

**Faith Weavers of St. Mary**  
**February 2014 Newsletter**  
[www.faithweavers.org](http://www.faithweavers.org)  
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Date	Time	Activity
February 9	4 pm	Prayer Service with Joe Frankenfield
March 9	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Joe Fix
April 13	All day	Prayer service with Karon Latham
May 18	4 pm	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
June 8	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Joe Schabel

**Upcoming Services**

Mark your calendars for the following services. All of these services will be at St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Shepherd starting at 4 pm.

February 9, 2014, Joe Frankenfield will celebrate a prayer service with us. Following mass we will have a pasta bar and chocolate desserts waiting for us. **All food will be provided.**

March 9, 2014, Fr. Joe Fix will celebrate mass with us. Irish stew and Shepherd’s Pie will be prepared for our Irish celebration dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

April 13, 2014, Karon Latham will celebrate a prayer service with us. We will have a ham and cheesy potato meal. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

May 18, 2013, Joe Frankenfield will lead us in a prayer service. We will honor mothers and graduates with a brunch following the prayer service. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

June 8, 2014, Fr. Joe Schabel will celebrate mass with us. We will recognize retirees at this gathering. We will honor fathers at this service and have BBQ Spare Ribs and salads. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

Please invite a friend to attend one of our services. A simple invitation may be a great gift to a friend.

**Charitable Contributions in 2013**

2013 was a record year for Faith Weavers’ charitable giving. Your generosity has supported grants of \$60,318 to local, national, and international charitable organizations. This money has come from your monthly donations and income from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund.

\$24,165 (40%) of Faith Weavers grants went to local charities such as the Goodrow Fund, McLaren Central Michigan Free Clinic, St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, and the Association of Interfaith Ministries (AIM), and \$19,840 (33%) went to national and international charities such as Heifer International, the American Cancer Society and Hope for Haiti. In addition to these grants we gave \$16,313 (27%) to the people of El Salvador through the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

All organizations receiving funds from Faith Weavers are researched by the Service and Justice Committee. This review includes confirming 501(c)(3) status of the organization and reviewing its standings with Charity Navigator. Contact David Karmon at [david.karmon@cmich.edu](mailto:david.karmon@cmich.edu) for a complete list of organizations supported by our grants. The committee welcomes suggestions from members of organizations in which they have personal interest and are worthy and eligible for a donation.

Would you like to join the Service and Justice Committee or do you know of a charitable organization worthy of a grant? Please contact Karen Lee at [dkleemi@charter.net](mailto:dkleemi@charter.net) or call (989) 772-6349.

## **The KISS Program Update**

The KISS Program was established two years ago to help families provide a safe sleeping environment for newborns. The program is run by the Central Michigan District Health Department and has given 59 cribs and 250 Halo sleep sacks to families enrolled in the Women Infants and Children's nutrition program or Maternal Infant Health program. Along with these items recipients are given pamphlets and instructions on how to provide a safe sleeping environment for their infants. The program spends about \$3,000 a year and it currently should have enough money for this year. If you would like to support it you can send a donation to: Central Michigan District Health Department  
2012 E. Preston St.

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Make check payable to CMDHD and put KISS program in the memo portion of your check.

## **Men's Group Breakfast Meetings**

Faith Weavers men meet for a monthly breakfast to discuss family, faith, jobs, politics, and how we can be better guys. There is no agenda, just informal discussions. Specific dates for the monthly meetings vary to accommodate most participants' schedules. For more information please contact Mark Francek, [Mark.Francek@cmich.edu](mailto:Mark.Francek@cmich.edu).

## **Families in the Faith Weavers Community**

### ***Getting to know the St. John Family***



The St. John family consists of parents Denny and Pam and three sons that are all young adults. Their oldest, Brian, recently quit his job at the Veteran's Hospital to

pursue a career in Human Resources. He is enrolled in classes for an online master's degree in Human Resources and at the same time is pursuing jobs in the Midwest. Their second son, Jason just started a commercial real estate and investment company with three partners in Chicago. Their youngest, Nick, is finishing his communications and marketing degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and works part time in customer service for Virgin America Airlines. Nick rode his bike from London to Rome this past summer, which was very exciting for him but nerve racking for his parents!

