

Aloha! Mahola!

DIFFERENT BUT THE SAME?

Having just come back from a trip to Maui, I realized I have said Aloha and Mahola a lot during the 10 days we were there. So, what do they really mean?

Aloha in Hawaiian means hello and goodbye. Using Hawaiian language's grammatical rules, the word translates literally as "The joyful sharing of life energy in the present" or simply "joy fully sharing life." We've seen that Aloha is indeed a way of life, an attitude, and it even contains guidelines to help us in our lives. It is most definitely a "word to the wise." Mahalo is used as a 'thank you.' Thank you for wearing your mask. Mahalo for following the rules.

On a spiritual level, "aloha" is an invocation of the Divine and "mahalo" is a Divine blessing. Both are acknowledgments of the Divinity that dwells within and without.

Aloha [Alo = presence, front, face] + [hâ = breath]
"The presence of (Divine) Breath."

Mahalo [Ma = In] + [hâ = breath] + [alo = presence, front, face]
"(May you be) in (Divine) Breath."

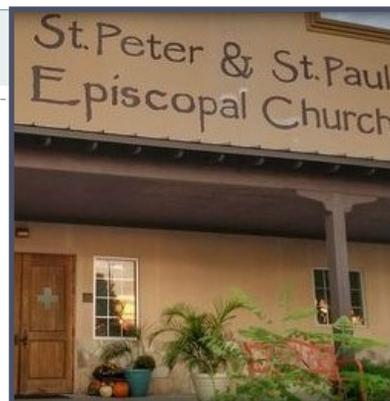
Think of them as single-word blessings or prayers. And, isn't that what we sometimes need? A single moment to be in the presence of the Almighty. A single moment to breathe in His breath.

BURIAL AT SEA ... HAWAIIAN STYLE



We were privileged to witness a 'sea burial' from our lanai. Here's how it works. After everyone has spoken, the older members of the family gather by an outrigger canoe pulled up on the shore. The canoe is the vehicle of honor for the ritual. The canoe carries the ashes of the deceased, as well as the surviving matriarch or patriarch. Anyone who is infirm or too young to paddle out alone may also ride in the canoe. Family members and friends bring lei and gently place them in the vessel. When all is ready, several men launch the canoe. Men riding **at** both ends of the canoe paddle it. When the group attains a few hundred feet from shore,

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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
Colonia Liaison.....Subie Redd

Bishop's Committee

Jose Trevino, Senior Warden
Leonor Fletcher, Secretary
Martha Oxford, Treasurer
Jake Mejia
Henry Oertel
Mike Schroeder
Margie Segovia

CRAFT SHOW/BAKE SALE—10/23/21



On October 23, we will again open our church property to host a craft show and bake sale from 9:00 a.m. until Noon or shortly thereafter. We will be serving a lunch starting at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. or we sell out. The menu is to be determined but the food is always good.

If you would like a booth, call the office—956-585-5005—and Blanca will get you scheduled. Also, we will need items for the bake sale. Bring them to the office on Friday or Saturday morning to the sale.



LAND SALE FINALIZED

As you all have seen, the property to the north of us (next to canal) has a lot of dirt work going on. The church/diocese has sold that property to the City of Mission. They are building a “detention pond” which will allow flood water a place to accumulate and eventually drain into the canal. We have received the funds from the sale of that property. Following are the details:

Sale Price of 5 acre lot	\$725,000.00	
Less Closing Costs & Legal Fees	6,281.00	
Less Outstanding Loan to Diocese	<u>150,000.00</u>	(Diocese forgave \$150,000 of this loan.)
Net to St Peter & St Paul	\$568,719.00	

Your Bishop’s Committee has placed \$500,000 of those funds into the Church Foundation Investment Fund. \$68,719.00 was left in the operating account. Last month (September) we spent \$48,078 to have our parking lot re-surfaced, re-stripped and speed bumps installed.

So, what’s next? We will use those funds to repair the roof to get rid of leaks, re-plumb the kitchen sink, put new flooring, toilets and paint in both restrooms, trim the trees, remove the dead palms, update the landscaping, and purchase a digital sign. Also, we want to build a “sound booth” at the back of the sanctuary to house the video and audio equipment.

