



The Red Door

September 2013

Important Matters

Mary sat at the Lord's feet
and listened to what he was saying.
But Martha was distracted by her many tasks.
Luke 10:39-40

A group of friends got together to talk about their church. It was the typical kind of conversation, you know, programs, budgets, membership... The kind of talk that very often keeps busy the minds of church leaders when it comes to church matters. And these are important matters, no doubt about it. I don't know one person, who truly loves his or her church, who would not express concern and interest about this kind of thing. And yet, it also happens very often, these concerns and preoccupations distract our attention from some very important matters when it comes to the life of the church.

When Martha went around the house cleaning, preparing dinner, setting up the table and so on to attend to her guest she was actually paying attention to a very important matter of Jewish life. Hospitality is more than just being a good host. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2). And what an angel Martha had sitting in her living room! Martha was doing nothing less than expressing her devotion to her Lord by attending to his needs. And yet it is also true that even the seemingly important things *of* our lives, distract our attention from the things that are important *for* our lives.

Last Monday night (8/26) Pr. Steve Kanouse reminded us about that. There are matters, again important matters, that deserve our attention. Matters having to do with the sustenance and health of our congregations. But he also reminded us that concern, and anxiety, and preoccupation can often distract our attention—much in the same way that Martha was distracted—from the matters that make the church, well, church. Which is why the church renewal process of which he came to talk to us about begins with the most basic of things when it comes to the church: the Word of God. That, along with prayer and discipleship, are among the most elemental things we should be doing to have good, healthy, vibrant ministries. Other things might be important, but in the words of Jesus "there is need of only one." The rest, I'm adding now, comes second to that.

So, as we consider the life of our church, we are invited to join together in fellowship. Fellowship around prayer and bible study. This is not a "do-this-instead-of-that" thing. More likely, this is a "do-this-along-with-the-rest" kind of approach. Nor is this intended to bring 10 new families to our church or to increase our giving by 25%. Those might be good and certainly welcome outcomes, but not where our focus is. Instead, our focus is in strengthening our spiritual and devotional life which in turn would lead to a stronger and healthier congregation. Our focus is on God as the source of life, from which will come renewed church life. You know, when you think about it, we are not coming with this novel and new idea; we are simply doing what we proclaim when we baptize: "Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God." That's not only an important matter, it actually is the only thing that matters.

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

Notes from the Council

The Council is working hard on a number of items. Our overall focus is Congregational Growth. The goal is to strengthen our support of each other and increase awareness of Emanuel in our community. This effort falls on all of us. Ideas and volunteers from all members are welcome.

On Monday, August 26, over 20 members of the congregation gathered with Pastor Steven Kanouse for a presentation on a Congregational Renewal Process. If the congregation chooses to participate, we will begin with a 14 week Bible study of the Book of Acts. Small groups of 2-3 will meet for 1 hour weekly to review and discuss a chapter of Acts and spend time in prayer. The congregation will then come together for a mini-retreat in which we develop a statement of our purpose with the guidance of scripture. Next, the congregation will do an assessment of our gifts and talents. We will then have conversations within the congregation as well as the community. The result is to be a stronger, more faith driven congregation and a 3-5 year plan for Emanuel. We know we are changing, as is our community. With focus on the Word of God, we hope to be inspired and led though this change. Please let Pastor or council members know of you interest and concerns. We make a decision about participating in the process in about a month.

Miles, with support from Will, has led the purchase of the vacant lot next to the church house and the purchase was completed. The lot is a financial investment in the future of Emanuel. No specific use of the lot has been determined, but one suggestion is to create a community garden. We welcome ideas from all members. We want to pay the mortgage as soon as possible and a fundraising plan is being developed.

The Council will consider a plan for education on giving and stewardship from mid September through early October. The goal is to increase our awareness of supporting our church with our time, talents and finances.

All members of the council welcome ideas and support from the congregation. Let us know what you think and ways you want to help. I am always amazed at the many quiet contributions made by so many. Your gifts are very important to keeping Emanuel a strong church.

