

Faith Weavers of St. Mary

Fall 2017 Newsletter
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
Oct. 8th	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Joe Schabel
Nov 12th	4 pm	Prayer Service with Joe Frankenfield
Dec 10th	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Fred Kawka

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.

October 8, 2017, Fr. Joe Schabel will celebrate mass with us. We will have a **community potluck**. **Bring a dish to pass. (Note: This is a change in menu from what was sent out earlier in a postcard.)**

November 12, 2017, Joe Frankenfield will lead this remembrance and prayer service. Following the service we will have Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

December 10, 2017, Fr. Fred Kawka will celebrate mass with us. We will have a roast beef and pork dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

Invite a Friend to a Faith Weavers Service.

Please invite a friend to attend one of our services. A simple invitation can be a wonderful gift to someone looking for a faith community, and ours is a great community to join.

Applying for a Faith Weavers Grants

Do you know of an organization that would benefit from a Faith Weavers grant? We welcome grant applications and especially like to consider funding charities helping our local community. We are limited by our Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax exempt status to fund charitable organizations that have been granted tax exempt status by the IRS.

The application process is fairly simple. Please visit our website at www.faithweavers.org and click on the first picture icon for details on submitting a grant request.

Faith Weavers 11th Anniversary Party

The Faith Weavers of St. Mary celebrated their 11th anniversary at a party on August 20th. Our crowd enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs cooked to perfection by our talented chefs. Conversation was abundant.

Many took advantage of the sunny, warm end-of-summer weather by eating outside or taking a walk around the grounds of Sleepy Hollow Hide-a-Way.



Alice LaBonte, Allie Langlois, and Joan Hogan enjoying good food and good friendship.

Thank you to all who came out to help make this party a success. Special thanks to our chefs, Jeff Angera, Mike Clark, Mark Francek, and Jerry Morey. Thanks also to Sue Bisard, Libby Clark, Joan Hogan, Karen Lee and Sue Karmon, Morgan Monte, and Donna Parr who helped prepare the food, and to the planning committee, Libby Clark, Martha Jose, Joan Hogan, and Sue Karmon.

People Helping People Program

by Martha Goncer

It has been just over a year since a group of volunteers gathered to discuss how we could be of help to people who may be going through a difficult time, or be in need of a little cheering up. People Helping People was formed at that meeting.

We want people in stressful situations to know they have our community to support them, and we are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. We want to keep in touch with those that are in need of a little pick-me-up, and help where we can lighten their burden.

Over the past year, we have visited people in the hospital or the Medical Care Facility, and sent cards to those going through difficult times. Our volunteers have also worked at the Food Party to help distribute food.

We are available to serve in other ways too, by providing transportation, meals, etc. If you want to join this committee, or know of someone who would benefit from these services, please email Martha Goncer at mkgoncer54@gmail.com



Chefs, Mark Francek and Jeff Angera, hard at work while Sue Bisard collects.



Sue Bisard, Joan Hogan, and Karen Lee work on food preparation.

Tornado Picnic

The 11th annual tornado picnic was another successful event. About forty people enjoyed a beautiful summer day at Lake Isabella. Jeff Angera grilled brats and hot dogs for the group, and summer side dishes were brought by picnickers. The result was a wonderful feast.

Participants enjoyed the company of friends and families. Todd Galgoci had games for kids of all ages to play.



Fr. Fred and Bill Courtright



Donna Parr and her sons, Kevin (left) and Brian (right)



Mary Ann Mooradian and Barb Frankenfield

Charitable Giving in 2017

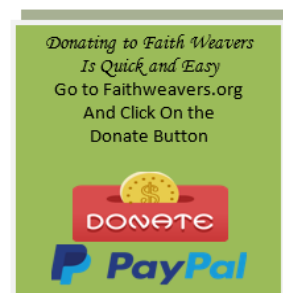
The Faith Weavers community is very generous in supporting communities at the local, national, and international levels. Money received for this charitable outreach comes primarily from donations by members of Faith Weavers, income from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund, and grants to the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

So far this year the Service and Justice Committee has distributed \$11,500 in grants and has authorized grants totalling \$16,000 that will be distributed in the next few months.

Locally \$1,000 was given to St. Vincent DePaul Parish, \$1,500 was given to the Girls on the Run program, and \$500 was given to the Survivors of Suicide Walk (picture below). At the international level \$2,500 was given to Global Compassion to drill a well in village in India, and \$4,000 to Rise Against Hunger for famine relief.



Upcoming grants will go to the Restoration House Rotating Shelter (\$3,000), Christian Counseling of Mid-Michigan (\$3,000), Association of Interfaith Ministries (AIM) (\$1,500), and Connections that Count (\$1,500). The committee has also designated \$7,000 to go to organizations that will provide assistance to victims of the hurricane disasters.