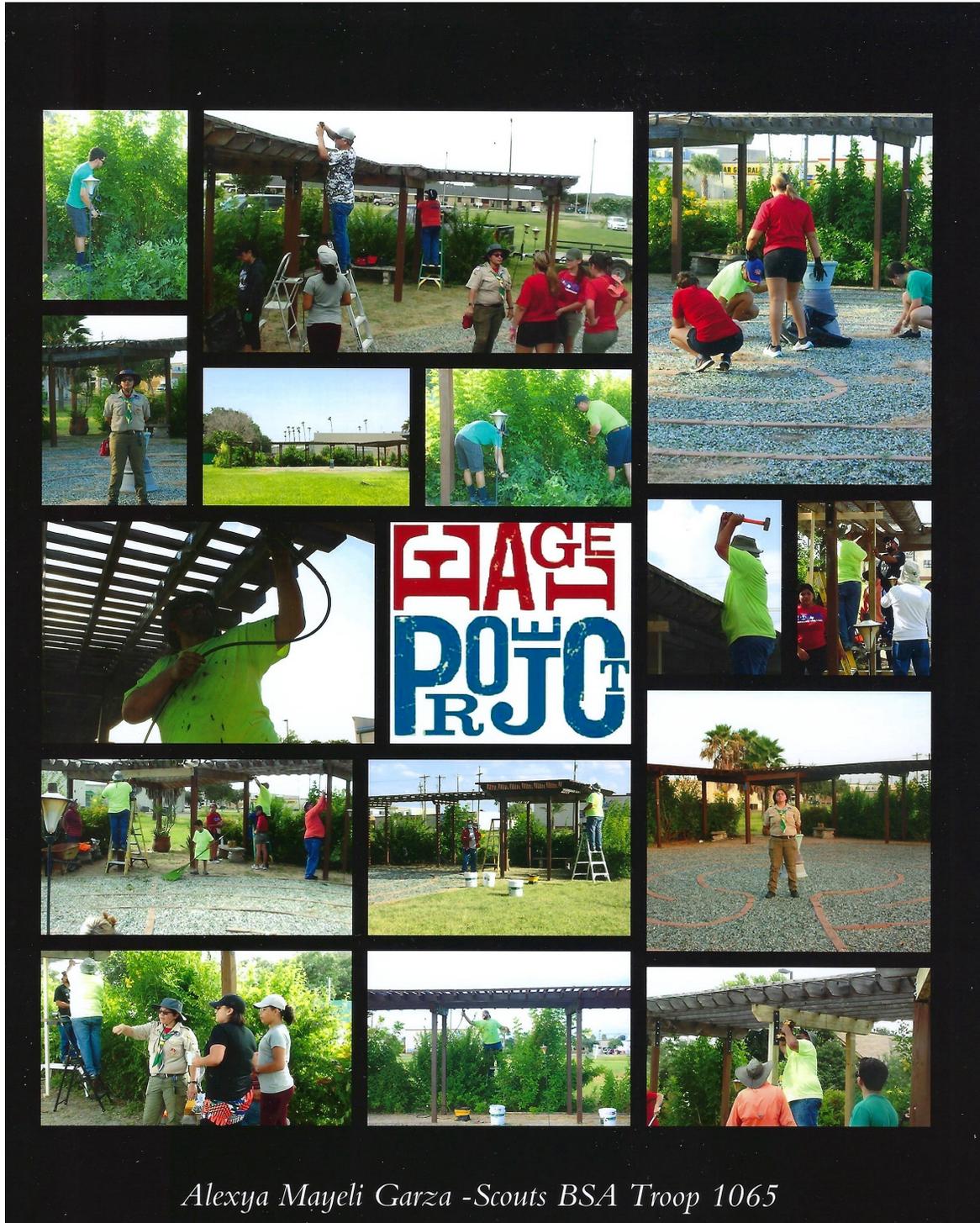
Now ... does this mean we’re “set for life?” Absolutely not!! Our church will still need your financial gifts. It’s how we operate day-to-day. Our size has dwindled because of the pandemic and other factors. We need to rebuild our church if we want to see it survive. We are currently \$20,000 short of being even. We cannot continue like this; however, we have to repair the building to help attract people here.