Peace,

Karen Roberts

Council President

Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

August, 2013

INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$16,984.66
Income	3,040.00
Expense	7,536.19
Ending Balance	\$12,488.47

Notes

We had a cash operating deficit of almost \$4,500.00, due mostly to incurring all of our Carnival expenses in August while Carnival income was spread between July and August, with still a little to come. At this point, it appears that the Carnival will sustain only about a \$300.00 cash loss. We are

very grateful again to the Brady Hull Company who provided 500 backpacks worth \$2,500.00 and to the Comerica Bank which made a \$250.00 contribution. Finally, several members of ELC made significant cash and “in-kind” contributions in support of the Carnival.

Most importantly, we received a very badly needed \$2,000.00 gift from a Greenland Hills UMC member for use where it was most needed.

Our partners at Feather Crest Farms and Cal-Maine Foods gave us 525 dozen large organic eggs this month which really helped our food pantry budget.

Liability insurance was a big expense, but at least our major premium is paid through July, 2014.

Finally, note that while our 2013 actual expenses are almost equal to what we projected in the budget, our income is almost \$4,600.00 below what we projected, as we finish 2/3 of the year.

ECC Board Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2013

Present: Ted Brown, Miles Schulze, Amanda Quicksall, Connie McClouth, Pat McDonald, Mimi Hutchison, Nancy Johnson, Blanca Illades, Mary Tomas.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

- Miles submitted the treasurer's report and it was approved.
- We were under budget with SRP which is a positive because Thrivent did not give ECC money for SRP.

Update on property adjacent to church

- Church is getting someone to appraise the property. Business with this property seems to be moving forward.

Insurance update

- Insurance has been renewed and will cost ECC about 5-6% more this year.
- Connie will pursue Hiscox insurance for ECC.

Fundraising/Grant Opportunities

- There has been interest from outside parties to buy Amber's jams that she makes. Miles will talk with Amber to talk with ways we could partner with her and fund raise.

PROGRAMS

Board Vacancies

- No new leads in the current board vacancies. We also have several board members leaving the board in January 2014 when their term expires.

- One of the owners from the Crossfit gym next door came to the food pantry to help and said he might come back in the future. There was conversation around connecting further with the Crossfit gym to assist our community.

Summer Reading Program

- Jennifer Pleitgen will come to meet with us August 13th and give report for SRP.
- We had a total of 43 volunteers for the three weeks of SRP.

Cooking Matters Class

- Pat has 9 families signed up for a total of 18 people because each parent brings a child to the class. The class will be every Wednesday for 6 weeks.

Food Pantry

- Jennifer from CCS said that we need to have our volunteers attend an Equal Opportunity Employer video/presentation.
- Miles said some of the produce was rotten.
- Habitat for Humanity would like to come to our food pantry and see if there are clients who might be interested in their program. The board all agreed.

Back to School Carnival

- Scheduled for August 11th from 9:00-11:00.
- Pastor Julio wants the fans that advertise Sunday school to be passed out.
- Volunteers needed from 9:00-11:00 on Saturday and 8:00-12:00 Sunday.

Unidos Podemos

- They have been painting and putting down new carpet and have not talked with anyone.
- Mary will send a letter to them to remind them that they need to ask the ECC board before they make changes to the structure and clean up after their group.

Pay Pal

- Nancy will look into setting up Paypal account for ECC

ECC Board Contact List

- We circulated a sign up sheet to get everyone's current email and phone contact.
- Mimi will create excel spreadsheet for the contacts.

Volunteers

- Conversation around making one person on the board the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Discussed Verify and how that process will work
- Mimi will take on the role of volunteer coordinator

Next Meeting is August 6th

September 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 English service – 10 Spanish service – 11:30	2 Labor Day	3 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. 6:30 - ESL	4	5	6 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	7
8 English service – 10 School Rally Day Spanish service – 12:15	9 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	10 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. 6:30 - ESL	11	12	13 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	14
15 English service – 10 Spanish service – 12:15	16	17 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. 6:30 - ESL	18	19	20 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	21 Youth Skating
22 English service – 10 Spanish service – 12:15	23	24 Food Pantry – 8 a.m. 6:30 - ESL	25	26	27 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	28
29 English service – 10 Spanish service – 12:15	30					



Birthdays for the Month of September:

2 Alexas Jones	
4 Elsie Frybarger Brenda L. Patterson	22 Christopher Hill Rhett Tucker
5 Marea Magdalena Carrillo	23 Zoe Haedge
7 Luis Alberto Torres	24 Sally Kilgore
8 Len Fasick	25 David Haedge Summer Painter
9 Ted Tucker Christian Caldwell	Elizabeth Cerda
16 Chad Sohl	26 David Boothe Erika Hernandez
17 Brandon Valdez	27 Rosa Palacios Michael Burgess
18 Herman Thompson	
20 Mary Tomas Tim Barcus	



A Lutheran Hymn Festival will be held at the Morton Meyerson Symphony Center on September 29th at 7:00 PM. Tickets cost between \$5.00 and \$15.00. Group discounted tickets are available for 12 or more people at \$2.00 a ticket. If you are interested, please contact Donna. A poster will be placed on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall with all the details.