Denny has taught math education classes at CMU for 20 years and also works as a consultant for Texas Instruments. In the past, Denny was a middle school math teacher in Iowa City, Iowa and Broomfield, Colorado. Pam is a registered nurse and recently retired from the Central Michigan District Health Department. Before that, Pam worked as a pediatric nurse in Iowa City, Iowa and Denver, Colorado. Pam is currently working on a B.S. in Psychology from CMU. Pam helps manage an Iowa family farm business with her siblings and also volunteers for the Red Cross Blood Services. In their spare time, they enjoy reading, walking and traveling to visit relatives and friends. Denny also enjoys trying to solve puzzles.

### ***Weaving Faith into their Lives***

The St. John family tries to weave faith into their lives by pitching in to help where help is needed. Their sons were lucky enough to grow up with wonderful grandparents, aunts and uncles who taught them to respect the views and differences that we all have, to help others less fortunate, and to understand the importance of family. Denny and Pam have found the Faith Weaver's group to be a great extension of their faith beliefs and a wonderful source of support and community. For them, it's like having a large family get together every time they go to the services.

### ***Getting to know the Fisher Family***

The Fisher family consists of parents Paul and Jodi and three children. Max is a sophomore at Mt Pleasant High School, Katie, an eighth grader at West Intermediate School, and Ben, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Vowles. Paul is a self-employed contractor and Jodi is a Director/ Professor in Public Health Education the School of Health Sciences at

Central Michigan University. There isn't a lot of spare time with the kids' sports and activities, but they like to do outdoor activities, such as boating, swimming, skiing and snowshoeing. They even camp once a year with other Faith Weavers (the Colores, Angera and Galgoci families).

Paul was an assistant coach for the Mt. Pleasant freshman football team this past fall and would like to continue with one of the teams next year. Jodi began serving a two-year term as President of a national school health organization in October. Max earned his varsity letter for football since he got to play in a post-season game, and will be a full-fledged driver in February. Katie continues to love soccer and her team won a tournament in the fall. She is also a straight A student at West. Ben will begin to play on a basketball team in January and looks forward to skiing on his new 'twin tips' skis.

### *Weaving Faith into their Lives*

It is important to us that we practice what is preached. We try very hard to take part in community projects and giving. We volunteer our time when we can and always try to see God in every day events, such as a sunrise or a new snowfall. Faith Weavers has been the constant in our ever-changing spiritual life since leaving St. Mary's. We are grateful to those who donate their time and talents to give us our spiritual home. We have become new members of St. Vincent's where Ben will make his first communion and confirmation (a couple of years late!) this spring.

### **Friends of El Salvador**

This year we raised \$10,340 to support the High School Scholarship program, a strong indication of commitment to our El Salvador activities. This amount includes a \$1,200 grant from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund. These funds are supporting 20 students this year. In addition, Faith Weavers paid \$2,068 in administration fees to SHARE, a non-governmental organization and partner working in El Salvador. Thank you, Faith Weavers, for supporting this worthwhile program benefitting rural Salvadoran youth.

Last summer the Friends of El Salvador Committee also sent \$5,500 to fund a home repair project in the community of Llano Grande II. Twenty-three families had their homes upgraded to more livable condition, which has been especially needed during the annual rainy season. (See the accompanying pictures of one of the homes before and after the repairs.) This project is a new step for us in helping the people of Llano Grande II. Previously we funded latrines for the community and the Friends of El Salvador Committee is considering additional support for this especially needful community.



Before improvements



After improvements

Other projects are on the agenda as well. In January the Committee sent \$1,200 to our sister parish of Miramar as partial funding toward the purchase of

pews as an enhancement for the Chapel we largely funded. We're also working with the elementary school in Guajoyo to determine needs for educational supplies and equipment.

On January 28 three of our members, Paul Rocheleau and Carolyn and Robert Knapp , traveled to El Salvador to participate in SHARE's presidential election observation delegation. While in El Salvador they planned to meet up with Elizabeth Hernandez and together visit Mirimar, Llano Grande II, and Guajoyo. The purposes of these visits are to see the results of our various grants of funds, discuss other needs, and demonstrate our continuing commitment to a supportive relationship.

