



Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship, via live streaming**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
- Monday 8:15 a.m. Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
 Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
- 11:00 a.m. Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom**
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- Tuesday 7:00 a.m. AA meeting, via zoom**
 Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252
- 9:00 a.m. Staff meeting, via zoom**
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- 11:00 a.m. Bible Study, via zoom**
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- 4:30 p.m. Book Club discussion, via zoom**
 Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. Regis Smolko

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

A BFF donation was made in memory of Florence Donato, by her daughters Toni Passarello and Frances Donato.



Need a gift for someone who has everything? Would you like a way to acknowledge a special family event like a baptism or a birthday? A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs and have been utilized for items such as air conditioning replacements, audio-visual equipment; and acoustic tile work in the social hall. Please contact Katie if you're interested. Your donation will be noted in the Little Log if you wish. Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor!

The Drive Up Cookie Walk is next Saturday, November 21.

Instructions for Bakers

- ✓ You are welcome to bake whatever style of cookie you feel others will enjoy. We do ask that the cookies be "from scratch," though, because after all, the customers we aim to attract can buy at the store just as well as anyone else.
- ✓ If you can, please commit to making at least 10 dozen cookies of a single variety. That sounds like a lot, but if you once get into the swing of it, the numbers quickly stack up—trust us!
- ✓ Please do not make iced cookies because it is so hard to keep them looking attractive during handling. St. Brendan's is not certified by Allegheny County to sell baked goods that contain dairy in the form of "custards, cream fillings, cheesecakes, etc."
- ✓ Contact Katie, StBrendansKatie@gmail.com or text 412-708-7903 by November 14 to tell us how many dozen you are planning to provide.
- ✓ **The church will be open Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 10-12:00 and again Thursday evening from 6-7:00 for cookie delivery. If you have a front door key to the church, please deliver your cookies by Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. If those hours are impossible for you, contact Katie Cervone StBrendansKatie@gmail.com or 412-708-7903 and she will make special arrangements.**



Above all, thank you for your help in pulling off this COVID-year version of our fabled Cookie Walk. Next year, we look forward to being able to return the event to its former glory!



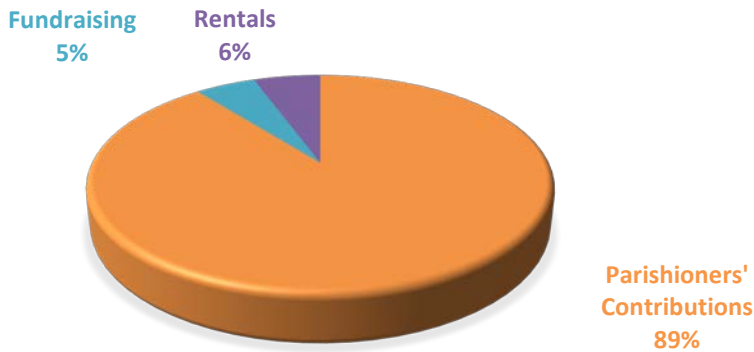
Vestry Meeting. On Monday, November 9, the Vestry held its routine monthly meeting via Zoom. The following were among the topics we discussed: (1) How to conduct the Annual Parish Meeting in January so as to ensure maximum attendance and participation by Brendanites in what will probably still be a COVID context; (2) How best to address some problem areas of the roof above the chapel and the sacristy (a preliminary to the formidable prospect of replacing the whole roof, which is well beyond its 30-year lifetime); (3) How to prepare a reasonable and robust Parish Budget for 2021 despite the many imponderables that the pandemic presents us with; and (4)

A change in our policy with respect to Tithe.ly, our online giving platform, such that payments made after January 1, 2021 will automatically be adjusted to include the very modest Tithe.ly fee (which the church is currently absorbing itself). As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account.

Senior Warden's Corner

When you're considering whether to contribute to an organization—and how much to give if you do—it makes sense to ask how that organization manages its money. These two pie charts display in a very simple way how St. Brendan's finances work. (I used the approved 2020 Budget for my illustrations; COVID has distorted our actual revenues and expenses for the year, though we continue to run modestly "in the black.")

2020 BUDGETED REVENUES



Our income comes almost exclusively from three sources, with parishioners' contributions (pledges) representing by far the largest amount. Facilities rentals and fundraising from events like the Cookie Walk or the Book Sale are important but cannot offset a reduction in our pledge income.

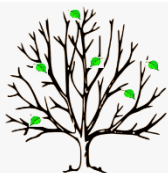
2020 BUDGETED EXPENSES



When it comes to expenses, we spend roughly half our budget on salaries and benefits for our priest-in-charge, parish administrator, music director and youth/children director. The mortgage on our building and the costs of operating it represent our second largest expense. We also contribute to the work of the diocese (the "assessment") and, in a tradition of which St. Brendan's is justly proud, devote 10% of our budget (through our CRIES Advocacy Program) to charitable causes in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Notice, by the way, how little we spend on our own programming, much of which is accomplished by willing volunteers!

We hope that this overview will help you understand the background to our stewardship campaign for 2021, giving you confidence that we use the resources available to us with care and in the service of God and God's people in need.

Gifts of Joy and Wonder
November 12.



Pledge Update!

As we explained last week, the leaves on this tree represent the pledges received through Thursday morning in response to our ongoing Stewardship Conversation. It's wonderful to see several green shoots after just a few days. Please keep your pledges coming in as a sign of your gratitude for all God's **gifts of joy and wonder**. Thank you!



Advent Wreath kit. We have added a new element to the famed St. Brendan's Cookie Walk. For those couples, families, or individuals who would like, we are offering a "kit" for creating your very own Advent Wreath at home. Each kit consists of: a green wire base with four candle holders firmly affixed to it; four 10" candles (three purple, one rose); strips of artificial fir garland to wrap around the base; and four purple ribbons. You can rely on these basics or (of course) "dress up" your wreath with natural evergreens, pine cones, or even a Christmas candle to go in the center. We will charge \$10 for each kit and have bought supplies for 25 kits initially. If demand seems to be really strong, we may consider a second purchase but a parishioner is covering many of the costs on the first round so that all the profits can go towards the Cookie Walk proceeds.

In the week following the first Sunday in Advent (November 29), we encourage any household with an Advent wreath (whether constructed from one of our kits or not) to take a snapshot of it and send it in to church for an Advent Gallery. We'll send more instructions about how to submit your image nearer the time.

To order your Advent Wreath Kit at a cost of \$10, please send an email to me (austover@gmail.com) or call me at 508-688-9554. Kits will be available for pickup from church during the Cookie Walk hours on November 21.



Looking for a graphic designer. The Justice Ministry is looking for someone who has some graphic design background to help design a "St Brendan's Believes Black Lives Matter" logo. If you have any experience designing logos, even better. Please contact Donna Aiello at donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com if you think you may be able to help and want to discuss. Thank you!

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Operation Smile, a global organization that sends medical teams to all parts of the world to evaluate and treat children with facial deformities.



We continue to offer the **opportunity to receive communion on Mondays and Fridays** by appointment only. If you are interested, email Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com your availability Monday/Friday and morning/afternoon. You'll come to the portico in front of the church with a mask on and approach the reception area in a socially distanced way. Regis or Julie will meet you for a brief service with Eucharist available for you to receive. We can catch up for a few minutes then depart. Those who have already received in this way once are very welcome to request an additional opportunity to receive.



Just Mercy: A story of justice & Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. We will be discussing the introduction and our own prison stories next Tuesday (October 20).



You can help. We have tubs outside to the right of the front doors for any food donations. Or, if you wish, checks can be sent to St. Brendan's and we will convert them into grocery gift cards. **We have now discovered a new mission. There are halfway houses in lower income areas who share any donations to them with their neighbors, and we will be supporting them with some of our food donations. This gives those residents a sense of meaningful purpose, being the ones to share rather than the ones in need.** We will continue distributing food to the North Hills Food Bank and the Community Outreach.

Need food? We can help. If you or someone you know has a food shortage, contact the church and we will be happy to help.

Children's Corner

What is your talent? Can you sing? I bet you can. I've heard a lot of you singing during services. What about dancing? Playing soccer or hockey? Or do you play an instrument? Can you hold your breath under water? And I bet you are smart – at something. I like to read and I read a lot. But I also play an instrument (or at least I used to – it has been a while). And I like to sing – especially if no one can hear me, and I dance. I knit too. And I play golf and tennis. Talents are using the gifts God gave us.

No matter what gifts God gave you, I know God's given each and every one of us at least one special gift or talent. I think when God gives us a gift, God expects us to use it. Meaning, we should not let our gifts go to waste. We practice and improve, and make the gifts we are given even better than when we started. In that way, we can show God how much we appreciate our gifts.

When I was in fifth grade, I started taking trumpet lessons. I didn't sound very good and my whole family had to listen to me practice. But I kept at it and the next year, when we were trying out for seats, I was the last trumpet.

But the music teacher saw that I kept practicing and trying and one day, he said to me, you know maybe trumpet is not the best instrument for you. Would you be willing to try another instrument? I was thrilled. I thought I would be playing trombone or saxophone. But he asked me to play baritone horn. I was disappointed because that meant I would play a lot of whole notes and have a lot of rests in the music. But I tried. I switched and kept practicing.

Then my parents told me we were moving to a new school. I was really upset because I wouldn't know anyone at the new school. But when we registered for classes, my mother said I was in the band and the guidance counselor got the band director. He asked what I played and I said baritone. He was excited. The school was short low brass players, but the school didn't have any baritones only euphoniums, would I be willing to try?

So I switched instruments. And went to band camp with over 150 people I didn't know but who all knew each other. I had practiced the music all summer to learn my part and to be able to play the new instrument. But I got to camp and was homesick, then got sunburned, and was miserable. Until three girls in my cabin started to talk to me about music, and band, and everything. We became friends and they are still my friends and all because I took a chance to see what my talent was and was willing to keep practicing and trying to find my right thing.

