

**Faith Weavers of St. Mary**  
**February 2015 Newsletter**  
[www.faithweavers.org](http://www.faithweavers.org)

**Mission Statement**

We are a faith community formed to support one another in working to build the kingdom of God through service to others in all aspects of our lives. We are committed to creating an environment open to new expressions of growth and maturity by expanding our vision of ourselves, our church, and our world, and through our commitment to social justice.

**Contents**

Upcoming Services.....1  
 Charitable Contributions in 2014.....1  
 Focus on the Service and Justice Committee.....2  
 An Invitation to Join a Committee .....2  
 Honoring Fr. Fred with a Donation to the Isabella County Soup Kitchen.....3  
 Faith Weaver Brochure .....3  
 Families in the Faith Weavers Community .....4  
 Friends of El Salvador.....5  
 Faith Weavers Facebook Group.....5  
 Financial Review.....6  
 A Morning of Reflection and Discussion with Sr. Diane Stier .....7

Date	Time	Activity
February 8	4 pm	Prayer Service with Karon Latham
March 8	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Joe Fix
March 21	8:30 am	Morning of Reflection with Sr. Diane Stier
April 12	4 pm	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
May 17	4 pm	Prayer service with Karon Latham
June 14	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 8, 2015, Karon Latham 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 8, 2015, 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 12, 2015, Joe Frankenfield will celebrate a prayer service with us. We will have a ham and cheesy potato meal. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

May 17, 2015, Karon Latham 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 14, 2015, Fr. Joe Schabel will celebrate mass with us. We will recognize retirees and honor fathers at this service. Following mass we will have BBQ Spare Ribs and salads dinner. **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 2014**

In 2014 your generosity has supported grants of \$48,595 to local, national, and international charitable organizations. This money has come from your monthly donations and income from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund.

\$32,840 (68%) of Faith Weavers grants went to local charities such as the Community Compassion Network, the Goodrow Fund, Friends of Isabella Seniors, St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, and the Isabella County Restoration House. \$15,755 (32%) went to national and international charities such as the American Red Cross, the Alicia De La Cruz Fores Orphanage in Mexico and Hope for Haiti. Also included in these grants was \$8,355 to the people of El Salvador through the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

## Focus on the Service and Justice Committee

The Service and Justice Committee identifies and evaluates organizations requesting grants from Faith Weavers. The committee focuses on local charities, 82% of grants last year, but also considers national and international charities for grants. They also screen applicants for donations from the Faith Weavers' Endowment Fund and make recommendations to the Endowment Board of Trustees for gifts to specific charitable organizations. Meetings are held four times a year, or as needed, to select recipients for grants.



Service and Justice Committee Members

Back: Martha Jose, Carolyn Lutz and Morgan Monte

Front: Barb Frankenfield, Karen Lee, Eileen Jennings, and Donna Parr

Due to the regulations governing Faith Weavers as a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, every grant given must go to a charity or church organization that has declared their goals and report on how they spend their money. This committee does the research to make sure that organizations receiving grants meet the government outline for charities. Charity Navigator is a website that lists this information.

Committee members also look at how much the recipient organization spends on administration of their work. The committee stays within a range 0% up to about 20% of the group's budget, to make sure that grants go for service to the needy rather than administrative expenses.

Anyone can initiate a grant request for a worthy organization. The committee evaluates the request to insure the organization qualifies for a grant. Often, a representative of the charity is asked to come to the committee meeting to make a presentation on their charity and needs.

The committee members love giving out Faith Weavers' money! And there are so many worthy causes out there. Let us know if you have a cause that needs funding.

We welcome new members on the committee, so come join us if you are interested. Please contact Karen Lee at [dkleemi@charter.net](mailto:dkleemi@charter.net) or call (989) 772-6349.

## An Invitation to Join a Committee

Members of Faith Weavers of St. Mary donate their time and talents to serve our community and other communities, nationally, and internationally. The work of Faith Weavers is planned and administered by dedicated members of our committees. Please consider joining one of the committees described below to give your ideas, expertise, and enthusiasm to serve others.

