



Sunday, August 15, 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, and
10:00 am Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_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

"Leave the Place Like You Found It...Hmmm?"

For years, we rented out our condos in Florida and quickly realized we could discontinue asking our seasonal renters for a security deposit because they were always so faithful to our conditions for departure: "Leave the Place Like You Found It." We had the same five renters for over ten years and they were so honest and careful with our property that we no longer needed to require the security deposit. They were trustworthy.

In so many ways I've tried to live my life from this simple rule of respect. Doing so, paid many rewards for me and others—mainly the respect of those whose property or personal gifts were from time to time given to me to steward and/or use. I recommended this, taught it, preached it and proved it to myself many times over. In preparing to depart St. Brendan's as priest-in-charge, this helpful directive came to my mind and heart over and over. I should think about "leaving the place like I found it."

Further, it was suggested (I think) to me that I help people to see and understand that my successor may not be able to do as much as I made it a habit to do. (There is a reality factor involved in this. The new priest may not be in a position to do what a basically retired and financially independent one like me could do on a part-time salary.) My dear St. Brendanites, you really do need to be aware of this reality! Be aware. Now to help out in this regard, I am making room for many of my "extras" to have competent continuance going forward—you've likely already noticed. Other than reminding you of this reality; going forward, what I'm writing in this Priest's Corner will be the extent of my "help" in this regard.

With your love and support, I will continue working and ministering at full throttle until the day I cry and dance my way out into the world of retirement on December 31, 2021. I assure you that my creativity will be strong and my ability to spot opportunity will continue. I will not limit my energy, interest, sermon-prep/delivery and availability. For example, I'd like to continue growing a robust, risk-taking, forward-thinking, open-to-training, pastoral care/counseling ministry that will take the meaningful work of Eddie Wise and his supervisors to the next level for this corner of God's church.

My hope is that all who are returning to St. Brendan's as the new-normal, real time, post-plague church, are safely settled into the routine of a consistent return practice either in-person or virtually. I'd be so relieved and happy to leave you like I found you pre-pandemic but with the additional 20 and predictably 50 new people who are already deciding to become new Brendanites. I'm beginning to realize, however, that this dream will likely not be fulfilled by December 31. But what a joy it will be for the new priest and the new St. Brendan's! There is so much to look forward to—you are Saint Brendan's!

I snuck in some "leave the place like you found it—NOT" above; now for the finale. I recognized as I reflected on the dynamic tension going on inside me that the "leave the place..." wisdom is most often the best road to follow; but not always. After all, you called me so that changes would occur. Why would we want to go back to what it was like when we started together? For example, technology is here to stay. The screen is key to our new survival; do you realize we've had it in place for over a year and "no bouncing balls"

appeared! Further, those name badges are here to stay and to be worn—the only change will likely be to improve them by making it safe for people to share their preferred pronouns. Kids' programming and involvement will only grow since it's obvious that we don't just see them as the future of our church; they are the present of our church.

One last thing, I asked the clergy to "put skin in the game" by wearing masks throughout the service and remove them only to preach from a safe place while being properly socially-distanced. This is behind the altar at the 8:00 am liturgy and in the pulpit at the 10:00 am. Once children are vaccinated or if/when the Delta variant becomes less a threat, we will ease the preaching positioning. Just so you know, I did entertain for a few weeks now that I'm in the pulpit—I'd remain there until December 31 (and ask the clergy to stay there too). After all, I "should leave the place as I found it." Prior to Ted and I arriving, the pulpit was used regularly at St. B's. So I found myself explaining my pulpit preaching move to a few parishioners this weekend and they gently reminded me that I was called to bring connection and uplift and newness. Why would I change what is so universally accepted, appreciated, liked and loved? Thank you for preaching to the preacher.

I'll be back in the middle of the congregation as soon as we can more reasonably guarantee safety for our children who cannot yet get vaccinated. The other clergy will determine the approach to preaching that feels most comfortable to them—this incidentally was our protocol prior to the recent variant strain of the virus.

So "leave the place like you found it" works in many circumstances, mostly when you're dealing with strangers you can't really trust and conditions that offer scarcity; but not when you're dealing with trustworthy people and abundance. And guess where St. Brendan's is and will continue to be?

All good,
Regis+



A **Brendan's Family and Friends donation** was given by Carol Meese in thanksgiving for avoiding a scam. "Instead of giving the bad guys money, I'm donating it to St. Brendan's BFF Fund".

Childrens Corner

A word to the wise?

