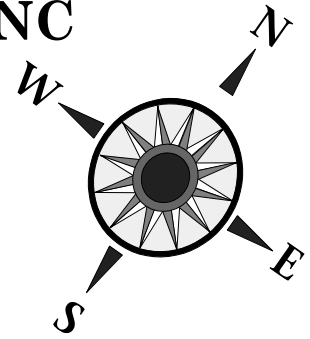


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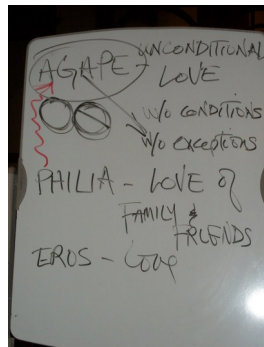
WINTER 2011

GATHERED...

**SERVICE
IS THE RENT
YOU PAY
FOR LIFE.**

ROBERT REDFORD

As a parish we certainly know how to 'GATHER' and this past Sept. 29th proves the point. On that day we hosted the Annual Anointing of the Sick and luncheon following the service, then we had a potluck dinner as a prelude to the Jack Jezreel program, "Love Without Exception"



Jack Jezreel, the Founder & Executive Director of JustFaith Ministries, a program that provides life-changing opportunities to transform people and expand their commitment to social ministry, challenged us to get out of our comfort zones and become agents of God's compassion and healing in a wounded world.

- but what?

So, on Thurs. 10/13 we held "The Next Step" - a meeting to determine where we were going, what we wanted to do, and how we were going to do it.

Several issues were identified, people went on fact-finding missions to determine needs and specific issue groups were/are being formed.

Following Jack's prescription, we have 'Gathered' and now we are ready to be 'Sent'. See "and SENT" on page 2 to learn more.

About 225 people attended and for the next 2 weeks, the office staff received multiple requests: What's next? Where do we go from here? I feel called to do more

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A MATTER OF BALANCE

Back by popular demand! St. Brendan will host a second session of the award winning program "A Matter of Balance" offered by Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc. beginning Mon. 1/23

at 1:30pm for 8 weeks thru 3/12.

This FREE program will teach you skills to help prevent falls, and enhance your mobility. Class size is limited; registration

required. Call Kathy Doyle 754-8548.



Social Ministries
Office
910-754-8548

and **SENT...**

The Next Step meeting identified five issues: Adult Handicapped Children, Homeless, Immigrants, Schools/Students, and Veterans. Groups/circles, composed of parishioners and others in the local community who see the needs and share the concerns, have been formed to respond to the challenges.

Adult Handicapped Children coordinated by **Pat Bowers & Joan Olenchak**. Today, about 76% of the 4.3 million people with developmental disabilities live at home, cared for



by a family member who is at least 60. These adult/children should have their own placement, one that matches need and abilities with supports and services. Group homes in neighborhoods usually are the best arrangement, but there are none in Brunswick County. Joan and her group are researching the possibility of getting one here.

Homelessness is a problem that is beginning to affect more and more families – especially those who have lost their unemployment checks and can no longer afford rent.

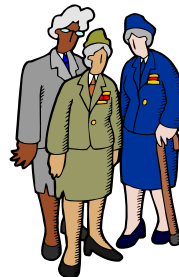
Corinne Butera & Barbara Serafin are coordinating this group - the **Brunswick Coun-**

ty Homeless Coalition - and have joined forces with others in the area to ask churches to open their doors during the coldest months of the year (November thru February) on a rotating basis so that the homeless will have a safe place to stay, eat a good meal, get a change of clothes, blankets and have some of their other needs met.

Immigration. **Pat Bueter, Ellen Nash & Pat Smith** are heading the group. After speaking with **Fr. Robert & Srs. Mary Teresa & Rosanne**, they were given the names of some of our Hispanic families who have special needs. They approached existing parish groups and parishioners (a few families or a community) to ask if they would “*adopt a family*” as a way to foster better integration within our faith community and also to assist these families with their special needs, remembering them on their birthdays, at Christmas and other times, etc.

Schools & Students are the focus of **Sandy Chinn and Ellen Lehrer’s** group. They learned that there is a big need for volunteers at the **Smart Start/More at Four** programs - especially reading to the children. A good educational foundation laid in these formative years is the best predictor of success in school –

including graduation from high school and beyond.

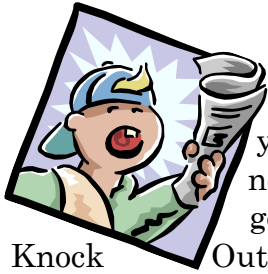


Last, but by no means least, are the **Veterans.** **Rita Canfield & Ellen Lehrer** discovered that Veterans share many of the same problems as the homeless- mental challenges, unemployment, etc., that are not being adequately met. In addition to the **Veteran’s Office** in Bolivia (Anita Harsell 253-2233), information and services can also be obtained at the **Little River Veteran’s Resource & Information Center** 843-427-4568 and the Vet’s **Emergency Crisis Line** 800-273-8255.

A new bin (marked **Homeless and Veterans**) has been placed with the other bins by the mailboxes in the Gathering Space to take donations of hygiene items, wash cloths, new underwear, men’s white socks, insect repellent, baby wipes, gift, restaurant, and phone cards, bottled water and individually wrapped snacks. The items will be given on a rotating basis to the homeless and veterans.