A not-so-well-kept secret is that committee members have a lot of fun doing their work. Listen to the laughter coming from the kitchen crew at our monthly gatherings. They are maintaining our community and having a great time doing it! Karen Lee, in the previous article on the Service and Justice Committee, sums up the joy of working on this committee when she says, "The committee members love giving out Faith Weavers' money!" This is the joy of doing a responsible job distributing your gifts to communities in need and having fun doing it with friends on the committee.

We are inviting you to share in this joy. We are asking you to consider joining one of the committees whose tasks are summarized below.

### Steering Committee

This committee is responsible for the programs offered by Faith Weavers of St. Mary. It meets every other month to plan the prayer services, days for reflection, and social gatherings. It is the committee that oversees all the activities of our faith community.

### Social Committee

This committee prepares the main dishes for our social gathering after the monthly prayer services as well as organizes the set up and clean up after the meal. It also helps plan other social gatherings like our annual "Tornado Picnic." The committee meets on an as-needed basis.

### Service and Justice Committee

This committee identifies and evaluates organizations to be recipients of our donation program. The committee meets quarterly and communicates by email as needed to make grant decisions. Please see the "Focus on the Service and Justice Committee on page 2 of this newsletter for a complete description of the work of this committee.

### Friends of El Salvador

This committee works for social justice and charitable outreach to the people of El Salvador. Committee members cultivate friendship and solidarity with El Salvadorans through bi-annual visits to local communities and funding projects to improve their living conditions and educational opportunities. Committee members meet twice a year and are active through email exchanges.

### Faith Weavers Endowment Fund, Board of Trustees

This Board has legal responsibilities for the activities of the Endowment Fund. It has the responsibility to oversee investment policies and make distributions to charitable organizations. It meets twice a year.

### Investment Committee

This committee monitors the investment portfolio of the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund. It selects securities for the portfolio, balances portfolio risk, and monitors performance. Committee members also recommend the amount of money to be removed from the portfolio for grants. It meets twice a year.

### Communication Committee

This committee develops and maintains the communication channels within our community and

with people outside our group. It has developed a brochure describing Faith Weavers of St. Mary; established and maintains its website; maintains an electronic distribution list, and expanded our presence on Facebook. The committee meets on an as-needed basis.

To volunteer for one of these Committees, or for additional information about them, please contact Dave Karmon at [david.karmon@cmich.edu](mailto:david.karmon@cmich.edu) or (989)773-6335.

## **Honoring Fr. Fred with a Donation to the Isabella County Soup Kitchen**

Faith Weavers recognized Fr. Fred Kawka's golden jubilee of his ordination by donating \$1,000 to the Isabella County Soup Kitchen. The donation was used to purchase a bench for guests to use at the entrance to the soup kitchen and dishes for serving the meals.



(Fr. Fred Kawka and Karen Lee)

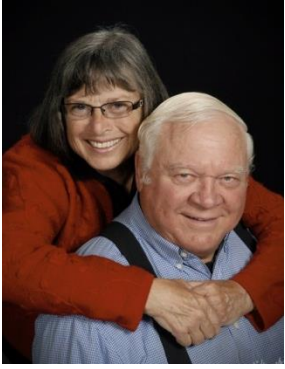
Fr. Fred is a volunteer at the Soup Kitchen and has washed many dishes over the year. Director, Kim Friedrich, is grateful for the support from Fr. Fred and all the volunteers as well as organizations like Faith Weavers for supporting the work of the Soup Kitchen.

## **Faith Weaver Brochure**

Enclosed with this newsletter is the new brochure for Faith Weavers. Please use it to help describe our community to friends who might want to know more about us. We welcome new members and this brochure may be useful to encourage others to join our group. Please contact Dave Karmon at [david.karmon@cmich.edu](mailto:david.karmon@cmich.edu) or (989)773-6335 if you would like more brochures.

