

# First Edition



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First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Houston, Texas

June 2010  
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## **NARTHEX CHAPEL RESTORED**

As you walk into the narthex from Holman Avenue, look right and you will find a lovely room there, which has been restored as a chapel for our church. The space is just another example of the many blessings of the fine building we share as members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Although the room was originally intended to be a small chapel, for many years it was used as a storage space for ushers' use and a room in which brides could wait before their wedding.

The altar that most recently stood in the Beutel Room is now in place, along with pews. The storage shelves and tables have been removed. Additional work will be done, as time and money permit, but for now at least we have a handsome, functional chapel once more.

The chapel will serve as a place for daily Morning Prayer for the community and as a place of meditative prayer for members and friends any time during the week.

You are invited to look at the chapel and see what a fine space it has become. You are also invited to use it for meditation, contemplation, and prayer.





## **Hiding in Our Clothes.....McClanahan's Missive**

I truly do not know how this happens, but on a rare occasion, I find myself watching one of many "makeover" shows that plague our digital airwaves. A woman (it is rarely a man that desires to be made-over) is brought before experts who seek to change her hair, makeup and clothing. The experts often observe that the woman is hiding in her clothes. Instead of dressing in ways that accentuate her best features, the woman will cover up those things she does not like about herself. (You can see how a simple makeover turns into Freudian analysis rather quickly.)

Clergy in our religious tradition also seek to hide in their vestments, as we like to call them. Though styles have changed, the purpose remains the same: to blot out the individual, that they might be seen only in service of the Church. Our religious customs do not allow us to identify too closely with the personality of the presider/preacher; rather, we identify with the Church's liturgies and traditions.

And that is why the pastor must hide in his or her clothes, so there is no confusion between the person and the office. It begins with a simple black, collared shirt, once a mere sign of general education. Then comes the alb, available to any baptized person. Then the stole, reserved for those who have been ordained. Finally, there is the chasuble, a Eucharistic vestment worn by the Eucharistic liturgist.

These vestments are often beautiful, even ornate. One can easily spend thousands of dollars on such vestments, and "high church" pastors are not above envying the vestments of others. It is easy to mistake their opulence for the congregation's or the pastor's desire to dress up in fancy clothes or to "play church."

But properly understood, it is the opposite that occurs. The pastor is not dressing up in fancy vestments to become the center of attention, but rather the pastor is hiding. In my case I am no longer myself, in a sense. I am the property of the Church. If I wanted to bring myself to the center of attention, I might wear designer blue jeans or an expensive business suit or even cowboy boots and a 10-gallon hat. Such "vestments" as these place the personality of the pastor squarely in the center of the worship service.

It can be a bad thing to hide in our clothes, if it is an effort to hide who we are. But in the case of clergy, whose vocation is to carry on the faith from generation to generation, hiding in their clothes is a necessary practice.

## **YOUTH AND ADULT SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL**

On May 23 a new course began, taught by Pastor McClanahan. The course is a study of gospel passages not included in our three-year lectionary.

The course will continue through the summer. Each Sunday will focus on different passages from the Bible, so participants can attend individual sessions or the whole series, as they are able.

The youth and adult class meets in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. All youth and adults are welcome to attend.

## **SELAH: WHAT'S HAPPENING**

*Selah* (pronounced SEE-lah or SEH-lah) is Hebrew for crescendo; to increase, to lift up; also the Young Adults at First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

May started with a bang at *Selah's* 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Picnic and Houston Ballet Performance at Miller Outdoor Theater on May 8. The weather was absolutely perfect for an evening on the hillside. A marvelous repast was provided by the participants including Boneless Buffalo Wings, Potato Salad, Chicken and Macaroni Salad, Apple Walnut Salad, Veggies, and Dried Cherry Cake. The dancers, while performing the modern dances well, truly shone in the classical part of the program.

Upcoming events:

Saturday, June 5 *Selah* will be hosting a Wine and Cheese Party at the Midtown home of Joshua Gumtow. We look forward to such combinations as malbec and manchego, chardonnay and chevre, or any other tasty combinations *Selites* can create. Sparkling grape juice will also be provided. There will be a few games to test our wine and cheese knowledge. This event will be headed up by our chief native cheesehead and Francophile expert, the savvy and stellar Stephanie Davis. RSVP to Stephanie (713-732-8091) by Friday, June 4.

Saturday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon *Selah* will help out Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) at their Emergency Services Center. We would love a great turnout to help this organization help those in need. Plan to bring a friend. Lunch afterwards for any interested *Selites*. RSVP to Meredith Huffman at 713-862-6561.

