

Merry Christmas

from the Sharrows

As 2015 nears its finale, we celebrate a year full of God's goodness, adventures in faith, memories made and so much to give thanks for! From our family to yours, we hope the blessing of Christmas – "God is with us!" – is richly felt and offer some updates on what's going on with the Sharrows.

Sharrows @ Home

On most days our girls make our house full of funny faces and giggles. Then there are those days where we go "Ah, this is why we need grace!" ☺ Weekly rhythms are punctuated by trips to the park or library, church (Grace Point's West campus), life group and wild adventures like trips to Lowe's. With both girls more independent, it's been a year with more fun family experiences. We made a run up to Alaska to visit Mike's family (and first train experience for everyone), a beach run and an anniversary (13 years!) getaway to Yosemite in the spring. We also spent a lot of time getting re-verified to be foster parents with 4KIDS of South Texas and anticipate receiving our first foster baby this winter.



Elayna's big #5

Sophie has really been blooming personality wise, and while very much two at times, she's such a "little helper." She started dance classes this fall ("just like sister!"), is anxious to "do it myself" as much as possible, and is excited at possibility of us having a foster baby she can "help take care of." She adores Elayna – definitely her favorite person!

Elayna turned five and is looking older all the time. She's doing a short pre-school program at the local YMCA and is continuing dance. Having accomplished her "goals" for being a four year old, she quickly devised new goals, including learning how to read, how to use money, and memorizing Bible Verses! Perhaps next year, world peace?

Sharrows @ Work

Jacqui is really enjoying being a mom to such fun girls. She's also finding what a sanctifying experience it is to grow in Christ through loving and caring for a two and five year old. She's also been gearing up for the reality and unknown factors of having a foster baby, and grateful we have access to a vibrant foster/adopt community and resources to learn from! She continues to coach small group leaders at Grace Point and even snuck away to attend the C12 National Conference in Orlando with Mike in the fall.



Sophie turned #2

Mike is loving his work. C12 continues to grow and bear fruit that has Mike bursting with enthusiasm for the mission and outlook. He now gets to lead a team of six full time guys serving nearly 150 leaders locally. It's definitely his sweet spot for ministry and vocation. He continues to cherish the relationships and advances at Health by Design (also growing a ton!). His non-profit projects at Unicity (collective city impact work), Alliance for Orphans (helping churches launch



Cool cats keep us smiling!



Yosemite was a fantastic trip for us!



An intentional anniversary trip



Alaska Railroad!



Hard not to smile with these two ☺

foster-adopt ministries regionally), 4KIDS (the foster-adopt agency we are working with), Honduras (an eventful trip in the spring with old college buddies) and also helping coach small groups at Grace Point and wrapping up his time as an elder keep him very active and energized! Plus, he comes home to a house full of smiling gals that keep life fun.

Sharrows in 2016

It will be a year of firsts and adventures to be sure! We'll have to figure out what kindergarten will look like for Elayna. We will have had our first foster baby and begun that journey. We hope it's a year of growing in Christ, living on mission, growing in faithful flexibility (not an option!) and tons of great memories.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and that the launch of 2016 is marked with joyful anticipation!



Mike w/partner, Robert Vogel



Mike learned how to do Daddy Daughter Dance with two darling dates!



School is in session – they love hanging out together



Cuddle time with Momma



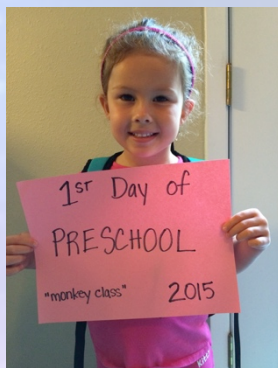
Mike wrapping up Honduras mission trip w/friends



Somebody was VERY proud of herself or herself learning to ride the strider



Daddy-Daughter adventure for birthday was flying in the Hill Country!



So far she really enjoys school – mostly for friends, treats and play



Happy Holidays from some cute turkeys!



Family fun in the fall