



The Red Door

1, 2, 3 Kings

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They are known as the three kings or magi or wise men of whom we learn only through the gospel of Matthew (2:1-12). We don't know much about them. Their names don't appear in the bible, which were assigned to them somehow through historical tradition. Heck, we don't even know how many of them there were. The bible doesn't mention their number, only that they presented three gifts to Jesus: gold, myrrh, and frankincense. For all we know, there could have been a caravan of wise men! It's surprising then that for how little we know about them how big a festivity the celebration of "The Three Kings" is in most Latin American countries. In fact it is such a big celebration, that even Christmas day is overshadowed. So, what's the big deal?

To begin with, this colorful biblically-based celebration is certainly a more spiritual and faithful representation of the birth of Christ than the once-obscure saint who came to be known as Santa Claus. And yet, just the same way, they also have been commercialized by stores who want to sell more toys, cards, and gifts. Which is why it is important to set the festivity in its right context. Of course, what we're talking about here is Epiphany. This season of the church, which can be translated as revelation or manifestation, is above all about the appearance of God to humanity. God has not remained in the heaven, but has come down to the world to be with God's people. Epiphany is "Emanuel", God with us, in the most basic sense of the word. But there's more.

The one thing we know about the magi from the bible is that they came "from the east". This is important. You see, in Matthew in particular, Jesus is talked about as the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Messiah which God had promised to send to the people of Israel. But now, with the coming of the magi, God is being revealed beyond the "chosen people". Jesus has come for the salvation not only of Israel but of all the nations. And I think that's what's so awesome about the celebration of Epiphany in general and the Three Kings in particular. Before the coming of God in Jesus, the people lived in darkness, with no hope. But the Lord has come and it is like a great light that has dawned on them. Jesus is that light! A light that shines over the entire world. The star which the magi followed from a distant land is there for all to see. It is a shared blessing. A promise of which all are recipients. A redemption available for all.

So let us do like the Magi. Let us follow the star. Let us receive God. Let us enjoy that God has come to you, to me, to all of us. Amen.

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

Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

Emanuel Community Center End-of-Year Financial Statement

We started 2012 with \$19,802.50 in the bank and ended the year with \$17,973.52, resulting in a cash deficit for the year of \$1,828.98. Note that we also received almost \$18,700.00 of “in-kind” contributions, mostly in the form of food, clothing and backpacks.

Actual income/expense came very close to our 2012 budget projections. The one exception, which also contributed significantly to our deficit, was in the “operating expenses” area where, at mid-year, we were confronted with the unpleasant surprise of having to purchase liability insurance. Prior to this time, ECC had been included in ELC's liability coverage. As a result, insurance premiums added almost \$3,500.00 to that expense category and more than accounted for our deficit.

Although we start 2013 with no long or short term debt, it is obvious that if we are to maintain our current level of activity, much less, expand, some new sources of funding must be found.

BUDGET vs ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSE

(12/12 of the year's budget)

	<u>Budget</u>			<u>Actual</u>		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>In-kind</u>
Food Pantry	\$ 24,000	23,500	6,200	\$ 27,764	\$26,994	\$ 7,871
Creations of the Heart	3,000	1,000	0	3,427	1,422	15
ESL	2,000	2,000	100	360	414	0
Unidos Podemos	1,440	1,440	0	1,440	1,440	0
Operating Expenses	1,600	6,000	0	3,953	9,236	0
Angel Tree Program 7,525	500	500	7,000	0	31	
Summer Reading Program 0	3,000	3,600	1,600	4,396	3,645	
Back to School Carnival 3,282	6,000	4,500	3,000	4,230	4,169	
Totals	\$ 41,540	\$ 42,540	\$ 17,900	\$ 45,570	\$47,351	\$18,693

January 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	7 6:30 Council Meeting	8 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ECC Board Meeting – 7 pm ESL Class – 7 p.m.	9	10 ESL Class – 7 p.m.	11 Creations of the Heart 9:30 a.m.	12
13 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	14	15 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 7 p.m.	16	17 Hispanic Ministry meeting – 10 am ESL Class – 7 p.m.	18 Creations of the Heart 9:30 a.m.	19
20 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	22 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 7 p.m.	23	24	25 Creations of the Heart 9:30 a.m.	26
27 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	28	29 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 7 p.m.	30	31 ESL Class – 7 p.m.		



Birthdays for the Month of January:

1	Monica Villareal	14	Linda Moody
2	Mark Herbener		Berenice Morales
6	Melanie Sundgaard	15	Xavier Trevino
8	Luong Nyugen	22	Jose Hernandez, Jr.
	Gaynelle Schulze		Gloria Orta
9	Blanca Illades	23	Donna Miller
12	Mae Jean Zelle	24	Julia McLouth
13	Jerome L'Heureux		Juliia Hernandez

Steve & Cathy Zwernemann anniversary – Jan. 21

ESL News

Our fall semester of ESL ended with our always popular Christmas potluck and gift giving. Twenty-two people attended, with all the children receiving gifts and books purchased by the ESL volunteers. The food was delicious. Thanks to everyone who purchased a gift or brought a dish.

We lost a great volunteer at the end of the semester. Ciara taught the Basic class Tuesday evenings, but she will return to Stephen F Austin for the spring semester. Ciara was a terrific volunteer and will be missed by the students and the fellow volunteers. If you would like to fill Ciara's position or the position for the Level 3 instructor on Thursday evenings, or if you are interested in hearing more about our program please contact our volunteers Angie Miranda in the Spanish service, Nancy and Steve Johnson in the English service, or Kelly Archambault at 214-659-1375. We would love to have you volunteer. No teaching experience necessary. Ask us why we love to volunteer for ESL!

We also have open enrollment for our program. If your New Year's Resolution is to learn English, please join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm until 8pm. Enrollment is easy; classes are free; and childcare and tutoring is provided.

Kelly Archambault
mobile - 214.315.9338