



January 11, 2022

A New Year Reflection from Bishop Ketlen

Dear Friends,

At the end of every year the world seems to be brimming with hopeful expectations for the next year. There is much ado about the celebration of New Year's Eve, and our good wishes for a Happy New Year abound. The ever-stretching challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have intensified our expectation for relief in 2022. Sadly, a break from pandemic hardship is not yet our reality. The number of outbreaks is sky high and we are collectively feeling the weight of it all. The demand from us is to find yet another measure of patience and resilience to move forward.



A sense of tediousness with following recommended safety guidelines is natural, and it is easy to let our guards down. Yet, the prescribed safety measures of wearing masks, of keeping social distance, and of washing or sanitizing our hands do help with the prevention of infection. Our part is to renew our desire and intention to follow these guidelines, regardless of our vaccination status. In addition, getting fully vaccinated (that includes a booster) helps mitigate the severity of break-through infections.

Our need for spiritual sustenance is particularly vital as we continue to face these seemingly unending circumstances. Please know that I **do not** intend on suspending in-person worship. Rather, I want to encourage you to stay in touch with the members of your respective parishes, and I want to remind the leaders at each of our parishes to be vigilant with their parish's safety protocols. It is also reasonable to opt to worship online for the time being.

Lastly, I hope that these words from the Prophet Isaiah (43:1b-3a, NRSV), which we heard this past Sunday, January 9, will encourage you:

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*

Blessings to you and your loved ones this New Year!



The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak, D.Min.
IX Bishop of Pittsburgh



St. Brendan's Public Forum Native Americans: Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow

Thursday, January 13, at 7 p.m. via Zoom

There are 4.5 million Native Americans in our country today and a small number live here in Pennsylvania. Michael Simms will address the culture of Native Americans in a Q&A format. Simms is part of the Upper Cumberland Cherokee and Seminole tribes. He has lived in Pittsburgh his entire life as an active member of the American Indian Center and has been Pow Wow coordinator in Pittsburgh for the past 11 years.



This Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, in conjunction with *Faith in Action*, a consortium consisting of St. Brendan's, the Unitarian Universalist Church North Hills, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

To register, email StBrendansKatie@gmail.com



St. Stephen's Featured in Wilkinsburg Sacred Spaces Virtual Tour



The Wilkinsburg Sacred Spaces Tour was created by the Religious Architectural Heritage Committee of Preservation Pittsburgh to highlight the amazing architecture and history of Wilkinsburg's churches.

Because of Covid-19, a scheduled in-person tour was replaced by a video documentary project. The tour was funded by a "Love My Neighbor Grant" from Neighborhood Allies and gifts from two supporting donors.

[Click here](#) for the full-length video tour. Click the video thumbnail above for the St. Stephen's segment.



Diocesan Transitions

In this new year, the *Grace Happens* team is undertaking a renewed effort to keep you aware of recent transitions in diocesan and parish leadership. We begin with this inaugural edition of Diocesan Transitions, which includes the changes to our governing bodies and key committees for 2022. Unless otherwise noted, all are 3-year terms expiring in 2024.



Standing Committee

- New additions to the Standing Committee this year are **Florence Atwood** of Calvary, East Liberty, and **the Rev. Nancy Threadgill** of St. Mark's, Johnstown, both serving 4 year terms that expire in 2025. At a special Standing Committee organizing meeting on January 4, the committee elected **the Rev. Neil Raman** of Calvary, East Liberty, as President and re-elected **Lisa Brown** of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, as Secretary.

Board of Trustees

- At our October Diocesan Convention, **Jane Burger** of Trinity Cathedral and **Gerald Dalton** of St. Stephen's, Wilkesburg, were elected at large, and **James Cassaro** of Calvary, East Liberty, was elected by District 2, as members of the Board of Trustees. **Sheila Stagnitta** of St. Andrew's, Highland Park, was appointed President of the Trustees by Bishop Solak and **Heather McDonald** was reappointed as Secretary.

Diocesan Council

- **Kathy Baird** from St. Peter's, Blairsville, and **the Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre** of St. Stephen's, McKeesport, continue as Council President and Vice President, respectively. **Ann McStay** of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, is Secretary.

Committee on Constitutions and Canons

- **The Rev. Luke Zerra** of St. Andrew's, Highland Park, is new to the committee and **Joan Gundersen** of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, was re-elected to a second term.

Commission on Ministry

- **The Rev. Daniel J. Isadore** of St. Thomas, Oakmont, joins the COM.

Growth Fund Committee

- **Donna Aiello**, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, joins the Growth Fund Committee.

Cathedral Chapter

- **The Rev. Darrell J. Johnson** and **Anthony Turo**, both from St. Brendan's, Franklin Park are now members of the Cathedral Chapter

District Leadership

- **District 1:** Chair: **Maximillion Elliott**, Emmanuel, North Side; Vice Chair: **Bruce Quayle**, Christ Church, North Hills
- **District 2:** Chair: **Wes Rohrer**, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; Vice Chair: **Don Block**, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg
- **District 3:** Chair: **Lisa Brown**, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Vice Chair: **The Rev. Dr. Teresa Hunt**, All Souls, North Versailles
- **District 4:** Chair: **Lionel Deimel**, Christ Church, Indiana; Vice Chair: **The Rev. William Carpenter**, St. Frances-in-the-Fields, Somerset

Other Transitions

The Rev. Brandon Cooper was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests by Bishop Solak at Christ Church, North Hills, on December 11, 2021. Brandon+ is currently serving as Assistant Rector at Christ Church, and as a regular supply priest at St. Michael's, Wayne Township.

The Rev. Regis Smolko retired as priest-in-charge of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, on December 31, 2021. Regis+ and his spouse Ken will be "snowbirds," splitting their time between Pittsburgh and Florida. **The Rev. William Pugliese** is serving as St. Brendan's interim priest, as the parish searches for its next priest-in-charge. St. Brendan's also continues to be served by the Rev. Julie Smith and the Rev. Deacon Darrell Johnson.



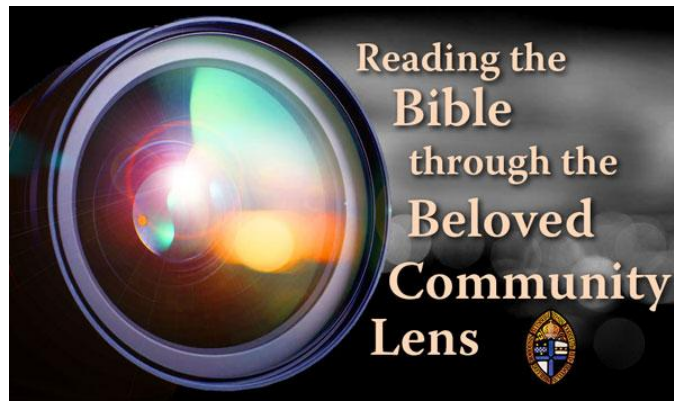
Beloved Community Initiative Announces New Website



The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) is pleased to announce the launch of a new website featuring upcoming events for 2022.



www.bcipittsburgh.org



This online Bible Study will be offered **throughout 2022 at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.**

More information is available at <https://www.bcpittsburgh.org/reading-the-bible-through-the-beloved-community-lens/>



This online prayer and discussion event will be offered **throughout 2022 at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.**

The inaugural session will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 19, at 7 p.m.**

More information about the *Prayer and Share* is available at <https://www.bcpittsburgh.org/youre-invited-mark-your-calendar/>



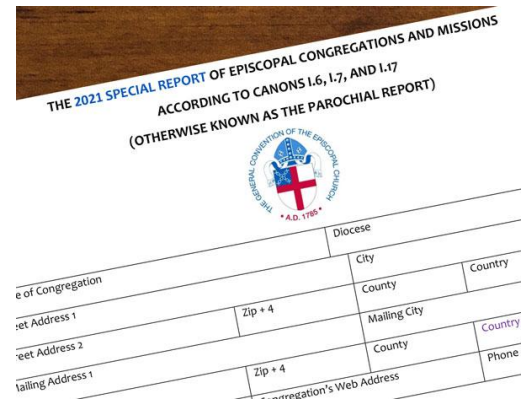
Completing Your 2021 Parochial Report

The 2021 Parochial Report filing period began on January 4. Some of the features that were added to the 2020 report, prompted by the coronavirus pandemic, have carried over to the 2021 report, while additional changes have also been made. Among the updates for 2021:

- The online Parochial Report form will automatically calculate Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) based on the numbers entered into two new fields: *Total*

attendance and *Total # of Sundays*. The total attendance entered should include in-person attendance only.

- Parishes that tracked online attendance last year have the option, in the *2021 Worship during the Pandemic* section, of recording their average weekly online worship participation.
- The Narrative section consists of just one question this year, rather than three as in the 2020 report.



