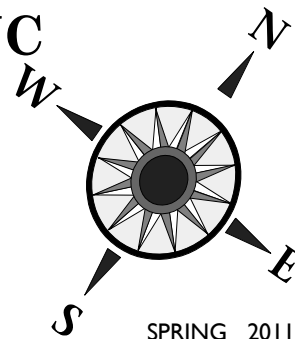


The Compass



**START BY
DOING
WHAT'S
NECESSARY,
THEN DO
WHAT'S
POSSIBLE AND
SUDDENLY
YOU ARE
DOING THE
IMPOSSIBLE.**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

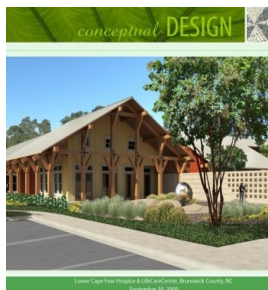
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Social Ministries
Office
910-754-8548

CLOSER TO HOME

In September, ground was broken on a site off Hwy. 17 that will be developed for **Lower Cape Fear Hospice's LifeCare Center in Brunswick County.**



Once completed, this long-awaited facility will be a god-send for hospice patients and their families by eliminating the need to travel to Wilmington or

Whiteville for the unique services of a LifeCare center.

This year our **Lenten Almsgiving** collection will be used to help make that dream a reality.

Consider some of these **suggestions for your sacrificial Lenten almsgiving:**

- ~ Deposit \$1 for you & each person in your family or circle of friends who is/has been a hospice client
- ~ Deposit \$1 for you and anyone in your family or circle of friends who is/was a cancer patient.

~ if you have never smoked, deposit \$1, if you've stopped smoking, deposit \$2, if you still smoke, deposit \$5

~ if you had a pap or PSA test, mammogram or colonoscopy in the past year add \$1, if not put in \$5

~ if you exercise regularly deposit \$1, if not, deposit \$5

~ Donate \$5 in gratitude if you have health insurance

Put your donation in the **Closer to Home** envelope (found on the tables in church) & drop it in the collection basket.

RALLY 'ROUND THE RELAY

St. Brendan is partnering with **Laura & Dan Scinto's Sunset Slush of Shallotte** for the 2011 Relay for Life.

Help the cause: as a survivor, walker,

event or participant sponsor; purchase Luminaries (in memory or honor of), raffle tickets for cash prizes, or a handmade quilt, a discount entertainment book, or coupons for local res-

taurants. They'll all be available after Mass the weekend of 3/19-20.



THE 'DARK' SIDE OF CHOCOLATE

Who doesn't love a piece of good chocolate? But whether it's milk, dark, or semi-sweet, there may be more bitter than sweet in the chocolate you eat.

Cocoa is found in several regions around the world, but West Africa produces up to 70% of it (Cote d'Ivoire 40%, Cameroon, Ghana & Nigeria).

Unfortunately while cocoa is a \$16 Billion/year industry, it has not proved as lucrative to the 1.5 million average cocoa farmers whose annual revenue is between \$30 and \$110/household. Cocoa farming is labor intensive and the custom of children working on household farms exposes them to tasks considered to be the worst forms of child labor (working long hours in the heat, with pesticides & using machetes).

The *2009 Assessment of Child Labor in the Cocoa Supply Chain in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana* from Tulane University found that 40% of the 820,000 children working in cocoa in Ivory Coast are not enrolled in school, only about 5 % are paid

for their work, & nearly 50% reported injuries.

The State Department's 2010 *Trafficking in Persons* report, describes children being traded as labor for West African cocoa plantations.

The low price paid to farmers for their beans is an underlying factor in these violations. Without a fair price farmers cannot afford to hire adults.

In the past several years major chocolate companies like Mars, Nestle and Ben & Jerry's have made commitments to increase their purchase of Fair Trade Certified cocoa that meets certain labor, social and environmental standards. Starbucks is implementing 'cocoa practices standards' for its suppliers. *

These commitments show that it is possible for the world's largest chocolate companies to institute programs to provide for reasonable supply chain transparency and accountability. If tuna can be labeled "dolphin free", there should be a similar

stamp showing that chocolate isn't made from cocoa beans harvested and processed by children who work instead of going to school.



Hershey, America's favorite chocolate brand, accounts for 42.5% of the U. S.

market. They state that they "*work to improve lives in local communities*" & "*focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods in West Africa,*" but they have not adopted 3rd party certification for at least some of their cocoa to eliminate the worst abuse: child & trafficked labor.

What can you do?

- 1. Buy Fair Trade** labeled chocolate.
- 2. Sign the petition** on the Stewardship table asking Hershey to take action to eliminate the use of forced, trafficked & child labor in their products, through 3rd party verification

*International Labor Rights Forum 8/19/08 www.laborrights.org/stop-child-labor/cocoa-campaign/resources

LOOK FOR THE LABEL

These labels from independent 3rd party agencies verify some level of fair labor & safe environmental standards in the product.

Look for them when you buy chocolate (especially for Easter).





BRENDAN UPDATES

THANKS to the 190 parishioners who have registered their **Food Lion MVP** cards with St. Brendan **Rewards** program our **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry** received a total of **\$1,031.26** in 2010!

