



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3001 Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas, 78705 • www.felcaustin.org

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to proclaim the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ to all people through our ministry of preaching, teaching and caring.

ECHOES Newsletter

Volume 47, Issue 12

December 2011

FROM THE PASTOR

Slow down!



Pastor Mike Coffey

You've driven through neighborhoods and seen the signs: Slow! Children at play. Slow! Blind person crossing. Slow! School crossing. We are aware, when we're driving at least, that not slowing down can be hazardous to others and ourselves.

On a recent retreat I helped lead, we guided men through a process that in some ways is all about slowing down. Enter into silence. Put away distractions. Stop calculating, analyzing, and fixing things. Be present to everything that is.

We spent five days slowing the men down enough so they could finally, deeply, and powerfully listen. Listen to their lives and their lies. Listen to nature speaking truth. Listen to the Mystery speak without words.

Advent is an invitation and a discipline to take four weeks to slow down. I know, I know... it's the busiest time of year so it makes no sense. That's not the church's fault, that's the culture's fault for creating an obscene celebration of materialism and excess. We can't do much about that except choose how far to go in participating in it.

But I guess what we would rather do, what our souls are whispering to us to do, is to slow down. Breathe deeply. Let out the rush and the anxiety and the push and the lies. Be present to everything that is. Desire to have what we already possess: life, love, faith, hope—and to have these in abundance, in excess, in quiet celebration.

In the practice of contemplative prayer, it is often helpful to use a word or phrase that keeps bringing your mind back to silence and stillness instead of thinking, planning, worrying. One that is well known is the Scripture verse "Be still, and know that I am God." This is sometimes used as a slow moving into deeper contemplation by letting go of words:

Be still, and know that I am God.

Be still, and know that I am.

Be still, and know.

Be still.

Be.

Let the Mystery speak to us this Advent as we slow down, wait for the Lord to do wonders in and among us, and learn just to be, be in love, be in hope, be in life, be in faith.

Visit Pastor Coffey's Web site at www.michaelcoffey.org for sermons, blog, and more.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25 – NO WORSHIP

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. We will not have worship services that day.

Sunday, January 1 – ONE SERVICE

11:00 A.M.: LESSONS AND CAROLS

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH AFTERWARDS

New Year's Day falls on a Sunday. We will have one service at 11:00, allowing all the New Year's Eve late night party goers a chance to sleep in a little.

Following the service, we'll have a New Year's Day brunch in the Fellowship Hall. **Come and celebrate the New Year together at First English!**

Advent Contemplative Sit

Wednesdays at 12:15 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

November 30–December 21

In the Transept Chapel

During Advent there will be an opportunity to come together in contemplative prayer. The Advent Contemplative Sit will be a simple service using Scripture, silence, and poetry to help guide us in our journey through the season. It will be offered twice on each Wednesday, with the same theme at both services. The service will last 30 minutes. Come and join us for this helpful spiritual discipline of stillness and contemplation.

Member News **NEW MEMBER**
Erin Anderson

From the Faith Formation Coordinator



Henri Atkinson

Are we preparing the way? Are we looking for the coming of the Christ Child? Advent is here so on Sunday, December 4, we will have our annual Advent Workshop. It is one of my favorite days of the church year. This year we are collecting baby stuff for Any Baby Can. We need diapers, and then gently used or new children's books (English and Spanish), Push and Walk toys. Also baby clothes and shoes as well as baby sheets and blankets. Some larger new items that are needed are new strollers, car seats and air mattresses (queen and twin). Gently used cribs, pack-n-play pens and high chairs. Young families you can clean out your closets!

My student of the month is Liam Coffey. If you see Liam on a Sunday wearing a baseball uniform, there's a good reason. He has a game! Liam and his brother are playing in a fall league. The league is Oak Hill and his team, the Riverdogs! Having played baseball in San Antonio it seems appropriate that he started baseball again when he moved to Austin this summer. He bats and throws right handed. I saw him with two bats sticking out of his backpack and asked if he was a switch hitter. "No," he said, "just right handed." In early November his team was in the playoffs. He attends Gorzycki Middle School. I teased him about the name and asked him what happened to the Washingtons, Lincolns and Adams? He said he didn't know. He likes school but not all subjects. As a retired teacher, I thought what a normal teen! He is in our confirmation class here at First English. Liam is the youngest Coffey and whenever I see him, he has his phone out either playing games or texting. Another sign of the times. Welcome Liam, to our church family!



