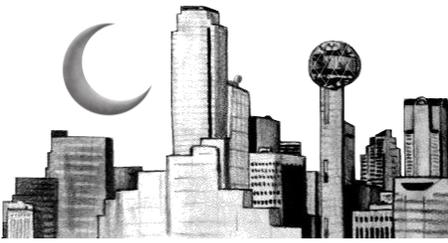




# The Red Door

February 2014

## Sleepless in Dallas



I hate Saturday nights. Well, actually that's not true; I like Saturday nights—most of the time there's something fun to do—but I hate that very often I can't sleep very well on Saturday nights. For some reason, it has to do with church. The night before church, I just can't get myself to relax. My mind is racing, busy with something: the sermon, the people I need to talk with, the upcoming council meeting, the next Bible study series... you name it. The thing is that while I'm trying to sleep, my mind won't stop worrying about things. This is not a complaint, just a personal little struggle that has been with me since I can recall and one that I'm not very proud of. I mean, Jesus himself warns us about the futility of worrying: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:34).

Jesus' advice in the gospel is not a "don't worry, be happy" kind of mindset. If anything, Jesus, time and again, keeps telling his disciples about the perils and dangers on the road ahead. There is a cost of discipleship and those who want to follow Jesus do well to consider those before signing on. But to be aware of what will be required down the road is not the same as worrying today for tomorrow. Even in his greatest moments of danger, Jesus kept his focus on the mission to be done here and now. When the Pharisees tempted Jesus to abandon his ministry because Herod was looking to kill him, Jesus resolutely said "I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work" (Luke 13:32).

What Jesus teaches about being mindful of the present time is a good model for congregations. Often times we get distracted by worries and concerns of the future which lead us to lose our focus from the things we have here and now. And yet the tasks of the church are all geared to the present time and place. Evangelism, Christian education, even stewardship are about managing and doing the ministry in front of us. The concern of ministry is not what will happen tomorrow but what's going on today. Even the prophets of the Old Testament did not intend to predict the future. Instead, their mission was to bring God's revelation for the time and place in which they were living.

So let us be mindful of the things we are doing today. The opportunities, and also the challenges, we have now. Let's do ministry in a way that we address our present situation. Let's use the resources and the people God has blessed us with in our present time. That doesn't mean that we need not to know where we go. Again, Jesus knew he was going to Jerusalem and he knew what awaited him there. What Jesus didn't do was to stop in his tracks because the future looked so very troubling. Nor did he advise his disciples to worry about it. There are many uncertainties in the lifespan of a congregation but one thing is sure: We've been call to serve here and now. Amen.

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

# Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

January, 2014

## INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$8,857.90
Income	\$4,430.32
Expense	\$2,864.57
Ending Balance	\$10,423.65

### Notes

ECC had a larger income for January due in large part to donations/refunds received at the end of December 2013 which were deposited in January 2014. Through our connection with Greenland Hills UMC, the food pantry received 350 pounds of food from the workplace of a Greenland Hills UMC member and 75 pounds of dog and cat food. The pet food was collected and packaged by Greenland Hills Sunday school class group, Kids in Mission. There were no unusual expenses incurred for the month of January.

### INCOME/EXPENSE THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2014

	Income	Expense	In-Kind
Food Pantry	\$ 2,837	\$ 2,336	\$ 425
Creations of the Heart	-	-	
Family Hair Care Class	-	\$ 249	
Unidos Podemos	\$ 240	-	
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,353	\$ 280	
Angel Tree Program	-	-	
Summer Reading Program	-	-	
Back to School Carnival	-	-	
Totals	\$ 4,430	\$ 2,865	\$ 425

# 2014 ECC EVENT CALENDAR

## JANUARY

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8:00-11 AM  
Family Hair Class Weds. N-1:30 PM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon

