

Faith Weavers of St. Mary
Winter/Spring 2019 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
February 10	4 pm	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
March 9	10 to 4	“The Many Faces of Prayer” Mini-Retreat with Fr. Bert Gohm
March 10	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Joe Fix
April 14	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Richard Jozwiak
May 19	4 pm	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
June 9	4 pm	Mass with Fr. Bert Gohm
July (day TBA)	6 – 9 pm	Tornado Picnic at South Park of Lake Isabella
August 25	4 – 8 pm	Thirteenth Anniversary Party at Sleep-Hollow Hide-a-Way.

Upcoming Events

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 10, 2019, Joe Frankenfield will preside at our Prayer Service. Spaghetti and Lasagna will be waiting for us after the service. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

March 10, 2019, Fr. Joe Fix will celebrate mass with us. Shepherd Pie and Irish Stew will be prepared for our Irish celebration dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

April 14, 2019, Fr. Richard Jozwiak will celebrate mass with us. We will have a ham and cheesy potato meal. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

May 19, 2019, Joe Frankenfield will celebrate a prayer service with us. We will honor mothers and graduates with a brunch following the prayer service. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

June 9, 2019, Fr. Bert Gohm will celebrate mass with us. We will recognize retirees and honor men in our community at this service. We will have BBQ Spare Ribs and chicken with rice 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.

Thirteenth Year Anniversary Celebration

We will be celebrating Faith Weavers’ 13th anniversary on August 25th with a party at Sleepy Hollow Hide-a-Way. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this party. More information will be sent out as the event nears.

Amazon Smile Donation Program

Faith Weavers is a registered charitable organization with Amazon, and last year received \$80 from the program. AmazonSmile has the same products & prices as Amazon except that 0.5% of all eligible purchases are donated to the charity of your choice.

If you forget until the time you are checking out, just type smile.amazon.com in the address bar. Your cart will still be there with all your items. More information at <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Isabella County Restoration House

by Kathy Ling

One of the ways in which Faith Weavers has contributed its time, talent and treasure to our local community has been through our active participation with the Homeless Shelter run by the ISABELLA COUNTY RESTORATION HOUSE (ICRH). This non-profit organization's mission is "providing temporary shelter and a pathway to self-sufficiency for the homeless in Isabella County."

Last year the ICRH provided 4,460 nights of shelter to 206 individuals including 61 children. The average number of guests per night was 27. This was made possible because of the contributions of more than 1,500 community and college volunteers including dozens of members of our Faith Weavers' community.

For the last few years, we have partnered with Immanuel Lutheran for a week in the fall and a week in the spring. This year Immanuel and Faith Weavers provided housing and food for the opening week of the shelter from October 28-November 3. We are scheduled to partner with Immanuel again the week of February 24-March 3.

The generosity and kindness of those Faith Weavers members who have been willing to provide and serve food, set up and clean up the dining area, spend time interacting with the guests and volunteering to chaperone during the overnight shifts has been truly inspiring. The work of these volunteers truly represents faith in action.

Information about this community effort can be found on the ICRH Facebook page, and on their website (www.icrhouse.org).

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the Faith Weavers, please email me at: kling914@gmail.com or call at: 989-773-7823.

Friends of El Salvador

by Tom Moore

Once again members and friends of Faith Weavers have been generous in supporting the Friends of El Salvador program. During the Fall 2018 campaign 33 individuals

and families made gifts totaling \$7,645. The Committee greatly appreciates this tremendous collective engagement in efforts to improve conditions for Salvadorans in rural communities, especially in our sister community of Miramar.

Cebelak Foundation funds water project in Miramar

Over the past several years the spring that is the source of the potable water for the communities of Miramar, Flor de Fuego, Granzaso, and Guajoyo, has been drying up. Well-drilling was the solution proposed as part of a professional engineering study made in 2017. Predictably the impediment for pursuing a new well-based water system has been funding.



Miguel Cruz, president of the Miramar Directiva, and Mike Pisani, Friends of El Salvador delegate, along with residents of Miramar inspecting the site for the new water well.

In November the communities were excited to learn that Faith Weavers, through the Friends of El Salvador Committee, has been given a \$50,000 grant by the Bernard J. and Camille Cebelak Foundation to fund the project.