Merry Christmas one and all. May the peace of Christmas surround all of us!
Henri Atkinson

From the Church Council

SUMMARY

— Submitted by Joe Cain, COUNCIL SECRETARY

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 21 COUNCIL MEETING:

The Pastor reported that Christmas caroling this year is planned for Saturday December 17, followed by an open house at the Coffeys' home.

The Council set the dates for Congregational Meetings on December 11 and January 29.

The Council adopted a 2012 budget for submission to the Congregation at the annual meeting, calling for total expenditures very slightly below the 2011 budget.

The Council received the Nominating Committee's nominations of Billy Elliot, Ruth Gray, Judy Moltz, and Steve Jung for election to the Congregational Council at the December 11 Congregational meeting.

The Council voted to receive Erin Anderson into membership.

CHURCH STAFF

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SUMMER NURSERY ATTENDANT

KRYSTAL NORMAN

CUSTODIANS

TERESA/JESUS DEL AGUILA
SONIA ESPINOZA

CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Bonnie Northcutt

VICE-PRESIDENT

Sage Weber

SECRETARY

Joe Cain

MEMBERS

Henri Atkinson
Alison Derick-Northcutt
Angelo Ferrazzano
Shelly Kronbergs
Kristin Mondy
Nancy Neuse
Terry Porter
Barbara Schutz
Teresa Tice-Boggs

TREASURER

Dana MacLaren

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tkapelle@firstenglishcdc.org

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sball@firstenglishcdc.org

FELC OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Friday 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

FROM THE VICAR

On Being Free to Wait on God



Vicar Peder Hinderlie

Our church season of Advent has become much more meaningful for me because of a feeling of letting go that happened shortly after college. I now find myself free to breathe in this change of season. I am open to whatever the future may bring, instead of joining in our culture’s foaming at the mouth for Christmas to finally come with all of its beauty and all of its dysfunction. Although I indeed am waiting for that moment of the rebirth of hope and of newness that we as a community celebrate during Christmas, I find that this season of Advent is a time in which I can more greatly recognize and appreciate how powerless I am in making it come sooner.

Recently I have been reading a lot of about what it means to be “powerless”, and I am reminded about the time I struggled with wanting to control how the world works. I had convinced myself that I’d figured out the “best way to live” and I was impatient and demanding when others wouldn’t simply just listen to me and do what I did! Often this led me to resent my neighbor. I would spend most of my days walking around with a dark cloud over my head, ready to air my superior political/theological ideas whenever I could. But working for a number of years with people struggling with some form of addiction in their lives, I saw and heard many stories that point to the power of recognizing just how powerless we truly are. Let me tell you a little of what I’ve learned.

The first step in the process of recovery from addiction is to admit that you are powerless over your addictive behavior, and that your life has become unmanageable. No matter how much effort or willpower you put into stopping whatever is making your life unmanageable—whether it is overeating, overdrinking, smoking, excessive shopping, etc.—you will not be able to come to terms with your life until you first admit that no amount of willpower can make you stop. In that admission, you then give yourself the freedom to let go. I discovered that it is nothing but a joy and a relief to let go of my particular addiction— my feelings of superiority— and I have grown and matured in so many ways because of this realization.

Jesus came to this world as a gift. He came not as a powerful warrior or a political ruler, but as a humble servant and a friend of society’s outcasts. Although his community expected a Messiah and wanted Jesus to fulfill preconceived notions of what this Messiah would do and say, Jesus came and lived in an unexpected way. Those who thought they had power over their situation, power over what God’s Messiah would be, couldn’t stand how Jesus lived nor what Jesus said. They did not have control over this one.

I wonder how in my own life I seek to control who or what God is, and what God will do. If Jesus is any example for us, and if his words and life and promises are to be trusted, then we are free to let God be God. So are you. We can breathe in peace. We can love ourselves, forgive ourselves. We can forgive and love our neighbors. We can be free to wait on God.

Christmas Poinsettia Order

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

All proceeds benefit
Down Home Ranch in Elgin
for the mentally handicapped
(www.downhomeranch.org)



CHRISTMAS 2011

If you would like to order a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary during Christmas services, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Poinsettias will cost \$15.00 this year. We will need your order no later than Wednesday December 14.

PREPAYMENT IS REQUIRED!

YOUR NAME(S) _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

PAID BY:

CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____

CHECK #: _____

CASH AMOUNT \$ _____

Please provide **YOUR PHONE NUMBER**
so we may call if we have questions.



December 2011


Visit First English Lutheran on the Web at www.felcaustin.org for more information and the current activity schedule on our Google calendar.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

	 Prayer Circle TUESDAYS AT NOON	Take a break in your day for meaningful group prayer time, at Noon in the church library. For information and special prayer please call Barbara Schutz (328-0587) or Lois Holck (327-850	
DECEMBER 4 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:45 A.M. ADVENT WORKSHOP (PL & FH)	DECEMBER 5 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY)	DECEMBER 6 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) NOON Prayer Circle (LB) 6:00 P.M. CDC Board (PL)	DECEMBER 7 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 12:15 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Contempla 12:45 P.M. Prime Timers Potlu 7:30 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S
DECEMBER 11 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:45 A.M. Children's Sunday School (FH) Adult Sunday School (PL) High School Group (CE) NOON Congregational Potluck Lunch & Meeting (FH)	DECEMBER 12 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY) 6:30 P.M. Spirituality in Movies (PL)	DECEMBER 13 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) NOON Prayer Circle (LB)	DECEMBER 14 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 12:15 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Contempla 7:30 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S
DECEMBER 18 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship (SY) 9:30 A.M. Green Team (LB) 9:45 A.M. Children's Sunday School (FH) Adult Sunday School (PL) High School Group (CE)	DECEMBER 19 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY) 7:00 P.M. Congregation Council (PL)	DECEMBER 20 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (PL) NOON Prayer Circle (LB) 1:15 P.M. Prayer Shawl Ministry (LB)	DECEMBER 21 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 10:30 A.M. Companions Group 12:15 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Contempla 7:30 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S
DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY NO WORSHIP SERVICE	DECEMBER 26 CHURCH OFFICE AND CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 9:00 A.M. Monday Ministry (SY)	DECEMBER 27 CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 8:00 A.M. Lutheran pastors text study (LB) 11:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study Group Lunch (Hyde Park Grill) NOON Prayer Circle (LB) 7:30 P.M. Drum with Rajamani (TC)	DECEMBER 28 CDC CLOSED FOR CH 10:00 A.M. CDC Chapel (SY) 7:30 P.M. Choir Rehearsal (S

Usher Schedule for December

12/04	8:30 A.M. Stan Kornfuehrer 11:00 A.M. Jackie Chuter & Joe Cain
12/11	8:30 A.M. Derek Bridges 11:00 A.M. Terry Porter
12/18	8:30 A.M. David Neuse 11:00 A.M. Joe Cain
12/24	5:30 P.M. 11:00 P.M.

NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25



ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 4

We are collecting donations for **Any Baby Can**.
They need: Diapers, all sizes; children's books both English and Spanish; push and walk toys; baby clothes and shoes; baby linens like sheets, blankets. **Larger Items:** new strollers; new car seats; new air mattresses (queen and twin); gently used cribs, pack-n-play pens, and high chairs.

Heart to Drum

Drum with a maste



Every mon offer sessi Tran exper walk in. If you have All levels welcome

FELC Worship Bulletin
online at felcaustin.org
under "Worship and Music"



Visit our Facebook page and become a fan: First English Lutheran Church – Austin, Texas



Join our Twitter feed and get updates and reminders: FELCAustin

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
most Tuesdays ayer requests, 1).	DECEMBER 1 7:00 P.M. Learning Ministry Team (PL)	DECEMBER 2 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH)	DECEMBER 3 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH)
o (LB) M. ative Service (TC) ck & Program (FH) Y)	DECEMBER 8	DECEMBER 9 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH)	DECEMBER 10 9:00 A.M. FELC Women's Walkabout (FELC) 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH)
o (LB) M. ative Service (TC) Y)	DECEMBER 15 SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ECHOES	DECEMBER 16 9:15 A.M. Church Women United Board (PL) 6:15 P.M. Yoga Class (FH) 6:30 P.M. 3 rd Friday Game & Fellowship (LB)	DECEMBER 17 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH) 2:30 P.M. Christmas Caroling (from FELC) 6:00 P.M. Christmas Open House (The Coffeys')
o (LB) M. ative Service (TC) Y)	DECEMBER 22	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH) 5:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Family Worship (SY) 11:00 P.M. Candlelight Eucharist (SY)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	DECEMBER 29 CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	DECEMBER 30 CDC CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	DECEMBER 31 9:00 A.M. Austin Central SDA (SY, PL, LB: 12:30 P.M. FH)

FELC Women's Walkabout

Walking Trail at Mueller, December 10, 9:00–10:30 A.M.