Supporting “Rise Against Hunger”

by Karen Lee

The Service and Justice Committee approved organizations for grant funding in May, and will oversee funding again in November. One of the new organizations approved was Rise Against Hunger, chosen for their ability to work for famine relief in many areas around the world. Their mission: “Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Our mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable, and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.” They note that hunger could be ended by 2030!

The organization began in 1998, and was called Stop Hunger Now. It rebranded in 2017 as Rise Against Hunger (RAH). Their approach to ending hunger centers on mobilizing a global network of hunger champions. RAH meal packaging volunteers produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world. Those partners are best able to address the causes and effects of hunger based on their local presence and expertise. RAH then monitors the process, ensuring the meals distributed are used as a tool to change lives by promoting education, improving student health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor.

RAH also focuses on responding to crises, natural and manmade, including droughts, fire, floods, war zones and transitioning political situations. Food is often the most immediate need. The organization strives to efficiently deploy aid when and where it is needed most. At the present time, meals are being provided in the USA flood areas. There is a regional station in Indianapolis that covers the Midwest area to provide volunteers with direction in preparing dry meals, or other endeavors, or provide meals and aid if needed in the Midwest.

Friends of El Salvador

The most significant recent activity of the Friends of El Salvador Committee has been the planning and

implementation of a team visit to El Salvador in May and the extensive follow up to it. Elizabeth Hernandez, Robert Knapp, Tom Moore, Mike Pisani, and Kim Summers made the trip on behalf of the Committee. In particular, the team visited our sister community of Miramar, the nearby Guajoyo School, and the community of Llano Grande Segundo, all within the rural San Vicente area of the country.

The visit was highly productive and met its objectives of renewing relationships and discussing with grant beneficiaries and key Salvadoran partners the current conditions, status of recently funded projects, and opportunities for the Friends of El Salvador to contribute to future positive developments. The larger goal, of course, was to support Faith Weavers’ commitment to international outreach and charitable giving. For members of the visit team, it was rewarding to observe first-hand the considerable evidence of progress and to recognize again how helpful modest grants of funds from our donors can be for improving peoples’ lives.

In Miramar the solar lighting project funded last December, implementation of which is just about complete, is already being regarded by the regional government and by other local communities as a model of sustainable enhancement of security. Twenty lamps on poles are beginning to light common areas and key sections of paths in the community. This project is valuably combining with other programs, such as a government-supported reforestation project as well as major agricultural improvements, impressively advancing conditions in the community.



Miramar Solar Lamp Project

At the Guajoyo School several funded projects are still being implemented, including: construction of an outdoor area for students to eat and socialize, a combined basketball/soccer court, and perimeter fence repair. Two especially enjoyable experiences for participants in the recent visit were playing ping-pong with students on a table purchased with grant funds from the Committee and attending an excellent performance by the student Modern and Folkloric Dance Troupe wearing beautiful costumes also purchased with dollars sent by us.

Friends of El Salvador delegation visit. And now opportunities exist for the support of additional university students if there's donor interest.



Students at the Guajoyo School

Ruth Nohemy and her mother

The Friends of El Salvador Committee will meet in early fall. Funding requests to be considered might include replacement of the water supply system in Miramar, purchase of added Kindles or other electronic learning devices for the Guajoyo School, and improvements to the meeting shelter previously built with a Committee grant in Llano Grande Segundo.



Guajoyo School Modern and Folkloric Dance

Guajoyo School children with a Kindle purchased by a Friends of El Salvador grant

This summer Ruth Nohemy, a former student recipient of a Friends of El Salvador high school scholarship, achieved a special milestone by completing a Bachelor of Social Work degree at the Universidad Luterana Salvadoreña in the capital city of San Salvador. During five years of university study, her school expenses were wholly paid through Faith Weavers by a wonderfully generous member who'd met her during an earlier

Participate in the Friends of El Salvador

For more information about the Friends of El Salvador, or to become part of the Committee, please contact Dave Dreyer (989-386-3693, djddreyer@gmail.com) or Tom Moore (773-3250, moore1tj@cmich.edu).

Christmas Outreach

by Eileen Jennings

Thanks to those of you who have already purchased items for Christmas stockings during the back to school sales. A few places still are offering crayons, pencils, glue sticks, rulers, scissors, pencils sharpeners and other items at greatly reduced prices. We can always use more of these items.

Christmas Outreach distribution this year will be on Friday and Saturday, **December 8 and 9**. We will fill stockings and gift bags on Tuesday and Wednesday, **December 5 and 6**. We need volunteers for both times.