## FEBRUARY

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 AM  
Family Hair Class Weds. noon-1:30 PM  
Financial Tax Credit Class Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 11-noon  
Healthy kids HF Thurs.(starts 13<sup>th</sup>) 6-7:30 PM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon

## MARCH

Food Pantry Tues. 8-11 AM  
Financial Ed. Weds. (starts 12<sup>th</sup>) noon-3 PM  
HKHF Thursdays 6-7:30 PM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon

## APRIL

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 AM (1<sup>st</sup>-4 wks)  
Financial ED Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> noon-3 PM  
HKHF Thurs. 6-7:30 PM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9- noon

## MAY

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 AM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon

## JUNE

FP Tuesdays 8-11AM  
C of Hearts Fridays 9-noon  
**SRP starts 9<sup>th</sup> for 4wks 12-3:30 PM**

## JULY

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 Pm  
**SRP 1<sup>st</sup> wk (last day 3<sup>rd</sup>)**  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon  
Cooking Matters (starts 10<sup>th</sup>) 10-noon  
Adv. FHC Wed. 9,16,23 & 30 noon-1:30

## AUGUST

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 M  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon  
Cooking Matters Thurs. 7& 14 10-noon

**Carnival Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-noon**

## SEPTEMBER

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 AM  
Creation of Hearts 9-noon

## OCTOBER

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 M  
**Angel Tree sign-up Tues 9-11 AM**  
Food Pantry Tuesdays.8-11AM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon

## NOVEMBER

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 AM  
Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11AM  
**Global Village 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> wkend)**

## DECEMBER

Food Pantry Tuesdays 8-11 AM  
Creation of Hearts Fridays 9-noon  
**Angel Tree Dist. Mon 15th**

## February 2014 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 English service – 10  Spanish service – 12:15	3	4 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	5 Family Hair class - Noon	6	7 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	8
9 English service – 10  Spanish service – 12:15	10  Council meeting 6:30 pm	11 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	12 Family Hair class - Noon  Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.  Valentine's Day	15
16 Confirmation Retreat  English service – 10  Spanish service – 12:15	17  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	19 Family Hair class - Noon	20	21 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	22
23	24	25 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	26 Family Hair class - Noon	27	28 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	



### **Birthdays for the Month of February:**

4 Liz Curlin	17 Edward d la Fuente
5 Barbara Brault-Jordan	Martin Lopez
10 Karla Bautista	24 Stan Rupert
12 Sonia Arrendondo	25 Flor Saldana
15 David Thorp	28 Teresa Barcus

### **Come Walk With Me Up the Hill To the Cross**

#### **Prepare Your Heart For the Lenten Season**

The hill is quiet now; not still but quiet. For the first time all day there's no noise. The clamor began to subside when that strange mid-day darkness fell. The shadows quickly silenced the soldier's taunts, the women's weeping, the passersby's curious questions. Slowly – one by one – the onlookers turned and began the descent in the darkness. You and I are staying right here, though. I think we can learn something very important from this trio of dying men. Listen to their groaning – hoarse, guttural, thirsty groans with each rolling of their head, each pivot of their legs. Notice how, as the minutes have gone by, the groans have been diminishing; and right now, except for their labored breathing, you'd think all three were dead.

Suddenly, with reflections of the torch flames dancing in his wide eyes, one of them just screamed. And as if someone had yanked his hair, his head slammed against the sign that bears his name. Oh! That's Jesus! What's that he just shouted? "*Eloi.*" It sounds like he was beckoning to a long-lost friend. Look at him now; he's pushed himself upward until his shoulders are higher than his nailed hands, and he's calling out again. "*My god, my god why have you forsaken me?*" That cry struck the soldiers silent, but one of the Pharisees just sneered, "*Don't pay him any attention to him; he's just calling Elijah.*"

Stunned as we are by the scene here in the darkness, we'd almost expect God to answer him. But wait, look at his face now; he's smiling. He looks so peaceful, maybe he did get the answer he wanted from God. He's trying to say something more; listen. "*It is finished. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*" The silence right now is deafening. Oh look, Jesus slumped back against the nails and breathed a great sigh. He's, he's dead; Jesus is dead!