DIRECTIONS: On I35, take Airport Blvd. S. At first stop light, turn left on Aldrich St. and continue half way thru circle on Aldrich and then left on Simond. Parking lot is on the right, past playground/restrooms. We'll walk and end up at Bonnie Northcutt's house for drinks and snack and then walk back to the parking lot. **QUESTIONS?** Want to get on the Walkabout e-mail list for updates? Contact Renee Carlson, crsh@grandecom.net or 477-3489.

LOCATION LEGEND

CE = CLASSROOM EAST
FH = FELLOWSHIP HALL
LB = LIBRARY
PL = PARLOR
SY = SANCTUARY
TC = TRANSEPT CHAPEL

4TH Saturday Kickball: On Hiatus for December and January

Kickball will be on hiatus for December and January. We'll hope to resume once the holidays and the first wave of cold temps pass. Watch Echoes for updates as February approaches. For questions or info about FELC Kickball, contact Gretchen Olson at gretchenrolson@yahoo.com.

14th Annual Central Texas Area World AIDS Day Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope

The 14th annual Central Texas area World AIDS Day Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope will be held on

**Thursday, December 1
at St. David's Episcopal Church
301 E. 8th Street
7:00 P.M.**

The community is invited to gather for this annual World AIDS Day service of remembrance, which marks one of many World AIDS observances for 2011.

This service consists of reflection, music, drama, poetry, prayer and the annual AIDS Bell banner. The Care Communities sponsors this along with other HIV/AIDS organizations and the St. David's community.

If you know someone who is living with HIV/AIDS or has died from complications, please join in this annual Service.

If you want details about the Service, please contact:
Roger Temme, Outreach Director
(512) 459-5883
roger@thecarecommunities.org

Christmas Caroling to Homebound Members & Christmas Open House at the Coffeys Saturday, December 17

It's time for Christmas caroling again. It's a joyful way to go and visit our members who can't get out very much, and bring them our love and the happiness of song. We'll gather at the church at 2:30 P.M. to warm up, and head out by 3:00 P.M.

We'll wind up the caroling in southwest Austin and head to the Coffeys' house for their Christmas Open House from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Hot cider, treats, and a light supper will be served. Come to the Open House whether you are caroling or not.

Pastor Mike and Kathryn would appreciate your letting them know that you plan to attend. E-mail Pastor Mike at pastor@felcaustin.org, or call the church office.

From the CDC



Teresa Kapelle
CDC Director

Ah, December—a time of joy, celebrating holidays, spending time with family and children's tantrums.

From an adult's view, the season is practically centered around the children in our lives. We shower them with gifts in order to see the joy on their faces when opening them. We take them on long, late night hikes in order to see the houses decorated with lights. We cart them on lengthy trips to see family who ooh and ahh at them. Why shouldn't they shower us in gratitude?

Basically, we spotlight kids during the holiday season and expect them to shine like the little angels that they are. However, being famous in your own little world can be tough for a child. Fame comes with its costs, I'll have you know.



How can we support our budding stars this holiday season?

Keep that routine—even if your rock star wants the limelight for just another hour (because you know that the following hour is usually the ugly one).

Don't rush. A little secret most preschool teachers have for transitioning from one activity to the next is to make sure that there is plenty of time. Kids have their own time table and it is usually ten minutes slower than what an adult needs it to be.

Schedule in down time. No one can perform for hours on end. Make sure there are quiet moments in every day where little is expected of your child.

Take the show outdoors. Excitement encourages energy, so take walks or go to the park—even the adults benefit!

When "those" moments occur—the ones where your diva is on the ground, your temper rises and there is no relief in sight—take a deep breath before reacting. Keeping in mind that the same scenario is happening across the globe helps keep perspective.

Always a pleasure,
Teresa

First English Lutheran
Child Development Center
(512) 478-5424
tkapelle@firstenglishcdc.org

Thank You David Austin

For your help with the CDC Fall festival
— Teresa and CDC Staff



MICAH 6 UPDATE VOLUNTEER CALL

VOLUNTEER CALL

FOR NEW STREET YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER

Beginning in January, volunteers will be needed on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 P.M. to staff the new Micah 6 Street Youth Drop-In Center located at University Baptist Church. The center will offer a safe place to meet with food, restroom facilities, and computers. In the future, we hope to add educational opportunities to aid the youth in obtaining stability and self-sufficiency.

