



Sunday, October 17, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 am The Rev. Regis Smolko

Participating and representing St. Brendan's in prayer and worship and receiving Holy Eucharist for all members and friends.

Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday** 8:00 am Worship, in person
 10:00 am Worship, in person
 10:00 am Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
- Monday** 7:45 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom, Monday thru Saturday
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
 Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
 11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
 1:00 pm Bible-Lite Group <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- Tuesday** 7:00 am AA meeting, via zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252
 8:00 am Staff meeting, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
 11:00 am Bible Study, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
 4:30 pm Book Club discussion, via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>
- Wednesday** 7:00 pm Evening Service

The Priest's Corner

Becoming an Episcopalian

During the Pandemic and because of our Live Streaming, we've had over twenty people asking how they can become members of St. Brendan's and/or Episcopalians. Of course, the first thing I tell them is that there are a variety of ways to do this, and we customize each person's journey. But I thought it might be helpful if I laid out for the church and my successor how I offered this, so that the new St. Brendan's will be able to take what works and feels significant for them and go on to improve the process as the Holy Spirit leads.

First thing, I recommend that the newcomer come six times before they decide to move further. I thought it helpful for them to see us from a lot of different angles to get a sense as to whether we are "real," true to what we look like upon first impression.

They often achieve this and say, "OK—what's next?" "Are you baptized and confirmed?" If the answer is "Yes," I ask if it's convenient for them to get us a copy of their Baptismal Record; if it's too inconvenient or not easily doable, we have them sign a document verifying they are baptized. If they aren't sure of their situation, we will baptize them when they are ready as a part of the welcoming process—this might be when they are formally received or at any stage along the way when they feel ready for the sacrament.

The next step is to let them know about four methods we have at St. B's to deepen their understanding of the Episcopal way of spirituality and the unique way St. Brendan's as a church complements this. We start by giving them a dynamic list of Episcopal and Brendanite practices, philosophies and methods of belief as well as the suggested content that forms our beliefs and how to customize their appreciation of the faith.

The four learning methods to accomplish this are as follows: 1) Our formal Lenten Episcopal Workshop—the pandemic took this out of operation the last two years, but prior to that we had a robust program conducted by The Reverend Moni McIntyre and supplemented by the Bishop, Julie, Darrell and myself. 2) Weekly involvement (in a flexible way) at our Monday Morning (11:00 am-12:15 pm) Modern Episcopalian Group. Each week we review the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday and discuss a topic or two from The Episcopal Handbook for discussion. It takes about a year to get through all the elements of the book, so people often go weekly for a while, take a break, come back, catch up by reading on their own and discussing parts privately, etc. Some people pick and choose subject matter that is more important to them. For the last three years we've had 8-15 people always participating in this active group. 3) When we have a group of six or more who make it known they are ready for a small group discussion of "What It Means to be Episcopalian," we put a weekly discussion group together to work together for six weeks discussing one of three Episcopalian books designed for such discussions. These groups determine a time that suits them, and their facilitator joins them weekly to guarantee a creative, energized and supportive way to understand the history and heart of Anglicanism and life as

an Episcopalian-Brendanite. 4) Some people want to broaden and deepen their understanding of the relevant topics one-on-one. One of the clergy or a knowledgeable and trained lay leader works with these individuals or couples for a period of time.

Next week, we will look at the various ways that people then declare themselves members of St. Brendan's and/or Episcopalians.

PS: Note that we are currently in the process of forming one of the "small groups" mentioned in Option 3 above. If you have an interest in joining such a group, let Katie or Regis know.

All good,
Regis+



A (BFF) Building Family & Friends donation

was given for the ongoing work of the Justice Ministry, from the Kinley family.

Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor. Contact Katie if you are interested in making a donation stbrendanskatie@gmail.com.

All Saint's Day is Monday, November 1, and we will be celebrating it on November 7. For St. Brendan's that means our tradition of reciting the Necrology by naming all who have been part of our prayers who have died in the last 12 months. All former members will automatically be included in the reading of the Necrology during the service. Contact Katie stbrendanskatie@gmail.com, if you have name/s of people you would like to have remembered.

