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October 19, 2022

The 157th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

Correction: The registration deadlines published in yesterday's special Diocesan Convention newsletter were incorrect. The correct dates are below.

Registration for all deputies and guests is now open.

Register Now!

There is an Early Bird fee of \$50 to attend convention until Friday, November 4.

The regular fee of \$60 starts on Sunday, November 5, until the

registration deadline of Sunday, November 13.

The fee includes all materials and food, including the Saturday dinner.

If you cannot afford the fee, please send an email to convention@episcopalpgh.org to request an adjustment.

Additional registration details are available at

<https://www.episcopalpgh.org/the-157th-annual-convention-of-the-diocese-of-pittsburgh/>



Church of the Redeemer Celebrates the Installation of New Rector, the Rev. Canon Natalie L. G. Hall

**Sunday, October 30, 4 p.m.
at Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill
Installation Service with Holy Eucharist,
followed by Celebration Dinner**

Clergy are invited to vest and process.
The color of the day is red.



Bishop Ketlen will preside at the installation and Bishop Kurt Kusserow of the Southwestern PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will preach.

Redeemer is located at 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

[Please RSVP here if planning to attend the catered dinner following the service.](#)



St. Andrew's Fall Fest



Saturday, October 22
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Lawn



- ❖ **Jazz on the Lawn**, featuring the **Sarah Chew Quartet**
(bring blankets and lawn chairs!)
- ❖ **Pumpkin Decorating**
- ❖ **Chili** (with and without meat),
cornbread, coleslaw, and brownies
- ❖ **50/50 Raffle**

Recommended donation:

\$20/family \$10/individual

covering entrance for Jazz on the Lawn,
meals, one pumpkin, and one 50/50 ticket



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



Forging a Better Future, For All

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee and the Commission on Race and Reconciliation present an online talk by **Dr. Joylette Portlock**, Executive Director of [Sustainable Pittsburgh](#), on **Wednesday, October 26, at 5 p.m.**, titled *Forging a Better Future, For All*.

Under Dr. Portlock's leadership, Sustainable Pittsburgh regularly works with hundreds of partners in the region – including local governments, nonprofits, and the business community – to ensure that our economy is built to last and our people and our planet thrive. Dr. Portlock has been Associate Director of Science and Research at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and, among many other current positions, is an



advisory board member of the Black Environmental Collective. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology and anthropology from MIT and a PH.D. in genetics from Stanford.

No fee or registration is required to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86411794777?pwd=WnVaTm02MnJiV3hUaEloQk1Rekp5Zz09>

If required: Meeting ID: 864 1179 4777 Passcode: 351255

For more information, contact Marianne Novy at mnovy@pitt.edu



\$1.68m Regional Medical Debt Forgiven by “Let’s be a Blessing” Campaign

Let’s Be a Blessing

Help Release Our Neighbors’ Medical Debt

October 2022

Our goal was \$5,000. We raised \$6,704.

By partnering with RIP Medical Debt, we reached out in love to abolish our neighbors’ medical debt in western PA, eastern OH, and northern WV.

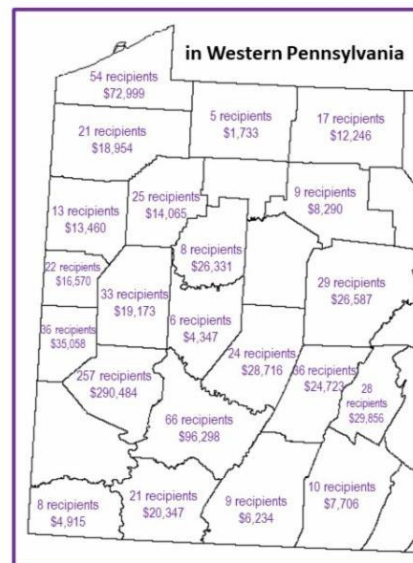
1,615 neighbors helped

\$1,683,990.73 medical debt forgiven



St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, Canonsburg

St. David’s Episcopal Church, Peters Twp.



It’s no hoax!

Letters promising medical debt cancellation arriving in 1,615 mailboxes throughout western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia. are the real deal.

Episcopalians in Washington County recently purchased and forgave \$1.68 million in regional medical debts with no strings attached.

St. Thomas’ Church in Canonsburg and St. David’s Church in Peters Township launched their debt forgiveness campaign called “Let’s be a Blessing” in June.

“Personally, I get such a feeling of joy in thinking about folks getting a letter in the mail telling them that their debt has been forgiven when they weren't expecting it or probably ever thinking that something like that could happen. It's all grace! If setting those held captive by crushing debt isn't the Gospel, I'm not sure what is,” according to the Rev. Canon Cathy Brall who leads the Canonsburg congregation.

[Read the rest of the story of this amazing campaign here.](#)



Diocesan Transitions

New to the Diocese

On September 1, **the Rev. Cameron Soulis** joined the staff of Calvary Church, East Liberty, as its Associate Rector. Cameron came to Pittsburgh from the Diocese of Washington (D.C.), where she served as Lower School Chaplain at National Cathedral School.