THE 2021 SPECIAL REPORT OF EPISCOPAL CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONS
ACCORDING TO CANONS 1.6, 1.7, AND 1.17
(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PAROCHIAL REPORT)

THE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH
* A.D. 1789 *

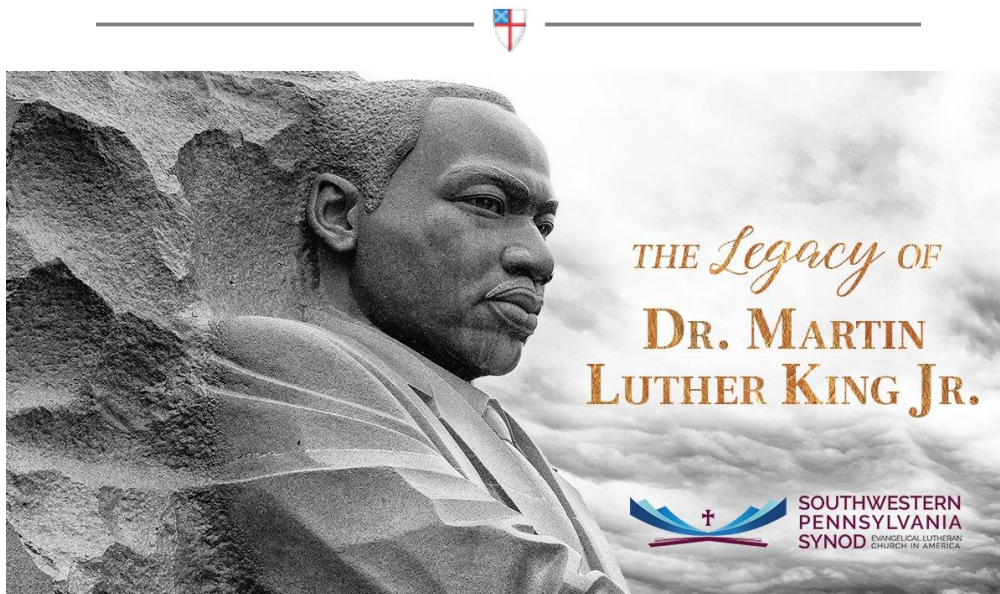
Diocese	
City	Country
County	Mailing City
Country	Phone
Street Address 1	Zip + 4
Street Address 2	Zip + 4
Mailing Address 1	Zip + 4
Congregation's Web Address	

Go to the [General Convention Forms & Instructions](#) page to access a PDF of the [2021 Parochial Report form](#), as well as the [Workbook and Instructions](#).

Please allow plenty of time to review the instructional materials, prepare your responses, and pose any questions that you may have. Questions regarding the financial portions of the Parochial Report may be directed to Canon Treasurer Kathi Workman at kworkman@episcopalpgh.org. Contact the Rev. Canon Kim Karashin at kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org with other questions.

Important Reminders

- The deadline for filing 2021 Parochial Reports is March 1, 2022.
- Reports are filed online at <https://reports.dfms.org>. Use the same login information (email address and password) as last year. If you need help accessing the filing site, contact Canon Kim or Executive Assistant Andy Muhl at amuhl@episcopalpgh.org.



The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is joining the Southwest Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an ecumenical service of Holy Communion.

Sunday, January 16, 2022, at 4 p.m.

**[Berkley Hills Lutheran Church](#), 517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (North Hills)
Bishop Abraham Allende, Presiding, the Rev. Lamont Wells, Preaching**

The service will encourage membership of the Synod's partners to be engaged actively in the practice of nonviolence in our continuing efforts to build the Beloved Community in Pittsburgh.

As allowed by COVID protocols, the service will be in person and livestreamed. Masks are required for in-person attendance.

View the Livestream at: [SWPASYNOD.ORG/MLK2022](https://swpasynod.org/mlk2022)

Interfaith and community partners are also invited and most welcome.

Opportunities for service and anti-racist action suggested for the King Holiday on Monday, January 17th, and beyond can be found at swpasynod.org/mlk2022.

ELCA Community Partners:



Save the Date: Absalom Jones Day Celebration

Absalom Jones (1746–1818) founded the first black Episcopal congregation in Philadelphia in 1794, and in 1802, he was the first African American to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. Jones is listed on the Episcopal calendar of saints and is remembered liturgically on the date of his death, February 13.

Please join Bishop Solak and United Methodist Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi at **10 a.m. on Saturday, February 12**, for an ecumenical celebration of the life of the Rev. Absalom Jones.

The celebration will feature the theme, "All Gods People," and will be **hosted online only** by the Commission on Race and Reconciliation and the Beloved



Community Initiative at Trinity Cathedral. The day will include worship and a panel discussion of Beloved Community experiences.



[Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi](#) of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be the preacher.

Links to participate in the celebration will be available soon.

Find more about the Rev. Absalom Jones at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absalom_Jones.



Around the Diocese



Bishop Solak's Visitation Schedule:

January 16: St. Peter's, Brentwood

January 23: Atonement, Carnegie

January 30: Emmanuel, North Side

February 20: St. David's, Peters Township

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation. Bishop Solak's visitation schedule is [available here](#).

Diocesan Office Closed: The diocesan offices will be closed on Monday, January 17, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

A Note from the IRS: Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 58.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 2.5 cents from the rate for 2021. The rate for miles driven in service of charitable organizations will be 14 cents per mile, unchanged from 2021.



Has your parish been featured in the news?
Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org