Bible Lite. Bible Lite with Pastor Julie has returned **Tuesday Evenings, at 6:00**. At this time, we are reading the prophecies in Isaiah and the fulfillment of the prophecies in Luke. That's right – we are getting ready for Advent and Christmas by reading in October, November and into December. We can do it! Let me know if you are interested by emailing jlsphone1@gmail.com.



COOKIE WALK UPDATE. We are half way there. Last year we sold 420 dozen cookies at the drive through. So, assuming things stay pretty much the same we have that portion covered. NOW it's time to work on the "WALK" part. We want to make sure people have something to choose from if they decide to come inside. Remember that vaccination is required along with masks to come in to make sure everyone stays safe.

The flyers will be ready to distribute this week along with the raffle tickets. I will have quantities of each at church. If you can't get there send me a message and I'll make sure you get what you need to help make this a huge success! Thanks- Karen Dennis Kdennis54@verizon.net 412-580-2755

CRIS Advocacy, (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), meets monthly on the third Sunday in the library after the 10 a.m. service where they determine the distribution of St. Brendan's 10% tithe of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of two organizations. The first is Brother's Brother Foundation, a local organization that responds to need following natural disasters. Our donation was directed toward response for aid to victims of hurricane IDA www.brothersbrother.org The other is Episcopal Relief & Development, episcopal response to natural disasters. Our donation this month is directed toward relief from hurricane IDA.



Help for Inner City Children. Once again, St. Brendan's, through the Justice Ministry, is partnering with Blessed Be Educators, to provide gifts to needy children in the Pittsburgh area. Families will be served in Homewood, Wilkinsburg and the North Side. Blessed Be Educators is faith-based ecumenical non-profit, working in the Pittsburgh area to lift up teaching as a ministry and support teachers. Hats and gloves are needed for children 1 year old to 14 years old, sizes XS to XL. The older children are in often forgotten, so let's make an effort to include them. A bin will be set up at the entrance of the church. Please be generous, as you have in the past. Call Marilyn at 412-427-2715 with questions. Thanks in advance!

Fr. Regis is forming a small study group that may end up in people becoming **Episcopalians and/or Brendanites.**

Would you like to be a part of a group that will meet for six weeks to explore these interesting and important ideas?

The way we do it is once I hear from you, and we have at least four people committed, we'll figure out a day and time that works for all of our schedules. This will be a hybrid get-together—those who want to participate from church will meet at church and those who want to meet through Zoom will do it virtually. Attend and participate how it's more comfortable for you. You don't know each other well yet, but I know you all. You'll love to be together for this.

The get-togethers are fun, insightful and you'll learn a lot. We use a book as our thought provoked, and we take it from there. No one will be forced to say or do anything that's not comfortable.

I'd like to get this started as soon as we can because my retirement begins on December 31. You will be my last group until I get back in some form of ministry. It will be my honor that you be this group of people.

Contact Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com or Regis regisjs@verizon.net.



Vestry Meeting. On Monday, October 11, the Vestry held its regular monthly meeting. We discussed several items including: (1) a transition in the position of Treasurer, with Roger Botti taking on those responsibilities from Ellen Groves (see separate item elsewhere in this issue); (2) St. Brendan's contribution of \$300 towards expenses associated with the Consecration of Bishop-elect Ketlen Solak; (3) very preliminary issues surrounding the parish's 2022 Budget; and (4) planning under way for this year's modified Cookie Walk, Soup Sale and Freezer Raffle (more information to follow shortly). As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account.



CALLING ALL young people – those between 12 and 18 or in grades 7 to 12 – do you have questions about the Bible (like Can I trust the Bible?) or God (why does God allow suffering or does God discriminate against women or gay people?). Then join us at youth group. Cameron Grosh and Pastor Julie will be leading discussions twice a month on the first and third Mondays of each month. Let us know if you are coming so we can order enough pizza and books by emailing Pastor Julie at jsphone1@gmail.com.