Jim Hyland is a friend of Donna Miller and has worshiped with us on several occasions. Jim is the deacon of the Men's Ministries of Trinity Presbyterian Church in McKinney and gives a spiritual lesson to the mens regular Saturday morning coffee gathering. This article was written as the text of a recent lesson.

When she was 35 years old, Gail Sheehy, world renowned author of "Passages", was covering a story in Northern Ireland at the height of the sectarian violence there when a young man - a stranger standing next to her - was shot in the head, blowing off his face. Suddenly, showered in the man's blood, she felt herself confronted with death and what she came later to call "the arithmetic of life." Suddenly she realized "I have no one close to me. I have no one who's concerned about my safety. I have no one who'll stay with me no matter what."

That bloody Sunday threw Sheehy off balance and hurled her into a morass of painful questions about her purpose and values in life. Later, writing in *Passages* she called the event the beginning of her "second journey."

It needn't be a bullet that initiates a second journey in our lives. The end of a working career, the loss of a loved one, a diagnosis of a difficult disease, an automobile accident; however it happens, confusion, grief, anger even a feeling of being lost and alone are inevitable. It may become difficult to keep life in working order. We may feel instead we're being dragged away from chosen and cherished patterns to face strange crises. This is the beginning of *our* second journey.

As *human beings*, second journeys usually end quietly with a new wisdom and a coming to a true sense of self that releases great power. The wisdom is that of an adult who's regained equilibrium, stabilized and found fresh purpose and new dreams.

As *children of God*, second journeys begin with a second call from the Lord Jesus. The second call invites us to serious reflection on the nature and quality of our faith in the gospel of grace, our hope in the new and not yet, and our love for God and for each other. The second call is a summons to a deeper, more mature commitment of faith where the naiveté, the first fervor, the untested idealism and the first commitment of the morning have been seasoned with pain, rejection, failure, loneliness and a new self-awareness.

The call asks the question at the core of our ability to mature and grow spiritually, "*Do you really accept the message that God is head over heels in love with you?*" If in our heart we're experiencing a crisis of faith, of hope, of love, and we really don't believe that God loves us as we are - if we're still tainted by the lie there's something we can do to make God love us more - we're rejecting the very message of the cross.

Many who hear the call stand outside the banquet door listening to the merriment and festivity inside, half hoping there really is a banquet in there. We'd like to go in and celebrate, but wow! "*What if I'm wrong; what if there's no banquet in there at all? What if it's a trick?*"

When we hesitate to respond or ignore the call altogether and take God's love for granted, we paint Him into a corner; we rob Him of the opportunity to love us in a new and surprising way, and our faith begins to shrivel and shrink. When we become so spiritually advanced that God is old hat, then the Father has been had; Jesus has been tamed; the Spirit has been corralled and the Pentecostal fire has been extinguished.

The question we have to ask ourselves about Jesus Christ is "Do we state our belief in Him in no uncertain terms, even in finely articulated creeds and then refuse to follow Him when He issues the call?"

What *we do* about the lordship of Jesus is a far better indication of our faith than what *we think*.

What the world wants from our rhetoric – what God longs for in us – is *caring enough to be different, humble enough to make mistakes, wild enough to be burnt in the fire of love, real enough to make others see how phony we once were.*

If we're going to be criticized for our faith, let it be for the right reasons. Not because we're too emotional but because we're not emotional enough; not because our passions are so powerful but because they're so puny; not because we're too affectionate but because we lack a deep, passionate, uncompromising affection for Jesus Christ.

When your second call comes, answer it as Nikos Kazantzakis did – from your heart of hearts at a passionate pitch of loving awareness. He said:

"I am a bow in your hands, Lord; draw me lest I rot away.

Do not over draw me, Lord, or I shall break.