It's quiet here now. The soldiers left carrying the bodies of the two other men who were crucified alongside Jesus; and two men came and claimed Jesus' body. The three cross-shaped shadows are silently moving over the blood-soaked ground. You and I are left with the relics of what happened here today. Look, here are the nails that held Jesus to his cross; feel the weight of just one of them in your hand. And this is the spear the soldier used to pierce his side to be sure Jesus was dead. Run you finger along the tip; it's still moist with his blood. Oh, and here's the crown of thorns they forced over his brow to mock him as "king of the Jews." Watch out for those nasty spikes.

Eerie isn't it. When you think about it, all this blood – the blood on the nails, the crown and the spear – is the blood of the son of God. Blood he shed for you and me. Blood on the nails he endured for you and me. Blood on a spear he took for you and me. Blood on the earth he walked to secure salvation for you and me.

I'm sure we would have scripted Jesus and salvation quite differently. Certainly not a split-lipped, puffy-eyed, blood-masked God on a cross. But we weren't asked to do that; God wrote that script. But because Jesus carried out the father's script for our salvation to the letter – as Paul put it “*God did not keep back His own son, but He gave him up (completely) for us.*” (Rom. 8:32) – we are asked to respond to the drama we witnessed here today. And the Lenten season seems a good time to respond by taking the cross of Jesus as the cross of our life. It's a good time to walk up the hill to the cross and leave something of ourselves there – just as he did. Remember? Through the blood on the nails and on the thorns, Jesus left the forgiveness of sins and transgressions for us. Through the blood on the spear, he left us certain acceptance by the father. What will you leave in return for these incredible blessings?

Never fear, there's no need for you to paint a new sign and carry it up the hill or to refill the bin of nails at the foot of the cross. And, you won't need to submit to being showered with spit or to wearing a crown of thorns on your brow. But what if you were to lay at the foot of the cross your memories of bad moments in your life – those times that have haunted your dreams at night? Or what if you drop off a few of your bad habits, selfish moods or little white lies? Maybe you could leave your biases or bigotries behind. God wants all of these, you know – every flop, every failure, every bump, every bruise. Why? Because He knows they're a burden to you – that you can't live a righteous life with them weighing on your heart. Go ahead. Walk up that awful hill over the next few weeks. It's a long walk and a hard walk but when you reach the foot of His cross, give up *completely* a little of yourself for Him.

*Jim Hyland*

(Adapted from “*He Chose the Nails; What God Did to Win Your Love*” by Max Lucado)

## **Notes from Emanuel Church Council**

The council met January 13 with an emphasis on the budget and annual meeting for the year 2014. The agenda and reports for the meeting are attached. Roberto Hernandez was newly elected to the council. Will Dorward served the last few months in the position vacated by Steve Zwernemann and was also newly elected for a 3-year term. Cindy Seamans was elected to her 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term. Continuing are Linda Soto, Maria Torres, Barry McDonald, Steve Johnson, Gaynelle Schulze and Karen Roberts. Bob Moody agreed to continue this year as Treasurer and Carl Schulze as Financial Secretary.

Our focus for 2014 is financial strength and congregational growth. We see this as Phase II of the New Century Project. Just as Emanuel continues to change, so does our neighborhood and local community. We need new ways of presenting the unchanging Good News of the Gospel in our 21<sup>st</sup> century. This challenge falls on all of us as Christ asks us to live our lives and share his message of love with all around us. As you drive to work or social events, notice the new programs churches are offering. Some I've seen are farmer's markets, Spanish lessons, even yoga and Bible Study for women. I love the movie nights our youth hold and the posada that was so well attended.

There are many ways to be part of our ministry in 2014. We had a presentation on the Church Renewal Process last summer. Pastor Julio and Will Dorward will begin this program during our Lenten studies. It will lead to an assessment of our ministry and a 3-5 year plan for Emanuel. You will want to be part of this adventure so join in during Lent.