Sunday, September 5 – 6:45 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. We will serve breakfast to the homeless at our neighboring congregation's facility, Trinity Episcopal Church's Lord of the Streets. This is only a couple of blocks from First Lutheran and the times to serve work beautifully with our Sunday schedule. RSVP to Meredith Huffman at 713-862-6561.





## **LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| July 4  | 12:30 p.m. Property Committee meeting         |
|         | 12:30 p.m. Service and Care Committee meeting |
| July 5  | 7:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting         |
| July 9  | <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i>                      |
| July 10 | <i>Wedding</i>                                |
| July 11 | 12:30 p.m. Congregation Council meeting       |
| July 12 | 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting           |

## **FROM THE PARISH RECORD**

### Funeral

Sophie Bok Wilks, who died on January 13, 2010; the interment was on April 27, Pastor Peterman officiating

### Remove from the Member Roll

Marty and Mary Ambrose, by Transfer to St. Martin Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas

### Add to Associate Member Roll

Mark Poehlmann

## **FOOD DONATIONS WELCOME**

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is one of the primary recipients of the service and care resources of our congregation. We include CCSC in our annual budget.

There are other ways we can help. The Service and Care Committee has a basket in our narthex that is “hungry” for food donations. CCSC needs baby food of all sorts, rice, beans, canned vegetables, and canned fruit. Please remember these items when you go shopping, and place them in the basket when you come to worship.

Each month the basket of food offering will be presented at the altar during the Offertory. Afterward the food will be delivered to CCSC.

## **BOOK CLUB CONTINUES**

The newly-formed Book Club at First Church has already met twice. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. The book to be discussed is *Quite a Year for Plums* by Bailey White.

The Book Club gathers at 6:30 p.m. for a meal together, and the book discussion follows. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, contact Amanda McClanahan at 713-203-1279.

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

|                   | <u>April 15</u> | <u>May 15</u> | <u>One year ago</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Child members     | 17              | <b>17</b>     | 13                  |
| Confirmed members | 156             | <b>154</b>    | 141                 |
| Total members     | 173             | <b>171</b>    | 154                 |
| Associate members | 40              | <b>41</b>     | 43                  |

## PRAYER LIST (April 19—May 15)

### Members and Associate Members

|                     |                  |                |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Bill Bammel         | Minnie Johnson   | Allison Silk   |
| James Cone          | Lorine Nichols   | Carl W. Sontag |
| Minnie Lou Gaeckler | Emilie Ratcliff  | Deborah Speeg  |
| Lois Good           | Kenneth Rogers   | Betty Wade     |
|                     | Dolph Schlachter |                |

### Friends and Relatives

|                          |                |                 |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Marty Ambrose            | Jerry Huffman  | Ed Story        |
| Doris Gorman             | Eda Wang Landy | Anna Taylor     |
| Zach and Valerie Graves, | Albert Lerma   | Mary Ruth White |
| Cody and Luke            | Lindsay Lum    |                 |

### Other Concerns

Those serving in the U. S. military, especially Robert Edgar Becker

Dr. Jon Fielder and his family, medical missionaries in Malawi

The victims of the earthquake in Yushu, China, and of the cyclone in Calcutta, India

The death of Pastor Ron Springer, February 7

The death of Meg Flowers, April 30

The death of Bess Nelson, May 10

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CHANGES

(changes or additions underlined)

### Members

McCLANAHAN, EVAN & AMANDA      Pastor's cell - 713-203-1342  
4333 Jefferson Street      Amanda's cell - 713-203-1279  
Houston, TX 77023

### Associate Members

POEHLMANN, MARK

2302 Travis Street, Apt. 8125

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Historic First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a participating congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Society of Texas. Founded in 1851, it played a vital role in the history of Lutheranism in Texas. Located at Holman and Caroline, across from Houston Community College, three blocks east of the 3400 block of South Main, it is convenient to the Ensemble/HCC stop of MetroRail.

Telephone 713-529-3589

Fax 713-529-0816

Dorothy Shaddock, Organist

Carroll Shaddock, Director of Worship and Music

Sabrina Smitherman, Administrative Assistant

Janice McLennan, Nursery Attendant

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Website [www.felchouston.org](http://www.felchouston.org)

The Rev. Evan S. McClanahan, STS, Pastor

The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman, STS, Consulting Pastor

Nelson Rendon, Custodian