



St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin Park
2365, McAleer Road
Sewickley, PA 15143



STEWARDSHIP FOR
2021

November 5, 2020

Dear Fellow Brendanites and Friends of St. Brendan's,

Tom Waseleski led off last year's stewardship campaign during what he described as "a time of uncertainty and division." As it turned out, the months that followed only brought new challenges—challenges that we could never have imagined at the time—most obviously, a global pandemic and an acrimonious national discussion about systemic racism and police misconduct. The world seemed to turn upside down and inside out before our very eyes.

In this unsettling context, it has surely been more important than ever to find ... a community of faith within which to make sense of personal tragedies and gloomy news headlines ... fellow Christians that do not flinch from acknowledging the need for self-examination and for envisioning a radically different future ... a church family that refuses to become trapped inside brick walls and instead adopts all that technology offers to help its members remain connected ... brothers and sisters that believe in exploring innovation and growth even at a time of widespread retrenchment. **In its thirty-third year, our parish has pulled together to pursue those very goals because (after all) we are ... *still* ... St. Brendan's.**

A few weeks ago, we mailed you a handy booklet listing the many ministries that St. Brendan's sponsors. As it showed:

We offer worship services that are sometimes reflective and sometimes energizing but always built upon on the Book of Common Prayer. We are blessed with insightful sermons and rich musical offerings. We provide Christian formation for adults, teenagers and children, framing the Good News of Christ to meet each group's needs and reflect their experiences. We reach out compassionately to those among us who need our support at times of personal crisis.

At the same time, we also respond to needs in the broader community. We bring food and clothing to those who are hungry or cold. We proudly support LGBTQ events. We pick up trash along the verges of I-279. We welcome the public to our many events. And we faithfully donate 10% of our monthly revenue to compelling causes through CRIES.

In the letter that accompanied that booklet, we asked you to take a moment to reflect on just how much our parish accomplishes each day, each week, each month. **We invited you to see each ministry through the eyes of our Baptismal promises and to experience anew God's amazing gift of joy and wonder in [his] works.**

As we launch our stewardship campaign for 2021, Fr. Regis, the Vestry and I hope you will respond with gratitude for all the **joy and wonder** that St. Brendan's brings to your life and to the lives of others. You might contact the office to volunteer your time or a special talent to one or more of our ministries. You might propose a new ministry for our consideration; there is always room for new ideas! **But you might also take this moment to review your giving in support of our work, increasing your pledge for 2021 or pledging for the first time.**

When you pledge online (see the enclosed directions) or mail in a completed a pledge card, you are telling the church how much you plan to contribute in the coming year.

Only our parish administrator ever sees individual pledges, but she then totals them up so that the Vestry can budget anticipated expenditures wisely and confidently.

During the year, she also sends you a confidential quarterly financial statement that shows the progress you've made toward your goal.

We are enclosing with this letter a sheet of instructions about how to pledge online as well as a hardcopy pledge card that you can seal in an envelope and mail to the church office.

It is important for us to receive pledges as soon as possible but absolutely before December 6. This will allow the Vestry to work on the budget knowing what revenues we can expect in 2021.

In the top righthand corner of the first page of this letter, you will see the picture of a tree—its branches bare of leaves. In the coming weeks, each time a pledge reaches the church office, a leaf will be added to the tree. Each week, we will show you—during the Sunday service and in the Little Log—just how many of the branches have “leafed out.” Once we reach 60 pledges, we will begin adding blossoms, as we move towards our target of at least 90 pledges. **We can't wait to see how quickly the tree comes to life before our eyes. After all, we are ... St. Brendan's.**

Pledging is not the only way to give to St. Brendan's, of course. Please know that all contributions, regardless of their size and whenever you are able to make them, are gratefully accepted and equally crucial to the health of our parish and its mission. All that matters in the final analysis is that we give in a spirit of **joy and wonder for all God's works..**

Yours in faith,

Tim Austin

Senior Warden