We want to begin looking into ways to use our new vacant lot and the opportunity it provides for trying something new. Some ideas include a community garden or an outdoor setting for special entertainment or art shows. We need everyone's prayers and ideas for this new Emanuel resource. Barry McDonald is heading up a committee to work on the lot.

Tied with the plans for the vacant lot is the need to make some decisions for the Church House. This historic building needs a lot of work. This is the year to make some decisions and plans for it. We need a leader and members for a committee to look at our options for this house which will be part of the plans for the vacant lot.

Other committees are also being formed and need additional members. I have attached the list, but want to name the visitor and evangelism committee headed by Gaynelle Schulze. We need to be more specific in reaching new and following up with visitors to Emanuel.

Sandy Duvall agreed to lead our committee for yard and grounds. Sandy, who is fluent in Spanish as well as English, is excited about new things we can do with our property. Just as important, we need people who will help regularly with the yard work the grounds require. In order to reduce expenses, the grounds will only be mowed every other week during the growing season. The goal is for members to come forward who are willing to help with the additional tasks needed to keep our church grounds looking nice.

If you have any questions about serving Emanuel in any of these or other ways, contact the committee leaders, Pastor Julio or any of the council members. The year 2014 is full of opportunity and gifts for Emanuel. It is a great time for us to come together as we did during the construction of our elevator and building to build our New Century Project.

Pass the Peace,  
*Karen Roberts, Council President 2013*  
214 681 9697

## Emanuel Lutheran Church Special Committees 2014

### A. Church Renewal Process

Pastor Julio and Will Dorward

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### B. Stewardship and commitment education

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Visitor and evangelism committee

Gaynelle Schulze

1.

2.

3.

4.

D. Grounds and yard care committee

Sandy Duvall

1.

2.

3.

4.

E. Vacant lot committee

Barry McDonald

1. Miles Schulze

2.

3.

4.

F. Church House repairs and planning committee

1.

2.

3.

4.

G. Other service interests:

If there are other areas in which you would like to serve, please sign your name and list your interest.



We are enjoying the upbeat feeling in Epiphany - singing about the Light with references to stars, sun, and shining. Most of the songs are written in major keys which are "happy" sounds. Transfiguration Sunday is the last Sunday in Epiphany (March 2nd). After that, we make an abrupt change with the beginning of Lent marked by Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th. Lent is a season of contemplation, a look inward for self-evaluation, acknowledging our shortcomings and praying for a renewing of spirit and dedication.

With the change of church seasons, we say good-bye to the cheery Cornell liturgy and return to Setting 3 in the ELW book.

The choir has been working hard to prepare our musical offerings to God and the congregation. We look forward to singing such songs as "Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come" as well as more contemplative numbers in Lent - "Lord Have Mercy" and "Shepherd Me, O God", which has cello accompaniment by Susan Scheib. The Children's Choir will resume meeting on March 9 and will be singing on Palm Sunday. *Donna*



## Announcements

**The 2014 flower chart** is already posted on the bulletin board in Ericson Hall. We invite you to take a look at it and choose your favorite dates (birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, etc.) to bring a floral arrangement for our altar.

**HELP IS DESPERATELY NEEDED** at Briarwood camp to get ready for the start of construction of the new Leadership Formation Facility and Welcome Center. There is need of volunteers to help get the area ready by helping clear out, clean out, and tear down the old maintenance building on the property. They will be having work days EVERY SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY 2014, working from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free lunch provided to those who help. Please RSVP to Jean by calling her at 940-241-2099 so they can ensure to have enough food and refreshments for everyone.

**Offering Envelopes** – The 2014 offering envelopes are available. Look for yours in the Narthex. If you don't find your name, simply grab a blank box of envelopes and make sure you let our financial secretary, Carl Schulze, know your number.