Congratulations to **Jean and Fran Salone-Pelletier!** They were chosen as one the **5 outstanding volunteers in Brunswick County!** The award will be presented at

a special ceremony on **Tues. 4/19 at Odell Williamson Auditorium at 3:30pm.** **Cecilia Rivenbark** will be the guest speaker - all volunteers are invited to attend.

On Fri. 3/4. St. Brendan hosted the **World Day of Prayer** written by the women of Chile. Nine other churches participated. In keeping with the theme, *How Many Loaves Have You?*, women from St. Brendan baked 150 loaves of bread to be distributed to participants. A Chilean lunch

consisting of *Pastel de Choclo* (Corn pie with beef & chicken) and *Arroz con Leche* (rice pudding) & fresh baked bread was served. Thanks to **Jerry Siegmund & crew** for the lunch & **Ginny Grant** who coordinated the event.



Mark this date! The Parish Council announces that our annual **Parish Picnic** will be held at **Silver Coast Winery on Sun. 5/15.** Watch the bulletin for details.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES REPORT

Loaves & Fishes continues to be indebted to **Food Lion & Lowe's Supermarkets** for so generously donating their soon to outdate meat, produce and bakery items. **Boulineaus' Market in Cherry Grove, SC** consistently offers us the lowest prices on the non-perishable foods that we purchase, notifying in advance of sales so that we can buy in bulk - sometimes saving \$.25 or more/item (times that by 1,000 & see how it

multiplies!). **Bob Reddy, Allen Rundall, Dave Biesack & "Diaper Dave" Rosenfeld** make many trips to stock our shelves. Thanks to **Houston Holder & Omni Storage** for donating a climate controlled unit.



Social Ministries assisted some very unique situations. ~ helped a young woman get to Chapel Hill to see a specialist

because she had suffered multiple miscarriage ~ rent for a widowed young mother with terminal cancer so that she could remain at home with her children ~ clothes, underwear, coat & shoes for a domestic violence victim who escaped in the middle of the night ~ helped pay for repairs to the home of a family with a blind & disabled child after fire destroyed much of it.

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

This **FREE** one-morning seminar, offered by the NC Secretary of State and the Area Agency on Aging will be held at **St. Brendan on Sat. 4/30 from 9:00am - Noon.**

It's designed to give women

who are/will be experiencing changes in their lives: widowhood, divorce, job loss, retirement, first time employment, career re-entry, inheritances, etc., a 'commercial free' program to provide practical tools to increase financial literacy,

and improve the ability to identify and avoid investment scams and schemes.



Registration requested. Call 754-8548.



LOOKING AHEAD!

MARCH

- 9 - Ash Wednesday** Mass-9am & 7pm service
Lenten Luncheons (all Wednesdays in Lent) at Noon - see bulletin for location (4/13 at St. Brendan)
- 11 -** & all Fridays in Lent - **Stations of the Cross** after 9am Mass
K of C baked fish dinner (all Fridays in Lent) at 5:30 pm in Brendan Hall \$8
- 14 -** & every Monday for 8 weeks (not 4/25)
A Matter of Balance @ 1:30pm
- 19 /20 - Rally for the Relay for Life** at all Masses
- 20 - Interchurch Council Spring Concert** at Calabash. Presbyterian. @ 2 pm
- 26 - Parish Lenten Retreat** at 1pm
- 26/27 - Loaves & Fishes 2nd Collection**
Kairos Cookies collection

APRIL

- 16/17 - Craft Fair/Bake Sale** benefits Loaves & Fishes in Brendan Hall
- 26 - Red Cross Blood Drive** 11am - 3:30pm
- 30 - Women in Transition** 9:30am - Noon

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Mon. - Wed. 4/18 - 20 - daily Mass 9am
- Holy Thursday 4/21 - Lord's Supper Mass 7pm
 Veneration until 11pm
- Good Friday 4/22 - Lord's Passion Service 3pm
- Holy Saturday 4/23 - Food Basket Blessing 11a
 Easter Vigil Mass 8:30pm
- Easter Sunday 4/24 - Masses at 8; 9:30 (Sp.); & 11:15 am
- Easter Monday 4/25 - Eucharistic Service 9am
- ** Pastoral Center Closed from Noon on 4/21 through Monday 4/25

SOCIAL MINISTRIES 2010 REVIEW

From January through December 2010

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry fed:

6,403 Families (Avg. cost/family \$12.16
 cost/person \$3.21)

11,026 Adults

9,672 Children

3,528 Seniors

24,226 People

1,523 Packages of diapers were distributed

Income Total * \$ 84,816.28
 Expense Total \$ 77,885.62

*From quarterly parish collection plus income from plant sale, memorial donations, alternative gifts, Food Lion rewards & service group awards which totaled about \$7,500.00

Persons using the pantry donated back to the pantry food items valued at \$12,747.14

Social Ministries Outreach served:

487	Families (Avg. cost/family \$78.73)
373	Electricity
40	Rent
30	Gasoline
14	Medications
8	Water
12	Propane
54	Miscellaneous (see Report page 3)

* Donations to Non-profits	\$ 5,056.00
Parish Contribution	\$28,832.45
Poor Box & Special Projects	<u>\$ 9,508.32</u>
Total Expended	\$43,396.77

* Crop Walk, First in Families, Habitat, Home Preservation, Hope Harbor, Hospice, Interchurch Council, La Salette Missions, Literacy, Medical clinics, Relay for Life, Senior Resources, local schools, Teen Shelter, etc.