The North Hills Food Bank is currently running low on supplies. They particularly would like boxed potatoes, pasta, and canned chicken. Please bring non-perishable food items/donations when you come on Sunday or any time the church is open, and you can leave them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Go to their website at <http://northhillsfoodbank.org/donations/> for a full list of what they need right now. Anything you can give will help. Thank you!

Centering Meditation at St. Brendan's. Please join St. Brendan's Spirituality Ministry for a Centering Prayer experience at our church next Monday evening, October 18th, at 7 pm. We will meet in the Hospitality room where the group can sit comfortably in a circle, as large as needed to accommodate the size of the group. The experience will last about an hour.

Centering Prayer is a method of meditation used by Christians placing a strong emphasis on interior silence. This is another in our series of activities in an effort to experience other forms of spirituality, prayer, and worship outside of our usual and comfortable Christian traditions.

We will be led by Jane Rahenkamp who has practiced centering prayer for many years, and who also serves as a professional coach and retreat master.

We would love to see you there! Contact Donna Aiello if you have any questions. donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com

Children's Corner



When I was in High School we had an awards case right when you walked in the building – of my school. The case held all of the school's trophies. But what it really did was announce how good we were. It was bragging that we were just a little bit better than other schools. And maybe you should treat us special because we won.

And maybe we even believed we were better and should be treated differently because of the awards - even if we didn't play on the team that won, after all it was our team.

In this week's gospel we see two of the disciples wanting to be treated better than the others by asking for special favors from Jesus. James and John, two brothers, thought that they were deserving of special recognition in the Kingdom of God. Now they knew that Jesus would not make a trophy case, so they just decided what special honor they deserved. They asked to always and forever be seated next to Jesus. They were calling shot gun forever.

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Are you willing to suffer as I am going to suffer?"

All sure of themselves they replied, "we are able." But Jesus said, "You may be able to suffer as I will suffer. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen." Now imagine how they felt - and the other 10 disciples felt. After all, they all gave up homes and families to follow Jesus and they thought they had won this place of honor.

Jesus heard them and called all of them together. "You've seen how rulers in this world throw their weight around," he said, "and when someone gets a little power it quickly goes to their head. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be the servant of all."

We see this every time we have a procession in church the greatest servant - the Bishop or the Priest is last not because they are important but because of their service.

Because Jesus told us, the Kingdom of God isn't about recognition, praise, and a seat of honor. It is about service to others. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve, and if we want to be like Jesus we will serve others too.

**Peace,
Julie**



Next Public Forum: Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 pm via zoom. Our next Public Forum is entitled **"See Us For Who We Are: Life After Incarceration"**. Terry Minor Spencer, a formerly incarcerated community activist, will speak on her experiences in the criminal justice system, and the various work she does. She wears a number of hats, including PIIN's (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network) paid organizer for their Ex-Prisoners Organizing (EXPO) project. To register and receive the Zoom link, email scregistration@uucnh.org. This Forum is planned by the Unitarian Universalists of the North Hills, one of the three churches in our newly-formed group, Faith in Action. St. Brendan's and Trinity Lutheran Church also participate in this group.

Come to St. Brendan's Watch Party: We will be holding a Watch Party in our Hospitality Room for anyone who would rather watch the Forum with other Brendanites. Just come to St. Brendan's around 6:30 - 7:00. Bring a snack and/or a beverage if you'd like. Hope to see you there!



Coming soon **Storymakers NYC**. The diocese purchased a new curriculum for children across the diocese and we are participating in using this curriculum. Beginning next week, Pastor Julie will be distributing 'zines for young ones – ages 6-12. If you are interested, this is a program that is easy for parents and church leaders to use, with little to no outside preparation needed. Contact Pastor Julie (jlsphone1@gmail.com) for more information.

