



The Red Door

December 2012

Waiting for Godot

In her reflection for the season of Advent, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, suggests two questions for us to ponder: “What is it that you are most waiting for?” and, how are you going to wait this year?” As a way of an example, she reminds us of the waiting Elizabeth and Mary had to do for the birth of their respective children. Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptizer, who turned old waiting for the fulfillment of a promise that came later in her life. And yet a promise that would precede and prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. And Mary, through whom Jesus would come to the world, who waited and wondered she was supposed to have a baby when she was still a virgin (Lk. 1:34). They waited, perhaps anxiously, maybe even scared, for things to happen.

All this talk about waiting reminded me of Samuel Becket’s play “Waiting for Godot”. The two main characters, Vladimir and Estragon, endlessly and in vain wait for the arrival of someone they are not even sure to know, but whom they name Godot. The mysterious “person” (we really don’t know who Godot is) never shows up which throws the two men into a tailspin of sorts. As they anxiously wait for their unknown acquaintance to arrive, they busy themselves with all sorts of mundane tasks to “hold the terrible silence at bay.” Their waiting became tedious and futile. With no goal, hope or anything meaningful to do, their lives become a pointless expectation.

The problem with Vladimir and Estragon is not that they wait, but that they only wait. Waiting becomes an end in itself, but one that has no purpose. There’s no activity, no action, no movement; inertia has taken over. Not Elizabeth and Mary; they not only wait but prepare for that they are waiting for. They anticipate with hope and faith. It’s not only about the arrival of John and Jesus, but about what will happen when they finally arrive. John himself will alert to the need of preparation: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth. and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (Lk. 3:4-7).

So, what is it that you are most waiting for? Are you waiting for salvation, deliverance, redemption? Are you waiting for the time when the kingdom of God will come near? Elizabeth and Mary waited for that time too. Perhaps Godot is a metaphor for the salvation that Vladimir and Estragon also waited for. But here’s where the second question comes to mind, how are you going to wait? You see, Elizabeth and Mary’s wait was an active expectation. They not only waited but they also participated to make that kingdom of God they waited for a reality. In the words of Mary, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word” (Lk. 1:38). So as we wait for what God is about to do, will we sit hoping that things will just come? Or will we participate, along with God, along with the cloud of witnesses, in realizing the kingdom of God in our midst? Advent is not mere expectation. It is expectation with action. When we love, and serve, and are moved to mercy in the same way that God has done with us, our hopeful waiting for the future becomes a joyful work in the present. Oh come, oh come, Emanuel!

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the body. Proverbs 15:30

Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

November, 2012

Beginning Balance	\$14,966.40	
Income		\$ 3,370.00
Expense		\$ 2,206.52
Ending Balance		\$16,129.88

Notes

We, unexpectedly, have about \$1,100.00 more in the bank than we did at the end of October, largely due to a \$2,500.00 gift we received from a long-time contributor. Since our food expenses are running about as expected and we have only the Angel Tree event in December, our financial outlook for the end of the year is pretty good. Please note that our biggest unanticipated expense has been our liability insurance.

Youth Group Report



November 2012

November was a month that was active for our Youth Group. On November 3rd, they had a garage sale where they got \$309.00; on Sunday the 11th, they had a Brunch where they got \$294.00. This activities of collection of funds will be used for the National Youth Assembly of ELCA of 2015 where would take place of Detroit, Michigan.

On November 30th and December 1st, the Spiritual Youth Retreat of the Hispanic Ministry took place, where the Emanuel Youth had the opportunity to share and live with the youth of different Hispanic Congregations. This retreat took place on the Retreat Center of Montserrat Jesuit, on Lake Dallas. Thank you Maria Torres for accompanying us for the retreat as chaperon and for helping us transports the Youth with Lupita Cerda.

The Youth will start preparing and rehearsing for the Pastorela, which will be presented during the Posada, Saturday the 15th of December. Hopefully you'll all be able to accompany us and enjoy it with us with this small comedy where the Devil will be looking for a way to stop the Shepherds so they won't be able to worship baby Jesus.

December 2012 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	3 6:30 Council Meeting	4 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 7 p.m.	5	6 ESL Class – 7 p.m.	7 Creations of the Heart 9:30 a.m.	8
9 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15 3 p.m. - Pr Susan Rodriguez memorial service	10	11 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 7 p.m.	12	13 ESL Class – 7 p.m.	14 Creations of the Heart 9:30 a.m.	15 6:30 p.m. Posada
16 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	17	18 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 7 p.m.	19	20	21 Creations of the Heart 9:30 a.m.	22
23 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15 Youth Group Brunch	24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. CHRISTMAS ESL Class – 7 p.m.	26	27 ESL Class – 7 p.m.	28	29
30	31					



Birthdays for the Month of December:

5 – Ariana	16 – Stephen Bengtson
6 – Carl Schulze	17 – Kristy Bengtson
7 – Jessica Martinez	18 – Jett Tucker
8 – Jose C. Hernandez	Iris Arredondo
9 – Scotty Scroggin	21 – Donna Herbner
11 – Nathan Zelle	Lina Jones
Cosme Trevino	22 – Kim Son Danh
Nathan Flores Hernandez	23 – Mark Kittisopikul
12 – Elva Gonzales Cerda	24 – Carolyn Armour
Guadalupe Cerda	26 – Barbara Becker
13 – Carmen Suarez	28 – Melody Jones
14 – Bob Moody	29 – Aliza Marie Trevino
San Juan Suarez	30 – Manuel Gonzalez Cerda
	31 – Cindy Seamons-Good



A n n o u n c e m e n t s

Angel Tree – For all those who are sponsoring an angel, please identify each child's gift with both the letter/number (ex. E200) and the child's first name on the gift. Also, write down this information on a piece of paper and put it in the gift box by the tree. This will help us to make sure that every angel has a sponsor. All gifts are to be wrapped or put in a gift bag before bringing them to the church by Sunday, December 9. Gifts will be distributed on the morning of December 13.

We will have a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of our friend and sister Rev. Susan Rodriguez on Sunday, December 9th at 3 p.m. We expect friends and pastors from around our Mission Area. A reception will follow after the service.

All hands on deck to decorate our church for the upcoming Christmas season. Come on Saturday, December 15 around 10 a.m. and help to set in the Christmas spirit.

The Posada is Coming! We will have our posada on Saturday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. We will start by processing around the church remembering Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem. Then the youth group will present their pastorela in the sanctuary to finish with food and hot drinks in the fellowship hall. Bring a favorite dish to share and come to enjoy with us!

Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 p.m. Be here to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

