

**Allen Jensen, Transition Team Chairperson**

I'm a life long member of First English and an engineer by profession. Engineering is problem solving and I will apply these skills to the important task of choosing our next forever pastor. I've been here long enough to have known three of our five pastors. The transition team has met and I am impressed by the group of folks that our council has assembled. I look forward to working with them to bring candidates that align with our church's vision and mission.

**Barbara Schutz**

I joined First English with my husband Bob in 1971. What an incredible blessing to have shared God's love and all the challenges of life with this family of faith for 52 years! Those years have brought to me so much enrichment and growth as I've served on our Congregational Council and the CDC Council. I worked with the Transition Team that supported the church during the call of Michael Coffey, and across the years have worked with the Learning Ministry Team, FELC and synod youth ministry, Stephen Ministry, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Campus Ministry, Senior Saints support, the Racial Justice Task Force, Altar Care, and our Prayer Circle (for ~25 years and counting!). My vocation as a Spiritual Director/Companion (also for 25+ years) has trained me to hold all of life in a prayerful way that allows me to sense the movement and action of our Lord in times of discernment. I'm deeply honored to be invited to serve on our current Transition Team. It will be a challenge and a wonderful opportunity to ponder together who and what God is calling First English to be in this rapidly changing world.

**Nikki Northcutt**

Nikki Northcutt joins the transition team of First English Lutheran Church after 20 years as a congregation member. She has served as an assistant worship leader, lector, alto, soprano, and tenor. She brings experience in education, public communication, collaboration, and organization, having taught English in traditional secondary schools for 15 years. This past year, she's been at UT High School, where she teaches online, writes curriculum, and helps lead the English department. Outside of her school life, Nikki enjoys karaoke, reading, fitness, volleyball, and spending time with her husband, Ajit, her 16-year-old son, Theo, and her three cats, Peaches, Herb, and Sprinkles. She is looking forward to working with the transition team in this exciting time of reflection and leadership at First English.

## **Erin (Anderson) McCracken**

Hello! I first joined FELC in the fall of 2011 after moving to Austin from New York City.

I've been a part of the ELCA my whole life, attending Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Omaha growing up, and Advent Lutheran Church in NYC after college. It was at Advent where I learned about RIC congregations and was thankful to be part of a church community that was home to many of my friends who may not have been welcome at other churches. When looking for a church in Austin, I sought out a similarly welcoming community. Soon after visiting FELC, I knew it would become my church home. Early on, I was involved in the young adult group, trained as a Stephen Minister, served on council, and assisted with stewardship. More recently I served as treasurer and am currently a member of the FELCDC board. I always enjoy lectoring and singing in the congregation. In 2015 I married my husband Blakeley, who is a member of a Christian Science church (ask me anything). While collectively being part of two church communities has its challenges, this reality has added depth and meaning to my spiritual growth, faith, and understanding of God. Blakeley and I have two young children, Sam and Elliott. Right now, I stay home with the kids but have previously worked as a producer, assistant, office manager, and fundraiser. Each of these vocations has offered me the opportunity to *help, organize, communicate, understand, and empathize* and I am excited to apply these skills to my work on the FELC Transition Team.

## **Randy Baden**

I was raised LCMS in Kansas, Illinois and Texas. Attended Texas Lutheran College in 1972 where I met Nancy Albers and was introduced to a new Lutheran tradition. Nancy and I were married at FELC in April 1976. First English has been my church home ever since. Along with a career in welding fabrication and recreational vehicle accessory installation, I have been a long time volunteer with many organizations. My passion has been First Robotics and Boy Scouts.

At First English I lead the annual Chicken BBQ (over 40 years) and the Fall Fest in late October or early November. I still usher and host Hospitality after the church service. I have served on Council twice, once as President during our last pastoral call. Serving on the Vicar Committee for a total of about 22 years was my favorite First English duty. I pray my service on the Transition Team will be a Godly task.

## Tim Atkinson

After Roberts Hall dorm visits from First English pastor Meryle Franke in 1963, engineering undergraduate Gardner “Tim” Atkinson began attending worship here sporadically. His attendance became regular when Bob Brueck began Sunday’s far-reaching adult education class called *University Forum*.

In 1967, while attending a summer program at Argonne National Laboratory, Tim met, dated, fell in love with, and became engaged to Henrietta Hinz. Tim transferred his membership from Faith (San Antonio) to First English, and the pair were married in Downers Grove, Illinois, on December 23, 1967. They moved to a duplex on Croslin Avenue, then on the outskirts of Austin. Making Austin their home, Tim continued his M.S.M.E. and Ph.D. studies, and Henri began her studies in Elementary Education.

Daughter Emily came along in 1971, and son Jacob arrived in 1974. Agreeing that it was better to take their children to Sunday School than it was to send them, Tim and Henri’s attendance grew regular, as did their mutual commitment to First English.

Tim has served First English as treasurer, council member, high school Sunday School teacher, youth group chaperone, property team member, and child development center board member. Being called in 1983 as Scoutmaster for First English’s Boy Scout Troop 28, was the beginning of a parallel path in learning about loving each other, the earth, and our creator.

Having retired from active practice in 2022, in August Tim celebrated 50 years as a licensed professional engineer. As part of the First English transition team, he said, “I’m excited to be a part in helping First English become even more of a vibrant, welcoming, loving, caring, serving, and nurturing community, a safe haven, providing spiritual education and growth for young and old, with arms open to all.”

## **Lillian Coburn (Martinez-Rodriguez)**

Lillian is originally from Puerto Rico. She has been in Texas for 15 years and has a background in music. She was a student at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, and is a classically trained soprano and a music educator. She was the High School Glee Club director of a noteworthy private school in the suburbs of San Juan. She also opened her own private academy “Musikville”, where she also offered “Kindermusik” classes as well as lessons in basic music theory.

She gained admission to the vocal studios of Prof. Enid González and Bass "extraordinaire" Justino Díaz. Her numerous artistic experiences include performances at the Carnegie Hall, Vienna's legendary "Musikverein Saal", and has participated in numerous concerts and operas. Some of these include participation in *Die Zauberflöte*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *Otello*. She played "The Mother" role in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and was a member of a New Age Music band "Tarah". Lillian has also performed Broadway musical classics, such as *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, and *State Fair*.

Lillian has an undergrad in Psychology, and is pursuing her Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. She is currently a Global Program Manager at Apple in Austin. She's had a 13-year career and has had several roles within the organization, including project management, people management, and logistics. Her key focus areas throughout her Operations career have been building and leading operational processes, people, and change management. Lillian is also a member of various diversity network associations; Women@Apple, Black@Apple, Pride@Apple, LatinX@Ops, Accessibility@Apple, and the Apple Asian Association. She is a leader in the Inclusion & Diversity space and is a passionate, active voice in gender equality, inclusion & diversity, and intersectionality discussions.