Oh, go ahead and over draw me, Lord; who cares if I break."

Jim Hyland

Youth Group Report August 2013

The youth group spent the first days of August in Tennessee. The time they spent together on this trip helped the youth group and their leaders to get to know each other better. The activities they did were many, including; wake boarding, fishing, swimming, water games and twister. They had a lot of fun with these activities. The Youth Group wants to thank Trudy and Roger for this unforgettable journey.

On August the 10th and 11th, the youth group helped prepare school supplies and distributed them to many children in the Back to School Carnival. Twenty-one of our Youth Group helped with this event.

On the 23rd and 24th, Cecilia, Samier, Sonia, Alma, Breanna, and Eloy attended to the meeting of Ignite Network: Encendiendo la Chispa at the church of San Gabriel in Alvarado, Texas. In this meeting the youth met several other youth of others congregations. That Friday, the Youth Group of San Gabriel prepared various games and did a youth service. The next day the coordinators took a class in which they talk about the Faith.

As the monthly activity the Youth Group wants to invite the congregation to Skating Day, on the 21st of September. More details on this event will be given next Sunday.

Youth Group's Historian/Vice-president
Alma Cruz

Sunday School Rally Day

I hope that all of our children, families, and teachers have had a wonderful summer! Hopefully, you've had time to slow down, have fun, and relax a bit. And most of all...enjoy family time!

I am looking forward to Emanuel's 2013-2014 Sunday School year. The school year begins with our traditional **Rally Day on September 8th**. At this time, we'll have refreshments for the children and fill out enrollment forms. **Actual classes will begin on September 15th**. Our children's Sunday School classes will be from **11:10 a.m.-12:05 p.m.**

We have a great team of teachers in place. They are committed to our children's spiritual lives, and it promises to be a fun and rewarding year! Our teachers are as follows: *Carol Duncan (pre-k – 2nd gr.) *Barb Brault-Jordan & Martin Arredondo (3rd gr.-5th gr.) *Julia Hernandez & Araceli Reyes (Confirmation) *Will Dorward & Tim Barcus (Youth Group) *Donna Miller (Children's Choir) and *Melody Jones (Substitute.)

I'd like to thank all of our parents in advance for bringing your children to Sunday School. Through your dedication, Emanuel's Sunday School program continues to thrive. Indeed, your commitment instills in our youth, a sense of community here at Emanuel!

On a final note, Donna Miller will begin rehearsing with our children during Sunday School, in anticipation of a special musical offering on Reformation Sunday in October.

God's Peace, *Barb Brault-Jordan*



Extraordinary Women

Extraordinary women making major changes in their lives.

The carnival had something very special to E.C.C. This year and this is something that we cannot let it go unnoticed. Thanks to the efforts of a community leader devoted to teaching some of her talent to a group of woman we were able to accomplish this.

Jannal Yakini, thanks for all your work.

Changes in the lives of these women and major changes to our community make the difference.

They were very happy to be able to contribute to this important event and show what they have learned. What makes it even more special is that they demonstrated that language is not a barrier when you want to achieve something.

Very extraordinary woman and now grateful for the support of such special person that has always been giving more than valuable time; she gives her heart in everything she does. What makes it more remarkable is that a member of our congregation is behind all these good changes.

Pat McDonald Thanks for everything you do for this congregation and E.C.C.

Written by Blanca Illades



Announcements

Thanks to those of you who volunteered for the Back-to-School Carnival. Volunteers for Saturday were 38 and 76 for Sunday (those that signed in and includes a couple on Sunday that we know didn't). Over 300 children attended and received backpacks. 125 children in grades 5 or higher, received them loaded with a binder, pack of paper and a spiral. Brady Hull provided the backpacks again for us.

Schedule Change – The last day of the Summer Service Schedule is September 1st. The fall schedule will start on September 8th.

ESL – will be starting again in the fall. Classes begin September 3rd with testing and orientation. Classes will be from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday.

Thank you to Zoni Barcus who hosted the Coffee Hour on August 25th as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

Update Directory – Please fill out the sheets with all of your family information to keep our directory updated. You can get the sheet from the secretary. Thank you for your help.

Sunday School – Our Rally Day is September 8th. Bring your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and neighbors and get them registered for our Sunday School!



Pastor Julio and Karen sign their life away at the big lot closing on August 8, 2013