Are you interested in participating in the Friends of El Salvador Committee? If so, contact Dave Dreyer (989-386-3693, [djddreyer@gmail.com](mailto:djddreyer@gmail.com)) or Tom Moore (773-3250, [moore1tj@cmich.edu](mailto:moore1tj@cmich.edu)).

## Financial Review

Faith Weavers continues to benefit from your generous support. We were able to donate \$60,318 to charities this year from donations and income from the

Endowment Fund. We kept our services and programing costs to 12.8% of our donations and administrative costs to only 7.8% of donations.

The Endowment Fund generated \$6,360 in dividend income. Our portfolio benefited from the general rise in the stock and bond markets with our portfolio having a 21% return. This translates into a \$37,274 increase in our portfolio value. We also made \$20,800 in grants to charitable organization.

The permanent portion of the Endowment Fund, \$180,924, represents donations that remain in the fund to generate future income. The \$65,926 unrestricted funds are available for distribution.

Our cash balance for Faith Weavers consists of \$11,488 earmarked for El Salvador initiatives and \$16,546 that is available for other Faith Weavers' activities. We would like to maintain a cash balance of about \$13,000 to covers one year of anticipated expenses.

## Faith Weavers Facebook Group

Are you on Facebook? Check out our group, Faith Weavers of St. Mary.

<b>Faith Weavers of St Mary Statement of Financial Activity For the Year Ending December 31, 2013</b>	<b>Faith Weavers of St. Mary</b>	<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Donations</b>	\$40,676	\$1,725	\$42,401
<b>Program Revenue</b>	895		895
<b>Dividends and Interest</b>	<u>7</u>	<u>\$6,360</u>	<u>6,367</u>
<b>Total</b>	41, 578	8,085	49,663
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Charitable Giving</b>	39,518	20,800	60,318
<b>Monthly Services</b>	4,960		4,960
<b>Programs</b>	383		383
<b>Administration</b>	<u>3,266</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3,271</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>48,127</u>	<u>20,805</u>	<u>68,932</u>
<b>Revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	(6,549)	(12,720)	(19,269)
<b>Inter-fund Transfers</b>	1,200	(1,200)	
<b>Increase (decrease) in Market Value</b>		<u>37,274</u>	<u>37,274</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in fund balances</b>	(5,349)	23,354	18,005
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<u>33,383</u>	<u>223,496</u>	<u>256,879</u>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$28,034</u>	<u>\$246,850</u>	<u>\$274,884</u>
<b>Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Balance</b>			
<b>Reserve for Friends of El Salvador</b>	\$11,488		\$ 11,488
<b>Permanent Funds</b>		\$180,924	180,924
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	16,546	65,926	82,472
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$28,034</u>	<u>\$246,850</u>	<u>\$274,884</u>

## Lenten Retreat

We are planning a retreat sometime during Lent, March 5 through April 18, and would like you to participate. We are thinking about a more traditional retreat where participants set aside time for prayer and reflection. We would like you to help plan a retreat experience that will be most meaningful to you.

Participants will help plan the retreat by having input on the theme, the environment, and the schedule for the retreat. Prayer, forgiveness, and reconciliation are examples of themes for the retreat. The environment refers to setting for the retreat, for example, will it be a silent retreat or open to talking with others. The schedule deals with the practical aspects of the retreat; the dates it will be held, the length of the retreat i.e. a day, a couple of days, a weekend, activities to schedule ( talks given by a leader, group discussion, prayer services, quiet time, meals, etc.).

We would like to hear from you if you are interested in planning and participating in a retreat this Lent. If you would like to be included, I will contact you about a planning meeting sometime in February. There will be costs to conducting this retreat and the amount will depend upon the results of the planning process. Faith Weavers will subsidize these costs and provide help for those who cannot afford to pay, so don't let cost keep you from participating.

Please complete the enclosed participation form and return it to Faith Weavers by February 12, 2014.

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### Lenten Retreat Planning and Participation Form (Please return this form by February 12, 2014)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your willingness to plan and attend the retreat.

I am willing to meet to plan this retreat and want to attend the retreat.

I would like to attend the retreat, but cannot help with the planning.

Please return this form to: Faith Weavers of St. Mary  
2020 S. Mission Rd  
Ste. 404  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-4425