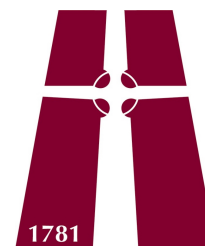


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



January 18, 2018

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Let's Pray For:

>United Presbyterian
Church, New
Kensington, Wendy Keys
Pastor
District 1

>Vandergrift
Presbyterian Church,
Neal Galley, Pastor
District 1

>Derry Presbyterian
Church, Marnie
Abraham Russell, Stated
Supply
District 2

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

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

>Rehoboth Presbyterian
Church, Belle Vernon,
Alan Olson, Interim
Pastor
District 3

>Westmont Presbyterian
Church, Johnstown,
Craig Miller, Pastor

Upcoming Events...

October 2017 through May 2018 - Community Soup for the Soul - 2nd
Wednesday - Apollo, Poke Run

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

Reflections - from Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter

"When It All Begins New"

With the start of a new year (liturgical or calendar), we are offered the opportunity for new beginnings. Sometimes, we choose to express this "reset" through new resolutions of what we desire based upon our own sense of where our lives could improve. Inevitably, depending upon our level of discipline, the bad habits threaten to "creep" back into our lives.

We are told that it takes consistent practice of something for twenty-one days in order for new habits to form. For me, it always seems to take many more days than that. Yet, the point is the same. In other words, for the new to become who we are (rather than just who we want to be), we must practice and live it for a period of time.

It makes me wonder about that period of the Easter season captured at the end of the gospels and in the opening story of this new covenant community in Acts. In those fifty days between the appearance of the resurrected One, his departure, and the arrival of the Comforter, those first disciples were challenged to live in a new way. Their lives would now be characterized not just by their commitment to follow the rabbi who drew them from their old ways.

Now, they would pray and wait for the resurrected Christ. They would pray and wait for the promised power of the Holy Spirit. And, in the praying and waiting, they would be changed, made new, not by their own doing, discipline or resolution, but by the living presence of the Lord God among them and returning to glory.

Through recent weeks, I have been exploring the depths of the book of Acts with the guidance of a theological commentary by Willie James Jennings. For your consideration, I offer a couple excerpts that have proven helpful to me.

"The faith that is being born at this moment is a faith of the body, of this life, of this time, and of this place. Jesus is present here, now. Jesus

District 4

>Pleasant Grove
Presbyterian Church,
Ligonier, John McClure,
Moderator
District 4

inaugurates a new way of speaking about God and of life. This is truly the God of the living, the God who overcomes death. Theological speech that does not carry this tenor, this rich flavor, is not theological speech birthed in newness, but is religious discourse bound to death. God who overcomes suffering and death, presents Godself. Jesus gives himself to viewed, touched and even handled over many days." (Jennings, p. 13)

He will seal this new, this revolution over death and the power of violence through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the promise of the Father to the Son and to those joined to him. The Spirit, companion with Jesus and his disciples, will soon spread the body of Jesus over space and time opening his life as a new home for the faith of Israel. So, this new Israel, an Israel staring at Jesus, staring at life after death, is commanded by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem. (Jennings, p. 15)

So, in this period of newness, may we also "stare" at Jesus that this new way might be sealed in us. May the power of the Holy Spirit companion transform us through our autonomous discipline, but by the grace of our God. Amen.

Contact Us**Rev. Skip Noftzger**

Executive
Presbyter/Stated
Clerk

blog address
twitter address

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

Around Redstone

>>Redstone Addiction Ministry group is sponsoring a Presbytery-wide collection in January and February for "Hope in a Bag". This project started when a 12-year old from Smithton lost her uncle to a drug overdose. She started collecting toiletries and other small items for people who want to go into recovery. Items will be collected at the March presbytery meeting. Items you can donate would be: small bible, pens and pencils, journals, cards, soap/body wash, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, nail clippers, q-tips, small blankets, hardtack candies.

>> Once again, Redstone Presbytery is offering a great opportunity to our confirmation students. This will be the seventh year for the Confirmation Retreat. The Confirmation Retreat will be held on April 13-14, 2018 at Pine Springs Camp. Workshop topics include understanding the Bible, learning about how our church governs & organizes itself (polity), what Presbyterians believe about the Sacraments, and how we respond to the needs of the world around us (stewardship & mission.) We'll also have some great group games, time around the campfire, and worship. The cost for the retreat will be \$45/person in order to cover housing and meal costs. Please let us know by March 1st, 2018 if you plan to participate in this retreat, with a firm RSVP (with number of attendees) no later than April 2nd, 2018. If you need more information please call me at 724-837-6737 or email Skip at executive@redstonepresbytery.org.

>>ALICE Civilian Training being offered at no cost. ALICE stands for ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER & EVACUATE. This active shooter response training will certify a representative from your church so that they can pass on their knowledge to prepare your congregation in the event of a violent incident. Where? First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 South Maple Avenue, Greensburg - When? March 17, 2018 10 am - noon (a free lunch will be provided at noon followed by Q&A). Space is limited so attendance will be on a first come first serve basis. There is a prerequisite online class (20 minutes) to be taken before 3/17/2018, so preregistration is required. Please register by 3/1/2018. You can register by using the email at the bottom of this letter or access our website at www.donaldhamminsurace.com and email us there. You must include the following:

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Office Hours

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.
CLOSED on Monday
and Friday

2018 Presbytery Meeting Dates

Saturday, January 20th
Greensburg, First
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20th
Belle Vernon, First
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15th
Latrobe
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18th
Redstone Highlands,
Greensburg Campus
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17th
Dunbar, Laurel Hill
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**2018 Presbytery
Council Meeting
Dates**

January 9
February 20
April 24
May 22
June 26
August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27

All Council meetings begin
at 6:30 p.m. and are held at
the Presbytery office

- First and last name of attendee(s) -maximum of 4 people per church
- Email address of attendee(s)
- The name of the church who they are representing

More information about Alice Training Institute can be found here - www.alicetraining.com.

>>You are invited to attend the IPLF workshops on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The morning workshop is Ethics and Boundaries; the afternoon workshop is Advanced Scriptures. Lunch will be catered at a cost of \$7.00/person. Please RSVP to Bobbie at the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737. Let her know if you will be staying for lunch and if you have any dietary restrictions.

>>The review dates for the Session Minutes and Church Registers for 2017 are as follows:

1. January 27 - preceding Enrichment Day; time is on flyer
2. February 19 - 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery office
3. March 20 - 5:00 p.m.; First, Belle Vernon, preceding Presbytery
4. May 15 - 5:00 p.m.; Latrobe Main Street, preceding Presbytery

>> The Redstone Mission team trip is on April 22-28 to Fayetteville, N.C. We will be staying at the Highland Presbyterian Church and working through the United Methodist Committee on Relief doing reconstruction after Hurricane Matthew. The work will be in Cumberland County. There will be a planning meeting on Sunday, Jan 14 at 3 pm at Phyllis Frye's home, 162 Main Street, Slickville, PA to discuss the trip and to plan the Pancake dinner which is a fundraiser for the trip. The Dinner is on Tues, Feb. 13 at Congruity Church. For information contact Phyllis Frye 724 468 3740 or e-mail pfrye1234@windstream.net.



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