A volunteer training will be provided jointly by Micah 6 and Lifeworks on Sunday, January 8, 2012. If you are interested, please contact Micah 6 Board Member Mac McKaskle at rwmckaskle@yahoo.com. Volunteers may be asked to participate in a criminal background check.

DONATIONS NEEDED

FOR NEW DROP-IN CENTER FOR STREET YOUTH

Micah 6 is seeking donations of furniture, computers, and small kitchen appliances in good condition for the drop-in center. Leather furniture is preferred because it is durable and easy to clean. If you have an item to donate, please contact Micah 6 Board Member Jane Leifeste at leifeste.jane@gmail.com.

North Central Caregivers of Austin VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are in high demand, please help if you can. Safe, reliable transportation for older adults is needed more than ever. Calls from seniors needing support to help them live independently increase each month. Unfortunately, calls from people who want to help do not increase each month. **How can you help?** You can volunteer 2 hours a month—or more if you can—to help a senior get to a medical appointment or to the grocery store. You can let older adults who may need Caregiver services know about the help we can provide.

For more information on the organization, go to www.main.org/nccaregivers
e-mail nccaregivers@gmail.com
call Alice Traugott (Executive Director) at 302-5980, or talk to Rita Carlson, board member representing FELC.

CONTINUE IN PRAYER FOR

Cecile Austin, mother of David Austin
Lisa Norgard, cousin of Erin Anderson, and
Lisa's daughters Betsy and Stina,
Ann Hinz
Family of Viola Olson, step-grandma of Vicar Peder
Family of OraNell Hassebrock, grandmother of
Katherine Ortiz
Link Davidson, visitor to First English
Kathy Matson & family, friends of Vicar Peder
David Wicks, son of former FELC Vicars Kathy & Al Wicks
Mike Waters, friend of Buddy Lundstedt, and LaRu &
Fred Woody
Linda Henderson, friend of Emily Atkinson
Pat Wilkins, aunt of Greg Meier
Richard Conkey, uncle of Greg Meier
Bruce Collmann, nephew of Larry Collmann
Carolyn Albert, FELC Vicar #44
Helen Rodriguez, friend of Greg Meier
Christopher Jordan, nephew of Barbara Ws' friend,
Gloria Jordan
Bill Martin, father of Barbara Wiederaenders' classmate
Felix, Kristen & Lauren Bargas, friends of Monica Lund
Don Larson & Family, cousin of Monica Lund
Dennis Burroughs, friend of Gratia Winship
Princetta MacLaren, step-mother of Andy MacLaren
Michaelie Wiebe, niece of Anne Wiebe
Gene Steinmeyer, uncle of Jill Essbaum
Greg & Renee Heins & Family, friends of Emily Atkinson
Mindy, Charlotte & James, friends of Monica Lund
Mallie Coker, friend of Katherine Houston
Jarett Werley, friend of Chris Billig
Ki Norman, friend of Monica Lund



Join us for the 19th Annual
North Central Caregivers Christmas Choral Benefit
Friday, December 2 at 7:30 P.M.
St. Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Road

You won't want to miss this
wonderful Christmas tradition!!



DROP-OFF TIMES FOR STYROFOAM® MATERIALS

The next times for Styrofoam® drop-off are the weeks of **January 1 and January 8**. Look for the two large containers in the hallway off the North Transept.
UPDATE: Styrofoam® peanuts are no longer accepted for recycling.

December 2011



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FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPIRITUALITY IN MOVIES

UP

Monday, December 12
6:30 P.M. in the Parlor

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 12

December 2011

ECHOES is a monthly publication of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Founded in 1936, the church is located at the corner of Whitis Avenue and 30th Street in the North University area of Austin.

PASTOR

Michael Coffey

VICAR/INTERN

Peder Hinderlie



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M. Worship Service

9:45 A.M. Sunday School

11:00 A.M. Worship Service

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at both worship services.



This month's film is the 2009 Pixar animated feature *Up*. Come enjoy this film as we discuss its themes of following your dreams, friendship, grief, and the understanding that the journey to paradise is itself paradise.

This is a great family night to enjoy for all ages. Bring a dinner if you like, enjoy the popcorn, and stay for the conversation after.