

Faith Weavers of St. Mary  
**Winter/Spring 2017 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.

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Date	Time	Activity
March 12	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Joe Fix
April 9	4 pm	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
May 21	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Jack Johnson
June 11	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Richard Jozwiak
July (day TBA)	6 to 9	Tornado Picnic at South Park of Lake Isabella
August 27	4 to 8	Eleventh Anniversary Party at Sleep-Hollow Hide-a-Way.

**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.

March 12, 2017, 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 9, 2017, 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 21, 2017, Fr. Jack Johnson 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 11, 2017, Fr. Richard Jozwiak will celebrate mass with us. We will recognize retirees and honor fathers at this service. Following mass we will have BBQ Spare Ribs and chicken 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.

**Save August 27th for our Eleventh Year Anniversary Celebration**

Faith Weavers will be celebrating its eleventh-year anniversary this August 27th. We will be having a party at Sleepy Hollow Hide-a-Way. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this party. We will be sending out more information as we get closer to August.

**Infant Food Pantry Donations Needed**

Please bring donations for the Infant Food Pantry to the March 12, 2017 Faith Weavers gathering. Baby wipes, baby wash, diaper rash cream or ointment, sippy cups and pacifiers are needed. Baby puffs (finger food for toddlers), infant rice or oatmeal cereal, 4 packs of yogurt blends, that don’t need to be refrigerated, and Mac and Cheese Complete are also needed.

Please avoid baby care products that contain the preservative methylisothiazolinone (also called methylchloroisothiazolinone). This preservative has been known to cause an allergic rash in children. Pat

Sherlock, director of the Infant Pantry, said that most companies have removed it from their products. If you purchase baby products at a grocery store, Aquaphor, Aveno, Huggies, and Pampers do not have the preservative. However, some of the dollar stores in town still have it in some of their baby products.

Bring your items to the St. Vincent DePaul Parish Hall before the 4:00 pm mass on March 12, 2017. A table will be setup to receive them.

## **Faith Weavers Directory**

The Faith Weavers Directory is near completion, and we hope to send it out very soon.

Thanks to all of you who participated in this project. We appreciate your willingness to add your picture and contact information to our directory.

Special thanks to Barb and Bill Courtright for donating their time and talents to take and process photos of our members. Thanks also to Nathan Clark for doing the graphic design work and having the directory printed.

Finally, many thanks to the members of the Communication Committee, Mark Francek, Bruce Goncer, Joan Hogan, Dave Karmon, Morgan Monte, and Denny St. John. These people put in many hours planning, organizing and executing this project.

You will be sent a directory, if submitted your contact information for it. If you did not participate in this project, but would like a directory, please contact Dave Karmon at [david.karmon@cmich.edu](mailto:david.karmon@cmich.edu) or 989-773-6335.

## **Amazon Smile Donation Program**

Faith Weavers of St. Mary has been a recipient organization in the Amazon Corporation's charitable donation program since 2014. Your shopping at Amazon.com can provide a donation to Faith Weavers. All you have to do is go to:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1997339>

and select Faith Weavers as the nonprofit organization you want to support. Then do your shopping at

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Amazon makes a donation equal to half a percent of the cost of your purchases to Faith Weavers.

Smile.Amazon.com is the same Amazon you know: same products, same prices, and same service. If you have an Amazon.com account, it will also be on SmileAmazon.com. Your wish list, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

You can get more information about this program on the smile.amazon.com website including certain products that are excluded from this program.

So, SmileAmazon when you do online shopping and support Faith Weavers.

## **Charitable Contributions in 2016**

In 2016 your generosity has supported grants of \$66,492 to local and international charitable organizations. This money has come from your monthly donations, income from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund, and grants from the Cebelak Foundation of Grand Rapids for Friends of El Salvador outreach.

\$30,493 (46%) of Faith Weavers grants went to local charities. They are: the Association of Interfaith Ministries (AIM), Christian Counseling Services, Christmas Outreach, Connections that Count, the Goodrow Fund, the Isabella Soup Kitchen, the Isabella County Restoration House (homeless shelter), the KISS program (infant care), Listening Ear, the Mexican American Council, the Mustard Seed Shelter (for homeless women), Saginaw Survivors of Suicide, and the St. Vincent DePaul Parish Food Pantry.

\$35,999 (54%) went to international charities such as the Alicia De La Cruz Fores Orphanage in Mexico, Hope for Haiti, A New Kind of Dad Program (Honduras children) and Share International (to fight sex trafficking). Also included in these grants was \$28,379 to the people of El Salvador through the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

You may be familiar with some of these charities that we have supported in the past. One that we started supporting last year is the New Kind of Dad Program. We became aware of it through our Faith Weaver member, John Helinski, and Carol Gall, a member of St. Vincent DePaul Parish. Carol worked with Tim

Setiff, the founder of A New Kind of Dad, to organize a trip to Honduras, and John was a member of the delegation. Faith Weavers gave money to build tables, chairs and bookcases for the Casita Copan Children's Home.



(Members of the St. Vincent DePaul delegation and local supporters of a New Kind of Dad Program)

We gave a second grant to A New Kind of Dad for Christmas food baskets for children in the area of Ostuman, Honduras. The Faith Weavers' grant along with support from Kerim Perdomo, a local resident, and his team of supporters, provided shoes, medicine, clothing, and 150 food baskets.



(Supplies for the children in Ostuman)



(The children of Ostuman)

Do you know of an organization that would benefit from a grant? Please contact Karen Lee at [grandmakaren68@gmail.com](mailto:grandmakaren68@gmail.com) or call (989) 772-6349 on how the charity can request funds. Alternatively, visit our website at [www.faithweavers.org](http://www.faithweavers.org) and click on the Community Outreach tab for a description of the charities we have supported and information on how to submit a grant request.

### **Focus on the Faith Weavers Endowment Board of Directors**



[The Endowment Fund Board of Directors: (top row (left to right), Bob Mooradian, Jerry Morey, Pat Welgs, Karen Lee, Jerry Green, (bottom row (left to right) Eileen Jennings, Martha Jose. Not in photo, Gordon Bloem, and Allie Langlois.)]

The Faith Weavers Endowment Fund in July of 2008 with an agreement with the Diocese of Saginaw to split the St. Mary's University Parish Endowment.

The Faith Weavers Endowment Fund's initial cash balance was \$181,277. Over the past 7 ½ years the

fund has given \$159,700 in grants and has a balance of \$225,643 at the end of 2016.

The Board of Directors for the Endowment Fund was established as part of the agreement with the Diocese. In accordance with this agreement, the pastoral administrator of St. Vincent DePaul Parish is a member of the Board. Jerry Green currently holds this position. Other members are volunteers from the Faith Weavers community.

The Board has the responsibility to oversee the activities of the Endowment Fund. Members meet semi-annually to make decisions about the operation of the fund, review its investments, and make grant distributions. The Board has established an Investment Committee to oversee the portfolio of securities, and relies on the Service and Justice Committee to vet potential grant recipients.

The Board always welcomes new members. To volunteer for the Board, or for additional information about it, please contact Jerry Morey at [jerrymorey@banditchippers.com](mailto:jerrymorey@banditchippers.com).

## Families in the Faith Weavers Community

### *Getting to know the Moore Family*



The Moore family here in Mount Pleasant consists of Gail and Tom as well as Gail's mom, Juanita, who lives in her own condo. Ron--Gail's and Juanita's close friend of 40 years--also lives here now and participates in most family activities.

Gail and Tom have adult daughters from previous marriages, Katie and Kara. Katie is a nurse whose

family lives in Ludington, where grandkids Joe (16 yrs.), Sarah (15 yrs.), and Amelia (8 yrs.) are near enough for frequent visits. Kara and her family of Kevin, her husband, and children Izabella (8 yrs.) and Jules (5 yrs.) reside in Davis, CA, which regrettably limits visits to two or three times a year. Kara is a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Kevin is a high school English teacher.

Tom and Gail met while both were employed at Ball State University in Indiana. They're in their 22<sup>nd</sup> year of marriage and were delighted to have their marriage blessed by Ft. Fred at a Faith Weavers service in 2012.

In 2013 Gail retired after 16 years as a development director (i.e., fundraiser) at CMU. Tom retired last summer after 28 years as library dean at CMU and 41 years in college and university libraries.

Careers in higher education offered satisfying professional opportunities, especially because the work helped others achieve their goals. For Gail, making friends for CMU and raising millions of dollars for educational and research programs was highly meaningful; she often had the pleasure of showing donors how their generosity assisted students and faculty. For Tom, working with colleagues at Park Library and across campus to support all academic areas was very rewarding. It was for him the "best job at CMU."

Now beyond careers, Gail and Tom strive with part of their time to aid others, the core of "weaving faith into life." Gail's current fundraising activities assist the Isabella County Restoration House (i.e., rotating Homeless Shelter). She's also vice-chair of Christmas Outreach. Activated still by his first trip to El Salvador in 2004, Tom continues to coordinate Faith Weavers' engagement with the Salvadoran rural poor, which depends on the efforts and generosity of many.

Tom and Gail prize friendships and look for ways to build relationships. They appreciate greatly the commitment by the Faith Weavers community to living the Gospel message by working to make the world a better place for all.

## Isabella County Restoration Homeless Shelter Project

During the week of Sunday, February 25 thru Sunday, March 5, Faith Weavers will be assisting with the Isabella County Rotating Homeless Shelter. Again this year we are partnering with Immanuel Lutheran Church who will provide the housing in their building on Bradley. Many members of our group have already signed up to provide meals, help with set-up and clean-up, and cover evening and overnight shifts. Some are also helping with breakfast and clean-up in the morning.

The homeless shelter is typically providing overnight housing for between 18 and 22 individuals. The organization has had some success in helping clients to find more permanent housing and in putting clients in contact with other community resources that may be able to assist with specific problems.

This project provides a wonderful opportunity to truly “weave faith into life.” If you want to learn more or find out how to help, please contact Kathy Ling at [kling914@gmail.com](mailto:kling914@gmail.com) or call 989-773-7823.

## Friends of El Salvador

Update written by Tom Moore

The Friends of El Salvador Committee is actively pursuing its purpose of international outreach and charity on behalf of the Faith Weavers’ community.

In its October meeting the Friends approved \$24,666 for the funding of the Miramar solar-powered lighting project studied for the last year and for six projects, ranging from purchase of teaching materials to construction of a basketball court, at the nearby Guajoyo School. The Miramar project will provide 20 motion-detecting lamps for increasing security and safety at night in the center of the community. The funds were received in El Salvador in late 2016, and we understand projects are underway.

The fall Faith Weavers’ fundraising campaign, which concluded in early December, was a success. Here are a couple details: 31 individuals and families contributed, yielding a total of \$7,335 (a revision of a lesser figure announced by email earlier). These dollars will add importantly to our capacity to fund projects benefiting

Salvadoran communities this year. Thanks again to the recent donors and to all Faith Weavers for the collective support.

Recently we received a report from our Salvadoran member, Elizabeth Hernandez, on highly positive recent developments in Miramar, our sister community. The developments follow the murders of Francisco, the community president, and his daughter Rosa in June 2015, a reflection of the gang violence endemic in the nation in recent years. Since then, under the leadership of the new president, Miguel Cruz, the community has worked closely with the National Police to bolster security and otherwise taken important steps to enhance community pride and progress. Residents have committed to maintain a safe, clean, and attractive community. They’re participating in a reforestation project funded by the government with most of the work performed by residents, and they’ve begun a child care center to accommodate small children so the parents can work.



(the Cruz family: left to right: Edelmira, Heri, with the CMU ball cap, Miguel, and Roberto, a child the Cruz’s have taken in)

The continuing relationship with us as Faith Weavers and our financial support can reinforce these excellent community development actions in Miramar. The community is always enthusiastic in expressing how much residents value our fellowship and help.

In the October meeting there was discussion about the outlook for a visit to El Salvador, the last of which was in November 2014. In the past biennial delegation visits have been instrumental for developing and maintaining relationships, ensuring accountability for funded projects, and exploring opportunities for projects

worthy of the support of our donors. Unfortunately the general climate of gang violence, while now greatly reduced in Miramar, has deterred the delegation visit that ordinarily would've occurred this past November. Nevertheless, preliminary planning is now underway for a visit by a few experienced El Salvador travelers later this spring. Such a visit will be helpful as we consider initiatives for the next couple years. Look for news about this in the months ahead!

### Join the Friends of El Salvador

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

Your donations to Faith Weavers supported grants of \$66,492 to charitable organizations. We received donations of \$59,300 and dividend income of \$9,259 from our Endowment Fund. Seven percent of our costs were for our monthly services and programs. Administration expenses were 5% of our costs.

The Endowment Fund's return of 5.47% reflected the modest return rate in the overall market. We made grants from the Endowment Fund of \$14,500 this year. These grants exceeded our dividend income, but the market appreciation just about made up this difference and our fund balance decreased by only \$740 for the year.

The Endowment Fund has a permanent fund balance of \$178,400 that represents donations that will remain in the fund to generate income. The non-permanent portion of \$47,243 represents the accumulation of income that is available to give out in grants.

Faith Weavers have a cash balance of \$34,175. This consists of \$15,913 reserved for the Friends of El Salvador and \$18,262 available for Faith Weavers activities. Your generosity last year exceeded our expectations, so we ended the year with a cash balance about \$5,000 above what we like to maintain for operating purposes. This money will be available for additional charitable grants in 2017.

<b>Faith Weavers of St Mary Statement of Financial Activity For the Year Ending December 31, 2016</b>	<b>Faith Weavers of St. Mary</b>	<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Donations</b>	\$59,300		\$59,300
<b>Program Revenue</b>	250		250
<b>Dividends and Interest</b>	10	9,259	9,269
<b>Other Income</b>	97		97
<b>Total</b>	59,657	9,259	68,916
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Charitable Giving</b>	51,992	14,500	66,492
<b>Monthly Services</b>	4,505		4,505
<b>Programs</b>	327		327
<b>Administration</b>	4,074	5	4,079
<b>Total Expenses</b>	60,898	14,505	75,403
<b>Revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	(1,241)	(5,246)	(6,487)
<b>Increase (decrease) in Market Value</b>		4,506	4,506
<b>Increase (decrease) in fund balances</b>	(1,241)	(740)	(1,981)
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	35,416	226,383	261,799
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	34,175	225,643	259,818
<b>Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Balance</b>			
<b>Reserve for Friends of El Salvador</b>	15,913		15,913
<b>Permanent Funds</b>		178,400	178,400
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	18,262	47,243	65,505
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	\$34,175	\$225,643	\$259,818