



The Red Door

February 2012

To My Valentine

Bring in the chocolate; and the flowers, and the cards, and the big-eyed-cute-looking plush toys; but mostly the chocolate. Yum, yum... Valentine Day is here!

Depending on what your situation is, you either joyfully anticipate February 14, or you totally loath the idea of it being on the calendar. I've been on both sides of the equation. On the one hand, to be in love, which is probably the most popular conception of what people celebrate on V-Day, is one of the most sublime experiences one can go through. If you have lived through the experience of falling in love with someone, you know what I mean. You truly feel butterflies in your stomach when you see that person. And for some reason that I can't even begin to understand, everything around you just looks perfect. I'm not entirely sure that's a good thing, but hey, you just enjoy it. On the other hand, if you love someone, and I'm guessing that we all do, Valentine's Day becomes the day when you just **have** to show how much you love or else. These are the days when Hallmark, Hershey, FTD and other businesses associated with the business of loving give you the guilt trip: "Show him/her how much you really love him/her." So because kiss actually begins with "k"—not a paid commercial—you go and get the most expensive piece of jewelry you can afford because that's just how much you love. That amount of pressure can truly break your heart—and wallet.

Needless to say, these are all misconceptions. Valentine's Day is so full of clichés that it actually becomes difficult to even define love. Now, I'll be the first in line to say that to celebrate love is a good thing to do, but I will also add that often we fall into limited, short-sighted perspectives of what it means. The fact is that, with or without clichés, to find a definition of love is challenging. There are so many different dimensions. The erotic love that a couple share is different to the one a parent feels for a child. Love between friends is not the same as love among siblings. We even say to love things, like "I love your car" or "I've fallen in love with this house." In the midst of so much confusion, where do we find common ground?

At the risk of adding yet another trivialization, I'm going to ask, what if we were to include God as part of our Valentine Day celebration? Not that God has been absent, but what if we were to be mindful of the love of God for us as we celebrate our love for others? Would our emphasis change? Would our circle or loved ones open up to include others? When we hear from the Gospel that "God so loved the world" we must not forget that God meant to love all. Husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, fathers and mothers; relatives, friends, neighbors, coworkers. Those that sit by us at church and those who come to the food pantry line. The people we know and those who are strangers to us. The immigrant, with and without papers. The rich and the poor. "Love your enemies" Jesus says and with that he leaves no doubt that God's love knows no limit. That's the kind of love we can celebrate on Valentine's Day and always. Without love, God's love, as Paul says to the Corinthians, things become meaningless and empty. It's alright to gather chocolates, and cards, and flowers, and heart-shaped balloons. Gifts like those can and do mean something, especially to those we give them to. Let us just remember that it all started with God's love and that because God loved us first we are able to love others. Happy Valentine's Day!

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

Emanuel Community Center Treasurer's Report

January, 2012

INCOME-EXPENSE STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$19,802.50
Income	
ELC Individual Contributions-food pantry	340.00
Preston Meadow LC Food Pantry Gift	849.00
Individual Cpontribution from Outside ELC	150.00
GHUMC Food Pantry Gift	<u>95.00</u>
	1,434.00
Expense	
North Texas Food Bank – December Bill	1,807.26
Amy McCarthy – Food Pantry Food Items	480.88
Blanca Illades – Creations of Heart Material	<u>94.64</u>
	2,382.78
Ending Balance	\$18,853.72

JANUARY, 2012 CHECKBOOK STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	\$19,802.50
Deposits and Credits	
January 23 Deposit	1,284.00
“ 30 “	<u>150.00</u>
	1,434.00
Checks and Other Charges	
#1529 – Amy McCarthy-Food Pantry Food Items	480.88
#1530 – Blanca Illades – Creations of Heart Material	94.64
#1531 – North Texas Food Bank – December Bill	<u>1,807.26</u>
	2,382.78
January 31, 2012 Ending Balance	\$18,853.72

Notes

We had a very quiet month with only four income items and three expense items. Unfortunately, the expenses ran about \$950.00 more than our income. Obviously, this is a trend which we cannot continue.

However, we did have income from individual contributions from ELC which we will not receive until March, 2012. That is when ELC and I exchange checks reflecting our payment of rent, building use and 20% of Blanca's salary as Church Secretary and ELC provides a check with their budgeted ECC support plus accumulated individual contributions designated for ECC. My informal understanding is that those contributions totaled \$450.00, meaning that our deficit so far in 2012 is about \$500.00.

I submitted our Federal Income Tax Form 990-N about ten days ago. It has already been accepted by IRS. The 990-N is the postcard form for submission by non-profits with normal income under \$50,000.00 per year. When our normal income is over \$50,000.00 per year, we must submit Form 990-EZ which is a somewhat complex tax form. Even though our 2011 income was over \$50,000.00, we did not have to submit Form 990-EZ because our average income for the past three years was less than \$50,000.00.

BUDGET vs ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSE (1/12 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	\$ 2,000	1,958	517	\$ 1,434	\$ 2,288	\$ 0
Creations of the Heart	250	83	0	0	95	0
ESL	167	167	8	0	0	0
Unidos Podemos	120	120	0	0	0	0
Operating Expenses	133	500	0	0	0	0
Angel Tree Program	42	42	583	0	0	0
Summer Reading Program	250	300	133	0	0	0
Back to School Carnival	500	375	250	0	0	0
Totals	\$ 3,462	\$ 3,545	\$ 1,491	\$ 1,434	\$ 2,383	0

This is a note to let you all know that the Youth Group still does activities to collect funds for their trip to New Orleans. January 29, during the potluck of our Annual Meeting, the Youth Group was in charge of the drinks, which weren't for sale but there was a box for donations. If you missed giving them a donation, I am sure they will still accept donations. Also, last Sunday the youth started to sell tickets for the raffle for the crochet blanket which they are doing with the Women Crochet Group. This raffle will be on the 19 of February when the youth group will be hosting a brunch. Later on we will let you know the menu. Thank you very much for all your support. We'll see each other on Sunday.

Julia Hernandez
Coordinator of the Activities and Events of Youth Group

FAMILY HAIR CARE

The class for Family Hair Care has met for the last 3 weeks in Erickson Hall with 11 ladies attending the class. One of the certified hair stylists from the neighborhood has graciously volunteered to teach the ladies how to care for hair: shampooing, repair damage hair and how to cut different hair styles. The ladies have been excited to learn a new Life Skill in hope to open doors to a better life.

Anyone who would like to come just to see how the class works or to volunteer for 2 hours on Monday from 12-2pm would be most welcome. The class will be meeting for another 4 weeks.

Pat McDonald



Put March 9th on your calendar for the Annual Empty Bowls Event!! Emanuel Lutheran Church uses the food from the North Texas Food Bank to distribute to needy people who use our food pantry. Let's support the Empty Bowls Event! I have attached a flier with the information or you can visit this website -- http://www.ntfb.org/d_empty_bowls_info.cfm



Emanuel Lutheran Church Ladies Who Lunch Bunch

The Emanuel Lutheran Church Ladies Who Lunch Bunch will be going to lunch on Saturday, February 18th at Toulouse, 3314 Knox Street, Dallas at 12:30 p.m. Let Linda Moody know if you will be able to attend – 214-573-7604 (home), 941-539-9068 (cell) or LAM14@att.net

On January 29th, the Annual Congregational Meeting/Potluck/Bilingual Meeting took place in Ericson Hall. The Annual Report is attached to this newsletter.

Saluting ECC. ECC is amazing: The food pantry hopes to reach nearly 200 families each week in 2012. That's about 50 more than planned last year. The ESL program is growing again. Angel Tree reached more families than ever. The Carnival again helped kids prepare for school and the summer reading program was once again a success. Creations of the Heart and *Unidos Podemos* also make great contributions to the community. This is just a simple thanks to the many folks that work so hard on the programs and the administration of the organization.



The Creations of the Heart group will be having a sale of St. Valentine Day handcrafts on February 5th.

Martin & Sonia Arredondo will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with a renewal of vows ceremony on February 11th at 5:30 pm here at Emanuel. The service will be followed a small reception in the Ericson Hall. They are extending an open invitation to all the members of Emanuel. **Please RSVP by next Sunday to 469-878-0137.**

The **Money Skills for Life** workshop will be offered February 9, 16, 23 (Thursdays) from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Our partnership with Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc, gives us the opportunity to host this event. Class sizes will be limited. Sign up today: 214-824-8613.

We've placed a copy of the current church directory on the table in the narthex. We need your help suggesting needed corrections, additions or changes in general. We'll have an updated version of it ready soon.