

January's Missing

WHERE IS THE JANUARY ISSUE?

I've asked myself this question a lot and have received several answers.

- No time—I moved.
- No time—Got to do year end reports.
- No time—Have to finish the budget.
- No time—Not inspired!!

Now ... as I look at these excuses, and that is what they are, I simply let time get away from me. Thank goodness GOD doesn't say these excuses to me when I need HIM. He will never move away from us. He will never put reports and budgets ahead of his love for us. And, HE is ALWAYS inspired and inspiring. A retired pastor friend of mine put it this way ... "God's love. There is no limit to it, there is no stopping it, it just is, everywhere and forever. We can't buy it, we can't bargain for it, we can't steal it, we can't borrow it - it is a gift. All we can do is accept it and take comfort knowing that in it we find life itself. We find hope, love, contentment, peace, joy, kindness - everything worth living for. That's why I try to end each of these with a reminder - GOD LOVES YOU."

Let's really believe that. It will change our lives!

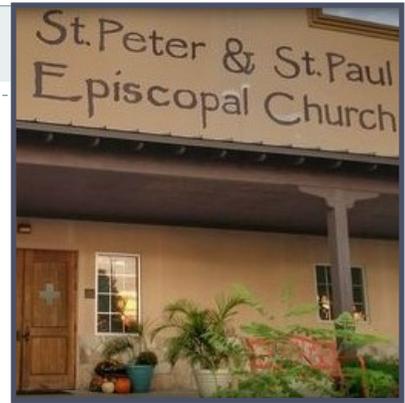
Martha Oxford

GOODBYE, FR. MIKE & MICAELA FULK

Sunday, January 31, was your last Sunday as our Interim Priest.

You have served us with grace and a dose of humor these 15 months. You've suffered through the Pandemic with us. When we couldn't meet together, you kept us going with daily Morning Prayer and Compline. You fed us spiritually every week in the sanctuary and from your living room and now again from the sanctuary. You have taught us from the pulpit and in Bible studies. You have shown us that we are the church here in this place, that church growth and vitality is our responsibility, that we can accomplish much with little.

So, you've passed the key to our new Vicar. Take a break! Put your feet up! Relax! You've earned it! Thank you!



St. Peter & St. Paul Episcopal
Church

2310 N. Stewart Rd.

Mission, TX 78574

(956) 585-5005

Vicar.....Fr. Mike Scolare

Office

Administrator.....Blanca Adame

Music Director.....Jeff Figueroa

Audio-Visual.....Helen Spalding

Bishop's Committee

Jose Trevino, Senior Warden

Leonor Fletcher, Secretary

Martha Oxford, Treasurer

Russ King

Jake Mejia

Henry Oertel

Mike Schroeder

Margie Segovia



FINALLY ...

On February 1, we officially welcomed our new Vicar, Fr. Mike Scolare, to our church. He comes to us from the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. His past service includes time with Campus Crusade for Christ (Dallas, TX), new church start-ups (Manchester, IA), Evangelical Church of San Nicolas (Aruba), St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter (Green Bay, WI) and Church of the Blessed Sacrament (Green Bay, WI).

We look forward to getting to know him. As someone pointed out, at least we don't have to learn a new name.

Fr. Mike, welcome to the RGV. It's a whole other country!!



GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALES

Our Girl Scout Troop 1065 has taken their annual cookie sale from cookie booths at Walmart and other locations to a socially-distanced drive through cookie sale in our church parking lot. If you need your GS Cookie fix, contact Molly Mejia or one of the Girl Scouts.



Did you know the Girl Scouts use the money they earn with cookie sales to beautify our church grounds? They weed and plant and water and trim. Thank you, Scouts!!





CHRISTMAS AT THE COLONIA

In December, Subie and Rick Redd loaded up their car and carried an enormous amount of food to the *Proyecto Desarrollo Humano* Colonia.

The Bishop's Committee has asked Subie Redd to be our liaison with the Sisters at the Colonia to help us as a church become more involved with their ministry.

She has obtained a grant from the Diocese of West Texas in San Antonio to fund \$4,500 worth of Chromebooks (laptops) for the children who live there.

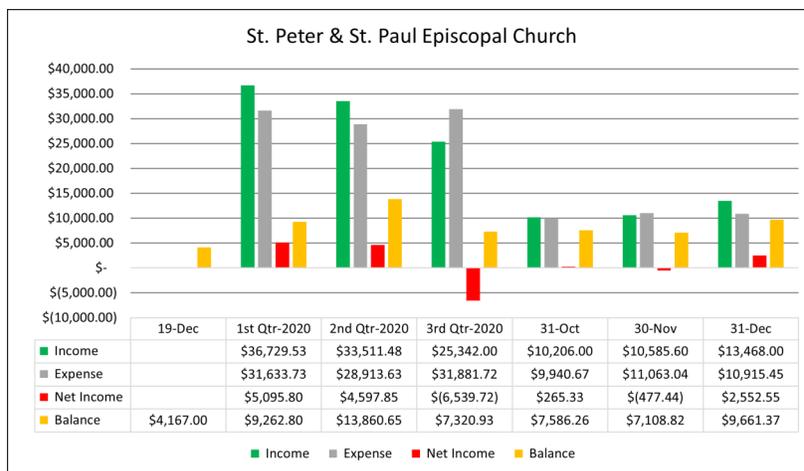
Look for more opportunities to serve this mission in the coming months.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

This is the updated graph of income and expenses through 12/31/2020. Please know that we are being very careful with our finances and only the necessities are being purchased. Our PPP loan in 2020 helped to keep us in the black.

Keep our church in your prayers that the financial needs of 2021 will be met. We believe God has called all of us to be part of this church. We share what God has given us as financial gifts to support this ministry.



SCHEDULE UPDATE

	<u>BPOD</u>	<u>READERS</u>
2/7 Eucharist—10 AM	J.Trevino	H.Oertel/R.Flynn
2/14 Eucharist—10 AM	E. & A.Barbee/J.Mejia	Jake & Lola Mejia
2/17 Ash Wednesday—Noon & 6 PM		
2/21 Eucharist—10 AM	D.Burleson	Rick & Subie Redd
2/21 Bishops Comm Mtg—11:30AM		
2/26 Annual Conference (Virtual) - Fr. Scolare/M.Segovia/H.Spalding attending		
2/27 Annual Conference (Virtual) - Fr. Scolare/M.Segovia/H.Spalding attending		
2/28 Eucharist—10 AM	L.Fletcher/M.Segovia	J.Figueroa/M.Oxford

Typical office hours are 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Monday through Friday.

SO ... WHO IS FR. MIKE SCOLARE??

“Who am I” is a great question that can have more layers than a cake. Let’s start with the easy stuff. I am a divorced (sadly) dad of four adult children, Jonathan 25, Rebekah 23, Hannah 21, and David 19. They are the joy of my life and are all active in their churches.

I was born 59 years ago in St. Louis, MO and baptized at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church. My childhood was spent in Springfield, IL where my dad was a newspaper reporter. When my parents split up, my mom moved us to Milwaukee, WI where I went to high school and college. After college, I worked for a large missions organization called Campus Crusade for Christ for a few years before heading off to seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Continued on Page 5

FATHER MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear St. Peter and St. Paul family,

I don't know how you feel, but I feel as if this has been the longest Lent ever. It seems as if we are coming up on the 50th Sunday of Lent and we still have more to go. This past year with the pandemic has either felt like life was interrupted, or like it went by like a blur. It has been hard on all of us in many different ways. We may have lost family or friends, we may have gotten sick ourselves, or even dodged the virus successfully so far and we have experienced so many other things as well.

I want us to be encouraged in this time as we approach Lent (or continue through it depending our viewpoint), we need to hear that Jesus is walking with us. My theme every year in Lent is that we are on a journey with Jesus heading toward the Cross. He sets His face toward the Cross and as His disciples, we walk with Him. We may grumble about it, we may be confused or tired, and we may not understand why we're walking with Jesus toward the Cross.

“My theme every year in Lent is that we are on a journey with Jesus heading toward the Cross.”

Yet it is toward the Cross we go. Lent is often seen as a season of suffering. We tell ourselves we need to give something up for Lent, like chocolate or good food, but I'm not always convinced that is the only lesson of passing through Lent. We may be walking toward the Cross where Jesus will be executed, but we are also adding to our life by staying close to the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

This year, what if we took the season of Lent with all of its penitential prayers and reminders of our brokenness and used it to add real things to our life that ease the interruptions and difficulties of life within the pandemic. Spending more time reading Scripture, praying, maybe walking our labyrinth, reading articles or books that help us grow closer to Jesus. I believe this is the purpose of facing the Cross with Jesus in Lent, not to suffer, but to find life.

Facing the Cross with you,

Fr. Mike

WHO IS FR. MIKE SCOLARE? (continued)

When I graduated from seminary, we moved to Iowa to pastor a couple of church plants with the Evangelical Free Church of America. After seven years in Iowa, the missions bug bit again and we moved to the island of Aruba in the Caribbean to help lead an English-speaking church and community. When our visas weren't renewed, we returned to the US wondering what was next. A friend from seminary asked if I would consider coming back to the Episcopal Church and pursuing ordination, something I had been running from since I was a teenager. I went through the ordination process and ordained in December 2011. In December 2012, I was asked to become the rector of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Green Bay and was there until moving to Mission. I am excited to be here and am looking forward to learning all of your stories!

Oh yeah, I'm a lifelong Green Bay Packers fan! Sorry, not sorry?



PRAYER REQUESTS

These names are from the church prayer lists. Please lift these people up with your daily prayers.

- Eola Martin
- Mike Martin
- Terri Burtleson
- San Juana
- Vidal, Sarah & Family
- Karen Peterson
- Melissa Jensen
- John
- Ruth Flynn
- Kara
- Vincent

Names are kept on this prayer list for 30 days. If someone needs to be kept on after 30 days, we ask that you please contact Blanca Adame in the church office.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Beverly Smith 1/3
- Sarah Rodriguez 1/11
- Emily Countryman 1/13
- Jesus Perez 1/14
- Hollis Rutledge 1/19
- Chet Oxford 1/22
- Polly Herron 1/23
- John Fisher 1/26
- Helen Spalding 1/31

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Charlotte Champlin 2/4
- Maura Pricer 2/6
- Marco Rodriguez 2/6
- Angie Barbee 2/9
- Evelyn Charles 2/11
- Susan DeLeon 2/14
- Paula Carnell 2/19
- Neele Druse 2/25
- Carol Kruse 2/26
- Jake Mejia 2/26
- Bob Nelson 2/28



JANUARY & FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Neele & Carol Kruse 1/2
- Ramon & Maria Pereda 1/5
- David Hayner & Anna Ryan 1/10
- Jose & Marina Trevino 1/13
- Bill & Gail Matson 1/17
- Jim & Polly Herron 1/19
- Carlos & Cynthia Ponc 2/3
- Ed & Angie Barbee 2/14



St. Peter & St. Paul Episcopal Church is located at 2310 N. Stewart Road Mission, TX 78574 (956) 585-5005 www.peterpaul.org secretary@peterpaul.org

We are a part of the Diocese of West Texas under the direction of Bishop David Reed and Fr. Mike Scolare, Vicar



PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

TO: