

Church Services Continue OnLine

PANDEMIC ALTERS HOW WE WORSHIP

Wow! This has been quite a year for our church body here at St. Peter and St. Paul, Mission.

We started off the year adjusting to a new priest (Interim Fr. Mike Fulk) and we are indeed blessed to have him. Then in March, we hosted a pot luck for the church family with Fr. Mike Besson from the Diocese office in San Antonio. We did a study/workshop to find out who we were as a church and where we saw our ministry going. All of this to help Bishop Reed and Fr. Besson locate a vicar who will fit with us.

Little did we know that was to be our LAST pot luck or open gathering for the near future.

On March 22, at the direction of the Diocese and local leaders, we no longer gathered together in person. Instead, we were under stay at home orders. However, technology came to the rescue and we learned we could have “church” in our dining rooms or dens watching Fr. Mike via Facebook Live or Zoom on our computers, tablets and phones.

Fr. Mike also began streaming Morning Prayer every day at 9:30 am and Compline (or evening prayer) at 9:00 pm.

We were able to meet in person briefly in June with rows blocked off to make us social distant from one another. But then, our area was hit with another surge of COVID-19 and we are back to online church once again.

Psalm 139: 23-24—

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”



St. Peter & St. Paul Episcopal
Church

2310 N. Stewart Rd.

Mission, TX 78574

(956) 585-5005

Interim Vicar.....Fr. Mike Fulk

Office

Administrator.....Blanca Adame

Music Director.....Jeff Figueroa

Audio-Visual.....Helen Spalding

Bishop's Committee

Mike Schroeder, Senior Warden

Jose Trevino, Junior Warden

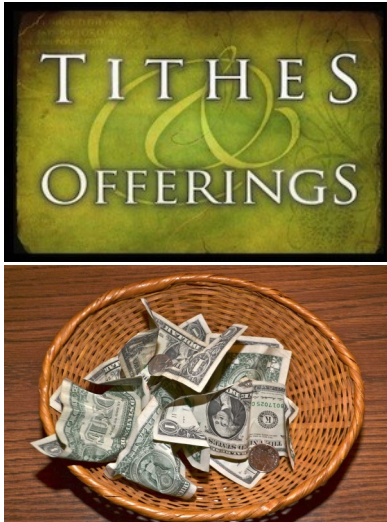
Leonor Fletcher, Secretary

Martha Oxford, Treasurer

Russ King

Jake Mejia

Henry Oertel



WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE

You know this! But do you really understand.

Our church needs you financially. You are not in church every week and the offering plate is not being passed so you can drop your check in.

However, our bills continue. We still have to pay salaries, power bills, phone bills, mowing, cleaning, supplies, etc.

We did apply for and received a small \$13,000 Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan which covered payroll from April and May. We followed the guidelines so that money will not have to be repaid.

But, now it's July. We're on our own. We really need you to take the time to mail your check or drop it by the office or give using the Tithe.ly app.

“We can survive this crisis ... but it will take all of us doing our part.”

WHERE CAN I HELP?

Volunteer for the following.

1. Read Scripture Lesson & Psalm
2. Read Scripture Lesson & Prayers of the People
3. Wash Altar Linens (should be an Altar Guild member)
4. Give by mail, drop off at office or using Tithe.ly app.
5. Water Flower Pots in front of church.
6. Clean out the front flower bed.
7. Pull weeds in the Playground.
8. Trim hedges around the Labyrinth.

BACK TO ONLINE...

Same story, second verse with a twist!

What does that mean? you ask. We are streaming services from the Sanctuary at St. Peter and St. Paul.

As much as we loved seeing Fr. Mike and Micaela in their home, we love our sanctuary even more. And, worshiping in the sanctuary means we can have music and more people to assist with readings.

We have to keep our attendance to around 10 people. Because of this, we would like to add readers for the Lessons, Psalm and Prayers. If you are willing to be a reader occasionally, please let Martha Oxford know via email (moxford3@gmail.com) or phone (214-794-9532). We have room for 1 to 2 people each week. But ... it has to be scheduled.

Also, we need our Altar Guild to take care of the linens. Fr. Mike and Micaela prepare the Altar each week. However, we need one of the Guild members to come pick up the linens and wash them. As Fr. Mike said this morning, “They’re beginning to pile up.”

FR. MIKE'S MUSINGS

I am pleased to be part of reviving the newsletter of St. Peter and St. Paul Church. I believe that a newsletter is always a helpful way for folks to stay connected. Trying to stay connected during this Covid-19 virus pandemic has become very difficult. I hope that our newsletter helps meet this need. This is the first issue in many months and the newsletter will grow with time.

The idea of a newsletter originated with Martha Oxford. She and I discussed the possibility of one before we went to “lockdown.” I didn’t think any more about a newsletter until Martha sent me the draft of the first issue and left a space for me...”Fr. Mike’s Musings.”

I think that this effort will be a monthly one. In a small congregation such as ours, it is difficult to fill the space with weekly news. I would hope that at some point we would have space devoted to the Bishop’s Committee; the Altar Guild; a brief, monthly financial report; upcoming events; the Scouts; the Bishop’s Warden; the Junior Warden; the prayer list; and a monthly birthday and anniversary list. I also envision a section devoted to highlighting a member of the parish. To have a fulsome newsletter will require the efforts of many, not just the editor. So don’t be shy. Volunteer your time. Write your “piece” when asked. Be involved!

The virus has been around a lot longer than many of us thought that it would be. We don’t seem to be into the second wave according to the epidemiologists. Rather we are still in the first wave. I encourage you to follow the directions of our medical experts. The best course for us seems to be the frequent hand washings, frequent disinfecting of surfaces, physical distancing, and the wearing of face masks. I know that masks are a problem for those who wear glasses and hearing aids, but keep wearing them for the protection of others. Remember “others” wear their masks for your protection.

I would like to devote the remainder of my “Musings” to comments on Sunday’s Gospel lesson (19 July 2020). The reading was a familiar one. Jesus taught using the parable of the wheat and weeds in the farmer’s field. There are many ways to think about this parable. If you were not able to tune in for the Eucharist yesterday, let me give you my thoughts.

The farmer allowed the weeds and the wheat to grow together and instructed his workers to bind the weeds together and throw them into the fire at harvest time. The wheat was gathered into his barn. Now this is totally counterintuitive. When we see evil, the weeds, we want to immediately root it out. That is our nature. But Jesus tells us rather that we should concentrate on the good and help it proper. Leave the weeds, evil, for me; I’ll deal with it.

“When we concentrate on doing what is good ... we allow God to deal with the problem. And that is good news indeed!”



PRAYER REQUESTS?

As we learn to trust God through these difficult times, we all occasionally need a little help from our friends.

If you have a need, contact Blanca Adame either by phone or email. She will get your request for specific or general prayer to the congregation and we will pray with you and for you.



Email:
secretary@peterpaul.org

Phone:
(956) 585-5005

CHURCH IS A HABIT

Well, duh ... as my granddaughter would say.

Habits take time to make. "They" say that it takes six (6) months to create a habit. However, it takes a PANDEMIC to break it. Our "habit" of going to church on Sunday morning has changed because of the health crisis in our country. Yes, we might occasionally tune in on Facebook but It's not the same. We've now gotten used to online services on our website (peterpaul.org). But for a church our size, our attendance is way down. This tells me that we have (through no fault of our own) created a new habit. We've changed how we spend our Sunday mornings.

When we can once again meet in person and it is safe to gather for coffee and snacks, will we resurrect our "church" habit? What does the future hold? No one knows. But as someone shared with me on Facebook the other day, I think we're in a 'trust fall' with God. We as individuals and as a church have to 'trust' that God will be our catcher. As we stand on the edge of a stool, cross our arms over our chest, close our eyes, take a deep breath and lean back off the stool. Who will catch you?

Do you practice 'trust falls' with God?



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 Fulk, Interim Vicar



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: