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January 12, 2021

Forum on Climate Change at St. Brendan's

[St. Brendan's, Franklin Park](#), presents its next town hall meeting **tonight, Tuesday, January 12 at 7 p.m.** The featured speaker is long time-environmentalist Larry Schweiger, who will talk about climate and social justice.



Larry is a local Pittsburgher who is nationally known for his work on the climate crisis. His accomplishments include past president and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, as well as PennFuture and the 4.5 million member National Wildlife Federation. He is the award-winning author of several books on the climate crisis, such as *Last Chance: Preserving Life on Earth* and *The Climate Crisis and Corrupt Politics: Overcoming the Powerful Forces that Threaten our Future*.

To attend, please send an email to stbrendanskatie@gmail.com, and you will receive the link for the Town Hall Meeting. If you would like to make a donation to St. Brendan's for sponsoring this event, you can send a check to St. Brendan's or visit stbrendans.org, click on "Giving" and then on "Give Online". You won't want to miss this educational and enlightening Forum!

Nurturing Beloved Community in a New Episcopal Community

In its 2018 resolution on Church Planting, General Convention stated its intent to start new communities "that are especially committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups." The Rev. Eric McIntosh, priest-in-charge at St. James, Penn Hills, and Canon for Beloved Community Initiative, will share with the larger church what he learned as an African American priest planting a multi-cultural, congregation.



The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, Staff Officer for Church Planting in the Presiding Bishop's Office says, "Join us on Zoom and we'll share some conversation about why this kind of church planting is so difficult, and why it's so desperately needed in our world right now."

Connect on Thursday, January 21 at 1 p.m. at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96680124100?pwd=dWM1cWp5djlaL2NZOHRqMHFWald2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 966 8012 4100 Passcode: 160992

Holding an Annual Parish Meeting, Pandemic-Style

Late January begins the season for annual parish meetings, when members typically crowd into a parish hall or undercroft to discuss parish finances, review committee reports, elect new vestry members, etc.



Of course, in the context of Covid-19, annual meetings must take a different shape.

If you are involved in planning your parish's annual meeting, you probably have questions about what is possible and what will be effective. The diocesan office has prepared guidance that will, hopefully, be of assistance.

Visit <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/holding-an-annual-parish-meeting-pandemic-style/>

The guidance addresses questions like:

- Must we change our bylaws to allow an online meeting?
- Can we delay our annual meeting?
- How can we ensure that everyone will be able to participate?
- Can some join online and some in person?
- So, how do we hold an online annual meeting?

Have you encountered questions that we have not addressed, or do you have a creative solution to the challenges of an online annual meeting? Please feel free to leave a comment at the [bottom of the guidance page](#). That page will also be updated as further guidance and resources are added.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For details on related legal issues, see the resource "Do We Need to Change the Parish Bylaws?" prepared by Diocesan Chancellor Andy Roman, [available here](#).

2021 Absalom Jones Day Service

A service celebrating the life of The Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African American priest ordained in the Episcopal Church, will be held on Saturday, February 13 at Trinity Cathedral at 10 a.m.



This will be a joint service with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA.

It is to be live streamed and additional details are to come.

Parochial Report QuickTip: PPP Loan Forgiveness

In December, we informed you of [updates to the 2020 Parochial Report form](#), intended to reflect the changes and challenges that parishes have faced during our year of

pandemic. Starting today, and in the weeks ahead, we'll highlight some of the most notable updates in this Parochial Report "QuickTip" series.

Today's PR QuickTip: Recording PPP Loan Forgiveness

If your parish's Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan was converted to a grant in 2020 – meaning that your application for loan forgiveness was approved by the Small Business Association (SBA) *prior to the end of the year* – include the forgiven amount in the "other operating income" on line 5 of the Stewardship and Financial Information section. (Also include the loan amount – whether forgiven in 2020 or not – on line 22.)

Remember, the deadline for filing 2020 Parochial Reports is March 1. File online at <https://reports.dfms.org>.

Retired Clergy Have New Chaplain Dilg Hands Off to Robison

Dear Colleagues and Friends in Christ,

For many years, the Reverend Arthur Dilg has served as chaplain to the retired clergy of the diocese. It is hard to overstate Art+'s contributions to the well-being of our senior priests and deacons through this ministry. In times of joy and sorrow, at anniversaries of marriage and ordination, or in the wake of the passing of a spouse, there has always been a card, a prayer, a note in Art+'s unmistakable hand. He has even included Betsy and me in this circle of grace, and we have shared in the blessing.



Art+ has informed me of his wish to pass on this work to another, and the Reverend Bruce Robison has graciously accepted the offer. Bruce+ and his wife Susy have deep and broad friendships across the diocese, and I know him as a man of prayer, a fine pastor and a wise counselor. I know his pastoral care will enrich the lives of us all.

I have asked both Art+ and Bruce+ to provide their own thoughts with this announcement. Those thoughts are at www.episcopalpgh.org/dilg-passes-retired-clergy-chaplain-baton-to-robison/

This comes with my prayers for their ministries, and my thanksgivings for the ongoing life of the Gospel in and through our beloved diocese.

Faithfully your bishop,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dorsey".

(The Right Reverend) Dorsey W.M. McConnell, D.D.
VIII Bishop of Pittsburgh

2021 Visitation Schedule and Cycle of Prayer Now Available

The 2021 Bishop's Visitation Schedule is now available for download and printing by [clicking here](#).

The 2021 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer is [available here](#).

These documents, along with many others, are available on the Diocesan website under the [Resources tab](#).



Around the Diocese



Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

January 17: Nativity, Crafton (make up date)

January 24: St. Paul's, Monongahela

January 31: Advent, Brookline (make up date)

February 7: All Souls, North Versailles

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

Diocesan Office Holiday Schedule: The diocesan offices will be closed on Monday, January 18, in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Parting Shots

In late December, parishioners at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Canonsburg held a car parade to celebrate the twenty-fifth ordination anniversary of their parish priest, the Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Brall. Parishioners passing by presented Cn. Brall with flowers to mark the occasion in a physically distanced way. Brall previously served at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh.





--Courtesy Samuel Richards

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