## Families in the Faith Weavers Community

### Getting to know the Lutz Family



The Lutz family includes Carolyn and Ron plus their 6 kids; Becky, Jon, Rhonda, Joe, Lori and Jim, plus their spouses and 11 grandchildren.

Becky teaches anatomy and physiology at Delta Community College, Jon is a nuclear medicine technologist in

Chattanooga, Rhonda teaches middle school math in Holland, Joe teaches middle school science in Grand Haven, Lori is a research nurse in South Carolina and Jim is a professional musician. All have utilized their God given talents and try to make a difference as they work hard in their professions.

Six of the grandkids are preparing for their careers in college. They are Justin (Computer Science), Mike (Business), Brett (Med School), Erin (Pre-med), Kristin (Rec Therapy) and Allison (Psych) while Brian, Alex, Ben, Hannah and Sophie are in public school.

Carolyn retired after 25 years as a Speech Pathologist with K-12 public school kids. Ron had a wide range of students in middle and high school for 10 years and retired after 30 years as a professor at CMU. Both have a passion for working with handicapped and disadvantaged kids by helping youngsters identify and prepare for appropriate careers.

In 1984 they began offering Bed & Breakfast for guests and in 2000 opened the Edelweiss Haus to provide a more unique and international experience for overnight guests. It seems that everyone has stories to tell and the breakfast table often becomes a time for sharing life experiences while enjoying a scrumptious meal.

#### How the Lutz's Weave Faith into their Lives

Weaving Faith into Life is a daily thought provoking concept. It has impacted our marriage, parenting, and relationships with friends here and abroad. It has guided our interactions with B&B guests, former students, students who lived with us, 4-H kids we

worked with, the young man we sponsor in Guatemala, and folks we deliver meals to weekly.

Fr. Jeff's phrase, "What Would Jesus Do" has been a guiding light for us and provides a powerful message related to making daily decisions as we attempt to make a difference in a small way. We feel very blessed to have the encouragement and support of the Faith Weaver community.

### Getting to know the Galgoci Family



Todd and Tracey Galgoci have been married for 18 years and have 3 children; Kyle 16, Emily 13 and Sidney who is 7. Todd is the Vice-President of Sales for

Reitnouer Trailer Manufacturing. When he isn't working, Todd enjoys coaching his kid's sports teams and working on race cars and derby cars. Tracey is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has a private practice in Mt. Pleasant. She enjoys running and is on the Board of Girls on the Run of Central Michigan. When there is free time, they enjoy spending time on their boat and being with friends.

Kyle is a sophomore at Shepherd High School and a straight A student. He stays very busy playing football, and baseball. He also drives a race car and is currently building a demolition derby car with his dad. Emily is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and loves playing volleyball and softball. She is a great student and is very active in student council. Sidney is a first grader and would like to grow up to become a gymnast, "a doctor who delivers babies", a veterinarian and a teacher.

#### How the Galgoci's Weave Faith into their Lives

We try to Weave Faith into our lives in many different ways. Kyle, Emily and Sidney say they do this by having a positive and grateful attitude, by trying to treat others with kindness and respect, not participating in gossip, standing up for people who are being picked on, and making good choices. As a family we put a high value on volunteering, and being generous with the time and resources we have to give. We also build our faith

through daily prayer and trying to always be aware of where God shows up in our daily lives.

### Friends of El Salvador

A delegation from the Friends of El Salvador visited communities in El Salvador the week of November 8, 2014. While there they met with representatives from CRIPDES, San Vicente, a non-governmental organization with whom we partner; the Directiva (Council) of Llano Grande II, a village we're supporting with infrastructure projects; teachers from the Guajoyo School for which we support educational programs; and, of course, the Directiva of Miramar, the community we befriended many years ago.