The community of Miramar is taking the lead on the water project. With implementation the inhabitants of Miramar and the adjacent Flor de Fuego will disconnect from the current spring-fed system and use only well water distributed by piping to homes. The communities of Granzaso and Guajoyo will benefit indirectly by greater availability of water from the existing spring, at least until additional sources can be used.

University Scholarships

The new full four-year undergraduate scholarship recently established by the Committee at the Salvadoran Lutheran University has its first recipient: Heriberto Cruz from Miramar (pictured below). Heri is planning to study Social Work. He's an excellent student chosen through a selection process jointly



conducted by the university and a subcommittee of the Friends of El Salvador. It's our hope Heri can be a model to encourage other rural youth to aspire to higher

education.

Ruth Nohemy, whose education has been, and continues to be, supported by an anonymous Faith Weavers' member, is now a graduate student at the University of Central America, the Jesuit University in San Salvador. She's studying for a Master of Territorial Development degree with a goal to assist the social, political, and economic development of rural communities.

The Friends of El Salvador Committee is working with Project Salvador, a non-profit in Denver, Colorado to aid Ruth. Project Salvador funds and manages multiple college scholarships in El Salvador, and through it we can more easily disburse school-related living expense funds to Ruth. In addition, Ruth now has opportunities to participate in professional development and networking activities offered by Project Salvador and a partner Salvadoran organization.

Additional News

In December the Committee made a grant of \$8,900 to Fe y Alegría ("Faith and Joy"), the non-governmental organization located near Miramar that provides vocational skills training. This grant is to install air conditioners in two classrooms and teach a culinary skills course.



Ruth Nahemy with Tony Gasbarro of Project Salvador

Tilapia and Garden Project

This project, recently undertaken with Committee funding at an after-school program operated for kids in Puerto de La Libertad by the Great Commission Latin America, has harvestable produce! In the fall the kids planted and tended the garden, and recently they've begun enjoying vegetables as part of their daily snacks.



Children at Puerto de La Libertad with their harvest.

The children are also raising tilapia fish. When the fish are the right size, they'll be part of the snacks too. This project is supplementing child nutrition and teaching useful knowledge and skills.

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) or Tom Moore (773-3250, moore1tj@cmich.edu).

In Memoriam



Paulette Marie Dean Schieber (1943 to 2018)

Article by Zora Walsh, Paulette's sister

Paulette was born to Walt and Edna (Feltman) Dean; the second of four children – Zora, Paulette, Florence and Ronald. She graduated from Shepherd High School in 1961, and attended St. Lawrence School of Nursing. She worked at Central Michigan University, and was the executive secretary to the director of Community Mental Health for over twenty years. She married Ronald "Mouse" Schieber on September 5, 1966.

The gray-haired lady you saw using a cane and shuffling her feet into Faith Weavers was not the sister, and lady that I knew. She always claimed to be her "own boss". She was involved in so many things. She was an avid deer hunter and belonged to a hunting club. She and her husband, Mouse, sailed a Lightning sailboat in regattas each summer, and she loved to hike on her 75 acres south of Farwell on the north branch of the Chippewa River.

She had fourteen nieces and nephews and several adopted grandchildren who all affectionately called her Aunt P or Grandma P. She treasured her weeks at the Coldwater Lake cottage with them. She was a great fan

of Coleman football where her husband was the assistant football coach. To the team she was "Mrs. Mouse" their biggest fan.



Things changed for Paulette after her open- heart surgery, and when dementia took over. She was a very independent lady, and fiercely fought the losses dementia caused; giving up her beautiful home, and moving to an assisted living center; breaking her shoulder and going to a nursing home. The dementia took its toll. She could no longer be the independent free spirit that she had always been.

Paulette loved St. Mary's University Parish and the Faith Weavers community. She attended many of the monthly services, and helped with the meal preparation and clean-up.

I personally want to thank Father Fred and Joshua Lukens for a "beautiful" funeral Mass for her. She was laid to rest with her husband at the St. Vincent cemetery near her mom and dad, brother, nephew born on her birthday, her grandparents, aunts and uncles. Her struggle is now over and she is at rest. We pray that someday there will be a cure for dementia.





Dr. Michael C. Stinson (1948 to 2018)

Article by Julie Stinson

We mourn the death of Mike Stinson, a beloved member of our faith community. Mike died suddenly at home after a short illness. A profound loss of a genuine friend was felt by all who had known him. He is survived by his wife Julie, the love of his life, and their daughter Megan.