AND, you NEED to give. That’s how you are blessed. Your generosity is a conduit for God in your life. In addition to giving, your task in all this is to (1) pray daily for the mission of St Peter & St Paul, (2) pay your pledge for this year and prepare your pledge for next year, (3) invite friends and neighbors to church with you. Jesus is here in our small gatherings. But, wouldn’t it be fun if there were lots more of us??

Martha Oxford, Treasurer

LABYRINTH REVITALIZED

Alexa Garza, a member of our Scouts BSA Troop 1065 repaired or replaced rotted wood, re-stained the entire pergola, pulled weeds, and trimmed shrubs as her Eagle Award for Scouting. We are very proud of her accomplishments and are very glad that she chose her project at our church. Enjoy these

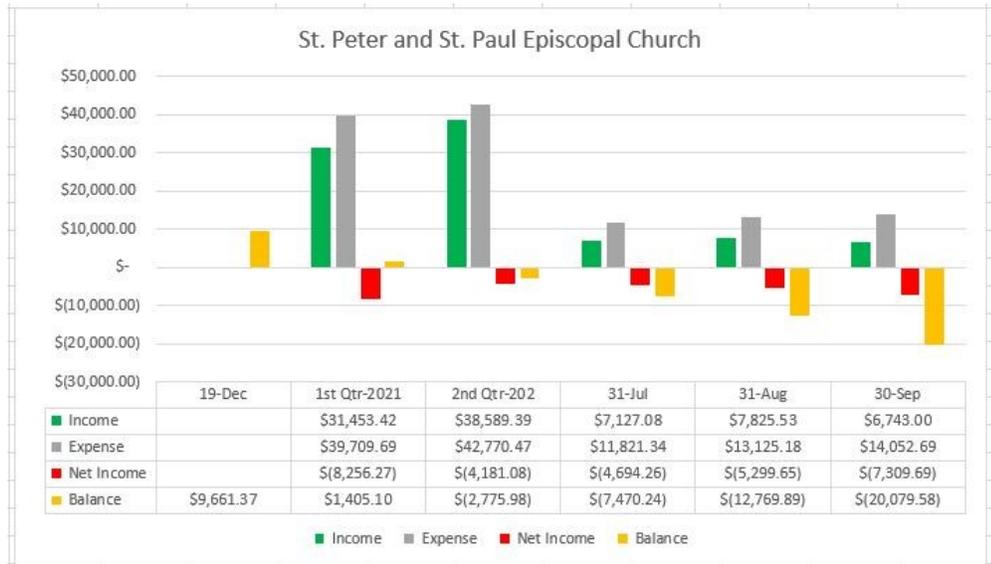


FINANCIAL UPDATE

This is the graph of income and expenses through September 30, 2021.

If you have any questions about expenses, please contact Martha Oxford or one of the Bishop's Committee members.

Our goal is to keep the **RED**, above the line not below. Your financial gifts are critical in the success of this church. Every dime you give will be spent with caution and prayerfulness.



SCHEDULE UPDATE

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BPOD</u>	<u>READERS</u>
10/3 Eucharist—10 AM	Martha Oxford	R. Flynn/M.Oxford
10/10 Eucharist—10 AM	Leonor Fletcher	R. Redd/S. Redd
10/17 Eucharist—10 AM	Hollis Rutledge	H. Oertel/R. Flynn
10/24 Eucharist—10 AM	Henry Oertel	M. Oxford/W. Schroeder
10/31 Eucharist—10 AM	Martha Oxford	M. Segovia/M.Oxford
11/7 Eucharist—10 AM	Mike Schroeder	R.Flynn/M.Segovia
11/14 Eucharist—10 AM	Jose Trevino	R. Redd/S. Redd
11/21 Eucharist—10 AM	Ed Barbee/Jake Mejia	J. Mejia/L. Mejia
11/28 Eucharist—10 AM	Dennis Burleson	H. Rutledge/C. Leon

COUNTERS: October: Helen Spalding and Rick Redd
 November: Maura Pricer and Ruth Flynn
 December: Helen Spalding and Ed Barbee

Typical office hours are 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Monday through Friday.
 Wednesday night Book Study beings at 5:30-6:00 pm with a pot luck. Join us.