(Delegates with teachers at Guajoyo School)

Committee members will meet this winter to select projects to fund in 2015. They'll use the information gained from the delegates visit in November along with other reports and requests from communities and groups in El Salvador in making their decisions.



(Greetings from the children of Miramar)

Discussions with these groups provided insights into their accomplishments and future needs. It gave the delegates information on projects we can support in 2015.

This year's grassroots fundraising campaign brought donations of \$10,640, which includes a grant of \$1,200 from the Faith Weavers Foundation. In addition to the proceeds of the campaign, the committee also received a \$2,000 grant from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland. What's more, the committee received a grant of \$7,500 from the Cebelak Foundation of Grand Rapids through St. Vincent De Paul Parish in Shepherd. Together, these funds will be used to support infrastructure and educational projects in the San Vicente Region of El Salvador.



(Meeting with the Directiva of Llano Grande II)

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)).

### Faith Weavers Facebook Group

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

## Financial Review

Faith Weavers continues to benefit from your generous support. We were able to donate \$48,595 to charities this year from donations and income from the Endowment Fund. We kept our services and programming costs to 18.9% of our donations and administrative costs to only 11.2% of donations.

The Endowment Fund generated \$9,891 in dividend income and our portfolio had an 8.3% return in 2014. This return translates into a \$9,411 increase in our portfolio value. We also made \$17,300 in grants to charitable organization.

The permanent portion of the Endowment Fund, \$184,542, represents donations that remain in the fund to generate future income. The \$61,530 unrestricted funds are available for distribution.

Our cash balance for Faith Weavers consists of \$16,478 earmarked for El Salvador initiatives and \$12,512 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.

<b>Faith Weavers of St Mary Statement of Financial Activity For the Year Ending December 31, 2014</b>	<b>Faith Weavers of St. Mary</b>	<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Donations</b>	\$40,746		\$40,746
<b>Program Revenue</b>	968		968
<b>Dividends and Interest</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>\$9,891</u>	<u>9,896</u>
<b>Total</b>	41,719	9,891	51,610
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Charitable Giving</b>	31,295	17,300	48,595
<b>Monthly Services</b>	5,997		5,997
<b>Programs</b>	1,697		1,697
<b>Administration</b>	<u>4,474</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>4,554</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>43,463</u>	<u>17,380</u>	<u>60,843</u>
<b>Revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	(1,744)	(7,489)	(9,233)
<b>Inter-fund Transfers</b>	2,700	(2,700)	
<b>Increase (decrease) in Market Value</b>		<u>9,411</u>	<u>9,411</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in fund balances</b>	956	(778)	178
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<u>28,034</u>	<u>246,850</u>	<u>274,884</u>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$28,990</u>	<u>\$246,072</u>	<u>\$275,062</u>
<b>Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Balance</b>			
<b>Reserve for Friends of El Salvador</b>	\$16,478		\$ 16,478
<b>Permanent Funds</b>		\$184,542	184,542
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	12,512	61,530	74,042
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$28,990</u>	<u>\$246,072</u>	<u>\$275,062</u>

**“Our Image of God and  
How It Affects Our Personal Prayer”  
A Morning of Reflection and Discussion with Sr. Diane Stier**

Our morning of reflection will focus on how our prayer is affected by our image of God. Our prayer grows out of our relationship with God, even as it helps form that relationship. We will look at Scripture as the “blueprint” of how our image of God changes, and explore how that affects our prayer, and the challenges we face in the process.

Faith Weavers is sponsoring this event on March 21, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be held at St. John’s Episcopal Church Hall. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

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**Registration for the Morning of Reflection  
With Sr. Diane Stier**

(\$10.00 registration fee payable to Faith Weavers of St. Mary  
continental breakfast and lunch included)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Since this program ends with the lunch at noon, we are making the lunch optional for you. Please let us know if you plan to stay for the lunch or leave immediately after the presentation and discussion.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your plans.

I plan to stay for the lunch.

I plan to leave after the presentation and **not** stay for lunch.

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