

The Red Door

February 2013

Windows 8

My Christmas gift last year was a new laptop computer. I was quite excited about my latest piece of technology and got to work on it right away. Not a problem, I figured; I've set up new computers before. How hard can this one be? Well, soon enough I discovered that it was not going to be an easy sail.

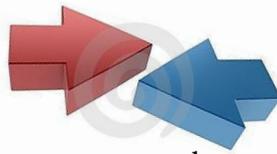
Making the new computer work with my old devices (like my printer for example) was proving to be a very difficult task. All of the sudden, printing a document was not an easy two or three keystrokes operation anymore.

I had to "teach" my new computer (I thought new technology was supposed to be "smart") how to work with my old printer. The problem is that they have different ideas on how to do the same task. The computer comes with new ways of doing things (Windows 8) while the printer is used to the old fashion ways (Windows XP).

So here I am with a flashy new computer and a stern old printer that can't figure out a way for them to work together. Isn't that weird?

And then perhaps it's not that strange after all. We human beings often find it very challenging to reconcile the new and the old. When the old faces the new, it throws us into a loop. Does tradition trump novelty or the other way around? The problem, of course, is that we make it into mutually exclusive options. And when that happens, survival instincts take over. Then it becomes about self preservation instead of mutual cooperation. The symbiotic community becomes a competitive clash. Nature itself throws a tantrum when opposing forces meet each other. At the line where a cold front collides with warm air we get intense storms. They say that opposites attract, which may be true, but those opposing forces won't come together until after a period of crisis.

Our congregation has had its share of new things lately. We have a very active youth group bringing new ideas. We've been trying out different liturgies and hymns. Our food distribution system is also quite changed. There are new people in our council and ECC board offering fresh perspectives on old programs. We've formed new partnerships with friends from our neighborhood and beyond. With so many new things and changes taking place, does that mean that we are going to be in constant controversy? No; I hope... :-). But it does mean that we will have to take a good reflective look at ourselves and reevaluate our goals, our hopes, our dreams and even our challenges ahead. Is the way we've done this or that the same way that we will keep doing it now and later? What changes are needed to respond to our present circumstances? What new ministries can we develop to serve the people of our neighborhood? These and other questions can help us think about the life of our church. That process of self assessment may very well bring passionate discussions amongst us, but it also will bring new opportunities for ministry. It doesn't mean that everything gets replaced or changed. What's new is not necessarily better, just like what's old is not necessarily bad. It simply means that we are not static. It means that we live in a constantly creative order in which things, ministries, the church and even ourselves are being changed, transformed, recreated. In the end my new computer and my old printer "learned" to work together. If two dumb pieces of machinery can do it, we certainly can too.



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

Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

January, 2013

INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$17,973.52
Income	508.00
Expense	\$2,228.98
Ending Balance	\$16,252.54

Notes

Not a good start to 2013 as we received only \$508.00 in gifts while spending \$2,229.00, mostly on food purchases. We did receive \$540.00 worth of eggs from our friends at Feather Crest Farms.

We have made progress on our insurance problems. David White, an attorney from GHUMC is reviewing our 3 policies and also the Emanuel LC policy to determine how much overlap, if any, exists between the two insurance programs. When he finishes, we can make any adjustments necessary to make sure that we have the necessary coverage while not duplicating situations where we would benefit from the church policy or where coverage is not necessary.

Youth Group Report

January 2013

January was a very interesting month for the youth. They only had a reunion once which was to discuss about plans and methods for 2013, without counting that they keep meeting up every Sunday during Sunday school.

One of the intentions of this year is for the youth to organize and that they lead themselves, so they selected a Board of Directors.

President: Sonia Cerda-Diaz
Historian: Alma Cruz
Treasurer: Elizabeth Cerda-Diaz
Coordinator Assistant: Cecilia Hernandez

We will still plan fundraising activities looking for ways for the members of Emanuel to be closer. The first plan is that they have is on February the 23rd, on 6:00 pm, a movie night, in where there will be time to meet up and to talk to people, there will be popcorn, candy, chocolates, and refreshments. There'll be no cost but instead we'll put a box to accept donations.

The youth group brought, during the Annual Reunion, the drinks for the food to say thanks for all the support given.

February 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	4 6:30 Council Meeting	5 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ECC Board Meeting – 7 pm ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.	6 Financial Education Workshop series 10 a.m.	7	8 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	9
10 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	11	12 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 6:30 p.m. Lincoln’s Birthday	13 Ash Wednesday Simple Imposition of Ashes – 12:00 Bilingual service – 7 p.m.	14 Valentine’s Day	15 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	16 Youth Garage Sale
17 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	18 President’s Day	19 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	23 Movie Night 6 p.m.
24 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	25	26 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.	27 Lenten Soup Supper	28		



Birthdays for the Month of February:

3 Roberto Hernandez	17 Edward d la Fuente
4 Liz Curlin	Martin Lopez
5 Barbara Brault-Jordan	20 Teresita Soto
10 Karla Bautista	Leslie Torres
12 Sonia Arrendondo	24 Stan Rupert
15 David Thorp	25 Flor Saldana
16 Alice Russell	27 Corina Martinez
	28 Teresa Barcus

ESL News

ESL has started its spring semester. Because of fewer volunteers and students, ESL is now only once a week, on Tuesdays from 6:30 until 8pm. We are still accepting students if you are interested in attending. Please join us!

Kelly Archaimbault
mobile - 214.315.9338

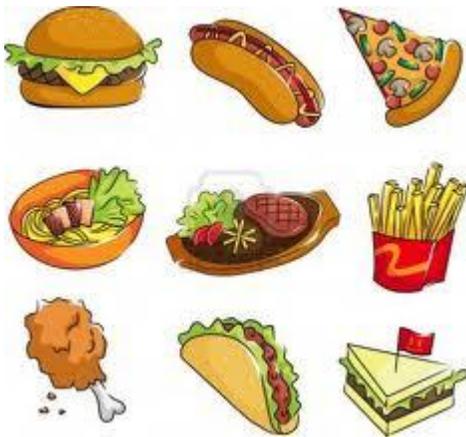
ECC News

On January 29th, The Dallas Foundation awarded Emanuel Community Center a grant for \$10,000. It will be used to support our cornerstone program, the Roy Streck Food Pantry.

The Dallas Foundation has been supporting community outreach since the 1920's, but it's history began with the sons and grandsons of local businesses. One stands out. In 1869, G.H. Schoelkopf started a company that made saddles and harnesses in the downtown business district. Later, in the 1940's, his grandsons expanded their property holdings downtown and by 1970, they deeded property to The Dallas Foundation. That gift and many more has helped generate a legacy of financial support to tackle local needs such as hunger, education and homelessness.

We are deeply grateful for The Dallas Foundation's decision to review our proposal and invite us to defend the Food Pantry's value to the community at a paneled interview. It speaks well of our work in that the ECC was the only recipient of Emergency Net funds this cycle, though there were, indeed, a number of worthy contenders. Thanks go out to all our volunteers, in all of the programs and to our partner organizations, especially Greenland Hills United Methodist and Preston Meadow Lutheran.

Many thanks,
Connie McLouth



Food For Thought by Ted S. Brown

I wanted to take a few minutes and introduce myself and let you know about the changes we have made in the ECC's Food Pantry. My name is Ted Brown and I was raised in Atlanta, GA. My family moved to Dallas in February 2010. I have a wife, Laura, and a four year old son named Jack. Jack and I have been Food Pantry volunteers for the last year and a half, and I started on the ECC Board in January 2012. It has been a great experience to

work with our volunteers and clients alike. Life changing!

We began a new food distribution system six months ago and things are very going well. The computer system we use takes the age and gender of each client and then computes their specific daily caloric needs based on ChooseMyPlate.gov. Each person receives enough food for three meals a day for seven days; our goal is to supplement what they already buy for the month. Our food distribution partner, Crossroads Community Services (CCS), estimates that each family member receives approximately 25 pounds of food each month.

We currently serve client groups on the first four Tuesdays of every month. Each group contains about 150 client members who receive a variety of healthy foods from the Proteins, Grains, Vegetables, and Fruit groups. Under the new partnership with CCS we have also benefitted by receiving fresh vegetables and fruits. Clients also really appreciate not having to stand outside for hours before the food is distributed. The biggest challenge we face is having the clients come on a consistent basis. We are averaging about 8 family no-shows each week. We are trying to identify the reasons for these no-shows.

All and all, the new process has created more benefits than problems. The greatest benefit as I see it is the personal time we get to spend with each client as we shop with them. We are learning their names, what they have going on in their lives and what their personal situations are like. It is my hope that this new information will help us serve them on a greater level in the future. Anyone interested in volunteering or just observing is welcome to do so. We are open the first four Tuesdays each month from 8:00 AM until noon.