On October 4, **the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall** was received into the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Pittsburgh from the Southwestern PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America. With her reception, Natalie will transition from Interim Priest to Rector of Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill. She also continues her role as Canon for Evangelism & Faith Formation.

New Calls

On September 1, **the Rev. Brandon Cooper** became Priest-in-Charge of St. Paul's, Kittanning. He continues his role as Assistant Rector of Christ Church, North Hills, as well as serving as a regular supply priest at St. Michael's in Wayne Township.

The Rev. Deacon Carter Hawley became Executive Director of the Association for Episcopal Deacons. She had been serving as the organization's Interim Executive Director since March.

The Rev. Dr. Luke Zerra is now Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania's Stevenson School for Ministry. Luke also serves as Curate at St. Andrew's in Highland Park.

Retirements

On August 1, **the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler** retired as Rector of St. Peter's, Brentwood. Earlier, on June 30, he had completed his work as Canon for Recovery Ministries, one of several roles he has filled in diocesan leadership.

On August 1, **the Rev. Dr. James B. Simons** retired after 36 years of ordained ministry in our diocese and 34 years of service as Rector of St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier. During his retirement celebration, Jim announced his engagement to Sandy Byrd Binder of Vero Beach, Florida.

Completed Call

On September 25, **the Rev. Dr. Julie Smith** ended her time as Youth Education Director at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park. Julie continues her ministry as a chaplain at Caring Hospice Services. She also serves as a supply priest, filling in the gaps, as needed, at parishes throughout the Diocese.



Amen to Action Meal Packing Event

In November 2021, thousands of volunteers and their children met at churches across our city, where they packed 1,004,000 meals for distribution by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to our neighbors.



On November 12, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon, you can join with other people of faith and good will to address food insecurity in our city!

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is partnering with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) in Highland Park to host a meal packing event on the PTS campus. All are welcome to join in packing 100,000 meals with other congregations and denominations including Calvary Episcopal, Sixth Mount Zion, the Bible Center, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, and Third Presbyterian Church.

Please sign up at www.amentoaction.org today. If you have any questions feel free to contact Erin Davenport at edavenport@pts.edu.



Holiday Happenings in Franklin Park

The best cookie walk around!

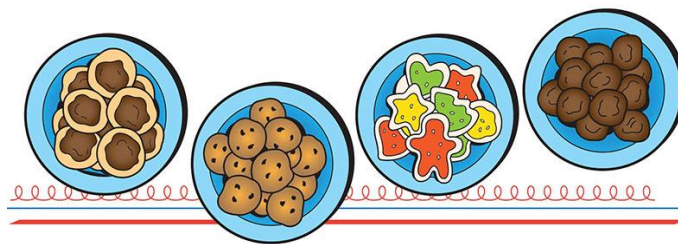
- 600 dozen festive, home-baked cookies
- Varieties of delicious homemade soups
- Quality crafters with unique gifts
- Holiday raffle for more than \$500 in gift cards

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church

2365 McAleer Road, Franklin Park 15143

www.stbrendans.org/cookiewalk



Two Job Openings at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR:

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church in Franklin Park is seeking a coordinator of children and youth programs, pre-K through Grade 12.

The applicant for this position should have a strong commitment to the religious education of all children. He or she should be familiar with curriculum used in Sunday School and with teen programs in Episcopal churches. Applicants should



be able to demonstrate strong communication skills with children, youth, and parishioners and should be able to work as part of a team to deliver sound instruction and experiences.

This is a paid, part-time position and requires attendance on Sundays for Sunday School, designated evenings for teen programming, and other meetings and events as they may arise.

NURSERY DIRECTOR:

St. Brendan's is seeking a paid part-time nursery director who is present in the nursery during the 10 a.m. Sunday service to supervise and safeguard the children of adult worshipers and who recruits volunteers to ensure two-person coverage during formal nursery hours. The director must display enthusiasm for the ministry, cheerfulness in dealing with children, and skill in working with other adults in the nursery.

Detailed job descriptions and more information can be found on the St. Brendan's Episcopal Church website: stbrendans.org/employment.



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

October 23: St. Paul's, Kittanning (a.m.)
October 23: St. Michael's, Wayne Township (p.m.)
November 6 & 7: Province III Council
November 18 & 19: Diocesan Convention
November 20: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon

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

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact her virtual assistant, Crystal Goforth, at 412-721-0853, ext. 256, or via email at assistant@episcopalpgh.org.



Parting Shots

New Stairlift at St. Stephen's, McKeesport

Thanks to a generous donation from parishioner and former Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Food and Beverage columnist, Woodene Merriman, St. Stephen's, McKeesport, has a new stairlift! All parishioners and visitors can finally enjoy events and activities in the undercroft. Thank you, Woody!



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