Meeting | Friday March 25 9:30 am: Stuart Circle Blood Drive 7:00 pm: Good Friday Service |
| Tuesday March 15 7:00 pm: Congregation Council Meeting | Sunday March 27 – Easter Sunday 8:15 am: Service of Holy Communion 9:15 am: Sunday School 9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am: Hospitality – 12:00 pm: Worship & Music Committee Meeting |
| Wed. March 16 – Wednesdays Together 5:00 pm: Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm: Lenten Bible Study | Monday March 28 <i>Church Office Closed</i> |
| | Wed. March 30 – Wednesdays Together 6:00 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm: Lenten Bible Study |

LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.



What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!



Lamb of God

John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah – and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus.

Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.