FATHER MIKE'S MUSINGS

I've been here at St Peter and St Paul for over six months now and feel like I haven't even begun to get know you all. I am always amazed at the things I discover about our church. It's not just the backstory of what was done here or who was who back in the day. Discovering all that is wonderful.

Rather, I think of the ways people serve one another without being told it needs to be done. People bring meals to those who need them, the Scouts put together the food pantry, things get fixed for some folks who can't do it themselves, organizing and giving clothes and food to the colonia, these are just to name some of the tangible things.

Yet there's more to it than just the physical things. I watch you all step and care for each other without any prompting. I have seen those who are hurting comforted. I've witnessed spontaneous little groups cluster around someone and pray for them. Other times it's the cheery or comforting word from one of you to someone else that perks their spirit up.

Y'all are truly generous with your time, treasure, and talents. It is so great to watch everyone of you in action, it's like watching Jesus in action. His life was all about being generous and even sacrificial, with his time, treasure and talents. In a world that so often about "me and mine," this kind of generosity is almost counter-cultural.



“...it's like watching Jesus in action. His life was all about being generous and even sacrificial, with his time, treasure and talents”

Thanksgiving will be here before the next newsletter, let us say thanks to those who have helped us and modeled the generosity of Jesus in our lives. Let us also continue to be generous with each other and the church. The needs of our people and the world around us still need to be served in the name of Jesus Christ. We can do this!

I am so thankful for everyone of you,

Fr. Mike



they consign the ashes to the sea with a traditional prayer or chant. The mourners scatter lei and flower petals on the water to join the ashes drifting on the surface. The participants return to shore where family and friends remaining there greet and hug them. More songs were sung. More memories shared. Shouts of joy could be heard from the beach!

This made me think of my life and how (hopefully) people that care about me will dispose of my leftovers (my ashes). Because, you see, I'm gone. Blow the conch shell! I'm prone before the throne of Grace, worshiping my Savior and my Lord.

So whatever service or celebration is held after I am gone is really for those I left behind. It's a chance to remember, to reminisce about fun times together, trips we shared, countries we explored together, lives well lived with one another.

Celebrate!! Blow the shell!! I'm with Jesus!!

Amen



IT'S STEWARDSHIP SEASON!!

Why Talk about Money?

It's a Spiritual Issue

Stewardship is directly linked to our journey of discipleship. How we use our resources is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. The quality of that decision is determined by the spiritual condition of our heart.

Jesus Talked About It

Jesus spoke openly about money and possessions. About two-thirds of the parables and about one in every ten verses in the Gospels address this very issue. As followers of Jesus, we should not be reluctant to talk about giving as an outward expression of our love for Christ.

It's Not About the Budget

In stewardship campaigns, it can be tempting to approach the financial needs of the church as if we were simply funding the budget. When taking the next step, we acknowledge that living generously is an inseparable part of following Christ. God does not need our money; rather, we need to give it as an act of gratitude and trust.

It's About Trust

As we learn to trust God more and follow Christ's teaching more faithfully, we learn to depend less on ourselves and more on God, relinquishing attitudes and habits that impede our relationship with God.



During this time of celebration, we encourage you to:

- ◆ Pray for God to lead you on new steps in your faith journey.
- ◆ Deepen your sense of generosity and gratitude.
- ◆ Discover the joy of giving.
- ◆ Give a percentage of your income systematically.
- ◆ Understand that stewardship is about raising disciples, not money.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Eola Martin
- Terri Burselson
- Norma
- John Wudarczyk
- Roy Becho
- Maura Pricer
- Easton
- Ambrosio Maldonado
- Para & Family
- Larry Boyer
- Peggy Beckman
- Angie Barbee

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dee Pemberton 10/4
- Anna Ryan 10/10
- Len Miller 10/10
- Carol Atkinson 10/16
- Mike Schroeder 10/21
- Jesse Fletcher 10/25
- Jon Herrin 10/25

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Gail Matson 11/1
- Margie Segovia 11/6
- Juan Morales 11/21
- Ed Barbee 11/24
- Alma Morales 11/24
- James Burselson 11/25
- Gordy Wright 11/25



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Gordy & Louise Wright 10/6
- Mike & Carol Atkinson 10/9



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: