



# The Red Door

April 2013

## The Resurrection of Our Lord According to Facebook

I get annoyed every time I receive one of those Facebook messages (or emails, or text messages, or chain letters for that matter) saying “If you love God, paste this to your wall.” Come on, what kind of evangelism is that? Yes, I do love God, and believe in Jesus, and want to go to heaven and all that good stuff. But I do, and affirm, and proclaim those things, out of conviction not because somebody else is trying to give me a guilt trip into it. So I simply ignore it, skip it, or if I’m really ticked off delete it which afterward makes me feel, well, guilty. So, okay, I don’t have to be antagonistic about it but it’s just that I’m not necessarily looking to go around proving my faith; I simply believe.

Just the other day, one of my Facebook “friends” posted a message challenging the Easter celebration. That it was all a farce because it was based on older, pagan traditions celebrating fertility gods and that Christians merely changed it to represent Jesus’ resurrection. That the resurrection was a story that cannot even be verified. Well, that got me going. This is important. The apostle Paul says that “If Christ has not been raised, then... your faith has been in vain” (1 Cor. 15:14), and by golly I’m going to show you that my faith is not vain. You can’t shame me into saying that I believe in God, but I’ll gladly take on the challenge to prove that I’m right. As they say, there’s more than one way to skin a cat and this guy really peeled me off.

So, do we have to prove our faith? Does it matter if we have or not valid, historical proof that Jesus came back to life after been dead? Let me answer that straightly: No! Because that’s not what the issue is here. A body that was once “dead” and later found to be alive is not bigger concern for us Christians. Lazarus was dead—for four days!—and he later sat at the table to eat with Jesus and his sisters (John 12:2). We all have heard stories about people that have “crossed over” and who have been “sent back” to life. So the “simple” issue of living after having been dead is not necessarily what we need to pay attention here. The point about the resurrection both of Jesus and ours is not to live in the same we live now. What becomes important about it is that it’s a totally new experience and way of living. You see, dying in the spiritual sense, is to be away from God; actually to be without God. That’s what sin does to us. When Jesus dies on the cross that separation is bridged; it’s not there anymore—symbolized when the veil of the temple was torn in two at the moment of Jesus’ death (Mark 15:38). Then, when he resurrected, and us with him, there’s more than just living again. It’s a repaired life. It’s a redeemed life. It’s a life that is with God, eternally. From that point on we live in a different manner. We live as people who are forgiven, as people whose life is truly with God and in God. We behave differently. We relate to others differently. We love and we serve one another in the same way that God loved us and served us first. That is what we proclaim in the resurrection. It’s not a matter of historicity, or empirical proof (which might be important, but it is a different subject). It’s a matter of faith. Of believing and proclaiming that God’s power to change our lives is not limited to the life as we know it but to give us a life that is beyond our understanding. I don’t prove to you that Jesus lives, “I know that my redeemer lives” (Job 19:25) and that I live with him. Now, that you can post on your Facebook wall and proclaim to all. Not to show to others that you are not ashamed of it but because you just can’t contain the happiness of having new life in Christ Jesus. I like it!



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

# Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

March, 2013

## INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$24,853.17
Income	3,338.50
Expense	<u>\$4,512.63</u>
Ending Balance	\$23,679.04

### Notes

We had an operating deficit of about \$1,174.00. This was largely due to ELC having overpaid ECC by about \$922.00, when ELC gave us a duplicate payment for Lenten gifts and also a Thrivent grant that originated from those gifts.

The chickens and our friends at Feather Crest Farms continue to take very good care of the food pantry as they donated almost \$2,300.00 worth of organic and regular eggs to us this month.

We are still working with Attorney David White to determine the appropriate amount and kind of liability insurance that we should carry. He has completed his review of two of our policies, but I have not had a chance to talk with him about his findings, in detail.

Beginning with this month, ECC will no longer be paying 20% of the ELC Secretary's salary due to changes in the duties of that position.

