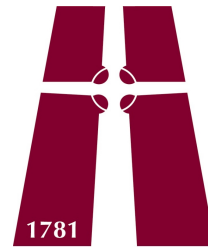


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



April 5, 2017

In This Issue

Reflections from the EP

Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, William King, Interim Pastor
District 1

>Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor; Marnie Silbert, Assoc. Pastor
District 1

>First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Martin Ankrum, Pastor; Nicole Atkinson, Assoc. Pastor
District 2

>Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
District 2

>Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Glenn Hart, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 3

>Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Robert Prinkey, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 3

Upcoming Events...

>>Second Wednesday of every month - Friendship Dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. FREE TO ANYONE WANTING TO ATTEND - New Kensington, United

>>Second Wednesday of every month - Community "Soup for the Soul" Luncheon - Apollo, Poke Run

April 8, 2017: Spaghetti Dinner - New Alexandria, Congruity

April 12, 2017: Mission Co-Workers Visit - Johnstown, First

May 6, 2017: Spaghetti Dinner - Johnstown, Bethany

May 11, 2017: Synod Southwest Regional Gathering - Morgantown, WV

Please go to the website at www.redstone.org and click on the "events" tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

"What is Heaven Like" - Reflections from the Rev. Curtis Paul, Chair of the Presbytery Nominating Committee

What is heaven like? If you don't like people, it may not be for you. I am laughing as I write that sentence, but I am serious as well. By the grace of God, Heaven will consist of billions of people. Maybe trillions depending upon how long until Jesus returns and makes all things new. *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"*-Revelation 21:1-5

I guess if you are a pessimist you are hoping for limited enrollment. An exclusive all-inclusive resort! You know, where the morally righteous go. Those who have given at least 10% of all pre-taxable income, or maybe more (Mark 12:41-44 & Luke 21:1-4), throughout their lives. Those who have never even thought about sex outside of marriage let alone those who have done such acts (Matthew 5:27). Does kissing count? I could go on, for Jesus says, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*-Matthew 5:17-20. We cannot discard the idea of hell. The New Testament talks about it more than heaven. Jesus talks about hell more than heaven.

Maybe Romans 10 has come to mind for you? *"But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or "Who will descend into the abyss?" " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).*

>United Presbyterian Church, Bolivar, James Sunseri, Commissioned Ruling Elder
District 4

>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell, James Stobaugh, Stated Supply
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
[twitter address](#)

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved."-Romans 10:6-10

I believe the best image of heaven is celebration! Think of the parables of the Prodigal Son, Lost Sheep, and Lost Coin (Luke 15), the king who throws a wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14), at judgment in Revelation 19, the wedding at Cana (John 2), the resurrection of the body (1 Corinthians 15) and that we are God's children (1 John 3:1-2). But we don't begin the celebration after death. We celebrate each time we gather on Sundays to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the new lives Christ's Holy Spirit has given us. We celebrate knowing that grace is a gift that we have received and are commanded to share! We celebrate living in hope, confessing that we are sinners and do not deserve the gift and yet received it, thus hoping all sinners will receive the gift (i.e. we are not pessimists)! We celebrate God's justice has been fulfilled on the cross of Jesus Christ! We celebrate that God desires for us to live because we are God's children! We celebrate that God is a gracious loving Parent and Judge, who is willing to die with and for us in Jesus Christ! Let us work to invite others to celebrate! *"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is."-1 John 3:1-2*

Live because you are loved,
Pastor Curtis

Around Redstone

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

>>Mark and Miriam Adams, PCUSA Mission Co-workers, will visit First Presbyterian Church - Johnstown for a Holy Week luncheon on Wednesday, April 12th. Mark and Miriam serve with Frontera de Cristo along the Texas/Mexico border. A light lunch will be served followed by a conversation with Mark and Miriam about their vital ministry along our country's southern border and how our support through World Mission is making a difference in people's lives. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to the church office at 814 536- 8141 by Friday, April 7th.