So, what should we think about in this story? Well, Jesus tells us, "to all those who have, more will be given." Meaning if we start with what gifts God gives us, practice and work hard, we will see how much better we can get. It's like starting on trumpet and finding a best friend in band. It's not about being the best player in the band, it's about using what gift has God given us and making that gift even better. Because when we use the gifts God gives us, we may find out that we get even more.

Peace,
Julie+



MONDAY MORNING MODERN EPISCOPALIAN GROUP, heeding the suggestion of Vestry, invite all to join us on the four Monday Mornings during Advent (beginning November 30 at 11:00am) in a Zoom Meeting to learn all about the 39 Articles of Religion. These are the best beliefs/practices of the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church (the best of both religious worlds) that formed the development of the Episcopal Church. You will be amazed! Look for an interesting tidbit-weekly to lure you to join in. The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, tucked away in the back of The Book of Common Prayer, is an historical document of the Episcopal Church and of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Articles were adopted during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century. Anglicanism is generally not viewed as a confessional denomination and the Articles of Religion are not binding on Episcopalians. The Articles did, however, play a significant role in shaping the identity of the Church of England and Anglicanism. Join us as we look at this historical document and discuss its relevance, if any, for today.



The Haitian project. There are now two school buses in Pittsburgh that are being packed up to go to Miami and then on a boat to Haiti. Thank you for all of the donations that came from Brendanites and people in the community. Some of the clothing, shoes, and other items are still being counted and sorted. Donations are still being accepted to help to fill the second bus. Keep them coming!!!



Do you have a special prayer request? Contact Ruth Horton rvhorton@gmail.com. Pastoral Care Ministry members will include those persons in daily prayers or send out a prayer via text or email to someone if requested. All prayers and requests are kept confidential.

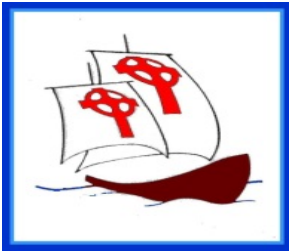
Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and risking their own well-being by tending to those whose health has been threatened.

We are grateful for their selfless dedication and ask that God watch over them, keep them safe and give them both strength and rest. We hope that you will join the church in thanking and praying for:

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Kimberly Becker | Maddie Bell | Kate Burnett | Frank Casey | Bob Cerra |
| Brenna Conroy | Adele Cotter | James Cotter | Laura Dugan Demers | Nicholas Demers |
| Andrea Dickerson | Franklin Park Police Department | | Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department | |
| Rebecca Donadee | Amanda Gagnon | Jeff Gagnon | Shelley Gagnon | Betsy Gentile |
| Lynne Gloor | Ann Hockenberry | Beth Lutz Hoffman | Eric Hood | John Jacobs and staff |
| Kerri Jensen | Dr. Ken | Luke O'Neill | Kim Pierce | Becca Sands |
| Warren Sands | Andrew Smith | Justin Zeigler | Cindy | Jennifer |
| Julie | Mike | Patrick | | |

Prayer for our medical personnel and first responders. Lord, please bless and care for all healthcare workers and first responders. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, skill and compassion so that they may be instruments of Your healing power for those they serve and care for. Give them strength and support. May they be able to do their work in a spirit of love and kindness and mercy. Keep them safe and well as they make personal sacrifices on behalf of Your community. Amen.



ST. BRENDAN'S MISSION

Jesus said, "I have come to give life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10.
Our mission is the realization of fullness through:
the worship of God; service to the world;
active concern for each other;
and education to expand mind and spirit.

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tim Austin
Jr. Warden & Secretary/Clerk: Ruth Horton
Adult Formation: Dean Peters
Audio-Visual Technology: Cameron Grosh
Communication: Annemarie Malbon
Finance: Mary Bertucci
Fundraising: Larry Toler
Inreach & Hospitality: Janice Moore
Newcomers: Mary Bertucci
Dean Peters
Outreach: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
Stewardship: Larry Toler
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti
Worship: Cameron Grosh

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolytes: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
Pastoral Care Ministry: Ruth Horton
Flower Ministry: Libby Juel
Sylvia Affleck
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Ushers: Eric Helmsen

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Pat Carl
Book Discussion Club: Julie Smith
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Finance Chair: Eric Helmsen
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Arts & Crafts & Cookie Walk: Karen Dennis
Memorial Garden: Dan Moore
Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
Parish Profile: Inactive
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: George Snyder
Scholarship: Tom Waseleski
Sticks & Strings: Joni Reis
Debbie Jennings
Web Site: Kelli Cerra

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Justice Ministry: Donna Aiello
Miryam's: Julia Wick
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Corner of Rochester & McAleer Roads
2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143
Phone ~ 412-364-5974

Office hours ~ Monday thru Friday 8:00-2:00

Web Site ~ <http://www.stbrendans.org>

Online Parish Directory ~ <https://www.stbrpit.com/> (authorization required for access--apply online)

Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>

Nextdoor ~ <https://franklinparkpittsburgh.nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-sewickley-pa/recommend/>

Priest, Regis Smolko ~ regisjs@verizon.net

Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ jlsphone1@gmail.com

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ StBrendansKatie@gmail.com

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ meghanthompson328@gmail.com