Mike is also survived by two siblings, Kathy Stinson (Larry Phillips) of Weedsport, NY, and John Stinson of Pittsburgh, PA; sister-in-law, Faye Stinson of Reston, VA; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Robert 'Bob' Stinson.

Mike was born June 4, 1948 in Auburn, NY, son of the late Robert and Edith (Wells) Stinson. He grew up in Skaneateles, NY, and went to Skaneateles High School. Early on his family owned a mail boat that traversed Skaneateles Lake to deliver the mail, and he had good memories of those times.

Mike received his Bachelor's degree from CMU in Mathematics in 1971; a Master of Science in Probability & Statistics, and Master of Arts in Mathematics from Michigan State University, and a Doctoral degree in Computer Science in 1988 from Louisiana State University.

LSU would forever hold a special place in Mike's heart not just because he was a huge Tigers fan, but because there he met the love of his life, Julie Bond. They were married on May 23, 1993 and their daughter, Megan, was born on June 9, 1996. Michael cherished his wife and daughter and often told people, "I am the luckiest man alive."

Mike taught computer science and information technology at CMU and had served as chairperson of the Computer Science Department. He was a dedicated educator known for his passion for teaching. His devotion to his students changed countless lives as he encouraged them to immerse themselves in their field of study. Those who knew Mike always looked forward to seeing him, and hearing his ideas and stories. Mike made the university and our community a welcoming place for all.

Mike was a wonderful friend to everyone he met. His zest for life, learning, and laughter drew everyone to him like a magnet. He made people laugh with his stories of past adventures (some true, some not so much), and always had an appropriate joke or two for any occasion. His humor, dedication, and innovation will be greatly missed.



Memories



Joe Frankenfield preaching at the November prayer service with Gabe Hoppe taking in Joe's message.



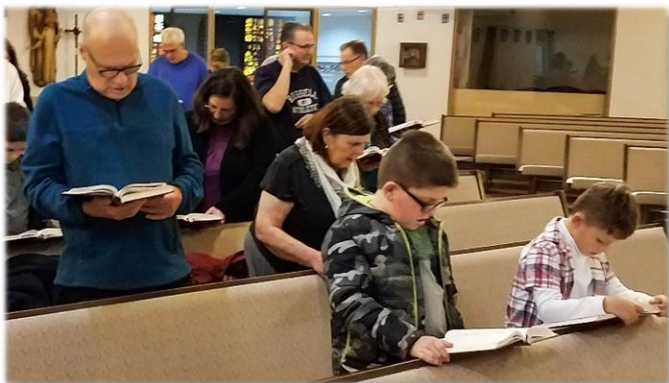
December - Jerry Morey & Mike Clark leading "On That Holy Mountain."



Remembering our departed loved ones at our November Service.



Father Fred receiving his gift from Santa.



Praying together at our November prayer service.



Choir singing for the January Service.

Charitable Contributions in 2018

In 2018 your generosity has supported grants of \$78,622 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.

\$30,601 (39%) of Faith Weavers grants went to local charities. They are: the Association of Interfaith Ministries (AIM), Christian Counseling Services, Christmas Outreach, Connections that Count, Community Compassion Network, the Gratiot County Community Foundation, Girls on the Run, the Isabella County Restoration House (homeless shelter), Midland county CFOA and Rehab, the Mexican American Council, the St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Suicide Resources, the William and Janet Strickler Center, the Stitch and Prayer Group, and Wings of Mercy.

\$48,021 (61%) went to international charities such as Global Compassion for a water well, Global Health Outreach to support doctors providing medical and dental care to people in Kenya, Hope for Haiti, an outreach of Fr. Joe Fix to Our Lady of Carmel Parish in Haiti. Also included in these grants was \$43,711 to the people of El Salvador through the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

Do you know of an organization that would benefit from a grant? Please contact Karen Lee at grandmakaren68@gmail.com or call (989) 772-6349 on how the charity can request funds. Alternatively, visit our website at 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 Communication Committee

By Joshua Lukens



Left to right: Bruce Goncer, Joan Hogan, Morgan Monte, Dave Karmon, Mary Ann Mooradian, Joshua Lukens, and Denny St. John. Not pictured: Bob Mooradian.

The hard-working crew pictured above meets a few times a year to provide communication to our members. We always have a bit of fun together as we work on the best ways to get news and events out to the membership as well as decide what things would be of interest to our readers.