>>Session Minutes Review Dates are as follows:

April 19, 2017 - Presbytery Office (6:00 p.m.)

May 16, 2017 - Location TBD (4:30 p.m. - prior to Presbytery meeting)

New Office Hours for 2017

The Presbytery Office Hours are:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Friday

The Resource Center Hours are:
Tuesday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

>>Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery's Peacemaking Task Force invites members of Redstone presbytery to attend a seminar on writing new words to traditional hymns on Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cove Presbyterian Church, 3404 Main Street, Weirton, WV. This will be presented by Carolyn Gillette, minister, poet, and teacher. Suggested donation: \$10.00. Continental breakfast and lunch included. RSVP by April 26, to 304-232-3490 (*leave a message on the answering machine*).

>>Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference - Friday, May 8, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Christ Church at Grove Farm, 249 Duff Road, Sewickley, PA. Keynote speaker is Pastor David Kornfield, Ph.D., an international leader in the field of clergy wellness, speaking on "Helping Healthy Churches Grow by Cultivating Healthy Pastors." Thirty workshops address the opiate epidemic, dementia, eating disorders, spiritual direction, and many more topics. More information and registration is available at www.pghpc.org.

CLOSED on Monday
and Friday

Skip is generally in the
office Monday through
Thursday from 9:00
a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bobbie is in the office
on Monday from 8:00
a.m. to NOON and
Tuesday through
Thursday from 9:00
a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

>>Have you ever wanted to tiptoe through the tulips! Here is a great opportunity to feel like you have crossed the pond to Europe! Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare is sponsoring a trip to Holland, Michigan for the amazing annual tulip festival. We will depart Redstone North Huntingdon Clubhouse at 8 am on Monday, May 8th traveling by deluxe motorcoach. Upon arrival in Holland, we will check in at the Quality Inn and Suites in Holland. You will have time to freshen up before we enjoy our first activity, a dinner cruise on the Holland Princess. On Tuesday morning, a step-on guide will join us on the bus for a tour of the area, followed by a stop at the Dutch Marketplace where you can shop and enjoy lunch on your own. Then, it is on to Windmill Island Gardens to see tulip fields and the only authentic working Dutch windmill in the USA. We will then go back to the hotel for a quick rest and to freshen up, before enjoying dinner at the Beechwood Inn. Wednesday will be a busy day starting with a visit to Veldheer's Tulip Farm including the Delft and Wooden Shoe Factories. From there, we will enjoy a lunch buffet at the Methodist Church in Holland, followed by reserved bleacher seat viewing for the famous Volksparade. Enjoy amazing floats, marching bands, and the traditional sweeping of the street. Following the parade, we will return to the hotel to freshen up before enjoying a traditional barbecue chicken feast with the Holland Lion's Club. We will finish the evening enjoying Walt Matzke's Four Pianos, four master pianists who will delight the audience with their show. On Thursday morning, we will make one last stop before we depart for home: Enjoy a visit to Nelis' Dutch Village to experience life as it was in Holland 100 years ago. On the way home, we will make rest stops where you will have lunch/dinner on your own. We anticipate arriving back at Redstone at 9:00 pm. Price: \$850 single, \$600 per person in a double

>>Last Call for Holy Land Pilgrimage - There are still openings available for the Holy Land trip endorsed by Redstone Presbytery. Leaders include Jim Farrer, Curtis Paul, Norma Murphy and Alice Tondora. The dates are October 18 to October 30. This trip is special since it covers Israel from top to bottom! We will visit many Old Testament sites in Jordan including Petra. There will be contact with Christian Palestinians, Jewish leaders, and if available, our Mideast mission co-workers. Call Jim Farrer for more details: 814 629-5211.

>>There will be a Pre-Presbytery Workshop on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. The Generosity Workshop will be led by the Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley and will begin at 4:30 p.m.



Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg | PA | 15601