Senior Warden's Corner

In last week's Little Log, I promised some **"Ministry Spotlights"**—an introductory overview of opportunities that may appeal to anyone who is considering (or reconsidering) the roles she or he plays as a member of St. Brendan's. Personally, I find it helpful to group ministries under four broad headings: worship, education, outreach and inreach. I'll address one category each week between now and November 4th. Today, then, let's consider worship ministries.

The beautiful services we attend as parishioners or guests at St. Brendan's do not just "happen." During the week, the altar flowers have been arranged; the altar linens, vestments, vessels, and candles have been set ready; and the service bulletins have been drafted, proofed and printed. On Sunday, even in these COVID times, our two liturgies draw on the services of at least two greeters at the front door, two ushers, two readers, one person to lead the prayers, and another to direct the livestream. In addition, for those with musical gifts, there are always opportunities to employ those gifts to enrich our worship. By my informal count, it takes between twelve and fifteen volunteers **each week** to assist our clergy and the Director of the Music Program in creating a meaningful experience for the rest of us. That is a heavy lift in a parish of our size—but a lighter one if more people agree to join the pool from which we draw.

On the positive side, few if any of these ministry opportunities demand special skills. If your singing voice is not exactly your strongest asset, talk to Daniel about playing an instrument. If you feel nervous about reading aloud in public, offer to hand out bulletins as an usher instead. If you are a born "techie," we need trainees to assist Sean and Cameron with the livestream—and to give them a break every now and then!

I speak from personal experience when I say that I have come to appreciate liturgy more as a congregant though learning how much thought and care goes into the preparation of each Sunday service. If you feel moved to contribute in any of these ways, it's easy to make a start: simply contact Fr. Regis, Tim Austin, Katie Cervone or any member of the Vestry. They'll make sure your name goes to the right person.

Next week: Education Ministries!

Senior Warden, Tim Austin

Pre-screening of Ferguson Rises: **A Father's Journey to Find Purpose** Monday, October 18 at 7:00 pm (Free Virtual Event)

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is presenting a pre-release screening of Ferguson Rises, followed by a discussion with several accomplished panelists. This documentary is about Michael Brown, whose son was killed by white police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson Missouri, and centers on the father's journey seeking justice and healing. This event fueled the global Black Lives Matter movement. This documentary is part of ITC's Stories for Justice, a project using documentary storytelling to support understanding about the inequities of our justice system and inspire local dialogue about reform. Registration is at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/screening-ferguson-rises-panel-discussion-w-film-participants-tickets-186001815437>.



Elsewhere in this issue you will find a few notes about the October Vestry Meeting last Monday evening. We highlight here the appointment of **Roger Botti to succeed Ellen Groves as our Treasurer**—an appointment that takes effect immediately and ends (technically speaking) in February 2022, when the next Vestry meets for the first time and (re-)appoints key officers for the parish. Roger has been understudying Ellen for a period that was extended due to the COVID crisis, so he is well versed in the Treasurer's duties. The Vestry also passed a motion thanking Ellen "warmly for her many years of selfless service as Treasurer and for the valuable advice that she has given to St. Brendan's clergy, staff, wardens and vestries throughout her term in office." Please take the next opportunity to congratulate Roger and express your appreciation to Ellen.

October 17 Steelers vs Seahawks – Football Pool
Contact Tim or Katie with questions

And the winners will receive . . . 1 st Quarter = \$45 2 nd Quarter = \$90 3 rd Quarter = \$45 Final = \$120		STEELERS									
		0	7	3	1	4	2	6	9	5	8
SEAHAWKS	1	AS	KM	CM	TP	DC	AK	MS	LL	TA	PM
	8	SB	AS	JS	RS	LL	KB	DP	CM	RT	DP
	6	EK	LT	AS	SH	AC	AB	RB	KC	SF	GV
	9	RT	LM	NG	AS	KG	DP	LT	CM	AK	SF
	2	KM	DA	KP	DP	AS	KD	SF	EH	TP	SB
	7	GV	MS	DP	GS	KG	AS	SH	KP	DP	SB
	0	LL	DP	RB	GS	KP	DA	AS	DP	SF	RS
	5	MS	TA	DP	LS	EH	DB	SF	AS	BS	TP
	4	DP	MD	TP	SF	DP	SB	EK	SF	AS	DM
	3	KC	SF	TP	DP	TH	SF	RS	MB	SF	AS



