



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

8:00 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>

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Women's virtual Coffee Hour
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. 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.

The Priest's Corner

Beginning a Spiritual Journey

If you heard the sermon last Sunday, you might recall that between arrival at church last Sunday and the actual delivery of the sermon, I felt led to talk about something I didn't prepare for. So I stepped out in faith and talked about your and my "Marching Orders." From whom are we taking them? Jesus came out of the waters of baptism and saw the heavens torn apart and a voice spoke, "You are my son (daughter), my beloved, and in you I am well pleased." These were Jesus' "Marching Orders," and once he heard these he started his ministry. Prior to hearing these words, we don't hear a peep out of him. After these words, he doesn't shut up—you can't stop him.

So how have you or are you starting your spiritual journey? If you begin your journey on a negative foundation (guilt, anger, hate, shame), you don't get far. We must start positively with a wonderful happening, a larger-than-life experience. You are dipped into the depths of your real being in baptism—and that is simply, "You are "beloved!" (This means "dear to the heart.") God is well pleased with you. This pronouncement, for Jesus, was his larger-than-life experience.

If you've never heard someone "delight in" you, you have no place to begin your journey. I was using a new GPS this past week. I could enter where I wanted to go. Yet for the life of me, I could not figure out how to put into the calculation where I was starting from. As a result, I couldn't get traction. So, if you miss God's voice giving you your marching orders, you have nothing that is wonderful to head toward because you have nowhere to begin. Thus, you spend your life trying to give it to yourself, and you never really believe it because it has to come from somebody you perceive is better than you, greater than yourself.

This is generally the job of mom and dad. Our culture, however, isn't too great at letting people know that they are inherently good, "beloved." Christianity hasn't taught culture this. Instead Christianity taught "You have to earn it. You've got to work for it!" You begin to feel worthless, not good enough. And here's where that deep-down self-doubt comes from. And from there comes your self-fulfilled prophecy. What we saw in DC last Wednesday was exactly this.

But Brothers and Sisters, there's another way. It's the Gospel from last Sunday. Jesus "didn't get it" until the age of 30. (This would be around 64 these days.) Until he absorbed God's affirmation (You—my beloved—I'm pleased!), he had nothing to say. But after the affirmation ... no stopping him. The Good News is simply this. As he—so we! You have no Good News to share until you hear these "Marching Orders" but then you also will be unstoppable.

Regis+

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24.

As with so many of our activities since the last Annual Meeting, this event will be held by Zoom. An agenda and detailed instructions about how to join the meeting will be made available prior to the meeting and in the Little Log next week. So too will the Annual Report for 2020.

One of the significant items of business for the Parish Meeting is the election of three new members to our Vestry. As required by the Bylaws, an ad-hoc Nominating Committee was created and will present on January 24 the following three candidates, all of whom have agreed to serve if elected. Nominations from the floor are also permitted.



Lauren Ramakrishna I have been a part of St. Brendan's since September 2018, when, after leaving the Catholic Church, I was looking for a religious community that offered a more welcoming, inclusive atmosphere, and afforded opportunities for parishioners to take an active role in the decisions about the church.

You may have seen me at the 10:00 am service, usually with my son, Griffin (6), and more recently with my daughter, Ainsley (3), as well. (My husband, Ashwin, is Hindu. While he doesn't regularly attend with us, you may have seen him in the seats periodically!)

In 2019, I organized the annual Easter egg hunt for the kids, and more recently I worked with other church members as part of the Working Group to Reopen St. Brendan's.

I'm an editor/writer by trade, and I work on freelance projects while managing my two little kids. When I'm not working or knee-deep in the joys or trials of parenting, I like to read, exercise, and paint.

I'm excited to work with other Vestry members to help St. Brendan's continue to thrive as a welcoming home for families, even during these challenging months when we have to worship through a screen. Thank you for continuing to offer your love, prayers, and support to my family.

Ronald Ladick. I was born on April 2, 1956 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. My childhood years were spent growing up in the state of Illinois. My parents, both from Pittsburgh, moved our family back here in January 1973.

My undergraduate college years (1974-1978) were spent at Slippery Rock State College where I majored in English/Secondary Education. Upon graduating, the ensuing 33 years would see me as a teacher (at elementary, middle school and high school levels), as a student (achieving my Masters and Doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh, 1984 and 2001, respectively, a second Masters at Carnegie Mellon University in 1996 for Management, a year of independent study at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, and two years at Geneva College to acquire a certification in elementary education) and as a school administrator (an interim middle school principal, an elementary school principal and an Assistant Superintendent).

Throughout my life, the Episcopal Church has been a constant. I was baptized at Fort Knox Divinity Chapel on April 11, 1956. My early infancy saw me attending St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pekin, Illinois. My family became members of Peoria's St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1961. Five years later, when my family moved north to Lansing, Illinois, we became members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hammond, Indiana.

And when we arrived in Pittsburgh in 1973, we became members of St. Martin's Episcopal in Monroeville. Prior to joining St. Brendan's, my wife and I attended St. Phillip Episcopal Church in Beaver.

My wife, Sharon, and I are both retired and reside in Center Township, Beaver County.



Sean Sweeney. Sean Sweeney was born and raised in Vienna, VA, a suburb of Washington, DC. The only child of Sharon and Pat, Sean grew up attending Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, VA and was baptized in 1994 at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA. He received his undergraduate degree from George Mason University and attended graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University. He moved to the Pittsburgh region in 2005, and currently resides in Brighton Township, PA with his 14-year-old daughter, Libby.

Sean arrived at St. Brendan's the first Sunday of Christmas 2019, and immediately knew he had found his church home. He was impressed by the warm reception, liturgy, and inclusive atmosphere. Within weeks he found himself a regular at the coffee hour and within months he began working with Fr. Regis to join St. Brendan's. Since March of 2020, Sean has dedicated every Sunday (except one to attend a funeral) to producing St. Brendan's live stream services. He looks forward to continued service to St. Brendan's, especially in using technology to expand our reach.

In his professional life, Sean is the Global Chief Security Advisor at Microsoft and is a previous Chief Information Security Officer at the University of Pittsburgh. Sean is a frequent author and speaker on cybersecurity and stays connected to the region as an Affiliate Practice Scholar in the University of Pittsburgh's Cyber Institute of Policy, Law, and Security. In his free time, you can find Sean and Libby on his sailboat, Island Girl, sailing on Lake Erie.

CRIES Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Doctors Without Borders, an international humanitarian medical non-governmental organization of French origin best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases. www.doctorswithoutborders.org.



The Haitian project. Thank you everyone for your donations. We are hearing that people are also needing hats and sunglasses to protect their eyes from the harsh sun. Recently we had a donation of 28 baseball hats which will be terrific and there were 29 pairs of children's shoes which are really needed.

Children's Corner

Just 5 more minutes

When my mother used to call me to get out of bed, get ready for school, come and eat breakfast, I used to say, "just give me 5 more minutes." I wanted those last few minutes in a warm, cozy, comfortable bed. I had those heavy quilts and soft pillows, and great dreams I wanted to stay with, but Mom insisted. Get up, start your day, it's time to get going.

Now sometimes, like on my birthday, she would say, "Wake up Julie, it's your special day and something special is going to happen for you." For a long time, and I mean a reallllllllly long time, until I was about 45, I thought two things. OF course something special is going to happen to me, it's my birthday, I'll get cake and presents. Everyone will be nice to me because today is my day. As I got older, I thought something else – what do you mean something special will happen for me?

Sometimes we get called to do something and we don't answer right away and sometimes, when we get called, even if we want to do that thing – take a trip in the car, go get some ice cream, go visit a family member, or go to school, we just need a few more minutes to just. Get. GOING. In this week's Bible readings, the stories are about people who responded immediately to a call.