The committee gathers pictures and details then writes articles for the web site, newsletter, and other notifications for Faith Weavers. Information is then posted to the web site, assembled in the newsletter, and/or distributed by some other means. Additionally, we work on projects like the brochure and directory.

Although currently a committee of eight, we are always open to additional help. Please see any member of the committee with any questions, suggestions, or interest in joining.

Financial Review

Donations received in 2018 were unusually high at \$105,888 because of grants of \$60,000 from the Cebelak Foundation to the Friends of El Salvador. Other donations to the Friends of El Salvador total approximately \$15,000 and Faith Weavers received about \$31,000 in donations.

This year's grants of \$78,622 were also high because of the Friends of El Salvador water-well project for Miramar at two other communities in El Salvador. Twenty-two thousand dollars was paid towards this project in 2018. See the article on the Friends of El Salvador Committee in this newsletter for more details on this project. The Friends of El Salvador gave approximately \$22,000 for other projects in El Salvador, and Faith Weavers gave approximately \$35,000 to charitable organizations.

Overall, charitable giving was the main use of our money with 91% of what we spent going to charitable grants. Six percent went to conducting our worship services, and 4% for administrative costs.

The Endowment Fund suffered from the stock market decline in 2018. The Endowment's portfolio return was a negative 3.05%. We had dividend income of approximately \$19,000 and paid grants of \$16,000. Even though our dividend income exceeded our grants, the market decline reduced our fund balance by approximately \$26,000.

The Endowment Fund has a permanent fund balance of \$180,184 that represents donations that will remain in the fund to generate income. The non-permanent portion of \$39,625 is available to give out in grants.

Faith Weavers have a cash balance of \$81,079. This consists of \$58,911 reserved for the Friends of El Salvador and \$22,168 available for Faith Weavers activities. The ending cash balance is unusually high because we have committed money to projects that will be completed in 2019.

Faith Weavers of St. Mary Statement of Financial Activity For the Year Ending December 31, 2018	Faith Weavers of St. Mary	Endowment Fund	Combined
Donations	\$105,888		\$105,888
Program Revenue	0		0
Dividends and Interest	17	19,240	19,257
Other Income	617		617
Total	106,522	19,240	125,762
Expenditures			
Charitable Giving	62,622	16,000	78,622
Monthly Services	4,894		4,894
Programs	0		0
Administration	3,199	85	3,284
Total Expenses	70,715	16,085	86,800
Revenues over (under) expenditures	35,807	3,155	38,962
Increase (decrease) in Market Value		(25,936)	(25,936)
Increase (decrease) in fund balances	35,807	(22,781)	13,026
Beginning Fund Balance	45,272	242,590	287,862
Ending Fund Balance	81,079	219,809	300,888
Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Balance			
Reserve for Friends of El Salvador	58,911		58,911
Permanent Funds		180,184	180,184
Unrestricted Funds	22,168	39,625	61,793
Ending Fund Balance	\$81,079	\$219,809	\$300,888

“The Many Faces of Prayer”
A Day of Reflection and Discussion with Fr. Bert Gohm

This retreat day will focus on various facets of prayer and spirituality. Fr. Gohm will compare a spirituality of devotion with a contemplative spirituality. Then he will lead the group in exploring prayer as relationship, praying with scripture, meditation and contemplative prayer of awareness. There will be time for personal reflection as well as group discussion.

Fr. Gohm is a retired priest in the Diocese of Saginaw. He has presented many retreats on spirituality for Lay Ministers, and other groups within the Diocese. He also has taught in the Lay Ministry Program since its inception.

This retreat will be held on March 9, 2019 at St. Vincent DePaul Parish, 168 E. Wright Street, Shepherd, MI 48883. You can arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. with the presentation starting at 10 o'clock. The retreat will end about 4:00 pm. You will have the opportunity to attend 4:30 Mass at St. Vincent's after the retreat.

Lunch will be provided at the retreat, and snacks will be available throughout the day. There is a \$10 registration fee to reserve your place at the retreat.

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Registration for: *The Many Faces of Prayer*
(\$10.00 registration fee payable to Faith Weavers of St. Mary
lunch and snacks included)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number: (_____) _____ - _____

Email address: _____

Please return this form to: Faith Weavers of St. Mary
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Suite 404
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-4425