If you want to help with any of these groups or have ideas contact **Kathy Doyle** 754-8548.





BRENDAN UPDATES

How could you not notice the gorgeous Knock Out roses that cover our parish campus, or the beautiful flower pots that dot the church entrances! Much of that work is done by our volunteer **Garden Committee: Gail Colwell, Cindy Karchich, Dianne Lucarelli, Alicia Reyes, and Debra Summers.** So, if you know any of these ladies, please tell them what a great job they are doing!

The **Knights of Columbus** will be taking part in the **March for Life in Raleigh** on Sat. 1/14. Anyone who would like to join them is welcome. Please contact Ed Manz 579-1233. Car pooling will be available.

Connor Johnston's **Eagle Scout Meditation Garden** project on our campus is nearly complete. It is located in the wooded area at the rear of the large parking lot to the left of the storage shed. Thanks to all those who con-

tributed to this endeavor.

The South Brunswick Interchurch Council's 8th annual **Ocean Isle Beach Run for Food Half Marathon Run & 5K Run/Walk** (the food pantry's biggest fundraiser) will take place on Sat. 1/7. Half Marathon fee \$40; 5K Run/Walk \$30. (Registration forms are on the stewardship table). Volunteers to help with registration and during the race are also needed. Call Mary Pritchard 579-4684.

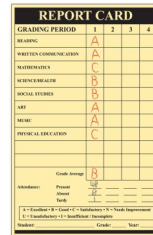
SOCIAL MINISTRIES REPORT

Our **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry** distributed 169 turkeys & 42 hams on the Mon. & Wed. before Thanksgiving. This special project was funded by the golf tournament that was held in July of 2010. Earlier in the week an organization in SC called with a donation of 100 lbs. of sweet potatoes to add to the meal!

All the area food pantries are noticing an increase in

the number of clients, especially among the seniors. The increased numbers come at the same time as the cost of food is rising.

Just in time for Christmas! You can pick up **Alternative Gift Cards** that will support our **Loaves & Fishes Pantry** or our **Social Ministries Outreach.** The cards are available at the Gift Shop



or the Pastoral Center. Simply take the card and give it to whomever you choose. Fill out the form, put your donation & completed form in an envelope & drop it in the collection!

We recently helped 2 families who were homeless with part of the rent for a new house. One lost their home to a fire and the other's rental home was deemed not habitable.



Social Ministries Outreach received a check for \$72.70 from **GOOD SEARCH** a Google search engine. It's easy to use and each time you do a search or buy something online from

GOOD SEARCH

one of the thousands of stores or sites (Amazon, discount coupons etc.) you earn \$\$ to help the needy. If you add GoodSearch to your tool bar it's even easier to use. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and follow the directions.

While you're at it don't forget to register your **FOOD LION MVP** card with St. Brendan, Shallotte #250960 go to <http://www.foodlion.com/CommunityOutreach/MVPEwards> or call Kathy Doyle 754-8548.



LOOKING AHEAD!

DECEMBER

12/8 Holy Day of Obligation - Immaculate Conception Mass @ 9am & 7pm

12/11 Our Lady of Guadalupe - Rosary @ 7pm; Mass @ 8pm; Fiesta follows

12/19 Advent Penance Service @ 7pm

12/24 - Choir Christmas Carol Concert at 3:30pm; Christmas Eve Masses at 4 & 6pm

12/25 - Christmas Day Masses at 9:30 and 11:15am

12/31 - New Year's Eve Mass at 5pm

1/1/ 2012 - New Year's Day Holy Day Masses at 8, 9:30 and 11:15am

The Pastoral Center will close on Friday 12/23 at Noon and reopen on Wed. 12/28

JANUARY

1/14 - Respect Life March in Raleigh

1/16 - Martin Luther King Day Office Closed

1/21 - K / C Dinner 6pm benefits Room at Inn

1/22 - Sheriff's Mass at 11:15am

1/23 - Balance class begins (8wks) @1:30pm

FEBRUARY

2/11-12 Annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration at all Masses

2/22- Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9am; Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm

FROM THANKS...TO MERRY...



As **Thanksgiving Day 2011** dawned, St. Brendan volunteers prepared 189 ham & cheese sandwiches for **Meals on Wheels** clients as part of their Thanksgiving meal, while other parishioners helped with the hot turkey dinner & fixin's that was assembled at Shallotte Presbyterian. Those who attended Mass, brought non-perishable foods and monetary donations were given to the pantry. Later that morning about 50 volunteers helped prepare,

cook, set-up, serve & clean-up for our **parish Thanksgiving dinner** for our Spanish & English speaking families - about 325 were fed! We were even able to offer that wonderful Thanksgiving tradition - **LEFTOVERS!** The best part of the feast was the re-enactment of the 1st Thanksgiving performed by the Jovenes (the Spanish Young Adult Group), narrated in Spanish & English. The Spanish Choir sang & everyone joined in singing "God Bless America" as the finale to a wonderful day!

During the first weekend of December parishioners returned their **Angel Tree Gifts** that will provide Christmas for children and seniors who are



struggling in this difficult economy.

Kings Day will be celebrated on **Sun. 1/8/2012** after **the 9:15 Spanish Mass**. All parish children are invited to participate.