When we were all very little, maybe even too little to remember, our parents gave us a lot of instruction and advice – they told us things like don't touch fire, or don't stick forks into electrical outlets. Good advice, life saving advice and because we were young, we listened.

At least I did.

Then as I got older, I thought I knew better than my parents and started to block my ears to what they had to say – things like save part of my earnings every week so that I would have money in the bank for a rainy day. They also told me things like, "don't stay out late" and "what you do after midnight, you can do before midnight – be home by curfew." These sound like rules, and some of them are, but they are also good advice.

Staying out late and being at the wrong place at the wrong time, can get me into a lot of trouble. Being at the right place, can keep me out of trouble.

Paul is doing the same thing in his letter to the Ephesians this week – he's giving them advice. He is telling the Ephesians things like:

- Be careful how you live
- Don't get drunk on wine
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord
- Give thanks to God for everything



If Paul were here today, he would probably write an email or tweet these ideas. But because he wrote letters, we still have his advice today. Maybe we should write more letters to keep those ideas around for those who follow us?



This week at Vacation Bible School, we will be writing notes not to give advice but to cheer people up. Do you know someone who needs a note of good cheer? If so, email me at jlsphone1@gmail.com and I'll make sure a note gets sent.

Peace,
Julie+

CRIES Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of Caring Foundation, located in Cranberry Township. They offer grief counseling and interaction for children suffering the loss of a loved one.

The next CRIES Advocacy meeting will be **Sunday, September 19, 2021** in the Library following the 10:00 service.



A donation to the **Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF)** fund is the perfect way to honor a special day or loved one while supporting unbudgeted building needs of our church. BFF funds have been used to purchase various items.

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.



Hospitality Hour Volunteers Needed! St. Brendan's has re-instituted Hospitality Hour! We are therefore looking for individuals, couples or families who plan to be at church for the 10:00 Sunday Eucharist in the coming weeks and would be willing to host. This is not a big deal. Numbers are modest at the moment (perhaps 25 people) and we urge you to keep the refreshments simple (coffee or lemonade, doughnuts or cookies). You can set up outdoors if the weather is nice or in the Social Hall if it is not. To volunteer, contact Katie. (stbrendanskatie@gmail.com).



Brendan's Boots, the parish hiking group, will hit the trail at Fall Run Park in Shaler on Tuesday, Aug. 31. The shady, wooded gorge contains a stream and a 30-foot waterfall. Participants will meet at the church at 9 a.m. and carpool to the park. After the walk, the group will enjoy lunch at Bonefish Grill at McCandless Crossing. Everyone is welcome; feel free to bring a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Waseleski (twaseleski@comcast.net).



Vestry Meeting. On Monday, August 9, the Vestry held its regular monthly meeting. The following were among the specific business items on our very full agenda: (1) We received a brief report on progress made by the Discernment Committee in the initial phase of its work (*see the Senior Warden's Corner elsewhere in this issue*). (2) We received and approved the report of the Audit Committee, which offered two recommendations that we will be implementing in the coming weeks. (3) We reviewed the duties of the Vestry Member in Charge on a given Sunday and assigned her or him the final responsibility for counting and recording the plate contributions at both services. (4) We decided to set aside two September Saturdays for "cleaning out" the church building and then "tidying up" what is left, so that the facilities are appropriately available for activities, rentals, etc. (5) We accepted a recommendation to provide labels that some parishioners may choose to add to their name badges signifying the pronouns they prefer others to use when referring to them. And (6) we approved, as a trial fundraiser, a football "pool." (As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account. There will also be more detailed explanations of some of these decisions in future issues of The Little Log.)



Come join us for quiet, peaceful **Evening Prayer** in the chapel on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The service follows the Prayer Book closely and includes the Prayers of the People from the previous Sunday. This is a perfect way to continue our intentional prayer for our blessed Brendanites during the week.



St. Brendan's Adopt-a-Highway crew will hold its next trash pickup on Saturday, Sept. 4. Anyone age 14 and up may take part by meeting at the church at 8:30 a.m. and carpooling to the Camp Horne interchange of I-279 in Ohio Township. The cleanup is over by 10:45 a.m. Please contact Tom Waseleski (twaseleski@comcast.net) if you'd like to help.



St. Brendan's Justice Ministry. Are you interested in finding ways to answer God's call to work for equity and social justice? We all have spiritual gifts to offer, and the committee would welcome you and your gifts. Please consider joining our committee. For more information, please contact Ginny Volponi, gabby4045@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Transition Committee, we'd like to ask your help in distributing this Invitation link to all members of your parish to a farewell party on **Saturday, August 28, for Bishop Dorsey & Betsy McConnell**.

At the Bishop's request, we are holding a Pig Roast (with other foods, too) at Christ Church, North Hills, on Saturday the 28th from 4 pm to 7 pm. Friends are invited to drop by for as little or as long as they wish, and there is no charge for this event. We hope you will attend and your parish will be well-represented! And kids, of course, are welcomed!

Here's the link to the invitation: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/a-pig-roast-and-more/>

We look forward to having a wonderful time, rain or shine (yes, we have tents). If you have any questions at all, feel free to reach out to us.

Senior Warden's Corner

Folks differ in their interest or commitment to helping to lead the many organizations in their lives. Some attend School Board and PTO meetings and stand for leadership positions. Some join the board of the Homeowners Association for the housing development they live in. Some participate in the behind-the-scenes work of whichever political party they support. Some devote time and effort to leading not-for-profit organizations that are close to their hearts (the symphony, a conservation organization, the local library). Then again, many of us do not do these things. We are content to let others “take point.”

I was delighted, therefore, to learn how many of you took time out of your busy lives to complete the survey developed by our Discernment Committee. I am of course interested to see the data—and to read the Committee’s analysis of it—but for now, let’s simply celebrate the level of engagement that led to well over 65 responses. **I know enough about surveys to understand that this figure is one we can all be truly proud of.**

There are also opportunities to become involved in the work of our diocese. This may seem far removed from the comfortable confines of 2365 McAleer Road, but the decisions that diocesan bodies make have a real impact on our lives as a faith community in Franklin Park. Financially, we have benefitted from generous grants for our security upgrades and for the Garden of Hope (twice). Administratively, the support of the staff downtown has proven invaluable when it comes to payroll, insurance and the like. If you would like to know more **and perhaps offer yourself as a candidate for one of several councils and committees**, please contact Joyce Donadee or Julie Smith+ soon, as the annual deadline for submitting applications is approaching fast.

Just as “**We are** ... St. Brendan’s!”, after all, it is also true that “**We are** the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh!”

Tim Austin



Our Next Free Zoom Public Forum.

How can we lead our next generation into a greater and more equitable future? What do students need in order to access accurate historical information?

Join us in our next free Zoom webinar:

Systemic Racism & Teaching the Next Generation Thursday, August 19 at 7 pm

A local activist, Tanisha Long will help us understand how we become a more socially aware society, beginning with teaching young students, as the way children approach the world is often shaped by early learnings in the classroom. Ms. Long will discuss education access, critical race theory and the long-term effects of systemic racism on students of color.

Ms. Long is the founder of Black Lives Matter-Pittsburgh as well as Re Visions, a non-profit focused on creating a fair learning environment and broadening our understanding about the long-lasting effects of inadequate education.

To register, email stbrendanskatie@gmail.com. This Public Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills.



Requested Prayers:

We ask your prayers for our beloved members of St. Brendan’s, especially; Jack Jacobs, Joyce Donadee, Matthew, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Larry Tarrant, John Jacobs, Larry Toler, Mark Shoemaker, Dr. Ken Judson and Mark Kinley.

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

For our family members, especially; Jennifer Archer, John Barie, Karen, Chris Sensenich, Linda Ahlbrand, Steve Parsons, Marie Hazelton, Patrick Schantz, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Shari Mancini, Becky Horton, Dave Frazier, Jane Young, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

We pray for all who have died, especially Gladys Arduini.



August 2021 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Nursery	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
August 1 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Dean Peters 2 nd AJ McKenna P Kate Heston	Dottie Antonucci Shari Tarrant	~	~	Eric Helmsen Michael Donadee	Donna Aiello	Linda Limberis
August 4 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 8 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Charlotte Pierce 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Donna Aiello (virtual) P Mary Bertucci	Sylvia Affleck Libby Juel	~	~	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Tim Austin	LuAnn Aldridge
August 11 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 15 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Tony Turo (virtual) P Tony Turo	Ellen Groves Janice Moore	~	~	John Appledorn Kate Heston	Cameron Grosh	Linda Limberis
August 18 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 22 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Nate Boyd 2 nd Linda Limberis (virtual) P John Appledorn	Tammy Spoonhoward Anelisa Tarrant	~	~	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
August 25 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 29 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 George Snyder 1 st 2 nd P	Joan Klinefelter Phoebe Juel	~	~	~	Larry Toler	Kathy & Dave Miller