Haitian Project: At St. Brendan's we have been supporting one of our members, Isaac, who is committed to helping people in his homeland of Haiti. We have been collecting clothes and other used items for him to send to Haiti. Last year, Isaac completely filled a used truck which he had purchased with many donated items. It was driven to Miami and then sent on a boat to Haiti. A few of the items were damaged by a leak in one corner of the truck, and Isaac has taken precautions to prevent leaks from happening again. Most of the items survived the trip and are now being used and appreciated by the Haitians. You can see pictures of children using items that were shipped on top of the donation box in front of the church.

Now Isaac has bought two used school buses. One is completely full for shipment to Haiti. We need donations of summer clothes and shoes for adults and children. The adult sizes are medium to small but all sizes of men's shirts can be used. Also needed are bikes, cookware, tools, gardening tools, sewing machines, crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, cribs, towels, bedding, sleeping bags and comforters. If you would like to purchase something, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and bars of soap are appreciated. We will be collecting for 6 weeks or so. If you cannot drop off items at the church to put into the donation box, call Joyce Donadee 412-849-9816 to make other arrangements.

Requested Prayers

We ask your prayers for our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Larry Toler, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Matthew, Mark Shoemaker and Larry Tarrant.

For our parents, especially; Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Kirk Latta, Mike Dixon, John Barie, Chris Sensenich, Linda Ahlbrand, Marie Hazelton, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Arlene, Dennis Ranalli, Becky Horton, Sherri Hilbert, Mary, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.



October 2021 Ministry Calender

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Nursery	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
October 3 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st John Appledorn 2 nd John Appledorn P Michael Donadee <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Ellen Groves 10 Phoebe Juel	~	~	Cameron Grosh Tim Austin	Tim Austin	Need Volunteer
October 6 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
October 10 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st AJ McKenna 2 nd Dean Peters P Donna Aiello <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Sylvia Affleck 10 Shari Tarrant	~	~	Eric Helmsen Kate Heston	Larry Toler	Ken Parsons Regis Smolko
October 13 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
October 17 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 George Snyder 1 st Michael Donadee 2 nd Annemarie Malbon P Donna Aiello <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Joan Klinefelter 10 Janice Moore	~	~	Donna Aiello John Appledorn	Janice Moore	Need Volunteer
October 20 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
October 24 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd John Appledorn P Mary Bertucci <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 10 Kathy Miller	~	~	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Allison Kline
October 27 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
October 31 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st (Children) 2 nd (Children) P (Children)	8 Dottie Antonucci 10 Anelisa Tarrant	~	~	Allyson Baierl Michael Donadee	Cameron Grosh	Need Volunteer



November 2021 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Nursery	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
November 3 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
November 7 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Charlotte Pierce 1 st Michael Donadee 2 nd AJ McKenna P Tony Turo <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Sylvia Affleck 10 Janice Moore	~	~	Kate Heston Allyson Baierl	Tim Austin	Angela Schlumpf
November 10 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
November 14 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Alan Schneider P Linda Limberis <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Ellen Groves 10 Shari Tarrant	n/a	n/a	Eric Helmsen Michael Donadee	Larry Toler	Need Volunteer
November 17 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
November 21 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Donna Aiello 2 nd Mary Bertucci P Kate Heston <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 10 Phoebe Juel	n/a	n/a	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Need Volunteer
November 24 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
November 28 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 4th	8 George Snyder 1 st Children 2 nd Children P Children	8 Joan Klinefelter 10 Libby Juel	~	~	John Appledorn Mike Wick	Janice Moore	Need Volunteer