Well that is enough to chew on for now. Thanks for your time and God bless you all.



A Note from Donna

A number of people have asked me about “contemporary” liturgies, so I have explored several sites to determine what constitutes a “contemporary” liturgy. First a definition of “liturgy” is in order. The word “liturgy” means “the work of the people.” It is here that the poetry of prayer finds form and structure. The written prayer opens doors to an ageless and universal connective spirituality, even when the liturgy is used by an individual alone.

The liturgy pattern evolved from the synagogue services from thousands of years ago. The Catholic Church then patterned the liturgy with, of course, Christian input. The liturgy expresses what we, as Christians, believe. Singing unites the congregation; the basis of the liturgy is hymn, Bible reading and prayer. Synagogue reading is coming together to hear God’s word (which began with Moses reading the Commandments to the Israelis.) The people then responded by reaffirming the covenant relationship.

Lutheran liturgies (by Vernon Kleinig) evolved under Luther’s pre –Reformation days. Luther emphasized hearing the word of God as most important in a service. He made a distinction between sacramental and sacrificial parts of worship which distinguishes Lutheran liturgical theory even today. “This is a sacrament of love. (As love and support are given here, so you must in turn render support and love to Christ in his needy ones.)”

In the ELCA hymnal we have 10 liturgies to choose from. These have all been evaluated and mulled over by Lutheran theologians as well as music scholars. The emphasis must always be on praise and thanksgiving to God. This process often takes 3-4 years to perfect.

This background now brings us to “contemporary” liturgies. From an essay about contemporary worship (CW) by Rev. Sean Rippy, who was a former advocate of CW and then changed his mind. He believes that CW is not biblical or Lutheran but is distinguished by focus on emotion often referred to as “meaningful.” CW has accepted the Pentecostal theology of spirituality, and has defined deeply felt emotions as true spirituality. “The goal of CW is to pump you up, feel more emotional and charged about Christ and this becomes “true spirituality.” “It’s a pep rally of sorts.” The goal is some form of emotional, uplifting experience.” The law of worship is the law of belief. (How you worship is how you believe. Form and substance inextricably united.”

The Cornell liturgy which we are currently singing thus is a Lutheran liturgy with contemporary music. Published in 1980 this alone qualifies it as a classic, contemporary Lutheran liturgy.



Announcements

Church Council – The new council for 2013 – 2014 will have their first meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. It is important for all council members to be present. Among our first few items on the agenda, is the election of the new officials. As always, meetings are open for anyone who wants to attend.

ECC Board – The new board of the Emanuel Community Center also has its first meeting of the year. With a very busy social outreach calendar, it is important that all members are there from the get go. We need you all! The ECC board meets on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Financial Education – This Wednesday we will begin a new round of financial education workshops. These are designed to help the participants with skills to establish a budget, save money, protect their credit, and manage the family finances in general. The workshops will be in Spanish from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday in February. For more information, contact Pat McDonald.

Lenten Time – The season of Lent is quickly approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 13th. We just want to give you a heads up that on that day, we will offer a simple imposition of ashes at noon. Then, at 7 p.m., we will have a full bilingual service.

Children's Choir – Remember that the children's choir is rehearsing on Sundays at noon. They will be practicing through the season of Lent for a special presentation on Easter Sunday. We ask the cooperation of their parents by bringing them every Sunday to church.

Prayer Chain – We remind you that we have a faithful and caring group of members and friends of Emanuel that keep a daily prayer chain for all the concerns that are lifted up in prayer. Alice Parsons coordinates this for us. If you have a special concern that you want it remembered, please share it with Alice so that it can be included in our prayer list. If your concern involves **issues of privacy**, please approach Pastor Julio instead.

Greenland Hills UMC is organizing their mission trip to El Salvador. This trip is sponsored by Thrivent Builds and Habitat Global Village. If you have even the slightest interest, please confirm now by letting Pastor Julio know or email Ted Brown at tedsbrown@gmail.com. Rip dates are June 14 – 23.

Birthdays – Linda Moody is helping us to keep our birthday and anniversary calendar updated. She has provided a list of all the birthdays that we have on our calendar right now. She will get a list of anniversaries together also. Please check out that list and see that your dates are included and correct. Perhaps you could also suggest other dates to include or some others that can be removed. The list is on the table in the narthex.