Finally, I filed our 2012 IRS 1096 and 1099M Forms for our SRP staff.

## April 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Youth Clean the Church Day
7 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	8 6:30 Council Meeting	9 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ECC Board Meeting – 7 pm ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	13 Youth Group Game Night – 5:30 p.m.
14 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	15 Hair Class – 1 p.m.	16 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m. Confirmation Lock-In	20 Confirmation Lock-In
21 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	22	23 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	27
28 English service – 10 Sunday School – 11:20 Spanish service – 12:15	29	30 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. ESL Class – 6:30 p.m.				

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## Birthdays for the Month of March:

<p>Eve Stephens – April 2          Linda Soto – April 5          Connie McLouth – April 5          Al Kline – April 5          Alex Rayo – April 6          Beatriz Jasso – April 7          Gregorio Carrillo – April 8          Barry McDonald – April 10          Zach Alexander Torres – April 13          John Anthony Ruiz – April 13          Sammy Trevino – April 15          Sheri Bengtson – April 15          Gretchen Zelle – April 17</p>	<p>Scott Goodno – April 18          Sophia Dorward – April 18          Crystal Kittisopikul – April 18          Ciro Suarez, Jr. - April 21          Melora Miller – April 22          Ernie Stephens – April 22          Michael Rayo – April 26          Sandy Duvall – April 2          C.J. Carlson – April 27          Dean Parsons – April 28          Sofia Yvett Hernandez – April 29</p>
---	---



Music wise, it is exciting to report that 10 children have been participating in singing for Easter Sunday. These kids bring enthusiasm and enjoyment in singing in a group. They will also be singing at the next bilingual service - Pentecost.

The adult choir has worked diligently to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Music has been called the "universal language of the arts." It is truly inspiring to work with these adults and children! *Donna*



## **You're Invited!**

Dust off your boots and get ready to "Waltz Across Texas" with us at the [4th annual Caring for Kids](#) benefit, as we celebrate [Foster In Texas](#), one two-step at a time! The night will include delicious Texas BBQ, more than 80 fabulous live and silent auction items, and live music you can kick up your heels to! You're invited to help us make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected foster children across the DFW Metroplex.

For more information go to [www.fosterintexas.org/upcoming-events/caringforkids](http://www.fosterintexas.org/upcoming-events/caringforkids).

**Caring for Kids Benefit**

**Saturday, April 27, 6 pm**

**Eddie Deen's Ranch**

**Dallas, TX**

(If you have additional questions, ask Cathy Zwernemann)



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

**Flowers Offering** – Please check out the flower offering chart on the bulletin board in Erickson Hall. There are plenty of dates available for you to sign up for a date or two to bring flowers for our altar.

**Finances** – We will have a new round of financial education classes, this time in English. They will begin sometime in April or May. This class will cover money management, budget, savings, investments, and goal setting. If you are interested, sign up on the sheet in Ericson Hall or talk to Sandra or Pat.

### **It's that time again! If you love working with children.....**

**The ECC is seeking a Director for the Summer Reading Program.** The 2013 Program is scheduled for June 17 through July 5. The Director will develop daily plans, activities and crafts that support literacy for elementary school children, who attend from about 8:30 am to Noon. The Director works with volunteers to recruit children in the neighborhood, to build a process that capture attendance and coordination with various groups to supply a meal and snack each the day. The Director is scheduled to be on-board June10 through July12 for initial prep and for the closing clean-up and report/recommendations to the ECC Board. Approximately 30 hours per week for the five weeks.

#### **Requirements:**

Experience in working with children and adult volunteers is preferred. Ability to plan in detail, delegate activities to volunteers and be responsible for safety and assuring the facilities remain clean is essential.

**Salary:** Commensurate with experience: \$1,400 to \$2,000 for the five weeks.

**For information and a complete list of duties, contact:** Connie McLouth at [mclouth99@gmail.com](mailto:mclouth99@gmail.com) or at 214-476-8433, or any ECC Board Member.