Our stocking project will continue as expanded last year. We will offer stockings to children and gift bags to teens and to adults who have no children. These adult gift bags were especially appreciated last year. This means we will need many items to provide everyone with either a stocking or a gift bag. We will probably give out about 400 children's stockings, 100 infant and 100 pre-school stockings, 250 teen gift bags, and 300 adult gift bags.

Here are just a few suggestions of items to put into the various stockings/gift bags. Use your imagination for many others:

- Teens and adults: deodorant, regular sized shampoo and lotion.
- Teen: highlighters, photo frames, colored pencils.
- Adults: pot holder, small flashlight, bar soap, scissors, breath mints.
- Pre-school children: jumbo crayons, hair ribbons, bath toy, sippy cup.
- Infants: shampoo, lotion, baby wipes, teething biscuits, bath toys.

- Children: thin color/activity books, matchbox-type cars, girl's hair ribbons, bubbles, playdoh, small toys. We will again want hotel sized shampoo, and lotion for the children's stockings. McDonald's and BK's kids' toys are also welcome so long as the bag has not been opened.

Aside from the stocking stuffers, please give us any **calendars** you receive in the mail that you will not use. You would not believe how popular these calendars are! Do not buy calendars. Do not take a bunch of calendars from Isabella Bank. Just give us those calendars you would otherwise throw away that you get from the various charities you support. Both wall calendars and pocket calendars are needed. Last year we had over 600 calendars and we still ran out.

Bring your donations to Faith Weavers on **November 12**. After that, you can deliver them to Eileen Jennings. This year, Finch fieldhouse will also be open for donations on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, **Dec. 4, 5, and 6**.

If you cannot bring your items on November 13th, you can drop them off at Eileen's house, 1323 S. Watson, and place them inside the bin on her porch.

We will also distribute boots, hats and mittens, jeans, linens (sheets, blankets, towels new and gently used), children's books, and Christmas decorations.

Community Compassion Network will distribute food.

If you have questions, or want to help, contact Eileen Jennings, 773-5185, or eileen.jennings811@gmail.com.

We need people to **sew stockings** for us this year. Let Eileen know if you can make stockings, and she will deliver the pattern and fabric. Eileen is also looking for a person to assist in managing this stocking project. The work includes contacting groups that donate items and helping purchase some items in bulk.

Faith Weavers is one of the core supporters of Christmas Outreach, and we cannot express our thanks enough. You step up in every way – with your financial donations, your gifts of items for distribution, and your volunteer time. You truly do Weave Faith into Life.

Christmas Outreach Coat Distribution

Christmas Outreach will distribute at least 1700 coats and snow pants this year. We really need your help with this project. **Please bring your donation to the November 12 Faith Weaver's prayer service.**

Coats are needed for both adults and children. Sizes 3X-6X for both women and men are in high demand, so please focus on these sizes as you shop.

You can buy coats and snow pants, hopefully on sale, at Walmart, K-Mart, Kohl's, Meijer and Penney's. These retailers have sales both in-store and on line. You can also donate clean, gently-used coats or snow pants of your own.

Please contact Jim Hornak at 989-560-2443 or horna1je@cmich.edu, if you have questions about this project or if you would prefer to have your donations picked up.

Changes in Christmas Outreach

The Christmas Outreach Committee decided not to give out bags of candy this year. **So we will not ask you to help fill bags at our Nov. 12 Faith Weavers gathering.**

The candy used to be very popular, especially with the older clients who did not receive a stocking. Now that we give them a gift bag, the candy is less important to them.

Faith Weavers has spent about \$300 on this candy, and we decided that this amount of money could be better spent on more useful and healthful items.

We have mixed feelings, because filling the bags of candy offered our young members a chance to actively take part in making Christmas happier for the less fortunate among us.

We no longer give out other clothing. We will only accept items listed previously in this article.

If you drop off items the week of December 4, please bring only clean items on this list that are in good shape or new.



Homeless Shelter

By Laura Angera

Following the October service we will be discussing and looking for volunteers to assist with our collaboration efforts with Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH) rotating homeless shelter. We will be partnering with Immanuel Lutheran Church once again for the following dates: **October 29 - November 5 and again February 26 - March 5.**

As in the past we would like to provide two evening meals to the guests with additional volunteers for evening and overnight times.

Please consider volunteering for this project as we will begin planning with everyone this Sunday at our Faith Weavers service.

Sweet Potato Sunday Recipe

Try this recipe. It is simple to make and taste delicious.

5 sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed (3 cups)

2 beaten eggs

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 cup milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

1/2 cup melted margarine or butter

In a large mixing bowl combine all ingredients. Place in a greased 1-1/2 quart casserole.

Spread with topping:

1/2 cup sugar

1 cup flour

1/2 c. margarine or butter, cut into flour and sugar mix

1/2 - 1 cup chopped pecans

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.