First, we hear about Samuel and then we hear about Jesus calling his first disciples. One of the biggest differences between Samuel and me, is when he was called he got up immediately but didn't quite recognize the voice that called him. In the Gospel reading, we have Jesus beginning to call his disciples to follow him. They immediately drop everything – their families, their jobs, their old lives – EVERYTHING – and follow Jesus. Wow.

Samuel's story is interesting because first he was young – probably about 7 or 8 when God called him. And when God called, Samuel jumped up immediately and responded. He didn't ask for 5 more minutes in his warm bed, he got up and said, Here I am, what would you like me to do Lord? The same with the disciples, they drop everything, right then, and follow Jesus.

Sometimes when God calls us, the voice is like a whisper, or we're not sure who is calling us. But sometimes that call is clear – we know who called us and what we are supposed to do. This week, listen carefully and think about the ways God is calling you.

**Peace,
Julie+**

Senior Warden's Corner

Those who were able to join Tuesday night's forum on climate change were treated to a comprehensive and daunting overview of the challenge facing mankind. Larry Schweiger demonstrated an impressive command not only of climate science and the copious data available, but also of the efforts being made to slow the train we are currently riding towards the cliff's edge. Indeed, the one thing that was somewhat reassuring was Larry's continued optimism and energy despite a long series of slowdowns and setbacks. As so often in the past year, I came away from a St. Brendan's forum asking what I should be doing—what my contribution should be in applying the brakes (or even moving the gear lever from Drive to Reverse!). Meg and I do try to be energy-aware in our everyday lives (we've owned Priuses ever since they first came out) but I am sure that there is much more that we could and should do.

More importantly so far as this Little Log is concerned, what practical measures could St. Brendan's itself consider as we move into a new year? Eighteen months ago, we effectively banned single-use plastics from our premises under Janice Moore's leadership. That was certainly an eco-friendly step, though of course it did not address global warming. So what new initiative should we be looking into today?

Hopefully, the Justice Committee may come up with some suggestions. But it is also up to all of us to toss into the discussion whatever we know about energy savings and ecological best practices. Our call to steward God's amazing creation requires nothing less. So please feel free to send your ideas—however idealistic, however ambitious, however humble—to me, to Donna Aiello or to any member of the Justice Ministry. Humankind is going to need all of the creativity available to us to meet this challenge.

Tim Austin



St. Brendan's Women's Coffee Hour. If you would like to join St. Brendan's women's virtual Coffee hour which meets on zoom Saturday mornings at 9:30, join us by clicking on our link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>. This is a way to connect with other women from St. Brendan's and give us a "lift" for the week. All are welcome to join us and there is no expectation that you need to join us every Saturday - just when you have the time and feel like joining us. If you have any questions about how to log in, please contact Joyce Donadee at 412-635-2312. You can save the zoom link too because we will use the same link every Saturday.



Replacing a laptop? Many folks will be updating their home technology this season. If you're upgrading to a newer device, please consider donating the old one to the Conversation Friends ESL program. Some of our students have trouble joining our Zoom classes on cell phones while other prospective learners may not sign up at all because they know their technology is inadequate. We will work with you to ensure that your hard drive is wiped clean. Contact Tim Austin at 508-688-9554 or austover@gmail.com to discuss this possibility.



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.



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.

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.

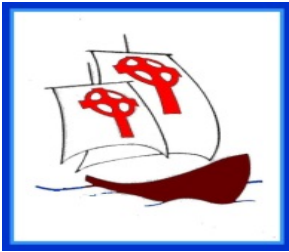
We are grateful for their selfless dedication and ask that God watch over them, keep them safe and give them both strength and rest. We hope that you will join the church in thanking and praying for:

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|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 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 Judson | 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.

Prayers for Our Nation: In the two weeks leading up to the presidential inauguration, the Cathedral will offer brief online prayers for our nation, together with our interfaith and ecumenical colleagues, each day at 5:00 p.m. We invite you to spend five minutes in prayers for safety, solace and national unity. For more information, click here <https://cathedral.org/>.



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